

## THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Friday 26 Dec, 1997)

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- (2) **Expeditious efforts being made for completion of vital Bo Myat Tun Bridge to link Yangon-Pathein route**
- (3) **Sayadaws successful in 49th Tipitaka Selection Exam honoured**
- (4) **Christmas celebrate X'mas**
- (5) **Kyangin Township USDA gets new office**
- (6) **Japanese, Myanmar artistes to star in "Thway"**

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YANGON, 25 Dec - Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye attended the inauguration of Taunggyi-Shwemyaung Railroad in Taunggyi Township yesterday.

Accompanied by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo, member of the State Peace and Development Council Commander in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Kyaw Than, Minister for Military Affairs Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Tin Hla, Minister for Rail Transportation U Pan Aung, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Finance and Revenue U Khin Maung Thein, Minister for Religious Affairs Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Minister for Culture U Win Sein, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and officials, General Maung Aye arrived Heho Airport by air in the afternoon.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Maung Bo, Commandant of Command and General Staff College Brig-Gen Soe Tint and officials.

The ceremony at Taunggyi Railway Station was also attended by senior officers of Eastern Command, local authorities, departmental personnel, the managing director and staff of Myanma Railways, local people of Taunggyi and Hopong townships, Tatmadawmen of military divisions who took part in building the railroad, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and nationalities dance troupes, totalling over 30,000.

Commander Brig-Gen Maung Bo said opening of the railroad is a pride for Shan State and will be marked as a milestone.

Minister U Pan Aung said the Government has opened 777.33 miles of railroads including the present one to date, adding Tatmadawmen and personnel of MR had to overcome many difficulties in building Taunggyi-Shwemyaung Railroad.

Tasks which were thought to be impossible in the past could be successfully implemented one after another at present due to zealous endeavours made in the interest of the nation and the race, he noted.

Opening of this railroad ensures direct rail link from Thazi to Banyin via Shwemyaung and Taunggyi, he said.

Banyin-Mone Railroad is being built at present to link with Namhsan-Mone Railroad, he said.

He presented cash to those who took part in the project through their officials.

He also presented souvenirs to General Maung Aye, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tin Oo and party.

Commander Brig-Gen Maung Bo and Ministers U Pan Aung and U Win Sein formally opened the 20.81 mile railroad.

The General and party showered confetti and cordially greeted the local people.

Together with local people, the commander and ministers boarded the special train leaving the station at 3.40 pm for Shwemyaung.

Local people stood all along the railroad to witness the historic event.

Nationalities welcomed them with dance and music at Htithin, Pawmu and Ayethaya railway stations.

The ministers cordially conversed with them. Brig-Gen Maung Bo and U Pan Aung formally opened the railroad at the inauguration ceremony held at Shwemyaung Railway Station at 6 pm.

The railroad was built through the mountains, boulders and valleys with the labour of Tatmadawmen.

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## **(2) Expeditious efforts being made for completion of vital Bo Myat Tun Bridge to link Yangon-Pathein route**

YANGON, 25 Dec-Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt inspected construction of Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon and regional development projects in the township today.

He was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister Brig-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Aung Khin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

The Secretary- 1 and party were welcomed at Nyaungdon by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, members of the Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association.

They first visited Nyaungdon Ponnamayama Zaykyaungtaik and paid respects to Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and members of the Sangha.

They later offered alms to the Sayadaws.

They inspected the measures to prevent land erosion at Nyaungdon River banks. At the worksite, Director-General of Waterways Department U Pe Than and Assistant Director of Development Affairs Department U Than Oo briefed them on the waterway maintenance work and the measures to prevent erosion of Nyaungdon river banks.

In his suggestions, the Secretary-1 told the regional authorities to observe the do's and don'ts in keeping with Head of State Senior General Than Shwe's guidance and to work dutifully for national development.

He pointed out the duty of the regional authorities to organize and lead the regional people in the development projects and work actively so as not let their township lag in development compared with other townships while efforts are being made all over the country in their time for development of towns and villages.

Later, the Secretary- 1 and party inspected the work to prevent erosion of the river' banks.

### Bo Myat Tun Bridge

They proceeded to Bo Myat Tun Bridge Project where they were welcomed by Superintending Engineer U Pe Than of Public Works and personnel.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and Subperintending Engineer U Pe Than briefed them on the salient points about the project, construction of the approach roads and the bridge, progress of work in construction of the main bridge and approach structures and requirements.

Director-General U Pe Than of Waterways Department also presented report on the tasks for waterway safety and harnessing the river.

Later, the Secretary- 1 and party inspected the bridge project.

Bo Myat Tun Bridge that will link Thaugdan Village of Nyaungdon Township with Kyeinbin-hse Village of the township spanning Ayeyawady River is being built with reinforced concrete piers and iron beams.

The total length of the bridge is 8,544 feet, with the 6,164-foot-long main-bridge, 2,380-foot-long approach structures, 28-foot-wide motorway and two five-footwide pedestrian lanes.

The safe passage under the bridge is 360 feet wide, clearance is 57 feet and the bridge can bear a load of 60 tons.

Bo Myat Tun Bridge Project began on 1 February 1996. It lies on Yangon-Pathein Road which is strategic for economy of Yangon and Ayeyawady Division and Rakhine State.

Other bridges, big and small, on the route have been completed except Bo Myat Tun Bridge that will span the Ayeyawady.

Before completion of the bridge, Nyaungdon-Setkawt Z-craft is being used to transport vehicles, commodities and passengers. Completion of the bridge will overcome the difficulty and delay in transport on 113mile Yangon-Pathein Road.

The Secretary-1 and party next visited No 11 Basic Education Primary School, Nyaungdon Township, at Peiyonseik Village.

They were welcomed there by the divisional and township education officers, the Headmaster, teachers and pupils.

After inspecting the school, the Secretary- 1 fulfilled the requirements in coordination with the officials.

The Secretary- I, ministers and party proceeded to Panhlaing Diversion Dam.

It is built on Panhlaing River in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division, to irrigate 20,000 acres on the northern part of Nyaungdonkyun.

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### **(3) Sayadaws successful in 49th Tipitaka Selection Exam honoured**

YANGON, 25 Dec - A ceremony to honour 21 members of the Sangha who passed the 49th Tipitaka Selection Examination at various grades was held at Tipitaka Dhamma Rakkhita Dhammayon on Gyartawya Street, Bahan Township, this morning.

The ceremony was organized in conjunction with the counsel-giving by the Tipitaka Trusteeship Tipitaka Dhamma Rakkhita Committee founded by Maha Buddhology Treatise maker the late Sagaing Mingun Sayadawgyi Bhaddanta Vicittasarabhivamsa.

Also present were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, Ovacariya Sayadaws of the

Trusteeship, Deputy Minister for Labour U Kyaw Aye, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana U Sann Lwin and wellwishers.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Ovadacariya of the Trusteeship Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sirindabhivamsa (Yaw Sayadaw).  
Chairman of the Trusteeship U Tin Maung extolled the virtues of the Sayadaws.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Aye later offered alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Afterwards Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Vayamindabhivamsa (Yesagyo Sayadaw) delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

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#### **(4) Christmas celebrate X'mas**

YANGON, 25 Dec Christmas Eve Midnight Mass was celebrated at various churches yesterday with thanksgiving and joy.

The Christian faithful attended Midnight Mass St Mary's Cathedral on Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Immanuel Baptist Church on Maha Bandoola Park Street, St Anthony's Church in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity near Bogyoke Aung San Market and churches in various town-ships. Carol singing groups visited homes of friends throughout the night.

Today, Christian families had joyous gatherings in their homes with thanksgiving and prayers in all parts of the country.

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#### **(5) Kyangin Township USDA gets new office**

YANGON, 25 Dec - A new office of Kyangin Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened there at No 47, Bogyoke Street on 21 December morning.

Present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Chairman of Hinthada District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Myint, chairman and EC members of district and township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, teachers, students and local residents totalling over 5,000.

First, Secretary of Township USDA U Thein Lwin explained construction of the office.

Commander Brig-Gen Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the signboard of the office.

The Secretary and EC members presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials.

Then, they inspected the office.

The two-storey building office, 30-feet long and 24feet wide, and one-storey building office, 40-feet long and 30-feet wide, were constructed at a cost of K 1,760,000.

The commander met secretaries and EC members of township, ward and village USDAs at the office and gave instructions.

Then, Commander Brig-Gen Thura Shwe Mann inspected prevention of erosion of Ayeyawady River in Myoma Ward, Kyangin Township and looked into the requirements.

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#### **(6) Japanese, Myanmar artistes to star in "Thway"**

YANGON, 25 Dec "Thway", a film depicting Myanmar-Japan unity will be directed, cast and produced by artistes of the two nations.

Japanese actress Mifuyu Ikeda will star together with Myanmar film stars Kyaw Thu, Min Hmaw Kun, Myo Thanda Tun, Khin Soe Paing and other artistes of both nations in the film based on the novel by Journalgyaw Ma Ma Lay.

Directors Koji Chino of Japan and U Tin Yu of Myanmar will work together with co-directors Masayuki Tanizuchi, Hiroshi Saito and Shuichi Suzaki and Al Maung Hla Myo, San Shwe Maung and Myint Soe (YU) in the production.

Script of "Thway" will be co-written by Maung Thein Saing, Chit Than Myint and Aye Kyu Lay.

Japan National Network & Co Ltd has already formed the Production Committee for "Thway" to act as producer.

The film was launched at Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon this morning.

Tog,ether with the stars, directors, script writers were MMPA Chairman U Sein Tin and officials.

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