

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Friday 18 April, 1997)**

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- (1) Senior General Than Shwe inspects infrastructural improvements for nationwide development**
  - (2) K 30m five-storey building completed for Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Kyaungtaik in Mayangon Township**
  - (3) '1359 ME' New Year Message sent by minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Lt-Gen Myint Aung to peasants**
  - (4) Ministry of Religious Affairs performs meritorious deeds**
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**(1) Senior General Than Shwe inspects infrastructural improvements for nationwide development**

YANGON, 17 April - Chairman of the Law and Order Restoration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected construction projects in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and Shan State on 15 and 16 April.

He was welcomed there by Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein, Chairman of Sagaing Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko of Kalay Station and other officials.

At Zeyarponnya Hall, Managing Director of Myanma Railways Thura U Thaung Lwin briefed the Senior General and entourage on tunnelling through Ponnya range on its eastern side on Kyaw-Gangaw Railroad section.

Minister U Win Sein presented a supplementary

Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko also explained the Tatmadawmen's efforts for building Kyaw-Gangaw Railroad, tasks for KalayKabaw region development, maintenance of Mawlaik-Phaungpyin Road and preparations for the Student Sports Festival scheduled to be held in Chin State. Minister U Soe Tha presented a report on the programmes for construction of microwave stations around Pondaung-Ponnya.

Minister U Win Sein reported on construction of the tunnel and work on the western sector and Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe on the weapons and bronze implements belonging to the primitive age excavated from Pon-daung-Ponnya region. Later, Senior General

Than Shwe presented gifts in commemoration of inauguration of Kyaw-Zebya railroad section.

The Senior General and entourage next went to Ponnya Hill tunnelling site on the eastern sector and had souvenir photo taken.

Myanma Railways is undertaking construction-of ChaungU-Pakokku -GangawKalay Railroad, 260 miles long, that will connect the

region of the eastern sector of Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers with those on the western sector.

Trains are being operated on ChaungU-Kyaw and Kalay-Gangaw sections which had been put into service. Only Kyaw-Gangaw section remains to complete the entire railroad due to difficulties in building it.

Mountain ranges and slopes pose difficulties for building the section but Ponnya tunnel project reduces seven miles of the section, four switchbacks and 600,000 sundrums.

The tunnel, 5,700 feet long on completion, will be 18 feet wide at the base and 21.5 feet high.

After inspecting the work, the Senior General and entourage proceeded to Kyaukkhwet-Letpando Oil and Gas Field in Myaing Township where they were welcomed by Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein and departmental officials.

At the guest house, Minister U Khin Maung Thein and Managing Director of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise U Kyaw Nyein reported on drilling and production of oil and gas at Kyaukkhwet-Letpando Gas Field and latest accomplishments at the offshore gas fields.

Later, the Senior General and entourage inspected crude oil storage station and the crude oil purifying plant.

Gas can be produced commercially from Kyaukkhwet region and it is being distributed to Ayadaw region by the 10-inch pipeline.

The Senior General and entourage next proceeded to Chindwin Bridge (Yesagy) Project at 10.45 am. At the project hall, Project Director U Win Tin of Public Works reported to them on progress of work upon which Minister U Win Sein presented a supplementary report.

After giving necessary instructions, the Senior General inspected construction work.

The bridge with both motor road and railroad lying on ChaungU-PakokkuGangaw-Kalay Railroad will be 4,956 feet long on completion.

The approach bridge and six piers have been completed so far.

The Senior General and entourage next inspected the Chindwin River

Water Pumping Project being undertaken by the Water Resources Utilization Department at Chitthu Village in Yesagyo Township.

They heard reports on the water-pumping project and the types of crops being cultivated there.

On 16 April, the Senior General and entourage flew to Paunglaung Hydro-Electric Power Project in Pinyinman Township.

They were welcomed there by Officiating Tactical Operations Commander Lt-Col Tin Lat, Managing Director of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise U Zaw Win, district authorities and project officials.

Managing Director U Zaw Win and Ministers U Khin Maung Thein and Lt-Gen Myint Aung briefed the Senior General on the ' project.

The Senior General met the trainees studying construction of the diversion tunnel and later inspected progress of work in construction, of Diversion Tunnel 1 and 2.

A stone-embankment dam will be built on Paung-laung River and the gushing water of the two diversion tunnels will run four generators which will produce 70 mega-watts.

The Senior General and entourage proceeded to Zawgyi Dam Project in Yawksauk Township.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Tin Htut Commander of Bahtoo Station Brig-Gen Moe Hein and other officials.

Director U Kyaw San Win of Construction Division 5 of Irrigation Department and Project Manager U Ba Si of MEPE briefed them on progress of work.

Minister Lt-Gen Myint Aung explained that the four-year Zawgyi Dam Project was implemented beginning November 1994 and that due to cooperation of departments, Tatmadawmen and regional people, the project is slated for completion next month.

The project will be completed in two years and six months instead of four year target.

The Senior General gave a deadline for completion of the hydro-electric power project of the dam in September.

Later, the Senior General presented gifts to Minister Lt-Gen Myint Aung and other officials.

They next inspected the completed intake-channel for hydro-electric power project, concrete embankment, intake structure, spillway, outlet channel and the main dam.

Ngapyang Dam, Thindwe Dam, Minyetamok Dam and Zetaw Dam on Zawgyi Creek which flows through Kyaukse District are irrigating 110,000 acres. On completion of Zawgyi Dam, sufficient water will be supplied and the irrigated acreage will increase to 200,000.

The hydro-electric power station attached with the dam will produce 12 mega-watts.

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**(2) K 30m five-storey building completed for Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Kyaungtaik in Mayangon Township**

YANGON, 17 April - A merit-sharing ceremony on completion of a five-storey building for Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Kyaungtaik was held in Ward 9, Mayangon Township, this morning. Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt supplicated to Sayadaws on religious affairs.

Present were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, State Ovadacariya Myanmar-Sri Lanka Rama Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Chief Presiding Sayadaw of Shwegyin Gana Sirimanta Sayadaw Presiding Sayadaw of Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Kyaungtaik Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Agga Maha Pandita Ashin Sumangala Lankara and other members of the Sangha.

Wife of the Secretary-1 Dr Khin Win Shwe, Ministers and deputy ministers and their wives, senior military officers, wellwishers and guests also attended the ceremony.

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**(3) '1359 ME' New Year Message sent by minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Lt-Gen Myint Aung to peasants**

On this auspicious occasion of the onset of the Myanmar New Year '1359 ME', the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation wishes all Myanmar peasants peace of mind and good health with redoubling of their efforts for the development and progress of agriculture sector.

The peasants, who are crucial workers striving for the food sufficiency of the people and economic development, constitute the main force of the nation as well as benefactors the State and the entire mass of people depend on.

Emphasis has been laid since our forefathers' times on Myanmar farm production, which is large and extensive, as the main economic undertaking of the nation. Hence, the State Law and Order Restoration Council has laid down the political, economic and social objectives with the aim for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and is striving with agriculture as the base for the allround development of other sectors of the economy as well.

In order to help enhance their standard of life with the achievement of progress in farm production as never before, the Government is fulfilling at its best the requirements of the peasants who have constantly served the nation and people in successive eras.

With a view to enhancing agricultural production, the Government is providing assistance to peasants for availability of land for meeting targeted acreage under cultivation, boosting per-acre yield, multiple cropping and extending cultivated acreage. In order to make more water available, altogether 76 dams have been constructed in a short period of the State Law and Order Restoration Council's taking responsibility to irrigate 1,200,000 acres of farmland. In 1996-97, K 3,264 million including US \$ 9 million has been spent on construction of 12 dams for irrigation of 210,000 acres of farmland. To be able to supply good quality strains, paddy, edible oil crops, beans, industrial crops and vegetables, weighing a total of 70,000 tons, have been distributed along with 350,000 tons of fertilizer, 380 tons of pesticide and six million gallons of diesel oil for pumping water. Altogether K 9.8 billion has been disbursed as cultivation costs to enable the peasants to possess full farming assets and establish debt-free social life.

Owing to the Government's allround assistance and the peasants' implementation of the Government's policy aims, agricultural production in 1996-97 has increased by 3.7 per cent and farm products fetched K 1,879 million from abroad. For these benefits, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation profoundly appreciates and honours peasants for their prowess and role.

At present, precise policies and aims have been laid down for transformation of conventional agricultural production with fundamental changes. For the economic development of the nation, three aims-surplus of paddy, sufficiency of edible oil and boosting production of beans and pulses and industrial crops for export-is being fulfilled. In so striving, paddy, beans, cotton and sugarcane will be the four pillars to agriculture for supplementing income for the nation.

With the advent of monsoon cultivation season for 1997-98, the ministry emphatically urges the peasants to double their efforts,

with refreshed mind and renewed vigour in this New Year, with the boosting of farm production which is a noble undertaking for their own and common benefits.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

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#### **(4) Ministry of Religious Affairs performs meritorious deeds**

YANGON, 17 April-Ministry of Religious Affairs freed life and paid respects to the elders at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, Kaba Aye, this morning.

Present were Minister for Religious Affairs Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister U Aung Khin, and Secretary of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Col San Matu and responsible officials of the Religious Affairs Department and the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana.

The minister, the deputy minister, responsible officials and employees freed the birds in front of Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin.

They also released fish at Bayme Kandawgyi north of Maha Theindawgyi.

The employees shampooed and manicured 32 elderly men and 28 elderly women, who were invited from 30 township in Yangon Division, and sprinkled them with scented water.

At the ceremony to pay respects to the elders, Chairman of Yangon Division Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Padana Nayaka of Vamsamaydini Monastery of Sangyoung Township Agga Maha Ganthavacalca Pandita Bhaddanta Kondanna administered the Nine Precepts.

Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited paritta.

Offertories were presented to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The minister supplicated the matters on paying respects to the elders and setting life free.

The chairman of Yangon Division Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee delivered a sermon and merits gained were shared.

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