(1) Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Lao People's Democratic Republic

YANGON, 2 Dec In the occasion of the National Day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which falls on 2 December 1997, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to His Excellency Mr. Khamtay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

(2) Deputy Prime Minister receives MD of Daewoo Corporation

YANGON, 1 Dec - Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin received Managing Director of Daewoo Corporation Mr. Kwang Seong Oh and party at his office this afternoon. Present also were officials of the Government Office and Myanmar Investment Commission Office.

(3) Myanma Sigma Cable to establish electric wire factors

YANGON, 1 Dec-Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development and Myanma Sigma Cable Co Ltd signed a land lease contract to establish electric wire factory with foreign investment in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone at Traders Hotel this evening.

Present were Deputy Prime Ministers Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lt-Gen Tin Tun, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Tha Tun, Deputy Minister for Energy U Tin Tun, heads of departments, Director-General of DHSHD U Arnt Kyaw, managing director of
Myanmar Sigma Cable Co Ltd, members of the board of directors, officials and guests.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered an address.
Managing Director Mr Charles Hang Chung Yuan and Director U Sit Nyein also spoke.

U Arnt Kyaw and Mr Charles Hang Chung Yuan signed the contract and exchanged it.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun then presented work permit of Myanmar Investment Commission to Mr Charles Hang Chung Yuan.

(4) Minister inspects greening projects in NyaungU District

YANGON, 1 Dec - Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone left NyaungU for Kyunchaung in Pakokku Township by boat on 29 November. He proceeded to Tankyitaung Hill and inspected greening of the area. He discussed future tasks and water supply with officials of the Department for Greening the Arid Zone.

Then, the Minister returned to NyaungU and went on to Tuyintaung Hill. He inspected greening of the area and gave instructions to officials of the NyaungU District Department for Greening of the Arid Zone.

The Minister next visited the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park. He gave instructions on repair of sluice gate damaged by land erosion and maintenance of the park.

Yesterday morning, he inspected forest plantations jointly established by NyaungU Township Forest Department and JIFPRO and Yomiuri organizations of Japan. He then went on to Natkanle Village in the eastern sector of Mount Popa. He met plantain growers and urged them to cultivate perennial plants instead.

The Minister returned to Yangon via NyaungU this morning.

(5) National Convention Convening Commission meets

YANGON, 1 Dec - National Convention Convening Commission held a meeting today at the Commission Office.

Chairman of the Commission Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt, Vice-Chairmen Lt-Gen Maung Thint and Brig-Gen Myo Thant and Commission members were present.
National Convention Convening Work Committee and National Convention Convening Management Committee presented matters pertaining to the National Convention.

NCCC members looked into their requirements.

It ended with concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Myo- Nyunt.
The State Peace and Development Council  Order No 1/97

The 2nd Waxing Day of Nadaw, 1359 ME  (1st December, 1997)

Commutation and Remission of Sentences

1. Taking into lenient consideration citizen prisoners undergoing sentences under orders passed by the relevant courts, the State Peace and Development Council hereby issues this Order

2. In respect of citizen prisoners undergoing death sentence, imprisonment for a term of an unlimited period, transportation for life or imprisonment for a term exceeding 10 years under orders passed by a civil court, military court or military tribunal, the respective sentences which they are undergoing shall be commuted and remitted as follows:-

(a) to commute death sentence to transportation for life (imprisonment for a term of 20 years) for those prisoners undergoing the said sentence;

(b) to remit the imprisonment ranging from a term exceeding 20 years to imprisonment for a term of an unlimited period to imprisonment for a term of 15 years for those prisoners undergoing the said sentence;

(c) to commute the sentence of transportation for life to imprisonment for a term of 10 years for those prisoners undergoing the said sentence;

(d) to remit the imprisonment ranging from a term exceeding 10 years to a term of 20 years according to each offence to imprisonment for a term of 10 years according to each offence for those prisoners undergoing the said sentence.

3. The commutation and remission of sentences under this Order shall apply only to sentences passed by the relevant courts up to 15th November, 1997.

4. The commutation and remission of sentences under this Order shall not affect the period which the prisoner concerned is ordinarily entitled.

5. This Order shall have the force of law.

Sd. Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

29th donation ceremony for renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 1 Dec - The 29th donation ceremony for renovation of the Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the Old Museum Tazaung this afternoon.

Present were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Aung Khin, Deputy Minister for Labour U Kyaw Aye Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Saw Hla Min, members of Board of Trustees and well-wishers.

Well-wishers donated K 5,796,947 to leading committee members. Board of Trustees presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Nyaungdon Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobhana delivered a sermon and merits gained were shared.
(8) Minister visits Pakokku General Hospital

YANGON, 1 Dec-Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein received Director of Fritz Werner Industries Ausrutungen GmbH Mr Christ and party at his office this morning.

Deputy Minister BrigGen Thein Aung, Director-General of Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint and Managing Director of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise U Kyaw Shein were also present.

(9) Minister for Home Affairs tours Bago

YANGON, 1 Dec - Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing inspected Bago Division Myanmar Police Force and General Administration Department in Bago this morning.

He was accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, and the Deputy Directors-General of MPF and GAD.

Meeting Division MPF commander, deputy commander, and district and township MPF commanders, he gave suggestions on proper functioning of MPF tasks, measures for crime reduction and MPF primary tasks.

The minister and party later met the Commissioner of Bago Division GAD, the Deputy Commissioner and the chairmen of Township Peace and Development Councils.

He spoke of the need for departmental heads and officials to provide effective supervision at the grassroots level and for all to be duty-conscious.

(10) Time-table of 1998 BEHS Exam announced

YANGON, 1 Dec-The Myanmar Board of Examinations today announced the time-table of the Basic Education High School Examination to be held in March 1998.

It is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-3-98</td>
<td>from 9 am to 12 noon</td>
<td>Myanmarrsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-3-98</td>
<td>(Wednesday)</td>
<td>- do -English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-3-98</td>
<td>(Thursday)</td>
<td>- do -Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-3-98</td>
<td>(Saturday)</td>
<td>- do -Coordinated Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-3-98</td>
<td>(Sunday)</td>
<td>- do -Social Science</td>
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(11) Minister looks into warehouses, rice mills and explains new paddy purchase system in Bago Division

YANGON, 1 Dec-Minister for Commerce Maj-Gen Kyaw Than, accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Kyaw Shwe and officials, yesterday visited Alegon Warehouse and Paddy Purchase Depot in Thayawady Township and inspected storage and purchase of paddy. The Minister told the personnel to pay attention to security,
minimize loss and wastage and keep the area clean. The Minister and party proceeded to Pyay and arrived at No 66 Light Infantry Division.

The Minister then met departmental personnel, rice millers, traders and farmers and explained the new paddy purchase system for 1997-98.

Under the new system, he said, paddy will be purchased by inviting tenders, sending representatives or through direct purchase at mutually agreed prices. He said the State would like to purchase quality paddy. The new system envisages to mobilise skilled and experienced persons to take Dan in the paddy purchase business, he said.

The Minister called on departmental gaged in paddy purchase to get warehouses and related facilities ready for the task. He urged them to produce quality rice and keep the mills operational in full capacity.

The Minister, the Deputy Minister and party went to No 369 100 ton Rice Mill in Paungde and No 04 Bran Oil Mill and inspected work.

They also visited the 250-ton Rice Mill in Letpadan. The Minister later met rice millers, traders and departmental personnel and explained to them the new paddy purchase system for 1997-98.

(12) Amphetamine tablets seized

YANGON, 1 Dec - A combined team comprising members of Defence Services Intelligence and Myanmar Police Force waited near Pan Phyu Restaurant on 16 November. They arrested two persons coming out from Zayhaung Ward, AAH region in Wankan Ward, Loihsaungtauk region.

Altogether 35 packets of amphetamine containing 7,000 tablets worth K 910,000 were seized from Paw Aye (a) Maung Aye, 30, son of U Set Maung, and one of them fled and escaped.

Legal action is being taken against him according to law.