

Burma Alert

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ATTENTION

The April issue of the 'BURMA ALERT' is late due to a re-organization. In the future, the 'ALERT' will be published in cooperation with the yet to be established Euro-Burma Office in Brussels. The Editor will re-locate to Belgium in the summer and a Sub-editor will be engaged in Canada. Apologies for the delays and inconveniences - Ed.

BURMAFAX

For your faxing pleasure, the following is an update of fax numbers in Burma. The country code for Burma is 95:

7 Days Travel	1 227-833
A & S International	1 290-597
A & T International Co	1 282-410
ABCS Serv, Trading & Consult	1 530-407
ABNAMRO Bank	1 240-282
Aces Group Travel	1 290-785
Ainda Travel	1 543-092
Airborne Travel/Tours	1 222-519
Ambika Tour Agency	1 289-582
Amro Hotel	1 543-075
Ancient Beauty Tours	1 289-354
Ancient Beauty Tours	1 274-034
Arab Bangladesh Bank	1 584-900
Arnanda Inn	1 525-018
Asia Global Travel	1 220-354
Asia World Co	1 282-883
Asia World Co	1 272-280
Asia Yangon Intl Bank	1 297-187
Asian Lion Travel	1 297-500
Aung Associates	1 272-552
Aung Mingalar Hotel	1 228-228
Aurora Hotel	1 525-400
Aye International	1 289-568
Aye's Family Ltd	1 550-399
Bagan Travel	1 549-660
BAM Travel	1 289-741
Bandoola International	1 289-965
Bangkok Bank	1 527-280
Bank of Ayudhya	1 40-090
Bank of Commerce (Malaysia)	1 527-103
Bank of Tokyo	1 665-172
Banque Francaise du Com Ext	1 223-184
Banque Indosuez	1 223-038

Banque National de Paris	1 527-379
Beauty Land Hotel	1 549-797
Best Industrial Co Ltd	1 524-252
BJC (Jeep Cherokee)	1 273-787
Blu Bird Travel	1 227-815
Blue Diamond Intl	1 294-174
Bon Voyage Tour	1 297-603
Bon Voyage Tour	1 240-058
Budget Tours	1 289-599
Central Bank of Myanmar	1 543-621
Central Hotel	1 248-003
Central Hotel	1 272-324
Cheery Myko Auto Co	1 222-312
Chinda San Travel	1 548-529
Classique Inn	1 525-218
Columbus Travel/Tours	1 274-806
Comfort Inn	1 524-256
Comfort Inn	1 525-134
Cozy Guest House	1 292-239
Crystal Orchid Travels	1 223-487
Dado Myanmar Travel	1 542-507
Dado Myanmar Travel	1 542-517
Daewoo Corporation	1 284-246
Daewoo Electronic Myanmar	1 662-870
Dandaryi Tours	1 294-058
Delta Combine Co Ltd	1 226-552
Deutsche Bank	1 667-874
Development Bank of Singapore	1 249-457
Diethelm Travel	1 527-135
Doo Pung Co Ltd	1 530-947
Dream World	1 223-160
Eagle Co Ltd	1 286-350
Eastern Hotel	1 294-346
EPG Travel	1 667-609
Euro-Asia Hotel	1 294-061
Eva Air	1 278-701
Ever Ready Travel	1 664-270
Ever Seiko Co Yangon	1 225-263
Excellent Enterprise	1 272-288
Exotissimo Travel	1 294-771
Export Services Ltd	1 282-929
Fantastic Travel	1 220-948
Fax Bureau	1 289-961
Fax Bureau	1 289-960
First Overseas Bank	1 243-602
Freebird Tours	1 275-638

Burma Fax:

Fuji Asia Co Ltd	1 283-634	Life International Trading	1 665-652
Fuji Bank	1 666-387	Lokanat Travel	1 297-916
Global Commercial Bank	1 543-091	Lucky Gold Star Co	532-508
Glover Electrical Industries	1 665-842	Maha Toe Travel	227-322
GML Tourism	1 524-860	Makiya Trading	281-684
Golden Burma Trading Co	1 531-178	Malar Myaing Motel	278-312
Golden Express Hotel	1 227-636	Malayan Banking Berhad	524-993
Golden Express Tours	1 277-636	Mandalay Book Agency	1 553-468
Golden Global Group Ltd	1 281-940	Mandalay Brewery	2 21743
Golden Guest Inn	1 526-008	Mandalay View Inn	2 31219
Golden Land Jewellery/Gems	1 289-007	May Seven Travels	1 282-381
Golden Land Travel Service	1 283-898	Mayflower Bank	1 278-812
Golden Land Travel Service	1 662-624	MCC Business Centre	1 294-724
Golden Land Travel Service	1 661-900	Mingala Than Myint	1 291-443
Golden Pond Tours	1 525-969	Mingalar Garden	1 532-388
Goldwin Co Ltd	1 289-706	Ministry of Health	1 290-581
Gracious Myanmar Travel	1 297-502	Ministry of Information	1 287-916
Grand Hotel	1 283-360	Ministry of Mines	1 665-092
GTS Tour Mandalay	2 35656	Ministry of Tourism	1 289-604
GTS Tour Yangon	1 249-609	Ministry of Tourism	289-588
Guest Care Hotel	1 273-573	Ministry of Trade	289-578
Happiness Tours Co	1 286-686	Miwon Shwe Tha Jin Co	226-654
Harmony Travel	1 240-856	Mok Yang Co Ltd	665-955
Helwa Travels	1 530-591	Moon Light Hotel	292-885
Hin Hin Trading	1 274-708	MT & K Tours	666-220
Historic Land Travels	1 283-350	Multigate Corporation	552-062
Hi-Fi Intl Movers	1 296-098	Mya Kyun Tha Co	1 286-185
Hong Yi Travel	1 297-591	Mya Yee Thi Tar Travel	1 295-368
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	1 665-423	Mya Yeik Nyo Deluxe	1 665-052
Htwe Eindra Win	1 530-507	Mya Yeik Nyo Royal	1 548-318
IMS Travel	1 511-206	Myanma Shipyards	1 530-613
Inakoshi Industrial Co	1 530-654	Myanma Yaung Chi Oo	227199
Indochina Business Centre	1 527-665	Myanma Yaung Chi Oo	1 224-058
ING Bank	1 530-666	Myanmar Connection Travel	1 664-169
Insight Myanmar Tours	1 297-736	Myanmar Daewoo International	1 278-811
Irrawaddy Princess	1 223-104	Myanmar Daewoo International	1 280-147
Jade Pavilion Inn	1 531-916	Myanmar Elephant House	533-706
Jewel Hotel	1 543-174	Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank	289-585
Kabs Myanmar Co	1 280-149	Myanmar Golden Star	220-860
Kaiwa Marketing (Myanmar)	1 280-193	Myanmar Image Travel	273-612
Kan Htoo Tours	1 530-206	Myanmar Image Travel	241-024
Kandawgyi Palace Hotel	1 280-412	Myanmar Inspection & Testing	1 284-823
Kayturnadi Dynasty Hotel	1 226-934	Myanmar Intl Moving	1 666-364
Keppel Bank	1 549-823	Myanmar Intl Moving	1 667-058
King Hotel	1 524-049	Myanmar Intl Moving	1 287-806
Komy Trading Co Ltd	1 531-317	Myanmar Korea Timber	1 287-863
Korea Myanmar Tourism	1 662-355	Myanmar Leading Logistics	1 289-887
Krung Thai Bank	1 539-573	Myanmar Media Intl	1 226-773
Kumudara Enterprise	1 29*7-486	Myanmar Orchid Glory Travel	1 242-756
Lai Lai Hotel	1 227-342	Myanmar Pan Pacific Intl	1 249-250
Leo Express	1 249-933	Myanmar Pilgrimage Tours	1 526-400

Burma Fax:

Myanmar Plastic Co Ltd	1 665-251	Registration/Accounts/Cons	1 282-574
Myanmar Silver & Ruby	1 665-645	River View Restaurant	1 530-263
Myanmar Singapore Intnl	1 289-590	Ryuji Travel	1 665-875
Myanmar Travel & Tours	1 282-535	SAI Travel	1 241-021
Myanmar VES Joint Venture	1 665-503	Samsung Co ltd	1 277-896
Myanmar Voyages	58 22009	Santi Forest (Myanmar)	1 222-308
Myanmar Win International	1 286-509	Sanwa Bank	1 243-008
Myanmar-Yangon Duty Free	1 532-717	Sanwa Trading	1 286-648
Myint & Associates Co Ltd	1 664-882	Sedona Hotel Yangon	1 666-911
Myit Phyar Ayer Hotel	2 35646	Segye International	1 661-909
Myko Co	533-606	Seven O Seven Travel & Tours	1 283-533
Naing Yadana Co	665-478	SGS	1 285-277
Nawarat Concorde Hotel	667-777	Shining Moon Co	1 289-648
New Bagan Inn	526-982	Shining Star Tour Express	1 240-080
New Comet Travel	246-264	Showa Auto Enterprise	1 286-090
New Horizons Travel	524-144	Shwe Karaweik Travel	1 224-395
New Horizons Travel	227-699	Shwe Yee Win Co	1 284-670
New Horizons Travel	227-339	Siam City Bank	1 526-124
New Kandawyeik Hotel	226-080	Siammar Intnl Travel	1 240-053
New Wave Travel	1 281-233	Silk Travel	1 553-077
New Wave Travel	1 273-121	Simon Petroleum Technology	1 530-032
New World Inya Lake Hotel	1 665-537	SM Tours	1 221-003
Novel Garden Hotel	1 553-704	SM Tours	1 227-225
Novel Garden Hotel	1 533-879	SMI Corporation	1 667-163
Novotel Mandalay	2 35639	Snowland Travel	1 572-588
Novotel Mandalay	2 35671	Societe Generale	1 527-466
Novotel Yangon	1 664-862	Soe San Trading	1 278-045
NTN Myanmar Co	1 295-797	South Asian Nautical Expl	1 665-654
Number One Services	287-874	Sri Asia Tourism	1 227-127
OCBC Bank	525-864	Sri Asia Tourism Service	1 227-070
OEM (Myanmar) Co	665-769	Sri Asia Tourism Service	1 283-377
Olympic Co Ltd	287-879	SS Travel	1 283-169
Open Sesame Tour	549-451	Standard Chartered Bank	1 240-261
Orchis Jewellery I	525-635	Strand Hotel	1 289-880
Overseas Union Bank (Sin)	1 225-544	Sumitomo Bank	1 248-061
Pearl Inn	1 524-260	Summit Parkview Hotel	1 227-993
Pegasus Travel & Tours	1 289-580	Tai Kwan Travels	1 227-520
Peninsula Enterprise	1 289-885	Tai Kwan Travel/Tours	1 287-887
Phoenix Hotel Bagan	62 70130	Tai Yai Co	1 289-972
Piso Aries Travel	1 289-742	Tha Pyay Thinn Hotel	1 291-923
PMK Co Ltd	1 222-677	Thai Farmers Bank	1 240-124
Power Hotel	2 33877	Thai Military Bank	1 223-127
Prime Commercial Bank	1 525-682	Thanlwin Myanmar Ltd	1 284-373
Prime Commercial Bank	1 532-420	Theingi Travel	1 284-446
Princess Inn	1 524-096	Thiri Marlar	1 228-262
Public Bank Berhad	1 223-223	Thirinda Lodge	1 549-872
Purple Plain Travel/Tours	1 227-373	Thitsa Travel	1 274-670
Queen Inn	1 526-640	Thitsa Travel	1 284-823
Queen Shin Saw Pu Hotel	1 227-126	Thuriya Tours	1 525-948
Rahu Indus & Chem Enterprises	1 664-088	Tiam Byu Hotel	2 33212
Regal Hotel	1 524-196	Today Group Mandalay	2 32996

Burma Fax:

Today Publishing	1 2^4-092
Tokai Bank	1 243-094
Tour Mandalay	1 548-972
Tour Mandalay	1 297-915
Tour Mandalay	1 297-917
U Than Ohn & Sons	1 289-271
UNDP Rangoon	1 292-739
Unique Tours	1 524-640
United Overseas Bank (Sin)	1 240-279
United T T Tour	1 275-174
Venus Trading Co Ltd	1 278-766
View Point Myanmar Arts	1 283-063
Virginland Tours	1 240-103
W & W Co	1 292-600
Welcome Hotel	1 525-252
White Crane Travels	1 641-916
WHO Hotel	1 530-429
Win Vet Clinic	1 227-274
Windsor Hotel	1 511-218
Woodland Travels	1 240-377
Wooshin Sanghap Co	1 553-268
Yadanabon Arts Gallery	1 533-023
Yangon City Hotel	1 667-763
Yinmar Co Ltd	1 272-373
YMCA	1 296-848
YMCA Rangoon	1 273-825
Yoma Hotel I	1 297-957
Yoma Hotel I	1 297-958
Yukong Corp	1 553-072
Yuzana Travel	1 297-942
Zaburit Engineering Co	1 281-364
Zizawa Tours	1 281-706

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Due to the late publication of the "BURMA ALERT", significant news items will be presented in chronological order in this issue - Ed.

News Chronology**SLORC BASE AT MANERPLAW**

SLORC has stationed three regiments and is building a military airport at Manerplaw with aid from China. Four small patrolling aircraft and six helicopters use Manerplaw as a base. Larger aircraft are expected after the airfield is completed. The base could provide close support to SLORC troops engaged in military offensives in Karen and Karenni States. Manerplaw was the headquarters of the KNU until it fell to SLORC in 1994 [DVB970312].

SLORC'S KAREN OFFENSIVE

From 14 Mar to 31 Mar the SLORC offensive against the KNU continued in the 3rd, 5th and 7th Brigade areas. Fighting took place in Thaton, Kyauk Kyi and Bawgahta [KNU970409].

33 MOSQUES DESTROYED

Between 16 and 28 Mar, 33 mosques in Mandalay, Rangoon, Pegu and Prome and other townships in central Burma were destroyed in riots. At 6 pm on 16 Mar, 100-200 people in Buddhist monks' robes attacked mosques, muslim shops and houses in Mandalay. A few days later, a Rangoon mosque frequented by Indonesian embassy officials was attacked by 50 people in monks' robes who were released after a brief detention. At Rangoon's Kanbe mosque, riot police reportedly stood by while demonstrators attacked with sticks and stones. Lieut-Gen Myo Nyunt, Minister for Religious Affairs, reportedly met with muslim leaders in Rangoon and said, "Let them destroy it - don't resist them, the army will compensate you for everything." Meanwhile Mandalay and Rangoon residents claimed that some of the monks carried pistols and walkie-talkies, fuelling suspicion that they were SLORC personnel in disguise [IS970328, N970328, NCUB/ABSDF970324].

MARTIAL LAW IN MANDALAY

On 18 Mar, martial law was declared and a curfew imposed in five Mandalay townships after demonstrations by Buddhist monks and riots in which two mosques were attacked. Residents said the main market was closed and barricades were erected in the streets. The All Burma Young Monks Union said the monks had been demonstrating to protest the recent deaths of 16 monks who had been beaten, disrobed and sent to do hard labor, and not because of an alleged rape of a Buddhist girl by muslims. Mandalay residents confirmed that the alleged rape case had been resolved before 15 Mar. The Mandalay monks were also protesting the forcible disrobing, and the continued detention of about 100 prominent abbots and senior monks since 1988. They were also angry over SLORC's faulty repair of the Maha Myat Muni Buddha. It is cracked and the Padamya Myetshin ruby, believed to bring victory to its owner, is missing [ABYMU970318, Reu/AP970321].

News Chronology:**THAIS BLOCK REFUGEES**

Relief workers reported that on 19 Mar, the Thai Army prevented about 1,000 Karen refugees from crossing the border into Thailand's Ratchburi province. The refugees were fleeing mortar attacks from SLORC's 77th Light Infantry Division, in the area of Huay Tha Ma Piew, Huay Khi Ma and Huay Tha Ma Muang, about 6 miles from the border. A spokesman for the Thai Army's 9th Division said Karens were 'being asked' not to cross to Thailand unless they were in great danger [AP970320J].

GERMANS MEET KHIN NYUNT

On 21 Mar, a delegation from Germany's lower house of Parliament headed by Williams Winner, a senior member of the lower house's Committee for Foreign Affairs, met Lieut-Gen Khin Nyunt and National Planning and Economic Development Minister Brigadier-General David Abel [AFP970326].

EUROPE CANCELS GSP PRIVILEGES

On 24 Mar, Ministers from the 15 European Union nations approved without debate, the removal of trade privileges for SLORC under the Generalized System of Preferences. A British EU official explained, "We believe this is an appropriate response to human rights violations in Myanmar and the use of forced labour in the country." A quarter of the US\$66.5 million/year EU-Myanmar trade enjoyed lucrative GSP tariff breaks [BT970319, AP970324, ST970406].

REFUGEES - WE WON'T GO BACK

In an open letter to Colonel Manat of the Thai 9th Army Division on 29 Mar, Karen refugees in Pu Muang camp, Kanchanaburi, said they would not go back to Burma for fear of human rights abuses by the SLORC army. Thai aid workers reported this week that 1,700 of the 2,700 refugees at Pu Muang camp were suffering from diarrhoea, flu and malaria. An estimated 15 to 20,000 refugees have fled Burma in the past six weeks due to the SLORC offensive against the KNU [N970324].

THAI CHIEF FORBIDS U.N. AID

On 25 Mar, General Chettha Tanajaro, Commander-In-Chief of the Thai Army, stated that the Government does not have a policy to allow the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to provide aid to the Karen fleeing the fighting in Burma [B970326].

CHINA-BURMA BORDER DEAL

On 25 Mar, China and SLORC signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in border trade and management. The two parties agreed to add entry and exit ports and to cooperate in suppressing the drug trade [X970326].

DRUG SUSPECT IN RANGOON

On 26 Mar, a Thai intelligence source reported that Li-Yun Chung, accused by US courts of importing 486 kg of heroin, was in Rangoon after jumping his 30-day bail. Li was indicted for the shipment of the heroin into Hayward, California in 1991, and was arrested on July 23 by Thai authorities at the request of the US government. A Burmese military source said on Mar 30 that, "The allegations (about Li) are so ridiculous that Myanmar does not think it is worth refuting" [B970327].

ANTI-MUSLIM UNREST SPREADS

On 29 Mar, a curfew was imposed in Toungoo, 200 km north of Rangoon, after attacks on mosques and muslim property. A few days later, 50 monks in Kalemmyo threw stones and attempted to destroy a mosque. When the news spread, villagers from Myauksi, Hsawaw, and Letpanchaung, marched towards Kalemmyo shouting slogans. Col Sein Kyawt, tactical commander of Northwest Military Command, personally asked them to go home. A night curfew was imposed and gatherings of more than 5 people were prohibited effective 1 Apr [AA970331, DVB970406].

REFUGEES RETURN TO BURMA

On 29 Mar, about 1,500 Karen refugees in the Umphang district of Thailand's Tak province, returned to Burma. The refugees, from Ban Nu Pho camp, were mostly women and children. They are reported to be family members of soldiers of the KNU 16th Battalion who surrendered to SLORC in Feb.97 [TT970330].

News Chronology:**N.L.D. AND MONKS HELD**

On 1 Apr, U Htin Gyaw, a National League for Democracy organizer in east Mandalay and nine other were arrested in the wake of anti-moslem disturbances. 150 monks have been disrobed by SLORC since 15 Mar [AFP970401].

DRTHANNYEINRELEASED

On 1 Apr, Dr Than Nyein, NLD member and brother-in-law of Lieut-Gen Khin Nyunt, was released from prison. He had been detained in Feb for seeing patients in a private clinic without having filed a photograph of the consultation room. He was released after the payment of a Kyat 1000 (US\$170) fine [Net970404].

NATIONAL CONVENTION - KN.U.

On 1 Apr, Lieut-Col Tamuhae, who surrendered along with troops from KNU's 16th battalion in February, was reported to have been appointed to the SLORC's National Convention as the representative for Karen state [TT970402].

WATAKEOVERHEROINFACTORIES

According to a drug enforcement officer with the US Embassy in Bangkok, the United Wa State Army (UWSA) has taken over most of the drug production from Khun Sa. A Thai narcotics officer also said that the heroin refineries at Doi Lang and Huay Maekham are now under control of the Wa. Wei Siao Gang, commander of the UWSA, and his brother Wei Siao Long, "are the new drug kings in the Golden Triangle," he said. The monthly output of these factories is 140 kgs of heroin. Khun Sa surrendered to SLORC in Jan'96 [N970404].

NEWS SOURCES: A = Asiaweek, AA = Asian Age, ABSDF = All Burma students Democratic Front. ABYMU = All Burma Young Monks Union, AFP = Agence France Presse, AP = Associated Press, B = Bangkok Post, BT = Business Times, DVB = Democratic Voice of Burma, IS = Inside Source, JT = Japan Times, KNU = Karen National Union, N = The Nation, Bangkok, NCUB = National Council of the Union of Burma, Net = BurmaNet, Reu = Reuters, ST = Straits times, TT = Thailand Times, and X = Xinhua News Agency.

BOMB KILLS TIN OO'S DAUGHTER

On Sunday 6 Apr at 8 pm, a bomb exploded at the home of General Tin Oo, killing his daughter Cho Lei Oo, 34. Cho, a mother of two, reportedly received a phone call asking if she had received mail from Japan. When she opened the parcel, the bomb exploded. Tin Oo, Secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and Chief-of-Staff of the Burma Army, was in the house at the time but was uninjured. SLORC said the parcel was sent by airmail from Japan. On 9 Apr, SLORC blamed "anti-Myanmar government groups within Japan" for the explosion and asked Japan to help its investigations. A recent visitor who arrived in Bangkok on 10 Apr from Rangoon, discounted the allegation because all mail in and out of Burma is closely checked. Rangoon residents say the bomb was planted in front of the residence gate and exploded as Cho Lei Oo drove out. An unidentified guard at the gate was also reportedly killed. Tin Oo's home was not damaged by the blast lending credibility to the reports [N970409J].

KAREN, ABSDF DENY INVOLVEMENT

On 7 Apr, the KNU denied any responsibility in the Tin Oo bombing. Mansha, Joint Secretary of the KNU, said, "This situation does not concern the KNU. It concerns the SLORC...they're having more and more power struggles." He denied that the KNU had the technical means or motivation to carry out the bombing. The All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) also stated that they "had no involvement whatsoever" in the bombing and that they do not believe 'terrorist acts' will bring about lasting solutions to Burma's problems [AFP/ABSDF970407].

TEXACOHIRESMERCENARIES

Texaco, which is laying a second natural gas pipeline in Burma from the Yetagun field in the Andaman Sea to Thailand, has hired Ordsafe, a US company, to control security for its operations. At least half a dozen members of the 20-plus Ordsafe team are former members of the South African military. It was reported in Dec.95 that Total SA hired French mercenaries to provide security for its joint venture operation with Unocal [A970411].