

88-02

BURMA PRESS SUMMARY

(from THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY)

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Table of Contents

DIPLOMATIC	
New Belgian Ambassador	1
Nigerian Ambassador Approved	2
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	
U.N. Disarmament Contest	2
Japanese Photo Exhibit	2
French and German Locomotives	2
Japanese Grants	2
German Wheelchairs Donated	2
Soviet Sports Equipment	2
British Video Tapes	2
FOREIGN VISITORS	
French Minister Delegate	2
Soviet Youth Delegation	3
French Parliamentarians	3
Chinese Arts Delegation	3
Malaysian Prime Minister	3
BURMESE DELEGATIONS	
Trade Delegation Returns	4
GOVERNMENT	
Military Agricultural Course	4
Union Flag Journey	4
Shan State Day	5
Union Day Fair Pavilions	5
Union Day Fair	5
Union Day Discussions	5
Union Day Objectives	8
The "Panglong Spirit"	8
Union Day Rally	8
Presidential Union Day Message	8
Pyithu Hluttaw Convened	9
Chin National Day	9
MILITARY	
KIA Atrocities	9
Other Insurgent Atrocities	9
Insurgents Surrender	9
Kachin Insurgents Denounced	9
Pa-O Insurgents	9
Bomb in Momauk	11
KNU Atrocities	11
Locomotive Damaged by Mine	11
KNU Insurgents Denounced	11
ECONOMIC	
Private Rice Exports Allowed	11
Airplane Demonstration	11
Palm Oil	11
"Ramie" Fiber	12
Salesmanship	12
"Commuters' Lament"	12
Burmese Peasants	12
Rainfall in Rangoon	13
HEALTH	
Nurses Conference	13

Medical Elections	13
Indigenous Medicine Reviewed	13
CULTURAL	
Burmese Bells	13
Second Ava Period Writers	15
Konbaung Period Writers	16
Maha Wizaya Ceremony	17
Chin Donation	17
Magazines	17
Moulmein University	17
Private Tutors Denounced	17
New Highschool Dedicated	17
Religious Convocation	18
Motion Pictures	18
Writers Meetings	18
SPORTS	
ISD Soccer Championship	18
ISD Cycling Meet	18
Football Coach Course	18
Burma Amateur Golf	18
Sports for Disabled	18
ISD Tennis Championship	19
MISCELLANEOUS	
Obituaries	19
Crime News	19
Fire in Rangoon	20
Fire in Nyaungdon	20
By Bicycle to Mandalay	20
Narcotics Statistics	20

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Issue for Feb. 6 not received.

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DIPLOMATIC

#### New Belgian Ambassador

Feb. 16: Ambassador Baron Olivier Gilles de Pelichy presented credentials to President U San Yu as Belgian Ambassador to Burma. (WPD photo caption 2/17)

#### BURMA PRESS SUMMARY (from the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY)---Feb. 1988---# Nigerian Ambassador Approved

Feb. 19: The Burmese Government approved the appointment of Mr. Musa Bello as Ambassador of Nigeria to Burma. Born in 1935, Ambassador Bello joined the Foreign Service in 1961, and served in Accra, London, and Addis Ababa. From 1976-78 he was Ambassador to Angola, and from 1981-84 Ambassador to Guinea and also to Guinea-Bissau. He became High Commissioner to India in 1987, and is also accredited to Sri Lanka. He will reside in New Delhi. Ambassador Bello is married, with five children. (WPD 2/19)

#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

##### U.N. Disarmament Contest

Feb. 6: Entries are invited for the United Nations Disarmament Week and World Disarmament Campaign poster contest, and must reach the U.N. Information Centre in Rangoon by March 8. Specifications are given. The Burmese panel of judges will choose the six best entries, which will receive prizes of Ky 1,500, Ky 1,000, Ky 700, Ky 500, Ky 500, and Ky 500 respectively. The first-prize winner will be sent to U.N. headquarters in New York for the international competition. (WPD 2/7)

##### Japanese Photo Exhibit

Feb. 8: Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Ohtaka opened an exhibition of Japanese photographs at the Judson Church Centre on Promote Road. It will close Feb. 13. (WPD 2/9)

#### French and German Locomotives

Feb. 10: Burma Railway Corporation has ordered 15 diesel electric 2,000 HP locomotives from the French Alsthom Company with loans from the French Government; 14 of them arrived in 1987. It also ordered 11 diesel hydraulic 900 HP locomotives from the Krupp Company with loans from the KFW Company of West Germany, "in addition to one locomotive left behind." Of these, six arrived aboard the mv Mandalay as the first consignment, and the number which arrived "now totalled seven." (WPD 2/11)

#### Japanese Grants

Feb. 17: Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Nyunt Maung and Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Ohtaka exchange notes concerning three Japanese Government Grants totalling Yen 2,819.62 million (Ky 136.52 million), part of the total grant for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Yen 2,400 million will be for procurement of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and agricultural machinery. Yen 239.62 million will be for procurement of paper, medicines, radioisotopes, pharmaceuticals, and TV studio equipment. Yen 180 million will be for the design of the Mandalay Teaching Hospital. (WPD 2/18)

#### German Wheelchairs Donated

Feb. 17: The West German Red Cross Society delivered a donation of 16 wheelchairs, worth DM 22,500, to Burma Red Cross Society President U Kyi. (WPD photo caption 2/18)

#### Soviet Sports Equipment

Feb. 18: The Sports and Physical Education Committee of the USSR presented sports equipment for football, volleyball, boxing, and chess. Soviet Ambassador Sergei Pavlovitch made the presentation to Sports and Physical Education Department Director-General U Aung Dine. (WPD 2/19)

#### British Video Tapes

Feb. 18: British Ambassador M. R. Morland presented training aid program video tapes, to be used by Burma Television, to Minister for Information and for Culture U Aung Kyaw Myint. (WPD 2/19)

#### FOREIGN VISITORS

##### French Minister Delegate

Feb. 10: French Minister Delegate for Transportation Jacques Douffiagues, arrived with a delegation of six. He called on Deputy Prime Minister for Planning and Finance Thura U Tun Tin, and then on Minister for Transport and Communications Thura U Saw Pru. (WPD 2/11) // Feb. 11: He departed, after visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda, the Insein locomotive shed, and the National Museum. (WPD 2/12)

##### Soviet Youth Delegation

Feb. 16: A Soviet Youth Delegation of two members, headed by Secretary of the Kazakhstan Youth Committee Sergazy Scitpatalovich, arrived for a week study tour under the bilateral exchange program. (WPD 2/17) // Feb. 17: It called on Deputy Minister for Education Dr. Maung Di, Vice-Chairman of the Lanzin Youth Control Organizing Committee (LYCOC), and on LYCOC headquarters. (WPD 2/18)

Feb. 22: The delegation, accompanied by LYCOC member U M Zao Nan, visited Mandalay on Feb. 18 and met with local LYCOC officials, with working youth in Mandalay North-West Township, and with a youth membership course in Mandalay South-East Township. On Feb. 19 it visited Maymyo LYCOC members and the Botanical Garden. On Feb. 21 it met Pagan-Nyaung-U LYCOC members and toured the pagodas, the

lacquerware training school, and the archaeological museum. On Feb. 22, back in Rangoon, it met Rangoon LYCOC members and visited the Mingaladon Orchid Garden. (WPD 2/23) // Feb. 23: The delegation visited the National Museum and the Pyinmanbin Livestock Breeding Farm. (WPD 2/24) // Feb. 24: The delegation departed. (WPD 2/25)

#### French Parliamentarians

Feb. 17: A French Parliamentary Delegation of six members, headed by Claude Birraux, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Commission of Production and Exchanges (UDF Party), arrived. (WPD 2/18) // Feb. 18: The delegation held talks with the Panel of Chairmen of the Pyithu Hluttaw headed by U San Lin. It called on Foreign Minister U Ye Goung and Minister for Agriculture and Forests U Than Nyunt. It visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and National Museum, and was given a dinner by the Panel of Chairmen at the Inya Lake Hotel. (WPD 2/19) // Feb. 19: The delegation visited the Union Day pavilions and the Central Agricultural Farm at Hmawbi. (WPD 2/20)

Feb. 20: The French delegation visited Pagan-Nyaung-U, and was given a dinner at the Thiripyitsaya Hotel by Nyaung-U Township People's Council Chairman U Khin Maung Than. (WPD 2/21) // Feb. 21: It visited Mandalay, where it visited the Maha Myatmuni Pagoda and the Shwe-kyauung-daw-gyee, as well as the lunyagyawcheik (weaving) industry, and was given lunch by Mandalay Peoples Council Chairman U Nyo Win. It returned to Rangoon for a dinner in honor of the Pyithu Hluttaw Panel of Chairmen at the French Embassy. (WPD 2/22) // Feb. 22: The delegation departed after visiting the Timber Corporation furniture factory. (WPD 2/23)

#### Chinese Arts Delegation

Feb. 24: A three-man Chinese Arts Delegation headed by Xue Yongnian, accompanied by Wang Qingming and Yan Xiangdong, arrived on a tour under the bilateral cultural exchange program that will last until Mar. 9. They called on Minister for Culture and for Information U Aung Kyaw Myint. (WPD 2/25)

#### Malaysian Prime Minister

Feb. 25: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad arrived in Rangoon for a three-day official visit, at the invitation of Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha. He was accompanied by his wife and a 13-member official party including Foreign Minister Dato' Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Trade and Industry Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, Deputy Minister of the Prime Minister's Department Dato' Oo Gin Sun, and Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Dato' Megat Junid bin Megat Ayub.

The Malaysian Prime Minister was greeted at the Seinlekantha Guest House on University Avenue by BSPP Chairman U Ne Win, and in the afternoon called on President U San Yu, at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw, and on Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha in the Council of State Hall.

The Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah, visited the Residential Nursery and Girls Training School on Dubern Road, the Children's Hospital on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, and the National Museum.

In the evening, Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha hosted a dinner at the Pyithu Hluttaw Banquet Hall, where speeches were given.

Dr. Mahathir Mohammed said that he had recently received the Burmese Prime Minister in Malaysia, where "we had a very useful exchange of views on the whole spectrum of our bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues...." Commenting on bilateral technical cooperation, he noted that "a number of Burmese medical specialists arrived in Kuala Lumpur early this month...in addition to those who are already serving in the country," and said Malaysia would "continue to make available places for Burmese officials and students in such institutions as the National Institute of Public Administration...." He said both nations had "learnt the hard way that relying entirely on the developed nations will not

necessarily bring us the desired benefits," and endorsed South-South Cooperation. He also endorsed the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), but said that the Kampuchean situation posed a "continued hindrance" to its achievement, expressing hope for an early political solution there that "will minimize external power involvement." Finally, he noted that "While Burma is not a member of ASEAN, the directions taken by Burma complement the efforts of ASEAN."

U Maung Maung Kha noted the "close and friendly relations existing between our two countries and peoples," and called for "more frequent exchange of visits at all levels." He reviewed Burma's policies of peaceful coexistence, and the urgency of continued world disarmament. He cited the current "gloomy and sluggish" U.N. economic forecast, and said nations "must find a way to reduce debt and trade imbalances without causing recession or rebuilding inflation." He expressed pleasure at the prospect of further discussions and cooperation with Malaysia." (WPD 2/26)

Feb. 26: The Malaysian Prime Minister and his party held talks on drug abuse control matters with Minister for Home and Religious Affairs U Min Gaung, and viewed exhibits of Burmese anti-narcotics efforts. Earlier they toured the Shwedagon Pagoda, donating US\$ 1,000, and visited the drug addict program at the Psychiatric Hospital, the Myanma Gems Corporation showrooms. In the afternoon the delegation flew to Pagan-Nyaung-U and toured the Thatbyinyu Temple. (WPD 2/27)

Feb. 27: The Malaysian Prime Minister and his party visited the Ananda Pagoda, the Lacquerware Training School, and the Pagan Museum, before flying back to Rangoon. In the afternoon, after a farewell call from BSPP Chairman U Ne Win, they left for home. (WPD 2/28)

#### BURMESE DELEGATIONS

##### Trade Delegation Returns

Feb. 10: A Burmese Trade Delegation headed by Minister for Trade U Khin Maung Gyi, visiting India since Jan. 23 to discuss trade promotion, returned to Rangoon via Singapore. (WPD 2/11)

#### GOVERNMENT

##### Military Agricultural Course

Feb. 3: The 12th Tatmadaw Agricultural Course concluded at the central agricultural farm of the Agriculture Corporation. 105 Army, Navy and Air Force trainees attended the six-month course. (WPD 3/4)

##### Union Flag Journey

The Union flag, on its journey through the 14 States and Divisions ending at the Union Day celebrations in Rangoon's Kyaikkasan Fairgrounds on Feb. 12, was carried from Mindat, Chin State to Pauk, Magwe Division (Jan. 31); Yesagyo, Magwe Division (Feb. 1); Monywa, Sagaing Division (Feb. 2); Sagaing (Feb. 3); Mandalay (Feb. 4); Myitkyina, Kachin State (Feb. 5); Kengtung, Shan State (Feb. 6); Loikaw, Kayah State (Feb. 7); Pa-an, Karen State (Feb. 8); Moulmein, Mon State (Feb. 9); Mergui, Tenasserim Division (Feb. 10); Mingaladon, Rangoon Division (Feb. 11); and Kyaikkasan Fairgrounds (Feb. 12). The elaborate ceremonies held at each point are described in detail. [photos and maps] (WPD, various dates)

##### Shan State Day

Feb. 7: The 41st Anniversary of Shan State Day was observed at the Kengtung Myoma Sports Ground. Present were Shan State Party Regional Committee Secretary U Sai Maing and Shan State People's Council Chairman U Ba Than, political and military leaders, and over 10,000 working people. (WPD 2/8)

##### Union Day Fair Pavilions

The pavilions and exhibits of the various States and Divisions,

and of the Ministries, at the annual Union Day Fair in the Kyaikkasan Fairgrounds in Rangoon, are described in detail. // Working people visited them in large numbers [more descriptions]. (WPD, various dates)

#### Union Day Fair

Feb. 6: President U San Yu visited the Union Day exhibition pavilions at the Kyaikkasan Fairgrounds in Rangoon. (WPD 2/7) // Feb. 8: Union Day Chairman U Sein Lwin, Secretary of the Council of State, greeted delegates and members of cultural troupes. (WPD 2/9) // Feb. 9: Chief of Staff General Saw Maung greeted the "special guests from the hill regions". The pavilions opened and were visited by "huge crowds of working people." (WPD 2/10) // Feb. 11: BSPP Chairman U Ne Win and his wife attended the 41st Anniversary Union Day reception and dinner given by President U San Yu and his wife at the President's House compound on Ahlone Road. (WPD 2/12) // Feb. 21: The Union Flag was conveyed from the Kyaikkasan Grounds to City Hall and placed "in a silver bowl on a dais in the reception room of the Mayor" where it will "rest for one year." (WPD 2/22) // Union Day was also observed in Townships around Burma. (WPD various dates)

#### Union Day Discussions

Feb. 11: Council of State Secretary U Sein Lwin gave the opening address at the Union Day discussions in Saya San Hall, Kyaikkasan Fairgrounds [full text provided]. He welcomed the delegates and reviewed the development of socialist democracy in Burma.

In agriculture, Burma has a net cultivated area of 21 million acres and mixed crop cultivated area of over 4 million acres for a total of over 25 million acres of crops. 13% can be irrigated. There are 4 million acres of fallow land and 21 million acres of virgin cultivable land. There are 279 irrigation dam networks built, and 7 irrigation projects under construction. 47% of the country is covered with forests. There are programs to grow more teak and hardwood, and "forest nurseries to prevent the forest depletion in the long run." He reviewed the industrial and mining sectors generally.

In communications, over 12,000 miles of highways have been constructed; with the 2,400 miles of the Pyidaungsu Highway there will be over 14,000 miles.

He reviewed the international trade situation, pointing out that declines in Burmese export prices, coupled with increased costs of imports had led to a shortage of foreign exchange, and hence the need to increase foreign exchange earnings. He reviewed the decontrol of most crops, and the new requirements for payment of land revenues in kind.

He criticized "underground and aboveground destructive elements." "Destructive elements, who are self-seeking profiteers and who still cling to bad practises of old systems and are economically, socially and morally corrupted, are writing and broadcasting rumours which make the public waver, are giving and taking bribes and misappropriating private-owned and co-operative-owned funds and are causing loss and wastage." Armed insurgents were "hiding in far-flung border areas" and "terrorizing the working people," but are now fleeing. Numerous delegates supported the opening statement.

In his closing speech, U Sein Lwin responded to delegates' comments. In answer to a Shan State delegate's suggestion for more TV relay stations, he said one was set up in Taunggyi on Jan. 4, reaching a 50 mile radius including Loikaw and Dimawhao Townships in Kayah State. More will be established when possible.

To Kachin and Mon State delegates' suggestions for more dams and canals he said Ky 840 million was invested in agriculture, including irrigation, in 1987-88. Primary surveys have been carried out for the Pauknetchaung Dam in Shwegu Township. Ways are being sought to save foreign currency in the construction of the sluice-gate at the Washaung Dam in Waingmaw Township. The small lakes irrigation

project (1) is being implemented with loans from the IDA since 1982-83. A part of this, the Azin Dam in Mon State, is targeted for completion in 1989-90. Surveys are under way for the Sandawtaung Dam in Thanbyuzayat Township and the Wabachaung Dam in Thaton Township.

To suggestions for additional support for fishing and livestock breeding, and prevention of fish and prawn smuggling, by delegates from Mon State and Irrawaddy and Tenasserim Divisions, he said nets were being imported and distributed, and that machine oil is being supplied by the Fisheries Corporation since the quota in Tenasserim Division "is insufficient." Measures are being taken to establish a sea prawn fingerling breeding station at Waimaw in Launglon Township and a sea prawn breeding station at Pyingyi Island, and to produce sufficient freshwater prawn fingerlings at the Thaketa and Kyauktan stations. Epidemic disease control for livestock, and training in livestock breeding, are being increased, and medicines are being distributed each year. Since crops have been decontrolled, "livestock breeding work is to be carried out through its own arrangements." Fish and prawn production are being encouraged, and smuggling attacked. "It is the duty of the fishermen catching and producing fish and prawns within the Burma territory to sell to the State the fish and prawns caught at a reasonable price."

In response to suggestions from delegates from Kachin and Kayah States and Tenasserim Division for increasing forest production, increasing support for timber extraction workers, and suppressing the stealing of logs and indiscriminate felling of trees, he said the State is carrying out afforestation work, extending reserved forest areas, raising forest plantations, and establishing village fire-wood plantations. In 1987-88, 3.6 million teak and hardwood trees were grown on 80,000 acres, as targeted. To prevent denuding forests, measures are being taken to grow trees throughout the country rather than only in certain regions. Extensive cultivation of plantations will be made in Kayah State "as the situation permits." Elephants are being supplied to the Mathay region project in Bokeyyin Township, Tenasserim Division. Action is being taken against indiscriminate felling and illegal sawing of timber, and smuggling of timber.

To a Kayah State delegate's proposal to increase the production of the Mawchi Mines, he said that its reserves total over 740,000 tons of ore, and more equipment and crushing machines have and will be supplied. A project has been drawn up for a 10-ton capacity metal concentration plant in Loikaw next year, to increase exports of tin and wolfram from Mawchi.

To complaints of insufficient machine oil by delegates from Rakhine State and Tenasserim, Magwe, Pegu, and Irrawaddy Divisions, he said that 1987-88 production of crude oil was less than the planned target. The main causes were "less production in oil wells, failing to drill new oil wells owing to unavailability of drills, pipes, and other implements and less production at the new wells which are unable to produce oil as expected." Therefore, methanol, liquified gas, and natural gas have been substituted in some places instead of petroleum and diesel oil.

A Magwe Division delegate said the cigarette factory could not be operated for lack of raw materials, and the Rakhine State Delegate said that raw materials were piling up at their coir factory. Raw materials and parts have been imported "within the bounds of availability of foreign exchange and on the basis of priority system." Efforts are being made to substitute local raw materials for imported ones, "so that basic personal goods can be produced regularly." The cigarette factory is now resuming production, and the the coir factory was stopped for lack of machine oil and "arrangements are being made to expand the production on the basis of the availability of the machine oil."

Delegates from Pegu Division and Mon State asked for more hydroelectric power. U Sein Lwin said there were hydel plants completed or under construction in Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Mon, and Shan States and in Pegu and Mandalay Divisions. More will be installed "as far as financial conditions permit."

In response to requests for improved transportation links by delegates from Kachin and Mon States and Tenasserim and Magwe Divisions, he said that ground work had been completed in the 32-mile stretch of the 35-mile Shwegu/Katha motor road and efforts are being made to turn it into an all-weather road. Construction of the Myitkyina/Shwebo motor road continues. The Moulmein/Ye/Tavoy all-weather motor road has been built. However, some sectors of the Tavoy/ Mergui road are not serviceable all year round, and ways will be sought to change the track of sections close to the beach. Possible tracks have been found for the Mergui/Tenasserim, Tenasserim/Layhnyar, and Layhnyar/Bokepyin/Kawthaung segments of the Mergui/Kawthaung road. Work is under way to make all-weather the roads linking townships including Gangaw, Saw, Sedoktara, Htilin, and Pauk, in Magwe Division. Local people should help in road construction.

Delegates from Magwe Division and Chin and Shan States discussed transport and communications. Maintenance work is being carried out. Radio telegraphic communications centers have been opened within Chin State, and to connect Chin State to other areas through the Haka/Rangoon and Haka/Mandalay lines. A plan for microwave communications between Haka and Mandalay has been drawn up as part of the third communications development plan. The Road Transport Corporation is putting trucks into passenger service at least once a week in some Magwe Division townships. In Shan State rail lines are on the hills and materials and workers are hard to get.

Delegates from Mon State and Pegu and Irrawaddy Divisions said action should be taken against "private entrepreneurs who are undertaking the sale and purchase business of decontrolled crops without getting themselves registered." U Sein Lwin reviewed the notification decontrolling crops, noting that entrepreneurs must pay in revenues under the Profit Tax Law.

He assured a Karen State delegate that "arrangements are being made for the enforcement of law and order in the regions free from the danger of the KNU insurgents as well as for the development of the region," but said there must also be self help. The meeting closed with "with the chanting of slogans." (WPD 2/12)

#### Union Day Objectives

Feb. 12: The Union Day political objectives are:

- "1. To make efforts by the strength of unity of the national groups to consolidate and promote socialist democratic essence;
  - "2. For the indigenous people to strive with might and main to bring about the economic development of the State; and
  - "3. For the indigenous people to constantly co-operate with the Pyithu Tatmadaw to completely annihilate the destructive elements."
- (WPD 2/12)

#### The "Panglong Spirit"

Feb. 12: In an article entitled "The Panglong Spirit," N Tin Maung recalls the Panglong Conference of Feb. 12, 1947, and then quotes from General Ne Win's statement of February 12, 1964 at the Mann Centenary Grounds in Mandalay, when he announced the Revolutionary Council's "belief on the question of nationalities":

"It is essential for all nationalities to be convinced that, in building up the Union of Burma--a country constituted by uniting the many indigenous racial groups--into a united, stable and economically and socially prosperous country, the fraternity and solidarity between all nationals is a basic and major requirement. To achieve fraternity and solidarity, the Kachins, the Kayahs, the Karens, the Chins, the Burmans, the Shans and other indigenous nationalities, must be fully resolved to live in unity through weal and woe. Only then will it be possible for all the indigenous nationalities to join hands with trust and confidence in one another. Only when the paramount importance of this essential requirement is appreciated will it be possible to eliminate the false notions such as 'majority people' and 'minority people' which the mutual suspicions and



strained relationships of the past had created." (WPD 2/12)

#### Union Day Rally

Feb. 12: A mass rally at the Kyaikkasan Fairgrounds was attended by over 100,000 people. Columns of thousands of workers from each of the States and Divisions marched in by different routes, to be joined by the 1,180 official delegates, and the "special guests from the hill regions." The Union Flag that had traveled around Burma arrived at the Fairgrounds. Rangoon Division People's Council Chairman U Kyaw Thein addressed the rally, outlined the three Union Day political objectives and "called on the indigenous people to strive to implement, out of their own consciousness, the resolutions, laid down by this rally." A message by President U San Yu was read by Council of State member U Tun Yi [reported separately]. The three resolutions were proposed, seconded, and unanimously adopted as "the mass rally successfully concluded." (WPD 2/14)

#### Presidential Union Day Message

Feb. 12: President U San Yu's message to the 41st Union Day celebrations said that the tasks of expanding socialist economic enterprises, of broadening just and equitable social relations, and protecting the interests of the people were to be implemented "in accordance with democratic practises." National unity and cooperation was needed "to get the essence of the socialist democracy more distinctive, more overwhelming." To attain this, "we all must strive to get the present economic undertakings rid of defects and weaknesses and to more fully meet the food, clothing, shelter and social needs of the people." The Tatmadaw and the people are crushing "the insurgents and the destructive elements." "Therefore, I would like to emphatically urge all the indigenous people of the Union to successfully implement all the tasks to be carried out in accordance with the political objectives laid down for the observance of the 41st Anniversary of the Union Day." (WPD 2/14)

#### Pyithu Hluttaw Convened

Feb. 17: Proclamation No. 1/88 by the Council of State convenes the Sixth meeting of the Fourth Pyithu Hluttaw on 12th Waning of Tabaung, 1349 BE (Mar. 14, 1988). (WPD 2/18) // Feb. 18: Members are requested to arrive in Rangoon Mar. 10-11. (WPD 2/19)

#### Chin National Day

Feb. 20: A ceremony to observe the 40th anniversary of Chin National Day was held in the Arts Hall of Rangoon University, presided over by Dr. Salai Hkwan Nga. (WPD photo caption 2/21) // Feb. 22: Ceremonies were held in the U Vamthu Mawng sports ground in Haka on Feb. 20, presided over by Chin State Party Chairman U E K Kim Ngin, Secretary U Pau Do Nang, and People's Council Chairman U Son Kho Vung, and attended by over 10,000 working people. (WPD 2/23)

#### MILITARY

##### KIA Atrocities

Feb. 1: KIA insurgents on Jan. 25 shot a sleeping villager, U La Byam, aged 60, in Namchet village, Kutkai Township. (WPD 2/2)

Feb. 2: KIA insurgents on Jan. 26 killed villager Maung Pu, aged 40, in Nakun village, Namtu Township. (WPD 2/3)

Feb. 18: KIA insurgents on Feb. 11 entered Hohpyet village-tract in Kutkai Township and burned 134 houses in Saik-khaung, Narchan, Mangpan, Mang-U, and Hku-uau villages. Kutkai officials provided 804 pyis of rice to the victims, and the public donated Ky 56,700 of rice, as well as salt, clothes, and other aid. (WPD 2/19)

Feb. 19: KIA insurgents on Feb. 16 entered Nawngmo village in Lashio Township and shot villager Shwe Aung, aged 28. (WPD 2/20)

##### Other Insurgent Atrocities

Feb. 19: Palaung insurgents blew up the self-help

hydroelectric station at Namhsan on Feb. 12, seizing the watchman and his son. (WPD 2/20)

Feb. 19: Shan insurgents on Feb. 3 entered Manhsan Yekya village in Hsipaw Township, killing three villagers and burning two houses, a monastery, and a rest house (zayat). Others opened fire on villagers in Peinsa, Mankun, and Kawngwein villages, killing three. (WPD 2/20)

Feb. 26: A mine on Feb. 12 killed one and wounded two peasants from Mezalimyaing village, Mongnai Township, as they were returning from Panpi village. (WPD 2/27)

#### Insurgents Surrender

Feb. 4: 18 insurgents surrendered, with their arms, from Jan. 1-6, 1988. (WPD 2/5) [names and details given] [Issue for 2/6, with statistics for Jan. 7-31, not received]

#### Kachin Insurgents Denounced

Feb. 12: Under the title "The last days of crow-thief KIA", Sai Hsae Naw discusses the recent trip of Ambassadors, Military Attach,s, and Journalists to Northern Command Headquarters at Myitkyina, where the Kachin State People's Council Chairman told the folktales of the crow-thief who stole eggs from a white hen but was convicted when they hatched out as white fledglings. After reviewing the trip and information about Kachin State, the author concludes that "the members of the study group who have seen with their own eyes the approaching end of the crow-thief KIA insurgents, who are destroying the enchanting beauty and spoiling the gracefulness of the Kachin State have come to believe that they are evil, wicked, and destructive." (WPD 2/12)

#### Pa-O Insurgents

Feb. 14: A feature article entitled "Pa-O insurgents breathing their last," by Khin Maung Myint (Pantanaw) reviews the history of Pa-O insurgency, recalling that Operation Kyaw Naing Soe from Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 1987, attacked the Pa-O base camps in the Loiche Mountain Range in Loilem Township, capturing 14 firearms, 635 rounds of ammunition, five 40 mm rockets, 20 magazines, and 11 walkie-talkies. The insurgents fled.

The Pa-O insurgents are divided into the Pa-O insurgents (Red) known as the "Shan State Nationalities Liberation Group" (Ya La La Pha) led by Tarkale, and the Pa-O insurgents (White) known as the "Pa-O Nationals Headquarters" led by Aung Khan Hti and Tun Yee. The insurrection began when the "Pa-O National Organization" (Pa Ah Ma Hpa) was formed in December 1949 by U Hla Pe and Chan Sone. Chan Sone gave up in Taunggyi in 1950, but "owing to the enmity of the Shan feudal lords" he and U Hla Pe started a new insurrection in 1951. Most of them, led by U Hla Pe and Chan Sone accepted the Caretaker Government's Amnesty offer in 1958, but Sa Be Shai, San Thein and others "stayed behind in the jungles."

After Sa Be Shai had fallen, San Thein formed the "Pa-O Liberation Organization" in 1965, which in 1968 became the "Organization for Liberating All Indigenous Groups in Shan State" (Ya La La Hpa). San Thein was killed in an internal struggle in Oct. 1968, and Sein Shwe, Hla Maung, and Tarkale assumed leadership of the Ya La La Hpa.

In 1970 the group split over whether to ally with the BCP, as invited by a BCP group led by Myo Myint. Pa-O insurgent leader U Hla Pe went back into the jungles in 1972. On Sept. 17, 1973, at Honam village, pro-BCP Pa-O insurgents demanded that they should join forces with the BCP, and there was a split into two factions. That led by Tarkale, Saw Hpar Mu and Hla Maung wished to join with the BCP. and that led by U Hla Pe, U Nay Mi, Aung Hkam Hti and Aung Hkam did not. The Tarkale group became the "Pa-O Insurgents' Organization (Red)" (Ya La La Hpa-Red) and the U Hla Pe group the "Pa-O Insurgents' Organization (White)" (Ya La La Hpa-White).

The Red group went over to Naunglon and Naungwoe in the No. 108 BCP military area. The White group carried out its activities in the

Hsihseng, Loikaw, Panglong, Kyauktan, Laihka, and Mongnai areas. U Hla Pe died in Sept. 1975 and the organization became the "Pa-O National Organization" in Dec. 1976 led by U Nay Mi, U Kyaw Sein, and Aung Hkam. U Kyaw Sein "returned to the legal fold" in 1979, while the other two continued to lead the organization, naming Ba Saing and Tun Yee as vice-chairmen and setting up military regions. Since then they have been active in the Kyauktalone, Hopong, Hsihseng and Inle areas.

The Red group attended BCP military and political courses at BCP headquarters in Pangsang in April 1976 under the guidance of BCP Myo Myint. In 1977 they received arms from the BCP and entered the Kadugyi and Kadulay area. Some, led by Tarkale, attended BCP courses at Pangsang in 1979. In May 1980 the Red group, together with the BCP No. 4046 battalion, penetrated the Hopong, eastern Hsihseng, Mongnai, and Momauk areas, and the southern sector of the Pyidaungsu Motor Road through Kadugyi and Kadulay. In 1982 BCP No. 082 battalion arrived. The Red group fought the White group, and both oppressed and extorted from the public.

Most Pa-O nationals live in southern Shan townships such as Taunggyi, Hopong, Heho, Hsihseng, Pinlaung, Loilem, Mongnai, Yawnghwe, Maukme, Lankho, Laikha, Namsan, and Kunheng, as well as near the Menai range in Hsihseng Township and the Lweche range in Namsan Township. Most are farmers growing Thanatphet and potatoes.

To fight insurgency, 243 People's Militia Units (Resident) have been formed in 35 townships of Shan State, and 240 of them were armed between 1982 and Dec. 1987. Consolidated areas have been formed in Kalaw, Pinlaung, Pekon, Pindaya, and Ywangan Townships "where there are no more insurgents." The Pyithu Tatmadaw clashed with Pa-O insurgents 19 times in Loilem, Momauk, Namsam, Lawksawk, Hsihseng, Lamkho, and Pinlaung Townships between July and December 1987, and "captured 23 insurgents dead" and 26 arms. "...it is not far off when a handful of Pa-O insurgents get crushed under the onslaught of the people and the Pyithu Tatmadaw." (WPD 2/14)

#### Bomb in Momauk

Feb. 16: A bomb planted by KIA-Kachin insurgents exploded in Momauk Township State High School on Feb. 12, instantly killing five students (2 girls over 12; 1 boy and 2 girls under 12) and wounding 140 others. Seven more died later (1 girl over 12, 1 peasant and 1 boy and 4 girls under 12). Of the 133 wounded, 11 are boys and 66 girls; the remainder were peasants, shopkeepers, workers, and midwives. The bomb exploded at 1:30 pm under the chairs of the audience attending a padetha dance commemorating Union Day.

At a film show on Feb. 7 at the Nawngyin Grounds in Kengtung, a mine exploded wounding 17 persons. (WPD 2/17)

#### KNU Atrocities

Feb. 22: Karen insurgents from No. 2 company, KNU (D.O.) 6th batallion on Feb. 15 burned and sank the Ngwe Win Win vessel of Moulmein, at Phikaung Taungwaing on its way to Chaung-hna-khwa to carry paddy. On Feb. 14 KNU insurgents entered Zayatseik village, Palaw Township, and burned nine houses in Zayatseik and three in Taponphya village. They looted paddy, gold, money, clothes, and household goods worth Ky 160,000. (WPD 2/23)

Feb. 26: A KNU mine on Feb. 20 maimed a woman at Tagaylaung village, Pa-an Township. (WPD 2/27)

#### Locomotive Damaged by Mine

Feb. 26: A freight train from Lashio was blown up by a mine at Post 553/4 on Feb. 24, severely damaging the locomotive and causing other minor damage. Two crew members were injured. (WPD 2/27)

#### KNU Insurgents Denounced

Feb. 27: A feature article entitled "For total annihilation of the KNU insurgents", by Saw Aung Myint, describes an anti-insurgent mass rally on Feb. 12 in Bawthabyu village, Pa-an Township, attended

by over 5,000 people from neighboring areas. Saw Htoo Nyein told of a raid on Khale Tagundaing village, Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, on Karen New Year Day in which six villagers were killed and 38 wounded, including his relatives. The article gives statistics of local people's militia units and anti-insurgent groups formed in the various military commands, namely:

Northern: 274 in 24 townships;  
South-East: 625 in 26 townships;  
North-East: 257 in 16 townships;  
Rangoon: 71 in 11 townships;  
South-West: 340 in 26 townships;  
Western: 110 in 22 townships;  
North-West: 270 in 58 townships;  
Eastern: 240 in 35 townships;  
Central: 425 in 28 townships.

Consolidated areas were established in 148 townships between 1981/82 and Dec. 1987. (WPD 2/27)

## ECONOMIC

### Private Rice Exports Allowed

Feb. 2: "The co-operative societies and private entrepreneurs who are citizens are allowed to export rice and broken rice, it is learned." Further details may be obtained from the Ministry of Trade, No. 228/240 Strand Road, Rangoon. (WPD 2/3)

### Airplane Demonstration

Feb. 2: Aerospatiale Aeritalia Consortium of France gave a demonstration of the ATR 42 aircraft [a 2-engine turboprop], which flew guests around Rangoon and to Mandalay. [photo] (WPD 2/3)

### Palm Oil

Feb. 11: Palm oil is used industrially and as cooking oil; we can obtain 400 viss of oil per acre. The Agriculture Corporation has oil palms on over 6,500 acres, and the Prisons Department is extending oil palm plantations in Tenasserim Division. There were over 16,000 acres of oil palm in Tenasserim Division, according to provisional figures for 1986-87, producing more than 3,300 tons of oil. Only a couple of thousand kyats are needed for the first year investment, and then less. Production starts after four years, and continues for 2 1/2 decades. Other crops can be planted too. "...all-out efforts will have to be made to establish oil palm plantations extensively." (WPD editorial 2/11)

### "Ramie" Fiber

Feb. 14: The Agriculture Corporation exhibit includes a display of "ramie," a fiber crop called ban in Burmese that can be used as a cotton substitute. Native to China, it is a perennial that can yield for up to 30 years and be harvested three times a year. "Long and thin, tough and tensile, spotlessly white and lustrous, ramie fibre turns into fashionable clothes that feel pleasantly cool and look well-pressed. It can be easily dyed and washed and it resists mildew and moth, and does not fade." It is good for fishnets and lines, sewing threads, and many textiles. "Every means should be applied to get farmers to grow ramie." (WPD editorial 2/14)

### Salesmanship

Feb. 20: "Many are engaged in...business. However, most are ignorant [that] the work of promoting sales is both enjoyable and profitable." Some repel customers. Others "are clever enough to know what the customer exactly wants." Smiles are important. Many "lose no time in serving the prospective buyers with light refreshments." "Once one is experienced and qualified in sales business, investments do not represent a primary requisite. Depending on one's loyalty and ability one has many sources from which stores can be acquired on loan and regular customers at hand.

This applies to any kind of store. Amicable response from the customers can be earned not only for profit but also for pleasure." (WPD editorial 2/20)

#### "Commuters' Lament"

Feb. 24: Drivers of privately owned busses "...veritably leap-frog one another from stop to stop, with anxious commuters holding on for dear life. Spine-tingling lane changes, screeching stops, double-parking, blocking, wheel-squealing starts in mindless swerves into traffic lanes; these are all part of the repertoire of most of such bus-line drivers. In contrast, State-owned bus lines are models of decorum.... Are the peculiar pecuniary interests of private bus-line operations forcing these drivers to put their lives and the lives of their passengers on the line? This aspect, we feel, deserves serious consideration." (WPD editorial 2/24)

#### Burmese Peasants

Feb. 28: On the eve of Peasants Day, a feature article on "They help shape our nations destiny," by Maung Maung discusses farmers in Burma, where agriculture furnishes 40% of the GDP, employs 2/3 of the population, and furnishes 50% of exports. The Myanma Agricultural Bank (MBA) has supplanted the moneylenders who had "led the peasants into the desolate mire of a debt ridden existence," and its loans have jumped from Ky 60 million in 1953/54 to Ky 1075.4 million in 1985/86. 96% of loans are recovered.

But peasants must learn to save as "after the harvests the festivals beckon, and the easy going peasants cast thrift to the winds and become care-free spenders. This ingrained urge and enthusiasm for spending must be tamed and harnessed...." Village consumer cooperatives should provide basic needs "and thus stave them off from the clutches of private retailers." Insurance is a sound investment.

The Peasants Asiayone was founded July 25, 1977 and "these helpless weaklings now draw strength from this Asiayone. The once aimless peasants now have a purpose as active and responsible participants in boosting agricultural production and fulfilling planned targets." (WPD 2/28)

#### Rainfall in Rangoon

Rainfall since January 1, 1988, in inches, at Rangoon's three weather stations of Rangoon Airport (RA), Kaba-Aye (KA), and Central Rangoon (CR) was:

As of		RA	KA	CR			
February 1		0.00	0.00	0.00	February 15	0.00	0.00
0.00							
February 29		0.08	0.00	0.00			

#### HEALTH

##### Nurses Conference

Feb. 19: The 34th Conference of the Burma Nurses Association opened in Rangoon, and was addressed by Minister for Health U Tun Wai and Vice-Principal of the Nurses Training School Daw Khin Htwe. It will last until Feb. 22. (WPD 2/20)

##### Medical Elections

Feb. 19: Dr. Aye Tun was elected Chairman and Dr. Aung Kyaw Than Secretary of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Section of the Burma Medical Association. (WPD 2/20)

##### Indigenous Medicine Reviewed

Feb. 22: BSPP Chairman U Ne Win and President U San Yu visited the Department of Medical Research, including indigenous medicine research activities at the Pharmacology Division. They gave necessary guidance. (WPD 2/23)

## CULTURAL

### Burmese Bells

Feb. 1: The conclusion of Part IV of Khin Maung Nyunt's series on Burmese Bells, deals with "The Bells of Sule Pagoda" [begun in WPD 1/31].

No. 6 was cast in 1884 and is 2' 10 1/2" high, 1' 6 1/2" in circumference, 2' in diameter at the mouth, and 2" thick. It weighs 185 viss. It is called the "Siri Ghanda" or "Auspicious Bell" and was donated by Maung Htun Aung and his wife Ma Thin of the Pe Nga Se quarter (now Maung Khine St.) of Hanthawaddy (Rangoon) in the summer of BE 1245 (AD 1884).

No. 7 was cast in 1887 and is 1' 10 1/2" high, 4'10" in circumference, 1'7" in diameter at the mouth, and 1 1/2" thick. It weighs 96 viss. It was donated by Ko Yaung and his wife Ma Lone Ni, "the builders of a monastery", of Taunglone-pyan in the Hlaing Mye quarter of Pasundaung village, on the 2nd waxing of Tabodwe (February) in BE 1248 (AD 1887).

No. 8 was cast in 1890 and is 3'2" high, 5'5" in circumference, 1' 8 1/2" in diameter at the mouth, and 1 1/2" thick. It weighs 12 1/2 viss [sic], and cast from 115 bronze seles [small bells actuated by windvanes hung from pagoda htis] which could not be accommodated on the Sule Pagoda's new hti in BE 1251. The casting was paid for by U Po Mya and his daughters, brothers and sisters of Latha Street, Rangoon, who paid Ky 113/- to the bronze-smith.

No. 9 was cast in 1904, and is 1'10" high, 5'7" in circumference, 1'9" in diameter at the mouth, and 1 1/2" thick. It weighs 100 viss. It was donated by builders of the ordination hall U Thar Aung, Daw Pa Lome, Daw Kyan, and sons and daughters in BE 1265 (AD 1904).

No. 10 was cast on Feb. 2, 1952 and is 2' 4 1/2" high, 4'9" in circumference, 1' 3 1/2" in diameter at the mouth, and 1 1/4" thick. Its weight is not given. It was donated by builders of the great causeway U Pe Gyi, his wife Daw Daw Hone, daughters Daw Chit Chit, Daw Hnit Hnit, Daw Tin Tin, and son Session Judge pensioner Pleader U Ba Thaw, BA, BL, and wife Daw Sein Sein on full moon day of Tabodwe (February) in BE 1313 (AD 1952).

An appended table gives various statistics (already noted) about the 10 bells, plus their tuning, i.e., 1 = D; 2 = D; 3 = F; 4 = D; 5 = E; 6 = E; 7 = G; 8 = E; 9 = D; 10 = A. (WPD 2/1)

Feb. 21-22: Part V of Khin Maung Nyunt's series on Burmese Bells concerns the Singu Min Bell at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Burma. The author quotes extensively from Harold Lucas' narrative poem The Singu Min Bell of Burma, published in Rangoon in 1963. It is "the senior in age though not in size or weight" of the 29 bells at the Shwedagon. "If the Dhamma Zedi Bell of 180,000 viss (Drowned in the Dawbone River in AD 1613) the Nanda Bayin's Bell of 140 viss cast in AD 1587, the Anaukpetlun Bells of bronze and silver, and the Bodawpaya Bell cast in AD 1787 were not lost, the Singu Min's Bell would have been relegated in seniority of age, size and weight." In 1774 King Hsinbyushin (1763-76) visited Rangoon, and rebuilt the Shwedagon Pagoda to its present 327 feet height after the earthquake of 1769. He ordered a bell of 15555 viss to be cast, but the work, under the Minister of bronze smithy, Pyinnya Deva, was only completed on the first waxing moon of Tabodwe (February) in AD 1778 in the reign of his son Singu Min. The bell was formally named the Maha Ghanda ("great bell") but has always been called Singu Min's Bell.

After 47 years, in 1824, the first Anglo-Burmese war broke out, and British troops occupying the Shwedagon tried to carry the bell away, by rafting it to a waiting transport ship. The rim was chipped while hauling it to the shore, and the bell slid off the raft and sank to the bottom of the river.

The British attempted for seven days to raise the bell, but gave up. The Head Monk then received permission to try, and succeeded by fastening cables to the bell at low tide, made fast to a brig in the water, so that the rising tide pulled the bell free from the mud of the river bottom. The bell was hauled on shore and returned to the

Shwedagon Pagoda, according to Lt. J. E. Alexander of the 13th Light Dragoons in his book of "Travels" published in 1827. The Singu Min Bell has been confused with the Tharawaddy Min bell, by George W. Bird in his "Wanderings in Burma" published in 1897, and "Shwe Yoe" (Sir James George Scott), in his "The Burman: His Life and Notions," mistakenly dates the story from the Second Anglo-Burmese war of 1853, confusing it with the removal of the Mon Bell from the Shwe Hmaw Daw Pagoda at Pegu.

Today the Singu Min Bell is so damaged that it cannot be rung, and is supported by a wooden prop. It is 10' high, 21' in circumference, 6'9" in diameter at the mouth, and 1' thick. The weight inscribed is 1,555,500 ticals (15,555 viss or 27 tons), and the casting date is Wednesday, 1st waxing of Tabodwe (February), 1140 BE (AD 1778). There are 12 lines of inscription. Historical portions describe the City of Ava, "where five rivers meet" and the building by the King of four and five-storied monasteries, and his donation of 84000 sets of Tripitakas.

The Kingdom's territorial possessions are described in detail as: Thunaparanta Taing (Sagu, Salin, Htilin, Yaw, and Saw); Thiri Khittaya Yama Taing (Thayekhitaya and Udenarit); Zeyawadana Taing (Ketumadi, Dwarawaddy, and Zeyawaddy); Ayudhya Taing (Thauk-kate and Pitha-lauk); Pawaiyaka Taing (Sandapuri), Champathet, and Hmyne Lone); Hariponyinsa Taing (Zimme, Mabone, Annam, and Bayaw); Khemarawa Taing (Kengtung and Me Sak); Zawti Nagara Taing (Keng Hung and Me Si); Kambawza Taing (Moe Ne, Naung Shwe, and Ohn Paung); Yamahithaka Taing (Mogoke and Kyatpyin); Maurya Taing (nine Maw States such as Myne Maw, Se Kwin, Hotha, Latha, etc.); Seint Taing (Panmaw, Kwe Lone, and Kat Cho); Alawi Taing (Moe Hnyin, Moe Sit, and Moegaung); Manipura Taing (Cassay and Mwei-yin); Tampadipa Taing (Arimadana, Pagan, Myint Saing, and Pinya); Ramanya Taing (Martaban, Hanthawaddy, Bassein, and Myaungmya), for a total of 16 Taings (divisions) and 53 City States.

The inscriptions further tell of the foundation of the Shwedagon Pagoda, and invoke the nats. King Singu reigned only six years, when he was overthrown by his cousin Maung Maung, and both were executed by his Uncle, King Bodawpaya. A play was staged celebrating the Bell's bicentenary in 1978, and there are four large paintings depicting its story in the zayat in which it is hung. (WPD 2/21-23)

#### Second Ava Period Writers

Feb. 1: The fourth in Aung Moe's series on writers of the Second Ava Period is entitled "Kaing-sar Manu and U Kalar". The new generation of Ava writers was robust, and most worked in large monasteries to replace scriptural texts destroyed by Tho Han Bwa rather than creating new romantic poetry. King Tha Lun, who moved the capital back to Ava in 1635, conducted the first detailed "Inquest" or census of Burma in 1639, enumerating the population by villages, sex, marital status, race, religion, land holdings, and duties and taxes paid. He resettled ethnic groups in their own areas, and organized society into service groups such as sadawchet-asu (chefs and cooks) and hsindeing-asu (elephant scavengers). He organized the military in corps such as the Yun-asu, Win-asu, Tat-asu, Thwetthauk-asu, Daing-asu, lei-asu, and ahmudan-asu. Craftsmen were settled in separate villages. The King imposed 12 kinds of revenue, on gold, silver, rope, 2 kinds of cane, wood oil, madder, rice, powder, chillies, salt, and salted fish. These institutions survived until 1885. The king's daughter, Shwe Hsindu, is said by Harvey to have composed a number of ratu.

Kaing-sar Manu, a Minister, composed the "Manusara Shwehmin" or "Maharaza Dhammathat", in collaboration with the famous Taung Phi Lar Sayadaw Muneinda Gawtha. This law book incorporated Bayin Naung's and earlier Mon compilations, but substituted Burmese ideas on, e.g., inheritance.

U Aung Gyi, Lord of Hsithe Village (1668-1728?), a junior court officer, composed the first lootar that has been found, on the 12 seasons of Ava.

U Kalar (1678-1738?), a wealthy person of mixed Burmese/Shan noble background, wrote the "Maha Razawin-gyi", "Maha Razawin-lat" and "Maha Razawin-chok", the first coherent history of Burma, which incorporated earlier histories such as that compiled in 1502 by Shin Maha-Thilawuntha, the Pagan, Tagaung, Sri Khettara, Ava, and Toungoo Chronicles, and the "Dinnyawaddy Ayedawbon" and "Razadarit Ayedawbon" treatises, as well as studying stone inscriptions, e-chins and mawguns. His work is still heavily relied on. (WPD 2/1)

Feb. 8: The fifth in Aung Moe's series, entitled "The Interlude," discusses literature under King Maha Dhamma Raza Dipati, who ascended the throne in 1733, but was imprisoned by King Binnya Dalla of Hanthawaddy in 1752, thus ending the Second Ava period.

The principal poet was Minister Padetha Raza, who "stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries." He composed seven major pyos: "Thuzar Pyo", "Maniket Pyo", "Kyezudaw Pyo", "Ayuthia Embassy Pyo", "Kumar Baya Pyo", "Thamodda Gawtha Pyo", and "Mansaw Pyo." His seven minor pyos are: "Taw Htwet Khan Pyo", "Danta Thiri Pyo", "Nu Oo Pyo", "Kyar Ketha Pyo", "Maha Pati Pyo", "Namo Linka Pyo", and "Hsanda Pyo". He wrote sentimental tyar-chin songs on the lives of common people, and more dignified thi-chin songs on royalty and royal cities, which are still played by theatrical troupes. He wrote the first Burmese stage play, "Maniket Nandwin Zat", based on his Maniket Pyo. Exiled to Thanlyin after the Hanthawaddy conquest, he died of old age and is buried at the foot of Kyaik Hkawk Pagoda.

King Maha Dhamma Raza Dipati was himself a poet, who wrote many ratus, and was versed in history, astrology, and mathematics. After some years of Mon rebellion, he was imprisoned by the Mon King of Hanthawaddy in 1752 and died three years later after composing a paiksan ratu of lament and a tan-chin song mourning the devastation of Ava. Thus ended the Second Ava period, after 117 years, in which writer monks re-emerged and there was a return to the finer pyos instead of the e-chins and mawguns of the Toungoo period.

#### Konbaung Period Writers

Feb. 15: In the first in his series on Konbaung Period writers, entitled "Letwe Thondara U Myat San-1", Aung Moe notes that U Aung Zeya of Shwebo had himself crowned as King Alaungpaya in 1755, destroyed Maha Dhamma Raza Dipati's Mon kingdom and established sovereignty over Burma, the Shan States, and Manipur. Among poets who rallied about him was U Myat San, whose title of Letwe Thondara "has become a synonym of poetry of the highest order," and whose "Masa Taungche Ratu" is still sung.

U Myat San was born in 1723 in Magyeeton village near Moksobo (Shwebo). He composed his first pyo, the "Mahaw Pyo" as a novice, but left the monkhood to join Maha Dhamma Raza Dipati's court as Clerk of the Hluttaw. He transferred to King Alaungpaya after the Konbaung conquest, and became an adjutant-general of his army in the campaign against Pegu (Hanthawaddy). In 1757 he became secretary to the Crown Prince, who ascended the throne as Naung Daw Gyi for three years in 1760.

Under these Kings, U Myat San composed the "Mahaw Pyo", the "Linka Thiri Kyan" and the "Dhammathat Linkat." He continued to work for King Hsinbyu Shin after 1763, becoming Guardian-Tutor of the Amyin Prince, but fell into disfavor and was exiled to Meza in 1764 where he composed the Meza Taung Che Paikson ratu. (WPD 2/15)

Feb. 22: The second in Aung Moe's series continues the saga of U Myat San. At Meza he composed historic ratus expressing his grief at his exile and separation from his family. After two months he was recalled to the Capital, but continued to live in disgrace. In 1777 the new King Singu Min executed his proteg,, the Amyin Prince. After King Bodawpaya took power in 1782, U Myat San was restored to favor, appointed a Myo Wun, given the title of Maha Thiha Thura, and in old age made a judge. He died in 1799 at Mingun where the King was building an enormous pagoda. He is credited with 8 pyos on various subjects including warfare, military science and dhammathat law; six mawguns; an orthographical treatise; and a number of court verses.



He was the outstanding writer of the early Konbaung period.

Other writers have been mentioned including several court poets (by Harvey) such as Yan Aung Bala, and Letwethondra who served at the seige of Pegu, who saved himself from exile by Hsinbyu Shin in 1763 by writing the "Mezataungche poem" bewailing his loneliness. One stanza [quoted] describes the Nyaung-ye festival. He was born in 1727 and was a secretary to the Hluttaw under both the Ava and Konbaung dynasties. He wrote other works including court verses on the 1767 conquest of Siam, the coronation of King Bodawpaya, the 1785 conquest of Arakan, the Mingun Pagoda, and a rhymed law-book, the "Winisaya Pakathani Dhammathat."

The Encyclopedia Birmanica lists another poet known both as Letwe Thondra and Lewtwe Nawrahta, born in 1723 as U Myat Tha Ne of Monywa village, southeast of Monywa. (WPD 2/22)

Feb. 29: In his third article, on Twin Thin Mingyi Maha Sithu U Tun Nyoe, Aung Moe notes that poets were longer-lived than kings in the early Kongbaung period. U Tun Nyoe was born in 1726 in Maungdaung village, north of Alon in Badon township, Monywa district. As a monk, he compiled three dhammathat lingas, "Manu Dhammathat Shwe Myin Linga," "Manu Wunnana Dhammathat Linga," and "Tageit Lyawthu Tan Dhammathat Linga," and also composed three pyos, "Nga Yan Min Pyo", "Mudu Lekkhana Pyo" and "Mahaw Kyethar-gan Pyo." But his most important work was the "Vibizzahtapita Khwe-htar Thatpon," a complete work on Burmese orthography on word formation, rhyming, and spelling.

A tutor to the Lord of Badon, he was named Commissioner of Granaries when the latter became King Bodawpaya in 1782, and wrote a digest called the "Manu Yinn Dhammathat." Soon afterwards, the poet became Commissioner of Twin Thin Taik, and made a collection of 600 stone inscriptions recording land and property dedications. He continued to write. The "Vidura Pyo" of 1792 calls for loyalty to the king; the "Ballatiya Pyo" is a tale of marital fidelity; the "Wethandara Pyo" of 1798 extols charity; the "Zaneka Pyo" of 1806 recites the jataka tale of King Zaneka; and others recite jataka tales including the "Mahaw U-Min Gan" and the "Zaya Deiktha Pyo." His great "Razawin Thit" was a history. He composed mawguns on Amararapura, Mingun, and the royal elephants "Pondarika" and "Varatheta Giri." He also wrote lootars on war games, and ratus on Aung Pin Le Lake. His lexicon of parana (archaic) words was used by later scholars.

He was finally appointed Pakkhan Minister and died in Mingun at the age of 80. As an old man, he was granted the honors of approaching the tagani main gate of the palace in his own conveyance and of carrying a jewel-studded staff. (WPD 2/29)

#### Maha Wizaya Ceremony

Feb. 2: A ceremony for hoisting htidaws on the 24 surrounding zediyaans (small zedis) was held at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Rangoon. Presiding were Deputy Minister for Home and Religious Affairs U Kyi Nyunt, and Rangoon Division People's Council Chairman U Kyaw Thein (who is also Chairman of the Maha Wizaya Central Construction Committee). (WPD 2/3)

#### Chin Donation

Feb. 3: Over Ky 229,000 were donated for the Chin State Vijjalaya building at the State Pariyatti Sasana Tekkatho in Rangoon, in a ceremony in Khai Kam village, Tiddim Township, on Jan. 14. Chin State People's Council Chairman U Son Kho Vung presided. (WPD 2/4)

#### Magazines

Feb. 4: Cover of the 1987-88 annual magazine of the Institute of Medicine 2. (WPD photo caption 2/4)

Feb. 19: Cover of "Rakhine Magazine" brought out by the Rakhine Culture Committee of Sittwe Township. (WPD photo caption 2/19)

Feb. 19: Cover of the Journal of Geography, Vol. 15, No. 1. (WPD photo caption 2/19)

Feb. 23: Cover of History Journal. (WPD photo caption 2/23)

#### Moulmein University

Feb. 6: Moulmein University will convene its first Degree Conferment Ceremony on March 31, 1988. The degrees will include BA, BSc, BSc (Hons), and MPhil. (WPD 2/7)

#### Private Tutors Denounced

Feb. 10: Middle School exams will be held Mar. 25-Apr. 1 and Highschool exams from Apr. 4-9. "Unfortunately what is common at this time of the year is that too many students tend to look for short-cuts to success--namely in the form of so-called 'tips' and 'spots.' Numerous self-styled 'private teachers' rise to the occasion and make attempts to pander to ill-advised tastes of such students by supplying equally ill-conceived cut-rate advice at not-so-cut-rate prices. The fact is that such 'private teachers' are neither private--since they are all to readily available for a fee, nor are they teachers in the full sense of the word since what they do is no better than the activities of con-men who will promise the sky if it suits their purpose." (WPD editorial 2/10)

#### New Highschool Dedicated

Feb. 20: A new two-story school building and a laboratory were handed over to the No. 1 High School, Sanchaung Township, Rangoon. The building is 190'x30' and cost Ky 1 million; the laboratory is 30' square and cost Ky 100,000. (WPD 2/20)

#### Religious Convocation

Feb. 20: The 40th Maha Convocation was held at the Sixth Sanghayana Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Rangoon. Following extensive ceremonies, certificates were given to Sangha members who had passed the Dhammacariya and Pahtamabyan Examinations, Buddhist nuns who had passed with distinction, and candidates who had passed the Abhidhamma and Visuddhi Magga Examinations with distinction. (WPD 2/21)

#### Motion Pictures

Feb. 22: Film producers anxious for profits often "produce cheap entertainments to draw younger viewers who represent the majority and who fail to appreciate real values of quality films." Film stars influence people and are "idols of the young. So they will have to take more care in their behaviour, use of language and mode of dress in order to make good impressions upon the youth." Films should be made that "will be appreciated by people of present days and by those of the generations to come.... Motion pictures of today are mostly on romance. How about highlighting sports activities?... Copying foreign films is unacceptable. We have our own national culture.... Our motion pictures should be truly Burmese as well as artistic and subtle." (WPD editorial 2/22)

#### Writers Meetings

Articles noting meetings and elections by Township Literary Workers Associations, and donations to the national organization by them, continued. (WPD, various dates)

#### SPORTS

##### ISD Soccer Championship

Feb. 4: Mandalay Division defeated Rangoon Division 3-1 to win the 36th Inter-State and Division Soccer Tournament, and annexed the championship shield. (WPD 2/5)

##### ISD Cycling Meet

Feb. 15: In the 100-kilometer event of the 23rd Inter-State and Division Cycling Meet, Ahtar (Rangoon Division) won the racer division with a time of 3h 1m 10s, defeating Kyaw Kyaw (Mon) and

Maung Maung Soe (Rangoon), while Tun Kyaw (Rangoon) won the ordinary cycle division with a time of 3h 16m 24s, defeating Sein Win (Sagaing) and Win Than (Rangoon). (WPD 2/16)

Feb. 16: Rangoon Division won the ISD Cycling Championship Shield with 97 points. Mon State was 2nd with 68 points and Mandalay 3rd with 61. Winners of events were: 10,000 metre (ordinary): Khun Tin Maung (Kayah), 17:05.22. 10,000 metre (racer): Maung Maung Soe (Rangoon), 17:05.52. 4,000 metre team: Rangoon. 800 metre (ordinary): Tha Tun Kyaw (Rangoon), 1:11.55. 800 metre (racer): Soe Naing (Mandalay), 1:11.66. Best cyclists (ordinary): Tha Tun Kyaw (Rangoon) and Tun Tin Maung (Kayah) with 3 gold medals each; (racer): Ah Tar (Rangoon) and Soe Naing (Mandalay) with 2 gold and 1 silver each. Burma Cycling Federation President Commander Tin Tun (BN) made the awards. (WPD 2/17)

#### Football Coach Course

Feb. 19: Advanced training course No. 3/88 for football coaches concluded. 34 trainees attended the three week course. Speeches were given by Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Aung Din and by German football coach Mr. Bernard Zgoli. (WPD 2/20)

#### Burma Amateur Golf

Feb. 21: The 1988 Burma Amateur Match Play, sponsored by the Burma Golf Federation, was held Feb. 16-21 at the Burma Golf Club at 9th Mile [Rangoon]. Defending champion Nay Win Myint (Construction) defeated Win Naing Tun (Mandalay) to retain his title. (WPD 2/22)

#### Sports for Disabled

Feb. 24: A feature article entitled "With confidence and determination" by [long-time WPD sports commentator] Ivan King discusses the 10th Track and Field competition for the Disabled to begin Feb. 27 at Aung San Stadium. In 1975 Burma sent a team to the Games for the Disabled in Japan, followed by visits to Canada (1976), Australia (1977), Japan (1981), Hong Kong (1982), and America (1984). "The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour are to be congratulated for their patient perseverance in creating a near miracle. They have become self-dependent in a high degree and they exude such self-confidence that would put many an able-bodied man to shame." (WPD 2/24) // Feb. 27: The games began. (WPD 2/28)

#### ISD Tennis Championship

Feb. 23: Karen State won the Inter-State and Division Tennis Championship by defeating Shan State 3-1 in the Theinbyu Tennis Plaza. With Karen State leading 2-1 on the final day, Aung Win (Karen) defeated Bran Sai Jar (Shan) 7-5, 6-4, 6-4, while Ye Kyaw Aung and Myo Thein Htwe (Shan) defeated Thein Htay and Mahn Thein Soe (Karen) 7-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles match. Another singles match between Tin Than (Karen) and M Din Jar (Shan) was called for lack of light. (WPD 2/24)

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### Obituaries

Feb. 4: Maung Lay Naing (a) Raymond Ba Than, son of U V. Ba Than and Daw Than Kyi (deceased), died in Rangoon, aged 32. Funeral at St. Jude's Church, Kanbe. (WPD 2/5)

Feb. 5: U Tin Tun, Lt-Col (Air) (Ret.), former Secretary of Ministry of Information, husband of Daw Thazin, of 55 Golden Valley, Rangoon, died at No. 2 Base Military Hospital, aged 60. (WPD 2/7)

Feb. 6: U Tun Aung, retired Director of Veterinary Services, husband of Saymagyi Daw Saw Yin, died at No. 2 Military Hospital, aged 80. Funeral at Judson Chapel-Rangoon University Campus. (WPD 2/8)

Feb. 12: Pi Hmangaih Thangi, Tahan-Kalemyo, widow of Ret.

Capt. C. Sang Hnin (Restaurant and Beverages Trade Corp.), died in Rangoon, aged 58. Funeral at Seventh-day Adventist Church, 68 U Wisara Road. (WPD 2/14)

Feb. 13: Miss Sheila Sharp, History Dept., Rangoon University, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Michael Sharp, died in Rangoon, aged 56. Funeral at St. Augustine Church, Inya Road. (WPD 2/14)

Feb. 18: U Taik Chun, B.G.M., Retired Captain Thura, Aung San Thuriya, Matupi, former Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, husband of Daw Bawng Se (a) Daw Than Tin and Daw Pi Kom Kham (a) Daw Shan, died in Rangoon, aged 65. Funeral services at Memorial Hall. (WPD 2/19)

Feb. 22: Hajima Daw Ma Ma Gyi (a) Khatija Bi Bi, widow of the late Haji Abdulla Yabub, died in Rangoon, aged 98. Burial was at Tamwe Muslim Cemetary. (WPD 2/24)

#### Crime News

Feb. 4: Hlegu Township police raided the house of a che-hti gambling agent at 3 am, Feb. 3, and seized equipment and Ky 601,000 in stakes. Four people were arrested. As a result of the investigation, a che-hti bookie was arrested in Mingaladon Township. (WPD 2/5)

Feb. 22: Lashio police on Feb. 13 raided the guest house of the Lashio Power Station and seized from three guests staying there 1.483 kilograms of heroin concealed in 80 Xingxing and 20 Golden cigaret packets. The three, Maung Nyo of Muse Power Station, and Htay Myint and Myint Oo of Namkham Power Station were arrested. [photo] (WPD 2/23)

Feb. 24: Lashio police on Feb. 18 raided the house of Zaw Aung at No. 74, Ward 7, Lashio, and seized four packets of heroin weighing 2 kilograms. Zaw Aung and a companion were arrested. (WPD 2/25)

#### Fire in Rangoon

Feb. 2: A fire destroyed more than 500 houses in No. 5 Ward, Hlaing Township, Rangoon. It broke out at 10:30 am in a home at 352 Aung Theikpan Road, and spread to North 9th Road, Thida Road, Bitar Ward, Aung Theikpan Road, and Kyanginkyaung Road. 595 houses, including two monasteries and a primary school, were destroyed, leaving 4,733 people from 1,023 households homeless, before the fire was brought under control about noon. There were three deaths: Maung Tun Tun Naing (4) and Tin Moe Aye (2) of 302 Kyanginkyaung Road and Daw Thaung Shwe (70) of 386 Kyanginkyaung Road. Loss is estimated at Ky 1.6 million. (WPD 2/3)

#### Fire in Nyaungdon

Feb. 28: A fire broke out at 17th St. and Strand Road, No. 2 Ward, Nyaungdon Township, and gutted 427 houses between 17th St. and 8th St., leaving 2,186 people from 441 households homeless. (WPD 2/29)

#### By Bicycle to Mandalay

Feb. 3: A series of feature articles by Tun Aung describes the adventures of 76-year old U Saw Lin while bicycling alone from Rangoon to Mandalay. "Age 76: Objective Yadanabon," describes his preparation and training for the the trip. (WPD 2/3) // Feb. 11: "The finishing touch" describes a final training ride to Pegu. (WPD 2/11) // Feb. 20: U Saw Lin starts out on Oct. 17, 1987, lunches at Pegu, and reaches Daik-U (90 miles from Rangoon) the first night. On the second day he reaches Toungoo after nightfall. (WPD 2/20)

#### Narcotics Statistics

Feb. 24: In 1986 1,771 kilos of opium, 29 kilos of brown opium powder, 48 kilos of heroin, 1,284 vials of morphine injection, 443 gallons of Acetic Anhydride, and 214 gallons of Acetic Acid were seized. During the 1986/87 opium cultivation season 40,225 acres of poppy fields were destroyed.

In 1987, 1,481 kilos of opium, 30 kilos of brown opium powder, 81

kilos of heroin, 1,619 vials of morphine injection, 510 gallons of Acetic Anhydride, 1,957 gallons of Acetic Acid were seized. During the 1987/88 opium cultivation season, as of Feb. 20, 41,105 acres of poppy fields were destroyed, and more are now being destroyed. (WPD 2/25)

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Policy: The items summarized are those which seem most likely to be of interest outside Burma, including official appointments, foreign travel and visits, economic statistics, military communiqu,s, narcotics, and cultural information. Except for quoted passages, stories are paraphrased in the interests of brevity, but every effort is made to be faithful to the intent of the original. HCMacD.

To Readers: Your comments and suggestions for the Burma Press Summary are most welcome. So is your assistance in increasing our paid circulation, which at present is 32 in 6 countries. Write or telephone me at (607) 547-2118. Hugh C. MacDougall