

88-08

BURMA PRESS SUMMARY

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This issue includes newspapers for July 28-31, not received in

time for the July issue, and newspapers for August 1-5. As a result of the disturbances in Burma, no further Burmese newspapers have been received to date.

To round out the issue, we include a chronology, based on the U.S. and Indian Press, of events in Burma from the end of July to October 5.

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POLITICAL CRISIS

Pyithu Hluttaw Session

July 27: The Emergency Session of the Pyithu Hluttaw opened at 10 am in the Conference Hall, attended by 470 out of 476 eligible members. Seven new members were sworn in.

Minister for Industry U Tint Swe introduced a Bill revoking, as too restrictive, the Private Enterprises Rights Law (Law No. 12, 1977), and it was later passed.

Council of State Secretary U Sein Lwin submitted a request for approval of Proclamation No. 2 of July 22 proclaiming a State of Emergency and Military Administration in Prome Township, and it was later approved.

It was announced that six Pyithu Hluttaw seats, one Council of State seat, two Council of Ministers seats, and one Council of People's Attorneys seats had fallen vacant since the last session (see below).

The Pyithu Hluttaw then elected Thura U Kyaw Htin (Mingaladon, Rangoon) as member of the Council of State.

It was announced that the Council of State had elected U Sein Lwin as its Chairman, and, the Pyithu Hluttaw approving it, U Sein Lwin is President of Burma under Article 66(a) of the Constitution.

It was announced that the Council of State had elected Thura U Kyaw Htin as Secretary, and the Pyithu Hluttaw approved it.

The Pyithu Hluttaw then elected members General Saw Maung (Taikkyi 2, Rangoon) and Maj.Gen. Pe Myaing (Natmauk 1, Magwe) as members of the Council of Ministers.

It then elected Dr. Maung Maung (Mandalay North-East 1, Mandalay) as member of the Council of People's Attorneys, and subsequently approved his selection as Chairman of that Council.

The Pyithu Hluttaw then approved the Council of State's assignment of duties to Ministers as follows:

Thura U Tun Tin as Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and Finance;

U Ye Goung as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs;

U Than Tin as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Mines;

Defence Services Chief of Staff General Saw Maung as Minister for Defence;

Maj.Gen. Pe Myaing as Minister for Home and Religious Affairs.

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved without discussion the request by Council of State Secretary U Sein Lwin that it "hand over to the Council of State the task of effecting changes in the economic policies and guidelines decided at the Extraordinary Party Congress and also hand over the right to the Council of State to effect changes in existing laws and rules and related procedures orders and directives so that they would be in conformity with the economic policies and guidelines."

After approving the Bill (above) and Emergency Proclamation for Prome, the Pyithu Hluttaw concluded its session at 1 pm. (WPD 7/28)

Ministers Assigned Duties

July 27: The Council of Ministers in Notification No. 5/88 assigned duties to Prime Minister Thura U Tun Tin as Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and Finance; to Deputy Prime Minister U Ye Goung as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and to Deputy Prime Minister U Than Tin as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Mines.

In Notification No. 6/88 it assigned duties to Minister General Saw Maung as Minister for Defence and to Minister Maj.Gen. Pe Myaing as Minister for Home and Religious Affairs, under Section 19 of the Council of Ministers Law.

In Notification No. 7/88 it assigned duties to Pyithu Hluttaw Member Lt. Gen. Than Shwe (BC/6710) (Daik-U 2, Pegu) as Deputy Minister for Defence, as he had been appointed as Deputy Minister by the Council of State in its Notification No. 107/77 of July 1988.

Resignations and Dismissals

July 27: The Council of State approved the resignation from the Pyithu Hluttaw of members Dr. Hla Myint (Madaya 2, Mandalay) and Minister for Home and Religious Affairs U Min Gaung (Patheingyi 1, Mandalay).

Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kya (Hlaing 2, Rangoon) was removed from the Council of Ministers.

Council of People's Attorneys Chairman U Myint Maung (Magwe 2, Magwe) was removed from the Council of People's Attorneys.

Council of State Chairman U San Yu (Bahan 1, Rangoon) was permitted to resign as Member of the Pyithu Hluttaw and of the Council of State.

It was announced that Pyithu Hluttaw member Daw Kyi Kyi Sein (Thingangyun 1, Rangoon) had died.

There were therefor six vacancies in the Pyithu Hluttaw, one in the Council of State, two in the Council of Ministers, and one in the Council of People's Attorneys. (WPD 7/28)

Sein Lwin's Speeches

Aug. 2: Council of State Chairman U Sein Lwin addressed the Central Organs of Power. He was accompanied by Vice-Chairman U Aye Ko, Secretary Thura U Tun Tin, Chairman of the Council of People's Justices U Tin Aung Hein, Chairman of the Council of People's Attorneys Dr. Maung Maung, and Chairman of the Council of People's Inspectors U Ohn Tin.

U Sein Lwin's opening address was as follows [major excerpts]:

...the Council of Ministers is an organization that has to daily carry out security, defence, law and order, food and shelter, transportation, education, health and welfare tasks of the entire nation. In short...it has to deal with everything that is happening in the country. Hence, it is also necessary for it to carry out the tasks in accordance with the laws and directives. [Even Ministers] may once in a while indulge in one of the four 'Gati' (inclinations) such as doing wrong out of one's own desire (Chanda Gati), out of fear of threat that harm might be suffered (Bhaya Gati), out of anger (Dosa Gati) and out of delusion (Moha Gati) when they are busy.

I would...request that those [of you]...who witness or hear of such a thing happening endeavour to correct the other's mistake with the noble spirit of comradeship....

...economic changes...in the public economic enterprises being undertaken by the Ministries are to be submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw which will then hand them down to the Council of State.... It will be necessary to review and assess

- (1) the mills and factories that we will continue to operate
- (2) factories and mills that are to be combined and consolidated into one collective endeavour
- (3) the matter of how to hand back the mills, factories and works which we do not wish to continue operating or how to dispose them off and
- (4) the mills, factories and works that are to be totally dissolved and those to be undertaken by other means....

...I would like to request the Council of People's Attorneys if it hears or comes to know of anything that is not in accord with our laws, inform and advise the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Ministers in writing or by phone with a true noble spirit of comradeship....

...the Council of People's Justices [should] carry out the

administration of justice independently. I repeat; administer justice independently.... The Council ...has the right to inspect the prisons, Yebet camps and PPF lock-ups.... It is necessary to regularly inspect them...note down the defects and deal quickly with pending cases....

...the Council of People's Inspectors [should] regularly carry out the tasks of inspecting the departmental works of the State and also carry out special inspection work on the strength of information received.... Once you find discrepancies, inform the organizations concerned...[and] also send reports of such matters to higher levels to enable them to take action....

...Corrupt practices such as bribery, deliberately keeping work pending for a long time, excessive loss and wastage, as well as malpractices are rampant in some offices and some departments. The knowledge that such things exist is wide-spread among the people and the situation is such that the people have no confidence in such offices and departments. Party leaders of before had often pointed out the existance of such matters. As you can see for yourselves comrades, these things have not yet been got rid of; instead they are being practiced as a matter of routine.

Therefore, it is necessary for the organizations concerned to put an end to such malpractices.... I would like to ask you to take action not only against those who commit such malpractices but also against their immediate superiors....

Following discussion, U Sein Lwin also delivered a closing address [excerpts]:

...anyone who sees [mistakes] should speak out at once in comradely spirit as I said, so we could rectify it at once. As I am taking this responsibility, if any of my colleagues wishes to see me, to present some matter, come any time. I will receive him and hear the matter, consult quarters concerned as necessary and act on it.

...our Party has stood long for many years. It will not do to adopt the attitude "we are on the State side, not concerned with the Party". As it is the sole party, we must work unswervingly under the leadership of the Party.... If our comrades err, non-Party members would follow suit.... It should especially be stressed that economic affairs decided upon by the Hluttaw should not be considered by other organs of power as not concerning them.... The responsibility to carry it out is that of the Council of Ministers but the Council of People's Attorneys would have to see and point out if it is being realized as laid down.... The Council of People's Inspectors too has to see if the people and co-operatives can really work in accord with the economic system, economy, now laid down.... For an elephant, a big burden is no problem but for an ant, it'd be quite hard on it. What I mean is that we should be serious for them at the base level.... (WPD 8/3)

Workers to be Protected

Aug. 2: "U Sein Lwin gave guidance to scrutinize activities of each mill and factory.... Regarding this, it is learnt that the employees at these enterprises need not worry as the authorities concerned are taking appropriate measures so that the workers will not suffer any loss as a result of the changes made." (WPD 8/3)

DIPLOMATIC

Egyptian Ambassador Approved

July 29: The Burmese government approved the designation of Mr. Adel Abass El Adawy as Ambassador of Egypt to Burma. Born in 1935, Ambassador El Adawy received a Bachelor of Law degree from Cairo University in 1956 and a Master's in Political Science from the National University of Australia. He joined the Foreign Service 1957 as an Attach,, and served in Athens, Port Sudan, Canberra, Zurich, and as Ambassador to Gabon and New Zealand. (WPD 7/30)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Pagan Symposium

Aug. 3: A three-day symposium on the study, preservation and development of Pagan, sponsored by the Archaeology Department in cooperation with UNDP, UNESCO, and the Institute of Asia Cultures of the Sophia University, Tokyo, opened at Pagan's Thiripyitsaya Hotel. Director-General of the Archaeology Department Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt and Deputy Director U Han Nyunt acted as masters of ceremonies. Among participants were Prof. Y. Ishizawa, Director of the Institute of Asia Cultures, Mr. H. Noguchi of UNESCO, Mr. M. Khan, Regional Adviser for Culture in Asia, and UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Kitatani, Keito University Lecturer Mr. N. Ito, and Professor of History at Rangoon University U Tun Aung Chein. (WPD 8/4) //

Aug. 4: The Symposium continued; the 40 participants include six professors from Japan, one from Indonesia, four from Thailand, officials of UNESCO and UNDP, observers, invited guests and researchers. On the second day participants included Mr. Yoshiharu Tsuvoi of Hokkaido University, Dr. Myo Myint of the History Department of Mandalay University, and Professor of Civil Engineering at Rangoon Institute of Technology U Min Wun. (WPD 8/5)

FOREIGN VISITORS

Chinese Delegation

July 27: An eight-man delegation headed by Zhu Kui, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, arrived and called on Minister for Trade U Khin Maung Gyi. It will be in Burma until Aug. 7. (WPD 7/28) //

July 29: It discussed border trade matters with Deputy Minister for Trade Col. Tin Gyi, after visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and Pegu on July 28. (WPD 7/30)

GOVERNMENT

Disturbances in Myayde

July 27: (Text) Disturbances caused by a group of people in Myayde on the night of 26 July have been brought under control by the authorities by issuing order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The case was that at about 8 pm on 26 July, a crowd of about 400 persons destroyed tea shops along the Strand Road in Myayde. Another crowd of about 400 persons destroyed a tea shop in Sanchaung Ward.

At about 8.20 pm while the township control body was appealing to about 300 rioters at the corner of 16th Street and Lanmadaw Road who were causing disturbances not to do so, about 150 more arrived and started pelting stones at the members of the control body. The members of the People's Police Force there had to fire warning shots and dispersed them. The authorities issued order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code at 8.30 pm. At that time these rioters joined with those coming from the direction of the Township Fire Station office, then went along the Lanmadaw Road and about 100 of them threw stones at a building in Kagyi Ward. The members of the control body came face to face with the rioters at the corner of Prome Road and 6th Street. As the rioters began to commit harmful acts to the lives of the members of the control body, the PPF members fired shots and dispersed them.

At that time some rioters destroyed the East Eya bus terminal and arrived at the corner of Shwe Pyaungpyaung Pagoda Road and destroyed some buildings, shops and houses. The control committee members dispersed them. At about 10 pm the township control committee members started clearing the wards and found two injured persons. They sent the injured to hospital in a fire-engine. Some 50 rioters threw stones and rocks at the control committee members on their way back who had to fire shots and dispersed them.

At dawn today, there were no rioters left on the streets, it is learned.

One died and five were injured during the disturbances. The one

who died was Maung Khin Maung Htay and those injured are Maung Hlaing Moe Zaw, Maung Chin Ma, Maung Than Swe, Maung Tin Sunn and Maung Pyone Maung Maung.

Six persons were apprehended in connection with the disturbances. They are Maung Soe Naing, U Aye Saung, U Myint Aung, Maung Moe, Maung Myint Swe and U Hla Ngwe. (WPD 7/28)

Rudeness and Corruption

July 28: "...complaints have all too frequently [been] received about the lack of courtesy if not of blatant arrogance [of] so-called public servants.... There are also certain categories of public servants who are even worse than this. Such as they take advantage of their duties to extract illegal `service charges' from the people they are supposed to serve. Such is the frequently-reported if not well-documented case of door-men at hospitals who demand a kyat each from those without visitor passes. This is but a minor example of an enormous iceberg which pervades practically the entire infrastructure of public servants and public service. The bigger the service rendered the bigger the charge...." (WPD editorial 7/28)

Law Issued

July 29: Council of State Chairman U Sein Lwin signed and issued The Law Revoking the Private Enterprises Rights Law (The 1988 Pyithu Hluttaw Law No. 5) enacted by the emergency session of the Pyithu Hluttaw. [Text in Burmese] (WPD 7/30)

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U Aung Gyi Detained

Aug. 1: The following were taken into preventive detention beginning July 29: U Aung Gyi, U Kyi Han, U Sein Win, U Ba Shwe, U Khin Nyo, U Kyi Maung, U Tun Shwe, U Chit Ko Ko, U Aung Myint, and U Zaw Win Oo. Action is to be taken against them under the Penal Code. (WPD 8/2)

Shwedagon Disturbances

Aug. 2: [full text]: In mornings and afternoons from 28 July, the full-moon day of Waso to yesterday afternoon on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda, some young students and student-age youths have been conducting such activities as gathering and making speeches, sticking propaganda leaflets and slandering leaders of the country,

it is learnt.

It was noticed that since 28 July some taken as young students from high schools, and some youths taken as university students have been coming in twos or threes onto the Shwedagon Pagoda platform since morning, making their way as if they were going to school from various townships.

These young students gathered in groups and took positions in the four tazaungs and later when some youths taken to be hard core destructive elements arrived, young students aged 13, 14, 15 began such activities as making speeches of falsities and distributing leaflets against the Government and leaders of the country among the people coming to the pagoda.

Those young students carried on with such activities as sticking leaflets on the pagoda platform, inciting novices and members of the Buddhist Order to deliver speeches in opposition, providing false information to foreign tourists and having them take pictures, and perpetrating physical harassment to some working people coming to worship at the pagoda.

Moreover, at about 5 pm yesterday, they took away donation money after breaking open the donation box kept in front of Padamya Myetshin on the upper terrace of the Pagoda.

Earlier, in the afternoon, that day, some who had been chanting and making speeches on the pagoda went down along the eastern stairways, and when they got to the Bahan ice-shop bus stop, they tried to stop a passenger bus of No 47 Line on its way.

When the bus did not stop they threw stones at it, breaking its windscreen.

It is also learnt that on the full-moon day too, about ten agitators assaulted with fists and kicks a pagoda security man who had come over to remove the agitative leaflets that had been stuck on the pagoda platform.

When these elements swelled to a strength of a 100 or 200 they were seen going in a procession on the pagoda platform, flying a peacock flag. The young students in the group were mostly of gullible age, and as they were carrying on so, at the instigation and agitation of those taken to be destructive elements, there can come about undesirable disturbances.

So, it is necessary for parents and teachers to most carefully keep their children and pupils from getting into wrong ways, it is learnt. (WPD 8/3)

State of Emergency in Rangoon

Aug. 3: Council of State Proclamation No. 5/88. State of Emergency and Military Administration proclaimed in townships in Rangoon City Development area, Rangoon Division [excerpts]:

1. With intent to harass students who want to pursue studies peacefully and the working people who want to live peacefully...some students have perpetrated such activities as gathering and haranguing on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda, posting propaganda leaflets, distributing opposition letters and going round on demonstration since 28 July 1988...; and today, 3 August 1988, some 200 students in collusion with some elements who wanted to create disturbances, went around in crowds on demonstration.... As the situation became too bad for the regional organs of power to control, the Council of State, exercising the powers conferred upon it under Article 76 of the Constitution..., has proclaimed a state of emergency and issued martial law in the townships mentioned in Appendix (A)...in order to ensure the security of the State and to protect and safeguard the life, limb and property of the working people and to enable the students who wish to pursue their studies peacefully to do so.

2. [Chief of Staff of the Defence Services authorized to apply administrative and judicial powers]

3. [establishes military administration of the Chief of Staff]

4. [comes into force at 1900 hours on August 3, to last until revoked by Council of State]

5. [judicial bodies to continue; summary trials authorized]

6. [Chief of Staff may hear appeals of cases taken over by military]
7. [students may continue studies]
8. [Chief of Staff may delegate powers]
9. [Chief of Staff may form military advisory body]
10. [Chief of Staff responsible to Council of State]
Sd Sein Lwin, Chairman

Appendix A: Following 27 townships included: Mingaladon, Insein, North Okkalapa, Mayangon, Kamayut, Hlaing, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Yankin, Kemmendine, Sanchaung, Ahlone, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botataung, Pazundaung, Bahan, Dagon, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamwe, Thaketa, Dawbon, Port, Dallah, Seikkyi/Kanaungto.

Military Administration Announcement No. (2), 3 August 1988:

Chief of Staff General Saw Maung delegated powers to administer Rangoon to Brig.Gen. Myo Nyunt (BC7557).

Schools within the 27 townships will be kept open and classes will continue as usual, it is learnt. (WPD 8/4)

Mobs Join Rowdy Students

Aug. 3 [text]: Some young students, who had been active on the Shwedagon Pagoda platform since 28 July, the Full Moon Day of Waso, up to yesterday making public speeches, distributing propaganda leaflets and handing out oppositional and agitation letters in order to disturb ordinary students wishing to pursue their studies in peace and to harass the public in general, this morning joined forces with unsavoury elements intent on creating disturbances in some townships of Rangoon Division and carried out rowdy mob demonstration going from one place to another.

Beginning 8.45 am, some of these students and unsavoury disturbance-makers gathered in front of the Bogyoke's bronze statue at Kandawgyi. Then they commandeered passing motor vehicles to get to the city centre. Getting off near the Garden Guest House on Sule Pagoda Road, they commenced to shout oppositional slogans and carry out rowdy demonstrations in front of the City Hall and to march along Merchant Street, Bogale Bazaar Road, Maha Bandoola Street, Theinbyu Street, Bogyoke Street, Thakin Mya Park, Ahlone Street, Lower Kemmendine Road, Bagaya Road junction, Padonma Grounds, Myenigon Road junction and proceeded to Hanthawaddy Roundabout, Prome Road up to Kamayut traffic lights.

In addition, some young students gathered in Insein and Hlaing areas, commandeered passenger route buses, forced the passengers out and used the buses to get into Rangoon.

At the corner of Bogyoke and Shwefontha Streets near the Ramanya bus terminal some members of the mob beat up a by-stander claiming that he had a camera. When another by-stander by the name of U Soe Thein tried to intervene the mob became suspicious and began to search and interrogate him. While this was going on someone from the mob stabbed U Soe Thein with a knife. U Soe Thein was seriously wounded and had to be warded at the Rangoon General Hospital.

Another mob which had gone along Insein Road was seen at the Thamaing Road junction at about 6.30 pm sitting right in the middle of the ground shouting, demonstrating and creating disturbances. (WPD 8/4)

"The Innocent and the Gullible"

Aug. 4: "...youthfulness also carries with it a lack of experience and a certain measure of gullibility and innocence...which can be exploited to the full by the unscrupulous.... Have all parents today carried out their obligations...? And have all teachers been true to their calling...? This is a question which all parents and teachers would do well to ask themselves in all seriousness if these innocent and gullible are to be kept away from evil ensnarements and paths of wrongdoing." (WPD editorial 8/4)

Students Apprehended

Aug. 4 [text]: Some students joined forces with some unsavoury elements intent on creating disturbances, went round in Rangoon today and caused disturbances and were dispersed by members of the security units. Six of them were taken into custody and legal action will be taken against them, it is learnt.

At 10 am today, 15 students who were in front of Tamwe State High School No 4, stopped and commandeered one of the three TE-11 trucks which were on their way to take back rice for the employees of the Thuwunna Saw Mill No 9. On arrival in front of the Mingala Taungnyunt PPF Station, the TE 11 Truck No Zagwe/9361 which the students had commandeered came face to face with members of the security units. The truck tried to back away and collided with a Dodge Jeep. The students got down from the truck and climbed on to Ranger Truck No Zamyin-zwe/3371 nearby and went away.

At that time, about 60 students stopped T-2000 Truck No Htasintu/3022 in front of Tamwe State High School No 1, forced the driver out of the truck and one of the students took over the wheels. As the truck approached the Bogyoke Park the students came face to face with members of the security unit. The students stopped the truck and ran away. Five of the students were, however caught.

At about 12.30 pm, about 50 students arrived at the corner of Maha Bandoola and 32nd Streets and were proceeding along the Sule Pagoda Road when they came face to face with members of the security unit. The students went away from the corner of the Ye Yint Cinema Hall and proceeded along the Bogyoke Street. The group came face to face with members of the security unit at the corner of Theinbyu Street and ran away.

At 1 pm, a group of about 50 students and about 50 locals numbering about 100 gathered at the corner of Pansodan Street and proceeded along Bogyoke Street, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Strand Road and Keighley Street and arrived at the junction of Kemmendine Road and the Kyongyi Street. On seeing members of the security unit blocking the road, they dispersed.

At about 2 pm, a small group from the same crowd left the corner of Bogyoke and Keighley Streets and when they came to a place in front of the Kemmendine State High School No 4, they saw members of the security unit pursuing them, those who followed the crowd ran away and about 10 students commandeered a Hilux vehicle and fled in it.

At about 2.30 pm, members of the security unit arrived at the Kohat-gyi Pagoda in which some 50 students had gathered and the students ran away. One of the students was caught.

Those who were causing disturbances stopped motor vehicles and commandeered them, stoned the passenger buses which did not stop and tried to agitate students who were attending classes in the schools in Bahan area and stoned the schools when they were unable to instigate the students to join them. Among those causing the disturbances were some locals who posed as students and carried out destructive activities.

The six arrested today in connection with the disturbances included one student who actually took part in the disturbances, four locals dressed in school uniform to pose as students and one photographer.

Altogether 25 persons who had taken an active part in the disturbances were caught yesterday. Of them, six were locals and 19 were students, it is learnt. The authorities concerned will take action against them in accordance with the law, it is learnt. (WPD 8/5)

Student Disturbances in Pegu

Aug. 4 [text]: In Pegu about 20 students at 9.30 today commandeered a passenger bus which came from Thanatpin, and went to the No 1 State High School.

The students made rowdy disturbances on the Rangoon-Mandalay Road in front of the SHS 1 and broke some window panes of the school as they were not able to instigate the students learning their lessons.

At the State High School No 2 about 200 students joined forces with about 100 locals and set out along the Fire Station Road, Office Road, Pagoda Road, Shin Saw Pu Road and Thanatpin Road. At 1.25 pm the group swelled to a group of comprising about 300 locals and 500 residents and they headed for the centre of the town.

Some from among the crowd made speeches in front of the Shwehintha Restaurant and at the Hinthta Bus Terminal. A group of about 200 persons threw stones at a food shop selling rice and curries. Another group of about 150 people entered the Thanatpin Street and threw stones at some shops, made speeches and dispersed. (WPD 8/5)

ECONOMIC

"Thrift and Thrive"

July 30: "Over-consumption often takes place among many well-to-do families. Members of such families often consume more than necessary and spend lavishly. In fact, either money or material should be frugally utilized. Families which are less fortunate have their own bad habits. More often than not, we see them throwing left-overs of food creating breeding grounds for rats and insects." (WPD editorial 7/30)

Loans in Bassein

July 30: Agricultural loans totalling Ky 8.9 million were distributed by the Myanma Agricultural Branch Bank to 75,700 peasants in Bassein-West Township on July 27. (WPD 7/31)

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
Aug. 1	50.75	55.63	63.86
Aug. 4	53.66	57.80	65.16

HEALTH

Health Expenditures Up

July 31: Between 1961-62 and 1987-88 (provisional figures), the number of hospitals increased from 269 to 631, rural health centers from 555 to 1,337, maternity and child care centres from 194 to 348. The number of doctors increased from 1,778 to 11,076, and nurses, midwives and lady health visitors from 2,409 to 17,992. Indigenous medical activities increased from nil in 1962-63 to 2 indigenous medical hospitals, 89 indigenous medical dispensaries, and 369 indigenous medical personnel. Health expenditure increased from Ky 54.8 million to Ky 580.8 million. (WPD 8/1)

CULTURAL

Konbaung Period Writers

Aug. 1: In the twentieth-fifth in his series of articles on Konbaung Period writers, U Aung Moe considers Ma Mya Gale, the "Western Queen". Daughter of Maung U, Henzada Justice of the Peace, she was born in October 1809, and named Ma Mya Kyote. Prince Tharrawaddy made her his wife in 1826, and took her to Ava, where she acquired the name of Ma Mya Gale or Ma Mya Babe. When he ascended the throne in 1837, she became Western Queen. She composed patpyos, mostly about her love of the King, and sang songs to soothe him. She did so when he put her in jail, and he freed her. She bore him one daughter who survived infancy, Princess Hlaing Hteik Khaung Tin. In 1845, she and her mother were executed for alleged implication in a plot by the Prince of Prome. (WPD 8/1)

SPORTS

Golf

July 31: Kyi Hla Han came in fifth in the Scandanavian Enterprise Open Golf Tournament in Stockholm, with a score of 68-69-69-71--277. Seve Ballesteros of Spain was first with 270. (WPD 8/2)

MISCELLANEOUS

Crime News

July 28: Sagaing and Railway Police on July 24 searched cane baskets belonging to three passengers on the Mandalay-Myitkyina-Up Train and found three packets of heroin weighing 0.608 kilos. On July 13, Sagaing police searched two passengers from Mawhtaung village, Muse Township [Shan] arriving at Ywahtaung station, and seized four packets of heroin weighing 0.2937 kilos hidden among woolen longyis.

July 31: Maymyo police by July 6 captured a seven-member gang that had held up five buses travelling to Banbwe Bazaar, at the 47/3 mile post on the Mandalay-Lashio highway near Pwekauk Waterfall at 4:00 am on July 1. They stole cash and valuables worth Ky 30,000 and stabbed one passenger. (WPD 8/1)

Aug. 1: Sagaing police on July 18 seized 34 packets of heroin weighing 1.388 kilos, hidden in a cassette record player at the Sagaing Railway station. (WPD 8/2)

Obituaries

July 27: Daw Mya Mya Than (Mrs. A.G. Po Saw), Sunlun Yogi, widow of Mr. A. G. Po Saw, died in Rangoon aged 81. (WPD 7/28)

July 27: U Khin Maung Thwin (Nyi Nyi), son of (U Kya Yan) Daw Mya Ye, husband of Daw Khin San Thwin (Sheila), died in Rangoon aged 56. Funeral at U Naw Memorial Church, Canal Street, July 28. (WPD 7/28)

Aug. 1: U Thet Ngwe, retired District & Session Judge (Advocate), husband of the late Daw San Kyi, father of Lt. Col. Than Tut, died in Rangoon, aged 84. (WPD 8/2)

Aug. 2: Padana Nayaka Sayadaw of Asokarama Kyaungtaik in Kyauktan Township, Rangoon Division, State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Kundala Maha Thera, vass 68, died at the age of 87. (WPD 8/3)

Fire in Syriam

July 27: Fire broke out at 4.20 pm near the crude oil reservoir of No. 1 Oil Refinery, Syriam. It was brought under control by 6.50 am. The fire was caused by persons coming to steal the crude oil; five sampans which were to carry off the oil were destroyed by fire on the Nat Chaung nearby, and two of the perpetrators were found burnt to death. (WPD 7/28)

Engagement

July 30: Maung Thet Aung Lwin (Deck Cadet, Ahrenkiel Shipping Co.), son of U Tun Lwin (Party Headquarters) and Daw Ni Ni Mar, to Ma Sanda Zin Maw (1st year, Botany, RUHC), daughter of U Zin Maw (Geologist, Arche Engineering Co., USA) and Daw Kyi Kyi Shin, in the Ruby Room of the Inya Lake Hotel. (WPD 7/31)
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JULY-OCT. CHRONOLOGY

This chronology is based primarily on the New York Times, on news clippings received from the Indian press, and on news broadcasts from the Australian and British Broadcasting Services:

Ne Win Resigns

July 23: At Extraordinary BSPP Congress, Chairman U Ne Win (aged 77) resigns, offers resignations of U San Yu, U Aye Ko, U Sein Lwin, U Kyaw Htin, and U Tun Tin; proposes referendum on multi-party system; blames U Aung Gyi for the 1962 destruction of the Student Union Building.

July 25: Party Congress accepts resignation of U Ne Win and U San Yu; rejects other resignations and referendum.

U Sein Lwin Named Leader

July 26: Party Central Committee selects U Sein Lwin (64) and Party Chairman, U Kyaw Htin as Joint General Secretary; U Aye Ko remains General Secretary.

July 27: Pyithu Hluttaw chooses new Government, with U Sein Lwin as President, U Tun Tin as Prime Minister, Gen. Saw Maung as Minister for Defence, and Lt. Gen. Than Shwe as Deputy Minister for Defence. Dr. Maung Maung named Chairman of People's Council of Attorneys.

Martial Law in Rangoon

Aug. 3: Martial Law declared in Rangoon, under Lt. Gen. Than Shwe. U Aung Gyi (70), (ex-Brig. Gen. who had been U Ne Win's first deputy but was imprisoned for policy differences, and who had been circulating anti-Ne Win letters in June), journalist U Sein Win (Associated Press), and six other oppositionists detained.

Aug. 8: Five days of demonstrations begin in Rangoon, and in 15 other towns including Mandalay and Moulmein. [Note: 8/8/88 is astrologically significant date; and Pagan was traditionally founded in A.D. 888.] Over 1,000 demonstrators believed killed; 1,451 arrests announced.

Aug. 9: Rangoon curfew declared, 8 pm - 4 am.

Aug. 10: Soldiers kill several doctors, nurses, and monks at Rangoon General Hospital.

Aug. 11: U.S. Government warns against travel to Burma. U.S. Senate passes resolution, introduced by Sen. Daniel Moynahan, condemning Burmese killings and arrests.

Fall of U Sein Swin

Aug. 12: Sein Lwin Government resigns.

Aug. 14: Students call for more protests unless government grants demands by Aug. 19.

Aug. 16: 51 detainees released in Rangoon; 30 in Pegu.

Aug. 17: Peaceful rallies in Rangoon and Mandalay; Japan reportedly urging stability and economic reform.

Dr. Maung Maung Takes Over

Aug. 19: BSPP Central Committee and an emergency session of the Pyithu Hluttaw name Dr. Maung Maung (63) as President of Burma and Chairman of BSPP (a legal scholar, close to U Ne Win, who had been the only civilian in previous governments). U Aye Ko is Vice President. Opposition students form All-Burma Democratic Student Union, whose leader, aged 22, has pseudonym of U Min Ko Naing. Rangoon Students Union, crushed by U Ne Win in 1962, has also been secretly revived.

Aug. 21: Soldiers take up positions, and string barbed wire, in Rangoon.

Aug. 22: Rangoon demonstrations reach new peaks, with professionals (doctors, lawyers, film stars, writers) joining workers and students. Main protests at Rangoon General Hospital and at U.S. Embassy.

Aug. 24: Martial Law abolished in Rangoon; most soldiers withdraw from streets. Dr. Maung Maung says BSPP Congress will meet Sept. 12 to consider referendum on multi-party system; if it passes, there will be general elections, with no current BSPP leaders running for office.

Aug. 25: 1,700 detainees released, including U Aung Gyi who, with former Prime Minister U Nu, addresses rally of 200,000. Government newspapers go on strike for three days. Party and government officials in Moulmein reportedly seek asylum on Burmese naval vessels. Fire in Rangoon's Dallah suburb destroys 440 houses.

Aug. 26: Prison riot at Rangoon's main Insein Jail; fires set, up to 1,000 prisoners killed by panicking guards, 513 escape. (Earlier prison riots with mass escapes and some casualties in Bassein on Aug.

24 and Akyab {Sitwe} on Aug. 25.) Former Chief of Staff and Defence Minister Gen. Tin Oo (62) [fired and imprisoned by Ne Win in 1976] protests in letter to government. Opposition rally of 500,000 at Shwedagon Pagoda addressed by U Aung Gyi and by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (42) [daughter of nationalist hero U Aung San], and calls for interim government. Burma Airways on strike, as are oil refineries at Syriam and Mann.

Aug. 27: Gen. Tin Oo addresses opposition rally of 50,000. Bed-ridden former Communist leader Thakin Soe (82) calls for multi-party democracy.

Aug. 28: 4,806 "ordinary" prisoners released. Local administration outside Rangoon reportedly being taken over by students (Pegu) or monks (Mandalay and Moulmein). All-Burma Democratic Students Union formally organized.

Aug. 29: Dock workers, teachers, retired military personnel, form opposition organizations. Committee for Democracy formed under Presidency of Mahn Win Maung (72) [former President of Burma during U Nu government].

Aug. 30: All Services General Strike Committee formed, representing 120 Government departments and State Corporations. Foreign Affairs Ministry employees call for "a true people's interim government."

Aug. 31: Protesters ordered to vacate government buildings. Guardian newspaper begins covering opposition activities.

Sept. 2: State workers, especially in transport, ordered to return to work.

Sept. 3-4: U.S. Representative Stephen Solarz visits Rangoon.

Sept. 6: 187 Foreign Ministry workers quit BSPP, including those at 16 of 26 Burmese missions abroad.

Sept. 7: Looters shot in Rangoon. Three persons reportedly beheaded by mob, accused of poisoning children.

Sept. 8: Foreign Embassies, including Soviet, Chinese, Japanese, Israeli, Italian, Thai, Australian, Malaysian, and American missions, plan evacuation of dependents and unnecessary staff. 200,000 people, led by monks, demonstrate in Rangoon. Troops ordered to shoot looters.

U Nu Announces "Government"

Sept. 9: Former Prime Minister U Nu "assumes power" at 9 am [astrologically significant moment; 9 am on 9/9/88], on basis that his government was illegally deposed in 1962. Names 25-member government, with ex-President Mahn Win Naing as President and Gen. Tin Oo as Defence Minister. Tin Oo and two others named promptly decline to participate. U Aung Gyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi object to U Nu's move. 200-500 military personnel (mostly Air Force?) join protests. 230 foreign diplomatic personnel, including 45 Americans, leave Burma. U.S. Senator Daniel Moynahan calls for a cessation of U.S. aid to Burma.

Multi-Party Elections Called

Sept. 10: Dr. Maung Maung government announces that Emergency Congress of BSPP, with 75% participation, has met and cancelled proposed referendum on multi-party system, ordered multi-party elections at an unspecified date. Hundreds of thousands, including 1,000 uniformed police, demonstrate in Rangoon.

Sept. 11: Pyithu Hluttaw calls for elections in 6 - 12 weeks, with Council of State of supervise them. Five-man Electoral Commission named, including 3 retired civil servants, one retired General, and one former Pyithu Hluttaw member. Proposal immediately rejected by U Aung Gyi, Gen. Tin Oo, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who call for a neutral interim government to supervise the elections. 218 more foreign diplomats, including 50 Americans, leave Burma.

Sept. 12: Defence Minister and Chief of Staff Gen. Saw Maung backs government election proposal. Indian Government publicly endorses Burmese people's efforts to establish a democracy.

Sept. 13: Election Commission meets with U Aung Gyi and Gen. Tin

Oo. Subsequently, U Aung Gyi, Gen. Tin Oo, U Nu, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and national hero Bo Ya Naing meet with students, who urge them to form an interim government; they promise a response in 48 hours. Gen. Saw Maung threatens to shoot people distributing leaflets claiming that Air Force and Navy are preparing to bombard government buildings. Government employees again ordered to return to work.

Sept. 14: Demonstrations continue.

Sept. 16: Council of State announces that: (1) military, civil servants, and government employees must resign from the BSPP; BSPP agrees to accept resignations; (2) other citizens employed by the State may resign from the BSPP; (3) Burma is now a multi-party democracy, and the government will support election winners. Government employees are warned to return to work by Sept. 19. Mandalay and Sagaing Division People's Councils reportedly resign and take refuge in monasteries. Gen. Tin Oo says two Regional Army Commanders have disappeared after supporting the opposition. U Aung Gyi calms demonstrators at the the Ministry of Defence. [Date uncertain: BSPP changes name to National Unity Party.]

Sept. 17: Soldiers fire at demonstrators at the Ministry of Trade; save themselves from lynching by surrendering to students and monks, who smuggle them out of danger in civilian clothing.

Gen. Saw Maung Seizes Power

Sept. 18: Gen. Saw Maung (59) seizes power on behalf of an Organization for Building Law and Order in the State. Names 19 man military government, largely from Regional Military Commands. His deputy is Maj.Gen. Than Shwe. Dissolves government and appoints military administrators. Declares 8 pm to 4 am curfew. Election plans to remain in effect, under previously named Election Commission. U Win Thein, on behalf of Gen. Tin Oo, rejects new regime, and opposition builds roadblocks around Rangoon.

Sept. 19: Military destroys roadblocks and fires on often unarmed civilians in Rangoon, and reportedly in Magwe, Taunggyi, Loikaw and elsewhere. At least 150 killed. Burma Red Cross appeals to Western Embassies for aid in treating wounded in Tamwe Township. Government employees warned they will be disciplined if they do not return to work by Sept. 26.

Sept. 20: U.S. Ambassador Burton Levin protests killings and calls for democracy. At least 59 more are killed.

Sept. 21: Army in control in Rangoon. France, United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, and West Germany present Joint Note of Protest [strongest form of diplomatic message] objecting to killings. Students activists reported fleeing to Karen insurgent areas and Thailand. Deadline for government employees to return to work extended to Oct. 3.

Sept. 22: Opposition leaders U Aung Gyi, Gen. Tin Oo, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi refuse to participate in elections under existing Election Commission. Demonstrations wane.

Opposition Unites

Sept. 24: The three opposition leaders, U Aung Gyi, Gen. Tin Oo, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, form National League for Democracy. U Nu remains outside group. Burma Communist Party reportedly attacks Burma Army posts in northeastern Burma.

Sept. 27: U Aung Gyi named Chairman of National League for Democracy.

Opposition Endorses Elections

Sept. 29: National League for Democracy agrees to participate in elections; opposes street violence.

Oct. 2: Government warns action will be taken against government workers who do not return to work by Oct. 3 deadline; opposition urges continued strike.

Strikes End

Oct. 3: Most government workers (90%) heed deadline and return to

work, as troops patrol Rangoon streets. Students reported split; some have formed Burma Revolutionary Force dedicated to continued armed struggle; others have joined or taken refuge with Karen, Kachin and Shan ethnic rebellions.

Oct. 4: Rangoon calm; soldiers removing anti-government posters. Death toll since Sept. 18 military set at 400 by government, over 1,000 by opposition.

Oct. 5: Up to 4,000 students reportedly receiving military training with Karen rebels; agree to concept of Burmese Federal Union. Others are with Mon, Shan, and Kachin rebels. In Rangoon, government reportedly purging civil servants who took part in demonstrations, including 19 Burma Broadcasting Service employees. Burma Airways resumes flights to Bangkok after one month cessation.

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