

12 AUG 1996

LEAD Myanmar-Arrival

MYANMAR LEADER ACCORDED FULL CEREMONIAL WELCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The Chairman of the Myanmar State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), General Than Shwe, who arrived today for a five-day official visit was accorded a full ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square.

Gen Than Shwe and his wife Puan Daw Kyaing Kyaing were received by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah.

Also present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The national anthems of both countries were played by the central band of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Lt Norman Kamaruddin.

Gen Than Shwe inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by four officers and 103 men of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment headed by Mej Nor Azmi Abdul Karim. A 21-gun salute was fired.

Dr Mahathir later introduced the Myanmar leader to Cabinet Ministers and other dignitaries.

Gen Than Shwe is leading a 48-member delegation which includes eight Myanmar ministers.

They were earlier received at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datin Endon Mahmood. Also present was Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar who is the Minister-in-Attendance.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah later paid a courtesy call on the Myanmar leader and his wife at Hotel Istana.

Gen Than Shwe is scheduled to hold talks with Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon and witness the signing of several agreements.

Tonight, Gen Than Shwe and his wife are scheduled to have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong at Istana Negara and attend a state banquet.

The Myanmar leader is scheduled to visit the site of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang and the Proton plant in Shah Alam, and attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit.

His wife will have a separate programme, with visits to the National Museum and the Central Market, among other places.

Gen Than Shwe and his wife will leave for Pulau Pinang on Wednesday and is scheduled to call on the Pulau Pinang Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir and his wife Toh Puan Hajah Siti Zainab.

He is scheduled to visit the Sony Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd plant at the Prai Industrial Estate and a Buddhist temple, and attend briefings at the Penang Development Corporation and Penang Port Sdn Bhd, among others.

The Myanmar visitors will leave for home from the Bayan Lepas International Airport on Friday. -- BERNAMA

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