Dictated Peace won’t bring Eternal Peace

Last Sunday, 12 August, the Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC) held its “first-ever meeting” where excerpts from President Thein Sein’s 7 March speech were quoted by his vice president and UPWC chairman Sai Mawk Kham:

Peace-making process has three steps: discussion at the State level, discussion at the Union level and discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

• The discussion at the State level includes ceasefire, staying only in designated area, not holding weapons beyond the designated area, opening liaison offices and fixing dates and venues for Union level discussions.

• The discussion at the Union level includes living forever in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepting Our Three Main National Causes, lawful business activities, participation in anti-narcotics drives, participation in politics by establishing political parties, accepting the constitution and amending at the Hluttaw if they want to and transformation into only one armed organization.

• The third stage, the discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, signing the eternal peace deal by all national races at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

http://tinyurl.com/9qoj4z5
Five detained NGO aid workers released in Rakhine State

Local authorities in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, released Doctors Without Borders employees Kyaw Hla Aung and Win Naing. They have been charged with inciting unrest. Authorities are believed to hold up to 10 other NGO aid workers detained during the community unrest.

Five detained local NGO staff members of an international aid organization were freed on Thursday in Rakhine State in Burma, while others still remain in jail.- http://tinyurl.com/cv32hsc

87 people dead, over 5,300 houses destroyed in Rakhine State: gov’t

The latest UN situation report for Rakhine State says that of the over 100,000 people affected at the beginning of the crisis in June, many have returned home as the overall security situation is improving across the state.- http://tinyurl.com/cuzgkkl

Burma’s president proposes opening schools for Rohingya children

Burma’s President Thein Sein has proposed opening schools to improve the education of minority Rohingya Muslim children.

President’s office Thein Sein said education is an important tool to help different communities live in harmony and respect human rights, in an interview with the VOA Burmese Service published on Tuesday.-http://tinyurl.com/c767hpv
18 Hindu Families Move to Downtown Sittwe From Refugee Camps

18 Hindu families, comprising 98 people, were moved to a Hindu temple in Sittwe from a refugee camp on Wednesday in arrangement with the government. “This move was arranged by the government. The authority conducted it after a Hindu family requested to move to the temple. They were sent to the temple in two police vehicles,” said Ko Kaung San who is a social worker.

http://tinyurl.com/9djfd22

Islamic group to take Rohingya issue to the UN

The Islamic summit meeting has decided to take the issue of Muslim Rohingyas in Burma to the United Nations, it said in a statement.

http://tinyurl.com/bt4r2r5

Authorities advise public not to gather together due to the news about the possibility of terrorist bomb attack in Maungdaw

Maungdaw authorities ordered strip malls closed along with street markets after news about a terrorist attack spread among the public. An anonymous police officer said, “Yes, we asked Maungdaw residents to avoid crowded areas like strip malls and street markets on 8 August.” Since the Muslim rioter’s attack in Maungdaw, the main market has been closed while only the strip malls and street markets are open to the public for their groceries.

http://tinyurl.com/bw7nbps
CNF forms public consultation committee in northern Chin state

The Public Consultation Organizing Committee (PCOC) was recently started by the Chin National Front (CNF) in Than Tlang Town where a liaison office of CNF is based.

The PCOC, which was formed on August 6, will have 12 members in the committee; this includes two members from each political party, social groups, town elders and members of religious groups from the area.

One PCOC member told Khonumthung the Than Tlang CNF liaison office invited representatives from various political parties and civilian bodies to join the committee to ensure it will function smoothly.

http://tinyurl.com/8m9rlpp

Chin civil society groups meet to discuss human rights violations

Network for Chin Civil Societies (NCCS) met to discuss solutions for human rights abuses in Hakha, the capital city of Chin state.

From July 30-31, Chin civil society groups from 9 townships discussed resolutions for human rights violations by the Burmese military.

NCCS was formed in June to advocate for democracy, promote peace in the state and unity amongst Chin people. After the meeting, NCCS coordinators stated they will expand their network amongst civil and religious groups to continue to advocate democratic change in one of Burma’s most impoverished states.

“We will go about the planning, step by step, for establishing democracy with civil society workers both inside Chin state and abroad. We also will work with other NGOs,” said Mai Vel Tha Chin, coordinator of NCCS.

http://tinyurl.com/cbn3sn5
Improved electricity supply in Matupi

Following a signature campaign demanding improvement in electricity supply by local people, power supply has been increased by the local authorities of Matupi Town, southern Chin state, Burma.

The authorities are now supplying power once in two days from the earlier once in four days before the signature campaign was launched, said a local in Matupi.

“We are getting increased electricity supply, which is once in two days now, but we want power throughout the day,” said a government employee. Electricity is supplied from Namlong hydro electric project to the tune of 64 Kilowatts and 25 Kilowatts.

Power supply comes to Matupi from Namlong hydro electric power station. The people of Matupi launched a signature campaign for improvement in electricity supply.-http://khonumthung.org/?p=880
Chinese medics battle to contain measles outbreak in Kachin refugee camp

A Kachin relief group reports that Chinese doctors and a team of medics are battling to contain an outbreak of measles among children in a Kachin refugee camp on the China side of the border with Burma.

Health workers say the measles outbreak has spread quickly among children under the age of 10 living in the La Ying, Kachin refugee camp located in China’s Yunnan Province. The camp is opposite the Burma border town of Lwaigyai in Kachin State and is home to more than 2,000 refugees. http://tinyurl.com/cwxkjyl

Kachin MP calls for repeal of act targeting the KIO

In an interview with the Kachin News Group (KNG) earlier this week, Dwe Bu (also spelled Doi Bu), an ethnic Kachin lawmaker from Burma’s Lower House (Pyithu Hluttaw) representing the Unity and Development Party of Kachin State (UDPKS), again publicly called for the scrapping of a law that government authorities have used to arrest dozens of alleged members or supporters of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO). http://tinyurl.com/c5uvb79
Mekong godfather’s lieutenant set to be free

To the chagrin of Chinese authorities who reportedly believe Sai Aung Myat is the one who carried out the execution of 13 Chinese sailors on the Mekong on 5 October, his release from custody is imminent, according to a source close to both his family and local Burmese authorities.-http://tinyurl.com/bqpj3c9

Intl media mostly ignores Kachin conflict

Despite plenty of fighting, refugees and bloodshed the international media has largely ignored the ongoing conflict between Burma’s army and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), which has now entered its 14 months.

Most of the global coverage about Burma over the past year has focused instead on Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) entering the military dominated parliament and a series of limited reforms that Thein Sein’s government has so far implemented.-http://tinyurl.com/bqpj3c9
The Karen National Union (KNU) is on schedule to open its fourth liaison office in the Burma’s border town Myawaddy on August 18.

P’doh Saw Aung Maw Aye, chairman of the KNU’s Pa-an District has confirmed that on 18 August, the Pa-an District or Brigade-7 and Doo Pla Ya District will open a joint liaison office in Myawaddy town, eastern Burma.  

Karen people across the world took the time to remember their fallen heroes. It was significant that in Karen State the Karen National Union commemorated the 62nd Karen Martyrs’ Day with a military parade in its Brigade 6 area at Noh Poe-Htee Mu Hta village in Myawaddy Township. This is the first time that a military parade was openly held in a government-controlled area.

The Karen National Union will open a fourth liaison office on the 18th of August in the Burma border town of Myawaddy in Karen State to help with the cooperation between the Burma government and the KNU, especially in the Karen National Liberation Army’s 6th and 7th Brigade areas. An officer from the Karen National Liberation Army 7th Brigade spoke to Karen News.
Karen youth hold historic meeting in govt-controlled zone

For the first time in its history the Karen Youth Organization held a seminar in a Burma government-controlled area, in Noh Poe village in Myawaddy Township on Saturday, August 11. Organisers credited the recent ceasefire agreements between Karen National Union and the Burma government for creating a safe environment for the seminar to go ahead.- http://tinyurl.com/d6agcnp

Villagers being taxed by all armies

Boat travelers on the Zami waterways in the Three Pagoda and Kyain Seikgyi Township region of Karen State claim they are tax targets of various armed soldiers.- http://tinyurl.com/8wavwwo

Burma Army’s ‘shoot on sight’ order still in use

The Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) raised their concerns to the United Nations Special Human Rights Rapporteur, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana that now is not the time to repatriate Karen refugees back to Burma.

KHRG told Mr Quintana that the Burma’s military still has a “shoot on sight” order in place in Karen State that affects people living in internally displaced hiding sites area and that the area is still heavily landmined. http://tinyurl.com/coxbjcr
Ceasefire gives Karenni language a chance to be heard

The ceasefire agreements between the Karenni armed groups and the Burma government has delivered a cultural bonus to Karenni people. U Thoo Reh, the director of the Karenni literature and culture department said people in Shadaw Township, Karenni (Kayah) State are learning the Karenni language, that was invented by the former chairman of the Karenni National Progressive Party, Ku Htae Bu Peh, in 1955, for the first time because of the recent ceasefire agreements.

http://tinyurl.com/caqsuxv

Residents gather prayer ceremony for losing land

About 500 residents from five villages gather joint prayer ceremony on Sunday at Marpro Shay Catholic Church in Hpruso township of Karenni State. They believe this will help them to be able to cultivate and earn for livelihood on their own land again that they once used to be.

After authority make decision to build military training school in Hpruso areas, thousand acres of villagers farm land were forcibly confiscated.

Last Sunday 29, July mark the 5th joint prayer ceremony for Lawjar, DawLawkhu , Makrawshe, DawTator and KhuRaku villages and they will continue to gather the joint prayer ceremony every Sunday till they get their land back.

http://tinyurl.com/8b6jwj
KNPP completes the opening of its three liaison offices

The Karenni National Progressive Party opened keep to ceasefire agreement with the government by opening its second and third liaison offices last week. Khu Denia from the KNPP confirmed to Karen News.

“We agreed to open three liaison offices – this we have done. We have opened liaison offices in Loi Kaw, Hpasawng and the Shadaw area. We will work together with the government through these liaison offices to carry out the agreed to peace initiatives.”

The KNPP has opened a total of three liaison offices – First one in Loi Kaw on July 25, second was in Hpasawng on July 27 and third one in Shadaw on July 31.-http://tinyurl.com/bpoaj88
Remembrance for Mon leader Nai Non Lar organized by Mon youth groups

A traditional Buddhist ceremony to remember Mon leader Nai Non Lar, the former Vice President of the New Mon State Party, was held in his native village of Hnee Pa Daw in Mudon Township.

The ceremony, organized by community youth organizations, began beside the village statue of Nai Non Lar with offerings of alms and food to Buddhist monks.

Community leader Nai Chan Done said, “The Vice President is a good example to our youth [as someone who] sacrifices for the national movement because he was a good leader to our people.”

http://tinyurl.com/9n9q8vv

NMSP and KNPP signed Deep of Commitment for Protection of Children in Conflict

The main armed ethnic oppositions from Burma, New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the members of an umbrella United Nationals Federal Council (UNFC) signed the Deep of Commitment (DoC) with a Geneva based International NGO, Geneva Call, in order to protect children in conflict zones eastern part of Burma, said Nai Hongsa Poung Khine, a delegate from NMSP.-http://tinyurl.com/9mergtk
Mon language instruction impeded in government schools

Mi Lyi Htaw – Although the government’s Ministry of Education (MOE) and chief of peace negotiator, Railway Minister U Aung Min, allowed Mon language to be taught in government schools, school headmasters from Kyaikmayaw Township are not complying with the policy change, according to leaders of the Mon Literature and Culture Committee (MLCC).

In response to the headmasters’ restrictions, representatives from MLCC, Mon community leaders, and Buddhist monks have traveled to Kyaikmayaw Township to explain the government’s policy and discuss when there could be an appropriate time to teach Mon language, either during school hours or outside of school time, said Nai Soe Myint, a leader from MLCC. -http://monnews.org/?p=3955
Over 400 people attended 41st anniversary of the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP)

The ceremony for the 41st anniversary of the founding of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) was held and more than 400 party members and people reportedly attended.

“The ceremony was not a very big one. In the morning, we made food donation to the monks. We held a lunch party together in the afternoon and party patron Lt-Gen Hso Ten gave a speech there. Some representatives from the Shan State Army (SSA) and some public representatives also delivered speeches. That is all,” said the spokesperson of the party, Major Sai La. [http://tinyurl.com/cueokcp]

Elected Shan leader calls for more power to the states

Hkun Htoon Oo, leader of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) that won statewide in the 1990 elections, yesterday called for more decentralization by the central government for the states and regions, according to reports from Rangoon. [http://tinyurl.com/dymgjzg]
Traffic police officer arrested for smuggling tons of jade

On August 11, deputy traffic police officer U Kyaw Soe Aung who is currently assigned to Muse City in Northern Shan State was reportedly arrested altogether with his two subordinates for illegally transporting jade.

He was arrested while illegally carrying approximate 3,600 pounds of jade to be transported to Muse City by trucks around Own Chaw Village after successfully by passing the nearby 16 Miles Gate Checkpoint, reported a gem trader from Muse.-http://tinyurl.com/cm4udow

Drug abuse free-for-all on the Chinese border

Drugs are widely available in Namkham and the neighboring Kachin township of Manwiang but local authorities are taking no action against this state of affairs, report locals. “In Manna quarter, young people, age around 20, begin arriving at 4 in the evening, as though there is a celebration,” said a townsman. “No.1 most used is yaba (methamphetamine) and No 2 is heroin.”http://tinyurl.com/8vf2mtu
List of BNI member website address

Independent Mon News Agency
www.monnews.org

Kachin News Group
www.kachinnews.com

Kaladan Press Network
www.kaladanpress.org

Kandawgyi Times
www.ktimes.org

Phophtaw News Association
www.phophtaw.org

Karen News
www.karennews.org

Khonumthung News Group
www.khonumthung.org

Mizzima
www.mizzima.com

Independent Arakanese News Agency
www.narinjara.com

Network Media Group
www.nmg-news.com

Shan Herald Agency for News
www.shanland.org