Want to see border areas of Kayin State achieve peace, stability putting end to IDPs and refugees?

Soe Mya Kyaw

It was a wet Sunday morning. As the weather was cool, I was thinking of staying in bed to have a cosy feeling. I closed my eyes and tried to sleep again. "How comfortable it is to stay in bed while keeping myself warm under the blanket. What a pleasure". I said to myself.

But my enjoyment and comfort did not last long. Even amidst the sound of wind and rain, the loud voice of a radio from the house next door disturbed me. Actually, it was not the radio that disturbed me, but the slanders the VOA was broadcasting, which were like ominous screeches for me. VOA is the champion of the smearing campaign. It had been long since I hadn't listened to BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB, as I have no wish at all to listen to baseless lies. Those radio stations were lying through their teeth, broadcasting shams and sneering at the nation and her people. For us, their voices are even more distasteful than ominous screeches and also resentful and insulting to the national interest.

In the past, we used to listen to those radio stations thinking that what they said might be true. Later, we came to realize that those radio stations were run by certain foreign countries in their own interest without considering others' at all. We also came to understand that those radio stations were just launching media offensive against us in collusion with national traitors inside the country. From that time on, we have never ever switched on them. There are many people around us who have never listened to those radio stations after understanding about them well. All the people of Myanmar know that they will lose sleep if they pay attention to every dog's bark. The mountain will never move however the dog barks.

Because of the disturbing voice, I was thinking deeply about those radio stations. But I began to concentrate my mind as soon as I heard a surprising but non-special news report. See, how dare the radio stations are? VOA was saying that the number of people leaving their homes was increasing due to the offensive of the Myanmar Tatmadaw. It was like the thief shouting "Thief!" What the radio station said was that because of internal strife the number of refugees fleeing the country was still increasing; that the majority of refugees were Kayins; more and more people were leaving their homes resulting from the current military offensives of the Tatmadaw; that a group to help people without homeland had to open one more temporary refugee camp on Thanlwin River bank in Myanmar territory at Thai-Myanmar border; that together with the group to help people without homeland in Kayin State, foreign NGOs and individual persons are providing food, clothing and shelter for people without homeland; and that most of the ethnic refugees fled to Thailand. There are persons creating smears and others that are airing them vigorously. They are on the same wave length working in harmony.

Actually, we all know that refugee camps and the KNU are inseperable. The KNU in reality is forcibly driving its own Kayin people to the so-called refugee camps. The KNU is the culprit and the root cause of the commonly known internal displaced persons (IDP) and refugees. The KNU members are killing people, looting and torching public property and blasting bombs with the intention of disturbing and giving trouble to the local people. They are upholding the West-longing policy and are relying on aliens to betray the national cause. All the KNU's sinister plots, wrong acts, improper ideology and insincerity are an unending story.

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I rose from my bed after the end of VOA's smears, as I could not sleep anymore. While brushing my teeth, wasching my face and having breakfast, I thought of refuting its slanders. It is the duty of every citizen to rebut the plots and slanders, with the truth as the proof.

Readers, please guess the persons I will have to remember in this situation. They are no other persons than my beloved Bagyi Soe and Kyee Kyee Mya. It has been long since I last visited their home. Bagyi Soe, a retired professor who is well-informed with wide political vision, and Kyee Kyee Mya, a retired headmistress who loves the truth and whose patriotism is strong, are an invaluable treasure trove of knowledge for me.

As it was a weekend holiday, I was able to see Bayi Soe, who was at home on leave from the National Convention, and Kyee Kyee Mya.

Bagyi Soe: Come, Maung Kyaw. We haven't met for long.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes Bagyi. I accept responsibility for my failure to visit you only at the time I have something to ask. How are you Bagyi and Kyee Kyee?

Kyee Kyee Mya: We both are fine, thank you. We also remember you. Your Bagyi was asking about you last week.

Bagyi Soe: Nothing special. I asked about you, just because I remembered you. That's all. But as I am getting older and have no children, I long for someone to talk with.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Good! I will come to you often for company. Having the opportunity to learn experiences and knowledge from you is a valuable reward for me.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Enough of pleasantries Maung Kyaw. Let's go to the point. You have already told us that you arrive to our home only when you have something to ask. As it is a holidary, I have cooked a good meal. You can ask a lot. But please go home only after joining us for lunch.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What a good plan! So, I will have enough time to have a useful conversation with you.

Bagyi Soe: You are like our son. You are always welcome. So, what are your questions?

Soe Mya Kyaw: VOA in its morning programme aired about the so-called Kayin refugee camps, saying that local people have to flee their homes due to the Tatmadaw's military offensive. Did you hear the said news report?

Kyee Kyee Mya: Of course we did. I discussed with your Bagyi about the matter.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I am disappointed and angry at its act which is like thief shouting "Thief".

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Bagyi Soe: You are right. Actually, the so-called refugee camps are the base camps of KNU hiding at the border. The whole country knows that most of the so-called refugees are KNU terrorist insurgents and their families and relatives who are also the KNU hard-cores. The so-called KNU camps are the result of the conspiracy of internal and external elements.

Kyee Kyee Mya: That is not all. **Today's KNU is indeed just a dollar-earning puppet dancing to the tune of its alien masters. Its members are just a handful of insurgents, and they always commit various forms of atrocities such as terrorist acts, bloody massacre of innocent civilians including Kayin nationals, rapes, trafficking in persons, and forced conscription of child soldiers. We all know that the broadcasting of this made-up news story is due to its incitement. And now KNU is not in a position to launch offensives and is committing forced relocation of local national people. As a matter of fact, their so-called refugee camps are just designed for political gains.**

So Mya Kyaw: I have somewhat learnt about that. But, tell me more about KNU that has done nothing beneficial to the people throughout its history.

Kyee Kyee Mya: I would also like to know about that, Ko Soe. I think there are a lot of their clandestine schemes I have not learnt yet.

Bagyi Soe: In reality, the KNU is just a local armed insurgency that came into existence when it was based on the British colonialists divide-and-rule policy and the privileges it bestowed on the KNU, and when it started to use racism and warlord policy together. The British tried their best to organize honest and loyal Kayin nationals so that Kayins became a national race that supported and favoured them. Then, the colonialists equipped Kayin people with arms and formed more Kayin Rifles and Kayin paramilitary police forces.

Kyee Kyee Mya: You are right, Ko Soe. I have learnt that the British favoured Kayin nationals very much.

Bagyi Soe: Yes, there were said to be many Kayin national leader sycophants who got involved in the Anti-Fascist Resistance and who were in favour of the British. Saw Ba Oo Gyi, for instance, once made a demand for forming an independent Kayin state and for being a part of the British empire for ever.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh, is that so? It is news to me.

Bagyi Soe: A Kayin national conference was held in Yangon in February 1946, and formed Karen Central Organization (KCO) with the intention of setting up an independent Kayin State. Leaders of the organization were military officers of Kayin armed forces and Kayin Christian religious leaders including Saw Ba Oo Gyi. The KCO sent a Kayin goodwill delegate to London in 1946 and demanded for an independent Kayin state under the British empire. But, the then British Prime Minister Attlee did not make any specific responses.

Kyee Kyee Mya: No way, Ko Soe. That was not their concern. Kayin state was, in fact, a stranger to them. They dealt with Kayin state just for their own interests and to stir up problems in the nation for political gains, didn't they?

Bagyi Soe: Sure. **In short, KCO turned down Aung San-Attlee Treaty in 1947 and formed Karen National Union (KNU) in cooperation with Kayin youths groups on 6 April. Ten days later, it formed KNDO as its armed wing. KNU boycotted the elections held in April 1947. On 23 April, an emergency meeting was held and Saw Ba Oo Gyi became the KNU chairman. From that time on, the KNU has been committing destructive acts.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: KNU is an organization that concentrates just on racism.

Bagyi Soe: Yes, Maung Kyaw. The root cause of the KNU armed struggle line is the instigation of the colonialist government. The colonialists not only equipped Kayin nationals with anti-Bamar sentiment but also armed them. So, in the pre-independence period, Kayin armed forces were very strong. Moreover, when it was reinforced with another Kayin national force—KNDO, the KNU became very proud of its strength, and made a demand for designating nearly the entire lower Myanmar as Kayin state. That is why I say the KNU's armed strife is largely due to direct and indirect instigation of the colonialist government.

Kyee Kyee Mya: All the evil legacies Myanmar is still suffering are the things the colonialists left deliberately.

Bagyi Soe: Another cause is that KNU's innate nature and initial policy were not good. When independence was regained, all people were happy with it. However, the next day on 5 January, KNU announced Kayin was an independent national race with a threat to secede from the Union. Although the right had been vested in accordance with the 1947 constitution to form Kayin State with Kayin State government and Kayin State Council, they made an unreasonable demand for formation of an independent state. Then, KNU went underground one group after another and followed the armed struggle line.

Soe Mya Kyaw: You mean KNU went underground in 1948, then?

Bagyi Soe: It was in 1949 it publicly rose against the government. But, Kayin paramilitary police forces and KNDO have launched their armed revolt since 1948. The Kayin battalions in the Tatmadaw extended assistance to them considerably. In the early 1949, KNU revolted publicly and occupied Htantabin, Toungoo, Pyu, Ottwin, and as far as I remember, Insein, DaikU, Yamethin, Pyawbye, Meiktila and Maymyo. At that time, the administrative machinery of the ruling AFPFL government did not cover the entire nation. So, foreign newspapers branded Myanmar Yangon government.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh, our nation was on the verge of collapse at the time.

Bagyi Soe: However, it was just a short period. In 1948-49, KNU occupied major cities and gained a dominant position. But, after the end of 1949, they were defeated and they withdrew from the areas they had occupied due to the attacks of the Tatmadaw. Saw Ba Oo Gyi fell in Htawtcocoe in August 1950 on his withdrawal from Thandaung to Kawkareik. British man captain Vivian, who issued arms to Galon U Saw, was captured dead together with Saw Ba Oo Gyi. It was a historic event the colonialists could not deny. Just after the fall of Saw Ba Oo Gyi, KNU was completely downhearted and its revolution met its end.

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Actually, the so-called refugee camps are the base camps of KNU hiding at the border. The whole country knows that most of the so-called refugees are KNU terrorist insurgents and their families and relatives who are also the KNU hard-cores.

In reality, the KNU is just a local armed insurgency that came into existence when it was based on the British colonialists divide-and-rule policy and the privileges it bestowed on the KNU, and when it started to use racism and warlord policy together.

Today's KNU is indeed just a dollar-earning puppet dancing to the tune of its alien masters. Its members are just a handful of insurgents, and they always commit various forms of atrocities such as terrorist acts, bloody massacre of innocent civilians including Kayin nationals, rapes, trafficking in persons, and forced conscription of child soldiers.

KNU did not represent the Kayin people. KNU men burnt down the whole town or village and committed murders, robberies, rapes and all types of sabotage against the people including Kayin populace. Well, there have been most disgusting acts of atrocities in large numbers committed by KNU.

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Soe Mya Kyaw: In reality, KNU suffered a lot due to the incitement of the colonialists and its racism.

Bagyi Soe: That is right. Their programme itself is based on racial hatred and militarism. Furthermore, they waited in earnest the arrival of military aid from the West. As the aid was not forthcoming, they laid down the left-leaning policy and became followers of the BCP (Burma Communist Party).

Kyee Kyee Mya: This would not work because BCP has been a notorious group.

Bagyi Soe: What your aunt has said is right. Ideological influence of BCP and racial influence of KNU did not go along well. So, KNU had got one more master without gaining any benefit. In fact, KNU suffered even losses. Around 1960, BCP took refuge in the Bago Yoma mountain range and KNU did the same in the Delta bullying the local people for their survival.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Please tell Maung Kyaw about the inhuman atrocities committed by KNU so that the younger generation would be aware of them.

Bagyi Soe: Of course, I will. Right from the outset or even long time ago, KNU did not represent the Kayin people. KNU men burnt down the whole town or village and committed murders, robberies, rapes and all types of sabotage against the people including Kayin populace. Well, there have been most disgusting acts of atrocities in large numbers committed by KNU. According to newspaper reports, KNU committed 110 murders, 35 robberies and 13 raids against treasuries in 1948-49 alone. In 1949, they torched the entire Maletto Village in Maubin Township and massacred all the villagers. They also burnt down the whole towns of Insein, Penwegon, Nattalin, etc. During their occupation of PyinOoLwin (formerly known as Maymyo), they killed 1946 residents for no reason. Similarly in Pyu, they torched the market and houses of the town and killed men, women and children indiscriminately. As a result, about 400 houses were burnt down with 351 bodies left. Moreover, over 2000 townspeople of Pyu were taken to Zeyawady where they were massacred. These are black marks in history that cannot be obliterated. Their atrocities were similar to acts of genocide committed by the Nazis.

Kyee Kyee Mya: How about the girl students who were kidnapped and sold to the KMT?

Bagyi Soe: Well, I'll continue. On 15 November 1954, the KNU raided the Sittoung-Moktama train and seized over 40 university girl students who were on their way home on holidays and 15 girls. The KNU sold those girls and some young women seized from Mon villages to Maj-Gen Lau Li of KMT in exchange for arms and ammunition. On 15 January 1955 also, KNU blasted the Mawlamyine-Yangon passenger train about 30 miles from the Hninpale Railway Station; 35 passengers were killed in the blast. They looted the property and took away about 40 girls and raped them *en masse*. Finally, they sold the girls at the border. Inhuman acts, really, Maung Kyaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Most disappointing to hear that, Bagyi.

Bagyi Soe: Not only that, in 1967 KNU torched and destroyed Shwepyitha Village of over 800 homes in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division. They also burnt down the onion field and Gyogon village in Thabaung Township. In 1985, KNU exploded the Yangon-Mandalay Up-train near the mile post 127 between Kywebwe and Nyaungchedauk stations killing 76 passengers including monks and injuring 122. Their brutal acts were many and varied, Maung Kyaw. At first they massacred the people due to racial hatred but they did so with neither racial nor political reasons. They then massacred people because they were blood thirsty. KNU military leaders acted like warlords. They became notorious criminals indulged themselves in war, women and wine.

Soe Mya Kyaw: These days, their Western mentors and the stooges, the radio stations under their influence and expatriates have been baselessly accusing the Tatmadaw of committing acts of genocide and massacre. But actually these are the acts of KNU, aren't they, Bagyi? And KNU are the ones who brutally kill people.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Well, it will take you very long if you go on talking about the brutalities of KNU. Please take a break and drink a cup of coffee each.

Bagyi Soe: That's a good idea. Let's take a break.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Bagyi.

Translation: TMT+MS+AK

Myanma Alin & Kyemon: 27-7-2007

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Appointment of Bangladeshi Ambassador to Union of Myanmar agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Major General Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Mohammed Khairruzzaman.

Major General Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla was born in 1954 and obtained a Master Degree in Defence Studies. He graduated from National Defence College and Defence Services Command and staff College. He was commissioned on 11 January 1975. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in 1995 and Major General in 2002. He was awarded four medals in service. He served as Defence Attaché of Bangladesh to the People's Republic of China for four years in Beijing. He has recently served as Quarter Master General of Bangladesh Army till 13 May, 2007. Major General Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla is married with one son and one daughter. — *MNA*

One dissolved MDC …

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However, if they think that their ward or region is harmed or stability and security of their ward or region come under threat, they protect and defend their ward or region with a sense of duty.

According to the fine traditions of Myanmar people, they handed them over to the responsible persons in order to prevent them from entering their wards for disrupting the stability and peace.

Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin can face punishments under Section (147) of Criminal Law for joining an unlawful association and getting involved in gathering a crowd, Section 124 (A) of Criminal Law for creating public outrage by holding placards to make the people hate and disregard the government, and to destroy people's admiration for the government, Section 17/20 of 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law for distributing anti-government flyers to the people in staging a demonstration, and Section 31/46 of 1945 Police Act for illegally staging a protest that is not in conformity with the procedures. And action can be taken against Aye Naing, Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min, Aye Lwin and Thant Zin Myo under Section 5 (Nya) of 1950 Emergency Management Act for organizing some people interested in politics by holding prayer services in collusion with NLD members of many township NLDs in the name of religion, Section 147 of Criminal Act for gathering a crowd, and Section 31/46 of 1945 Police Act for illegally staging a protest that is not in conformity with the procedures. Nevertheless, the government expressed its magnanimity towards the five and educated and let them go home.

Some people learning that the government showing benevolence to and educated and let the five go home instead of taking action against them are expressing their personal views that the five who had tried to gather a crowd are the ones who did not have enough reasoning power with negative views, who are destabilizing the State in the hope of obtaining various forms of assistance from local and external destructive elements, who are persuading with selfishness the people leading a peaceful life to join them; that they should realize the kindness of the government and should mend their ways; and that if they go on so without considering possible evil consequences they will surely face punitive punishment given by the people desirous of peace and stability.—*MNA*

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Want to see border areas of Kayin State achieve peace, stability putting end to IDPs and refugees?—(2)

Soe Mya Kyaw

I lost appetite because of the early morning smears of the VOA and could not enjoy my breakfast well. I gulped down the coffee made by Kyee Kyee Mya. It seemed that Bagyi Soe and Kyee Kyee Mya were sipping their coffee. I was anxious to know more about the KNU's unending story of atrocities.

Bagyi Soe: Oh Maung Kyaw, you drink coffee so quickly.

Soe Mya Kyaw: It's my habit that I always eat and drink quickly. I gulped the coffee as I wish to start our discussion sooner. I believe that the discussion will provide a lot of knowledge.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Oh, how anxious you are!. See Ko Soe, the audience is waiting.

Bagyi Soe: So let's continue our discussion. As you have said before our coffee break, **ethnic cleansing and genocide are the prime strategies the KNU had practiced in the past and is practising till now. The Tatmadaw has been unjustly slandered with the allegation "Licensed to Rape". Actually, the KNU is the organization that has been committing the crime of rape with so much pleasure throughout the internal insurgency.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: I also have some knowledge about it. But tell me more about the crime to enhance my knowledge about the matter.

Bagyi Soe: Some of the insurgent leaders are infamous for their murders, robberies and rapes. For example, Kayin insurgent Bo Yar Kyaw and group blew up a passenger train coming from Sittoung near Naungkala village on 22 November 1953. They robbed of all the money and property from passengers and kidnapped 50 men and women. They freed male victims if ransom was paid. But for every woman, even if ransom was paid for her, they raped the woman before releasing her. They killed every man if no one paid ransom for his release, and raped and murdered every woman for failure to pay ransom. As for KNU insurgents, Lin Htin, Hsa Lan and Pha Lu Kyaw, rape was just a usual practice to them. In addition to committing the crime, Lin Htin had 45 wives, Hsa Lan had over 120 wives and Pha Lu Kyaw had more than 150 wives. Many young Bamar, Kayin and Mon women's lives were ruined because they were raped by the KNUs. It is not a fable.

Soe Mya Kyaw: They (KNUs) are so terrible.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Ko Soe, there is one more notorious person. He is Bo Than Shein.

Bagyi Soe: Yes, Bo Than Shein of KNU guerrilla battalion 3 in delta region was so infamous for his crimes to ruin the lives of many women. He killed the husband, if he wanted the wife. He was notorious for his cruelty to murder over 50 persons in one or two days. I do not want to tell about it. KNUs even raped the wives of their own subordinates. They are real rapists who have never spared even pregnant women.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Enough Ko Soe, please. I feel so disappointed to hear the KNU's licensed to rape sex crimes. Please change your topic.

Bagyi Soe: Some very wild KNUs even ate the meat of the human victims. But I do not want to tell about it. As KNUs are too familiar with terrorism, they are the first to hijack a plane or the pioneers of the skyjacking terrorism.

Soe Mya Kyaw: KNUs went even that far? I can't believe my ears.

Bagyi Soe: It's true, Maung Kyaw. KNUs hijacked a Dakota passenger plane of Union of Burma Airways during its Yangon-Kyaukpyu-Sittway flight on 25 June 1954. The hijackers forced the pilot to land on a sea beach near Magyeezin village south of Gwa town. They took away together with them State funds amounting to K 724,000. There are still many more KNU crimes and atrocities Maung Kyaw. The KNUs attacked the Mandalay-Yangon Down train with a time bomb while it was entering Yangon Railway Station on 10-1-1988, committed a shooting spree on Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda platform in March 1988, blew up and torched cars carrying missionaries who would convey the statue of Alantaya Sayadaw on Thaton-Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe road near Kya-in village on 10-5-1989 and launched mine attack against the motorcade of Mingun Sayadaw U Vicittasarabhivamsa who was on his way from Dawei to Thayetchaung on 3-2-1991.

Soe Mya Kyaw: You are right. **Originally, the KNU is rooted in narrow racism. The organization became arrogant when it was flattered and instigated by the colonialists. It did not recognize the nation's independence and demanded a separate homeland. As the KNU have been committing terrorist and destructive acts constantly throughout the successive eras, all its crimes cannot be told even in a week.** What you have explained to me is enough for me to understand well that KNU is the lord of sabotages. Please tell me all about the rest.

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KNU is doing wrong and claiming that they are working for the formation of Kayin State and well-being of Kayin nationals. But, in practice, they follow the warlord policy and group-wise practice, and were very cruel to local people including Kayin nationals.

Now, the Tatmadaw has occupied all the KNU camps along the border. So, they now have to stay in the so-called refugee camps in the neighbouring country to earn their living.

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Bagyi Soe: Yes, that's a good idea. As you said, **KNU is doing wrong and claiming that they are working for the formation of Kayin State and well-being of Kayin nationals. But, in practice, they follow the warlord policy and group-wise practice, and were very cruel to local people including Kayin nationals.** In the end, the people lost their patience and rose against the KNU. On 14 February 1968, a KNU troop of about 50 led by Lieutenant Aung Than entered Lanthamaing village at Myaungmya District. At that time, there were no Tatmadaw outpost at the village. But, the villagers held whatever arms they got such as swords, spears and sharpened bamboo sticks and drove them out of the village. So, they (KNU) had to flee.

In the end, KNU completely lost the support of local people and fled the delta region. Local people including Kayin nationals cooperated with the Tatmadaw columns in the military operations such as "Shwe Lin Yon", "Moe Hein", and "Theinlar" for three years from 1969 to 1971. Local people took part in the militia strategy and four-cut tactics, and as a result, all KNUs fled the delta region and went across the border into the neighbouring country.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I think their condition worsened in the border areas. I know more about their later situations.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Go on, then, Maung Kyaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes. **KNU have claimed that they are working for improving the living conditions of the Kayin nationals, but in practice, they built strong camps along the border line to exploit and bully local people. They have done nothing good for their national race, but as you know, they collect extortion money and levy taxes from the villages. They smuggle out gems and teak. And they set up so-called camps to get foreign cash assistance, Isn't it Bagyi?**

Bagyi Soe: It is no need to ask if they love their state and national race as they are getting cash assistance from the big nations and remain under their influence. KNU leaders settle and do businesses in Thailand. With the funds they have received from international community, they buy houses, apartments and automobiles in Thailand, and send their children to other countries to pursue education. But, they neglect deliberately the difficulties their subordinates and local people are facing. They have never spent the dollars they have received for the so-called refugee camps on a single school, a hospital or a road. These points are the root causes of their downfall.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Certainly! They are now suffering for what they have done.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Moreover, they failed to take the good opportunity of the peace door the Tatmadaw government had opened through the Gentleman's Agreement. Am I right, Ko Soe?

Bagyi Soe: Yes, you are. Let me tell more about that. In 1988, the Tatmadaw took up State duties and tried its best to put an end to the internal armed conflict that had occurred for more than 40 years due to the evil legacy of the colonialists, and to achieve national reconsolidation. At that time, the Tatmadaw had gained an upper hand militarily, but it suspended all its offensives unilaterally against the KNU throughout the country including Kayin State on 28 April 1992 to achieve national reconsolidation. In response to the Tatmadaw's proposal for peace talks, 17 national race armed groups and many small groups that did not stick to racism and dogmatism and relied on external elements returned to the legal fold. I am sure, you know that, Maung Kyaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, I do, Bagyi. **KNU remnants, KNPP that went underground again, and SSA-S Ywet Sit group are all that have failed to give up the armed struggle line.**

Bagyi Soe: Now, they are not in a position to exist inside the country, and have to stay hidden along the Myanmar-Thai border. In particular, they are based in the so-called refugee camps, and sometimes, they launch attacks on the nation through guerrilla warfare. These border areas linking with the areas of the insurgents are only regions that have not enjoyed development and lag behind all parts of the nation in terms of development. So, local people cannot help feeling bitter about the acts of the insurgents.

There are accurate data and records that KNU tried to persuade the six Kayin national race groups that had made peace with the government to take up arms again. It is natural that destructive elements are always thinking about sabotage, isn't it?

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Bagyi. Now, the Tatmadaw has occupied all the KNU camps along the border. So, they now have to stay in the so-called refugee camps in the neighbouring country to earn their living.

Kyee Kyee Mya: How stupid they are! They have wasted all the good chances of leading a peaceful life.

Bagyi Soe: KNU has held informal talks with the Tatmadaw for three times and formal talks for four times since 1995. But, no success was achieved because they refused to give up their some bad habits. So, many members are breaking away from the KNU and returned to the legal fold one group after another, and now the number of the break-away groups has reached six.

The first group was DKBA led by U Tha Htoo Kyaw. More than 5000 troops broke away from the KNU and returned to the legal fold on 21 December 1990. The second group was battalion No (16) of the KNU brigade No (6) led by U Saw Tha Mu He, and nearly 500 troops brought along together with them 300 assorted arms and exchanged arms for peace on 24 February 1997.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I think the third group was the group of U Saw Ferry Moe, Ba Gyi.

Bagyi Soe: Yes, it was. On 8 November 1997, U Saw Ferry Moe and more than 100 members

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Initially, the government's effort to make peace with KNU almost met with complete success. However, complete success could not be achieved due to the interferences of their masters of the West as they fear that they will not be able to continue to play Myanmar's politics when the country becomes peaceful and stable.

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of KNU brigade No (2) exchanged arms for peace. Then, on 17 April 1998, KNU central committee member Phado U Aung San and more than 200 members, and on 10 November 1999, U Ko Gyi in charge of KNU brigade No (2) special region and nearly one hundred members exchanged arms for peace.

Kyee Kyee Mya: The last group is Maj-Gen Htay Maung's, isn't it?

Bagyi Soe: Of course. **It is the KNU/KNLA Peace Council that made peace with the government on 11.2.2007. Commander Maj-Gen Htay Maung of Brigade-7 led the group which had more than 300 members. Now, the Kayin national race armed groups are working side by side with the government for their regional development, and they are all enjoying fruits of development. The region has now developed much more than that of the past when the KNUs were active. Economic and living conditions of the local people have improved with a network of schools, hospitals, communications stations, roads and bridges and increased production of agricultural produce.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: You know, there are still some KNU remnants who sometimes come and attack the peace groups. Tell him about it.

Bagyi Soe: Yes, I will. You see, Maung Kyaw. They (KNU remnants) didn't spare the peace groups. They attacked U Saw Tha Mu He's Haungtharaw region for 22 times. The trigger-happy Kyi Lin-led KNU Battalion-8 had killed his two daughters, two grandchildren and one brother-in-law, who was a retired teacher. His youngest daughter lost her hand in the attack KNU members are indeed incorrigible fools.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Do you think there were attacks on other groups, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: Of course, there were. KNU members secretly opened fire at and ambushed convoys of DKBA. They are cruel even to their own national people. Besides, KNU in collusion with some foreign countries tried to prevent those who wanted to return to the legal fold from doing so. As far as I know, even Phado Aung San was invited to the US before his exchange of arms for peace and persuaded him to serve as a KNU spokesman.

Kyee Kyee Mya: KNUs also dissuaded Maj-Gen Htay Maung's group from entering the legal fold. Is it right?

Bagyi Soe: Yes, they did. Most of the members of KNU Brigade-7 are stationed in Bekalauk Camp in the other country. Actually, that camp is opened under the name of refugee camp. All the members of Maj-Gen Htay Maung's group wanted to enter the legal fold. First, all the members including central security guard members tried to do so en masse. However, their expectation was not met in full due to forced intervention of Phado Manshar's group of the Central KNU. They gave promotion to Johnny, a subordinate of Maj-Gen Htay Maung, applied pressure on other leaders and persuaded other organizations not to enter the legal fold. Consequently, most of the groups were not able to get out of KNU's operational areas.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Is that so, Ko Soe? If there are no pressure, intervention and persuasion, it is possible that more KNU members would enter the legal fold.

Bagyi Soe: What's more, **there are accurate data and records that KNU tried to persuade the six Kayin national race groups that had made peace with the government to take up arms again. It is natural that destructive elements are always thinking about sabotage, isn't it?**

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes. But I think there are only a few KNU remnant members who are still active.

Bagyi Soe: Openly speaking, **the current strength of the KNU, despite being flattered by some foreign broadcasting stations, is not more than 3500.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: The Tatmadaw government always keeps the door open according to the gentleman's agreement and a peaceful solution is offered to the KNU remnant members similar to other armed groups who have entered the legal fold.

Bagyi Soe: Peace door is always kept open. **Initially, the government's effort to make peace with KNU almost met with complete success. However, complete success could not be achieved due to the interferences of their masters of the West as they fear that they will not be able to continue to play Myanmar's politics when the country becomes peaceful and stable.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: **Only 3,500 members of KNU is indeed a handful of people. So, can that small number of them represent the entire mass of Kayin people?**

Bagyi Soe: **Even when KNUs were in strength, they could not represent the entire mass of Kayin nationals. According to current data, the number of all Kayin nationals across the country is 3.5 million. So KNU members represent just 0.1 per cent. That is why just a handful of KNU members cannot represent the entire mass of Kayin nationals who have marginalized the KNU as well. KNU and Kayin people are so different.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: I've come to realize the current situation of KNU. So we can go back to the issue of opening more refugee camps due to Tatmadaw's offensive.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Good. We talked about it first. Now, let's start on this topic again.

Bagyi Soe: It was a nice topic. But I'm getting hungry now as we have been discussing very earnestly. What about both of you?

Kyee Kyee Mya: Oh, mine! I only remember it is time we had our lunch. OK, let's have it.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Kyee Kyee. I'll help you laying the table.

Bagyi Soe: Let's continue our discussions after lunch.

Translation: TMT+MS+ST

(Myanma Alin & Kyemon: 28-7-2007)

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KNU does not represent the entire mass of Kayin nationals

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Want to see border areas of Kayin State achieve peace, stability putting end to IDPs and refugees?—(3)

Soe Mya Kyaw

I enjoyed the lunch served by Bagyi Soe and Kyee Kyee Mya so much that I ate my fill As I am a single, mostly, I finish my daily meals as appropriate. My participation had livened up the lunch and it seemed that Bagyi Soe and Kyee Kyee Mya enjoyed their dishes more than usual. The custom of hosts having a meal together with guests is a lovely Myanmar tradition showing warm friendship.

A traditional dessert of salad, palm sugar and green tea, prepared by Kyee Kyee Mya, awaited us after the lunch. While having the dessert, Kye Kye Mya started the discussion.

Kye Kye Mya: Let's continue, Maung Kyaw. We have reached to the slander saying that more refugee camps were being opened due to Tatmadaw's offensive.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes Kyee Kyee.

Bagyi Soe: OK, let's continue, to talk about the refugee camps. **Actually, the so-called refugee camps and the Tatmadaw's offensives have never originated in the Tatmadaw. The KNU started all the problems to arrive at the situation. As you know, there is not a single insurgent camp even in the border areas of Myanmar at present. The Tatmadaw can now station bases at the border for national defence and security with ease. In this situation the KNU has been committing various forms of terrorist acts attacking trains and highway cars and some towns and villages. Hence, the Tatmadaw under its security arrangements has to patrol and comb the areas where KNUs are hiding. The Tatmadaw has been making patrols to provide security for public lives and property. Obviously, it is not launching major offensives as accused by those elements.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: Clear as crystal Bagyi. All the people know about it. Isn't it true Kyee Kyee?

Kyee Kyee Mya: Yes, it is absolutely true.

Ba Gyi Soe: Now, let's start our discussion on the point No 2. As regards the point, I will tell you that throughout history, the KNU was applying the strategy of saying lies that a large number of refugees fled their homes for refugee camps in border areas because of the Tatmadaw's military offensive; and that the refugees are facing a dire condition. It is also asking outside help for the so-called problem and pressures on the government. And now the KNU is using the same old strategy. It in collusion with some foreign radio stations is shouting lies that a large number of people are now stranded at refugee camps and suffering from hardships as Tatmadaw is driving them out of their villages to border by force.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Those elements are so tricky.

Bagyi Soe: As we all know, **the Tatmadaw had to battle for many times with a large number of insurgents in the past. During the period from 1988 to 1990, the institution had to use a lot of manpower and firepower to overrun many fortifications of BCP and KNU at the border. It had to use infantry divisions, artillery support and aerial support to fight major battles. Even in that time we had never heard of villagers fleeing their homes to refugee camps *en masse* because of Tatmadaw's offensive. Those perpetrators are shouting slanders at the top of their voice when there are no battles. So, it is obvious that they are lying.** In fact, we the people of Myanmar are tired of hearing and seeing the same old scheme hatched by the KNU and their masters.

Kyee Kyee Mya: We are tired of hearing their lies, but those perpetrators never get tired of playing their old record again and again.

Bagyi Soe: That old record is full of schemes and intentions. **In reality, the KNU has been forcing villagers to leave for border areas, while putting the blame on the Tatmadaw, with the intention of cutting them off from military columns so that the local people will not be able to give information to the columns. The KNU has been making political gains out of the so-called refugees and receiving international aids. The KNU cannot abandon its strategy as it is like a stone that hits three birds.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: I agree with you Bagyi. The KNU is very clever to make quick gains.

Bagyi Soe: They are too good in resorting to their old tricks. In the previous month, the KNUs threatened people of Zinbon village in Thandaung Township and forced them to live in refugee camps. Fifty-eight villagers were able to escape and get back into Myanmar. The government accommodated and protected them at Thabyenyunt model village in the township. You can imagine the number of villages the KNUs have removed to refugee camps. KNUs always avoid Tatmadaw columns in committing the crime.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I sympathize the local national races. Surly, they will feel embarrassed and will hate the KNU.

Bagyi Soe: Now the third point. There is not a single KNU fortification at the border, although there were many in the past. So, KNUs have to live in the refugee camps inside the other country. So, the refugee camps in reality are KNU camps. **KNU tried to name its camps "refugee camps" in seeking international pressures on Myanmar government. Morever, the organization is tricking international donors to receive aids. As the refugee camps are located inside the terrority of the other country, the KNU does not need to be afraid of Tatmadaw's attack. KNUs are enjoying both security and foreign aids. They are famous all over the world for their lies and tricks.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: Have you heard that the US was trying to accept the so-called KNU refugees in it?

Bagyi Soe: It's true. **The US tried to amend its immigration law with exception to accept the so-called refugees living in the other country. As the so-called refugees are the KNUs and their families and relatives who are also the hard-cores, they all will be able to reach the US if the said law is amended.** But the amendment covered only the refugees at the border of the other nation bordering Myanmar. So, it is food for thought.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Is the US sincere in providing privileges that are better than other refugees around the world to the so-called KNU refugees?

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Bagyi Soe: As you know, the US is not sincere. To explain the matter, I will give "Bay of Pigs Invasion" as an example. The revolutionaries of the current Castro government of Cuba were able to overthrow the then government in 1959. The defeated the then president and his followers had to flee the country. The US organized and accommodated those Cuban expatriates. It provided food for them. Moreover, it conducted military training for them and provided them with arms. In 1961, it asked them to attack Castro through Bay of Pigs, south of Cuba. But, Castro's troops managed to crush the expatriate troops, so the expatriate group would never be able to rear its head again. This was a tactic of the US — to attack the foe with his own weapons. Maung Kyaw, I am sure by now it is clear to you that why the US accepts and is keeping Kayin national refugees in its territory.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, it is. By the way, Bagyi, I think many KNU members felt depressed and returned to the legal fold, and many more members will follow suit.

Bagyi Soe: In practice, there were many events KNU members were disunited and downhearted and tried to flee and return to the legal fold. And there will be many similar events. But, KNU forcibly dislocated the families and relatives of its members to the border areas and is keeping them as refugees so that its members dare not flee and enter the legal fold. In this way, they take control over the members and receive foreign assistance through political gains.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Bagyi, I wonder why KNU members have remained for such a long time up to now.

Bagyi Soe: Myanmar has many large and small armed groups. Of them, the armed groups of other national races have made peace with the government for national reconsolidation. But, there is no sign that the KNU remnant group will do so. Apparently, it is because their western masters and their lackeys are aiding and abetting the KNU remnants, and the neighbouring country still accepts the so-called refugee camps in it. Another point is that western masters are polishing the role of the KNU remnants who have been committing various forms of atrocities such as torching the villages, murders, robberies, rapes and trafficking in persons, and propagating through some broadcasting stations as if KNU members win the support of and represent all Kayin nationals.

Kyee Kyee Mya: That's right. Western powers are aiding KNU remnants, KNPP, SSA-S and local anti-government groups so that they can install a puppet government in Myanmar in complicity with NGOs under their influence, expatriates, and certain radio stations. I am sure, they will keep on putting pressure on our country under various pretexts including democracy and human rights. Maung Kyaw, you should take into consideration the fact that they will continue to provide funds on the pretext of democracy movements so that KNU remnants staying hidden in the border areas of the certain neighbouring country can survive and get all necessary things including weapons.

Bagyi Soe: She is right, Maung Kyaw. As a matter of fact, funds are provided for these so-called refugee camps through expatriate national traitors such as director (policy) Chit Ko Ko (a) Aung Din of the US Campaign for Burma, general secretary Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai of FTUB and NCUB, and Dr Cynthia Maung who is meddling in internal affairs in the border areas. And they are inventing and broadcasting stories to make the international community misunderstand Myanmar's internal affairs. All I have told you about these expatriate national traitors is very disappointing. Maung Kyaw, I would say the youth like you should have to be aware of such evil schemes.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Rest assured, Bagyi. When do you think those KNU remnants will give up their armed struggle line? And how long do you think it will take for border areas of Kayin State to enjoy peace?

Kyee Kyee Mya: He took my words, Ko Soe. I would also like to know that.

Bagyi Soe: Firstly, **I want to tell you about the collapse of Burma Communist Party (BCP) troops that took a stronghold in the northeast regions of Myanmar around 1988-90 to rise against the government. At that time, the BCP was very strong with good strategy and tactics. But, the Tatmadaw government addressed the problem of BCP through three tactics.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: Very interesting, Bagyi. What are they?

Bagyi Soe: Okay, I will tell you. **The first tactic is "making peace through talks. Due to that tactic, Wa, Kokang and Kachin national race armed groups who were members of BCP made peace in groups with the government. Now, the representatives from these armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are now attending the National Convention and taking part in the discussions.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: It worked beautifully. These national race groups are really attending the National Convention together with you Ko Soe, aren't they? It is good news. What about the second tactic?

Bagyi Soe: The second tactic is to mobilize cooperation of neighbouring countries. The People's Republic of China, for instance, has strictly honoured the policy "Non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries" and stood firmly by our country. It is a friendly country with genuine goodwill. That was why the Tatmadaw managed to uproot the BCP remnants. Now, the entire northeast region is enjoying peace and stability with all-round development. In other words, local national race people are now enjoying the fruitful results of peace. Today's common problems such as internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugees are no more. Furthermore, Myanmar is now achieving more success in anti-narcotic drugs campaigns that is posing danger to the mankind. Wa and Kokang regions have been poppy free zones since 2005.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Fantastic, very effective tactics. They worked very well.

Kyee Kyee Mya: The Tatmadaw government has expressed its benevolent attitude. So, it has overcome all sorts of crises. These successes are due to the Tatmadaw government's stance and genuine goodwill.

Bagyi Soe: Certainly! The third tactic also concerns with the goodwill your Kyee Kyee explained to you. Stability and peace have been restored in border areas. So, the government is working hard for development of border areas

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Myanmar has many large and small armed groups. Of them, the armed groups of other national races have made peace with the government for national reconsolidation. But, there is no sign that the KNU remnant group will do so. Apparently, it is because their western masters and their lackeys are aiding and abetting the KNU remnants, and the neighbouring country still accepts the so-called refugee camps in it. Another point is that western masters are polishing the role of the KNU remnants who have been committing various forms of atrocities such as torching the villages, murders, robberies, rapes and trafficking in persons, and propagating through some broadcasting stations as if KNU members win the support of and represent all Kayin nationals.

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and national races. **It designated 22 regions for the border areas and national races development project. And it took all necessary measures, so these regions can enjoy perpetual stability and peace. It also designated the 24 special development regions for equitable development of all parts of the nation in economic, education and health sectors. As a result, hilly regions are enjoying development like plain regions.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: Without doubt, the issue of the KNU remnants at the border in Kayin State will be handled if these tactics are applied. What is your view, Maung Kyaw?

Soe Mya Kyaw: I agree with you. We are the same. What is your opinion in this regard, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: As you are discussing, the Tatmadaw government is applying the three tactics to address the problems at the border areas in Kayin State. It is taking security measures and at the same time is trying to make peace through talks. Due to its efforts, so far, six groups have broken away from the KNU and made peace with the government. I have explained it to you already. Now, the representatives of these groups are attending and holding discussion at the National Convention.

Soe Mya Kyaw: These are the accomplishments of national race leaders who corrected their mistakes when they realized the difference between good and bad with wide political view, thoughtfulness, goodwill and correct attitude.

Bagyi Soe: Of course. **If they continued to go the wrong way, they would be a long way to the truth. But, there are still a few KNU remnant members. They are stationed at the so-called refugee camps in the other country. And they are still trying to ambush and attack our country from those refugee camps. But I have said the Tatmadaw government has always kept its peace door open to the KNU remnant insurgents.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: However the peace door is kept open, cooperation of the other neighbouring country, other foreign countries and organizations like China is necessary.

We strongly believe that as the government's stance is to open the peace door, the existence of those KNU remnants will soon come to an end, thereby contributing to peace and stability of the border region in Kayin State.

Bagyi Soe: You're right. **It is important that to address the issue of KNU remnants needs goodwill cooperation of the other country and foreign nations and organizations. In reality, KNU remnants have to survive with the assistance of the other country and those international organizations. Therefore, like China, if foreign big nations, the other country and international organizations are to follow and respect the policy of non-interference in other nations' internal affairs, the issue of Kayin State's border region will be addressed and that region will become peaceful and stable. If so, the government will be able to implement regional development tasks in earnest and INGOs will also render more humanitarian aids to the country.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: In that case, the issue of IDPs and refugees will be automatically addressed as well and perpetual peace can be achieved.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Not only that, measures to prevent and eliminate narcotic drugs will be taken more successfully as well.

Bagyi Soe: That's right. To produce such good results depends on the stance of the other neighbouring country. Now there is cooperation between our two countries. Our citizens go to that country to work. There are also frequent visits to that country that has a lot of interesting places. Those going there on business or paying visits are not refugees at all. Under the cooperation of the government of the other country, passports are being issued for our citizens to be able to visit there. That's why the issue is not totally concerned with the problem of refugees. So, if the other country will not accept the KNU insurgents, the issue of refugees will also be addressed immediately.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Right, Maung Kyaw. Sincere and goodwill cooperation is the only way to solve the problems in Kayin State, and thus its border region will achieve lasting peace.

Soe Mya Kyaw: As you have said, there is the most suitable way to address the issue. Is it possible that the other country will sincerely cooperate with us?

Bagyi Soe: I don't think this issue cannot be addressed. You see, we have five neighbouring countries, China, India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Laos. Between those countries and us there has been no problem of IDPs and refugees. We do have this problem only with the neighbour situated to the east of our country. This is because that country is giving KNUs the chance to live there. I, however, think this is the best way to accept if the border region of Kayin State is to be peaceful and stable and the issue of IPDs and refugees is to be addressed. **Our government, out of goodwill, always understood and forgave the insurgents and anti-government groups like parents who always forgive their children when they get out of the house as they are cross with their parents. Besides, our country has always regarded the other country as its good neighbor. Due to the goodwill and correct attitude of the government, success will surely be achieved one day. I believe so.**

I would like to ask internal and external anti-government groups which are making accusations through BBC and VOA whether they really love the country and its national races and whether they really want the border regions to become peaceful and prosperous.

Soe Mya Kyaw: We strongly believe that as the government's stance is to open the peace door, the existence of those KNU remnants will soon come to an end, thereby contributing to peace and stability of the border region in Kayin State.

Kyee Kyee Mya: All you both have said is right. We will surely achieve success one day. It is just around the corner. However, **I would like to ask internal and external anti-government groups which are making accusations through BBC and VOA whether they really love the country and its national races and whether they really want the border regions to become peaceful and prosperous. If they do so, I would like to urge them not to instigate to cause unrest in the border region, not to provide cash assistance and arms and ammunition and not to open so-called refugee camps. If they are to uphold the international policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, that border region will become peaceful and stable within a short time. With peace and stability, the region will reap fruits of development.**

Bagyi Soe: Absolutely right. What we have discussed all day has been complete and perfect only through your Kyee Kyee's concluding remarks.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes. I also have been dissatisfied with the smears of VOA this morning. But now I have come to feel easy only when you both have explained to me.

Kyee Kyee Mya: It is so disgusting for the patriotic people who know the true situation of the country to hear the fabricated news of such foreign broadcasting stations. OK, hang it. Their voices will die down as time goes by.

Soe Mya Kyaw: All right, Kyee Kyee. I will turn my back on such accusations as you have said.

Bagyi Soe: Well, Maung Kyaw, have some pickled tea.

Soe Mya Kyaw. No, thanks, Bagyi. Let me go home as I have not only gained a lot of knowledge from you but also had coffee and lunch. Won't you take a rest?

Bagyi Soe and Kyee Kyee Mya: OK, see you.

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