

Myanmar Ethnic State News

Window of Myanmar



Editorial

Solution to the drug problem: One more option



Right After the conclusion of the press conference on 26 June, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking, when I repeated the decades-old but yet-to-be-tried solution of a political settlement among Burma's belligerents as a first step to resolve the drug problem, a Thai security officer, who had been following the drug situation in Burma, told me: "Ajarn (Pali: Ajariya, teacher), after reading most of what you have written, I have a different idea (about resolving the problem)."

I knew what was coming and I wasn't wrong. He thought rich Western countries were being allowed to grow poppies so their product, opium, could be used as medicine, while Asian countries, whose poverty is compounded by myriad health problems, are being banned from growing poppies as downright unjust and unethical.

I'm sure he was right. According to Amstern-based Transnational Institute (TNI), there are 7 countries that are legally growing poppies for medicinal purposes: Australia, Britain, France, Hungary, India, Spain, Turkey

The Economist, 8 October 2005, also tells us that only "24 % of the world's pain relief needs are being met while 77% of the world's morphine and codeine are consumed by just 7 developed nations. Yet in Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer, such drugs are almost completely unavailable".

After reading them, three questions, without cracking one's brain, may arise one after another, to anyone who's concerned about Burma's opium issue: <http://tinyurl.com/cnorx7s>

Village Administrator's Brother Hospitalized after Torture



The eldest brother of the village administrator of Thaychaung Village in Sittwe in Arakan State had to be hospitalized after he was beaten by soldiers who deployed for security in the village.

U Aung Swe, the eldest brother of the village administrator U Aung Win Swe, was allegedly punched and kicked by a group of soldiers led by the second commander of the LIB-541 which is being deployed at the village's monastery for the safeguarding of the village. The attack occurred at around 5:45 pm last Saturday when he tried to intervene when the soldiers assaulted his brother, the village administrator.

The youngest brother of the victim, U Aung Aung, told Narinjara that his brother had fallen onto the ground and became unconscious as he was assaulted by ten soldiers led by the second commander of the battalion.-<http://tinyurl.com/8co7jb8>

Exiled Female Arakanese Leader Returns from Bangladesh



A prominent Arakanese female leader, Saw Mra Raza Lin has returned to Burma on Monday after living in exile for 24 years.

Saw Mra Zar Lin is the chairperson of the Rakhine Women Union (RWU) based in Bangladesh as well as a central committee member of Arakan Liberation Party(ALP).

She accompanied 6 members from Bangladesh through the Maungdaw-Teknaf border point across the Naff River by motor boat early morning on Monday.

When she arrived at Sittwe jetty from Buthidaung by ferry boat, nearly 600 people holding posters and signboards welcomed and received her honoring her for her work.- <http://tinyurl.com/97af4sg>

Trade Fair Held to Raise Funds for Arakanese and kachin Children



A trade fair with the aim of raising funds for the education of children from Arakan and Kachin states was held on the 25th of August in the Taw Win Center-Shopping Mall in Pyay Road in Rangoon.

The fair was organized by the Parahita (Philanthropic) Youths Network based in Ran-

goon.

“We faced so many difficulties while trying to make this fair possible. We are now very happy because we can hold the fair successfully and so many people have come to participate in the fair as well”, said a leader of the youths.

An entertainment program was also included in the trade fair and singers from the youth group entertained entertained the visitors with songs dedicated to finding in Burma.

The youth group sold food, photos, paintings, traditional sling bags and other souvenirs at the fair in order to raise the education funds for Arakanese and Kachin children.- <http://tinyurl.com/8dmjxxr>

Chin group documents forced labor incidents: report



From January 2011 to date, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) has documented 20 separate incidents of forced labour, some involving orders to multiple villages, according to a new report released on Thursday.

Fifty per cent of the incidents involved orders from the Burmese Army and the other half were orders from the local authorities, it said. The labour frequently involved serving as porters or construction, planting jatropha, and other forms of manual labour.

In May 2011, the International Labour Organization (ILO) held an official awareness-raising workshop in Hakha, the capital of Chin State, involving more than 160 officials, including administrators, judges, police and Burmese Army personnel.- <http://tinyurl.com/9lj5erq>

Traffic policemen cashing in on undisciplined motorcyclists

Undisciplined motorcycle riders in Hakha, the capital of Chin state in Burma, are helping to line the pockets of local traffic police.

Traffic policemen in the city are bringing in between 30,000 and 50,000 Kyats per week, according to a resident with connections to the Hakha police department.

“The traffic police are entitled to levy a fine to maintain traffic rules and regulations. But they apply different fines to different motorcyclists. They do not fine riders for not using a helmet,” said a motorcycle owner in Hakha.

Usually, traffic policemen in Chin state carry out on-the-spot fines at checkpoints without transferring the cases to the main office.

“The traffic police do not follow their own rules and regulations,” said a local.

Motorcyclists from rural areas face being stopped and fined at traffic police checkpoints in the city.

“Traffic policemen have been checking groups for motorcycle licenses, those without helmets, and to see what they are carrying,” said a local.- <http://tinyurl.com/958hxhy>

Chin state government to replace poppy with other crops

In a move to eradicate opium cultivation, the Chin state government proposed to replace poppy plantations in Tonzang Township, an area known for its concentration of poppy fields, with other kinds of crops. Since July 20, authorities have been making a list of farmers to be recipients of alternative crop plantation loans.

“It is a good move by the government,” said an elder in Tonzang town, where about 50 people own poppy plantations.

Interest on the loan will be about 1.5 Kyat and repayment will be spread out over seven years. More than 4,000 people have already enrolled to get a loan.

“We don’t know when the loan will be available, but applications are still being received,” said a local.

Meanwhile, the Chin state government is planning to provide loans to the tune of Kyat 7 lakhs per acre for cultivation of East Indian arrowroot and Kyat 4 lakhs per acre for the herb Parkia-Roxburghii.

-<http://tinyurl.com/8w842zh>

Yuzana to return confiscated farm land



Htay Myint, the owner of the Yuzana Company, says the company will give back more than 1,000 acres of confiscated land in the Hukaung Valley in Kachin State to the original owners, said activist Bauk Ja.

Bauk Ja, who negotiated with Hyay Myint on Wednesday, said the land would be returned and negotiations would also take place to determine compensation for the lost land, which was mostly used to grow cassava and sugarcane.

A scheduled demonstration in front of the Yuzana Hotel on West Shwegondine Road in Rangoon on Thursday was called off after farmers learned their land would be returned.- <http://tinyurl.com/8ahpp4w>

Burmese Army and KIA clash at Myauk Hpyu in Hpakant

Wednesday, Aug 29 — Fighting between the Burmese government troops and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) broke out between the two mining villages of Maw Mau Bum and Myauk Hpyu in Hpakant at 3 P.M. Some civilian homes were burnt by shelling from the Burmese soldiers, said eyewitnesses. Fighting had occurred in the area on Monday, August 27 as well.



Burmese military orders evacuation of 11 jade mining villages in Hpakant. Wednesday, August 29 — At 1 a.m. this morning, Burmese troops ordered the evacuation of 11 jade mining villages in Hpakant jade mining township in Burma's western Kachin State, said people in the jade mines. Government troops instructed residents and miners to gather all belongings and leave immediately.

The announcement was broadcasted over loudspeakers in jade mining villages, such as Maw Mau Layang, Maw Mau Bum, Nba La Hka, Tawng Phyu, Myawk Pyu, Sharaw Hka, Seng Ja Bum, Mana Maw, Kalaw Maw, Pyi Chawng, and Maw Wan Kalay, according to miners. Since this morning, hundreds of miners and native Kachin residents have begun returning home from the evacuation.- <http://tinyurl.com/8lzxb4>

Fighting displaces villagers in Kachin State



Up to 6,000 residents in Burma's Hpakan jade mine area in Kachin State have fled from the area in the past two weeks, as Burmese government troops move into the area.

The displaced persons have taken refuge in local Christian churches and Buddhist monasteries in Hpakan, the Kachin News Group (KNG) said in an article on its website on Tuesday.

The fighting intensified in the jade mining region in western Kachin State when government troops established a position near Maw Mau Bum – a jade mining village and strategic military post for the Kachin Independence Army Battalion 6.

On Monday, KNG reported that an estimated 30 government soldiers were killed in heavy fighting for over five hours in the area between Seng Ja Bum Mountain and the Gwi Hka jade mine. There were no KIA casualties in the fighting, according to KIA officers from Battalion 6. Casualty figures could not be verified.

Meanwhile, China has reportedly began forcing Kachin refugees who had fled fighting in Burma back into the conflict zone in Kachin State, according to foreign human rights researchers. China denied reports that it has forced Kachin to leave the refugee camps.-<http://tinyurl.com/8ltuy80>

KNU leader sees positive in Burma's cabinet shuffle



The Karen National Union's vice chairman, Saw David Tharc Kapaw, acknowledged that Burma's recent cabinet reshuffle has cast President U Thein Sein as a reformer.

The KNU leader told Karen News, "I see a positive change. These newly appointed people are not regarded as narrow minded and self-serving. I think President U Thein Sein is a reformer who really wants there to be change."

David Tharc Kapaw says he has done his own analysis of the recent reforms in Burma and that there will be power struggle between President Thein Sein's government and the Burma Army.

David Tharc Kapaw points to the country's 2008 Constitution that officially allows the Burma Army to automatically have 25% of seats in parliament.- <http://tinyurl.com/97frha4>

One-third of Karen experience human rights violations: report

Human rights violations by the Burmese army in Karen State continue even as the Karen National Union (KNU) and government negotiators prepare to meet next week for their third round of peace talks, according to a new report issued on Tuesday.

One-third of the families in the region reported experiencing abuses – such as evictions, forced labor, restricted movement and sometimes physical attacks, including rape and torture, according to a Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) report.

PHR warned that a cease-fire agreement, while positive, would not necessarily lead to an end of abuses against civilians. It called on the government to hold human rights violators accountable and take steps to implement further political and judicial reforms.- <http://tinyurl.com/9w3raau>

KNU wants relocation of Burma Army high on peace- talk agenda



The Karen National Union (KNU) and the Burma Government announced today that they have agreed on the dates and location for the third round of their ‘peace-talk’ negotiation. The two parties finally agreed to meet in Hpan-an, Karen State on September 3rd and 4th after the Burma Government had earlier postponed the ‘peace-talks’ that were originally scheduled for August 27th to 29th.

The KNU said in an official media statement it was disappointed that the Government’s representatives had confirmed the talks were off.

“The Karen National Union considers each step in the ceasefire negotiation process to be an opportunity to build trust between the parties. Such trust is essential to implement any ceasefire agreement. Therefore the Karen National Union calls upon the Government to move forward with the negotiations in a way that will build confidence and trust between the parties.” -<http://tinyurl.com/8jejatm>

KN U make historic appearance at Hpa- an Karen Wrist-Tying ceremony

The Karen National Union, despite being classified as an illegal organization, has attended a traditional wrist tying ceremony in Government controlled territory. Under article 17/1 of the Illegal Organization Act the KNU is still considered an outlaw group despite entering ‘peace-talks’ with the government.



In what is considered a welcomed historic first by many Karen, the KNU celebrated the 35th anniversary of the wrist tying ceremony at Zwek-abin Hall in Hpa-an Town that was organized by the Karen State Literature and Culture Committee on Sunday, 26th of August.

- <http://tinyurl.com/9udvrte>

Govt troops deploy tanks in Karenni

Myanmar government troops have sent tanks to a military training school construction site in Pruhsa Township, Karenni State, according to local sources.

“In the day-time, we can see four to five tanks going around the military camp. At night-time, there are a lot of military trucks carrying things. We don’t know what they are carrying because we can’t go close to them,” said a local witness.

The authorities confiscated some 2700 acres of land from villagers in 2010 to build military training school No 14 in Pruhsa Township and construction is ongoing.

The Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) urged the government to temporarily stop the project during union level peace talks in Loikaw city on June 9.

But construction continues and more tanks are being kept around the site, said a local witness.

“Now an order has been made by the central government which provides for 48 more buildings to be constructed,” said a local source. More than 50 buildings are already completed.

Villagers are afraid they will lose more land if an increased number of buildings are to be constructed.

Details about the construction of military training school No 14 remain hard to obtain, according to a Pruhsa villager, because the authorities only hire construction workers from upper Burma, not residents of Karenni State.

“Our villagers can’t go close to the site. If they want to meet villagers, they have us gather at a checkpoint,” he said. -<http://tinyurl.com/93asldl>

A Karenni Refugee Laments Her Painful Past and a Future Without Hope



Karenni Refugee Camp 1, about a one hour drive from Mae Hong Son City, in northwestern Thailand, is my home. I have lived there among 15,000 of my people for nearly 10 years, after being born in Camp 3, which was an hour's walk away.

I have been away from the camp for 2 months. When I return I will have to sneak back in, avoiding the armed guard at the main checkpoint, because I had to sneak out when I left. Karenni refugees cannot get permission to leave the camp from the Thai border guards whose job is herd us like 15,000 head of cattle inside the confines of the camp, about 3 square kilometers.

I am grateful to have a place to live in Thailand, however, my home feels like a prison, cut off from the rest of the world.

As human beings, we should have the right to live in our own village inside our homeland, with full recognition of our citizenship and protection of our basic human rights.

Instead, the military-controlled government of Burma has driven us off our land as it waged a long-standing war against the Karenni insurgency, forcing upwards of 20,000 civilians to become refugees in Thailand.

[-http://tinyurl.com/9ayszg7](http://tinyurl.com/9ayszg7)

22 MPs Delegates Study Thai Parliamentary System and Public Administration



Independent Mon News Agency – With a main purpose to study the Thai Parliamentary System and Public Administration in Thailand, 22 members of parliaments delegate from Burma's ethnic State and National parliaments arrived to Thai capital Bangkok yesterday with the support of academic civil society, Bahu Development Institute.

22 MPs delegate of 2010 elections winning parties include the representatives from many ethnic Kachin, Karen, Chin, Mon, Arakan and Shan political parties and a Burman party, National Democratic Front (NDF).

Dr. Aung Naing Oo, a MP from Mon State, said to IMNA yesterday that, “there are 2 MPs from Mon State Parliament and 2 MPs from Shan State parliament. Others are from national parliament. Today we can learn the procedure of Thai senate. The Senate Chairman gave a welcome speech to us”.

He also confirmed that they have plans to learn the public administration system in Bangkok governor office today.

U Aung Thu Nyein, a responsible person from Bahu Development Institute told to IMNA that, “the MPs had been getting trainings by Myanmar E-Grass on the political system, and were trained by Bahu and Chiaing Mai University on Political Science and Public Administration. Now, they have opportunity to continuously learn Thai parliamentary and administration system to see with their eyes”.

Additionally, the 22 MPs delegate will also study the programs of Thai government's social and economic planning in National Economics and Social Development Planning Board in Bangkok.-

<http://monnews.org/?p=4032>

Interview with the Mon National Democratic Front (MNDF)



IMNA: It is known that the MNDF will register soon, so I would like to know the future plans of the party?

Nai Tin Aung (Vice Chairman 1): After the coming by-election, the MNDF will register. Either we can register the party with the present name or we can do registration with another name.

IMNA: The MNDF has been trying to unite with All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMDP). Can you explain about that, please?

Nai Tin Aung (Vice Chairman 1): We would welcome that situation, indeed. We must unite. All Mon should be in a union. It is not good to separate into two groups. The purpose of uniting is the freedom of Mon nationals. We must unite if we really intend to bring about national freedom.

Nai Tin Aung (Vice Chairman 1): According to the current political situation, amending the 2008 constitution is possible only in the Hluttaw(Parliament), not outside.

Currently, it can't easily be amended as the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) dominates the Hluttaw. Even if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi win all the seats being contested in this by-election, those seats are under 10% of all the seats in the Hluttaw. However, the government itself knows the current situation in Burma. Moreover, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi needs to be in the Hluttaw and the ethnic parties should amend their policies which are not compatible with democratic principles. Regarding ethnic issues, we should make some changes to meet our needs after negotiations with the government. -<http://monnews.org/?p=3777>

Two famous/notorious Shans removed from blacklist but one's dead



According to the list of de-blacklisted foreigners and exiles that was published yesterday, two prominent Shan exiles Tiger Yawng Hwe and his younger brother the late Dr Chao Tzang Yawng Hwe are now safe to travel back to their home country.

Tiger Yawng Hwe, born Sao Hso Hkan Fa, 74, is the son of Sao Shwe Thaike, ruling prince of Yawng Hwe (Nyaung Shwe in Burmese) and the first president of Burma (1948-52). His name briefly hit the headlines in 2005, when he, as “President of Interim Shan Government”, declared Shan State independence.

His more famous brother Chao Tzang Yawng Hwe aka Eugene Thaike aka Sao Hso Lern Fa, resistance leader and scholar, died in 2004 at the age of 65.

Their youngest brother Harn aka Sao Hso Harn Fa, 64, is still on the blacklist. But since last October, a few weeks after he had met Naypyitaw's then newly appointed negotiator U Aung Min in Bangkok, he has been allowed to return to Burma and set up a branch office of his Brussels-based Euro Burma Office (EBO), established in 1997 to promote democracy and human rights.- <http://tinyurl.com/9nzz2kv>

Wa commander removed to minor position



A United Wa State Army (WSA) officer who shot to prominence during the last two years was suddenly transferred to a lower position earlier this month, according to confirmed reports from the Sino-Burmese border.

Sai Hsu aka Li Aisu, around 40, commander of one of the strongest brigades, the 468th that is responsible for defense against attacks coming

from Mongyang and Mong Khark, is now responsible only for civilian administration in Mongpaw district, which is considered part of Mongyang township by Naypyitaw.

The reason for his removal is still a puzzle to outsiders and insiders are unwilling to say anything about it.- <http://tinyurl.com/8gqbrwy>

Shan CBOs reject Naypyitaw's peace conditions

The 8 point guideline set by President Thein Sein's Union Peace-making Central Committee (UPCC) in May was spurned by a two-day meeting on the Thai-Burmese border of Shan Community-based organizations (CBOs) in exile that ended yesterday.

The 8 points are: <http://tinyurl.com/9lrqbqa>

Wa revamping road system



The United Wa State Army (UWSA) is spending billions of renminbi to improve its ancient road system in its controlled territory along the Sino-Burmese border, according a UWSA high official.

His statement was in response to SHAN's interview over the New Light of Myanmar report that was published yesterday.

According to the report, deputy border affairs minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win had made a 3 day visit, 16-18 August, to the Special Region #2, as the territory under the UWSA control is officially designated by the Burmese government.

On the second day of his visit, he met the Wa leadership led by Vice President Xiao Minliang in the Wa capital Panghsang, where he presented it with 30 million kyat (\$ 34,285) allowance plus 66 million kyat (\$ 75,428) to buy rice, says the report.- <http://tinyurl.com/9rvc68st>

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



Kandarawaddy 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



