

## POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 5

### OFFICIAL MEDIA

#### **SHAN STATE PROGRESSIVE PARTY/SHAN STATE ARMY SIGN PEACE AGREEMENTS WITH UNION LEVEL & STATE-LEVEL PEACE-MAKING GROUPS**

The government's union level peace-making group led by U Aung Thaung, Lower House MP (USDP) for Taungtha Constituency, Magway Region and the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peacemaking group led by Party Central Committee Deputy Secretary General Sao Khay Tai met on 28 January for peace talks in the Shan State Taunggyi and signed a 5-point agreement.

Prior to the Union-level talks, initial talks at the state level were also held. The Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung lead the state-level peace-making group and met with the SSPP/Shan State Army peace-making group led by Sao Khun Hsai. They also signed a five-point preliminary agreement and exchanged notes.<sup>1</sup> (*For the texts of the agreements, please see Appendix A.*)

#### *Unofficial media*

The union-level agreement includes an immediate ceasefire was signed at the office of the Shan State regional government. It also includes provisions for the opening of liaison offices in Taunggyi, Lashio and Kho Lan, which are all located in Shan State.<sup>2</sup>

#### **KNU/KNLA GROUP SIGNS PEACE AGREEMENT WITH KAYIN STATE PEACE-MAKING GROUP**

A 7-point cease-fire has been signed between the Karen National Union (KNU)/Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the state-level government on 7 February in Nay Pyi Taw. The seven-point peace pact at state level was signed by U Saw Htay Maung, Chairman of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council and U Aung Thaung, representing the government. The agreement outlines a cease-fire, the opening of liaison offices, allowing negotiated transgression and arms carrying apart from mutually-agreed areas, as well as further discussions at the Union level.<sup>3</sup> (*For the text of the agreement, please see Appendix B.*)

#### **NMSP AND MON STATE LEVEL PEACE-MAKING GROUP SIGN INITIAL PEACE AGREEMENT**

An initial peace agreement to extend a cease-fire has been signed between the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Mon State Regional government on 1 February in the state capital Mawlamyine. The peace talks were attended by the Union-level peace-making team leader Railways Minister U Aung Min and by NMSP Vice-Chairman U Nai Rawsa. The five-member Mon State-level peace-making group led by Col Htay Myint Aung and seven-member NMSP peace-making led by U Nai Rawsa agreed signed the five-point initial agreement. The NMSP peace-making group will sign the approval of the agreement in the third week of February 2012 after seeking approval from the NMSP.<sup>4</sup> (*For the text of the agreement, please see Appendix C.*)

<sup>1</sup> Peace agreement signed between Union level peace-making group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 January 2012 (p.16 & 9) The Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group also included Sao Khay Maung, Sao Kyaw Hla, Sao Htin Mein and Sao Hsay Pein Pha.

<sup>2</sup> Govt, SSPP reach initial peace agreement - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2012/news/613/news61306.html> (Myanmar Times) 6 - 12 February 2012

<sup>3</sup> Kayin State peace-making group, KNU/KNLA Peace Council sign initial peace agreement - [http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM\\_2012-02-08.pdf](http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM_2012-02-08.pdf) (NLM) 8 February 2012 (p. 11)

<sup>4</sup> Mon State level peace-making group, NMSP peace-making group sign initial agreement - [http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM\\_2012-02-03.pdf](http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM_2012-02-03.pdf) (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 5)

## **BURMESE PRESIDENT MAKES OFFICIAL GOODWILL VISIT TO SINGAPORE**

At the invitation of Singaporean President Tony Tan Keng Yam, a Burmese goodwill delegation led by President U Thein Sein arrived in Singapore on 29 January on a three-day official. The President called on President Tan on 30 January and also held talks with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The leaders noted the excellent state of bilateral relations at both the government-to-government and people-to-people levels. President Thein Sein explained the political and economic situation as well as the developmental priorities of Burma. The Singaporean leaders welcomed the positive developments taking place in Burma and affirmed Singapore's commitment to cooperate with the Burmese government in various sectors including capacity building and human resources development.

Following the meetings, President Thein Sein and Prime Minister Lee witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Singapore-Myanmar Technical Cooperation Programme by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam and Burmese Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin. The ministers who accompanied President Thein Sein also met with their Singaporean counterparts to promote further cooperation and bilateral relations between Burma and Singapore. The visiting senior cabinet ministers included Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, Yangon Mayor Minister for Development Affairs of Yangon Region U Hla Myint.<sup>5</sup>

## **FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA**

Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin paid a goodwill visit to India from 22 to 26 January. In New Delhi, he met with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on 24 January and discussed promotion of bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. He also met his counterpart the Indian Minister for External Affairs SM Krishna and attended the Myanmar-India bilateral talks. The ministers exchanged views on further strengthening the existing good neighbourly relations and the promotion of multifaceted cooperation. On 25 January, FM Wunna Maung Lwin visited the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in New Delhi and gave a talk on topic entitled "Myanmar: A country in Transition to Democracy".<sup>6</sup>

## **UN HUMAN RIGHTS ENVOY QUINTANA VISITS BURMA**

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burma Tomas Ojea Quintana arrived in Yangon on 31 January on a six-day visit to Burma. Quintana met with the Speaker of the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann as well as the ministers of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Railways, Education, and Information as well as the Attorney-General, the Chief Justice, the Chairman of the Union Election Commission and Presidential Advisors. During these meetings, the development of the human rights situation in Burma and the cooperation between Burma and the United Nations were discussed, and Quintana was briefed on the preparations for the 1 April by-elections. In

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<sup>5</sup> Myanmar delegation headed by President U Thein Sein, wife arrive Singapore - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-02.pdf> (NLM) 2 February 2012 (p. 9) / President U Thein Sein, Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam hold talks - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-02.pdf> (NLM) 2 February 2012 (p. 1 & 8) / Myanmar President, Singaporean PM hold talks, agree technical cooperation - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-02.pdf> (NLM) 2 February 2012 (p. 9) / Myanmar delegation members observe respective sectors on their visit to Singapore - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 7)

<sup>6</sup> Union FM arrives back from India - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-28.pdf> (NLM) 28 January 2012 (p. 2)

Yangon, he visited Insein Prison and also had a separate meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence. He also met Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and discussed peace measures and developments in Kayin State. He also met 20 delegates of Kayin, Mon, Pa-O, Shan and Bamar ethnic groups and listened to their concerns.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Unofficial Media*

At a press briefing Quintana said that the newly elected government has “surprised” the international community with “the speed and breadth of reforms,” and now was the time to continue the process to achieve national reconciliation. “My mission confirmed that a positive impact has been made,” he said. “However, serious challenges remain and must be addressed. There is also a risk of backtracking on the progress achieved thus far.” He noted the great importance of the major release of political prisoners in January, but was concerned about “a lack of clarity and progress” on reviewing and reforming laws affecting human rights as well as the judiciary’s lack of independence and impartiality. He also met with the National Human Rights Commission and was concerned about its independence.

He was especially concerned about fighting in the ethnic areas as he has received reports of violations being committed by all parties to the conflict, and called on the government to address these issues. He added that the plight of refugees must be addressed, calling for international humanitarian groups to be allowed access to them. More broadly, he said efforts towards finding a durable political solution to the ethnic conflict must be accelerated and are essential for broader national reconciliation. He stressed that the 1 April by-elections are “a key test” of the reform process, and that officials of the Burmese Election Commission said the use of international observers “was under consideration”.<sup>8</sup> Quintana’s visit by was his fifth to Burma since his appointment in March 2008 and his second since a new government was installed in March 2011.

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<sup>7</sup> UN human rights envoy arrives - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-01.pdf> (NLM) 1 February 2012 (p. 8) / Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 9) / Mr Quintana calls on Dy Foreign Minister - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-02.pdf> (NLM) 2 February 2012 (p.6) / Home Affairs Minister receives UN rapporteur for Human Rights - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Mirror2012-02-02.pdf> (Kyemon) 3 February 2012 (p. 7) / Union Rail Minister receives Mr Quintana - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 7) / Dy Education Minister receives Mr Quintana – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 10) / Deputy Minister for Information receives UN rapporteur - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Mirror2012-02-03.pdf> (Kyemon) 3 February 2012 (p. 2) / Union Attorney-General receives Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 6) / Chief Justice of the Union receives Mr Quintana - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 6) / UEC Chairman meets United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 5) / President’s Advisory Group leader receives Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 7) / Special rapporteur visits Insein Jail, meets NLD chairman - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 February 2012 (p. 8) / Special Rapporteur listens to voices of Kayin locals - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 February 2012 (p. 7)

<sup>8</sup> Progress amid causes for concern: Quintana - <http://mizzima.com/news/inside-burma/6538-progress-amid-causes-for-concern-quintana.html> (Mizzima) 6 February 2012

## HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

### Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) sessions

The 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 377 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. Seven questions were asked and answered, two new proposals were submitted, and one bill was discussed. The key issues were:

- fixing the **price of rice paddies**
- plans to **open a border gate on the Mongton-Pungpahkyem route** linking Mongton (Shan State) and Zhenloun in Thailand
- **forming a “leading committee for enhancing (the) socioeconomic life of nationalities and preserving and promoting cultural heritages in regions and states”** by U Thein Zaw (USDP) of Myitkyina Constituency;
- a **proposal for “special farming of cattle of pedigree mythun**, a precious commodity of Chin State, through artificial insemination for poverty alleviation and development of Chin State” by U Tin Hlaing (USDP) of Kalay Constituency
- **amendments to the Virgin, Vacant and Fallow Land Management Bill** were made by and approval sought from Hluttaw<sup>9</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day session, twelve questions were answered, one bill was approved, three reports were approved and two proposals were discussed. The key issues were:

- a **request for success stories regarding international cooperation in the agricultural sector, as well as future programmes and actions to be taken against illegal owners of vacant, virgin and fallow lands** - the deputy minister answered that Burma is working closely with 9 ASEAN member countries for emergence of ASEAN Economic Community by 2015
- **plans to amend the 1984 private academic training law** to be commensurate with the age or add tentatively practiced policies in the law
- the Hluttaw agreed on **an amendment to the whole Vacant and Virgin Land Management Bill**
- a **report covering duties, undertakings and international parliament affairs of Public Accounts Committee** of Pyithu Hluttaw was approved
- a **report of Public Accounts Committee covering duties, undertakings and international parliament affairs** was approved
- a **report of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw** was approved
- a **proposal** by U Aung Thein Lin (USDP) of South Okkalapa constituency submitted on 26 January **for an amendment to trade tax** for being the same tax collection of raw material imports and finished product imports, and more relaxation to be paid to tax on raw material imports than on finished product imports
- a **proposal submitted** by U Tin Hlaing (USDP) of Kalay constituency on 27 January **to carry out special farming of cattle of pedigree mythun** through artificial insemination for poverty alleviation and development of Chin State – the Hluttaw decided to put it on record<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> First Pyithu Hluttaw in session for second day/Seven questions asked and answered, two new proposals submitted, one bill discussed at today’s session -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-28.pdf> (NLM) 28 January 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

<sup>10</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw third regular session continues for third day. Twelve questions answered, one bill approved, three reports approved and two proposals discussed -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-31.pdf> (NLM) 31 January 2012 (p.16, 6 & 7)

### Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) sessions

The 3rd regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building and attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint (USDP) and 209 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives. Seven questions were answered, two bills were submitted, two proposals were discussed and two proposals were submitted. The key issues were:

- Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi (USDP) tabled a motion to decide the **Social Security Bill** of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar - the motion was approved
- a motion to decide the **foreign investment bill** of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar tabled by the Secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein (USDP) - the motion was approved
- a proposal **to change from the Imperial Unit System to the Metric System** was approved
- proposal regarding **the extension of Maternity Leave for Women** was approved
- a proposal **urging the Union Government to review and reform education system** of Burma was approved for further discussions<sup>11</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day session, a message sent by the President was put on record, two proposals were discussed, one proposal was withdrawn, one proposal was approved and five proposals were submitted. The key issues were:

- plans **to provide one fold of the salary as a financial assistance to a government employees serving in far-flung areas**
- plans to introduce measures on handling the situation of **using currencies of neighbouring countries as Burma's currency**
- plans to issue **bank notes featuring General Aung San's portrait**
- plans to facilitate **the remittance of income of Burma workers in foreign countries**
- plans **to issue GAP organic certificates with standards of international fruit and vegetable market to domestic farmers** in order to ensure competitive sales of quality fruits and vegetables produced from Burma and to exempt the farmers from paying tax for their products
- a proposal **urging the government to review Burma's education system** submitted by Dr Myint Kyi (USDP) of Yangon Region No. 8 was approved
- Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposal of Dr Myint Kyi **"urging the government to be of assistance farmers in production of paddy higher and higher, and in getting earnings more and more"**
- Hluttaw agreed to discuss the **proposal** of U Zaw Naing Oo (USDP) of Mon State Constituency No. 12 **"pushing the government for helping the villagers who live in the village near the violent regions as possible"**
- Finance and Legal Affairs commission member Major Maung Maung Gyi submitted reports as **proposals on implementing the laws related to intellectual property and on becoming a party to the 1958 Convention of the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards** and on enacting the said law – the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposals<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> First Amyotha Hluttaw in session for second day. Seven questions answered, two bills submitted, two proposals discussed and two proposals submitted at today's session -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-28.pdf> (NLM) 28 January 2012 (p.16, 10 & 11)

<sup>12</sup> Third regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for third day/Message sent by the President put on record, two proposals discussed, one proposal withdraw, one proposal approved and five proposals submitted -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-31.pdf> (NLM) 31 January 2012 (p. 16, 8 & 9)

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Hluttaw) Sessions

The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 3rd regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took place at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building on 31 January and was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint (USDP), Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann (USDP) and 588 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives. A message from the President was recorded, a joint committee was formed and duties assigned, and several bills were submitted. The key issues were:

- discussions on the **National Planning Bills** submitted by the Union Government to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
- discussions on the Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill and Union Budget Bill for 2012;
- the **resignation of the Union Minister at the President's Office U Kyaw Swa Khaing (USDP) and the re-assignment of U Myat Ko (USDP) as Chief Minister of State for Taninthayi Region** was put on record
- the **formation of Ministry of Industry by combining Ministry of Industry-1 and Ministry of Industry-2**, which was approved at the second regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
- approval of **the reassignment and appointment of members to the Joint Bill Committee the Joint Public Accounts Committee**
- the **Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein (USDP) reported on the national planning bill**
- the **Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun (USDP) also reported on the Union supplementary Budget Division Bill (2012) and Union Budget Bill (2012)**<sup>13</sup>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day session was attended by Pyidaungsu Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 586 representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and:

- the Union Ministers concerned **reported on bills of national planning, bill of allocation of supplementary budget for 2012 and the budget for the 2012.**<sup>14</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day session was attended by Pyidaungsu Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 579 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives, and:

- members of respective Union level organizations **submitted National Planning Bills, Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill (2012) and Union Budget Bill (2012).**
- **Union Ministers from 10 ministries including Health, Religious Affairs, Culture, Labour, Information, Social Welfare, Sports, Home Affairs, Immigration/Population and Border Affairs briefed the parliament.**<sup>15</sup>

During the 4<sup>th</sup> day session:

- representatives and officials **submitted National Planning Bills, the Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill of the Union for 2012 and the Union Budget Bill 2012**

<sup>13</sup> First day third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw kicks off/President's message recorded, joint committee formed, duties assigned, bills submitted -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-01.pdf> (NLM) 1 February 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

<sup>14</sup> Third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-02.pdf> (NLM) 2 February 2012 (p. 10)

<sup>15</sup> Third day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues/National Planning Bills, Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill (2012), Union Budget Bill (2012) submitted -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 6)

- **Ministers for Transport, Railways, Agriculture & Irrigation, Electric Power No. 1 and No.2 reported on the policies and budgets of the respective ministries for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.**<sup>16</sup>

During the 5<sup>th</sup> day session:

- the **National Planning Bills, the Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill of the Union for 2012 and the 2012 Union Budget Bill**, as well as reports and budgets for Foreign Affairs, Science & Technology, Education, National Planning & Economic Development, Construction, Commerce were submitted
- the **Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee Chairman U Thein Nyunt (USDP) also reported on the 2011-2012 supplementary ordinary expenditure, ordinary and capital income/estimated expenditure for 2012-2013 fiscal year, collection and spending of budget** in accord with the Nay Pyi Taw development affairs law.<sup>17</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day session:

- **Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein (USDP) tabled a motion to discuss the national planning bills** in to the session and was later approved the Hluttaw.
- **Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann spoke** and called on the Speaker and representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw:
  - **to increase the pay and salaries of workers and employees** (teachers, police forces, military servicemen, departmental personnel and low-level administrative bodies) at the start of the upcoming fiscal year so that they can enjoy high living standards and **a clean government and good governance can be formed**
  - **to allow laws which support projects that benefit the country** and people and to reject, suspend and limit projects that do not
  - **to invest in projects that promote national development, including the development of human resources**
  - **to provide sufficient ration money, uniforms and other expenses** similar or the same as it was in 1959-1960 **to those performing defence duties**, especially in the Tatmadaw and those who are risking their lives
  - to urge new projects that can reduce high commodity prices and other transactions costs
  - in adopting national plans and projects, it is necessary **to gather and calculate correct data like in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** - only then will correct and appropriate national plans and projects emerge
  - to carry out a **national census**
  - **to encourage businesses to not only be profit-driven**, but also carry out the following: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
  - U Saw Hla Tun (USDP) from Chaung-U Township seconded a proposal urging the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to use the key note discussion by the Speaker of the House as

<sup>16</sup> Fourth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues/Union level organizations explain National Planning Bills, Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill 2012, Union Budget Bill 2012 -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 February 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

<sup>17</sup> Fifth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 February 2012 (p.16 & 10)

guidelines in drawing the national development plan by the government. **The proposal was approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.**

- **Discussions on the national planning bills** was also debated by MPs U Aung Thant (USDP) of Patheingyi Constituency, U Thein Yi (USDP) of Htantabin Constituency, U Thein Tun (USDP) of Kyaunggon Constituency, U Mann Maung Maung Nyan (USDP) of Pantanaw Constituency, U Myint Shwe (USDP) of Waw Constituency and Dr Mya Oo (USDP) of Ngazun Constituency.
- Daw Nann Say Owa (PSDP) of Hpa-an Constituency submitted a **proposal urging the discussion of Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann on national planning to be televised** - the proposal was approved<sup>18</sup>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw assignment and appointments to the Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee were approved. Discussions were held on:

- **national planning bills on fisheries, agriculture, trade, monetary, mining & minerals, industrial, construction and electricity sectors**<sup>19</sup>

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day session:

- discussions continued on **National Planning Bills**, including the following sectors: **investment, industry, service, forestry, transport, rail transportation, energy, mining, electricity, construction, planning, information, culture, religious affairs and communication.**<sup>20</sup>

## UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

### SENIOR NLD TO MAKE WAY FOR YOUTH

National League for Democracy (NLD) senior member U Win Tin has said that the party is looking to inject “new blood” into its ranks ahead of the up-coming 1 April by-elections, but did not specify whether there would be any formal change. At present, the older members of the party are in their 90s and many Central Executive Committee (CEC) members are over 80 and thus the need for younger members will become a necessity for the party in the near future.<sup>21</sup>

### KNU DIVIDED OVER PEACE TREATY

Signs of disagreement and confusion have crept into the Karen leadership over the signing of the recent peace agreement between the Burmese government and the Karen National Union (KNU). Nineteen members of the Karen National Union, led by its military chief Gen. Mutu Say Poe, signed on 12 January a ceasefire agreement with Burmese government peace delegation in Karen capital, Pa-an, without the consensus of other top KNU officials.

According to Commander of the Brigade 7 of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) (the KNU’s military wing) Brig-Gen Saw Johnny who was involved in the negotiations, the 11-point agreement called for an immediate ceasefire, including an end all hostilities between the Burmese army and the KNLA. However, he questioned how the KNU/KNLA could proceed with peace talks if fighting does not end. He added that the government officials are able to travel freely to KNU areas, and they also

<sup>18</sup> Sixth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-08.pdf> (NLM) 8 February 2012 (p. 16 & 11)

<sup>19</sup> Seventh day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-09.pdf> (NLM) 9 February 2012 (p. 1)

<sup>20</sup> Eighth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-02-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 February 2012 (p. 16)

<sup>21</sup> Senior NLD to make way for youth - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2012/news/613/news61313.html> (Myanmar Times) February 6 -12, 2012



ordered their troops not to attack KNLA units, but that this is just the first step of many. “We don’t know for how many months or years we will have to continue this process of peace talks,” he said.

However, hardline KNU leaders are believed to be unhappy with the agreement, complaining that it is too early to trust the new government, and that the Burmese army has failed to withdraw its forces from the Karen areas. However, they agreed to hold further talk with the Burmese peace delegation perhaps in Nay Pyi Taw in late February. According to sources, the hardliners rejecting the ceasefire include the KNU’s President Tamla Baw, Vice-Chairman David Takapaw, General-Secretary Zipporah Sein, and Joint General-Secretary 1 Saw Hla Ngwe. The KNU representatives who attended the peace talks in Pa-an include Saw David Taw, General Muti Say Poe, Saw Ah Toe, Saw Roger Khin and Brigadier General Johnny are seen as the “pragmatic faction” of the KNU leadership, and they are keen to “test the water”. Various sources from within the Karen community say they believe the KNU delegation signed an agreement which was conducive to their own interests but not to those of the KNU or of the Karen people. The KNU peace delegation, however, maintains that they are motivated by a series of political reforms in taking place in the country and thus taking the decision to sign the peace-agreement with the government. Saw David Taw noted on behalf of the peace delegation that the KNU's previous ceasefire in 2004 had been a verbal agreement; he said he believed the 12 January agreement was evidence of steps toward a “real peace.”<sup>22</sup>

## ANALYSIS

The recent cease-fire agreements between the government and the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army, Karen National Union (KNU)/Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and New Mon State Party (NMSP) respectively can be seen as another step in the direction in achieving peace and stability in the country. These agreements cover only the introduction of an immediate cease-fire, so the need to engage in further discussion at the Union level remains a top priority and requisite.

On the international front, the visits by President Thein Sein to Singapore and Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin to India once again reflect the importance attached by the new government in Nay Pyi Taw to further promote the country’s image on the international front. As both India and Singapore are better developed economically, the visits will have provided opportunities for Indian and Singaporean leaders to engage with the Burmese leadership as well as to promote their country’s business interests inside Burma. It is without a doubt that more official visits by Burmese leaders can be expected prior to Burma taking the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014.

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<sup>22</sup> KNU divided over peace treaty - [http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=23004](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=23004) (Irrawaddy) 9 February 2012

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A:**

**Agreement between  
the Union level peace-making team and  
the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army**

28 January 2012

1. It is agreed that to build peace, the preliminary agreement signed between Shan State peace-making group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) in Taunggyi on 28 January, 2012 shall be approved.
2. It is agreed that concerted efforts shall be made to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty at all times based on Panglong spirit.
3. It is agreed that arrangements for improvement of livelihood and socio-life of Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) members and their families in line with law in cooperation with the government shall be made.
4. It is agreed that cooperation with the Union government in a fight against narcotic drugs shall be made.
5. It is agreed that further discussions and negotiations to ensure eternal peace shall be held afterwards.

**Agreement between  
the state-level peace-making team and  
the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army**

28 January 2012

1. It is agreed to make ceasefire between the Tatmadaw and SSPP/Shan State Army.
2. It is agreed that troops of SSPP/Shan State Army are allowed to base in Wanhai and then to base temporarily in their branches.
3. In order to hold mutual coordination and discussion liaison offices and stations will be established in Taunggyi, Lashio and Kholan with the people agreed, by both sides. More offices will be opened in required places.
4. Apart from the mutually agreed areas, transgression and arms carrying will be allowed under negotiation between both sides.
5. It is agreed that Union level peace-making group and SSPP peace-making group will continue their talks for ensuring regional peace, stability and development, enabling the troops to earn their living and ensuring lasting peace in the region after meeting in the given place at the given time.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Peace agreement signed between Union level peace-making group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army peace-making group - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-01-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 January 2012 (p.16 & 9)

**Appendix B:**

**Agreement between  
the state-level peace-making team and  
the Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA)**

7 February 2012

The seven-point agreement is as follows:-

1. It is agreed to maintain current peace process between the Tatmadaw and KNU/KNLA Peace Council;
2. It is agreed to settle KNU/KNLA Peace Council members in (Mela and Htohkawkoe);
3. Liaison offices will be established with the persons agreed by both sides at both side-agreed places for holding bilateral talks. Economic and liaison offices of the company will be opened in Hpa-an, Myawady, Phayathonzu, Kawkareik, Mawtaung and Kawthoung;
4. Both sides will hold coordination not to transgress the regions without arms apart from the mutually agreed regions;
5. The Union level peace-making group and the advanced peace-making group of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council will meet at the mutually agreed place and time to continuously hold talks on peace and stability of the region, development, settlements of troops and eternal peace;
6. After reaching the initial agreement, the State will allow and render assistance for self-reliant undertakings for quickly fulfilling the basic needs, education, health, transport, water and electricity supply in the area for resettlement of national races that are residing in other country and render assistance for self-reliant;
7. Both sides will agree definitions of the peace submitted by the KNU/KNLA Peace Council in principle and will strive for realization of the peace process.<sup>24</sup>

**Appendix C:**

**Initial Agreement between  
Mon State level peace-making group and  
the New Mon State Party (NMSP)**

1 February 2012

The five-point initial agreement signed between the state-level government and NMSP is as follow:

1. to make ceasefire between both sides,
2. to officially form the delegation to hold talks with Union level peace-making group and to coordinate date, time and place for the talks,
3. to open liaison offices at suitable places (without arms) where both sides agree,
4. not to transgress the regions with arms apart from the mutually agreed areas,
5. to accommodate the group at the designated places that both sides have agreed.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Kayin State peace-making group, KNU/KNLA Peace Council sign initial peace agreement - [http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM\\_2012-02-08.pdf](http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM_2012-02-08.pdf) (NLM) 8 February 2012 (p. 11)

<sup>25</sup> Mon State level peace-making group, NMSP peace-making group sign initial agreement - [http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM\\_2012-02-03.pdf](http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM_2012-02-03.pdf) (NLM) 3 February 2012 (p. 5)