

Student leader Min Ko Naing on HIV/AIDS crisis in Burma *18, August, 2006*
Political prisoner Saw Min Naing deteriorates in Burma's Taungoo Jail *22, August, 2006*
Another political prisoner dies in Burmese jail *23, August, 2006*
Prisoner Khin Kyaw's health deteriorates *23, August, 2006*
Burma opposition rejects junta's accusations *25, August, 2006*
Burmese political prisoners mark the anniversary of inmate's death *26, August, 2006*
Treatments of political prisoners in Burma *26, August, 2006*
Ko Ko Gyi says Burma junta's media reports harmful for reconciliation *26, August, 2006*

Burmese authorities persuade monks not to accept donations from political activists

01, August, 2006

Authorities at Rangoon Thingangyun Township approached Buddhist monks living at local Maggin Monastery and donated worldly materials in an attempt to curry favours from them, according to a monk who doesn't want to be named.

The monastery has been frequented by political activists and their circles in Rangoon since the time of the late abbot, known simply as Maggin Sayadaw, who himself was a political prisoner. In the past, members of pro-junta Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), 'people power holders', special branch (SB) police agents kept a close watch on people who came to visit the monastery, the monk added.

But within last week, Eastern Rangoon District authority chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein came to the monastery and offered some material needs to the head monks and requested them not to accept donations from political circles. It is not known how the monks reacted to the 'request' from the authorities and we were unable to speak to them as there is no phone connection to the monastery.

Local residents are said to be very interested in as to why the authorities approached the monks at the monastery known for their support for democracy.

[Top](#)

Political prisoner Myo Min Zaw ill in Mandalay

01, August, 2006

Political prisoner Myo Min Zaw who is serving a lengthy jail term at Mandalay Prison in central Burma, has been suffering from acute skin complaints and his nails are dropping off from fungal infection, according to his mother who went to see him at the jail recently.

Myint Myint Aye said that it has been difficult to bring medicines into the prison for her son as the authorities insisted that only medicines from within the prison are to be used.

She added that even milk powder was not allowed to be brought into the prison and the authorities did not allow her son to read a book written by a famous author Ludhu Daw Amar, and cooked meals and curries are also barred from the prison for 'security reasons' but prisoners are allowed to buy snacks from the prison.

When we contact Mandalay Jail for comments, an official on duty said that no one is allowed to ring the prison and ask questions as he is not allowed to answer any question.

Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) spokesman Tate Naing told DVB that there are no proper medical cares inside Burma jails and prisoners are suffering thus because they have to drink unclean water and eat unhygienic food.

[Top](#)

Black Eyed Peas serenade detained Burma's democracy leader

01, August, 2006

The Grammy award winning hip hop band Black Eyed Peas ended their Asian tour with a song honouring Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi in the Thai capital Bangkok today.

With large images of her posted on stage, The Black Eyed Peas dedicated their hit song "Where is the Love" at today's concert to the imprisoned Burmese democracy leader and Nobel laureate.

In a press release, the organisers, the Human Rights Action Center and U.S. Campaign for Burma said that 'the performance will also be simulcast into Burma where she is under house arrest and the government forbids democratic messages to its populous'.

"With the aid of un-censored satellite technology, this will be only the second time the Burmese people will be able to watch part of an international music concert in which musicians speak about Aung San Suu Kyi and the first time ever that this has been done from any of Burma's bordering nations."

This performance kicks off the global Freedom Campaign; a partnership between the Human Rights Action Center and U.S. Campaign for Burma designed to bring attention to Aung San Suu Kyi and the cause for freedom for the people of Burma, the press release said.

The dedication portions of this concert will be broadcast inside Burma via satellite through the brand-new DVB television station. There are an estimated two million satellite dishes inside Burma, reaching up to 10 million of the country's population of 52 million persons.

The Black Eyed Peas dedication follows a previous dedication made by R.E.M. on Aung San Suu Kyi's 60th birthday in June 2005. The Freedom Campaign concerts will be led by renowned activist Jack Healey; well-known for organizing Amnesty International's highly successful concerts around the world, said the organisers.

[Top](#)

Special appeal to be submitted for MP Kyaw Min

02, August, 2006

A special appeal for detained elected representative (MP) and a member of Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) Kyaw Min who is serving a 47-years jail term, is to be submitted on the 8th of August.

53-year-old Kyaw Min (a.k.a) Mohammad Shamsul Anwarul Hoque, is an independent Muslim MP for No.1 Constituency, Buthidaung Township, Arakan State in western Burma. He was arrested on 17 March 2005 for being a member of the CRPP but the military authorities insisted that he was indicted under immigration laws.

Moreover, the authorities also arrested his wife Teeza, his son Numan and daughters Khin Khin Nu and Wai Wai Nu, and sentenced them to 17 years each in jail.

Although their lawyers and relatives made many attempts to free them from unjust detention by legal means, their appeals were rejected repeatedly by the courts on all levels.

[Top](#)

Thai PM says he 'asked' Burma junta for Suu Kyi's release

03, August, 2006

Thailand's caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Thursday that he asked Burma's military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) leader to free detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi during his surprise trip to the military-ruled country.

"I will not disclose any details because it's not proper to do so," Thaksin said of his conversation with Senior General Than Shwe. "All you need to know is that we conveyed our points of concern as their neighbour and said it would benefit regional politics.

Thailand's Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon who accompanied Thaksin said he also expressed his disappointment over the Nobel peace laureate's continued house arrest when he met his Burmese counterpart Nyan Win.

"Myanmar (Burma) said it's considering releasing Aung San Suu Kyi but could not say when," Kantathi said. "A message that we try to convey to Myanmar is to keep them informed of the concerns of the international community - concern of ASEAN - concern of Thailand and how it (her release) would be a positive thing for Myanmar to progress in democracy".

Thaksin unexpectedly flew to Burma on Wednesday to meet Than Shwe at the new administrative capital Kyetpyay outside the central town of Pyinmana. The suddenness of the trip sparked a swirl of speculation in Thailand that Thaksin might have tried to push either personal or national business interests in its resource-rich neighbour.

Thaksin insisted he no longer had any business interests in Burma since his family sold off his telecom empire this year. One of his companies, now owned by Singapore's state-linked Temasek Holdings, provides Burma with satellite coverage for telephone and Internet services.

Nevertheless, Thailand's largest energy firm PTT confirmed Monday it had joined the race against China and India in a bid for exclusive rights to offshore natural gas reserves in western Burma's Arakan State.

When Thaksin visit Burma in late 2004, he was accused of being an opportunist by Burmese opposition for his taciturn agreement with the SPDC over the extended

detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. The junta claimed that her release could trigger off the “collapse” of Burma. Thaksin said Than Shwe had told him in private talks that Suu Kyi could not be released because on three previous occasions when she had been freed from detention “difficulties” had arisen.

[Top](#)

Another NLD member sent to prison in Mandalay

03, August, 2006

The organising committee member and treasurer of Mandalay Division, Madaya Township National League for Democracy (NLD) Nyein Maung was arrested and sentenced to one year in jail on 31 July, according party members.

Madaya Township NLD elected representative (MP) Than Lwin told DVB that Nyein Maung was indicted under Act – 198 for having an argument with the husband of a female judge Khin Mar Yi in her office and causing a civil servant undue distress.

Khin Mar Yi’s husband Kyaw Myint is the secretary the township’s army veterans association and it is alleged that he likes to show off his power by treating those who come to his wife’s office with disdain and incivility.

Nyein Maung was also told by pro-government Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) members in June that if he quit the party, the charge against him would be dropped.

Madaya MP Than Lwin insisted that Nyein Maung is innocent and that he was deliberately arrested with a trumped up charge and imprisoned because he is an active member of the NLD.

Local residents of Madaya also told DVB that Justice Khin Mar Yi also let the cases of those who could pay her more bribes win.

[Top](#)

Appeals for ‘poem’ youths from Pegu rejected by Burmese court

04, August, 2006

The divisional court at Pegu rejected appeals submitted for two of the youths, Aung Than and Zeya Aung, who were imprisoned for writing and distributing a poem, were unceremoniously rejected today, according to their lawyer Mya Hla.

Mya Hla, who is also the elected representative (MP) of Pegu Township National League for Democracy (NLD), told DVB that he submitted four appeals but they were all rejected summarily by the court without hearing the arguments from lawyers representing the prosecuting team or the defending team. He added that the court at least should have considered whether the sentences on the defendants were too severe.

Similarly, the appeals lodged for other youths in the same case, Aung Aung Oo and Sein Hlaing, were also rejected, according to sources close to their families.

The four, all from Pegu in lower central Burma, were arrested for writing and distributing a poem titled Daung Man (the might of the fighting peacock) and given prison terms up to 19 years on 9 June.

Aung Than was given 19 years, Zeya Aung of King Star teashop received 19 years, Aung Aung Oo of A20 Computing Business got 14 years and a textile printer named Sein Hlaing received 19 years. Only Sein Hlaing has been detained at Pegu Prison and the rest were taken to the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail.

Aung Than and Zeya Aung were indicted under the infamous 1950 Emergency Provision Act – 5J and the Printing Act, and for having contacts with ‘illegal’ organisations (?unlawful association act), and crossing the border illegally, and Aung Aung Oo, under the Printing Act and Sein Hlaing, for printing symbols of a raised clenched fist on shirts.

All the youths except Sein Hlaing were arrested on 29 March and Sein Hlaing was arrested in late May when Aung Than told his interrogators under duress that the T-shirt images were printed at Sein Hlaing’s shop.

All of them were tried behind closed doors inside the local prison, without having access to legal representatives.

[Top](#)

Peguan lawyer Aye Myint meets 8888 Generation Students

06, August, 2006

Lawyer Aye Myint from Pegu in lower central Burma who was imprisoned for reporting the woes of local farmers to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), met with renowned 88 Generation Students led by Min Ko Naing, on Thursday.

They discussed the situation of aggrieved farmers who have been bullied by local authorities, and they surmised that the farmers could come out onto the streets to protest if there is no urgent political dialogue.

“I am very happy (to see the student leaders) as it was unexpected. After Daw Suu (Aung San Suu Kyi), they are the second (most important and respected people) for me. Ma (Miss) Lay Lay Mon, Ko Soe Tun, Ko Ko Gyi, six in all came to encourage me,” Aye Myint told DVB. “They came to ask my health; they also partly came to pay obeisance with respect to me.”

He discussed current political situation and the condition of farmers with the student leaders, and he said he also met with the family members of two local youths, Aung Than and Zeya Aung who were imprisoned for writing and distributing a political poem.

Aye Myint said that the local authorities didn’t interfere with the meeting as a local intelligence officer named Corporal Kyaw Naing later came to see and notify him that they were left alone and kept at a distance for fear of being accused of harassing them. He said that local residents didn’t know in advance that renowned students were going to see him but as soon as the news was out the whole of the town became excited.

“They (students) kept their trip a secret. Even that, as soon as they (local residents) heard that, they became excited. Don’t think the people of Burma are afraid. They are enduring with grinded teeth. As soon as there is an appointed day, the people of Burma have more trust in the students. They don’t believe in political parties. They have faith in students who break through the Burmese politics. As soon as the students snap their fingers (and) give the signal, (the people) are in a situation that they are ready. At the moment, the farmers who make up the majority (of the population) of Burma have been wanting to come out onto the streets.”

[Top](#)

88 Generation Students to hold memorial service tomorrow

07, August, 2006

88 Generation Students led by Min Ko Naing are planning to offer robes to Buddhist monks at Chaukhtatgyi Monastery in downtown Rangoon tomorrow, to mark the 18th anniversary of the 8888 nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

During the Buddhist memorial service, prayer will be offered and robes will be donated to monks, in memory of all those who sacrificed their lives for democracy and human rights in Burma, and it will be attended by National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders and members, veteran politicians, ethnic national leaders and foreign diplomats.

As it is the first time the historic event is to be marked since Min Ko Naing and other student leaders were released, they hoped that all the invited guests would be able to attend, students old DVB. They added that the ceremony will be carried out peacefully and orderly as they are honouring all those who sacrificed their lives for democracy and the country.

The authorities have been keeping a close eye on the activities of the student leaders, and many informers and agents are being posted around their homes, according to local Rangoon residents.

[Top](#)

Exiled opposition groups demand release of Burmese political prisoners

08, August, 2006

Exiled opposition groups repeated their call on Burma’s military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to release all political prisoners and to start to solve the political problems by means of dialogue, on the eve of the 18th anniversary of historic 8888 nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

[Top](#)

Unofficial translation of the statement of 88 Generation Students to the people of Burma on the anniversary of 8888 Uprising

08, August, 2006

8.8.2006

Wa-gaung Full Moon, 1368 (B.E.)

Today is the 18th anniversary of Burma's 8888 pro-democracy uprising. The 1988 uprising is a great national movement in the history of Burma that displayed the biggest expression of the true desire of the public as a whole by all the individual citizens.

In 1988, in order to change a one-party, dictatorial system into a democratic one and to escape from the ongoing social, political problems, all the citizens of Burma, with many sacrifices, unanimously took part in the pro-democracy uprising. On this day and date, the people of Burma themselves opened a new history of Burma.

During the 26 years of the past history (under the Burma Socialist Programme Party from 1962 to 1988), due to the dictatorial system's unilateral use of force to solve problems, both the rulers and all the ruled citizens became its victims.

The 1988 public uprising showed that the long-term stability of a country's politics and economy cannot be achieved by the one-sided use of force.

The period of 18 years is a sufficient period for the transformation of a country, if the national (?affairs) were carried out with reciprocal recognition/respect and understanding.

But after 18 years, we are still not only unable to obtain the desire and hope of the people for democratic reforms, but also facing social and economic dire-straits.

The political difficulties, social and economic difficulties and important matters of Burma which we are currently facing, must be treated as the national problems.

In order to do so, we seriously urge all political forces, ethnic national forces and all the citizens of Burma including members of the Tamadaw (Army) to cooperate and solve (the problems together).

88 Generation Students

[Top](#)

Weekly prayer meeting for political prisoners barred in Rangoon

09, August, 2006

The authorities at Rangoon's famous Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday barred around 30 political activists from offering their weekly prayer at the pagoda's Tuesday Corner for detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

The weekly prayer vigil has been held without interruption since July 2004 and the latest ban came on the 110th occasion, after the activists attended a religious ceremony at nearby Chaukhtatgyi Monastery, organised by 88 Generation Students in memory of those who lost their lives during the struggle for democracy and human rights.

Naw Ohn Hla, a suspended member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) who was among the activists, told DVB that the local township authority secretary Tun

Hla Sein himself barred them from entering the pagoda's perimeter with the excuse that they were wearing traditional Burmese pinkish clay colour 'pinni' jackets, the uniform of the party.

Although the activists have been harassed in many forms by the authorities since they started to carry out their vigil, it was the first time they were barred completely from entering the pagoda's perimeter, Ohn Hla added.

The activists vowed to continue their weekly religious activity despite the latest setback.

[Top](#)

Defiant: Solo protestor Tun Tun released from mental asylum

10, August, 2006

Tun Tun from Irrawaddy Division's Nyaungdon who was sent to a mental asylum and locked up with a mad gangster because he staged a peaceful protest, was released yesterday evening. He was neither interrogated nor tortured during his time there.

Tun Tun told DVB that he was arrested at around 11pm on 7 July by an army officer named Captain Thein Tun Oo and taken to a police station. Then, the police took him to a mental asylum (at Ywathagyi) and handed him over to a doctor in charge, but the doctor first refused to accept him as he was obviously not mad and not accompanied by a member of his family.

“But he was forced to accept me because the chief police of Dagon East Township said that I am a political prisoner (detained at the State's pleasure). There were three doctors and two female doctors. Their unanimous answer two days later was, I am sane. (But) they told me to understand them as they are civil servants, and that they will take the responsibility for my health and survival etc., they comforted me thus. I stayed there for 33 days without having to take any medicine.”

When asked why the Burmese military authorities always sent political activists including nuns and an army officer who staged solo protests outside Rangoon City Hall to mental asylums, Tun Tun simply said that the power-mad generals want to make normal people feel that they are the mad ones, and that they didn't want him to be at large during the historic days such as Martyrs' Day on 19 July and the 18th anniversary of the 1988 nationwide pro-democracy uprising on 8 August.

He added that if the authorities keep on wasting their time and sleep by arresting people like him during the dead of night thus, they themselves will end up in the mental asylum.

Tun Tun, a former political prisoner, was arrested on 19 June for staging a solo protest outside Rangoon City Hall demanding the release of Aung San Suu Kyi on her birthday. He was again arrested on 7 July for meditating and praying for the release all political prisoners on a cardboard scribbled with political and religious writings, at the world-famous Shwedagon Pagoda.

Regional students ready to join hands with Min Ko Naing to help Burma

10, August, 2006

Students from other regions of Burma said they are ready to join hands with 88 Generation Students who are based in Rangoon to help solve the problems of Burma by political means.

A student leader from Yenangyaung, Magwe Division in central Burma, Kyaw San Oo who also took part in the 1988 nationwide pro-democracy uprising, told DVB that other students are also ready to work together with their colleagues in Rangoon:

“Although all of us, the 88 students, were unable to join the ceremony organised by Ko Min Ko Naing the other day, I want to say that we are not divided; we are of the same flesh. The only method that could solve the public’s desire, the public’s troubles correctly, is the building of the national unity. If we could do that, there are true representative of the people, and the forces of representatives representing ethnic nationals; we regard that the solving of problems through the tripartite dialogue is the only escape route for the country. We students will stand behind student leader Min Ko Naing without veering, of course. Those who have the same feelings and belief tend to gel together naturally. During the 8888 uprising, those who had similar feelings came together. Now, there will be a union based on the activities of Ko Min Ko Naing, I presume”

[Top](#)

Drug stores inside Rangoon Insein Jail closed

11, August, 2006

Drugstores opened by authorities inside the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail have been closed indefinitely by the order of higher authorities, causing problems and difficulties to inmates as the authorities are not allowing medicines from the outside either.

Thant Zin Oo who went to see his father, the detained Rangoon Hlaing Thayar Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman Hla Aye on 4 August, said that when he went back to the prison on the 9th, he was told that the drugstores were still closed.

“What the woman (inside the prison) I met on the 4th told me was, there was an outbreak of cholera in the 6th month (June). If there are more like this, we will be in trouble. Everyone will be in trouble, that woman said. She added that she had to close it (the drugstore/chemist) because (of the order) from above.”

Thant Zin Oo’s father Hla Aye and brother Thant Zin Myo were arrested and imprisoned in 2005. Hla Aye was arrested while he was hospitalised and he has been taking medicines daily to reduce his high blood pressure level.

“It would be good if they are allowed to get medical treatments. I also want the drugstores to be opened as soon as possible, for all inmates,” Than Zin Oo told DVB. “If (the medicines are) not sold inside the prison, they should allow us to bring in those brought from outside hospitals.”

He added that parcels of food for prisoners have been sliced off piece by piece by prison guards from all levels before the last bits reach the intended person.

[Top](#)

Burmese authorities arrest volunteers helping AIDS sufferers

13, August, 2006

Burmese authorities raided Maggin Buddhist Monastery in Rangoon Thinganggyun Township where AIDS sufferers who were preparing to hold a robe offering ceremony today at 8am local time, and arrested 11 leading organisers.

The raid was carried out by a number of soldiers at around 1.30am local time, according to some organisers of the ceremony.

The 11 people arrested are being detained separately at Thinganggyun, Dawpon, Yankin and Pazundaung Township police stations and it is not known how they are to be taken action against.

They are:

1. Than Naing (from Taungdwinggyi)
2. Htet Yazar (Twante)
3. Shwe Gyoe (Hlaing)
4. Aye Naing (New Dagon Town)
5. Awta (Yenangyang)
6. Moe Naing (Bahan)
7. Kan Myint (Hlaing Thayar)
8. Myo Thant (Seikkan)
9. Soe Naing (Hlaing)
10. Than Htut (Hlaing Thayar) and
11. Than Htaik Aung (Hlaing).

One of them is said to be an AIDS sufferer and most of them are either National League for Democracy (NLD) members or those close to the party or 88 Generation Students.

Around 40 AIDS sufferers who are making preparations for the ceremony are feeling dejected by the latest action of the authorities and they are in danger of getting serious depression, according to Phyu Phyu Thin, an NLD volunteer helping AIDS sufferers. The latest incident came at the time when the international community is trying to find ways to help AIDS sufferers at a conference in Toronto and when the British government had promised to donate US\$ 36m for AIDS and other major disease sufferers in Burma.

[Top](#)

Another Burmese ex-political prisoner dies of HIV

13, August, 2006

Former political prisoner who served his times at Thayet Jail in central Burma, Than Lwin (a.k.a.) Anaing died of HIV related illness at North Okkalapa Weibagi Contagious Diseases Hospital on Saturday.

Than Lwin was arrested and indicted under section 5-J of Emergency Provision Act in 1998 for distributing copies of exiled opposition news journal the New Era, and sentenced to 14 years in Jail. He spent 7 years in jail and released in 2005 with more than 200 other political prisoners. He contracted the disease after 13 months inside the prison.

A volunteer helping HIV/AIDS sufferers told DVB that despite his illness, Than Lwin continued to carry out his political duties tirelessly after he was released. His illness was only discovered by doctors at Pegu after he collapsed the first time. He was repeatedly collapsed and hospitalised, and his condition deteriorated despite taking AZT tables.

His remains will be taken to Rangoon Yeway Cemetery with the help of social welfare associations tomorrow for cremation.

On Sunday, military authorities raided Maggin Monastery in Rangoon Thingangyun Township and arrested 11 organisers making preparations for a robe offering religious ceremony in memory of those who died of AIDS. The event, which was sponsored by AIDS sufferers and their relatives such as the wife of Than Lwin, was eventually cancelled.

[Top](#)

Burma authorities arrest helpers assisting AIDS sufferers' service

13, August, 2006

The Burmese military authorities raided Maggin monastery in Rangoon's Thingangyun Township where AIDS sufferers were preparing to hold the ever first Wazo robes offering ceremony at 0800 on 13 August and reportedly arrested at least 11 persons.

Organizers of the ceremony told DVB that the raid was carried out by the local township peace and development council members and police about 0130 today.

The 11 people arrested were: Than Naing from Taungdwingyi Township in central Burma, Htet Yazar from Rangoon Twante Twonship, Shwe Gyo from Rangoon Hlaing Township, Aye Naing from Rangoon Dagon Myothit Township, Awba from Yenangyaung Township inc central Burma, Moe Naing from Rangoon Bahan Township, Kan Myint from Rangoon Hlaingthayar Township, Myo Thant from Rangoon Seikkan Township, Soe Naing from Hlaing, Than Htut from Hlaingthayar, and Than Htaik Aung from Hlaing.

One of the arrested persons is said to be an AIDS sufferer and most of them are either National League for Democracy (NLD) members or those close to the party or 1988 generation students.

They are being detained separately at Thinganggyun, Dawbon, Yankin, and Pazundaung Township police stations and it is not known what action will be taken against them. Close associates of the detained youths said they are all likely to be interrogated at Thinganggyun Township police station at 1000 tomorrow (14 Aug).

Although the authorities gave the reason for their arrests as failure to register as overnight guests, the youths said they have already reported the matter to the ward peace and development council chairman but the authorities deliberately arrested them anyway out of malice.

They said when they went to report to the ward peace and development council office yesterday evening it was deliberately closed so they reported in writing to the township and ward peace and development council chairmen, who visited Maggin monastery yesterday. But the ward chairman did not give any acknowledgement receipt and told them to leave the letter and they were later arrested. The reason for the township and ward peace and development council chairmen's visit to Maggin monastery was to hold a parallel merit-making ceremony, sponsored by the authorities and the Union Solidarity and Development Association. Furthermore, they threatened the monastery to only accept their donations and not to accept those opposing the authorities or else they will close down the monastery, said the youths.

About 50 AIDS sufferers, who arrived at 0800 for the ceremony, were saddened by the news of the arrests. In order to uplift their morale, the 1988 generation students and the NLD AIDS support group comforted them and held an improvised merit-making ceremony, it has been learned. But the guests, who attended the ceremony, were very angry with the authorities who had the audacity to prevent the merit-making ceremony of AIDS sufferers.

Phyu Phyu Thinn, a volunteer with the NLD AIDS support group, told DVB that she cannot understand the *raison d'état* of the military junta as the latest incident came at the time when the international community is holding the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada and the British government has pledged \$36 million for the 3-D Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in Burma.

[Top](#)

11 detained activists released in Rangoon

14, August, 2006

11 political and social activists who were arrested early yesterday morning while making preparations for a religious ceremony for AIDS victims at Maggin Monastery in Rangoon Thinganggyun Township, were released at 2pm local time today, according to their relatives.

They were taken out of the police stations where they were detained and taken to Thinganggyun Township authority office before they were released.

They were also pressured to sign (incriminating) pledges but they refused to do as they insisted that they didn't commit any crime.

They are all said to be in good health.

[Top](#)

Lawless: Another NLD leader detained with trumped up charges

15, August, 2006

Rangoon Shwepyithar Township National League for Democracy (NLD) member Myint Tun has been detained by the local military authorities with trumped up charges in an attempt to hurt him and his family, according to an NLD lawyer Myint Thaung.

Myint Thaung was accused of being responsible for the death of someone who died from electric shock in July, Myint Thaung said.

“He was indicted under Criminal Act – 337 and Criminal Act 304/a. 304/a is for being reckless. The person who died from electric shocked, died near an electric post where U Myint Tun sourced electricity (for his home), therefore U Myint Tun is responsible (for his death), they sued his thus,” Myint Thaung explained to DVB. “In fact, as for the person who died, it occurred at about 9.30pm. He seemed to have consumed some amount of alcohol.”

Myint Tun's wife Shan Ma told DVB that the incident occurred on 11 (July?) when the victim trod on a broken live wire belonging to someone close to the electricity authority who was sourcing electricity illegally. She insisted that all the people who live in the area know that the authorities, led by a man named U Ni destroyed all evidences and cut off the wire to her house and fell the electricity pole and piled all the blames on her husband. She added that there was no sign of the electricity supply to her house being interrupted until the line was cut off deliberately at around 10.45pm and when the victim was dead and gone to the hospital.

Myint Tun is being detained at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail and the authorities have been pressurising eyewitnesses who know what really happened. His application for bail was rejected and the trial will resume tomorrow.

[Top](#)

Burmese authorities harass AIDS victim's family

16, August, 2006

Burmese authorities have been pressuring the mourning family members of former political prisoner and AIDS sufferer Than Lwin who died recently, to reject the National League for Democracy (NLD) offer of help in organising a memorial service for him.

Than Lwin, a native of Ye (Yay), Mon State in southern Burma came to receive medical treatments in Rangoon with the help of the NLD. The NLD's AIDS prevention and education department has been hiring a house in Ward – 20 of Rangoon South Dagon Township to treat and comfort AIDS sufferers including Than Lwin.

NLD youth members told DVB that the party is planning to help Than Lwin's family organise a Buddhist memorial service which is to be held this Friday. But the local authority chairman of Ward – 20 has been putting intense pressure on family members not to accept the offer of help from the NLD.

A youth said that the authorities told family members to invite Buddhist monks from appointed monasteries only.

“Moreover, they are going to offer mohinga (Burmese noodle soup) ‘soon’ (breakfast for the monks). They (the authorities) insisted that they themselves will cook it (mohinga). Then, the expenses must be paid by the family members,” a youth told DVB.

Family members were also told not to invite people from political circles to the ceremony and the authorities started to bar people from registering as night guests at the home for AIDS sufferers so that volunteers could not come and help prepare for the ceremony.

“I am very surprised by this,” NLD spokesman Myint Thein said. “The reason is Ko Than Lwin (a.k.a.) Anaing really died of HIV. He contracted the disease while he was in prison. Whatever it is, when he died due to his fate, his family are organising a memorial service in accordance with Buddhist tradition so that he (his soul) could go over to the other world as a special right. The reason is, it is not a case of (us) making political capitals out of this, and in this kind of tragic matter, there should be no lawless ban like this.”

The funeral of Than Lwin was also delayed on 13 August due to the harassments of the authorities. Whatever the situation, the NLD has decided to go ahead with the original plan and continuing to negotiate with the authorities.

Recently, the authorities also disrupted a religious ceremony sponsored by HIV/AIDS sufferers in memory of dead AIDS victims at Maggin Monastery in Rangoon Thingangyun Township by raiding the monastery and arresting organisers and volunteers.

Than Lwin was imprisoned for seven years, from 1996 to 2003.

[Top](#)

Memorial service for late NLD leader Kyi Maung to be held in Rangoon

17, August, 2006

A memorial service marking the 2nd anniversary of the death of one of the National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders Kyi Maung, is to be held on Saturday (19 Aug) morning at his family home in Rangoon Bahan Township.

In the invitation card for the Buddhist memorial service, family members of Kyi Maung invited all those who hold respect for him to attend the ceremony.

They also added that they are expecting quite a lot of people to attend the memorial ceremony at their home.

[Top](#)

Interview with student leader Ko Ko Gyi on HIV/AIDS crisis in Burma – Part I

17, August, 2006

The recent disruption of the Waso robes offering ceremony organised by HIV/AIDS sufferers by the Burmese authority using force, was unfortunate and regrettable, 88 Generation Students told DVB.

The action is the ruthless destruction of the mental health of the patients who are yearning for their community's sympathy and understanding, the students said. The following is an interview with student leader Ko Ko Gyi:

“I only learnt about it (the event) when the invitation card arrived. I was feeling strange (when I saw the invitation card). It was rather new for me. I have never seen it. And they themselves (the victims) want to do the religious donation. As they want to carry out the act of merit making for those who are in the same positions as theirs, I feel very happy and glad.

“Then we got the invitation thus, we asked how the schedule and the like were. (We were planning) to go on the morning of the day after the enquiry. (We felt that) we should go and encourage them with our presence and that will give them emotional strength; we went there with that intention.”

DVB: But the authorities banned this donation ceremony by means of force. What is your feeling on this?

KKG: “When we heard about this, we were very surprised and felt saddened. Then, when I saw the sufferers, I felt worse than what I had thought of them. They retold us (what had happened) with tears in their eyes. By just looking at them you know that they are (HIV/AIDS) sufferers. They have this posture (look) that yearns for human society's warm reaction.”

DVB: As far as we know, an international AIDS conference is being held in Canada. On the other hand, the international community is preparing to give aid to Burma in order to prevent this dire disease with 3 D (project). In this situation, as it is happening thus, couldn't there be any damage?

KKG: “It is quite damaging to our country and human society. In my view, it is quite damaging. The reason is, in our country, when we are faced with this kind of patients' (religious) donation and social affairs, religious affairs' problems, it is not only the concern of the authorities concerned, but also with the whole of our human society. If the outside world, the helpers (donors) misunderstand us, it will damage all of us, I feel.”

DVB: Another thing, as far as we know, district chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein who is ruling millions of people, banned (the ceremony) because the red ribbon in the invitation card of the HIV/AIDS made him think that the event was organised by a political organisation. What does Ko Ko Gyi have to say about it?

KKG: “In fact, this person might be a very talented soldier in the battlefield as a soldier. This is his specialist field, of course. When he comes to work in this kind of

administrative field which is his not specialist field, he might lack the experience of dealing with normal civilians.

“Another thing, when you deal with millions of people, educational, health, social matters and the like are very wide, he might think that the HIV/AIDS red ribbon is a political symbol. In my view, in a lot of the HIV educational stickers, there are of a lot red ribbons. But he didn’t seem to know.

“Amid these, the resistance in his heart is; we have to crush, oppose and oppress when it comes to the activities of political activists; he has that mindset. Therefore, he could not see the normal and clear actions as they are.

“There, I came to see how (destructive) the propagandas with the slogans to oppose and destroy are and how much they are threatening our national reconciliation.”

[Top](#)

Student leader Ko Ko Gyi on HIV/AIDS crisis in Burma – Part II

18, August, 2006

Here, Ko Ko Gyi expresses his concerns on the way the military authorities are fomenting hostility and hatred among Burmese people including religious communities through ignorance and intimidations.

DVB: On that day (13 Aug?), around the monastery there were people holding hoes and dahs (machetes) showing their strength and intimidation as if they were (suspected to be) members of Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) or People’s Power Holders, we heard. When you saw these people, how did you feel?

KKG: “When we saw them, we were feeling rather uneasy. We saw a group of people with new hoes, new dahs and new weapons lining up as if they were going to carry out clearing duties. They were (looked like) people who are quite poor and deprived, actually.

“When we came out (of the monastery), their faces were quite tense. I don’t know if someone told them that these people (we) were ‘destructive elements’. Then, when they were glancing at us rather timidly, we smiled at them and greeted them, and they were also surprised and greeted us in return.”

“There, what I saw was, in our country, there are (efforts) to divide the people among themselves without them knowing; (with the slogans) we have to oppose these people, we have to destroy these people and the like. Without having wide knowledge, (people) are nailed with these ideas and hostility. By looking at these, I am feeling a lot of sadness for the society. If we go on like this, our human society will become a dangerous human society.

“And then, the election was held (in 1990) with the slogan of building of a multi-party system. (Political) parties were allowed to be registered. Then, intimidations were carried out with mobs, by using the public with hostility among themselves; these are the things that make me think how could we build the future multi-party system.”

DVB: What do you have to say to these people who do not understand (the whole picture) and exploited?

KKG: “As for these people who came along without knowing what is happening, bearing hostility, we have to have patience with them with understanding as much as possible.

“In the end, let’s say, the district authority chairman, (for instance). This person must have had carried out his duties for the nation with his position and his personal history. But he did something she should not have done due to misinformation and misunderstanding. Then, he carried out intimidations where he shouldn’t have. These might be due to lack of knowledge and widespread openness. And there might be a thought for currying favours from higher authorities. (He might think?) if I destroyed these people and dealt with them thus, (but) if problems arose, who would suffer most when the country is damaged; how this person should be taken action against and the like. These are the things that should not happen.”

DVB: As far as we know, the authorities were unable to say legally why the HIV/AIDS sufferers’ donation ceremony (at Maggin Monastery in Rangoon Thinganggyun Township) was banned. Another thing, the township Sangha Maha Nayaka (Top Monks) Organisation ordered the abbots at Maggin Monastery not to accept donations (from AIDS sufferers and pro-democracy activists). How does Ko Ko Gyi assess this situation?

KKG: “When the township Sangha Maha Naya chairman summoned (the abbots from Maggin Monastery, (he said) we banned you thus because of the order from above. (He told the abbots) you must not accept this donation. Amid this, you will be disrobed and you could be arrested. Therefore, this is not the kind of words a monk should utter. Therefore, the life of monks, a monkish organisation is the order of Lord (Buddha) and the precepts. It should be like that. By going beyond this boundary, against the public or because of other reasons, a monk should not do this kind of intimidation or utter reckless words outside the religious precepts.

s“What I mean is, in civilian organisations, (or) in robe wearing monkish organisations, the rule of law and precepts are laws. Is the rule of law deteriorating? If so, it is very dangerous to human society. All the authorities, the elders should be weary of this and repair it as soon as possible and take it very seriously; that’s how I assess all what had happened.

[Top](#)

Burmese prisoners Nyi Nyi Oo and Than Zaw not well

18, August, 2006

The health conditions of two National League for Democracy (NLD) youth members from Rangoon Thayin Township, Nyi Nyi Oo and Than Zaw who have been detained since 1989, are in a worrying state, according to their family members.

Nyi Nyi Oo, who is currently being detained at Taungoo Jail in central Burma is said to be suffering acute high blood pressure, and his condition has been worsened by being forced to sleep on the concrete floor, a family member of his told DVB.

Than Zaw, who is being detained at Thayet Prison in upper Burma is said to be suffering from 'swollen gut' disease and this life threatening condition could only be repelled by having an urgent operation, his family members insisted.

The two were arrested in 1989, along with 15 other people, on suspicion planting a bomb at Tanyin but the military intelligence agents were unable to capture the real culprits. Although other 15 suspects who were given death sentences, life and lengthy jail terms had been released, the two are continued to be detained because they are NLD members.

[Top](#)

Burmese prisoners at Tharawaddy Jail endure contagious diseases

19, August, 2006

Due to the negligence of prison authorities, many inmates at the notorious Tharawaddy Jail have been enduring contagious diseases, according to their relatives who went to visit the prison recently.

The situation inside the prison became worse after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff were barred from visiting prisoners by the Burmese authorities since last year, a family member of a prisoner told DVB.

“The health condition of people inside the prison is not good. They are suffering from eye infections (and) cholera. There is no casualty like it was in 2005. I heard there are many TB, AIDS sufferers. I also learnt that there is no proper medical care or treatment.”

[Top](#)

Student leader Min Ko Naing on HIV/AIDS crisis in Burma

18, August, 2006

Min Ko Naing insisted that the harassments of HIV/AIDS patients and the ignorance of the Burmese authorities on the matter are warning signs to the international donors to reassess their plan of giving help through the military government.

“I was at the ‘soon’ (nourishment for monks) offering ceremony organised by (HIV/AIDS) patients this morning (for ex-political prisoner Than Lwin who died recently of AIDS). I had a chance to talk to them.

“There, in previous months, they were staying together in a house (hired by the National League for Democracy in Rangoon). Patients who came from Taungdwingyi (in central Burma) for medical treatments, when they first arrived, they had to be carried on the shoulders. They were only bones and skins. Now, they are able to go about nearly like normally people, almost like other people.

“They have been treated warmly by human society (the community). And they have revived with the knowledge that they are being taken along by the hand. Now, they themselves are looking after and treating other patients who are suffering worse conditions; I saw that with my own eyes. It is a very encouraging situation.

“Some patients were told you would only last a couple of months. Just make merits, there is no other method. There, patients just fell down bang, bang. What it’s like is trying to teach someone to ride a bicycle. You stabilise (the bike) from behind. (But) with the knowledge that they are being stabilised, they are pedalling with fear. (In fact,) it’s even not necessary to stabilise it for them from behind. We understand that we need to make them feel warm (accepted?) by connecting them with caring people of human society.”

But the authorities of the wards do not see the patients the way Min Ko Naing sees them. They are still telling local people that if AIDS sufferers are kept in the ward, the disease will spread to the whole ward.

“I just want to comment on the level of knowledge on health matter of the authority organisations concerned. What the ward level authorities are saying is the disease will spread through their (the patients’) urine, bowel etc. Therefore, their view is HIV spreads through urine and bowel. They are mixed up with how the plague and cholera spread. If they even don’t know that, regional authorities’ level of knowledge is threatening the national health.

“And more than that, higher authorities are saying is the (religious/social) events of the patients could not be allowed in my territory; they issue order thus. These actions are giving the answer as to how our country is showing its interest in the patients (and) what kind of attitude they are treating the patients with.

“Therefore, if the authority organisations on various levels do not understand how the disease spread, and if they do not keep merciful heart on patients, and treat and regard them as undeserving evil people who could not be accepted by human society, I can’t see that humanitarian helps given by the international community will be effective. Even if you want to educate the authorities, the courses could not be opened before. That is the kind of pragmatic work (needed to be carried out?).”

In this situation, would the US\$100m aid requested from the international community to fight AIDS and other major diseases be pragmatic? Min Ko Naing answered:

“We have repeatedly said (about this). The organisation currently holding power, discuss and cooperate with domestic (political) forces. After that, lay down an environment in accordance with the international standard and accepted by it. If help came through that environment, work could be done pragmatically. If you don’t reach that point and just cooperate with the government only, you are facing many difficulties in reality. When the international community is taking along the patients sympathetically by the hand, these thug-like treatments of them (by the Burmese military authorities) are still

occurring, and today, not only me but also the sufferers and people who are working pragmatically (on the ground) are demanding that the organisations who are giving help pragmatically reassess (their plan the diseases through the military government).

[Top](#)

Political prisoner Saw Min Naing deteriorates in Burma's Taungoo Jail

22, August, 2006

Political prisoner Saw Myint Naing who has been serving a lengthy jail term at Taungoo Jail, Pegu Division in central Burma, suffered a severe stroke paralysing him waist down, and has been receiving treatment in the prison clinic, according to sources close to his family.

In December, Myint Naing's lower body became weak and suffered a mild form of paralysis due to vitamin deficiency and weak nerve muscle. He is also said to be suffering from depression.

Myint Naing, a native of Pegu was only 15 years old, studying at the Ninth Standard when he was arrested in 1999 for his role in the foiled 9999 uprising and sentenced to 24 years in jail.

His father was fired from his civil servant job in stock breeding and fishery department as the direct result of his involvement, and his sister had to leave the school and work as a cheroot roller in order to support the family.

[Top](#)

Another political prisoner dies in Burmese jail

23, August, 2006

A Burmese political prisoner who was actively involved in the 1988 nationwide pro-democracy uprising and sentenced to life, died in the notorious Insein Jail recently, according to sources close to political prisoners.

Around 60 year old Nyunt Yin, originally from Ngamoeyeik Project-32 Ward, Thinganggyun Township had been imprisoned since 1988 for her involvement in the uprising, and she was believed to have died from vomiting blood around 15 August, although the exact date of her death is not known.

As there was no one to look after her, her remains was buried by the prison, according to the sources. Nyunt Yin's death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment and she died at the prison clinic where she was treated for her deteriorating condition.

[Top](#)

Prisoner Khin Kyaw's health deteriorates

23, August, 2006

The health condition of Khin Kyaw who was given a sentence for allegedly breaking national security laws, is said to be deteriorating in Rangoon Insein Jail.

30-year old Khin Kyaw from Rangoon Kamayut Township was hospitalised on 15 July at the prison clinic but his condition hasn't improved and he is now even vomiting blood, according to his wife Thandar.

She requested the authorities to allow her husband to be treated in a proper hospital outside the prison but there has been no response from them. It has been more difficult to provide healthcare to prisoners since the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was not allow to visit the prisons since last year, she added.

Kamayut Township National League for Democracy (NLD) youth member Khin Kyaw was arrested on 22 December 2005 and sentenced to life on 12 June. Those who were arrested the same time as him, Alon Township NLD chairman Ba Myint, member Ba Tint , Aung Myo San from Kamayut Township and Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) member Thet Naing Aung, were also given life sentences.

Appeals submitted on their behalf were also rejected by every level of courts and NLD lawyers are preparing to lodge the last special appeal for them on 29 August.

[Top](#)

Burma opposition rejects junta's accusations

25, August, 2006

Burma's military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) newspapers today accused the new British ambassador to Burma, Mark Canning of meeting 'unlawful organisations resorting to improper means, with excuses for cooperation in health sector'.

The papers said that Canning met with Chairman of National League for Democracy (NLD) Aung Shwe, Secretary Lwin and central executive committee members at the NLD headquarters in Rangoon on 21 August. And in the evening, he also met with Aye Tha Aung, Naing Tun Thein, Kyin Shin Htan and Htaung Hko Htan of Committee representing people's Parliament (CRPP), 'an unlawful organization formed with the so-called representatives of the people's parliament', at the British Club next to his residence. The papers added that the ambassador was going to meet with renowned 88 generation student leaders Min Ko Naing and Htay Kywe in the coming days.

This is the second time the new British ambassador was attacked in print by the junta, and the first was on Wednesday when the junta accused him of violating diplomatic code of conduct for visiting the office of election-winning NLD in Rangoon.

The latest attack came at the time the opposition groups are discussing the effectiveness of US\$ 36m given to Burma by Britain to fight tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS, popularly known as 3-D(isease) Fund.

If Britain really wishes to take part in the task of controlling the said diseases with true goodwill for Myanmar (Burmese) people, it should make coordination and cooperation with the Health Ministry for the matter, instead of holding secrete meetings with unlawful organizations and political agents that never represent the nation and the

people as such acts are not the correct ways and lacking goodwill,' warned the mouthpieces of the junta.

A British official denied that the meetings were secret insisting that they were part of the ambassador's normal duties.

At the same time, Htaung Hko Htan said that the CRPP is made up of representatives who won the 1990 election and he insisted that the junta is not even a de jure government. He added that the NLD leaders, ethnic national leaders and student leaders expressed their concern that the majority of help given might be 'wasted' but the ambassador assured them that there are many working methods to ensure that effective help could be given to the patients.

Similarly, student leader Min Ko Naing, described by the junta as a political agent, gave his reaction on the accusations as follows:

"As far as we understand, as for the diplomats, they have to meet freely with international non-government organisations or organisations and person they feel they need to see as part of the working process. If they assume that they should not meet, they would not meet with organisations and persons. Therefore, the choice of the people concerned is binding and vital. The criticisms on the choice of the people concerned will never be logical."

When asked what his response on the junta's claim that the Ministry of Health is mainly responsible for health sector of Burma and nobody else, Min Ko Naing replied:

"When it comes to the humanitarian helps, we had already issued our attitudes clearly earlier on. Therefore, from the point of view of the donors, there must be guarantees that the things they want to donate reach the hand of donation receivers. There must be safeties. For this, they always need to assess whether their projects are really effective. What we want to say is they must have the right to assess. If there are unjust hindrances, uncertainties, insecurities, they must have the rights to demand (accountability?) from the authorities concerned. They must be able to assess (the situation?) resulting from the demands. They have to assess all the time. After assessing whether there are (improvements?) or not, they have to continue to demand what they should demand. We welcome this."

[Top](#)

Burmese political prisoners mark the anniversary of inmate's death

26, August, 2006

Political prisoners in Moulmein Jail in southern Burma, today marked the sixth anniversary of the untimely death of one of the inmates, former army officer Captain Win Bo, according to sources close to the prison.

Win Bo urged Buddhist monks at Maha Gandayon Monastery, Amarapura in central Burma to persuade Burma's military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to hold political dialogues with the main opposition party, the National League

for Democracy (NLD) led by Aung San Suu Kyi, as soon as possible for the sake of the country.

His suggestion was accepted by the monks and they duly wrote a letter to the SPDC, signed it and sent it in 1999. For all his efforts and good intention, Win Bo was sentenced to 21 years in his prison.

The prison authorities bore grudges on Win Bo who was known to be righteous and forthright, and on 26 August 2000, he was accused of causing an unrest in the prison and beaten to death by them.

It is not known how the current prison governor, a man by the name of Mogyo Aung, is going to take action on prisoners for their latest activities.

[Top](#)

Treatments of political prisoners in Burma

26, August, 2006

A political prisoner at Rangoon Insein Jail was barred from seeing his family members for a month for 'talking back' to the prison authority.

30-year old Nyan Lin Tun (a.k.a.) Nyan Gyi of 1996 generation student was barred from seeing his family members on 12 August because he reacted to the abuses hurled on him from the main warder, according to sources close to political prisoners.

Nyan Lin Tun was actively involved in the 1996 student protests and made contact with the exiled All Burma Federation Student Union (Foreign Affairs Committee) in 1999. In 2003, he was arrested for distributing pamphlets on the 83rd anniversary of Burma's National Day and indicted under section 5-J of the notorious Emergency Provision Act and Section 7/11 of the Unlawful Association Act, and sentenced to 22 years in jail.

Similarly, another political Thiha Tun, who is serving a seven year sentence for staging a solo protest outside Rangoon City Hall in 1999, was sent to a mental asylum cell for singing political songs. He was told by prison authorities that he was not feeling well and forced into the cell.

The condition for prisoners is said to have deteriorated palpably after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff were barred from visiting the prisons at the end of last year.

[Top](#)

Ko Ko Gyi says Burma junta's media reports harmful for reconciliation

26, August, 2006

The 1988 generation students have warned that the junta dailies' undisciplined writings and allegations could pose a hindrance to attempts for national reconciliation.

The junta's mouthpiece, the New Light of Myanmar reported today that the 1988 generation students' meeting with the British ambassador and their visit to Kale and

Kalewa are attempts to incite public unrest. Ko Ko Gyi, one of the 1988 generation student leaders, issued this warning.

“This is a leisure trip and I duly notified the responsible officials before my departure. At the towns that I visited, local officials also came and saw me. My expectations were, in building understanding and confidence towards national reconciliation, although I am unable to meet with the top leaders at the moment, if I am able to meet with local officials during my visits and gain their understanding then it is a bonus. When I reached Kale I thought of visiting Tamu (Indo-Burmese border town) to gain some knowledge but I decided not to, to avoid misunderstanding because it is close to the border. But when I returned I came across this news report in the newspapers (that they came to the region with the scheme to destroy regional peace and stability). Usually they will write something and we will give our rebuttal and this will go on, so I remain silent to avoid all this. What happened was the newspaper cited that it was the view of the locals from Kale. This is a very harmful news report written at a time when we are working towards national reconciliation. Does this mean the top-level responsible officials did not know? Or is this the work of irresponsible personnel because I have duly notified responsible officials about my itinerary? Or, I wonder whether anarchy is reigning because the organizations seem to have no correlation whatsoever with each other.”

The junta dailies have increased their attacks on the democratic forces and this is the third time this week. This tactic was also used by Gen Khin Nyunt’s military intelligence apparatus but not to this extent. They would use pseudonyms to write articles to present their views and opinions. At present in Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw San’s era, the press blatantly attacks the opposition in the form of a news report. Rangoon-based correspondents said the persons writing such news do not seem to have the faintest idea of journalistic ethics and diplomatic code of conduct and they fear the reports will push national reconciliation expectations further away.

[Top](#)