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Chin Human Rights Organization

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[Photo: CNF]



[Photo: CHRO]

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Arbitrary Taxation & Extortion

School Textbooks Forcibly Sold to Students

8 February 2012:

School learning materials including textbooks and notebooks have been sold in advance for the years 2012-2013 in Zawngte Village Tract, Falam Township, Chin State, according to Chin Human Rights Organization's sources.

U Thura, headmaster of a middle school in Zawngte Village Tract ordered Primary students to buy the remaining syllabuses of the Secondary classes for the years 2011-12 on 3 February 2012.

"The Burmese headmaster has forcibly sold the remaining textbooks of 2011-2012 to students from Grade 5 to 7 and notebooks to each student from kindergarten to Grade 4 since 1 February 2012," said a female student from the area.

"16 students of Grade 5 have been forced to buy textbooks of Grade-6 Mathematics Volume II at the price of 350 kyats, 13 students of Grade 6 to Grade-7 Mathematics Volume II and History with 700 kyats, 9 Grade-7 students to four textbooks for 2,300 kyats and 16 primary students from Haimual Village to one notebook with 500 kyats," said a local student.#

Families in Hakha Demanded Money for 'Chin State Day' Celebration

"We are much discouraged that the new authority is still preparing to put up a banner against the will of the people. We celebrate the 20th February for the Chin National Day, not for Chin State Day..."

17 February 2012: The Chin State government demanded financial contributions from each family in Hakha, Chin State for a celebration that will mark the 64th anniversary of Chin National Day on 20 February.

Families are forcibly asked to donate a total amount of between 1,500 and 2,000 kyats each for the celebration, which starts tomorrow with a banner supposedly reading 'Chin State Day', according to sources from Hakha.

One local, who is working for an NGO, told *Chinland Guardian* that her family was asked to give 1,500 kyats while another household was known to have contributed 2,000 kyats for the event.

When asked about the demanded contribution towards celebrating the auspicious day, a female accountant from Hakha, who asks not to be named, said the people are not happy

as they have already got fed up with a series of financial demands from the authorities over the past several years.

Some locals showed their disappointment over the name of the celebration, adding: "What we have contributed is not for what will be celebrated."

"We are much discouraged that the new authority is still preparing to put up a banner against the will of the people. We celebrate the 20th February for the Chin National Day, not for Chin State Day. We all think that the new government have changed to listen to the people's voices, but they seem to have proved wrong till today," one of the Hakha youth leader told *Chinland Guardian*.

Meanwhile, two Burmese liquor companies from outside Chin State, PMG and Grand Company, have reportedly arrived in Hakha in advance to prepare for selling alcoholic drinks at the three-day celebration.

A local community group called 'The Hakha Youth Fellowship (HYF)' is

claimed to have lodged an appeal letter to the Chief Minister of Chin State government on 3 February 2012 in an effort to prohibit the sale of alcoholic drinks during the event.

The youth leader said: "We haven't received any response from the authority. And we have learned from government sources that our letter is not even looked at yet. Chief Minister Hung Ngai was claimed to have questioned if HYF can manage to raise 1,00 lakh kyats for the cost of celebration."

"We are now just wondering how much money these two liquor companies have possibly bribed the authority in order to get permission to import and sell alcohol during the official celebration," added the Chin youth leader, who asks not to be named.

In foreign countries, a series of celebrations with a banner reading 'Chin National Day' is being prepared by Chin communities worldwide to mark the 64th anniversary.

In Chin State and other parts of

Burma, the military authorities had banned the use of 'Chin National Day' and forced the local organizing committee to put up a banner of 'Chin State Day'.

Speaking to *Chinland Guardian* last year, Salai Ceu Bik Thawng, General Secretary of Chin National Party (CNP), said: "We clearly state in our manifesto that the new Parliament and Government should have a proper consideration and discussion over this issue. We will keep on working hard in the interest of our people."

In his message on Chin National Day celebration, Dr. Za Hlei Thang (MP) once said a conference attended by representatives from all over the region was held in Falam and then on the 20th February 1948 in accordance with the people's wishes, they decided to choose a democratic administrative system rather than primitive feudal administrative system, adding: "Hence the 20th of February became the National day for the Chin people. From that time, we became united, understood each other and recognized the importance of the Chin nation."#

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Land Forcibly Seized from Local for Dam Construction

21 February 2012: A two-acre plot of land belonging to a Chin local has been forcibly taken hold of for dam construction in Phaiza village in Tedim Township of Chin State, a land owner informed the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

"The land sizing about half acre was transformed into cultivation in 1967 by the owner and has been registered officially. It has been in his possession for 45 years. U Nang Do, the village headman, seized the land without giving any information to the owner," said one of the locals, who was forced to work on the dam construction.

After an NGO based in Tedim Township transferred the whole project to the village headman following their meeting on 18 August 2011, U Nang Do was in charge of the dam construction with a total budget of 10million Kyats.

About 120 villagers were forced to dig up the ground for the dam construction on 1 September 2011 after the village headman took over, according to a local who worked on the site.

Majority of the villagers are claimed to be unhappy about the dam construction project, which involves forced labor without any compensation. "No one is sure whether the land owner will get any compensation for his land confiscated for the dam construction," added the local villager.#

Other Human Rights Violations

**“... the
Burmese
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local
authorities and
Commanding
Officer of
Burma Army
Light Infantry
Battalion No.
89 based in
Lungler.”**

Lungler Buddhist Monk Abbot Accused of Bootlegging

09 January 2012:

@ Buddhist monk abbot in Lungler village of Thantlang Township, Chin State has been covertly engaged in trading and selling alcohol to the locals, according to confirmed sources.

The Burmese monk is accused of secretly offering alcoholic drinks for sale to the people, which has been prohibited by the local community.

One of the community leaders told Chinland Guardian: "We are gobsmacked to have learned that a religious leader gets involved in this kind of business. We have been working hard to put restrictions on alcoholic consumption among the local people but we felt like the monk has opened the back door."

Burmese teacher Sayama Shwe Yin Htay and her husband are known to have purchased alcohol by bike from Thantlang Town to sell in Lungler village which is about 35 miles away, according to the

community leader, whose name is not revealed.

Sources confirmed that the Buddhist monk and the Burmese teacher couple are secretly working together.

The Chin leader also said that the Burmese Buddhist monk has once been warned not to be involved in the non-religious business by the local authorities and Commanding Officer of Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion No. 89 based in Lungler.

"He [the monk] didn't seem to listen to the warning. But he still secretly keeps selling alcohol. And no proper action has been taken against him on this account by the authorities," added the local leader.

The construction of Buddhist pagoda in Lungler village, started in early 2008, was completed in July 2009 with its opening ceremony attended by seven Burmese Buddhist monks and the then Tactical Commander No. 1 General Hung Ngai (now Chief Minister of Chin State).

Locals from Lungler and its nearby villages suffered from a series of forced labour, portering, contribution, and money extortion during the building of the pagoda, according to the Chin locals.#

Pagoda in Lungler Village [Photo: CHRO/LL]





Pu Kam Lam Khup

Pu Anthony Kap Khan Khual

**Pu Kam Lam Khup
recieved a 33-year jail
-term while Anthony
Kam Lam Khup was
sentenced to eight
years in jail
ollowing the 2007
Saffron
Revolution.**

Two Chin Activists Confirmed Released

13 January 2012: Two prominent Chin political activists are among the 651 prisoners reportedly released on Friday under an Executive Pardon as part of a series of reforms undertaken by the Burma's new government.

Relatives have confirmed the release of Pu Kam Lam Khup a.k.a Ko Kyaw Soe and Anthony Kap Khan Khual who were arrested in late 2007 for their roles in the famous 'Saffron Revolution' led by Burmese monks.

Speaking to *Chinland Guardian*, Pu Cin Sian Thang, President of the Zomi National Congress said, "Both my son and nephew have been released and are being escorted home at the moment."

Pu Kam Lam Khup, the son of Pu Cin Sian Thang, was sentenced to 33 years in prison and had served four years at Myaungmya Prison. Kap Khan Khual, Cin Sian Thang's nephew, had also served four years of his eight-year sentence at Patheingyi Prison when he

was released late last night.

Pu Kam Lam Khup recieved a 33-year jail-term conviction under the Unlawful Association Act, the Electronic Act and Immigration Act, while Anthony Kam-lam Khup was sentenced to eight years in jail under the Electronic Act following the 2007 Saffron Revolution.

"The order took effect at 5 o'clock this morning. But they were actually released last night and are now on their way home," Pu Cin Sian Thang said.

Asked if the two were required to sign a pledge as a condition of their release, Pu Cin Sian Thang told *Chinland Guardian* that there were no such conditions. However, the prisoners were told by the authorities that they were being released out of the good will of President Thein Sein so that they can participate in the 'nation-building process.'

Chinland Guardian is unable to immediately confirm whether any other ethnic Chin political prisoners have been freed on Friday.#

Reporting by Salai Nyein Chan



[Photo: CG]

“Dr. Khine Khine Myint insulted the destitute conditions of education, economy and social relationship of the Chin people in front of all the students in the class.”

Govt. Medical Staff Ignored Patients after Argument

10 February 2012: A couple of medical staff assigned by Government Medical Department to provide treatment to local patients in Falam Township, Chin State cancelled their program after quarrelling with the villagers.

A Zawngte local told the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) that a doctor from Falam Civil Hospital and a nurse from Hakha Civil Hospital arrived in Zawngte village on 4 February 2012 to give medical treatment to patients from Lairal Village Tracts infected with seasonal influenza.

“In the evening of 4 February 2012, there was a meeting with members of village administrations, parents and village elders, where the medical staff expressed their disappointment over mes-

sages posted on the internet slamming the health department of Chin State,” added the villager.

“The village elders and members of village administration said that they were not the ones posting the messages and didn’t know anything about it. The medical staff kept accusing them of being responsible. And a serious argument broke out and the medical staff went back to Thantlang on 5 February 2012,” continued the villager.

The medical staff were said to have gone back straight to Thantlang Town without providing any medical treatment to the flu-infected patients.

When the disease broke out in December 2011, a team of medical doctors from Naypyidaw and Falam Civil Hospital came to the region giving treatment to patients but went back before the patients were cured.#

College Lecturer Accused of Using Racial Slur against Chin Students

13 February 2012: A Chin student group at Pakokku College lodged a formal letter to the rector, accusing an assistant lecturer of Botany department of using racial remarks against Chin students in her class.

The Chin Literature and Culture Committee (CLCC) demanded on Thursday that an appropriate action be taken against Dr. Daw Khine Khine Myint over her denigrating racial comments during her lecture session between 1pm and 2pm on 2 February 2012.

“Dr. Khine Khine Myint insulted the destitute conditions of education, economy and social relationship of the Chin people in front of all the students in the class. She even used such words as ‘dirty and rotten’ referring to the ethnic Chin,” said the complaint letter sent to the college authority.

The letter also stressed that the slur on the Chin students was not accidental but intentional as it was the second time the Burmese assistant lecturer has made such abusive comments in the class.

“This kind of racial discrimination will definitely have negative impacts on ethnic unity and undermine our mutual understanding as well as trust between students and teachers. Therefore, this issue must be dealt with seriously,” added the letter.

With Chin State being the only state having no secular college or university in the whole country of Burma, Chin students especially from villages in remote areas have got difficulties in going to further studies beyond the matriculation.

Burma has got 150 plus universities and colleges administered by various government ministries, according to sources.#

Humanitarian Situation

More Humanitarian Aid Likely to Flow into Chin State

17 January 2012:

In light of Burma's current political development as a whole and the recent CNF-Chin State government agreeing to a ceasefire, it is likely that the country's poorest state will have better opportunities for humanitarian assistance.

The 9-point agreement of the ceasefire deal between the Chin National Front (CNF) and Chin State government includes a provision that Chin State will be designated as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), meaning major economic development is to be introduced into the remote northwestern region.

Speaking to *Chinland Guardian*, Dr. Sui Khar, leader of the CNF delegation, said: "With the designation of Chin State as the Special Economic Zone, it will help commercialize local products and create jobs. But at the same time there will be monitoring of environmental impact of developments and protection of Chin State from influx of foreigners."

The agreement also stipulates that international non-governmental organizations will be allowed free access to Chin State so that they can tackle pressing issues such as poverty, health and education.

In its report released on 11 January 2012, the Refugees International (RI) urged humanitarian donors particularly the EU, UK and US governments to increase humanitarian and disaster risk reduction assistance inside Burma as the new government shows a willingness to cooperate with humanitarian agencies.

Last week, Mr. Paul Whittingham, Head of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), said a funding of £10million will be provided for microfinance projects in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan States, the central dry zone and the Irrawaddy delta.

In 2008, DFID responded to the devastating food crisis in Chin State with a financial support of an estimated 1million US dollars through UN agencies, including UNDP and WFP following a meeting between Deputy Director of DFID in London and a Chin delegation.

Last year, the Indian government made a surprising financial contribution of 8 million US dollars to improve the 'long-neglected' situation of health, education, road and social conditions in Chin State.

One of the local community leaders in Hakha, Chin State told *Chinland Guardian*: "It is great that we now can breathe more freely. We have heard about development projects and issues being discussed from here and there but only time will tell whether they are delivered effectively for the people. After having lived in the darkness for so long, it is not that easy for us to immediately put our complete trust on the government."

During a closed-door meeting with representatives and leaders of 21 development and humanitarian agencies in Hakha Town late last year, Chin State government warned the works of any NGOs should not include anything that would disturb or interfere with the government.

Meanwhile, Chin State remains off limit to tourists, with an exception of a small part in the southern region.#



[Photo: CHRO/BN]



Chin Extends Donation to Help Kachin Refugees

11 February 2012: As Burma's ongoing military attacks in Kachin State displace an increasing number of thousands of refugees, Chin communities worldwide continue their humanitarian support for the conflict-affected victims.

Recently, the Kachin News reported a donation of 13,013.90 US dollars was made to assist Kachin refugees by the World Zomi Congress (WZC), an organization representing Chin people in America.

At a ceremony at the Vickery Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas where the contribution was handed over, Pu Thang Lian, General Secretary of WZC, was quoted as saying that the Chin group stands behind the Kachin in the struggle against Burma's military authorities.

In its January 2012 report, UN-OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) said the total number of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) has increased to over 55,000 in mid-January this year.

More armed clashes have still taken place in Kachin

State over the last two days between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Burma Army soldiers although a 'peace talk' meeting is scheduled next week, according to the Kachin News.

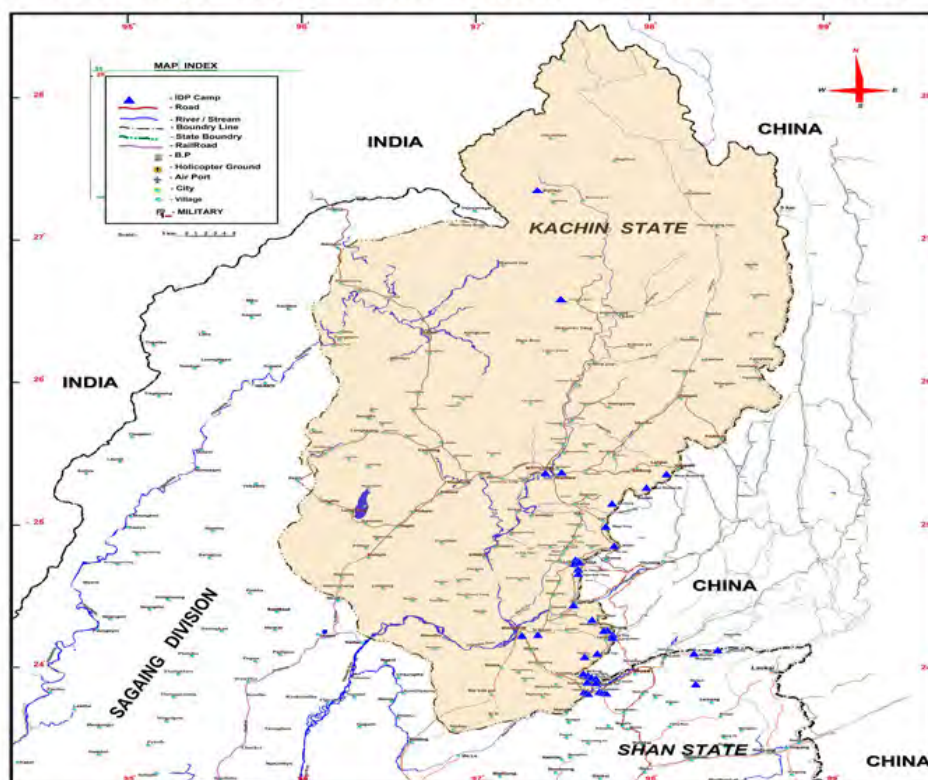
The World Zomi Congress (WZC) strongly condemns the ruthless actions and brutalities committed against ethnic peoples by Burma Army soldiers.

Late last year, Chin communities and churches including the Zomi Baptist Convention (ZBC) based in Falam, Chin State, the Norway Chin Christian Federation (NCCF), Chin churches based in Australia's Melbourne, a Chin humanitarian group in India's Aizawl of Mizoram State, and Chin refugees in Malaysia also made financial contribution towards helping Kachin refugees.

In October 2011, a delegation of six Chin Christian pastors from Chin State made a humanitarian visit to Kachin State, meeting with leaders of the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) and other Kachin churches that look after conflict-displaced refugees.

In 2008, a total of 53 Kachin Christian pastors made a historical trip to Chin State, paying their brotherly visit to the Chin people as histories claimed the Chin are the elder of the two.##

IDP Camps Map in Kachin State & Northern Shan State



IDP List updated by 26 January, 2012

No.	Name of Camp	Total
1	Laiza Muklum Camp (4)	5278
2	Je Yang Hka Camp	5388
3	Hpun Lum Yang camp	1257
4	Dumbung Camp	561
5	Maga Yang camp	1730
6	Pa Jau camp	177
7	Zai Awng camp (Sadung)	3580
8	Masat Shadaw 10 camp (Sadung)	334
9	Masat Shadaw 8 camp (Sadung)	1122
10	Masat Sadaw 6 camp (Sadung)	507
11	Wut Maw, Shing Jai (Sadung)	914
12	Northern division (Sumprabum, Putao)	1662
13	Eastern division (Maijayang)	16230
14	Western division (Monyein district)	3473
15	Southern division (northern Shan State)	3200
	Total	45413

(Source: IDPs, Refugees Relief Committee - IRRIC)



Food Shortages to Worsen in Southern Chin State: UN

11 February 2012: The food security condition in parts of Chin State is of great concern due to crop failures and an extreme reduction of yield in 2011, a report in January 2012 by UN-OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) said.

The report said the situation in southern areas of Burma's poorest state is getting worse than previous years and even more serious than during the rat infestation of 2008/9, according to the study.

Local villagers are running out of food stocks early this year and the next harvest will be available only in September 2012, added the report.

Rangoon-based the UN agency also said: "Available data indicates that severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels are above emergency thresholds in southern areas of the State."

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners are expected to soon release their findings of food security assessments conducted in Kanpetlet, Matupi and Mindat townships last month.

In the aftermath of the devastating bamboo-and-rat-related food crisis that has ravaged much of Chin State over the past few years, a renewed food shortage is on the cards to hit Chin villagers in at least four townships including Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat and Paletwa.

Many believe that the new government of Chin State,

which voices about the issues of development, will be judged on how well it handles the 'continued' food crisis facing the Chin locals in remote villages.

Since late 2006, Chin State has been plagued by a severe food shortage called *mautam* following a bamboo flowering phenomenon that triggered an explosion in the rat population and resulting in the destruction of crops.

In its report in July 2008, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) estimated from the field surveys that as many as 200 villages with no less than 100,000 people were directly affected by acute food shortages caused by *mautam*.

In 2010-2011, CHRO distributed relief assistance to about 60 villages in the most effected areas in southern Chin State with humanitarian support from the Czech government, Burma Center Prague and Global Health Access Program.

"We have been monitoring the situation closely since 2008 and the latest UN report just confirms what we have been saying all along. Immediate action should now be taken to address this crisis," says Salai Bawi Lian Mang, Executive Director of CHRO.

CHRO also notes that the various UN reports on poverty in Chin State do not take into account the human rights dimension to the crisis. It argues human rights violations against the Chin people, including forced labor and extortion, exacerbate poverty and undermine people's livelihood.

"Human rights violations need to stop in order to effectively address the issue of poverty in Chin State," adds Salai Bawi Lian Mang.#

10 School Toilets Built, Clothes Donated to Children in Falam

“... thousands of students now have better and cleaner facilities and those 300 children have now warm clothes. In a way we are also promoting health.”

13 February 2012: Ten high school toilets have been built and warm clothes donated to about 300 children in Falam Township, Chin State with fund raised by UK-based Chin graduate civil engineer.

Van Cung Lian raised a total amount of 1,810 British pounds by taking part in a half-marathon of The Great North Run 2011 in the UK on 18 September last year.

Three different schools in Falam Town have now got newly constructed toilets and children from one school in Falam and four villages in the township have enjoyed children wear jackets in the winter, according to his project report.

Saying thanks to those contributing towards the fund, Van Cung Lian remarked: "Your generosity has given the schools the best facilities they have never dreamt of before,

and now many children will be able to study, work and survive with very warm clothes."

"We have made massive difference to Falam school, thousands of students now have better and cleaner facilities and those 300 children have now warm clothes. In a way we are also promoting health," added the Chin engineer, who recently made a trip to Chin State.

He also said he worked closely with members of the Global Falam Youth Organization (GFYO) and Pu Tuak Sang, Vice Headmaster of No. 2 Basic Education High School in Falam, throughout the project until its completion.

Getting his bachelor degree from the University of Nottingham in the UK, Van Cung Lian works as a graduate civil engineer at Halcrow Group in Stock-on-Tees.#



[Photo: Van Cung Lian]

Event & Accident

2 Killed, 9 Injured in Car Accident in Chin State

09 February 2012:

A passenger-carrying jeep tumbled down the road between Falam Town and Zathlir village of Falam Township in Chin State yesterday, killing two passengers and injuring nine.

Two passengers Pu Kio Ling, from Ngalti village and Pu Khuang Sai Lo, from Hnahthial village, died instantly when the jeep had a brake problem on the notorious Rih Road in the morning.

Pu Thawng Bil said in his email: "We are much saddened by the death of the two respected fathers. We have learned that

those injured are also getting better today. Pu Kio Ling's wife is going to have an operation at the hospital."

The vehicle, which is badly damaged after violently rolling downhill a long distance off the road, is claimed to have been pulled out and taken to Falam Town today.

Belonging to a Chin local Pu Hrang Lawm and driven by Duh Lian C. Zamaual from Falam, the jeep had a total of 16 passengers when the accident took place around 8am yesterday.

Road accidents across Chin State since Burma's 2010 elections have claimed more than 40 lives and caused over 120 injuries only in 2011, according to *Chinland Guardian's* sources.#

Road accidents across Chin State since Burma's 2010 elections have claimed more than 40 lives and caused over 120 injuries only in 2011...

Singers from Burma to Celebrate Chin National Day in Malaysia

15 February 2012: A group of Burma's well-known Chin and Kachin singers Ms. Chaw Su Khin, Sangpi, Thun Kham and L. Lwin Wa are to entertain fans at the 64th Chin National Day celebration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A grand preparation of the much-awaited event is in full swing as thousands of people, mainly refugees and asylum seekers living in Malaysia, are expected to turn up to the celebration where the quartette will entertain.

One of the Chin community leaders in Malaysia said they are excited about the Chin National Day celebration this time round as it will include a variety of programmes on the day.

"In addition to the excitement about the singers' entertainment, we are planning to have a series of sessions for different Chin traditional dances, fashion shows in various Chin costumes, a Miss Chin-Malaysia beauty contest and so on."

With an entry fee of 10 Ringgits, the event is set to start from 10am to 5pm next Monday at the main hall of Wisma FGA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where over 45,000 Chin refugees are currently stranded after having fled from Chin State, Burma.

The singers are also scheduled to sing gospel songs at a night worship service programmed by the Zophei Christian Fellowship based in Pudu area of Kuala Lumpur on 20 February.#



CNF to Launch Chin-Govt Preliminary 'Peace-talk' DVD

16 February 2012: The Chin National Front (CNF) is to make a DVD production of the preliminary peace-talk procession recently held in Hakha with the Chin State government available for purchase early next week.

Edited in Thailand, the 90-odd-minute long documentary will be launched in most of Chin-residing countries across the globe on the Chin National Day, which falls on 20 February 2012.

The film features a whole cavalcade of the 'peace talk' between CNF and Chin State government with focus on an effusive welcome and support of the Chin public and on speeches delivered by members of two parties.

"We didn't have any plans to produce a documentary film like this. But as the event turned out to be unexpectedly receptive and surprising with such a massive support from the Chin public, we decided it is worth making a record of it," said a member of the DVD production team.

Reportedly amid warnings from the authorities, tens of thousands of Chin public turned up lining up in traditional dresses along the streets with banners and placards to give a warm welcome to members of the CNF delegation officially setting their feet back on their native places for the first time in more than 23 years.

The DVD contains a combination of various different

clips from the beginning of the CNF delegation arriving at the Tio River bordering India and Burma, the welcoming ceremonies across villages and towns up to Hakha, to the return journey towards the Indian-Burma border.

One of the Chin residents in Thailand, who reviewed the film, told Chinland Guardian: "It is a must-own piece of Chin historical events. Only after you watch the whole documentary, you will well realize the value of it."

The Chin National Front, an underground group fighting against Burma's successive regimes since 1988, held a two-day meeting with the Chin State government officials from 5-6 January, signing a 'ceasefire' agreement as the first step towards achieving a permanent peace in the country through a political dialogue offered by Thein Sein's administration.

In the 9-point preliminary agreement includes a provision for the Chin National Front to open up liaison offices in three locations and operational bases in three townships across Chin State.

In recognition of individual and collective contribution and support for its organization, the Chin National Front elected for the year 2011 Salai Van Lin Hmung from Norway as the Chinland Club's Person of the Year and the Australia Regional Committee as the best regional committee.

The Chin National Front (CNF) was formed on 20 March 1988, dedicated to securing the self-determination of the Chin people, to restore democracy, and to establish federal Union of Burma. More than 80 CNF members have sacrificed their lives over the past 23 years.#

Situation of Refugees

Chin Refugees Detained for Theft & Rape in Malaysia

10 January 2012: A mentally challenged Chin refugee, Mr. Cung Hnin, who was arrested for reportedly raping a Chinese woman in front of her husband at knife point, is still detained in Taring Lock-up in Malaysia.

The Chin refugee from Lungding village, Thantlang Township was said to have entered a house belonging to a Chinese couple under the influence of alcohol with a knife and scissors and committed rape last November, according to the Seihnam newsletter.

"He was reported to the police and arrested in the house. His village community and relatives have made attempts to get him out of jail but still in vain," said Mr. Lal Siam Mawi, Chairman of the Chin Disciplinary Action Committee (CDAC).

Another Chin refugee, Mr. Zaw Hang Ling, was finally caught early this month at the office of the Chin Refugee Committee (CRC) for stealing money from his community while trying to renew his CRC card in

Jalan Imbi of Kuala Lumpur.

He was handed over to the Matu community with the help of the Chin Disciplinary Action Committee (CDAC), according to the Faiceu journal, published weekly in Kuala Lumpur.

"Mr. Zaw Hang Ling agreed that he would make a payment of 500 Malaysian Ringgits every month for a year," said Mr. Lal Siam Mawi, CDAC Chairman.

The Chin Disciplinary Action Committee (CDAC) was formed in 2008 in order to minimize street fighting, local community's complaints and domestic problems caused by Chin refugees living in Malaysia. Around 400 volunteers participated in the program.

Recognising the effective works and achievements of CDAC for the community over the past few years, the UNHCR has taken steps towards assisting its activities.

The majority of around 50,000 Chin refugees in Malaysia live in the capital, Kuala Lumpur. #

Delhi Chin Refugees Face Violent Assaults by Local Indians

16 January 2012: Chin refugees from Burma stranded in New Delhi, India have suffered from a series of serious assaults in unprovoked attacks by local Indians.

Two refugees from Ngalti village of Falam Township in Chin State were beaten up in their small rented room by local Indians around 11pm on Thursday in New Delhi, India while having their dinner.

A 30-year-old Christian pastor is said to have lost his teeth and had other injuries on his head and body while an 18-year-old musician has suffered from injuries on his jaws, eyes, back and head, according to the Chin Human Rights Organiza-

tion (CHRO).

The Chin victims said a group of the local Indians forcefully broke into the house and started attacking them for no obvious reasons at night.

One of the victims told the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) that the attackers didn't ask for permission to enter the room but crashed the door which was locked from inside and started beating them up.

"We were badly beaten up and our belongings such as rice cooker were also smashed. They took two mobile phones and a total amount of 10,000 Indian Rupees from us," added the Chin refugee.

Later, some Indian police came to the scene but didn't intervene immediately to stop the attacks, ac-

cording to the victims, who have got serious injuries on their jaws, eyes, backs and heads.

With the help of their fellow refugees in association with the police, a report of the incident was filed to the local police department and the two were taken to the nearby hospital. "No action has been taken against the assailants and we are not given proper medical treatment," continued the Chin victim.

The two Chin victims are now in a hiding location in fear of further attacks, according to sources.

On 8 January 2012, another Chin refugee identified as Salai Mazawn and his friend were also attacked by some local Indians, who stopped their rickshaw on the way home from shopping after church service, according to the Chin World Media.

The two Chin refugees were said to have lost two mobile phones and 9,000 Rupees to the Indian assailants. The incident has been reported to the police and UNHCR based in Delhi but no action is taken as yet.

Currently, it is estimated that about 11,500 Chin refugees and asylum seekers from Burma living in New Delhi, India. #

Malaysian Govt to Conduct Major Crackdown on Undocumented Workers

06 February 2012 - KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian government is scheduled to carry out a major crackdown campaign on undocumented foreigners starting from 16 February, causing massive fear among refugees and migrants workers in the country.

Malaysia's National News Agency reported that the large scale operation will target on 1.3 million undocumented foreign workers who failed to legalize themselves under the 6P amnesty program.

The crackdown to be conducted by immigration, army, police and the unpopular RELA volunteer squad is causing great concern among refugees in the country who fear that they will be victimized under the program.

Last year, the government had forbidden the RELA Volunteer Corps to carry out enforcement on its own after several reports of corrupt practices. Some RELA members were reported collecting money illegally from undocumented foreign workers and refugees.

Right activists are also concerned that the detainee swap plan agreed by Kuala Lumpur and Naypyidaw

will put Burmese national detainees in danger once they are deported back to their home country.

Another concern is that such a big scale crackdown will cause congestion in immigration detention centers thereby causing other health and social problems among detainees.

It is estimated that more than two million foreign workers registered during the first stage of 6P program but less than half of them come forward for the second stage involving legalizing and 'whitening' process.

The major crackdown therefore is targeting on undocumented foreign workers who failed to register at the first stage of 6P and those who registered at the first stage but failed to come forward for the second stage.

Meanwhile under a parallel amnesty program up to 4th January this year, 3,167 out of 75,675 undocumented foreign workers from Burma have chosen to leave Malaysia voluntarily. #

Reporting by Thomas Chong

Chin Learning Center Won First Prize for Neighbourhood Cleaning Competition in Malaysia

19 February 2012: The Chin Diamond Learning Center, a community-based informal school run by Chin refugees in Malaysia, has won the first prize of community sanitation service competition organized by the UNHCR's Social Protection Fund (SPF).

Out of the total 23 groups participating in a neighbourhood cleaning-up service as a part of a competition under the Jom Gotong-Royong programme, the Chin Diamond Learning Center received the

highest score for best performance.

In a ceremony held at the Chinese Assembly Hall in Kuala Lumpur, the first prize of 3,000 Ringgits was presented to the Chin Diamond Learning Center, with the second award to the Kachin refugee community and the third to the Zomi Education Center.

Thanking UNHCR for organizing the programme, leader of the Chin Diamond Learning Center said their Malaysian neighbourhood was

so much impressed with the voluntary cleaning services, adding:

"They personally came out and helped us. Sometimes, they served us lunch and even provided their cars. The prize is due to parts of their support."

The clean-up service, which is aimed for refugees from other countries to give back to the local community, included sweeping the roadside, clearing up the drains and collecting rubbishes in the surrounding areas.

Started in November last year, the competition ended in January 2012 with UNHCR members conducting an evaluation on conditions at the sites of the clean-up in a bid to make decisions on the winner.

Last December, Lal Siam Mawi, of the Chin Disciplinary Action Committee (CDAC), was quoted by the New Straits Times as saying that the team has been cleaning up the area before the competition.

There are about 86,000 refugees coming from Burma out of an estimated total of 95,000 in Malaysia, of which over 45,000 are of Chin ethnicity. #

Chin State Government & Chin National Front



[Photo: CNF]

First Day of Peace Talks: Agreeing to Disagree

06 January 2012: The first day of peace talks between the Chin National Front (CNF) and the new State government in Hakha ended today with both parties 'agreeing to disagree' without any final formal agreement.

Speaking to Chinland Guardian at the end of Thursday's talks, CNF peace delegation team leader Dr. Sui Khar said, "We haven't reached any formal agreement yet. That will be the discussion for the next day. But we have basically agreed to disagree with each other."

Separately, the CNF peace delegation is also expected to meet with a group of Chin State ministers on Friday, according to an inside source. It is immediately not clear whether Chief Minister ex-general Hung Ngai will be present in that meeting.

The two-day peace talks is being held in the Chin State's capital amidst public euphoria and historic welcome ceremonies for the CNF peace delegation in Thantlang and Hakha towns where thousands of peo-

ple clad in traditional dresses packed the streets to greet the ten-member negotiating team.

Some observers believe the huge public support will give the CNF an added negotiating power as it shows how much support the organization enjoys from the Chin people.

"We have been regularly 'required' to greet state officials during their visits to town on countless occasions but this time we came out on the street on our own account. People say 'we even greet Burmese officials, why not our own heroes?'," said an elderly woman in Hakha.

The current peace talks is aimed at securing a ceasefire between the Chin National Army, the armed wing of CNF and Burmese government troops, which have fought for the last 23 years. It followed an initial meeting between the CNF and Burma's Railways Minister Aung Min in November on the Thai-Burma border.

If a cease-fire agreement is reached between the two sides, more negotiations are expected to follow so that substantive political issues can be discussed, according to CNF source. #

Breakthrough: CNF Signed Ceasefire Deal with Govt.

06 January 2012: In an historic development, the Chin National Front (CNF) has signed a ceasefire agreement with the new Burmese government at the end of a two-day peace negotiation in Chin State capital Hakha.

A source present in the negotiation has confirmed to Chinland Guardian that leaders of both sides of the official delegations have entered their signatures on a document containing the official ceasefire agreement.

Dr. Sui Khar, leader of the CNF delegation signed the agreement on CNF's behalf while Railway Minister Aung Min and Chin State Chief Minister Hung Ngai both signed the document on the government side. Two representatives from the Peace and Tranquillity Committee, a group of Christian religious leaders who facilitated the peace process also signed their names as witnesses.

Leaders of both parties shook hands after exchanging the official peace agreement documents.

The three-points deal include the opening up of three CNF liaison offices in Matupi, Thantlang and Tedim Towns, the recognition of Chin State's northernmost and southern most townships of Tedim and Paletwa as the CNF operational base areas, and the agreement that a date for further discussion with the Union government be decided within two weeks of the day of the signing of the peace deal.

Meanwhile, a grand dinner is being organized this evening where both sides of the delegations will share an evening meal with cabinet members of the Chin State government, members of the Chin State parliament, invited elders and dignitaries from Hakha, Thantlang and Falam towns and chief civil servants from all State level departments.

The CNF delegation is due to depart Hakha tomorrow and is scheduled to stay overnight in Thantlang town before heading back to the Indian border. #



[Members of both parties sharing ideas (above); Chin public welcoming CNF peace delegation in villages and towns —Photo: CNF]



Text of the Unofficial Translation of CNF Ceasefire Agreement

07 January 2012: *Chinland Guardian* is pleased to present the unofficial translation of the preliminary peace agreement between the Chin National Front and the Chin State Government following the two-days peace talks in Hakha this week.

Preliminary Agreement between the Chin State Government and Chin National Front towards Permanent Peace in Burma

In order that a permanent peace may be established ...

- Drawing its basis from the announcement 1/2011 dated 18th August 2011 of the Government of the Union of Myanmar regarding the implementation of a permanent peace in the Union of Myanmar,

- Considering the need for a step-by-step practical implementation of the plans for a peace process drawn up by the Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Committee set up by both Houses of the People's Parliament and the National Parliament on 18 August 2011

- Recalling that following the preliminary discussion between a delegation led by Union Minister U Aung Min, on the authorization of the President of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, and Pu Zing Cung, Chairman of the fourth-term Conference of the Chin National Front and Joint General Secretary Dr. Sui Khar at a location in Thailand, the Chin National Front's first Emergency Conference endorsed its Central Executive Committee's decision No. 9/2011, and that therefore the decision can be implemented,

- Therefore, the Chin National Front and the Chin State-level peace delegations have signed the following historic points of agreement so that a permanent peace may be established.

(1) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed to end mutual hostilities, including armed hostilities, effective from the time of the signing of this agreement.

(2) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed to open up a Liaison Office in Thantlang so that the points in this agreement may be vigorously implemented. Matters regarding the possibility of opening up Liaison Offices in Tedim and Matupi will be submitted to the relevant bodies, the result of which will be made known at a later date. The parties have agreed that the Chin National Front/Army can temporarily be based out of the areas around three Village Tracts in Thantlang Township: Tlangpi Village Tract, Dawn Village Tract and Zang Tlang Village Tract. Moreover, matters regarding the possibility of having bases in Tedim Township's Zampi and Bukphir Village Tracts, and Paletwa Township's Kung Pin, Para and Pathiantlang Village Tracts, will be submitted to the relevant bodies and the result made known at a later date.

(3) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed that any unarmed members of the Chin National Front and Chin National Army can freely travel to any place within the Union.

(4) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed to meet again as soon as possible, so that the parties can arrange a time and date for the Chin National Front and the Union government to hold a discussion. In holding Union level talks, the parties agreed in principle to uphold as basic principles the flourishing of ethnic issues and democracy, in addition to the three national causes.

(5) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed to allow the Chin National Front and the Chin National Army to freely hold public consultations, so that the desire of the Chin people can be brought forward as the basis of their discussion at the Union-level talks.

(6) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed to allow international Non-Governmental Organizations to operate freely in Chin State and elsewhere in the Union of Myanmar so that they can tackle the issues facing the Chin people, including the food crisis, lack of medicines, lack of access to clean water etc., in accordance with the existing laws.

(7) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed that, with financial support from the Union government, the Chin National Front will take a leading role in development work in relation to the Special Economic Zone (hereinafter SEZ) in accordance with laws governing the SEZ, so that the poorest state in the Union of Myanmar can be turned into a modern and developed State.

(8) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed that the Chin National Front and the Chin State Government work together as necessary, on development projects in Chin State by reciprocating advice and consulting with one another.

(9) The Chin State Government level peace delegation and the Chin National Front have agreed to closely cooperate in eradicating illegal poppy cultivation, drug business and drug smuggling in northern Chin State.

This agreement was signed between the Chin State Government-level peace delegation and the Chin National Front in the presence of the Union-level peace delegation leader Railway Minister U Aung Min and Union-level delegation member Environment and Forestry Minister U Win Htun, Chin State Chief Minister U Hung Ngai and members of the Peace and Tranquillity Committee on 6 January 2012.#

Opinion

Union Day or Dominion Day? Revisiting the Spirit of Panglong

12 February 2012:

Each year since the military coup of 1962, the Union Day has been celebrated in the Union of Burma without much substance or historical significance. As the nation turns 65 years today, we can expect yet another hollow celebration this year, despite the recent measures of reform introduced by President Thein Sein.

In political terms, the word Union means 'the joining together or being joined together' of different geographically-defined political units. The term itself implies the voluntariness and equality of the parties taking part in the Union – a partnership. This is exactly what the Panglong Conference achieved 65 years ago: different territories joining together on a voluntary basis and on equal status to build a modern independent country called the Union of Burma. This, in simplistic term, is the original Panglong spirit.

But that spirit unfortunately exists only in name today. For six decades, a single dominant group backed by the power of the guns, has dominated the majority of the founding partners of the Union of Burma through the use of constitutional, institutional and military means. This remains a reality post-2010 election and in a 'changing' Union of Burma.

The words of General Aung San best remind us of what the founding fathers of the Union of Burma originally envisaged at Panglong 65 years ago. Representing the Ministerial Burma, Aung San said:

"When we build our new Burma, shall we build it as a Union or a Unitary State? In my opinion it will not be feasible to set up a Unitary State. We must set up a Union with a properly regulated provision to set up

the rights of the ethnic nationalities."

The collective experience of the majority of the partners of the 'Union' for the last sixty plus years, however, tells us that, in practical terms, February 12 means more of a Dominion Day than a true Union Day.

Yes, there have been a series of recent efforts by the new government to negotiate and enter into ceasefire agreements with several ethnic armed groups. However, the ceasefire agreements are only the first step towards further dialogue on more substantive political issues.

Moreover, it is almost certain that during the political dialogue down the line, the ethnic armed groups will repeat their decades-long demands for a new constitutional arrangement that will reflect the original spirits of Panglong, which is equality and autonomy within a federal constitutional structure.

And what's more, it is also almost certain that the Burmese government will insist that the ethnic groups need to try and realize that change through the Parliamentary channel, which is near impossible under the extremely rigid amendment procedure provided in the 2008 constitution.

The scenario then could potentially be a return to a full-scale civil war. The ethnic groups have repeatedly made clear that only through revisiting and realizing the original spirit of Panglong can the Union be re-established and sustained.

It is now up to the Burmese government to decide whether they want to give the Union Day its true meaning by embracing the true spirit of Panglong, or carry on with the failed policy of the last six decades.#

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Poem

I Miss You, Mom

10 January 2012 | Robert Ngun Sang

How are you, Mom? I miss you very much
Screaming and calling your name each night,
I think of you and long for your kindest hug
My tears make pillows all wet and so heavy
And cannot cease falling down on my face

I know you're crying in the midnight like me
And wonder if you can sleep or eat as well
I know you can't stop missing me even a day
I know you cannot help worrying about me
And in your head is all fond memories of me

Walking all the way alone, life is so isolated
I am exhausted, and it's so hard to take breath
Lying on bed in fear, so afraid even to sleep
I have to run and I have to crawl for safety
But still no refuge I can find in all the world

Without you, my life is lost to proceed over
Nobody takes care of me much as you do
Nobody loves me much as you always do
No place is safe, no place is sweet like home
There's no peace, no safety and no happiness

Apart from you, there is nothing better at all
Your love is the sweetest, and the greatest
Under your bosom is the warmest and safest
And no other voice is more tender than yours
Oh, Mom! I love you and miss you so much...

Cartoon

