



Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

P.O Box 179, Mae Sod, Tak, 63110, Thailand. Phone: +66 85-733 4303.
E-mail: ndddrd07@csloxinfo.com; ndddrd07@gmail.com

Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (025/2010)

July 11 – July 17, 2010

STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SPDC) AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

-Rangoon Municipality Committee banned collecting donations from markets in Rangoon municipality area due to a case in which 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) and Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics had collected donations from a market in North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon Division in the beginning of this month. **(Mizzima 120710)**

-A resident, from Mogaung, Kachin State, stated that no campaign activities of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) and National Unity Party (NUP) were seen in Kachin State, but only Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has been canvassing unrivalled and received full support and cooperation from local authorities. **(NEJ 130710)**

-According to Rangoon residents, anyone over 18 has been forcefully recruited to become a USDP member and also had to pay 1000 kyat each for a membership fee. New recruits will be given membership IDs soon after. **(NEJ 140710)**

-A History Major instructor from Dagon University stated that instructors in Dagon University have been teaching in a rush since the university exams will be held earlier than usual due to the upcoming elections (to avoid the time conflict and to prevent student gatherings). **(NEJ 140710)**

-USDP has been providing national IDs and foreign resident IDs as incentive for Chinese nationals in Mogaung, Kachin State for them to be able to vote in the 2010 elections and to vote for USDP. **(NEJ 140710)**

-The military regime sent invitation letters to political parties, on 14 July, stating any party that wants to attend the 63rd Martyr Day Ceremony on 19 July can attend. **(DVB 140710)**

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-A resident, who was persuaded by USDP, stated that USDP members from Mongton Township in northern Shan State has been campaigning in Mongmaw Township starting from 14 July, by misusing the names of influential Palaung (Taaung) leaders in order to persuade voters. **(Palaungland 150710)**

-A leader from a ceasefire group stated that in Karenni (Kayah) State, in which no ethnic political parties existed, USDP was the only political party which has been launching election campaigns. **(NEJ 150710)**

-British Broadcasting Corporation news agency made a reference to USDA Officer In-Charge Thura Myint Oo, who stated that social based USDA will be abolished and political party USDP would only exist, and that USDA was abolished on 6 July and already transferred its assets to USDP. **(Irrawaddy 160710)**

-A member of USDA in Namhkam Township stated that when USDP, led by Prime Minister U Thein Sein, launched political campaigns in Namhkam, northern Shan State, USDA was the actual body implementing the campaigns. **(S.H.A.N 160710)**

-Maj. Aung Lin Htut, a former military intelligence officer, disclosed that Senior Gen. Than Shwe, to keep power after the elections, has three plans based on 3 what-if scenarios, such as what if USDP wins, what if SPDC proxy parties do not win clearly, and what if the opposition parties win. **(Irrawaddy 160710)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-National League for Democracy (NLD) condemned the Election Commission's decision allowing National Democratic Front (NDF) registered despite NLD's objection on the use the bamboo hat as NDF party symbol, U Nyan Win, a spokesperson of NLD said. **(NEJ 120610)**

-U Nyan Win, a lawyer and NLD Spokesperson, stated that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told him to submit a complaint regarding the military regime's restriction imposed on him not to talk about politics, but the cases when he meets with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and the restriction was not in accordance with the law. **(DVB 130710)**

-Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, while meeting with her lawyers U Kyi Win and U Nyan Win on 13 July, stated that her plan "to sue the military regime does not mean to block the national reconciliation and dialogue." **(VOA 130710)**

-On 16 July, U Tin Oo, the NLD Vice-Chairperson, and U Win Tin, member of NLD Central Executive Committee, visited and gave support to 10 family members of 88 Generation Student Group members who were sentenced to long term imprisonments. **(DVB 160710)**

B. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-National Democratic Front (NDF), a coalition of 8 ethnic organizations, stated that it will carry out briefings internationally to state that it will oppose the military regime's elections. **(DVB 100710)**

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CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-A platoon from a special battalion of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) 999 Brigade, operating in Mae Sari region in Hlaingbwe Township in Karen State, deserted and joined the 7th Brigade of Karen National Union (KNU) with arms and ammunitions. **(KIC 120710)**

-Sao Sai Lin, leader of Mongla Troops (aka) National Democratic Alliance Army, criticized that the ceasefire Shan State Army does not deserve its name "Shan State Army" due to its ceasefire and appeasement to the military regime. (S.H.A.N 140710)

PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Sai Ai Pao, a leader of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), stated that SNDP has been canvassing in northern, southern and eastern regions of Shan State and in some townships in Kachin State in which Shan nationalities dwell. **(S.H.A.N 120710)**

-Dr. Min Nwe Soe, the Spokesperson of All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP), stated that AMRDP, which will contest mostly in Mon State, would focus on objectives such as democracy, human rights and equality for ethnic minorities. **(DVB 130710)**

-U Khun Tun Lu, the Chairperson of Wa Democratic Party (WDP) based in Lashio, northern Shan State, stated that WDP would try to recruit members to meet membership requirement in order to be able to contest for all levels of parliaments, and have been planning to establish some businesses to secure party financially. **(Myanmar Times, Vol. 24, No. 474)**

-U Han Shwe, a Central Committee member of National Unity Party (NUP), said, "if we win, we would follow market economy which would create economic development. However, we would also make sure every layer of society can enjoy the benefits, wealth and increased earnings." **(Myanmar Times, Vol. 24, No. 474)**

-Nai Ngwe Thein (aka) Nai Janu Mon, the Chairperson of All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP), stated that AMRDP held a meeting at its new headquarters in Myine Thaya Ward, Moulmein, Mon State on 11 July, and elected new central executive committee members. **(Kaowao 130710)**

-A member of Chin Progressive Party (CPP), stated that CPP, which would contest in the elections in Chin State, would hold its first conference in Rangoon, where CPP headquarters are located, on 21 July. **(Khonumthung 140710)**

-Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP), which was granted permission by Union Election Commission to contest in the elections, opened its branch office in Sitwe, Arakan state on 10 July. **(Narinjara 160710)**

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-The Mirror Daily News, dated 16 July, stated that Pa-O National Organization (PNO) submitted the required party member list to Union Election Commission on 12 July in accordance with the Party Registration Act. **(Taunggyi Times 160710)**

PARTIES THAT HAVE REGISTERED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Aung Thuang, the Minister of the Ministry of Heavy Industry 1, informed Kachin leaders on 12 July that Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) led by Dr. Tuja will not be allowed to register because of Dr. Tuja's connection to armed Kachin Independence Organization. **(Mizzima 130710)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

GOVERNMENTS

-U Nyan Win, the Spokesperson of NLD, stated that the First Secretary of the British Embassy in Rangoon met with NLD leaders at the residence of U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD, and inquired about NLD's position and future activities. **(DVB 120710)**

-Philip J. Crowley, the Spokesperson of the US Department of State, stated, at the press conference held on 12 July, that the Burmese military regime's flawed elections were far from free, fair and legitimate results. **(RFA 130710)**

-The Congress of the United States, on 14 July, unanimously agreed to extend Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. The act was initiated by Congressman Joseph Crowley who has been advocating for human rights in Burma. **(RFA 140710)**

End of report/ Saturday, July 17, 2010

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