

End armed conflicts without losing sight of people's aspirations

AT EVERY meeting with locals during her visits to the regions and states, the State Counsellor has listened to the concerns of the people and tried to fulfil their needs as far as possible.

The issues raised by the people mostly involve education, health, economy, transportation, safe drinking water, land confiscation, and electrification.

The Union Government is working to upgrade towns to uplift the socio-economic condition of the people, and providing help to ensure the same for people in rural areas.

The development of border regions and far-flung hilly areas is especially being given a priority by the government.

While the Union Government is working hard to find sustainable solutions to bring about peace, stability, and development in Rakhine State, the recent fighting ignited by attacks on police outposts by the AA group has further complicated the situation in the state.

... The attacks on police outposts have disrupted not only the rule of law, but also the daily lives and security of the local people ...

materials meant for the development of Rakhine State.

The attack on the civilian target has highlighted the need for communal peace and rule of law to carry out regional development aspired to by the people. It has also highlighted the fact that armed conflicts only hinder regional development projects and pose obstacles to the aspirations of the local people.

The Union Government is committed to overcoming the grave challenges it has faced in Rakhine. From the very beginning of its term, the government has made rule of law and sustainable development in Rakhine, for which there is a vital need in the state, a national priority.

To ensure long-term peace and harmony in the State, the incumbent government has been doing its utmost to meet the security and humanitarian needs of the people, in line with the recommendations of the commission led by the late Dr. Kofi Annan.

To end ongoing armed conflicts, we would like to urge the Government, the Tatmadaw, and the ethnic armed organizations to resolve issues through negotiation, without losing sight of the goal of total peace for the country.

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BY KYUNTHA NGAMAN

AMONG the kitchen ingredients people use in the kitchen, none are as basic or widely used as the noble salt. Salt is an essential nutrient for humans and animals as it contains the chemical sodium that helps nerves and muscles, including the heart, to function correctly.

Myanmar's history with salt

Salt production in Myanmar can be divided into two groups; coast and inland productions. Inland production is where salt is harvested from saltwater springs and wells. Shwabo District once housed a prominent inland salt production industry during the reign of Myanmar's kings. Takwataw, Hanlin, Sartauing regions and Kyauktaw Village in Sagaing all produce salt for Myanmar. People in Chin State were known to harvest salt from the saltwater springs in Hukaung Valley and more were found in Kamine Township. Another prominent salt producer is found in Shan State at Bawkyo Village in Hsipaw Township.

Coastal salt production is where sea salt is harvested from seawater. In Myanmar, you can find sea salt harvesters in Taninthayi Region, Mon State, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, and Rakhine's coastal region.

When Myanmar fell under British colonial rule, the governing body took direct control of the national salt industry. Up till just before World War II, salt had to be imported for domestic use. In 1908, salt manufacturing was limited to Kyaukpyu, Hanthawaddy, Myaungmya, Patheingyi, Dawei, Kyaukkhami, Thaton, Myeik, Katha, Sagaing and Shwabo districts to control the production of salt.

The British government systematically levied taxes on salt production in Myanmar and sold back to foreign countries at quadruple the purchasing price.

Early Rakhine salt era

It was in the initial years of the British occupation where Rakhine's salt business was at its peak. This is evident from the records at Kolkata and Chittagong ports that shows salt from



Rakhine producers need to implement clean high-quality salt in order to normalize the salt market.

Kyaukpyu District was imported from Kyaukpyu port.

Salt production rose rapidly after the end of WWII. This was intentionally boosted to make Myanmar self-sufficient on domestically manufactured salt with no foreign imports necessary.

After independence, few people get involved in salt production in Rakhine State; boiled salt was produced to meet local demands in Myanmar during 1955-1956. Mass production was carried out in Kyaukpyu District and Maung-taw township and supervisory offices were opened in their respective townships to oversee management.

Salt production was enough only for the State. After 1962, the salt industry survived unsteadily under the Socialist Economic System. But in Rakhine State, production changed from boiled salt to sun-dried salt by means of techniques, helping much development of production in the State.

The steady rise of salt production

Rakhine salt production has

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developed during post-Socialist Era in 1990s. Mass production of dried salt was widely used in the coastal townships of Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, Gwa, Taungup, Myebon, Pauktaw, Sittway, Ponnag-

yun, Yathedaung and Maungtaw. But a market for Rakhine salt is sufficient for the locals and upper Paletwa region and India borders.

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trading officially opened in 1995. Sun-dried salt was exported to Bangladesh via border trade especially from Sittway's borders from 2002 to 2008.

Demand from Bangladesh became so strong that additional salt had to be ordered from the Ayeyawady Region. Salt warehouses proliferated along the banks of Shwemangan brook during these times.

However, salt export to Bangladesh was suspended in 2009, leading to a decrease in Rakhine's salt production and ultimately a loss of salt market to Bangladesh. In addition, in 2010, smooth salt from Thailand began entering Myanmar with cheaper prices thus sending Rakhine salt production to its lowest level.

Quality production of salt

The efforts of the Rakhine

State government reopened trade opportunities with Bangladesh in 2012-2013, but the quality had dropped below Bangladesh's standards. Their sun-dried salt was now produced with modern techniques and was a cut above the methods used in Rakhine's producers.

Bangladesh now produces a clean and quality salt by channeling salt water to plastic-spread salt land. Rakhine producers need to implement clean high-quality salt in order to normalize the salt market.

Industrial Raw materials

As Rakhine State is on the edge of the Bay of Bengal, eleven coastal townships are expected to carry out sun-dried salt production successfully. As it is used as common salt as well as industrial raw material; raw salt is used for ice packs and for paper production machines.

By-products from sun-dried salt are marketable items. Magnesium sulphate, calcium sul-

phate and magnesium hydroxide are produced from — water. Magnesium sulphate can be used in the manufacturing of medicines and calcium sulphate are used in the cement and porcelain factories. Magnesium chloride can be used in rice mills and greatly in need for the production of fertilizers.

Therefore, the development for the market of sun-dried salt can be improved. The State for feasibility for a parcel of land for construction The Rakhine State has a long and beautiful coast and wide areas of paddy land. Thanks to geographic backing for social advancement, it has an abundant supply of rice, fish, meat and natural resources accompanied by invaluable heritage.

Thus, the people of the state will have to try to succeed what they possess in hands to become a modernized region. It is true that Rakhine State is in a good geographic location and possesses plentiful natural resources; its coastal areas are strategically located with the Bay of Bengal.

These conditions create a golden opportunity for the people of the State. Geographically there are a lot of streams and rivers and much plain; forests and mountains and a wide land area will attract a good investment by locals and foreigners. Climate is favorable with natural resources both in land and the sea. As the State is strategically near the Bay of Bengal, it serves as a commercial gate to China, India and other ASEAN countries.

Assistance needed

To produce salt of high quality, the latest techniques are required and about K9 million is needed per acre, said salt producers. That is why financial support is required, they said. Ethnic businessmen want assistance from local government for the development of small and middle businesses. At the same time, by-products from salt production should be fully emphasized. Presently, Rakhine salt producers are found to be helpless. To improve Rakhine salt market, to produce salt of higher quality and to penetrate new markets are the harsh realities of the producers' life.

(Translated by Arakan Sein, Pen Dali)

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 11/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 16 March.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 16 March.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 20 March issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.— GNLM

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued on Monday 18 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions. Weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperatures in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kayah and Mon States and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) in Chauk, (41°C) each in Aungmye and Bawlahe, (40°C) each in NyaungU, Nay Pyi Taw (Zayyarthiri), Minbu, Magway, Taunggyi, Sinbyugyun, Tounghoo and Pyu. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.08) inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North and Southwest Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 19 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states and isolated in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

Security forces conduct operation against AA, arrest suspected member

SECURITY forces clashed with an AA group in MyaukU on 14 March, after 10 AA members, in civilian outfits, attacked a convoy carrying military personnel with remote-controlled mines.

The fighting took place near mile post No. 118/2 on the MraukU-Kyauktaw Road.

The security forces continued their operations along the route AA members had retreated.

During the operations, U Sein Hla, the son of U Hla Tun Aung of Phayargyi Village, MraukU Township, was found carrying an improvised explosive device (IED) in the toolbox of his motorcycle, and was arrested.

On 15 March, security forces clashed with AA members between MraukU and Teinnyo Village. Following the clash, the security forces seized a Honda Wave motorcycle used by the AA group.



An improvised explosive device confiscated from the AA group.

PHOTO: MA THA SA-YA THA SA

In a separate incident, a military convoy sent from Sittway to conduct security operations in Kyauktaw and MraukU townships was ambushed by about 30 AA members. Following the fight, security forces found the body of an AA member and one IED.

On 17 March, security forces attacked an AA base at Point-802 hill near border post BP-67.

Some AA members were killed in the clash and some arms and ammunition were seized. The AA group had set up base at the hill to hinder border fencing work.

The security forces are continuing to conduct operations in Rakhine State to ensure security and stability of the people, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA



U Sein Hla seen with an improvised explosive device and motorcycle.

PHOTO: MA THA SA-YA THA SA

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Kayin State

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The first point is to regularly meets, discusses, and solicits advice with the public to become a GAD that promotes public participation. He told GAD staff to always be ready for the people and stand together with them.

The second point is to be refrain from promoting self-interest and to be free from corruption, said the Union Minister.

He said the GAD must follow existing laws, rules, regulations, and procedures and avoid burdening the public. He said they will take serious action against all forms of corruption.

The third point, said the Union Minister, is to take bold steps towards changing what needs to be changed while having a forward-looking approach to reforms.

Change starts from the individual no matter where it is being implemented and as such, GAD staff need to follow the policies and procedures set by the ministry to cultivate a strong mindset

for change, said the Union Minister.

Concluding remarks

The Union Minister asked GAD staff to exercise more effort in their daily tasks to become better and more effective. He asked them to closely review the designated policies make any necessary changes in their workplace. He told them to be more careful when interacting with the public, as offering polite conversations is the GAD's most basic service. He told to bear in their hearts that they are serving the public and to work hand-in-hand in fulfilling the motto of 'Change begins with the GAD'.

Afterwards, GAD staff in attendance submitted requirements to the Union Minister, who gave necessary suggestions and directions and then urged the staff to respect and follow the policies and procedures of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Coordination meeting discusses logistics for Children's Literary Festival in Bago

OFFICIALS discussed plans to organize a children's literary festival in Bago during a coordination meeting held in the convocation hall of Bago University yesterday.

Speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the Working Committee for Planning Children's Literary Festival, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said everyone needs to discuss ways to implement the necessary procedures in time for holding the literary festival. He said he will coordinate discussions to ensure necessary processes are completed in time and are carried out efficiently. He said subcommittees need to be formed to and appointed with dif-

ferent duties while coordinating together to complete the overall purpose.

Complications in the workflow will delay progress, said the Deputy Minister. He said he believes the festival in Bago will have more festivalgoers than the other festivals as the roads in the region are quite good. He said there will be a lot of additional workload since the festival will also include activities and programmes not included in previous festivals. He said he will coordinate and negotiate on the tasks undertaken by the subcommittees.

Next, Daw Naw Pwal Hsay, regional Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs, explained the

completed tasks for holding the Children's Literary Festival in Bago and said the regional government will support the tasks as well.

U Aye Kwyel, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, also explained the completed tasks for the festival and was followed by reports from the subcommittees on their assigned tasks. The Deputy Minister gave instructions and advice as necessary.

After the meeting, the Deputy Minister and entourage inspected the layout for the festival in the university and gave instructions and advice as necessary. The Children's Literary Festival in Bago will be held from 28 to 30 March at the Convocation Hall in Bago University. The festival will include booths displaying and selling books, booths showing ethnic culture, government departmental booths, literary talks and roundtables, and competitions for impromptu speaking, poetry recitals and storytelling, also in ethnic languages, team building activity contests, playing htote-see-htoe (game combining elements from hopscotch and tag), and other sports and physical activities. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the coordination meeting for holding Children's Literary Festival in Bago. **PHOTO: MNA**