

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



Facing the Bay of Bengal in the west, Rakhine State lies in the westernmost sector of the Union of Myanmar. On its 14,200 square miles of territory live Rakhines and Bamars alongside Chin,

than those of the south. Sittway plain is the largest flat land in the region, and the sea is dotted with large Phayonga, Yanbye and Manaung islands and a number of islets.

At the Special Projects

passed by, but the region's roads remained in poor condition, and could not be improved for certain reasons. The Government is launching the drive to develop every region of the Union, and narrow the gap between one place and another. It will build a road to improve transport between Yangon and Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State. The work will be difficult because of the mountainous terrain covered with thick evergreen forests and marked by a large number of rivers and creeks."

With fraternal spirit, the Tatmadaw Government is striving utmost to harmoniously raise the living standards of all the national races living in

Per-acre yield— basket

Gross production— basket (thousand)

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Irrigation			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	26	32	6
- river water pumping tasks	-	3	3
- damming creeks	-	734	734
- Benefited acre	82691	136988	54297
Thriving double crops	28401	361936	333535
Extended paddy cultivation			
- acres of monsoon paddy	790990	1003474	212480
- per acre yield*	52.27	67.55	15.28
- acres of summer paddy	-	12363	12363
- per acre yield*	-	80.00	80.00
- gross production	44165	68775	24610
- food sufficiency	-	143	143
- beans and pulses (acre)	2816	154948	152132
- rubber (acre)	2015	7820	5805
- pepper (acre)	234	16309	16075
Edible Oil crop (acre)			
- Groundnut	121648	59258	46610
- sesame	2098	3773	1675
- sunflower	65	1059	994
- mustard	12815	94500	81695
- niger	-	193	193

Mro, Thet, Khami, Dainet, Maramagyi and Kaman races. A union within the Union, the state has a population of 3,045,000, and on average, every square mile is inhabited by 215 persons.

A long coastal stretch of land touching the Rakhine Yoma in the east, the state is crisscrossed with a large number of natural watercourses including Naff, Mayyu and Kissapanadi rivers and Maei, Tanlwe, Taungup, Thandwe, Kyeintali and Gwa creeks flowing from north to south. With an average elevation of 3,000 feet the Rakhine Yoma is a mountain range whose northern peaks are higher

Implementation Committee Meeting, held in November 1995, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said, "Rakhine State is a region where transport is difficult, and the main means of transport is waterways. Although not a border area, Sittway region is accessible by only a very few roads. Time

Table B

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Reserved forest*	645	817	172
Protected public forest*	-	1226	1226
Natural area*	-	677.88	677.88
Setting up of forest (acre)	1400	55405	54005
- acres of commercial plantation	1350	48145	46795
- acres of village plantation	50	7210	7160
- acres of industrial plantation	-	750	750
- acres of watershed plantation	-	50	50
- acres of Thitseint plantation	-	600	600

weal or woe in the Union.

Whether it is a state or a division, the Government has the same goodwill towards it, fulfilling all necessary infrastructures and facilities, without making any discrimination against any region, for harmonious development of the entire Union. Now I will present the developments Rakhine State is witness-

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Rakhine State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

Table C

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Motor road	448/0	897/1	449/1
- tarred road	163/0	547/0	384/4
- gravel road	135/0	230/0	95/0
- earth road	20/0	119/5	99/5
Bridge			
- above 180 feet long	11	47	36
- lower 180 feet long	142	326	184
Airways			
- Airports	7	7	-
- above 5000 ft runway	1	3	2
- under 5000 ft runway	6	4	upgrading

Table D

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
post office	61	81	20
telegraph office	19	25	6
facsimile	1	30	29
computer telegraph	-	2	2
telephone service			
- telephone office	17	43	26
- number of line	1850	7134	5284
- exchange	17	35	18
- direct line	1621	6212	4591
- auto/carrier telephone	1621	6212	4591
- telephone density*	0.85	2.12	1.27
microwave station	7	14	7
rural telephone exchange	-	8	8
e-mail/Internet	-	1	1
local satellite station			
- VSAT	-	1	1
- iPSAT	-	2	2

*(for 1000 persons) ing as in all the sister regions.

Agriculture

Paddy can be cultivated only on one-fourth of the state's land area, but the Government is trying to develop its agricultural sector, making arrangements to grow crops on all cultivable land, increase per acre yield, and boost agricultural production. In 1992, it introduced summer paddy cultivation to the region, which cultivated only monsoon paddy before that time.

The Government has built Gyogyakwin Dam in Taungup Township, and Kanthaya and Rahaikwin dams in Gwa Township for irrigation, and Hinywet

Dam in An Township to supply potable water. Pyaingchaung Dam, with the capacity to irrigate 4,000 acres of land, in Kyauktaw Township is under construction, and Zeechaung Dam is in planning stage.

Large and small dams and waterworks have extended the area of mixed-cropping in the state more than ten times. Food sufficiency of the state has reached 143 per cent. The state can put more land under beans and pulses and edible oil crops, and is extending pepper and rubber plantations, with the assistance of the Government, to grow them on com-

Livestock and fisheries

Livestock breeding has been extended for Rakhine State to produce an adequate amount of food for local consumption. The state is raising four million heads of livestock, up from two million in 1988.

A significant development of the state at present is fresh water and prawn farming. The industry is showing encouraging signs for local distribution as well as for export. The industry did not exist in the state in the past, but now it is running 155,533 acres of prawn farms.

Forest conservation

The forest conservation project of the state is developing alongside

Consumption unit (millions)

*megawatt

Table E

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
electricity consumption	4.111	9.350	5.239
maximum load*	6.300	8.200	1.900
Increase of generating power			
- projects implemented	-	2	2
- diesel-fired power station	59	74	15
present capacity of generator*	7.789	12.296	4.507
future capacity of generator*	7.789	127.296	119.507

*Square miles

mercial scale.

As the Government has been providing necessary infrastructures and assistance, Rakhine State, with favourable soil and weather for cultivation, is witnessing the emergence of more sound foundations in the agricultural sectors than in 1988. The Table A will prove it.

other sectors. The state has been setting up more reserve forests, public protected forests and natural parks. It now has over 550,000 acres of forest plantations, up from just 1,000 acres in the past because of the ardent participation of the local people. The mass movement (See page 10)

Rakhine State marching to...

(from page 8)

in 1988 managed to grow only 100,000 saplings, but now the local people have planted over eight million saplings. The Table B has something more to tell readers about the development in forest conservation

Table F

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Basic education			
- number of schools	2391	2716	325
- multimedia classroom	-	64	64
- e-Learning Centre	-	26	26
- number of teachers	8729	12107	3378
- number of students	244357	430454	186097
- KG enrolment	62.7%	95.2%	32.50%
- adult literacy rate	59.78%	72.90%	13.12%
School dropout rate			
- primary school level	44.32%	13.38%	30.94%
- middle school level	45.98%	14.73%	31.25%
Higher education			
- arts & science university	-	1	1
- college	-	1	1
- education college	1	1	1
- e-Learning centre	-	27	27
- academic programmes	8	53	45
- number of teachers	94	218	124
- number of students	930	20115	19185
- Human resource development centre	-	1	1

and plantation of the state.

Road and transport sector

The colonial government totally ignored the transport sector of the state, with mountains, forests and rivers, because the matter was out of its interest. And during the post-independence period, the matter was out of reach due to certain reasons.

The Tatmadaw Government is always thinking about plans to assist and develop all the seven states and seven divisions of the Union and to make them prosper and stronger.

The Government has opened the new chapter of transport in the state. First, it launched the 202-mile-and-three-furlong Yangon-Sittway Union Highway, and then the 110-mile Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingchaung road, the 45-mile An-Padekyaw-Maei road, the 41-mile Yangon-Taungup-Kyaukpyu road Pyinwun-Minbyin section, and 42.5-mile Taungup-Maei road. All are tarred facilities.

As the state has a large number of natural water-courses, sometimes, roads are being built through marshes, with much difficulty. Many large and small bridges have been built on rivers and creeks, and the number of over 180-foot bridges in the state has reached 47, from only 11 in the past.

The large bridges on Kissapanadi River and Dalet, Myaungbwe, Tanlwe, Lamu, Maei, Sanepauk, Londawpauk, Deedokpauk, Kaingshe, Pikauk, Min, Ramong, Yaw, Hsathwa and

Thanthamagyi creeks in the state have been built under the special projects of the Government.

There are four more large bridges under construction. They are the 2,704-foot Minkyung Creek Bridge, the 703-foot Thanthamache Bridge and

roads and a large number of bridges in the state, the Government is also implementing the 100-megawatt Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project in Thandwe Township and the 15-megawatt An Creek Hydel Power Project. Please see Table E for data.

Industrial sector

The Government has

Table G

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Government Technological College (Sittway)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	5	5
- number of faculty members	-	95	95
- students (graduate)	-	662	662
- present students	-	464	464
Government Computer College (Sittway)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	6	6
- number of faculty members	-	13	13
- students (graduate)	-	112	112
- present students	-	187	187
Government Technical Institute (Thandwe)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	3	3
- number of faculty members	-	45	45
- students (graduate)	-	410	410
- present students	-	192	192

the 592-foot Thazintanpauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway in Yanbye Township, and the Kyauktan Bridge on Yangon-Sittway highway in Sittway Township. Furthermore, Wunphaik Bridge will emerge on Yangon Kyaukpyu Road soon.

The Table C documents the transport development of the state.

Communications

The Government has developed and facilitated the transport and communications sectors of the state. The Table D compares the present situation and that of the 1988.

Electricity

"If there are mountains, roads will be built on them, and they will be beautified with forest plantations and highland farms. Likewise, bridges will span rivers and creeks and their waters will be harnessed for electricity", and that is the conviction and resolve of the Government to serve public interest.

While building miles of

been laying sound foundations for the progress of the state's industrial sector. The state now has 1,585 private industries, up 1,143 from only 442 in 1988. Twenty-six cottage industries and 28 State-owned industries are also manufacturing goods in the state.

Education sector

The Government is implementing human resources development programmes region-wise. The special national education promotion project has helped raise the education standard of Rakhine State

Table H

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
upgrading of hospital health units	36	42	6
health staff	118	121	3
- doctors	1048	1430	382
- nurses	126	231	105
- midwives	153	317	164
- skilled staff	539	573	34
- township health assistant	8	14	6
- health assistant-1	-	6	6
- health assistant	-	17	17
- supervisor (1)/(2)	79	91	12
traditional medicine	52	87	35
- traditional medicine hospital	-	1	1
- traditional medicine dispensary	6	12	6

Table I

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Road/bridge			
- mile of earth road	-	161/6	161/6
- mile of gravel road	-	135/2	135/2
- mile of tarred road	-	8/5	8/5
- maintenance	-	15/0	15/0
- bridge (large/small)	-	14/221	14/221
Health			
- hospital/dispensary	-	15	15
Education			
- BEPS, BEMS, BEHS	-	56	56
- number teachers	-	281	281
- number of students	-	13320	13320
Agriculture			
- agricultural camp/station	-	27	27
- dam	-	2	2
Livestock breeding			
- livestock breeding farm	-	1	1
- veterinary office	-	2	2
Energy			
- generator	-	35	35
- town/village supplied with power	-	28	28
Public relations			
- TV retransmission station	-	5	5
Communication			
- post office	-	11	11
- telegraph work	-	5	5
- telephone work	-	2	2
Vocational course			
- number of teachers	-	1	1
- number of students	-	8	8
Youth development training school			
- number of teachers	-	443	443
- number of students	-	1	1
Expenditure (million)*			
- development funds*	-	15	15
- ministries*	-	995	995
	-	8509.13	8509.13
	-	1422.84	1422.84
	-	7086.29	7086.29

cation in the state.

Table E serves as the education indicator showing the sector's development.

Science and technology sector

The Government has been paving the way for local youths to get access to professional institutions of higher learning in their own regions to produce a larger number of engineers and computer experts. Thus, youths in Rakhine State also get the opportunity to attend classes at a government computer college and a government technological college in Sittway and a government technological institute in Thandwe. Up to now, the state has produced 1,184 technocrats. Table F shows the opportunities of the youths in the state to study science and technology.

Health

The number of hospitals in Rakhine State has reached 42 — one 200-bed hospital, three 100-bed hospitals, one 50-bed hospital, seven 25-bed hospitals, five 16-bed hospitals and 25 station hospitals. In the past it was 36.

The Government has assigned 105 more doctors and 382 extra health staff to the state. A 50-bed traditional medicine hospital and 12 traditional medicine dispensaries are treating patients in the state. There are now two nursing schools in the state.

The Table G attests to the health development of the state.

Urban and rural development

There are now 224 miles and six furlongs of urban roads in the state. Of them 76 miles and six furlongs are

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
- TV retransmission station	1	11	10
- IPRD offices	-	21	21
- IPRD libraries	6	21	15
- departmental libraries	-	22	22
- rural library	-	328	328
- e-library	-	1	1
- sub-printing house (Sittway)	-	1	1

tarred facilities. In the past, the state had 184 miles and four furlongs of urban roads. The state has also maintained 543 urban bridges. Rural roads have also been extended and upgraded in the state, which now has 456 miles and six furlongs of rural roads, up 183 miles and four furlongs from 273 miles and two furlongs in 1988. To this date, the state has built 583 rural bridges.

(See page 15)

Rakhine State marching to...

(from page 10)

Of the 17 town water supply projects, 11 have completed. A total of 612 units of waterworks have already been erected in 470 villages. The entire project covers the task of supplying clean water to 922 villages.

Border areas and national races development

The Government's Border Areas and National Races Development Project covers Rakhine State together with many other regions. Sittway has a youth development training school and Maungdaw has a vocational training school for development of local youths. The Table H

explains the Government's endeavours to develop the socio-economy of Rakhine State to catch up with other regions, with exact figures.

Information and public relations

The Government has been developing the information and public relations sector to enable the people of Rakhine State to get in touch with everyday news about the national developments. The Table J shows how the state is improving its information sector in the drive towards reaching the golden land of unity and amity.

(Translation: TMT+TTA)