

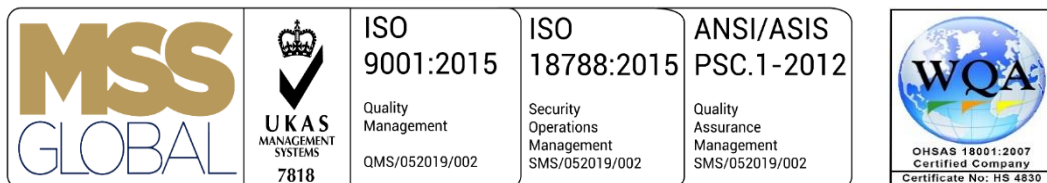
The information in this report is correct as of
1200 hours (UTC+6:30) 18 March 2020.

EXERA

Weekly Security Review

Safety and Security Highlights for Clients Operating in
Myanmar

Dates covered: 12 – 18 March 2020



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SITUATION UPDATE

The overall security situation in Rakhine State and Southern Chin State intensified within this week. The armed clashes between Tatmadaw and Arakan Army (AA) troops are ongoing. Tatmadaw used air support to attack AA positions in Paletwa, Kyauktaw, Myinbya and Rathedaung Townships. The adjacent area of Kyauktaw township (Rakhine) and Paletwa township (Chin) is considered as vital ground for both sides, Tatmadaw has deployed an Artillery base in the area in addition to a field command center. The AA have several strong holds in the same area. Due to the presence of both Tatmadaw and AA forces, there are ongoing clashes daily including close combats with each side conducting operations against each other. It is reported that some Officers and soldiers were arrested as Prisoner of War (POW) from both sides. Due to these clashes, villagers in the areas abandoned their homes and moved to safe places or nearest Town areas. The total amount of displaced villagers arises to 120,000 in Rakhine State area and over 3,000 in Paletwa township, Southern Chin State area.

The overall security situation for Northern Shan is now intensifying with clashes between Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Pan Say People's Militia groups, these armed clashes occurred on 15th March in Namhkan township area. Another reason of intensification is the confiscation of drugs, related machineries, raw materials and arms in Kutkai township area earlier this week.

Splinter group from Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) surrendered and handed over their arms to the Regional Military Command in Kayin State on 12th March, 2020.

The outbreak situation of COVID-19 around the World was declared as "Pandemic" on 11th March by the World Health Organization. It is also considered a major concern for Myanmar, although no confirmed cases were found in Myanmar as of this information cut-off date. Myanmar Government and Health workers from Ministry of Health and Sports are applying good practices on response measures such as Hospital quarantine, Home quarantine for people under investigation, community surveillance, investigating and taking health declaration forms at the point of entry, and they are preparing 4 more spaces for isolation cases if needed. The State Counsellor gave a speech on 16th March and stated that the Government is going to handle the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis with sharp guidelines and supports for the people in Myanmar.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

1. This week increased in numbers of heavy clashes within the area of Rakhine and Chin state. There have been at-least 20 clashes in Rakhine and Chin state area throughout this report period. The nearest village points in township areas are as below –

Paletwa Township (Chin State) area –

1. Incident on 15th of March, in the area of Mee Zar village, Paletwa Township - No Further Details (NFD).

COMMERCIAL-IN-CONFIDENCE

2. Incidents on 13th, 14th and 15th of March, in the areas of Meik Sar Wa village, Paletwa Township. AA troops attacked to a Tatmadaw's post near Meik Sar Wa East and West villages area. Heavy clashes occurred and due to these exchange of fires, mortar shells and small arms projectiles hit nearby villages. Some villagers were killed and 13 wounded villagers transferred to Matupe Township general hospital (Chin State) reportedly - NFD.

Rakhine State area -

1. Several incidents occurred on 13th, 14th, 16th of March, in the areas of Mee Chaung bridge area, Mont Than Pyin village, Pyaing Tine, Myauk Taung, Tin Ma village areas in Kyauktaw township - NFD.
2. Incidents on 13th, 16th of March, in the area of Ou Yin Thar village, Buthidaung township - NFD.
3. Incident on 15th of March, in the area of Tin Ma and Aung Thar Yar village, in Kyauktaw Township - NFD.
4. Incident on 14th of March, in the areas of Mee Zar Wa, Wet Ma Kya, Pyaing Tine villages in Kyauktaw township. Reported that Tatmadaw occupied one of the AA's strong holds, situated near Mee Zar Wa village - NFD.
5. Fierce clashes occurred on 13th of March, in-front of the Hospital in Tain Nyo village and at the outskirts of Taung U village area, Mrauk-U township. In the event of these clashes, the hospital building was shot by small arms at multiple places. One female civilian and one child were shot and killed in the Hospital premises. Nobody claimed for the responsibility – NFD.
6. Incident on 13th of March, whilst the Military convoy was travelling on the main road near Paung Toke village, 5000 m southeast of Mrauk-U Town. The road was blocked and attacked with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Then attacks were conducted by AA troops. One Military Truck was damaged and some soldiers got injured. Due to this clash, Paung Toke village was hit by mortar shell and resulted in 8 injured villagers- NFD.
7. Incident on 13th of March, another Military convoy was attacked with IEDs, then mortar shelling and got close combats in-front of Thar Zi village, Kyauktaw township. It was confirmed that some soldiers died and vehicles damaged. Houses in Thar Si village were burnt down due to the occurrences.
8. A bridge near Aung Ba village, Buthidaung township was destroyed by IED explosions on 13th March – NFD.
9. Incident on 12th of March, in the area of Mee Wa village, Mont Than Pyin and Pyein Taine village, Kyauktaw township – NFD.

Assessment for Tatmadaw and AA troops Clashes

Fierce clashes and close combat engagements occurred with this reporting period. This happened near the Mee Wa Bridge where the Artillery and Military Command Centre is stationed. This is a vital point for Tatmadaw and also for AA because it is situated on the middle of Kyauktaw – Paletwa waterways and the main transportation road. The Kyauktaw – Paletwa waterway was frequently used by AA before the Tatmadaw deployed in this area. The AA troops encircled and blocked that Tatmadaw's stationed post since January 2020 and conducted several attacks to occupy this firm hold. Moreover, AA troops are trying to cut-out / block the Line of Communication (LoC) of this post. Tatmadaw faced multiple difficulties to sending the re-enforcement of troops and

ammunitions for that post in recent situations. During 10th to 12th of March, the Tatmadaw's reinforcement columns were blocked and pinned down by AA troops. Some Tatmadaw's officers and soldiers were arrested as POWs and some were killed, according to the AA statement revealed on 13th of March. The Tatmadaw rushed and pursued the AA troops. Some officers and soldiers have been recovered but some are not (from unconfirmed sources report).

On consequences of POWs matters, these clashes and seizures are considered to be the flashing point for more clashes and instability of the security situation in and around Rakhine and Chin state areas.

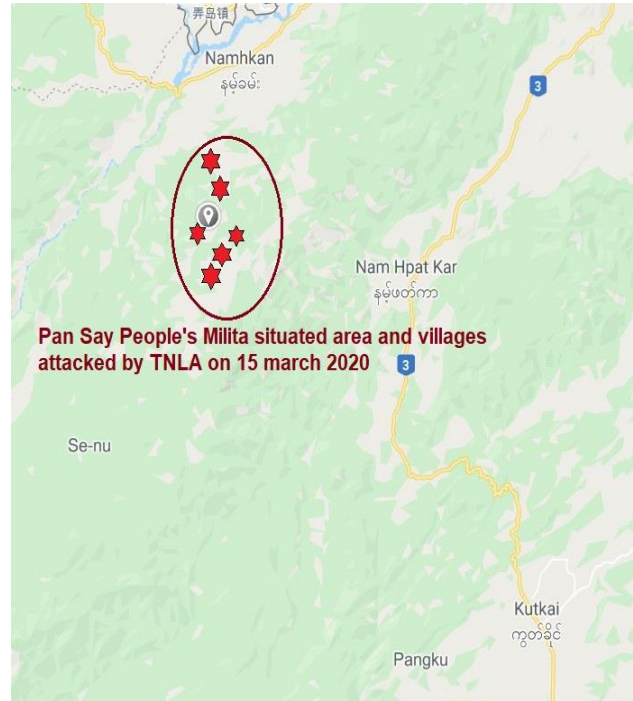


The map shows the area points where clashes occurred



The pictures showed that the IEDs attacks conducted by AA and gunshots at Tein Nyo Hospital building

2. On 15th March 2020, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) troops conducted coordinated attacks on 6 villages where the Pan Say People Militia troops are situated; Pan Say village, Ma Mai (man myaing) village, Shauk Kone village, Mant Pan village, Tar Kun village, Pang Mawng villages in Namhkan tsp, North Shan State. TNLA troops also used mortar shelling to these villages. Local Military column and security forces reinforced from Pan Say Militia troops side. (8) Pan Say Militias were arrested and used as ransom by TNLA troops after the attacks. Due to the exchange of fire, 2 civilians were killed, cattle from the villages shot dead and houses were robbed and destroyed. TNLA spokesperson confirmed the attacks – NFD.



Area of villages attacks by TNLA in Namhkan Township

3. Leading Colonel Saw San Aung and his group, known as splinter group from Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) surrendered and handed over their arms to South East Military Regional Military Command in Karen State on 12th of March, 2020. The event was held at Son See Myaing, where the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and Border Guard Force (BGF) headquarter is situated in Kayin State.

Assessment

This splinter group (surrendered group) is a major active armed group in Kayin and Mon State areas. They regularly conducted attacks to KNU posts, BGP posts, Tatmadaw posts and sometimes extorted money from and disturbed civilian travelers on Hpa-An to Myawaddy express road. Now, it is believed to be an area where there is no more active armed group. The area security situation can be decreased as lower intensification.



documented pictures via from printed medias

SOCIAL STABILITY

There were no major Demonstrations and Protests in this reporting period. But the Labor organizations and Authorities are trying to mitigate and finding out the ways of getting raw materials for the Garment factories, which are now running out of raw materials and planning to shut down.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **12th March - Magway Region:** Vehicle accident occurred near 251/3 miles, Pathein - Monywa road, Pwintphyu Tsp, resulting one monk's and one female's death, and 8 injured.
2. **13th March - Yangon Region:** An express bus got wire shocked and caused fire on Yangon – Mandalay Highway road, in Hlegu Township area, the vehicle was totally damaged but no injuries.
3. **15th March 2020 – Yangon Region:** Vehicle accident occurred in North Dagon township, resulting one death.

CRIME

1. **13th March 2020 – Murder case in Rakhine State:** One female villager from Bauk village, Ye Aung Village Tract, North of Maungdaw Town was killed with sharp wounds while she and two other females went in a nearby forest. The two others are still missing.
2. **14th March 2020 - Drug seizures in Yangon Region:** Anti-narcotic troops captured and arrested drugs/stimulant pills together with the dealers/users in Yangon area. One man was arrested with ICE and stimulants pills in Lanmadaw township. According to tips of informant, troops raided into a house in Ahlone township where they found and seized stimulants pills and heroin together with a man. One man was arrested with stimulants pills, ICE and Heroin in South Okkalapa township.
3. **Drugs seizure in Lwe Khan village – Northern Shan on 13th and 16th March:** Military and Security forces continued searching Lwe Khan village area, Kutkai township found and seized drugs, pills, related materials and raw materials worth of more than 23 billion MMK within this week.



documented pictures via from Military blog

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Fire broke-outs: It is reported that (18) minor fires broke out throughout Myanmar. Below three were the biggest rages within-

1. **16th March 2020 – Ayarwaddy Region:** Fire broke out in no (4) ward, Patheingyi downtown area, reported that 4 buildings were burnt down.
2. **12th March 2020 – Northern Shan:** Fire broke out in Khar Sho village, Lashio Township area, caused two children death.
3. **17th March 2020 – Mandalay Region:** Fire broke out in no (8) ward, Meikhtila downtown area, reported that 12 houses were burnt down.

Health Hazards: Communicable Diseases, COVID – 2019 update situation in Myanmar, MoHS official released on 17th March 2020, 8:00 pm, is as follow-

- Total Person Under Investigation (PUI)/Suspected – 144
- Person Under Investigation (PUI) – 142
- Suspected – 2
- Confirmed – 0
- Laboratory Result Negative – 135
- Laboratory Result Pending – 9

To date, no confirmed cases of COVID – 2019 have been reported in Myanmar.

Recommendations and Advice for the Public

The basic principle to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- ✓ Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- ✓ Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- ✓ Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- ✓ People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- ✓ Avoid crowded areas or gatherings, if necessarily please be remember to be follow the guidelines.

RISK REGISTER

Updated 17th March, 2020

STATE/REGION	Internal Conflict ¹	Protest and Demonstrations ²	Road Traffic Accident ³	Crime ⁴	Health ⁵	Infrastructure	Environmental Hazard
1 Kachin	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
2 Kayah	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
3 Kayin	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
4 Chin	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
5 Sagaing	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
6 Tanintharyi	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH
7 Bago (East)	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
8 Bago (West)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
9 Magway	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW
10 Mandalay	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW
11 Mon	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
12 Rakhine	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
13 Yangon	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW
14 Shan (South)	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
15 Shan (North)	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
16 Shan (East)	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
17 Ayeyarwady	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH
18 Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW

Notes for Mitigation (Key notes for reducing the Risks)

- 1**
 - **Avoid** all but essential travel to Rakhine and Shan state.

- 2**
 - **Avoid** all known areas of planned events.
 - **Report** any suspicious activities to respective Security Focal Point.
 - **Ensure** drivers are fully briefed and plan appropriate secondary/alternative routes.
 - **Do not** associate yourself with the demonstration – Keep your distance - Do not take photographs.

- 3**
 - **Always** use well trained experienced drivers, and vehicles that meet the minimum set of safety standards.
 - **Continued** assessment of competence and training of all drivers (if possible).
 - **Continued** assessment of road condition(s).
 - **Avoid** speeding.

- 4**
 - **Take** normal precautions of not carrying large amounts of cash, taking extra care when approaching or leaving a bank, money changer, or ATM.
 - **Ostentatious** displays of wealth in a public setting should be avoided in order to further lower the risk of being targeted by criminal elements.

- 5**
 - **Avoid** close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
 - **Frequently** hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
 - **Avoid** unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
 - **People** with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

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