

## **Briefing Note on situation in Myanmar**

### **Myanmar's Prime Minister participates in the 8<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Subregion –GMS Summit in Kunming, China**

The Chairman of State Administration Council (SAC) and Prime Minister of Myanmar attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Summit in Kunming, China on 6–7 November 2024. The summit was also attended by the regional leaders, including Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang, and heads of government from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focused on regional integration and development under the theme **“Towards Development through Innovation.”**

During his speech, the SAC Chairman reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to a non-aligned, independent foreign policy, in line with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. He also said that Myanmar is dedicated to implementing the government's Five-Point Roadmap to restore democracy and civilian government in Myanmar after fulfilling the tasks assigned in the provisions of emergency measures.

### **Meeting with Chinese Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Qiang received the SAC Chairman during the sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Summit. During the meeting, Chinese Prime Minister expressed his willingness to further enhance bilateral relations and cooperation, particularly in overcoming challenges together. The SAC Chairman reaffirmed Myanmar's long-standing support for the One China Policy which China has been exercising as a cornerstone of its foreign policy for over 70 years. He expressed gratitude for China's assistance and emphasized China's important role as Myanmar's second-largest foreign investor. He reassured Chinese Prime Minister of Myanmar's

commitment to ensuring the safety of Chinese investments, projects, and nationals within the country.

In the discussion on internal security and peace efforts, the SAC Chairman reiterated that the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) had declared a unilateral ceasefire in 2018 and had always worked towards peace. However, he pointed out that certain armed groups had rejected peace talks and continued armed attacks, most recently on military outposts in Shan State in October 2023. He emphasized that the door for peace remains open, but only if the insurgents are willing to engage in meaningful dialogue, prioritizing the needs of the people and the region over their own demands.

Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Li Qiang reaffirmed China's support for Myanmar's internal peace and stability, and said China will always support Myanmar in choosing a development path suited to its national condition. He also expressed China's support for Myanmar's political transformation and reconciliation. The Chinese Prime Minister reiterated China's commitment to upholding Myanmar's sovereignty and territorial integrity and opposing any actions that would harm Myanmar's national interests.

### **Myanmar's effort to combat Narcotic Drugs**

The Myanmar Police Force recently seized a total of 3.98 million stimulant tablets in two major drug busts. On October 14, an anti-narcotics team discovered 300,000 stimulant tablets in a vehicle in Yangon Region. Further investigation led to the seizure of an additional 3.68 million tablets from the driver's home. Multiple arrests were made in various townships, and legal actions are underway.

In a separate incident on October 23, police seized 8.6 kilograms of heroin, worth K430 million, in Kalay, Sagaing Region. The drugs were hidden in soap cases inside a vehicle. Investigations led to the arrest of several individuals, along with the seizure of an additional 6.6 kilograms of heroin. Legal proceedings

are in progress, and investigations continue, including efforts to seize assets linked to drug trafficking.

On October 27, acting on a tip-off, the anti-narcotic team searched a vehicle and seized 0.88 million stimulant tablets Than Ywar village in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region. The arrested suspects have been charged under the country's law and further investigation is ongoing. Actions will also be taken under the Anti-Money Laundering Law against the profits and assets of those involved.

### **National Victory Day Message**

The message delivered by the Chairman SAC on the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Victory Day of Myanmar which fall on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024, emphasizes several key points which are as follow;

1. The day commemorates the resistance against colonial rule, particularly the oppressive colonial education system that hindered Myanmar's national progress. It marks a pivotal moment in Myanmar's struggle for independence and the revitalization of national pride and unity.
2. The message stresses the importance of peace as the foundation for national development and stability. It highlights ongoing efforts to resolve political issues through dialogue, urging all citizens to eliminate misunderstandings and work together for lasting peace.
3. The message emphasizes the need for an educated populace to drive the country's development. The government is supporting the creation of skilled human resources through education and free schooling initiatives. Parents, teachers, and citizens are urged to work together to nurture a capable and responsible youth.
4. The government is focused on boosting domestic production, especially in agriculture, livestock, and small industries, to enhance food security and

reduce reliance on foreign imports. Efforts are being made to improve economic conditions and promote self-sufficiency.

5. The message concludes with a call for all ethnic groups to unite under a national spirit, contributing to the nation's peace, stability, and development. The theme of this year's National Victory Day encourages cooperation among all ethnicities to build a prosperous and peaceful Union.

### **Holding of General Election**

The regular meeting of the State Administration Council was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the Chairman of the SAC explained that the 2020 general election, which was marred by voting fraud, leading to the current political situation. The government is committed to holding a free and fair election, with plans to invite international observers. He also noted that the electoral system is being adjusted for proportional system to ensure wider participation of national races. He stressed the importance of collaboration with local populations to reduce violence from armed groups. The SAC is also working on rebuilding infrastructure destroyed by terrorism.

The SAC Chairman touched on the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) and discussed the government's ongoing efforts to provide support and rehabilitation to those affected by conflict and disasters. He emphasized the importance of unity, security, and education for Myanmar's development, with continued support from China and neighboring Southeast Asian nations. He reiterated the SAC's commitment to national stability and preparing for multiparty democratic elections under the 2008 Constitution.

### **Crimes and violations committed by PDF and Ethnic Armed groups**

The NUG and its affiliate so-called People Defence Force (PDF) terrorists have been perpetrating violent acts, including arson attacks on monasteries that

do not support their causes, as well as indiscriminate killings of Buddhist monks. To date, 100 monks and one nun have been killed, and 33 monks and another nun have been injured.

On 16 October, Arakan Army (AA) insurgents in Rakhine State opened fire on a vehicle traveling from Ann Township to Padan Township, injuring two women and four men. The terrorists also stopped ten vehicles, abducting 24 men and 14 women. These acts of terrorism, including abductions, extortion, killings, and mine attacks on passenger buses, are to instill fear among the public.

On 24 October, so-called People Defence Force (PDF) terrorists launched a drone attack on a Basic Education Middle School in Thabyaykan village, Myaing Township, Sagaing Region. Five people, including a teacher, three female students, and one civilian, were injured by shrapnel. PDF terrorists continue to target non-military sites such as educational facilities.

On 18 November, security forces received reports of casualties at Mandalay Public Hospital following a drone attack by PDF terrorists on a passenger bus traveling from Katha Town to Mandalay City. The attack near Pay Gyi village in Kantbalu Township killed a child and injured four others.

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