

Thura NewsViews

Politics

Refugee repatriation to Myanmar will begin in November

The Bangladesh and Myanmar governments have reportedly agreed to begin the repatriation process of refugees from Bangladesh in November. Media reports said they reached agreement after a meeting between the two governments in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh. "We are looking forward to starting the repatriation by mid-November," says Bangladeshi foreign secretary Mr Shahidul Haque. U Myint Thu, Myanmar's permanent secretary for foreign affairs, said "It is the first phase". The two countries had established a "very concrete" plan to begin the process next month. The two countries initially agreed to begin the repatriation process in November last year, but have faced numerous delays. Many in the international community, as well as refugees living in Bangladesh, have said the situation in northern Rakhine State does not warrant returns taking place, citing a lack of security, as well as guarantees for returnees' freedom of movement.

Reuters journalists to submit appeal for their sentence

Two Reuters journalists are to launch an appeal against their seven years conviction under the State Secrets Act earlier this year. The appeal of Wa Lone

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November Highlights

The Myanmar government and China-based CITIC Group will sign a framework agreement for the construction of the Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port project in Rakhine State next week.

Property market will be boosted by enforced condominium rules and regulations and once formalized, big housing projects can be legally registered.

Local property developer Mottama Holdings will build M Tower, which is the first high-rise steel-structured office building to be completed in 2020.

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Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar




Yangon to receive much needed new bus stops

Jul 12, 2018
U Maung Aung, secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, stated this week that FMIDecaux ha

Hello Communications to build train station along Yangon Circular Railway

Jul 12, 2018
Through a joint venture with a local firm, Hello Communications will commence its work at Thamine st

Upcoming Events

Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018
July 14, 2018

Myanmar Supply Chain Summit
August 29, 2018

Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum
August 30, 2018

Myanmar Global Investment Forum
September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018

Myanmar Connect 2018
September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

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Highlights

Trade with the Netherlands exceeds USD 61 million
July 12, 2018
Bilateral trade with the Netherlands reached USD 61.98 million in two months according to the ...

and Kyaw Soe Oo will be launched ahead of the November 3 deadline, says their lawyer Khin Maung Zaw. "Everything is ready," the lawyer, told the news wire. "I'm quite confident. But in our country, nothing is certain. Anything can happen". The appeal will be submitted to the High Court, which could take at least six months. According to the article, the reporters will appeal to Myanmar's Supreme Court, if the regional court rejected. The journalists were arrested last December, while they were investigating the army-led crackdown in Rakhine State last year. Their trial and sentencing was met with large-scale international condemnation, and was regarded by critics as an attack on media freedom, and an attempt to silence investigative reporting on the Rakhine crackdown.

Economy

■ **Factory agrees to re-hire 30 sacked workers following protests**

The Fu Yuen garment factory on the outskirts of Yangon has agreed to re-hire 30 sacked workers following high-profile protests by employees. An intervention by Yangon Region chief minister U Phyo Min Thein supported the case for the previously sacked workers. The management and striking workers sacked in August are to sign an agreement on Wednesday pledging to rehire the workers. According to a Myanmar Times article, the protesters were accused of "disturbing production and violating company rules". Their dismissal led to several hundred workers holding protests the following day. The following crackdown injured dozens of protesters. On October 29, the march with estimated 100 workers began from Mahabandoola Park in downtown Yangon to the Yangon Hluttaw. As a result of the protest, Phyo Min Thein agreed to mediate between the two parties.

■ **Myanmar-India signs pact on Rakhine port projects**

India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Myanmar on the appointment of a private operator of major India-backed Rakhine port projects, according to a Myanmar Times article. The article does not mention the operator name of the projects. The projects include the Sittwe Port, the Paletwa inland water terminal and facilities of the cross-border Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project. The series of projects are some of India's largest investments in Myanmar to date. India's foreign secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale witnessed the signing of the agreement. He said it was part of India's Act East Policy, to improve the country's connections with Southeast Asian countries. The project aims to help improve some of the least developed areas such as Rakhine State and Chin State. "It would also add to local infrastructure capacity and help create more jobs for local people", according to the Indian Embassy.

Companies and Investments

■ **Direct flights launched by low-cost airline from Yangon to Guangzhou**

9 Air, a low-cost airline operating out of China, has launched direct flights between Yangon and Guangzhou, in southern China, just weeks after it began connections with Mandalay in early October. The airline based in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, is aiming to operate 80 aircraft as of 2025. Ser-

Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)

GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)

GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)

Population: 52.92 mn people (Oct 2017)

Inflation: 6.5% (2017)

Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)

FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,565K/1\$ (18/10/18)

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vice coverage targeted across Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, according to an article in Frontier. The Yangon Aerodrome Company stated that the flight would operate four times a week, and cost less than US\$ 100. “This new route will substantially meet the needs of business travellers, family visits and general tourism,” the statement said. Other airlines operating the same route include China Southern Airlines and Kanbawza Group majority-owned Myanmar Airways International.

■ **Lotte Group acquires stake in Myanmar bakery firm**

South Korean conglomerate Lotte Group acquires 80 percent of local confectionary L&M Mayson Company, through its subsidiary Lotte Confectionary. According to a report in DealstreetAsia, the deal value is almost US\$ 70 million. The article said that L&M Mayson, headquartered in Yangon, made sales of US\$ 30.6 million last year, and is best known for brands including Good Morning bread, Cake Boy and O-Mar. Lotte calls the confectionery sector a “new blue ocean market” expecting substantial economic growth in the next few years. One of its imported products, Choco Pie, is already popular in Myanmar. The company also has confectionery operations in neighboring countries including Vietnam and India.

Legal Box by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP**New Forest Law 2018—A Check on deforestation and degradation**

With the objective of putting deforestation and degradation activities in check, the new Forest Law 2018 (“Law”) was passed on 20 October 2018, replacing the old Forest Law 1992. The Law includes certain objectives to ensure long-lasting forest management and sustainable development. It is directed towards implementation of the forest policy and environmental conservation policy and endeavours to reduce the occurrence of natural disasters in line with international standards.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (“Ministry”) may further issue relevant rules and regulations with the approval of the Union Government. The Ministry and associated Forest Department may also issue Notifications, Orders and Directives, as required. However, any such rules and regulations shall be in line with the Law.

The Law sets out two types of permit that are to be obtained for carrying out the below stated business activities:- Extraction of forest produce; and Establishment of wood-based industry.

The permit for extraction of forest produce can be obtained from the relevant Forest Department. As currently understood, the extraction of forest produce permit may be approved without use of the competitive bidding system. However the process of application is yet to be tested.

The permit for establishment of wood-based industry can be obtained from the relevant Forest Officer for the purpose of carrying out activities involving sawmills, sawpits, tongue-in-groove mills, plywood mills, veneer mills or wood-based industries.

For any specified forest land and forest-covered land at the disposal of the Government, anyone who wishes to carry out any development work or intends to implement any economic scheme shall obtain the prior approval of the Ministry and of the Director-General or the concerned forest officer.

As part of the Project, an additional ten miles of 230kV transmission will be constructed in the Yangon Region in order to cover the whole Project area. Over 77 miles of 230kV transmission line connecting Mawlamyaing-Ye-Dawei will be constructed to supply electricity to Tanintharyi Region. It is envisaged that comparable expansions of 66kV and 33kV lines and construction of new substations will be carried out in Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Mon and Rakhine.

The Law provides for tougher penal provisions including imprisonment and/or fines for any non-compliance, in line with the Government’s objective of conserving the country’s dwindling forests.

Through our office in Yangon, Duane Morris & Selvam advises corporations on investment, business and regulatory processes in Myanmar. For further information, please contact Mr Krishna Ramachandra (kramachandra@duanemorrisselvam.com), Ms Babita Ambekar (bambekar@duanemorrisselvam.com), Mr Priyank Srivastava (psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com), or Mr CN Beilo (CBLo@selvamandpartners.com) or visit www.duanemorrisselvam.com. Duane Morris & Selvam is recognised as a leading law firm for Myanmar related Corporate, M&A and Projects (including Energy) work – The Legal 500 (2017 & 2018).

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Myanmar Orthopaedic Scientific Conference and ASEAN Orthopaedic Congress	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max, Yangon Date: 07-09 Nov 2018	Myanmar Orthopaedic Society	con- gress.secretariat.aoa@myanmarortho- paedicsociety.org +95 (0)1 2305858
The 2nd Myanmar Textile Summit 2018	Venue: Sedona Hotel, Yangon Date: 12-13 Nov 2018	Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association & ECV International	dennisz@ecvinternational.com +86 21 8026 0707-818
Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2018	Venue: 45 events throughout Myanmar Date: 12-18 Jan 2019	Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA)	eo@myea.org.mm +95 1 230 1867, 230 1573
5 th Myanmar Power Summit	Venue: Melia Hotel, Yangon Date: 15-16 Nov 2018	Centre for Management Technology	grace@cmtsp.com.sg +65 634 69147
Asia IoT Business Platform	Venue: Sedona Hotel, Yangon Date: 15-16 Nov 2018	Asia IoT Business Platform	http://iotbusiness-platform.com/register/
Myanmar Clinical Conference	Venue: Mercure Mandalay Hill Resort, Mandalay Date: 16-18 Nov 2018	Medical Tours Australia	https://www.medicaltoursaustralia.com.au/myanmar-2018/myanmar-clinical-conference-1618-november/
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	Venue: tbc Date: 13-14 Dec 2018	Organizing Committee of MOSCE, Supported by EuroCham	http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx
6th International Exhibition & Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Industry	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 14-16 Dec 2018	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +84 28 3848 8561~63
Invest Myanmar Summit 2019	Venue: MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw Date: 08-09 Jan 2019	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)	umfcci@mptmail.net.mm +95(0)1 231 4344 ~ 49
Mobile Money & Agent Banking Summit	Venue: Yangon Date: 19-20 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360

Tenders

■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Request for Expressions of Interest

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a financing from the French Development Agency (AFD) for the Irrigated Agriculture Inclusive Development Project (IAIDP), and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the following contract package: Consulting services for the Irrigation System Modernization Unit of Natmauk (ISMU 1).
2. The Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation hereby invites consultants to show their interest in delivering the following services.
3. The services of the consultant shall include
 - i. Conduct feasibility/ technical studies of Natmauk Irrigation scheme based on and complementary to the pre-feasibility study,
 - ii. Prepare detailed engineering design for Natmauk Irrigation works including environmental and social examinations, drawings, bills of quantities and construction schedules,
 - iii. Support the tender process including preparation of tender documents and assist in contract procurement and award including bid evaluation, and
 - iv. Provide construction supervision service.
4. The consultancy service is divided into two stages. The 1st stage is the preparation of feasibility study and detailed design including assistance in procurement under a lump sum contract with an implementation period of 15 months. The 2nd stage will be the construction supervision services which will commence after successful completion of 1st stage and will be implemented under a time-based contract with implementation period of 36 months (24 months construction supervision and 12 months defects liability period).
5. Expression of Interest must be submitted to the address below no later than **20th November, 2018**.
6. Eligibility criteria to AFD's financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD - Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website www.afd.fr.
7. The interested consulting firms may obtain a copy of the REOI, the terms of reference and further information from the address provided below through email or in person during office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Irrigation & Water Utilization Management Department

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Building No. 43, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Attention: U Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement

Telephone: +95-67-410019

E-mail address: tlwin4.irr@gmail.com, copy to iaidp.mm@gmail.com and rolito.rillo@gmail.com

■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Request for Expressions of Interest

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
2. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invites expression of interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced local and/or International consulting firm ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services as per the short-list criteria and the EOI should not be more than 30 pages. The short-listing criteria are:
 - At least 2 years of experience working in rural areas in Myanmar or similar conditions;
 - At least 2 years of experience in installation and/or inspection of solar system in countries with similar

conditions with Myanmar;

- At least 2 permanent professional staff with relevant expertise in energy, renewable energy, electrification, and/or project management;
 - At least three contracts in relevant areas, each with a value of at least USD 10,000 over the past five years;
 - Demonstrated ability to use app-based MIS software or related programs developed for monitoring and evaluation of project activities
3. The consultant may express interest to provide inspection and verification services in one or more lots of IVA 3 (under International Competitive Bidding packages for Solar PV - ICB S&I-3 and S&I-DRD-1) as listed below but have to indicate clearly in their Expression of Interest (EOI):

IVA-3 Lot No.	ICB Lots	Tentative no. of samples
Lot 1	ICB S&I-3 Lot 2 - Chin(4), Lot 3 - Sagaing(4), Lot 4 - Shan North(4) and Shan East(3)	9,268
Lot 2	ICB S&I-3 Lot 1 - Kachin, Kayin(3) and Tanintharyi(4), Lot 5 - Bago(2), Magway(2), Yangon, Ayeyarwady(6) & (7) and Nay Pyi Taw(2)	9,491
Lot 3	ICB S&I - DRD - 1 Lot 1 - Yango, Bago(2), Nay Pyi Taw(2), Mandalay(2), Lot 2 - Magway(2), Lot 3 - Rakhine(4), Lot 4 - Ayeyarwaddy(6), Lot 5 - Ayeyarwaddy(7)	8,006

4. The award of contract to one consultant will not be more than two lots and the tentative starting period for the assignment is around May 2009.
5. The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultant (s) will be selected in accordance with the Least-Cost Selection (LCS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.
6. International consulting firms are encouraged to associate with local firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.
7. Further information and initial terms of references can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or direct request through email address - drdnep.procurement@gmail.com. DRD will provide prompt and consistent responses to all interested parties, should there be any questions. Expressions of interest in one original, two copies and a soft copy must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by email) by **28th November, 2018**.
8. The address referred to above is:
- Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Building No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Attention: U Maung Win, Deputy Director General, National Electrification Project (NEP)
Telephone: +95-67-3418636
E-mail address: drdnep.procurement@gmail.com, ksaung@gmail.com and dr.soesoehn@gmail.com.