

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### ■ KNU calls for end to road building

The Karen National Union (KNU), one of the largest ethnic armed groups to have signed the government’s Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), has called on the Myanmar army to stop building roads that connect four districts in their home state. The KNU released a statement calling for an end to construction of the road, which connects the areas of Papun, Nyaunglaybin, Toungoo and Thaton, according to an article in The Irrawaddy. “What we understand is that [the Tatmadaw] are building this road to improve their access to the area,” Saw Thu Kabi, a spokesperson for KNU’s Toungoo chapter, was quoted as saying. The KNU said it believes that the Tatmadaw is building the road for military purposes, and that local residents are distrustful of it. After decades of intense fighting, the KNU signed the NCA with the Myanmar government in 2015. However, there have been some clashes between the group and the Myanmar army, including over tensions related to the road, which is close to several KNU bases. The KNU recently said it is temporarily halting its involvement in the peace process, although it is open to negotiations.

### ■ Three people arrested for “unlawful association” in Kachin State

Three people, including a senior figure in an ethnic armed group, have reportedly been arrested in Kachin State’s Mohnyin Township, accused of unlawful

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### December Highlights

The Ministry of Commerce will now be taking action against individuals or companies for improper preparation of export and import documentation.

An agreement to temporarily suspend any new tariffs on goods traded between USA and China led to lower fuel and gold prices on the back of the sliding value of USD against MMK.

Project Bank of Public Investment Programs to facilitate major project proposals has been established under the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

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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

[More Events](#) [Submit Event](#)

**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 ...

association by the Myanmar army's Northern Command. An article in the Myanmar Times said those arrested included U Aung Swe Oo, vice chairman of the northern chapter of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), which signed the government's Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in October 2015. The three had gone to areas under the control of the Kachin Independence Army which remains in active conflict with the Myanmar army. The group has reportedly asked for assistance from the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and the Joint Monitoring Committee.

## Economy

### ■ EU considers tariffs on Myanmar and Cambodia rice exports

The European Commission is considering putting import tariffs on rice from Cambodia and Myanmar in order to protect the interests of farmers within Europe, according to a Reuters report. The article said the group was considering introducing "safeguard" measures that would last for three years. In the first year, it would set a duty of 175 euros (US\$199) per tonne, 150 euros in the second year, and 125 euros in the third. The decision is not related to recent announcements that the EU was considering sanctions on both countries regarding concerns about human rights issues. Both Myanmar and Cambodia benefit from the EU's "Everything But Arms" programme, which allows underdeveloped countries to export most goods to the EU without paying duties, but a commission spokesman said cheap imports were proving an issue for European farmers and producers.

### ■ Green rubber industry to be developed with assistance of UKaid

Private company Dawei Golden Land has partnered with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with aims to boost the production of Green rubber in Tanintharyi Region. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the organisations have made a joint investment of more than US\$2.4 million to establish a business model to produce rubber that is part of a sustainable supply chain. Tom Coward, team leader of DFID's inclusive growth and livelihoods unit stated that "With Myanmar the seventh largest rubber producer in the world, this project has huge potential to improve the livelihoods of poor farmers, while also promoting the feasibility and profitability of 'zero deforestation' sustainable rubber". DGL has already invested more than \$1 million in building a rubber factory that produces high-quality rubber. There is significant potential for growth for rubber industry in Myanmar. However, low yields and low quality products hinders the growth rate.

## Companies and Investments

### ■ Malaysian payment firm eyes Myanmar market

Malaysian cashless payment company Revenue Group Bhd is preparing to move into the Myanmar market, according to reports in the country. An article in The Star said that the company is awaiting approval from the necessary authorities before it enters into an agreement with an unknown company. The article said that the firm has already established partnerships with lenders in other coun-

### 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/\$ = 1,543K/1\$ (06/12/18)

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tries in Southeast Asia to provide cashless payment services, including through credit cards, debit cards and e-wallets. The company's Chief Executive Officer Eddie Ng Chee Siong said that the company plans to strengthen its share of the market in Malaysia, before expanding to other countries in Southeast Asia. Established in 2003, Revenue's focus is on delivering "complete and customisable payment solutions," according to its website.

■ **Korean firm invests in Myanmar jewelry venture**

Investors from South Korea and Myanmar have teamed up to form a new joint venture focusing on crafting silver and gold jewelry, according to reports. An article in Myanmar Business Today said that Apple Design Jewelry Company will be formed as part of a USD 2 million investment, and will be located at the East Dagon Industrial Zone on the outskirts of Yangon. It is the first foreign investment in the jewelry sector under the current government. "This firm will export the products as well as sell in the domestic market," U Kyaw Tun Win, director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), was quoted as saying. "As this is CMP [cut, make, and pack] the firm can also import raw materials for its products." U Myo Min, president of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association, said foreign investment in the sector will help create jobs, as well as introduce new technologies to the market.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Vietnam Goods Fair	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 13-16 Dec 2018	Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency	+84 2439362321
Enterprise India Show	<b>Venue:</b> LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 4-6 Dec 2018	Confederation Of Indian Industry	info@cii.in +91 11 45771000 / 24629994-7
6th International Exhibition & Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Industry	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 14-16 Dec 2018	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +84 28 3848 8561~63
Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-2, Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 14 Dec 2018	Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association	office@myea.org.mm +95 1 2301867/ 2301573
Invest Myanmar Summit 2019	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 08-09 Jan 2019	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)	umfcci@mptmail.net.mm +95 1 231 4344 ~ 49
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> TBC <b>Date:</b> 24-25 Jan 2019	Organizing Committee of MOSCE	<a href="http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx">http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx</a>
Mobile Money & Agent Banking Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon <b>Date:</b> 19-20 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer & Communication	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon <b>Date:</b> 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Computer Applications	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	University of Computer Studies	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95 1 610889

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Sealed Bids

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for installation of distributions lines and transformers.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 for Mandalay and MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon** in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18** process for Mandalay is:

Lot No.	Identification	No. of Village
Lot 1.	Mandalay/ Kyaukse/ PyinOOLwin District	57
Lot 2.	Kyaukse/ Myingyan/ Nyaung-U District	51
Lot 3.	Meikhtila/ Yamethin District	40

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18** process for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon is:

Lot No.	Identification	No. of Village
Lot 1.	Sagaing & Monywa District (Sagaing Region)	61
Lot 2.	Yinmabin & Shwebo District (Sagaing Region)	49
Lot 3.	Kanbalu/Katha & Kalay District (Sagaing Region)	29
Lot 4.	Magway/ Minbu/ Pakokku/ Thayet District (Magway Region) & Kyaukphyu District (Rakhine Region)	64
Lot 5.	Lashio/ Kyaukme & Muse District (Shan(North) Region)	21
Lot 6.	Taunggyi/ Loilen/ Langkho District (Shan(South) Region) & Loikaw District (Kayah Region)	37
Lot 7.	Bago & Taungoo District (Bago(East) Region)/ DakKhi Na & OkeTha Ra District (Naypyitaw Region)	80
Lot 8.	Mawlamyine & Thaton District (Mon Region)/ HpaAn/ Kawkareik & Myawaddy District (Kayin Region)	61
Lot 9.	Pyay & Tharyarwaddy District (Bago(West) Region)	129
Lot 10.	Pathein/ Hinthada/ MyaungMya & Maubin District (Ayeyarwaddy Region)	41
Lot 11.	Eastern/ Southern & Northern District (Yangon Region)	33

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office ( National Electrification Project), Project Manager and [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours (09:30 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.) at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be issued through email only.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address **below on or before 20th December, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend the address below.
7. All bids must be accompanied by Bid-Security.
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office Building: No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw.

Telephone: +95-67-3431175

Fax: +95-97-3431176

E-mail: [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com)

■ **Ministry of Transport and Communications: Procurement of Works**

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **Ayeyarwaddy Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Municipal Water Supply Connection and Tank for PMU Building.
2. The Ministry of Transport and Communications, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), AIRBM Project, Project Management Unit (PMU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the works for **Municipal Water Supply Connection and Tank for PMU Building**.
3. To be considered eligible and qualified a firm must (1) not be under any notice of disbarment issued by the government, and the World Bank, and (2) demonstrate that they are valid Licensed Master Plumber issued by YCDC.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the procurement procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charged by the interested eligible bidders at the address below. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the address below.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below **on or before 02:00 p.m. on 17th December, 2018**. Late bids will be rejected. The bidding documents will be inspected during office hours (09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.) at the address below.
7. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below at **02:00 p.m. on 17th December, 2018**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.
8. The address (es) mentioned above is (are):

Attention: Ms. Ei Kyipyar Soe or Mr. Aung Min, Procurement Officers

Office: No.400, DWIR Compound, PMU Office (Building 7), Lower Pazuntaung Road, Postal Code 11171, Pazuntaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Telephone: +95-9-263657191, +95-9-5058307

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