

Thura NewsViews

Politics

Facebook shuts hundreds of pages linked to military

Social media giant Facebook shuts hundreds of military-linked pages on its platform, for engaging in “coordinated inauthentic behavior”. The most popular social media app in Myanmar has come under considerable criticism for failing to crackdown on hate speech and disinformation spread on the website. This latest purge, its third since August, saw a total of 425 pages, 17 groups, 135 accounts, as well as 15 Instagram accounts removed. Such accounts were posing as independent news, entertainment, beauty and lifestyle pages, but were in fact linked to the military. In August, the company removed dozens of pages and accounts, including those belonging to military chief Min Aung Hlaing. “This kind of behavior is not allowed on Facebook under our misrepresentation policy because we don’t want people or organizations creating networks of accounts to mislead others about who they are, or what they’re doing,” Facebook said in a statement.

Conflict between Arakan Army and Tatmadaw intensifies

Conflict between the Myanmar army, also called Tatmadaw, and the armed resistance group Arakan Army (AA) have intensified and spilled over into northern Rakhine State. The fighting has mainly centered around Paletwa, in southern Chin State, in recent months. The AA has been fighting the Tatmad-

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December Highlights

Inflation in Myanmar has hit a two-year high of 8.2 percent since August, up from 5.5 percent last year prior to release of fresh directives on the liberalization of interest rates.

Customs warehouses, or bonded warehouses to be introduced—where goods can be stored without Value-Added Tax (VAT) or import duties.

Businesses and trade unions appealed against the withdrawal of the EU’s Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) currently enjoyed by Myanmar.

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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 ...

aw since 2015. AA fought alongside its allies, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin state. According to an article in The Irrawaddy, the AA said the Myanmar army's air force had recently attacked AA positions in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State. Fighting had also occurred in Rathedaung, Buthidaung and Ponnagyun in recent weeks. Three Tatmadaw soldiers were killed in an truck attack in Rathedaung, according to reports. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which happened near territory claimed by the AA, the article said. In recent weeks, representatives from the AA, as well as from the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, have held talks with the government. They offered to stop fighting in return for the right to return to formal peace talks.

Economy

■ IMF and the World Bank revise growth forecasts for Myanmar

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have both cut their GDP growth estimates for Myanmar in 2018-19. This highlights further indications of a lack of confidence in the country's economy. In a statement, the IMF revised its growth expectation for 2018-19 to 6.4 percent. The initial estimate of the growth rate was 7.0 percent. Meanwhile, the World Bank also said it expected the economy to expand by 6.2 percent in the same financial year, down from an earlier estimate of 6.8 percent. The crisis in Rakhine State and a less favorable global economic environment were reasons for downsizing. "The implementation of a second wave of reforms with greater investments, in both physical and human capital, financed by higher revenues and improved spending efficiency should sustain Myanmar's growth take off," Mr Shanak J Peiris, a member of the IMF team, was quoted as saying by Frontier. He also added that a prolonged crisis in Rakhine State and a withdrawal of trade preferences could reduce donor financing and investment. However, both IMF and the World Bank said the medium-term looked more optimistic. The government initiatives such as the release of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, and the country's involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Companies and Investments

■ Greenovator wins a six-digit fund from the GSMA

Greenovator, a Myanmar start-up which provides an agri-mobile platform to help farmers improve their output and income, has been awarded a "six-digit" fund from the GSMA Ecosystem Accelerator, according to a report in Dealstreet Asia. Greenovator was one of 11 start-ups given the GSMA grant launched in 2011. The development arms of British and Australian governments funded the GSMA grant. According to the report, Greenovator is also in discussions with a local group for investment that will match the grant. "We plan to take the next step of connecting farmers and agri businesses, creating a marketplace for the agriculture sector," the company's CEO Yin Yin Phyu was quoted as saying. Greenovator claims to have a user base of more than 100,000 farmers and 2,500 experts.

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/\$ = 1,570K/1\$ (20/12/18)

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- **Foreign insurance firms could begin operating by mid-2019**

A government official has said that foreign insurance providers will receive licences to begin operations in Myanmar by April 2019, according to a report in the Myanmar Times. The article quoted U Thant Sin, director of the Financial Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, as saying that companies will soon be invited to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs). Foreign companies have shown significant interest in Myanmar's insurance market. So far, 31 foreign insurers from 14 countries did not have permission to operate anything more than representative offices. "If we allow foreign players in the market, we will be able to get the funds we need to develop the government bond market," Thant Sin said, adding that they will be required to be capitalized with about \$ US 14 million for a license.

- **AirAsia still interested in expanding into Myanmar market**

As part of its regional growth strategy, low-cost carrier AirAsia is still interested in expanding into Myanmar's airline market. An article in the Myanmar Times quoted the firm's CEO Riad Asmat as saying that countries such as Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia remain "untouched in terms of the possibilities for AirAsia". He also added that expanding its presence in the Indochina region is the company's goal. AirAsia was in discussions with local operator FMI Air earlier this year. However, the deal was blocked by authorities who wanted to protect local companies, and did not move forward. Since then, FMI Air has halted operations amid a cluttered domestic market. The airline was still interested in Myanmar, despite the challenges in the market, according to Asmat.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
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)	umfcc@mpmail.net.mm +95 (0)1 231 4344 ~ 49
Electric Power Exhibition & Conference	Venue: MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw Date: 17-18 Jan 2019	BUIM Group	info@buimgroup.org +0086-21-36509276
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	Venue: TBC Date: 24-25 Jan 2019	Organizing Committee of MOSCE	http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx
Mobile Money & Financial Inclusion Summit	Venue: Park Royal, Yangon Date: 26-27 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
Emerging Asia E-Commerce Summit	Venue: Park Royal, Yangon Date: 26-27 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer & Communication	Venue: Yangon Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Computer Applications	Venue: Novotel Hotel, Yangon Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	University of Computer Studies	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95 (0)1 610 889
LPG Myanmar Summit	Venue: LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon Date: 3 Apr - 4 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +254 20 3661200
International Food & Drink Carnival	Venue: Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery, Yangon Date: 9 May - 12 May 2019	ALT EXHIBITIONS SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +6012-334 5696
Food & Hotel Myanmar	Venue: Yangon Convention Center, Yangon Date: 5 Jun - 7 Jun 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95 (0)1 378 975

Tenders

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Open Tender

1. Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy invites open tenders for supply of the following respective items in USD and MMK.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(a)	IFB-037 (18-19)	CNG Ground Storage Cascade (3) Sets	USD
(b)	IFB-038 (18-19)	Echometer Digital Well Analyzer (1) Set	USD
(c)	DMP/L-153 (18-19)	Portable Fire Fighting Pump (1) Set	MMK
(d)	DMP/L-154 (18-19)	Mobile Type Welding Machine Engine Driven 400 AMP and Accessories (7) Sets	MMK
(e)	DMP/L-155 (18-19)	Spark Plug and Electronic Cards for 1.1 MW Kongsberg Gas Turbine	MMK
(f)	DMP/L-156 (18-19)	Electrical Spares for 1000 KVA Transformer Installation (5) Items	MMK
(g)	DMP/L-157 (18-19)	1.5 MW (1875 KVA) Gas Engine Driven Generating Set attach with Switch Gear Panel (1) Set	MMK
(h)	DMP/L-158 (18-19)	Spares for GM 6V 71 Engine (46) Items	MMK

2. The open tender forms including description of materials / Qty with details specifications and tender terms and conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website - www.moee.gov.mm as from **12th November, 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.
3. The interested bidders should submit the technical specifications with original bid bond and commercial quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **02:00 p.m. on 9th January, 2019**.
4. Tender closing date and time is **02:00 p.m. on 9th January, 2019**.
5. Further information can be obtained at Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the phone number +95-67-411206.

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation for 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 MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18 for Yangon.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18 for Yangon** in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18 process for Yangon is:

Lot No	Location	No. of Villages
Lot 1	Yangon North District	67 villages
Lot 2	Yangon North District	45 villages

Lot 3	Yangon South District	61 villages
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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 as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents can 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 **10:00 a.m. on 7th January, 2019**. 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 at the address below.
7. All bids must be accompanied by bid security.
8. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Attention: Project Manager

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

Telephone: +95-(0)67-3431175

Fax number: +95-(0)67-3431176

Email address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

■ **Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Open Tender**

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy invites open tender for supply of the following services in USD.

Sr No	Tender No.	Description	Currency
(a)	MOGE-C001/2018	Provision of 3D Seismic Data Acquisition Services for On-shore Block RSF-1	USD

2. The open tender forms including description of services with detailed specifications and tender terms and conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website - www.moee.gov.mm as from 19th December, 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.
3. The interested bidders should submit the technical specifications with original bid bond and commercial quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in tender box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 02:00 p.m. on 15th January, 2019.
4. The tender closing date and time is on 15th January, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.
5. Further information can be obtained at the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the phone number: +95-(0)67-3411206 within office hours.