

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ New political party to be formed by U Shwe Mann

Thura U Shwe Mann has announced that he is forming a new political party that intends to "work with the people". The official name of the new party will be the Union Betterment Party. It plans to build a federal union and develop the economy. It will also focus on health, education, culture, rule of law and peace, and develop a constitution that is "suitable" for Myanmar, according to Shwe Mann's Facebook page. The former speaker of the lower house was ousted from the USDP (Union Solidarity and Development Party) months before the 2015 general election. He ran as an independent candidate in the 2015 election but could not gain a seat in parliament. Shwe Mann has worked closely with the National League for Democracy administration and has been appointed as chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. It is not clear if his new party will seek an alliance with the NLD.

■ March by thousands in support of Tatmadaw

A march in thousands took place in Yangon on February 3, to show support for the Myanmar Armed Forces, known as Tatmadaw, in particular regarding a ceasefire in the north, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. Most of the demonstrators wore white, and waved Myanmar flags and those of a white dove. On December 21, the Tatmadaw announced a ceasefire in the

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February Highlights



Disenfranchised agents of the now defunct Red Dot Network Ltd plan to file a court case against the payment-solutions provider.

Myanmar has enacted legislation to protect intellectual property (IP) in another step forward for businesses in the country.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will grant official remittance Licences to authorized money changers within two months.

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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 ...

north of the country. However, it didn't include Rakhine State. The army has been fighting the Arakan Army (AA). "We welcome the unilateral ceasefire by the Tatmadaw," Sayadaw U Nyan Naw Bartha of the Patriotic Monks Union of Yangon was quoted as saying. "It shows that the Tatmadaw truly wants peace and is good-hearted". Among those present at the march were monk U Wirathu, and nationalist and former politician U Hla Swe. The Tatmadaw has come under considerable criticism internationally in the past year, mainly for its handling of the crisis in Rakhine State in late 2017.

Economy

■ National Electrification plan on course to supply 5,080 villages

A total of 5,080 villages are to be connected to the national grid this year, as part of the National Electrification Plan (NEP). According to an article in the Myanmar Times, U Thura Aung Bo, project manager and deputy chief engineer of NEP was quoted that, under phase 1 of the project, 5,080 villages within two miles of the grid will be connected. The villages are located in Mon and Kayin states, as well as Bago, Ayeyarwady, Mandalay and Yangon regions. Villages in Sagaing and Magway regions, and Chin, Shan and Rakhine states, will also be connected in phase two. "Most villages in the outskirts currently do not have access to electricity," Thura Aung Bo was quoted as saying. "That is why our department is working to light up the rural areas. The authorities will ensure the reliable distribution of power to people in the outskirts."

■ Circular railroad in Yangon proposed by Chinese firm

Officials from the China Railway Engineering Co Ltd (CREC) have proposed the Yangon Region Government to construct a new circular railroad around the commercial capital. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the CREC has proposed two versions, one to build on the existing track, and the other an elevated track. U Than Naing Oo, from the regional government, said that one issue that needs to be considered is whether or not new land would need to be acquired to build new stations. According to the proposal, the elevated railway will be able to accommodate trains that can travel up to 80 kilometers per hour, and carry about 90,000 passengers per day, and the proposed route would go from Kyeemyindaing to Mingalardon, and from Kyauk Yay Dwin to Yangon International Airport. Than Naing Oo told the daily that the proposal gave the option of it being built under a Private Public Partnership (PPP) or a Build Operate Transfer (BOT) and work would take between 24 and 36 months at a cost of US\$1.5 billion. "At present, the project is just being discussed," Than Naing Oo said.

Companies and Investments

■ Mahar Bawga to receive loan from Yoma Bank

Yoma Bank is to provide a loan of MMK 2.2 billion to Mahar Bawga Finance. The loan will allow the company to scale up and will be able to take on additional 5,000 customers. "This partnership highlights our ongoing commitment as Myanmar's largest provider of liquidity to MFIs [Microfinance Institutions] and NBFIs [Non-Bank Financial Institutions]," Hal Boshier, Yoma Bank CEO, was quoted as saying. According to an article in Dealstreet Asia, Yoma has so far financed

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/\$ = 1,531K/1\$ (07/02/19)

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10 Myanmar microfinance institutions with up to MMK 75.7 billion. Mahar Bawga, which began its operations in 2014, says it offers financial solutions for more than 14,000 clients in Yangon. Today, the total lending is worth MMK 4.59 billion.

■ **Exploration of offshore block by PTTEP to begin**

Thai firm PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) has begun an environmental impact assessment (EIA) at the M9 offshore block. An article in the Myanmar Times said that the firm is conducting the EIA to ensure “there is minimal impact on the site before work begins”. The EIA could take up to 12 months to complete. It will include inputs from non-governmental organizations as well as local industry players, including fisheries. PTTEP also said that public meetings will be held in order to hear from opposition voices. In January, it was reported that PTTEP is planning to spend US\$ 3.3 billion this year for its exploration activities in Myanmar. PTTEP is a subsidiary of Thai PTT Public Company.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Mobile Money & Agent Banking Summit	Venue: Yangon Date: 19-20 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
AVPN Myanmar Social Investment Forum	Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon Date: 26 Feb 2019	Asian Venture Philanthropy Network Limited	marketing@avpn.asia +65-6536 1824
Emerging Asia E-Commerce Summit	Venue: Park Royal Hotel, 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
ANDE & Nexus for Development Workshop & launch of Myanmar Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Snapshot	Venue: Sule Shangri-la, Yangon Date: 27 Feb 2019	Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)	sarita.worravitdomsuk@aspeninstitute.org +66 9 009 1590
International Conference on Computer Applications	Venue: Novotel Hotel, Yangon Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	University of Computer Studies	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95-1-610 889
LPG Myanmar Summit	Venue: LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon Date: 3 Apr - 4 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +25-4203 661200
Myanmar Coffee Teas & Sweets Festival	Venue: Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon Date: 1-4 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
International Food & Drink Carnival	Venue: Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery, Yangon Date: 9-12 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
Food & Hotel Myanmar	Venue: Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Yangon Date: 5-7 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975

Tenders

■ Ministry of Construction: Open Tender

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Bank) through the Ministry of Construction towards the cost of Rural Development Programme - Phase IV.
2. The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) under Ministry of Construction intends to implement, with contract system, **the construction of bituminous roads and bridges along the roads in Taunggyi District and Loilem District, Shan State**. Rural roads express as follow:

No.	Township	Lot No.	Road Name	Road Type	Length (Km)
(i)	Pinlaung	TP-1A	Hle Gon - Moene Tharabu Road	DBST	7.80
(ii)	Pinlaung	TP-1B	Moene Tharabu - Kyar Dun Road	DBST	6.50
(iii)	Pinlaung	TP-1C	Kyar Dun - In Dain Road	DBST	5.10
(iv)	Pinlaung	TP-3A	Naung Pi - Ti Lon Road	DBST	11.40
(v)	Pinlaung	TP-3B	Ti Lon - Moe Oo Road	DBST	10.25
(vi)	Pinlaung	TP-3C	Moe Oo - Nam Pha Mu Road	DBST	11.35
(vii)	Loilem	LL-1A	Mingalar Oo - Ti Hay Road/ Bridge	DBST/ Concrete	2.10

3. Procurement will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures and under the laws and regulations governing public procurement within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
4. Interested companies may obtain further information and may inspect the complete bidding documents, and may purchase a set of the documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 65,000 at International Relationship and Legal Division of Department of Rural Road Development.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held in the meeting room of the DRRD at **25th March, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** Each bidder is invited to attend the conference with maximum two representatives.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **18th March, 2019**. Late bid will be rejected.
7. Interested companies may obtain further information at following address:

Attention: Daw Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director General of Department of Rural Road Development
 Office: Yan Aung (2) Yard, North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw.
 Telephone/ Fax: +95-67-24821
 Email: rbbdrd@gmail.com, ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com

■ Ministry of Transport and Communications: Request for Quotation

1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible firm to submit the proposal for **"EMF Test Equipment for RF Networks"** as part of **the Telecom Sector Reform Project** supported by the World Bank's loan.
2. The deadline for submission of Request for Quotation (RFQ) is **4th March, 2019 by 01:00 p.m.**
 Attention: Director General, Posts and Telecommunications Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications

Office: Building No. 2, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Telephone: +95-67-407438

Email: monitoringptd2018@gmail.com

3. The detailed information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and it can be downloaded at Posts and Telecommunications Department website - www.ptd.gov.mm.

■ **Ministry of Transport and Communications: Request for Quotation**

1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible consulting firm to submit the Financial and Technical proposals for **“the Setup, Development, Implementation and Operation of a “.mm” ccTLD Registry for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar”** as part of the **Telecom Sector Reform Project** supported by the World Bank’s Loan.

2. The deadline for submission of Request for Quotation (RFQ) is **22nd February, 2019 at 01:00 p.m.**

Attention: Director General, Posts and Telecommunications Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications

Office: Building No. 2, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Telephone: +95-67-3407626

Email: resource@ptd.gov.mm

3. The detailed information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and it can be downloaded at Posts and Telecommunications Department website - www.ptd.gov.mm.

■ **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 Distribution Lines and Transformers **MOEE-NEP/C1-W14/19** for Adaptation Villages in Mandalay.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W14/19** process for Mandalay is:

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 **09:30 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.** at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English 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 **4th March, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** Electronic bidding 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):

Attention: Project Manager, Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

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

Telephone: +95-67-3431175

Fax: +95-67-3431176

Email: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com