

Thura NewsViews

Politics

Charges dropped against statue protestors in Kayah State

Charges have been dropped against 55 people in Kayah State who have held protests against the construction of a new statue of independence leader General Aung San in the state. According to a report in The Irrawaddy, Khun A Than, a member of local civil society group Karenni Youth Force, said that all charges had been dropped related to alleged defamation, as well as the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law. "We don't need to give thanks for the charges being dropped, the youths didn't do anything they should be charged for," Khun A Than was quoted as saying. "They were charged unnecessarily by the state government, which wants to oppress them". The state government has been planning to construct a statue of Aung San in Loikaw, since last year. However, many local people have protested against the move. The reason is because his promise of a federal union has still not been fulfilled. Aung San is the father of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and was assassinated shortly before the country gained independence from the British in 1948. More talks are expected between members of a committee on the statues and local civil society leaders regarding the planned statue.

Thura Swiss Ltd.
Economic Research
Shwe Hinthar B 307
6 1/2 Miles Pyay Road
11 Qtr. Hlaing Tsp.
Yangon, Myanmar

Phone +95 (0)1 654 730
Fax +95 (0)1 654 733
info@thuraswiss.com
www.thuraswiss.com

February Highlights

With Chinese demand for cattle on the rise, Myanmar and China will soon sign a bilateral agreement for trading cattle at the border.

Transformations are being formulated to shift focus from traditional postal services to delivery of goods and the provision of services for online shopping and e-commerce.

Efforts will be raised to boost trade with the Republic of Korea, according to MOC during an event to promote local agriculture exports to South Korea.

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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](#)

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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 ...

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Myanmar Economics and Politics

Weekly Newsletter

■ **Death sentence given to killers of lawyer U Ko Ni**

Two of four defendants implicated in the killing of prominent lawyer U Ko Ni were sentenced to death. Ko Ni, a constitutional expert and legal adviser to the NLD, was gunned down at Yangon International Airport on January 29, 2017. He was also one of Myanmar's most prominent Muslims. Gunman U Kyi Lin, and U Aung Win Zaw, a former military officer, were given the death penalty after being found guilty of premeditated murder under Section 302(1)(b) of the Penal Code. An additional 20 years' prison sentence was to given to Kyi Lin for killing U Nay Win, a taxi driver who chased Kyi Lin after the shooting. U Zeyar Phyo was sentenced to five years in prison with hard labor for falsifying evidence. U Aung Win Tun received three years for harboring an offender. The alleged mastermind, U Aung Win Khine, who is also a former military officer, is still on the loose. Although Myanmar has a death penalty, the sentence has not been executed for decades.

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/\$ = 1,529K/1\$ (21/02/19)

Economy

■ **State Counsellor promises scrutiny of BRI projects**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi promised that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in Myanmar will undergo proper scrutiny. The comments were made during a meeting with members of the Steering Committee for Implementation of the BRI in Nay Pyi Taw, according to an article in The Irrawaddy. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi heads the committee. She emphasized the need "to make sure that the selected projects are in conformity with national plans, policies and domestic procedures". She added that Myanmar's location also means that the country "needs to participate" in the initiative. The BRI was unveiled by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. The aim is to build a network of roads, railroads and shipping lanes that would transform global trade. However, critics of the ambitious project have expressed concern that it is part of efforts by Beijing to further increase its power on the global stage. In September last year, the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) agreement was signed, as part of BRI. The plan is to develop major infrastructure projects across Myanmar, including in Yangon, Mandalay and Kyaukphyu, in Rakhine State. Myanmar's BRI steering committee has 25 members, including 18 Union ministers, five chief ministers, as well as the permanent secretary for foreign affairs and the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council. The committee members plan to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Development in Beijing in April.

Companies and Investments

■ **Lithium exploration to begin by Canadian firm**

Canada-based miner AsiaBaseMetals is planning to begin exploring for lithium on land in central Myanmar. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the company will become the first company to systematically explore for lithium in Myanmar. It will do so on 74 square kilometers of land close to Thazi, in Mandalay Region. Lithium is a chemical compound that can be used for medicine. It is also used in the making of aircraft and some batteries. "The company's planned entry into the lithium space, starting especially in Myanmar, a country having both China and India as neighbors who may well represent the largest users of

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batteries in the world, is a significant move,” Raj Chowdhry, president, CEO and chair of AsiaBaseMetals, was quoted as saying. International companies have expressed significant interest in Myanmar’s mining industry. New mining rules were enacted in February 2018, allowing foreign firms to invest in large-scale sites of more than 500,000 acres. The rules also allow medium scale sites of up to 247 acres.

- **EME to invest in Myanmar startup Mote Poh**

Emerging Markets Entrepreneurs (EME) Myanmar is to lead a six-digit US dollar seed investment in Mote Poh, a Yangon-based employee benefit start up. An article in Dealstreet Asia said that Vietnam-based venture capital firm Nest Tech will also participate in the funding. Mote Poh has developed a book of free and discounted items in shops, restaurants and activity centres across Myanmar. The companies can use the book to reward their employees. According to the article, the company, which was founded in May 2018, now has 60 customers in Myanmar. It is currently developing an app and expanding into other types of loyalty programs. “As an investment firm, we’ve seen high employee churn rates across many industries in Myanmar, and it’s exciting to see Mote Poh tackling the problem head on,” EME said in a statement. “We expect to help Mote Poh grow by consulting on technology and finance, as well as helping them partner with our mentors and companies in our network.”

- **Startup incubation begins for five new companies**

Five new companies have begun the latest round of the Phandeeyar Accelerator, a startup incubator based in Yangon. The program aims to contribute to the growth of startup companies in Myanmar, and companies are selected based on their potential to provide new and innovative digital products and contribute to progress in the country, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. Selected companies receive up to USD 25,000 in investment as well as offices, six months of coaching, as well as other benefits. The five startups include Asia Art Connect, a digital market place for local and regional artists to sell their work, and Hivephing, which connects workers in the construction industry to job opportunities. The other three companies selected are One Sett, an online marketplace, housing platform Nay Yar, and Hydro Plant, which provides hydroponic and aquaponic farming technologies to farmers.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Mobile Money & Agent Banking Summit	Venue: Park Royal Yangon, Yangon Date: 26 - 27 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 - 01 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)	sari-ta.worravitdomsuk@aspeninstitute.org +66 9 009 1590
International Conference on Computer Applications	Venue: Novotel Hotel, Yangon Date: 27 Feb - 01 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: 03 Apr - 04 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +25-4203 661200
Myanmar Coffee Teas & Sweets Festival	Venue: Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon Date: 01 - 04 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: 09 - 12 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
Food & Hotel Myanmar	Venue: Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Yangon Date: 05 - 07 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975

Tenders

■ Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise: 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 MMK.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-180 (18-19)	Spares for Clean Energy Mother & Daughter Compressor (10) Items	MMK
(b)	DMP/L-181 (18-19)	Spark Plug & Electronic Card (2) Items	MMK
(c)	DMP/L-182 (18-19)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1000) Drums	MMK

2. The open tender forms including description of materials/ Qty 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 21st February, 2019. 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 **21st March, 2019**.
4. Tender closing date and time are **21st March, 2019** at **02:00 p.m.**
5. Further information can be obtained at the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise within office hours under the telephone number: +95-67-411206.

■ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation: Open Tender

1. The significant **56th Myanmar Gems Emporium** will be held on **11th - 20th March, 2019** at **Maniradana Jade Hall** in **Nay Pyi Taw**.
2. Rough jade, rough gems, cut and polished gemstones, jewelries, jade carvings, gold and silver wares and gemstone pictures will be sold in Euro currency at the Emporium.
3. Gems lots and jade lots will be put up for sale through **open tender system** and specifying reserve prices as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Reserve Price (Euro) for Open Tender
(a)	Pearl	500 and above
(b)	Gems	500 and above
(c)	Jade	5,000 and above
(d)	Finished product and Jade Carving	1,000 and above

4. Foreign visitors eligible for the following qualifications will be granted admission to the 56th Emporium 2019, excluding those blacklisted for their default on payment in the previous emporiums;
 - (a) The person who was invited by the Emporium Central Committee with invitation card.
 - (b) The person who requested the invitation card via the Foreign Jade Associations.
 - (c) The person who requested to receive the invitation card through the respective embassies and consulate - General.

- (d) Foreign visitors are permissible to make bids for the lots up to the value of the 10-fold of the minimum amount of deposit to be paid and the amount permitted to bid are as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Deposit to be paid (Euro)	Permitted limit to bid (Euro)
(1)	Gems	2,000	20,000
(2)	Jade	20,000	200,000

- (e) Making bids for lots priced more than the permitted limit is required to make additional deposit (10% of its value) to the Account No. EEM 400034 opened with the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by the name of The Central Committee Emporium (Deposit). Deposit must be made by the preview deadline as below;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Kind of selling system	Deposit Payment Date
(1)	Gems	Open Tender	13th March, 2019
(2)	Jade	Open Tender	14th March , 2019

5. Starting from **25th February, 2019**, admission card will be issued at the Maniradana Jade Hall, Registration Office to the foreign merchants who have already paid the deposit ahead.
6. Application forms for admission to Emporium can be downloaded from websites - www.mining.gov.mm or www.mge.gov.mm, starting from **16th February, 2019**. Application can be submitted via **Online Pre-Registration System** from www.mge.gov.mm. the requirements to make the admission card are as follow;
 - (a) Name, Passport and National Scrutiny Card No. (Passport Issuing Country)
 - (b) Clear photocopy of passport
 - (c) Clear two passport photos taken within one month
 - (d) Complete contact information, (to state phone number, fax number and email address if applicable)
 - (e) Admission fee - MMK 150,000
7. Buyers shall settle payment for the purchases within deadlines as prescribed by the Sales Agreement. The necessary agreement will be made if the buyer desires to bring his/her fully paid purchase along with them.
8. Shipment of fully paid purchase to the buyer is made under the EXW (EX Works) System. Purchase will be timely dispatched once the buyer has made full payment for the purchase. Emporium Central Committee will be responsible for loading the merchandise onto the transportation vehicles from the Emporium Hall while the buyer himself or his authorized representative company will be held liable for the remaining processes.