

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### ■ Mining company accused of detaining, assaulting reporters

Two journalists working for a local media organisation in Kachin State have been detained and assaulted by a mining company there. According to an article in The Irrawaddy, Seng Mai, publisher and editor-in-chief of Myitkyina Journal, said that employees of Tha Khin Sit Mining and Import and Export Company “forced” two reporters from the journal’s office to go to the company headquarters. They were held for more than two hours and “threatened with repercussions” if they didn’t remove a story about the company from the website. The story was about local residents planning to protest against a planned banana plantation overseen by Tha Khin Sit. The journalists were held in separate rooms and it is reported that one reporter was slapped in the face with a copy of the journal. Another reporter was “forced to do 300 sit-ups as punishment”. The reporters were allegedly released after the journal contacted local police, who surrounded the property. The article said that representatives for Tha Khin Sit could not be reached for comment. The issue raises further concerns about press freedom in Myanmar. Critics say it has gone backwards in Myanmar in recent years.

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### February Highlights

The Yangon Region government has opened the Yangon City Gallery to help the public easily enquire about the prices and locations of housing built by the government.

New beaches along the Rakhine coast will be opened up for new hotel projects in order to draw more tourism investments into the state.

Myanmar and China have discussed raising the quota of rice that can be exported to China from Myanmar according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

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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**

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Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018  
July 14, 2018

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Myanmar Supply Chain Summit  
August 29, 2018

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Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum  
August 30, 2018

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

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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 ...

■ **KIO calls for clarification of UN drugs report**

The Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) has called on the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to correct a recent report that claims that the armed group controls areas with some of the highest prevalence of opium cultivation in the country. Colonel Naw Bu, spokesman for the KIO, told The Irrawaddy that a UNODC report on the issue had “relied on information from a person or organization”, and not been based on surveys conducted on the ground. “They should confess their mistake and they should tell the people they made a mistake,” he said. The KIO claims that 6,000 acres are under poppy cultivation in an area controlled by the Kachin Border Guard Force. It is a former militia now under the control of the Myanmar Army. The KIO's armed wing, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), is one of the largest ethnic armed groups not to have signed the government's Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The UNODC has not yet responded to the claims.

■ **Constitutional amendments warned by military**

Senior figures from the Myanmar military, known as the Tatmadaw, have held a press conference in Yangon. They said that plans to amend the constitution risk “breaching constitutional rules” and warned against amendments that would “harm the essence” of the controversial charter. “We hereby would like to repeat again that we are not objecting to constitutional reforms, but we object to their action [of forming a committee] which is against constitutional rules and parliament by-laws,” Major General Tun Tun Nyi was quoted as saying by The Irrawaddy. He went on to say that the National League for Democracy (NLD) has already breached the constitution by creating the role of State Counsellor for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, a position similar to Prime Minister. The current constitution was put to a referendum by the military junta in 2008. It is regarded by many as being introduced to safeguard the role of the military in Myanmar's politics. It was controversially approved just weeks after Cyclone Nargis hit southern Myanmar. The storm saw an estimated 140,000 people killed and potentially millions displaced.

**Economy**

■ **Investment Fair of Chin State to be held in Yangon**

The government is planning to host the Chin State Investment Fair at Yangon's Myanmar Convention Center in March. It is aimed at boosting development to the isolated state. According to an article in Myanmar Business Today, organizers of the fair have invited more than 500 representatives to attend. The participants include local companies, foreign firms, as well as international organisations and diplomats. U Aung Naing Oo, director general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), said that the fair was being held in Yangon because it is easier to attract attendees, with Chin State being so remote. The fair is being organised by the Chin State government, DaNa Facility, the Chin State Organisation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Yangon-based law firm VDB Loi. The two-day event will showcase Chin traditional clothing, fruits, coffee and local crafts, the article said.

**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/\$ = 1,508K/1\$ (28/02/19)

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- **Airport set to open in Chin State by 2020**

A planned airport in Falam, the first to service remote Chin State, is planned to be open in September 2020, according to a report in the Myanmar Times, citing an official from Myanmar's Civil Aviation Department (CAD). Construction of the airport, which is located in the north of the state, began in 2016-17 and had originally been scheduled for 2021-22. However, the article said that State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint "gave instructions" last month for the earlier deadline to be put in place. Ye Htut Aung, deputy director general of the CAD, said that an extra MMK 10 billion, on top of the current budget of MMK 5 billion, will be required to complete the project early. Chin State has significant tourism potential, but poor infrastructure across the state makes it a challenging place for many visitors to get to. Some of the state's most attractive tourism destinations include the remote hills of northern Chin, Nat Ma Taung National Park, and Rih Lake, on the Myanmar-India border. The government hopes that an airport providing the state with direct access to the rest of the country will significantly develop the economy there.

- **Government courts investment in Rakhine**

The government hosted the Rakhine Investment Fair last week, aiming to attract foreign companies to invest in the troubled state. This is part of plans led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to encourage development in Rakhine State. Aung San Suu Kyi made comments at the event, held at Ngapali Beach, where she spoke of the region's "untapped" economic potential. She gave little mention of the violence that the state has seen in recent years, much of which continues today. In her speech, Aung San Suu Kyi said that Rakhine "still remains untapped", according to an AFP article. She highlighted the huge potential of industries including tourism, manufacturing and oil and gas as "one of the shining assets of Rakhine State". According to the article, participants from India, Japan, South Korea and China attended the event. The government has consistently said that development is needed to bring an end to the long-running conflicts in the state. However, critics of the investment fair say that it failed to deal with some of the deep-seated issues in there. Renewed fighting between the Myanmar Army, also called Tatmadaw, and the Arakan Army have been taking place. Over 100,000 Muslims, who call themselves Rohingya, are still living in segregated camps in Rakhine. Many people do not have access to healthcare, education and livelihoods.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
LPG Myanmar Summit	<b>Venue:</b> LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 03 Apr - 04 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +25-4203 661200
Myanmar Coffee Teas & Sweets Festival	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 01 - 04 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
International Food & Drink Carnival	<b>Venue:</b> Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 09 - 12 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
BuildTech Yangon	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo Hall <b>Date:</b> 17 - 18 May 2019	Sphere Exhibitions Pte Ltd	sphere@sph.com.sg +65-6319 4020
Mandalay International Livestock and Agriculture Show	<b>Venue:</b> Mandalay Convention Centre <b>Date:</b> 28 - 30 May 2019	Silver Sea Media	info@mmlfin.com +95-9431 25185
Food & Hotel Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Yangon <b>Date:</b> 05 - 07 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975
Beauty Connect Expo Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel <b>Date:</b> 06 - 08 June 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (Veas Co., Ltd)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9420 025684
Complast Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Hall <b>Date:</b> 14 - 16 June 2019	Smart Expos & Fairs (India) Pvt. Ltd	office@smartexpos.in +91-44-2250 1986/ 87
Myanmar International Job Fair	<b>Venue:</b> Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery <b>Date:</b> 15 - 16 June 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
Emerging Asia Banking & Fintech Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Park Royal Yangon <b>Date:</b> 25 - 26 June 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Call for Expression of Interest

1. Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) is calling for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for “Animal Identification System For Cattle And Buffalo” only from local entities (agencies, institutions, individuals) with

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-178 (18-19)	Applied Research Centre (8) Items	MMK
(b)	DMP/L-179 (18-19)	Liquid Spense (200) Can	MMK
(c)	IFB-043 (18-19)	Applied Research Centre (5) Items	USD

experience in animal identification and data management relevant to livestock health, production, marketing and microfinance in livestock sector in Myanmar.

2. The purpose of the Eoi is to facilitate establishment and wider application of animal identification and registration system that can be field-tested and supportive to legal trade, livestock loans and animal health insurance systems for improvement of livestock farming.
3. Application should include: Technical details of animal identification system which describes products description, data entry and management system, possibility to network with relevant entities for livestock loan and insurance systems, role of each organizations to be involved, Technical support to the data management system in long-term purposes and conditions for signing agreement.
4. The submission should be in signed PDF document form. The submission should be no more than two pages, not including annexes. The submitting entity can include annexes which support the Eoi.
5. Applications should be addressed to Director General, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department through emails: [ir.lbvd@gmail.com](mailto:ir.lbvd@gmail.com) and [lbvddgstaffoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lbvddgstaffoffice@gmail.com) before **21st March, 2019**.
6. Further information can be obtained at Tender Committee, LBVD under the telephone numbers: +95-67-3418573 and +95-67-3408044 during office hours.

### ■ Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry: Request for Proposal

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), the apex private sector organization, is currently incubating the formation of the Digital Economy Association to further develop the digital economy of Myanmar.
2. UMFCCI is seeking the service of a full-service research and consultancy firm to undertake a comprehensive research project with regards to ecommerce laws and regulations in the target countries such as ASEAN Countries, United States of America, China, Japan, India, Korea, Australia, European Union, United Kingdom and Bangladesh. The research topics shall cover the following areas;
  - (a) Consumer protection such as return policy, authenticity, truthful representation and rights enforcement
  - (b) Registration of e-commerce businesses
  - (c) Taxation and enforcement of taxation in the digital economy
  - (d) Payment systems for local as well as cross border for traditional as well as cryptocurrency settlements
  - (e) Local business promotion and SME digital inclusion
  - (f) Economic development and tax collection by government
  - (g) Customs procedures, tariffs, procedures, agreements and enforcement

- (h) Security and privacy
- (i) Digital goods, services and contents regulation, enforcement and protection
- (j) Intellectual property protection
- (k) Enabling and regulation of borderless transactions
- (l) Gig economy employment rights and obligations
- (m) Regulations and procedures concerning accountability and fair competition by platforms and market-places

The research must look at best practices in the target countries in order to craft policies that are the most suitable and in the best interest of Myanmar. The selected firm shall be expected to exercise rigor and diligence in their research, clearly and impartially highlight the opportunities and threats and present a comprehensive comparative study on the positive and negative effects that each policy initiatives has had on the respective country and its local businesses. The key intent of the research is to learn from the experiences of the target countries so that the best practices for Myanmar can be devised, implemented and enforced.

3. The request for proposal timeline is as follows.

**Request for EOI: 11th March, 2019**

**Consultative Meeting with bidders to address questions: 15th March, 2019**

**Deadline for bidders to submit final proposal: 1st April, 2019**

**Contract Award/ Notification to unsuccessful bidders: 5th April, 2019**

4. The respondents to this request for proposal must submit two copies of their proposal. Responses must be received no later than **04:00 p.m.** on **1st April, 2019**. Responses should be clearly marked "**UMFCCI DEA Research Project**" and delivered to the contact person listed below.

5. The project must be completed within 2 months from the award of the project.

6. A submission must, at a minimum, include the following elements:

Description of the firm that includes a general overview, names and credentials of research team.

A one-page narrative outlining the firm's strengths and distinguishing skills or capabilities as they might relate the project.

A representative selection of past projects of similar nature that the firm has conducted.

A letter of consent to abide by the conditions stated in the request for proposal.

7. The successful respondent will:

The firm has been in operations engaged in research work for a period no shorter than 3 years.

The education, experiences, knowledge, skills, and qualifications of the firm and the individuals who will be available to provide these services.

The competitive cost of services.

The expertise of the firm in working with similar projects as evidenced in the representative sample of past projects that are submitted.

8. The budget for the project is USD 20,000.

9. The address referred to above is:

Project Name: UMFCCI DEA Research Project

Procurement Contact Person: Daw Hnin Yee Nandar

Address: No. 29, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon

Telephone Number of PCP: +95-1-2314344 ~ 49 Ext. 118, 140, +95-9-450200340

Email Address of PCP: [ma@umfcci.com.mm](mailto:ma@umfcci.com.mm)