

Thura NewsViews

Politics

Refugees from Myanmar will no longer be accepted

Bangladesh has told the UN Security Council that it will no longer be able to take in refugees from Myanmar. It was also mentioned that the situation had gone from "bad to worse". The council was called upon to take "decisive" action. Since August 2017, more than 700,000 people have fled into Bangladesh from northern Rakhine State, amid an army crackdown. The refugees are mainly Muslims who identify as Rohingya. More recently, ethnic Rakhine refugees have arrived in Bangladesh, amid renewed fighting between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army (AA). "Here, I regret to inform the council that Bangladesh would no longer be in a position to accommodate more people from Myanmar," Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque was quoted as saying. Myanmar's Ambassador to the UN Hau Do Suan, defended the government's actions, saying that steps were being taken to return refugees. The ambassador also called for patience on the issue. While Myanmar has insisted that it is ready to begin the repatriation of refugees, many in the international community say that conditions on the ground are not conducive to returns taking place. The reasons cited were a lack of guarantees for safety and citizenship for returnees.

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

March Highlights

Fraser and Neave last week launched 100PLUS Active Tasty Lemon, the first ever customized isotonic and hydration beverage targeted for Myanmar.

PTTEP Myanmar Asset has found commercially proven gas reserves at the M9 block of the Zawtika project located 300km southwest of Yangon in the Gulf of Mottama.

Visa Inc, the world's leading service provider in digital payments, has appointed Lillian Wang as the country manager of 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

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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 ...

■ Leadership changes to be made amidst peace process

Leadership changes are expected among a bloc of ethnic armed groups involved in negotiations with the government regarding the peace process. According to an article in The Irrawaddy, changes will take place within the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST), following a meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The committee includes the 10 ethnic armed groups who have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The article said that the current chairman and vice chairman – General Mutu Say Poe from the Karen National Union (KNU), and Yawd Serk from the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) – were expected to step down. Padoh Saw Ta Doh, from the KNU, would become chairman and the RCSS's Brigadier-General Pao Khay is expected to be installed as vice chairman. In a speech, Mutu Say Poe said changes were expected within the PPST leadership. However, he did not specify in which positions. In recent months, the KNU in particular has expressed dissatisfaction with the state of the peace process. It has temporarily withdrawn, saying it needs to hold discussions with its members.

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/\$ = 1,518K/1\$ (07/03/19)

Economy

■ Three airport upgrade deals expected to be signed

A series of agreements are expected to be signed later this month regarding the upgrade of three airports in Myanmar. The objective is to boost Myanmar's tourism industry. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the deals are related to the construction of customs, immigration and quarantine facilities at three airports. The planned upgrades will be done in Heho airport in Shan State, Mawlamyine in Mon State, and Kawthaung in Tanintharyi Region. All three airports will be upgraded up to international quality. Quoting U Ye Htut Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation, Heho will require \$40 million investment, followed by Kawthaung with \$36 million, and Mawlamyine with \$20 million. Ye Htut Aung said that the department is looking for input from private companies through Public-Private Partnerships. He said it would help speed up the projects. Currently, Myanmar has just three international airports, at Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. The government sees significant potential in the tourism sector and believes more airports will bring a boost to the sector. The initiatives will contribute to sector growth by improving connectivity as well as service quality.

Companies and Investments

■ SF Holding acquires stake in Myanmar's KOSPA

SF Holding, a Chinese logistics firm, has acquired a 25 percent stake in KOSPA Limited, a Myanmar-based logistics firm, according to an article in Dealstreet Asia. KOSPA is a joint venture originally established between local company Yoma Strategic Holdings and Japan's Kokubu Group. According to the article, KOSPA provides end-to-end logistics solutions for agricultural, pharmaceutical, FMCG and other clients throughout the country. Yoma said the new investment will allow KOSPA to increase its fleet, and also explore cross-border opportuni-

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ties with China. “Logistics has the potential to become a major growth sector of the Myanmar economy, and this partnership strategically positions KOSPA to capture opportunities presented by a growing appetite for e-commerce in the country,” said Yoma CEO Melvyn Pun.

■ **Myanmar’s first Auntie Anne’s outled opened**

Myanmar’s first store of global pretzel chain Auntie Anne’s has opened at the Junction City shopping mall in Yangon. It is the latest international franchise to enter the country. The franchise for the Pennsylvania-headquartered company is held by Yoma Strategic Holdings. The group recently acquired local restaurant chain YKKO and also holds the Myanmar franchise for KFC. In a Myanmar Times article, Yoma CEO Melvyn Pun was quoted as saying that the move was made following research that found that there is a growing demand for baked goods in Myanmar. It is relatively a new cuisine, particularly in the country’s urban centers. As well as KFC, other international food and beverage outlets to enter the Myanmar market in recent years include Pizza Hut, Svensen’s and Krispy Kreme Donuts.

■ **Myanmar Metro secures USD 20 million IFC loan**

The Myanmar arm of the German food retail group Metro AG has raised a USD 20 million loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC). According to a Myanmar Times article, IFC said the funds would help increase the company’s incomes. It is expected to improve the quality of local produce, moves that would benefit local consumers in the country. Metro Wholesale Myanmar is a joint-venture between Frankfurt-listed Metro AG and the Yoma Strategic Holdings (YSH). The deal is structured as an 85 percent-15 percent, respectively. Vikram Kumar, IFC’s country manager for Myanmar and Thailand, was quoted as saying the move will “ensure the availability of safe, high-quality foods from the farm to fork, increasing the agribusiness sector’s export potential”. The Myanmar government has recently begun opening the retail and wholesale market to foreign players.

Events

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

Tenders

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Open Tender

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-184 (18-19)	Spares for Caterpillar C-9 Engine (71) Items	MMK
(b)	DMP/L-185 (18-19)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator (22) Items	MMK
(c)	DMP/L-186 (18-19)	Spares for Caterpillar C-9 Engine (72) Items	MMK
(d)	DMP/L-187 (18-19)	Assorted Sizes of Battery (2) Items	MMK
(e)	DMP/L-188 (18-19)	Spares for Drive Group (13) Items	MMK

2. The open tender forms including descriptions 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.moe.gov.mm as from 4th March, 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 4th April, 2019.**
4. Tender closing date and time are **4th April, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.**
5. Further information can be obtained at the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the phone: +95-67-411206 within office hours.

■ Ministry of Hotels and Tourism: Request for Quotations

1. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MOHT) is implementing the project **G-9184-MYA: Economic Empowerment of the Poor & Women in E/W Economic Corridor Bamboo Equipment for Processing Facility in Chaungzone & Kyaikhto Township, Mon State** under a grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) administered by Asian Development Bank (ADB). Part of project proceeds will be used to finance the supply and delivery of Bamboo Equipment (7 units) and food dryer (1 unit) listed below.

Equipment for the Bamboo and Food Processing Facilities

Item No.	Number of Units	Equipment Type/ Description
1	1 (One)	Bamboo dissection machine (Chaungzone)
2	2 (Two)	Bamboo filament machine (Chaungzone & Kyaikhto)
3	1 (One)	Raw bamboo cutting machine (Chaungzone)
4	1 (One)	Bamboo lamination machine (Chaungzone)
5	1 (One)	Bamboo stick size cutting machine (Chaungzone)

6	1 (One)	Multifunctional blade sharpening machine (Chaungzone)
7	1 (One)	Food dryer with at least 10 trays and no more than 20 (no for domestic use), including at least: thermostat, timer, and ventilation control panel (Kyaikhto)

2. Project Implementation Unit (PIU) now invites eligible suppliers and firms to submit quotations for the above-indicated Bamboo Equipment Machines (7 units) and Food dryer (1 unit). Each bidder must submit ONE original quotation-signed, stamped, sealed, addressed and delivered to the address below.
3. The deadline for receipt of quotation (s) is **11th March, 2019**.
4. The validity period of offered quotation is **at least 21 days from deadline** for receipt of quotation (s).
5. Each quotation submitted in the company's letterhead must either be in English or Myanmar language (s). It must include: product description, product guarantee (including period & conditions), maintenance services with detailed description of all services covered, and preferably with manual (paper, digital or video) from the manufacturing company. Offered prices must be in Myanmar Kyats (MMK) and must clearly indicate that all Myanmar taxes have been included, specifying also whether or not land transportation cost (s) from the company to Chaungzone and/ or Kyaikhto are included.
6. For payment details, each quotation must clearly specify as name and address of bank, owner of bank account (account owner), and bank account number.
7. After the winning supplier's receipt of payment/ bank transfer, the PIU and the supplier will discuss and coordinate the initial loading of the equipment relating to their transportation to the site (s), before delivery to: "Training Room" Township Cooperative Department, Kyaikhto Township, Mon State and "Village Community Centre" at Kularbi Village Chaungzone Township, Mon State.
8. The address referred to above is

Project Implementaion Unit (PIU)

Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mawlamyine Office)

G-9184-MYA: Economic Empowerment of the Poor & Women in the E/W Economic Corridor

Office: No. (118), Phat Tan Quarter, Lower Main Road, Mawlamyine

Telephone: +95-42-5276 525, +95-57-2021 446

Email: thanhtukkhaine@gmail.com, monmo3982@gmail.com and pramirez@gmail.com