

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### ■ Prominent Rakhine politician sentenced

U Aye Maung, a prominent Rakhine politician, and writer U Wai Hin Aung have been sentenced to more than 20 years imprisonment each for high treason. The charge happened after a speech they gave in their home state early last year. A court in Sittwe, the Rakhine State capital, sentenced the pair under section 505(b) of the Penal Code. They are expected to serve their sentence in Sittwe Prison. Analysts have warned that the harsh sentence could heighten tensions in the already fraught state, particularly given recent renewed fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army there. "Rakhine people are angry about the case," Daw Aye Nu Sein, Wai Hin Aung's lawyer, was quoted as saying by Frontier. "They were just talking about current affairs in line with freedom of expression. It doesn't make sense," she said. At the speech, which took place in January 2018 in Buthidaung Township, Aye Maung reportedly accused the government of treating the Rakhine people like "slaves". The duo were then barred from travelling to Mrauk-U, once the capital of the Arakan Empire, leading to a demonstration in which seven people were shot dead by police.

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### March Highlights

Myanmar is planning to start a rating system for local hotels, firstly in Yangon, which will be endorsed by the World Tourism Organisation.

Hong Kong has set up its first ever locally-registered official business group in Myanmar as the NLD administration seeks to bolster the economy and attract more investment.

Gem traders sold a total of EUR 476 million worth of jade, gemstones and pearls at the 56th Myanmar Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw.

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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 ...

#### ■ **Government to meet with EAOs including Arakan Army**

Government peace negotiators are set to meet with members of eight ethnic armed groups, including the Arakan Army (AA). The article in the Myanmar Times said that government officials will meet with members of those groups who have not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The parties also include the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). This will be followed by a meeting with military representatives. U Hla Maung Shwe, an advisor for the government's peace negotiations, said that he hoped the talks would "help to further peace talks". Observers have expressed concern about Myanmar's peace process in recent months. It was observed to have made little progress in the past few years. In particular, analysts are concerned about renewed fighting between the Myanmar Army and the AA in northern Rakhine State.

#### 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/\$ = 1,536K/1\$ (21/03/19)

## Economy

#### ■ **Second friendship bridge opens between Thailand and Myanmar**

Myanmar and Thailand have opened their second friendship bridge, connecting Myawaddy in Kayin State with Thailand's Mae Sot. It is aimed at boosting trade and tourism between the two countries, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. The opening ceremony on March 19, was attended by Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha. "This is a symbol of cooperation for our mutual interest, and the bridge will benefit the people in both countries," said Aung San Suu Kyi. Construction of the bridge began in 2015, and it cost about US\$132 million, the report said. The tourism industry would likely see a particular benefit from the bridge opening. It would provide tourists more options for traveling overland between the two countries.

#### ■ **Protests held against nationwide hydropower dams**

Civil society groups conducted a two-day protest in Mandalay last week against large-scale hydropower projects planned on the country's rivers. According to an article in Frontier, on the first day of the conference participants celebrated the country's rivers. The participants also shared their experiences about hydro-power developments in Myanmar. The discussion was around the controversial Myitsone Dam in Kachin State, which China is lobbying to have re-started after it was postponed in 2012. On the second day, hundreds of participants wearing "No Dam" headbands sailed a ferry along the Ayeyarwady River to mark the International Day of Action for Rivers. Participants said the event was the first time civil society groups across the country have come together to protest against hydropower. Last week, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made rare public comments about Myitsone. She was calling on people to consider it from "a wider perspective". Protesters were also demonstrating against the government's plans to build more than 50 large hydropower dams on the country's rivers. "These dams directly threaten and exploit the fragile ecology of the rivers and the ethnic communities who rely on them for their survival and for the survival of their cultural heritage," the groups said in a statement.

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## Companies and Investments

### ■ **SolarHome secures USD 1 million investment**

SolarHome, a Singapore-based solar energy startup with a focus on Myanmar, has received a USD 1 million equity investment from Singapore's Trirec, which is already an investor in the project, according to an article in Dealstreet Asia. SolarHome, which provides energy solutions for off-grid households in Myanmar, is currently expanding its operations in the country and claims to have installed more than 30,000 solar homes across the country, with aims to reach 100,000 by the end of this year, the article said. It is also installing pay-as-you-go solar for off-grid homes across Southeast Asia, the article said. In December last year, SolarHome raised USD 10 million debt-financing through a consortium of investors.

### ■ **Wave Money and MEB to offer mobile pension payments**

Mobile financing firm Wave Money has announced a partnership with state-owned Myanma Economic Bank (MEB) to provide mobile pension payments to public sector retirees across the country. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, an initial pilot program has already been established in Yangon's North Dagon Township. The two companies are now planning to scale-up their operations, the article said. Brad Jones, CEO of Wave Money, says "Our goal is to deliver this service to all government pensioners in Myanmar". He also added that "We can make pension payments in Myanmar faster and more efficient while making it a lot easier for the pensioners to access their funds". Currently retirees are able to use E-pension cards to draw their pensions, but the process can take several hours.

## 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

### ■ Myanmar Timber Enterprise: Open Tender

1. Myanmar Timber Enterprise will sell teak and hardwood round logs and sawn timbers by open tenders in USD. Particulars of the open tender sales are as follows:

(a) DATE AND TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 21st March, 2019 at 09:00 a.m. <b>EX-SITE HARDWOOD LOG ONLY</b></li> <li>- 22nd March, 2019 at 09:00 a.m. <b>YANGON &amp; EX-SITE TEAK/HARDWOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION)</b></li> <li>- 25th March, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. <b>YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY</b></li> </ul>
(b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1504) TONS</li> <li>- THIRD QUALITY &amp; UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (482) TONS (EXPORT MARKETING &amp; MILLING DEPARTMENT)</li> <li>- THIRD QUALITY &amp; UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (60) TONS (WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT)</li> <li>- PADAUK, PYINKADO, IN, KANYIN, THITYAR, INGYIN, HTAUK KYANT, THIN-WIN, YEMANE, SAGAWA, TAUNG THAYAT, THADI, THITSI, THINGADU, THITMAGYI, PYINMA ABOUT (11057) TONS</li> <li>- HARD WOOD LOGS <b>(INCLUDING 2018-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR)</b></li> </ul>
(c) PLACE	- TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON

2. For further detailed information please contact Myanmar Timber Enterprise head office and also visit Myanmar Timber Enterprise website - [www.myanmar timber.com.mm](http://www.myanmar timber.com.mm) under the phone number: +95-1-528771 or through email address: [marketing1ppy@gmail.com](mailto:marketing1ppy@gmail.com).

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation for Bids

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Power Network Development Project. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 230kV Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei Transmission Line (the Facilities)**. The Facilities are all located within **Mon State** and **Tanintharyi Region**.
3. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the bidding document.
4. Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
  - Net worth for the last year calculated as the difference between total assets and total liabilities should be positive.
  - Minimum average annual turnover of USD 50 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three years.
  - Financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments, meet or exceed USD 10 million. Joint Venture must meet the requirement, in which each partner must meet at least

- 25% of the requirement, and one partner at least 40% of the requirement.
- Participation in at least two (2) contracts of Overhead Transmission Line of 220kV or higher that have been successfully completed within the last ten years, where the value of the bidder's participation in each contract exceeds USD 50 million.
  - Executed an overhead transmission line contract of 220kV or higher with not less than 150km route length, including engineering, procurement and construction on turnkey basis in Outside Bidder Country as main contractor that has been successfully completed within the last ten years. The qualification criteria are more completely described in the bidding document.
5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, bidders should contact the following from **09:30 a.m. to 04:30 p.m.**
- Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)  
Office: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone and Fax number: +95-67-8104286  
Email: [sedesignntp.mepe@gmail.com](mailto:sedesignntp.mepe@gmail.com), [dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com](mailto:dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com)
6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the bidding documents for the Facilities, and pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) in MMK equivalent to USD 100.
7. A pre-bid meeting shall take place on **1st April, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.** at the address above, Yadanar Hall, Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: **16th May, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.** together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents. Electronic submission is not allowed.
9. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid submission deadline in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. Any request for the extension of Bid submission dead line shall not be allowed.