

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ **UN official calls for aid access in Rakhine**

A senior UN official has urged the Myanmar government to improve access for aid workers in conflict-torn Rakhine State. It is estimated that there are around 33,000 displaced people in the region. According to a Reuters article, Ursula Mueller, a UN assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said that she had been denied permission to visit areas affected by the conflict. The area is where the Arakan Army has been fighting the Myanmar army in recent months. "We need access – predictable, sustained access – to reach the people in need," she told Reuters. "If the assistance, including mobile clinics, cannot get to the people, they just don't have the services and their needs are not being met and some people are dying". Mueller met with senior government officials in Nay Pyi Taw, including State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They reportedly discussed some of the issues in Rakhine State, including the repatriation of refugees.

■ **Economic boycott of Tatmadaw called upon by UN**

A United Nations panel has urged the international community to boycott financial support to the Tatmadaw for alleged human rights abuses in Myanmar. According to reports, the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar said that

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May Highlights

Ooredoo Myanmar and ZTE Corporation signed an MOU to collaborate on 5G network development, which will ensure readiness for 5G.

Myanmar will buy 1000 MW of electricity from China as a quick solution to an ongoing domestic shortage, said the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE).

A feasibility study for a proposed USD 9 billion railway linking Mandalay to Muse is being conducted, according to Myanma Railways.

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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 ...

senior figures in the Myanmar military should be isolated and brought before a court to answer for potential crimes against humanity for their crackdown in northern Rakhine State. The alleged incidents occurred in late 2017 and led to more than 700,000 Muslims in the Rakhine State fleeing over the border into Bangladesh. Myanmar's government and its military have largely denied the accusations. "There has been no movement toward a resolution of the crisis," said Marzuki Darusman, FFM chairperson. The official recently completed a 10-day visit to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. The panel has been denied access to Myanmar. The FFM was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017 to investigate alleged abuses by Myanmar's armed forces.

Economy

■ Ministry promises 'no power cuts' in 2020

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) has said that measures are being taken to ensure that there are no power cuts during the summer of 2020. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, U Tin Maung Oo, permanent secretary of MOEE, said that the ministry will seek an additional supply of electricity powered through liquefied natural gas (LNG) next year. The power will be delivered on floating power barges in port towns such as Thilawa on the outskirts of Yangon, Kyaukphyu in Rakhine State, and Patheingyi in Ayeyarwady Region, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. Power consumption is growing by about 580 MW per year, up from estimates of 400 MW. This leads to frequent blackouts, particularly in Yangon. A lack of reliable power is often cited by businesses as one of the major challenges of operating a business in Myanmar.

■ New Automotive Policy aimed to boost industry

A new automotive policy is to be implemented by the Ministry of Industry later this month, as part of plans to boost the growing sector. According to a Myanmar Times article, the government will promote the use of left-hand drives in order to improve road safety under the regulations. Despite measures aimed at tackling the issue, most cars in Myanmar are still right-hand drives, with cars also driving on the right-hand side of the road. Tax incentives are also to be offered to car makers that assemble locally, the article said. The number of cars on Myanmar's roads has spiked considerably since the government liberalized the sector in 2012. There were an estimated 721,324 vehicles in the country in 2016, with that figure expected to increase to two million by 2020, according to the Myanmar Times report.

Companies and Investments

■ New Visa Card launched by CB

Global payments firm Visa has reached an agreement with Telenor Myanmar and CB Bank to provide a Visa Card to CB Bank customers. According to a report in the Myanmar Times, the move came after the Central Bank of Myanmar raised annual credit card interest rates from 13 percent to 20 percent last month. "This new initiative will serve as a catalyst towards creating a cashless

Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)

GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)

GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)

Population: 54.22 mn people (Apr 2019)

Inflation: 6.5% (2017)

Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)

FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,539K/1\$ (16/05/19)

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society and promote financial inclusion in Myanmar, as more people will have access to finance and credit,” said U Kyaw Lynn, chief executive officer of CB Bank. The new credit card will feature Visa’s contact-less payment technology. The aim is to move Myanmar towards a less-cash society, said Lilian Wang, country manager for Visa Myanmar. The article said that there are currently about 500,000 and 600,000 credit card holders in Myanmar.

■ **Thailand’s Centara to enter Myanmar hotel industry**

Thai-based hotel operator Centara Hotels & Resorts and KMA Hotels Group, signed an agreement to develop and renovate six hotels in Myanmar yesterday. Under the agreement, the three existing KMA hotels in Inle, Naypyitaw and Taungoo will undergo refurbishment prior to reopening. Three new hotels will be developed including Centara Bagan River View Resort & Spa, Kaytumadi Dynasty Bagan Resort and Shwe Than Daung Resort. All six hotels will operate under the Centara and Centara Boutique Collection brands. Construction work is expected to commence this year, with the Centara Paradise Inle Lake Resort & Spa scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of this year. Thirayuth Chirathivat, Centara’s CEO said “Our partnership with KMA Hotels gives us the opportunity to establish a significant presence for Centara in a country with huge potential for tourism development. We are looking forward to contributing to Myanmar’s development while providing travellers with more options to enjoy our Thai-inspired, international standard of hospitality across a variety of destinations”.

Legal Box by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP**New Gambling Law Passed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw recently passed a new Gambling Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.13/2019) on 7th May, 2019 (the "Law"), replacing the previous Gambling Law, 1986.

As understood, the Law was drafted during 2017, on the premise of request received from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to allow casinos to be operated officially for foreigners so as to entice tourists.

The intention of the Law is to match pace with the new era and to regulate the life of public social economics, specifically since the same may be damaged due to gambling.

The Law provides regulations towards restraining operation of lottery or opening any other gambling activities similar to lottery, acceptance of bets, making benefits, abetting, and establishment of casinos (Section 11 of the Law).

Further the Law provides that establishment and opening of casinos can be only approved by the Union Government (Section 23). Myanmar citizens are not permitted to enter inside casinos (Section 13), and only foreigners are permitted to play (Section 2(k)). As per the Law, no one is allowed to lend or support money for the purpose of gambling (Section 14).

Anyone in breach of the provisions of the Law shall be liable for action for fine with 6 months to 5 years of imprisonment with provisions related to confiscation of currency as evidence.

With the object to allow foreigners to gamble, it will be interesting to see if it enhances tourism in the country.

Through our office in Yangon, Duane Morris & Selvam advises corporations on investment, business and regulatory processes in Myanmar. For further information, please contact Mr. Krishna Ramachandra (kramachandra@duanemorrisselvam.com), Mr. Priyank Srivastava (psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com), or Mr. CN Beilo (CBLo@selvamandpartners.com) or visit www.duanemorrisselvam.com. Duane Morris & Selvam is recognized as a leading law firm for Myanmar related Corporate, M&A and Projects (including Energy) work – The Legal 500 (2017 & 2018).

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
BuildTech Yangon	Venue: Myanmar Expo Hall Date: 17-18 May 2019	Sphere Exhibitions Pte Ltd	sphere@sph.com.sg +65-6319 4020
Mandalay International Live-stock 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: 5-7 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975
Beauty Connect Expo Myanmar	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel Date: 6-8 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
GMS Rail Expansion Summit	Venue: Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon Date: 17-18 June 2019	UMS Institute	info@umsinstitute.org +86-21-6101 4318
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
Myanmar Gar Tex Expo	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 28-30 June 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co. Ltd (Veas Co. Ltd)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-420025684
Android Developers Conference	Venue: Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 9 July 2019	Droid Yangon	info@droidyangon.org

Tenders

■ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation: Open Tender

1. Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will sell teak and hardwood round logs and swan 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"> • 23rd May, 2019 (09:00) a.m. EX-SITE HARDWOOD LOG ONLY • 24th May, 2019 (09:00) a.m. YANGON & EX-SITE TEAK/HARDWOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION) • 27th May, 2019 (12:00) Noon YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY
(b)	Commodities and Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEAK LOGS ABOUT (2006) TONS • THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (201) TONS (EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT) • THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (258) TONS (WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT) • PADAUK, PYINKADO, IN, KANYIN, THITYAR, INGYIN, HTAUK KYANT, THINWIN, YEMANE, SAGAWA, THADI, THITSI, HNAW, THABY, AUK CHINSA-NI ABOUT (14168) TONS • HARDWOOD LOGS (INCLUDING 2018-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR)
(c)	Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.

2. Further detailed information can be obtained at the Myanmar Timber Enterprise head office within office hours under the telephone numbers: +95-1-528771, +95-1-377296 through email address: marketing1p-py@gmail.com or at Myanmar Timber Enterprise website - www.myanmar-timber.com.mm.

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Request for Expression of Interest

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.
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 **14th May, 2019**.
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 **2:00 p.m.** on **13th June, 2019**.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-212 (18-19)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Sr Rigs (17) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-213 (18-19)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Sr Rigs (51) Items	Ks

4. Tender closing date and time is **13th June, 2019 at 2:00 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 External Affairs of India: Request for Proposal**

1. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), invites open tenders/ bids from reputed Indian company or JV with Indian and Myanmar company as JV partner with on Indian company as the mandatory lead partner, having capabilities of management, operation and maintenance of ports/ harbor including marine activities and terminal with associated infrastructures and equipment in two bid systems (Cover I. Technical Bid and Cover II. Financial Bid) under Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project for “**Management, Operation & Maintenance of Port & IWT Terminal at Sittwe and IWT Terminal at Paletwa under Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**”.
2. Interested parties may download the tender document online from the site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and IWAI website - www.iwai.nic.in and are required to pay Rs. 5,000 as the cost of RFP document deposited into IWAI's account.
3. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **16th May, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.** in Inland Waterways Authority of India (A-13, Sector-1, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh). The last date for submission of bids will be on **10th June, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** Only online submission is allowed. Opening of bids will be on **11th June, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.**
4. Further information can be obtained from the Chief Engineer (Tech) of Inland Waterways Authority of India at A-13, Sector-1, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301 under the telephone number +91-120-2522971, fax number: +91-120-2543973 or through email addresses: kpmu.iwai@nic.in, kpmuiwai@gmail.com and ce.iwai@nic.in.

■ **Ministry of Construction: Procurement of Works**

1. The Ministry of Construction announced the specific procurement notice for the **Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP)** under the contract title: **THANDWE-GWA ROAD WORKS IN RAKHINE STATE** with reference number: **NCB C1-MOC-W-1-2 LOT 1 and LOT 2**.
2. The Department of Highways (DOH) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following road works along the Thandwe - Gwa Road in the Rakhine State.:
3. The pre-bid conference will be held on **28th May, 2019** and the project will last about 240 days.
4. The bid submission date is on **11th June, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.** and the bid opening date is **11th June, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.**
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information within office hours and a complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders simple email request to the address below.
6. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security or a cash deposit with a reputable bank in Myanmar, licensed by and under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar for this activity.
7. Further detailed information can be obtained by contacting the following address and the bid must be submitted to the below address as well.
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: U Khin Zaw, Project Director of FLERP, Daw Ei Ei Myo, Procurement Director of FLERP

FLERP Project

Office: CIU Office, No. 11, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw

Telephone: +95-67-407658, +95-9-2450600, +95-9-5070469

Email: flerp.moc@gmail.com