

Thura NewsViews

Politics

- UN refugees chief visits IDPs in Rakhine**
 Filippo Grandi, chief of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, has visited refugee camps in Rakhine State, amid escalating conflict in the restive state. According to reports, Grandi visited camps for internally displaced people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships, as part of a five-day visit to the country. The visit comes amid continued fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Tatmadaw, especially in the north of the state. "They discussed with district administrative officers how to coordinate in supporting Rakhine refugees," Maungdaw administrator U Saw Aung was quoted as saying by the Myanmar Times.
- Diplomatic ties to be established with three African countries**
 Myanmar is set to establish diplomatic ties with three countries from the African continent, namely Benin, Congo and Togo. According to a report in the Myanmar Times, U Kyaw Tin, Minister for International Cooperation, told parliament that the decision had been made in part because of the countries' support for Myanmar at the United Nations, following international criticism for its handling of the crisis in Rakhine State. "As they cast neutral votes on

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May Highlights

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will allow foreign banks to open branches in the country to help local businesses gain access to financing.

Starting 1st June, a five percent commercial tax on mobile phones and accessories shall be collected from buyers at the time of purchase.

The DaNa Facility, the UNCDF and the Asian Development Bank's ADB Ventures have launched a new technology innovation program.

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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 ...

Myanmar at the UN, Myanmar should establish diplomatic ties with them,” he said. Kyaw Tin said that although the countries are geographically distant from Myanmar, they could offer international support for Myanmar, and vice versa.

■ Nationalists sued over Ramadan mosque intrusion

The General Administration Department (GAD) in Yangon’s South Dagon Township has opened lawsuits against two nationalists. They were involved in shutting down three mosques last week. According to an article in The Irrawaddy, a crowd of about 100 nationalists forced the closure of the Muslim worship in the township. Members of South Dagon’s Muslim community had received permission from authorities to use the properties as temporary places of worship. Two of those involved, including U Michael Kyaw Myint, have had cases opened against them under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code. The case relates to public mischief. According to the article, all three temporary prayer shelters have been re-opened. The locations are used for services during the holy month of Ramadan.

Economy

■ Textile industry park planned for Mandalay

Officials in Mandalay have announced plans to establish a textile industry park in the city, as part of an agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), according to an article in the Myanmar Times. “Some business people have proposed to establish a textile industry park that employs about 50,000 people,” said U Zaw Myint Maung, chief minister of Mandalay Region, during a EU-sponsored forum on the business climate in northern Myanmar. At the event, Zaw Myint Maung said his government welcomes investments from abroad. The areas of agriculture and garments in particular are priority sectors for foreign investment. Kristian Schmidt, the EU’s Ambassador to Myanmar, said that companies from the continent had interest in investing in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second biggest city that acts as the hub for the north of the country. “We think Mandalay’s economy is growing fast and there are good opportunities for European countries,” he said. “We want to take part in making Mandalay develop.”

■ Power delivery international tender to be called

The Ministry of Energy and Electricity (MOEE) is to invite international companies to apply for tenders to deliver gas to the country via floating power plants. The initiative is aimed to improve electricity access in the country, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. “We will invite an international tender. We will select those who can offer the cheapest price,” an unnamed senior official from the ministry was quoted as saying. “This is a short-term emergency plan to generate more electricity supply as quickly as possible.” The plan is to buy 600 megawatts of gas from abroad, before it is generated on a floating unit and channeled via pipeline to the transmission lines, the report said. “Based on the budget allocation for power, we can’t afford to pay too high a price but enough electricity must be provided to meet demand,” the official said.

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\$ (23/05/19)

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Companies and Investments

■ Seedstars Yangon 2019 won by RecyGlo

Yangon-based recycling waste management startup RecyGlo has been named the winner of Seedstars Yangon 2019, said a report in Dealstreet Asia. The announcement came after the company, and nine other startups, presented their pitches at Seedspace Yangon last week. RecyGlo will now represent Myanmar at the Seedstars Asia Summit. They are hoping to win up to USD 500,000 in equity investments at the Seedstars World Summit in Switzerland. RecyGlo provides B2B and B2C recycling-related supply chain services, including educating consumers on waste management, the article said. Shwe Yamin Oo, RecyGlo CEO and co-founder, said “We are currently handling recyclable products like paper, plastic, and cans, but later plan to handle other products like electronics and used clothes”.

Legal Box by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP

Notification on payment of proper stamp duty

Recently on 14 May, 2019, the Ministry of Planning and Finance as an awareness initiative, made an announcement in connection with the timeline for payment of proper stamp duty.

The Ministry stated that every instrument must be stamped on or prior to the date of execution, whereas for instruments executed out of the republic of the Union of Myanmar, but not being a bill of exchange or promissory, must be stamped with the relevant township tax office within three months from the date of entry of such document in Myanmar. Any unstamped instrument is not admissible and shall not be considered as evidence under Section 35 of the Act.

Failing to pay the stipulated stamp duty entails a fine of 10 times the amount required to be stamped. This announcement as to creating awareness had also been posted on the official website of Internal Revenue Department (“IRD”) - www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm.

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
Mandalay International Livestock and Agriculture Show	Venue: Mandalay Convention Centre Date: 28-30 May 2019	Silver Sea Media	info@mmlfin.com +95-9431 25185
International Conference on Management, Economics & Social Science	Venue: Best Western Chinatown Hotel, Yangon Date: 29-30 May 2019	Research FORA	info@researchfora.com +1-315-352 0822
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 +95-9420 025684
Android Developers Conference	Venue: Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 9 July 2019	Droid Yangon	info@droidyangon.org

Tenders

■ Ministry of Construction: Sealed Bids

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of “**Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 MY-P17**”. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for the construction of the projects listed below for “Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 (MY-P17)”.

IFB No	Project ID	Works
DOH - 05A	Mandalay-Dagaung-Bamaw-Myitkyina Road in Sagaing Region (Lot 1: 141.920 km - 160.108 km)	18.188 km × 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH - 05B	Mandalay-Dagaung-Bamaw-Myitkyina Road in Sagaing Region (Lot 2: 163.22 km - 190.840 km)	27.62 km × 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH - 06	Gangaw-Aika Road in Magway Region (Lot 3: 9.000 km - 21.345 km)	12.345 km × 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH - 07A	Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Ywarngan-Aungpan Road in Southern Shan State (Lot 4: 33.420 km - 51.820 km)	18.400 km × 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH - 07B	Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Ywarngan-Aungpan Road in Southern Shan State (Lot 5: 51.820 km - 440 km)	11.620 km × 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures

2. The Department of Highway (DoH) under the Ministry of Construction now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of the work below:
3. The date of selling bid documents is from **20th May, 2019** to **27th May, 2019**.
4. The date of submission of bids is at **12:00 p.m.** on **11th July, 2019**.
5. The date of opening of preliminary examination is at **01:00 p.m.** on **11th July, 2019**.
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidder at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 50,000.
7. Interested eligible bidder may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Project Inspection and Quality Control Department (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Building No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw.

Contact Person: Daw Khin San Nyunt Oo

Telephone: +95-9-5084576, +95-9-257728844, +95-9-450330580

Email: pwhqairfield@gmail.com, dohjica.sector@gmail.com, aungthurawin.thipaw@gmail.com

■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Sealed Bids

1. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has received financing from the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) towards the cost of the **Rural Electrification**

Programme (REP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the Contract for Rural Electrification Programme - Component I SHS (REP I). For this contract, the purchaser shall process the payments using the Simplified Disbursement Method, as defined in the KfW Guidelines, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.

2. The DRD now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV systems for Households and Public Facilities in Southern Shan State**. The bid is divided into 2 parts, Tranche 1 with approximately 18,000 systems identified and an optional Tranche 2 with minimum 3,500. The quality of systems will be assessed through an ongoing survey. The option shall not be contracted later than 1 year from date of contract signing of Tranche 1.
3. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's Standard Procurement Documents (SPD), Request for Bids - Goods (2 envelope process) [October, 2017], amended as per KfW's Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries [August, 2016], and is open to all eligible bidders.
4. For quick referenced, some of the key qualification requirements include:
 - 1) The average annual turnover of the last three years should not be less than USD 3,000,000.
 - 2) The Bidder has successfully completed at least three contracts in during the last five years and at least two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than USD 1.5 million.
 - 3) More information is included in the bidding documents.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DRD and inspect the bidding document following an appointment at the address given below:

National Electrification Project, Department of Rural Development
 Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
 Office: No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw
 Telephone/ Fax: +95-67-3418635
 Email: ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoehn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com, nepcommunicationteam@gmail.com
6. The bidding document in English may be requested by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.

GOPA-International Energy Consultants GmbH (intec)
 6.Karsten Ley
 7.Justus-von-Liebig-Str., 161352 Bad Homburg, Germany
 8.Email: info@gopa-intec.de
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **5th July, 2019 at 01:00 p.m.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. The outer bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL BID" will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **5th July, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.** All enveloped marked "Second Envelope: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the purchaser until the second public opening.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of EUR 20,000.
9. The address referred to above is:

National Electrification Project, Department of Rural Development
 Attention: Mr. Maung Win, Deputy Director General
 Office: Building No. 36, (Test Lab-1, Ground Floor), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Nay Pyi Taw