

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ US calls for end to Rakhine internet shutdown

The United State has called for internet to be restored in western Myanmar, in Rakhine and Chin states. According to a Reuters article, Morgan Ortagus, the State Department spokeswoman, said that the US was “deeply concerned” by the blackout of internet services for more than a week. She expressed that a move would help provide transparency for the issues there. Ortagus called for internet services to be restored “without delay”. Rakhine and Chin State, have been the scene of fighting between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army in recent months. On June 22, Telenor Group released a statement saying that Ministry of Transport and Communications had ordered a temporary shut-down of internet services in western Myanmar. They cited “disturbances of peace and the use of the internet to coordinate illegal activities”. A military spokesman has denied that the army is behind the blackout. Internet shut-down in Rakhine by Government.

■ Tatmadaw extends ceasefire

The Myanmar armed forces (Tatmadaw) said it will extend its unilateral ceasefire in northern Myanmar, and also expects to sign bilateral deals with ethnic armed groups in the next two months. According to an article in Frontier, the initial ceasefire was first announced on 21st December, 2018. It was due to expire on 30th June but has now been extended until 31st August. The Tatmadaw said the extension was “in keeping with the expectations of the local ethnic people for peace”. It is aimed at enhancing confidence in the country’s peace process. Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun, secretary of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, told Frontier that the military expects to sign bilateral ceasefire agreements with several groups in the next two months. “During the past six months there were no clashes with ethnic armed groups,” he said. He was referring to the fighting in the country’s north, and not the ongoing conflict in Rakhine State.

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July Highlights

China’s Kangrui Agriculture & Livestock Development Company will invest US\$ 37 million raising of cattle in Myanmar with MIC permit.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy has called for purchase tenders at five power projects with the aim of producing over 1000MW of energy.

The Czech Republic has announced interest to assemble Skoda cars in Myanmar, according to Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.



Economy

■ Myanmar Productivity Center opens up

The Myanmar Productivity Center (MPC) was established on June 22. Indeed, the Ministry of Industry strives to foster human capital development and raise productivity for SMEs. "Towards a Better Economy" as says the motto – the MPC wants to lay a robust foundation for the productivity of local industries. It also plans on creating a more stable economic environment. The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Japan Productivity Center provided assistance in its establishment. Additionally, part of the funding came from the ASEAN Integration Fund. U Aung Kyi Soe, UMFCCI's general secretary, emphasised the economic benefits of moving up the value chain. As a matter of fact, local products could substitute imported goods in the long run. Likewise, it will support local producers. The MPC will encourage technology-sharing and networking events. It also intends to improve skills and productivity for both managers and employees.

■ Collected tax surge for fiscal year 2018-2019

For the first eight month of fiscal year 2018-2019, the government collected over MMK 4 trillion from tax revenues. This is a MMK 100 Billion increase on a year-to-year basis. The revenue collection comes from income and commercial tax. But also taxes on stamps and lottery. Income tax stands as the major source of revenue – MMK 1.67 trillion. In the second place comes commercial tax at MMK 1.35 trillion, followed by MMK 130 billion for stamps and lotteries. The surge stems from an important effort from the government of Myanmar to improve its taxation system. Likewise, the government intends to set out a better macroeconomic framework for the country's economy. In addition, the government encourages its citizens to comply with tax payments as part of their duty as responsible citizens. It implies a carrot and stick approach and awareness-raising campaigns.

Companies and Investments

■ Nippon takes stake in Myanmar insurer

Nippon Life Insurance has announced it will take a 35 percent stake in Myanmar's Grand Guardian Life Insurance Company (GGLI) in a deal worth USD 21 million. According to a report in Dealstreet Asia, the deal is expected to be completed by October this year. Grand Guardian would be renamed Grand Guardian Nippon Life Insurance. "While the life insurance market in Myanmar is still in an early stage of development with private insurers granted licenses in 2013, with attractive demographics and solid economic development, high growth rate of the life insurance market can be expected over the long term," Nippon Life said in a statement. The move is the latest sign of progress in Myanmar's nascent insurance market. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Planning and Finance established a list of Preferred Applicants for Foreign Life Insurance Licenses. This will allow the firms to operate as 100 percent wholly-owned subsidiaries of their parent companies.

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/\$ = 1,506K/1\$ (04/07/19)

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■ Mottama Development opens property gallery

Mottama Development Group Co., a leading developer in Myanmar, celebrates the grand opening of its new Property Gallery in Yangon. The event launches the company's latest development projects. The new property gallery will serve as a hub for investors and potential buyers to learn more about the upcoming properties. The projects are claimed to be sustainable and premium quality, with unique architectural designs and superior high-rise steel-structures. Mottama Development Group's Chairman, U Yang Ho said, "we hope that our developments will help elevate and modernize quality of life in Yangon, at the same time create jobs, enhance skills and wages, while giving consumers more quality choices. Our vision is to use innovation to cultivate a 21st century workforce that not only works towards the growth of the company but also moves the whole industry and country forward. We want to foster economic development that provides better lives and opportunities for the citizens of Myanmar". The major projects underway include: M Tower, a premium office tower located in prime high-traffic location: between the Hledan Junction and Pyay Road, Terminal M Mall, a leisure mall accessible to major roads and bus terminals and Myanmar Aquarium in Kandawgyi near Shwedagon Pagoda, Harbour Trade Tower near Yangon port and HL Tower near the Airport.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Android Developers Conference	Venue: Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 9 July 2019	Droid Yangon	info@droidyangon.org
Builders Myanmar	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Date: 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Myanmar	myanmar@asiafireworks.com +95-1-377381
Powerex Myanmar and Electric Expo Myanmar	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Date: 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Trade Media Pte Ltd	sg@asiafireworks.com +65-6100 9101
Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo	Venue: Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon Date: 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Myanmar FoodBev	Venue: Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon Date: 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Arena Convention & Exhibition	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Date: 23-24 Aug 2019	Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents	secretariat@miea.com.my +603-7960 2577
Myanmar Phar-Med Expo	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 5-7 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
Myanauto	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 6-8 Sept 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	darren@ambtarsus.com +95-9-3149 6493
Pintech Myanmar	Venue: MEP at Mindama, Yangon Date: 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Allworld Exhibitions	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
International Processing & Packaging Exhibition	Venue: Myanmar Expo Hall, Yangon Date: 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957

Tenders

■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Invitation for Bids

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of **Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project (CFAVC)**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts “**GD-02 Vehicles**”. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB. This contract will be financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The eligible rules and procedures of ADB will govern the bidding process.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), the purchaser, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who are authorized dealers and service agents of the vehicles in Myanmar. Bidders should have sold at least 5 vehicles (of the corresponding lot type) in Myanmar to date. Bids are invited for the following vehicles: a bidder can bid for one or more lots.
 - i) GD-02 Vehicles Lot 1 - Micro Buses; 2 numbers, one 9 seater, one 12 seater automatic transmission.
 - ii) GD-02 Vehicles Lot 2 - Double Cabs; 2 numbers, minimum 2.8 liter engine capacity, automatic transmission.
 - iii) GD-02 Vehicles Lot 3 - Light trucks; 6 numbers, minimum 2.6 liter engine capacity
3. Bidders may bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so provided those discounts are included in the bid submission sheet.
4. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s Single-Stage: One-Envelope procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the bidding document.
5. Interested eligible bidders can purchase the bidding documents in English with a non-refundable fee of MMK 150,000 at the address given above. The document will be sent by courier service within Myanmar and airmail for overseas delivery. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address give below or before on **26th July, 2019 at 03:00 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. The bidding documents will be inspected during office hours at the address given below.
7. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: U Aye Ko Ko, Deputy Director General and Project Director CFAVC

Office: Building No. 15, Nay Pyi Taw

Phone: +95-67-3410411, +95-67-3410422, +95-67-3410199

Fax: +95-67-3410581

Email: cfavc.pmu.doa@gmail.com

■ Mandalay City Development Committee: Request for Expressions of Interest

1. Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), as part of **Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Project (MUSIP)**, intends to implement a **NRW Reduction Programme and capacity building for MCDC - Performance Related Management Contract** under financing from Agence Francaise de Development (AFD).
2. Mandalay City Development Committee now invites applicants to submit sealed Expressions of Interest documents for NRW Reduction Programme and capacity building for MCDC - Performance Related Management Contract to be performed in Mandalay.
3. Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures as specified in the AFD Procurement Guidelines. The bidding documents shall be addressed only to the short-listed eligible firms fol-

lowing the evaluation result of the Expressions of Interest.

4. Interested firms may obtain the Request for Expressions of Interest documents from Project Manager, at the address given below during office hours starting from **1st July, 2019**. The said documents can be obtained at the AFD tender publication website - <http://tenders-afd.dgmarket.com>.
5. Application for Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below or before on **26th July, 2019** at **03:00 p.m.** Electronic application of Expressions of Interest will not be permitted. Late application may be rejected.
6. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager, MUSIP Project Management Office

Office: 1st Floor, 3 Storey building, Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), 26th Street, Between 71st and 72nd Streets, Chan Aye Thazan Township, Mandalay

Phone: +95-2-4061631

Email: pmomusip.ext@gmail.com

■ **Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation to Bid**

1. Electric Power Generation (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity 1040 MW from the **Gas Engine Power Plant/ Power Barge/ Power Ship** on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own (IPP/BOO) basis as follow.

		Location	Size (MW)	Remark
Lot 1	Package 1	Kyun Chaung	20	Gas (Pass through basis)
	Package 2	Ahlon	120	
Lot 2	Package 3	Kyauk Phyu	150	LNG to Power
	Package 4	Thanlyin	350	
	Package 5	Tharketa	400	

2. The concession period shall be 5 years from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The tender form for each package can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within office hours from the tender announced date. The tender form fees for each package are **Package 1: MMK 300,000; Package 2 and 3: MMK 400,000; and Package 4 and 5: MMK 500,000.**
4. Site visit will be conducted for package 2, 3, 4 and 5. The tentative date for site visit is **6th and 7th July, 2019**.
5. The bid submission date is **29th July, 2019** at **02:00 p.m.**
6. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the **Invitation for Bid and Supplemental Request for Proposal (SRFP)**. Bidder's proposals must be submitted at the address on time. Any late proposal will be rejected.
7. Further information can be obtained within office hour at the Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw under the telephone number: +95-67-8104282.