

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

- Myanmar military chief and three others banned from US travels**  
 Myanmar's army chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and three senior officers are banned to visit the United States. The ban was imposed for their role in the military crackdown in northern Rakhine State in late 2017. The US State Department announced on July 16 that it had made the moves after the Myanmar government took "no actions to hold accountable those responsible for human rights violations and abuses". There are continued reports of human rights abuses and violations by the Myanmar military, also addressed in the statement. The other three to be sanctioned were Deputy Commander-in-chief Soe Win, Brigadier General Than Oo and Brigadier General Aung Aung. In late 2017, an estimated 700,000 Muslims who identify as Rohingya, fled northern Rakhine State for Bangladesh amid an army crackdown. Myanmar authorities have largely continued to deny any wrongdoing, saying their actions were legitimate steps to root out a "terrorist" organization. They were referring to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, which launched attacks on military outposts in late August of 2017.
- Rakhine deported from Singapore arrested in Myanmar**  
 Seven ethnic Rakhine people deported from Singapore last week have been arrested after arriving in Myanmar, accused of having links to an ethnic armed

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### July Highlights

USAID will partner with Myanmar Coffee Association, assisting local coffee producers to have access to international markets.

Myanmar's fourth largest private lender is set to appoint National Australia Bank manager Dean Cleland as new chief executive.

Japan investment bank Daiwa Securities Group has seeded a USD 30 million venture capital fund in Myanmar to invest in local start-ups.

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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**

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Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018  
 July 14, 2018

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Myanmar Supply Chain Summit  
 August 29, 2018

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Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum  
 August 30, 2018

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Myanmar Global Investment Forum  
 September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018

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Myanmar Connect 2018  
 September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

More Events

Submit Event

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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 ...

group in the country. Last week, Singapore's government announced that several Myanmar nationals had been arrested for alleged financial links to the Arakan Army. The AA is currently fighting the Myanmar Army, also known as the Tatmadaw, in western Myanmar. An article in The Irrawaddy said that all of those arrested were members of the Arakan Association-Singapore (AAS). Those arrested included Ko Aung Myat Kyaw, brother of the AA chief Major-General Tun Myat Naing. Myanmar's police have refused to comment on the case, but sources close to the accused allege that the arrests were made at the request of Myanmar authorities.

## Economy

### ■ Yangon Innovation Center opened by the State Counsellor

The Yangon Innovation Center (YIC) was officially launched on 17th July 2019 in the presence of several Union and Regional level government officials. YIC It is located at the corner of Pansodan road and Strand road in Seikkan Township, Yangon Region. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech at the ceremony. She inaugurated the Center by cutting a ceremonial ribbon. The State Counsellor said, "It is needed to support innovators as much as possible. I also hope the Yangon Innovation Center could help develop new innovations for the country steadfastly. The government will support with policies and arrangements as we cordially invite universities, research and innovation centers, partner-organizations, well-wishers and businesspersons at home and abroad to help in the creations of our young people". The Yangon Innovation Center is an initiative by the Yangon Region Government to support the growth of the local startup and innovation ecosystem. Under YIC, the actual space is developed and run under the brand of Seedspace, which is part of 13 co-working spaces around the world. In Myanmar, Seedspace was developed and operated by a partnership between Seedstars and Thura Swiss, with CB Bank as the main powering and fintech partner.

### ■ Affordable housing solutions to be offered in Mandalay

The Mandalay City Development Committee is planning to begin selling affordable housing options this year, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. U Kyaw San Myint, a member of the MCDC, said the plan is to begin selling units in July. He also mentioned that the number of applications has exceeded the number of properties that are available. Those who miss out this year, will have the option of purchasing next year, when a further 1000 units are expected to become available. Under the first round of the project, 456 units are to be sold in 19 six-storey buildings. Apartments on the first floor will be the most expensive, costing MMK 26.4 million. The price drops to MMK 19.5 million for those on the fifth floor, the article said. Those who win a lucky draw to purchase a home will be required to put up a deposit of MMK 500,000.

### ■ Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) opens to foreign investors

Myanmar authorities have announced they will allow foreign ownership of shares listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX). According to an article in the Myanmar Times, a notice was issued on July 12 by the Securities and Exchange

### 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/\$ = 1,513K/1\$ (18/07/19)

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Commission of Myanmar (SECM). It was announced that foreign individuals and locally-registered foreign entities can invest in shares of up to 35 percent of a local company. The move comes after a new Companies Law was enacted in August 2018. The new framework allows foreign companies or individuals to hold up to a 35 percent stake in Myanmar companies without them losing the status of a local company with all its privileges and benefits. The YSX has moved slowly since first being incorporated in December 2014. There are currently five companies listed on the country's only bourse.

## Companies and Investments

### ■ French alcohol giant takes stake in Myanmar whisky

French alcohol giant Pernod Ricard has taken a 34 percent stake in local whisky joint-venture Seagram MM Holdings. According to the article in Dealstreet Asia, the company is a JV that includes Singapore-listed Yoma Strategic Holdings, U Htun Win and U Zaw Win (who are known as the Win brothers) and Delta Capital, and is responsible for the High Class brand of whisky. Under the current agreement, Pernod Ricard will hold the largest stake, followed by the Win brothers with 33 percent, Yoma with 19.8 percent and Delta Capital 13.2 percent. The deal is one of the first examples of a major global producer of spirits entering Myanmar's market. Globally, Pernod Ricard is best-known for its Pernod Anise and Ricard Pastis products. Its portfolio also includes Chivas Regal whisky and Absolut Vodka.

### ■ Metal refinery to open in Kayah State

A Myanmar and China joint venture has been granted permission to build a USD 50 million metal refinery in Loikaw, the capital of Kayah State. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) approved Global South Industrial Company (GSIC) for a project that will provide up to 500 jobs in the state. The article didn't name what companies the joint-venture is between. According to the article, GSIC currently operates a tin-tungsten mine close to the Kayah-Shan state border. The deposits of the mine will be transported to the refinery once it is operational, before being exported to China. A Kayah State DICA official said, the refinery will add value to the mining operations in the state as refined metals were more valuable and fetch higher prices than raw ones. Five companies have collaborations with the state-owned enterprise No. 2 Mining Enterprise in Kayah State, with GSIC among them. A total of 400 tonnes has been produced from October 2018 to June 2019.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Builders Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Myanmar	myanmar@asiafireworks.com +95-1-377381
Powerex Myanmar and Electric Expo Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Trade Media Pte Ltd	sg@asiafireworks.com +65-6100 9101
Myanmar FoodBev	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Arena Convention & Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 23-24 Aug 2019	Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents	secretariat@miea.com.my +603-7960 2577
Myanmar Phar-Med Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 5-7 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
Myanauto	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 6-8 Sept 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	darren@ambtarsus.com +95-9-3149 6493
Pintech Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> MEP at Mindama, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Allworld Exhibitions	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
International Processing & Packaging Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
Myanmar Connect	<b>Venue:</b> Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 17-19 Sept 2019	TelCap/ Capacity Media	info@capacitymedia.com +44-020-7779-7227
Agri Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 26-28 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684

## Tenders

### ■ Myanmar Timber Enterprise: Open Tender

1. Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will sell teak & 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"> <li>• 25th July, 2019 (09:00) a.m. <b>(EX-SITE/YANGON) HARDWOOD LOG ONLY</b></li> <li>• 26th July, 2019 (09:00) a.m. <b>YANGON &amp; EX-SITE TEAK/HARDWOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION)</b></li> <li>• 29th July, 2019 (12:00) Noon <b>YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY</b></li> </ul>
(b)	Commodities and Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1127) TONS</li> <li>• THIRD QUALITY &amp; UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (81) TONS (EXPORT MARKETING &amp; MILLING DEPARTMENT)</li> <li>• THIRD QUALITY &amp; UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (199) TONS (WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT)</li> <li>• PADAUK, PYINKADO, IN, KANYIN, THITYAR, INGYIN, HTAUK KYANT, THINWIN, YEMANE, SAGAWA, THADI, THITKHAYA, THABYE ABOUT (16870) TONS</li> <li>• HARDWOOD LOGS (<b>INCLUDING 2018-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR</b>)</li> </ul>
(c)	Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.</li> </ul>

2. Further information can be obtained within office hours at the head office of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the telephone numbers: +95-1-528771 and +95-1-377296 or through email address [marketing1p-py@gmail.com](mailto:marketing1p-py@gmail.com) or at its website - [www.mte.com.mm](http://www.mte.com.mm).

### ■ Ministry of Planning and Finance: Invitation for Bids

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank and a Grant from UK and Australian governments towards the cost of Modernization of Public Finance Management Project (MPFMp)) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the agreement (s) resulting from this invitation for quotations - **Supply of Software** with reference number: **MPFMp-JPAC-D1-GS604**.
2. This invitation for bids is for ICT supply of software which is a total of two packages such as Lot1: VMware for DR Site of JPAC and Lot2: Security for DR Site of JPAC for the **Disaster Recovery Site for Data Center of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office**.
3. The Ministry of Planning and Finance now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the two packages of ICT supply of software mentioned above.
4. Bidders are required to meet the following minimum key qualification criteria and shall furnish documentary evidence that meets the following requirements:
  - i) Have completed within the last 3 years at least one contract of a similar nature of at least 50% of the value of the bid or have sold similar goods of at least twice the volume/quantity required.
  - ii) Have company registration in Myanmar
  - iii) Have authorization or dealership from the manufacturer to sell the goods
  - iv) Have shops or offices in Myanmar to provide after sales services

- v) Demonstrate that they are paying taxes to the government
  - vi) Not be under any notice of suspension or debarment issued by the government or the World Bank
5. Bids for Supply of Software - Ref no: **MPFMp-JPAC-D1-GS604 Lot1: VMware for DR Site of JPAC, Lot2: Security for DR Site of JPAC** must be delivered to the address given below on or before **30th July, 2019 at 03:00 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected.
6. The purchaser shall award the contract to the bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated bid and is substantially responsive to the bidding documents, provided further that the bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the contract satisfactorily.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration as described in the bidding documents, any bid not accompanied by a bid securing declaration will be rejected as non-complaint.
8. Interested eligible firms in bidding for the packages may write quoting the package reference number and requesting the bidding document at the address given below.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):
- Modernization of Public Finance Management Project  
 Ministry of Planning and Finance  
 Office: Building No. 26, Nay Pyi Taw  
 Telephone: +95-67-591191, +95-67-410575  
 Email: [mmt.budget@gmail.com](mailto:mmt.budget@gmail.com), cc to [zawnaing652011@gmail.com](mailto:zawnaing652011@gmail.com), [kyawkyawsoe@pds.hluttaw.mm](mailto:kyawkyawsoe@pds.hluttaw.mm), [ict.dept@pds.hluttaw.mm](mailto:ict.dept@pds.hluttaw.mm)

■ **Ministry of Transport and Communications: Expression of Interest**

1. Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interests to provide for the implementation in a number of areas to accelerate the development of rural telecommunications (voice and internet) infrastructure and services in locations that are unlikely to attract sufficient private investment in Myanmar.
2. The deadline for the submission of electronic copy of Expression of Interest is **5th August, 2019 by 02:00 p.m.** to the address given below.  
 Attention: Director General, Posts and Telecommunications Department  
 Office: Building No. 2, Posts and Telecommunications Department, MoTC, Nay Pyi Taw  
 Telephone: +95-67-3407225  
 Fax: +95-67-3407216  
 Email: [dg@ptd.gov.mm](mailto:dg@ptd.gov.mm), cc to [kyawoo@ptd.gov.mm](mailto:kyawoo@ptd.gov.mm) and [usodepartment.ptd@gov.mm](mailto:usodepartment.ptd@gov.mm)