

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

- Aung San statue plans abandoned in Chin State**  
 Officials in Thantlang, in northern Chin State, have withdrawn plans to construct a statue of General Aung San in the town. According to an article in The Irrawaddy, Ram Khar, chairman of Thantlang’s Municipal Affairs Committee, was quoted as saying that the plans were changed amid local opposition to the project. The project was expected to cost an estimated MMK 30 million. “We’ve got the budget already to build it, but local people protested it,” he said. “We informed the state government, but it’s ultimately our decision on the ground. Therefore, we decided to build a new park”. Chin State is one of Myanmar’s least developed states or regions, and local residents were calling on the funds to be used on local infrastructure. Aung San generally remains popular among Myanmar. However, the drive to build statues of him across the country have met with widespread criticism, especially in ethnic minority areas.
- Internet shutdown in Rakhine by Government**  
 Authorities have ordered telecom companies to shut down internet services in Rakhine State, amid increased fighting in the area. An article in Reuters quoted Telenor Group as saying that the Ministry of Transport and Communications had directed all telecom companies to “temporarily” suspend internet

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### June Highlights

Local gold prices will continue to rise due to the US-China trade dispute, volatile stock markets and lower benchmark interest rates by Central Banks.

Total E&P, Siemens Myanmar and the government are still negotiating on a 1,230 MW LNG-fired power plant project in Kanbauk, Tanintharyi Region.

Myanmar people are receptive in adopting contactless payment methods, a study conducted by digital payments firm Visa reveals.

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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 ...



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# BE AT THE FOREFRONT

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services in nine townships in Rakhine and Chin states. The order is a result of “disturbances of peace and use of internet activities to coordinate illegal activities”. Speaking at a press conference, a military spokesperson said the army had no knowledge of the shutdown. “Telenor Myanmar has been asking for further clarification on the rationale for the shutdown. It is emphasized that freedom of expression through access to telecom services should be maintained for humanitarian purposes,” the company said. Throughout this year, much of Rakhine State has been the scene of intense fighting between the military and the Arakan Army, which is not related to the Rohingya issue in the restive state.

## Economy

### ■ Kawthaung airport upgrade may be government financed

The government may need to finance upgrades at Kawthaung Airport in Tanintharyi Region, due to a lack of interest from private investors. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) deputy director-general U Ye Htut Aung said that the government may have to fund the project. The project value is estimated to be at about USD 36 million. Local carrier Golden Myanmar Airlines had originally won a tender to upgrade the airport, in partnership with Singapore’s KMA Resources, China’s Beijing ZH Airport and Tanintharyi Capital. The deal has since fallen through, the article said. Kawthaung was one of 14 airports earmarked for upgrades to boost tourism in the country. Kawthaung was among the first three to be selected, with the other two being Heho Airport in Shan State and Mawlamyine Airport in Mon State.

### ■ Electricity price hike announced by Government

Myanmar’s government has announced a significant increase in electricity prices from July, the first the country has seen since 2014. According to reports, the price hike will help reduce electricity subsidies that have reached MMK 630 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Under the new pricing system, households and religious buildings will be charged between MMK 35 and MMK 125 per unit. The rate depends on how much they use. According to an article in Frontier, households consuming 100 units a month will be charged MMK 6,050 from July 1, compared to MMK 3,500 currently. Properties that use the largest amount of electricity will be most heavily affected by the changes. Those consuming 500 units a month will be paying MMK 55,050 a month after July, compared to MMK 22,500 currently. Meanwhile industry, businesses, government offices, embassies and international organisations will be charged the most. The costs range between MMK 125 per unit up to 500 units, then more beyond that. The upper band will be MMK 180 per unit after 100,000 units.

## Companies and Investments

### ■ Toyota dealership to open Yangon store

Nezas Holdings, a Myanmar-based dealership for Toyota Motor Corp, is to open a shop early next year in Yangon. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the showroom is to be located in the commercial capital’s Mayangone Township. Car models imported from Indonesia, Japan and Thailand will be sold and

### 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/\$ = 1,517K/1\$ (27/06/19)

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maintenance services will be provided. As part of the USD 3.9 million deal, 60 percent is owned by Hinthar, and 40 percent by Tokyo-based Nezas. In May, Toyota Myanmar Co Ltd announced that it will establish its first vehicle production facility in Myanmar. It is expected to be producing Hilux models for the domestic market from February 2021.

■ **Mahar Bawga raises loan from AGD Bank**

Yangon-based financial institution Mahar Bawga Finance Company (MBF) has announced that it has received a MMK 1.4 billion (USD 916,000) loan from AGD Bank. According to an article in Dealstreet Asia, MBF said that the funds will be used to open new branches, renovate existing ones and develop new financial products and services. The company said it had been researching “new financial products” in recent years and now plans to launch them further across the country. “AGD plans to continuously support other MFIs (microfinance institutions) and NBFIs (non-bank financial institutions) as part of the bank’s initiatives to promote financial inclusion in Myanmar,” AGD Bank said in a statement. Founded in 2013, MBF claims to have provided services to more than 30,000 customers across the country, the article said.

**Legal Box** by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP**Permitting foreign companies and JV companies to export certain local products**

The Ministry of Commerce issued Notification No.24/2019 (the “Notification”) on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (b) of the Export and Import Law 2012.

MOC has allowed foreign companies and JV companies to export certain local products such as as (a) meat and fish; **(b) value-added crops**; (c) paper and pulp; (d) seeds; (e) refined ores; **(f) semi-finished or finished fruit products**; and **(g) timber-based furniture products**. The intention of the Ministry is essentially to promote the productivity and raise quality of Myanmar exports by exporting to overseas markets. In terms of the Notification, the companies are still required to get approval from the concerned Ministries and to comply with the terms and conditions prescribed by the concerned Ministries. We set out below in brief the relevant terms and conditions that are required to be complied with:

Product	Comment
Meat and fish	Requirement: Recommendations of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Department of Fisheries.
Value-added crop	Requirement: Recommendations of the Food and Drug Administration Department. Export of rice/ broken rice can be carried out subject to remittance of USD 3 million into any local bank as initial paid-up capital. Arrangement of required warehouses. Membership of the Myanmar Rice Federation.
Paper and pulp	Requirement: Subject to the conditions set out in the export license application.
Seeds	Requirement: Recommendation of Agricultural Department
Refined ores	Requirement: Recommendation of the Department of Mines
Semi-finished/ finished fruit products	Requirement: Compliance of terms and conditions stipulated by the National Food Law
Wood based furniture	Requirement: Compliance with requirement set out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Recommendations of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Forest Department

*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](mailto:kramachandra@duanemorrisselvam.com)), Mr Priyank Srivastava ([psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com](mailto:psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com)), or Mr CN Beilo ([CBLo@selvamandpartners.com](mailto:CBLo@selvamandpartners.com)) or visit [www.duanemorrisselvam.com](http://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
Android Developers Conference	<b>Venue:</b> Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 9 July 2019	Droid Yangon	info@droidyangon.org
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 Retail Sourcing Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Myanmar FoodBev	<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

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Construction: Sealed Bids

1. The government of Myanmar (GoM) has received a grant aid from the People's Republic of China to build a new 2-lane bridge on Thanlwin River in Kunlon Township of Shan State. In conformity to the Procurement Guidelines of Myanmar Government, Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction would like to invite proposals from the interested and competent ESIA consulting firms for developing ESIA for the construction of the proposed bridge in conformity to the Myanmar ESIA Procedure (2015).
2. The Department of Bridge (DOB) now invites sealed bids from eligible national ESIA consulting firms for the following works for the implementation work of the proposed new bridge in Kunlon. Interested qualified eligible contractors are invited to obtain in electronic copy of the complete set of bidding documents in English for free-of-charge starting from **26th June, 2019**. Further information or clarification for this can be obtained from Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction.
3. Notice that electronic bidding will not be considered and late bids will be rejected.
4. The tender closing date and time is **18th July 2019 at 12:00 p.m.**

Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction

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Email: [bridgeresearchdepartment@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeresearchdepartment@gmail.com)

### ■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Invitation of International Tender for VMS Software

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invites the international tender for VMS software to be installed in Vessel Monitoring System - VMS Control Center, Department of Fisheries in Nay Pyi Taw.
2. The application shall be submitted as following: -
  - (a) Date of application: **14th June, 2019**
  - (b) Date of closure: **22nd July, 2019**
  - (c) Time for application: **from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
  - (d) Announcement date for tender: **31st July, 2019**
3. Tender application: - The application form for software and conditions for application is available at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation website; Department of Fisheries website; MIMU websites and application (soft copy) is submitted to [RFP8@dofmyanmar.org](mailto:RFP8@dofmyanmar.org).
4. The detailed information was queried to Department of Fisheries (Head Office) under telephone number: +95-67-3418530, +95-67-3408477 and email: [vmsdofnpt@gmail.com](mailto:vmsdofnpt@gmail.com).

### ■ Ministry of Transport and Communications: Procurement of Goods

1. The government of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for **NPT-MDY-YGN Internet capacity upgrade with redundancy**.
2. Ministry of Transport and Communications, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), AIRBM Project, Project Management Unit (PMU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for NPT-MDY-YGN Internet Capacity Upgrade with Redundancy (Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning).
3. To be considered eligible and qualified a firm or individual must -
  - (a) 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,
  - (b) Have valid company registration certificate,

- (c) Have authorization or dealership from the manufacturer to sell the goods,
- (d) Have shops or offices in Myanmar or South East Asia or South Asia to provide after sales services,
- (e) Not be under any notice of suspension or debarment issued by the Government, or the World Bank. The goods will be delivered to Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) buildings in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, Myanmar.

1. Bidding will be conducted through the shopping procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders.
2. Interested eligible bidders can obtain further information from Ms. Ei Kyi Pyar Soe or Mr. Aung Min, PMU Procurement Officers and inspect the bidding documents during office hours at the address given below.
3. A complete set of bidding documents in English can be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders from the address below.
4. Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before on **29th July, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected.
5. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address given below on **29th July, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**
6. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.
7. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Ms. Ei Kyi Pyar Soe or Mr. Aung Min, PMU Procurement Officers

Office: No. 400, DWIR Compound, Building 7, Lower Pazuntaung Road, Postal Code 11171, Pazuntaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Telephone: +95-263657191, +95-9-5058307

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