

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ Hpakant jade mine landslide casualty

A landslide at a jade mine in Myanmar’s Hpakant, Kachin State, has left at least 14 people dead, according to a Reuters report. The article said that the landslide occurred in the early hours of 28th July in Hpakant. This is an area that is rich in jade resources. However, it has witnessed several deadly incidents in recent years. It is often as a result of the heavy mining of the precious stone there. “We were able to rescue two members of the police who only injured their heads, and sent them to hospital,” Than Win Aung, a police chief of the area was quoted as saying. The government has ordered mining activities to be halted during this year’s monsoon season. Small-scale miners often continue their activities searching for the stone, which is particularly popular in China.

■ Proposed charter changes debated by Lawmakers

Myanmar MPs have begun debating potential changes to the country’s 2008 Constitution, despite objections from military representatives in parliament. According to a Reuters report, the debate comes after a committee tasked with reviewing the charter put forward more than 3,700 suggested amendments. The suggested amendments included changes to the flag and removing a clause that prevents Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from becoming president

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August Highlights

Yakult, the Japan-headquartered probiotic drinks maker, has invested in a USD 47 million factory in Myanmar’s Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Foreign oil and gas companies with retail operations can apply to set up their businesses in Myanmar, says MOEE.

The government will be launching its own satellite, Myanmar Sat 2/Intelsat 39, next Wednesday at 2 AM.

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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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because she has foreign family members. Her role as State Counsellor was deliberately created to side-step the clause, 59(f). According to the Reuters article, military MPs did not participate in the opening discussion in parliament on July 30. "We will not disturb the discussion unless there is something which is not in line with law or procedure," Brigadier General Maung Maung told the agency. The controversial charter guarantees the military a quarter of all parliamentary seats, and control of key ministries. Among the changes proposed by the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD), are gradually reducing the number of military representatives in parliament over 15 years.

Economy

■ **Authorities warn against "illegally" imported flu vaccines**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorities have issued a warning that a drug being imported to be used as a flu vaccine is considered illegal. They also warned the public not to buy or use it, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. The warning was issued in relation to the Vaxigrip Tetra Injectable Suspension flu vaccine. The FDA said that it needs to be stored in a "cold chain" temperature-controlled supply chain. The FDA said that there is no way to check if the product sold online was being stored correctly. "These vaccines are not registered as imported drugs with the FDA as yet and there is no pharmaceutical importer who registered with the FDA to handle the drugs," U Min Wun, Head of the FDA's Yangon office told the Myanmar Times. Advocates have expressed concern about the proliferation of fake, or sub-standard, drugs across Southeast Asia. This is true especially for those that need to be stored according to certain international standards.

■ **Liquor association calls for better regulation of market**

The Myanmar Liquor Association (MLA) has called on the government to enact better control of the so-called "grey market". Also, they urged the government to implement more transparent regulations of the liquor market. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the MLA also clarified its position that it is not against the importation of liquor. However, they highlight the need for a level playing field for local companies. "We have not objected to any business that wishes to start up in Myanmar, provided they set up their processing or manufacturing facilities in our country," said U Soe Lwin, President of MLA. "If they import the products it should be done so that the local manufacturers are not penalized". The statement criticized the fact that the relaxation of import policies does not address the "grey market" of illegally imported goods. In its statement, the MLA called on the government to tackle the illegal market. It also lent its assistance to local manufacturers, so they can compete with international companies.

Companies and Investments

■ **Frontiir receives investment from UK development group**

Yangon-based internet service provider Frontiir has received an investment of USD 30 million from the UK government's development finance institution. Ac-

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\$ (01/08/19)

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According to a report in The Irrawaddy, the investment has been made by the British CDC Group, formerly the Commonwealth Development Corporation. This is its first direct equity investment in Myanmar. It will reportedly allow Frontiir to add about 4,000 employees to its current staff pool of more than 1,600 people. “CDC’s capital will help accelerate [Frontiir’s] growth, helping it reach further remote regions,” Srinu Nagarajan, CDC’s managing director and head of Asia, was quoted as saying. Frontiir has said it plans to expand its internet service to cover lower income townships around Yangon and Mandalay. The CDC is fully owned by the British government. It aims to “build thriving communities that provide sustainable opportunities for all citizens”.

■ **Government urges sustainable tourism in Tanintharyi**

Government officials have called for tourism companies to establish “sustainable” tourism products in the country’s southerly Tanintharyi Region, in part to tackle the rise in so-called zero-dollar tours from China, according to an article in the *Myanmar Times*. During a visit to the region, where they met with business leaders, U Thaug Tun, Chair of the Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and U Ohn Maung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism, called on interested parties to ensure that their investments in the region’s tourism market benefited local communities. “The region has lots of potential and the government and private sector can collaborate to bring in more sustainable and quality investment for tourism,” said Thaug Tun. Tourism businesses have long been keen to explore the potential in Tanintharyi, particularly because of its close proximity to Thailand, as well as the fact that it hosts the picturesque, and largely untouched, Myeik Archipelago.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Myanmar FoodBev	Venue: Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon Date: 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo	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
Myanmar Connect	Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon Date: 17-19 Sept 2019	TelCap/ Capacity Media	info@capacitymedia.com +44-020-7779-7227
Agri Myanmar	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 26-28 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
International Construction Power & Mining Exhibition	Venue: Fortune Plaza, Yangon Date: 9-11 Oct 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957

Tenders

■ Ministry of Health and Sports: Open Tender

1. The Department of Medical Services under the Ministry of Health and Sports invites **sealed tenders** for the **supply of medical equipment**.
2. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services Office No. 4, Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from 26th July, 2019.
3. Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office not later than **21st August, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. No telegraph/ telex proposal will be accepted.
4. Detailed information can be obtained at the office of the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports under the telephone numbers: +95-67-3411510 and +95-67-3411544.

■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Invitation for Price Quotations

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the **National Electrification Project (NEP)**. The IDA number of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.
2. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Description	Quantity	Units
C2 - G.35	NEP IEC Materials for Promotional - Hats/ Caps with Project Stamp	22,000	Nos

3. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a Request For Quotation by email, sealed quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline, after which no quotations will be accepted.
4. Suppliers will be selected following the shopping method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January, 2011 (revised July, 2014).
5. The sealed quotation must be submitted to U Maung Win, Deputy Director General of the Department of Rural Development at the office No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw.
6. Detailed information can be obtained from U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of the Procurement and Logistic Section under the telephone numbers: +95-9-43434333, +95-67-3418635 and +95-67-3418636 or through email: drdneprocurement@gmail.com.

■ United Nations Development Programme (Myanmar): Request for Quotation

1. The United Nations Development Programme (Myanmar) request to submit quotation for "**Provision of High Quality of Recruitment Services for UNDP and UN Agencies in Myanmar**", as detailed in Annex 1 of this RFQ. When preparing this quotation, please be guided by the form attached hereto as Annex 2.
2. Quotation must be submitted on or before **13th August, 2019 at 05:00 p.m.** and via courier services, hand deliver or email to the United Nations Development Programme at No. 6, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Ref. 2019/UNDP-MMR/RFQ/055 with attention to Krishna Raj Adhikari, Head of Common Services and Transaction Services through email: bids.mm@undp.org.

3. For hard copy quotations, please send your quotations in sealed envelopes to the United Nations Development Programme, No. 6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon, PO Box. 650, 11211, Yangon as early as possible before the deadline of **13th August, 2019 at 05:00 p.m.**
4. For electronic submission, please send only the duly completed quotation documents with above-mentioned RFP No. to mm@undp.org. UNDP takes no responsibility for effective delivery of the electronic document. If the file was successfully sent to mm@undp.org, you will receive the message 'Success! Your proposal was sent to the secured email.' If not, contact Min Min Thein under the email: mmr.procurement@undp.org for clarifications.
5. Quotations submitted by email must be limited to a maximum of 2 MB, virus-free and no more than two email transmissions. They must be free from any form of virus or corrupted contents, or the quotations shall be rejected.
6. It shall remain your responsibility to ensure that your quotation will reach the address above on or before the deadline. Quotations that are received by UNDP after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation. If you are submitting your quotation by email, kindly ensure that they are signed in the .pdf format.
7. Services proposed shall be reviewed based on completeness and compliance of the quotation with the minimum specifications described above and any other annex approving details of UNDP requirements.
8. The quotation that complies with all of the specifications and requirements and offers the lowest price shall be selected. Any offer that does not meet the requirements shall be rejected. Any discrepancy between the unit price and the total price shall be re-computed by UNDP. The unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected. If the vendor does not accept the final price based on UNDP's re-computation and correction of errors, its quotation will be rejected.
9. After UNDP has identified the lowest price offer, UNDP reserves the right to award the contract based on ex-works price in the event that the transportation cost is found to be at high side. Any purchase order that will be issued shall be subject to the General Terms and Conditions herein attached hereto.
10. UNDP is not bound to accept any quotation, nor award a contract/ purchase order, not be responsible for any costs associated with your preparation and submission of a quotation, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the selection process.
11. UNDP's vendor protest procedure is intended to afford an opportunity to appeal for persons or firms not awarded a purchase order or contract in a competitive procurement process. In the event that you believe you have been fairly treated, you can find detailed information about vendor protest procedures in the following links - <http://www.undp.org/procurement/protest.shtml>. It is, however, not available to non-responsive or non-timely bidders or when all bids are rejected.
12. UNDP implements a zero tolerance on fraud and corrupt practices, and is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all such acts and practices against UNDP, as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. UNDP expects its suppliers to adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct found in this link - http://www.un.org/depts/ptd/pdf/conduct_english.pdf.