

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ Ethnic militias meet with Chinese envoy amid conflict

Members of the Federal Political Negotiation Consultative Committee (FPNCC) met with a Chinese envoy on Tuesday, amid disruptions in cross-border trade. FPNCC represents a group of seven ethnic armed groups, involved in the ongoing military conflict against the Myanmar army in Shan State.

It is currently unknown what was discussed during the meeting. Representatives of the FPNCC travelled to China to meet with Sun Guo Xiang, special envoy for Asian affairs in Kunming, Yunnan. Several border crossings with China have been closed following the outbreak of violence. These include attacks dangerously close to the border city of Muse, a chief trading post.

Sun Guo Xiang has also met with members of the Tatmadaw. According to President's Office spokesperson U Zaw Htay, the government's peace commission met with the special envoy as well, expressing what the government wants and what the ethnic armed groups should be doing. According to General Tar Bone Kyaw, leader of one of the armed groups, China said "they do not accept our fighting. They do not like it and told us to stop, whatever it takes. It is like they are pressuring us".

Thura Swiss Ltd.
Economic Research
Shwe Hinthar B 307
6 1/2 Miles Pyay Road
11 Qtr. Hlaing Tsp.
Yangon, Myanmar

Phone +95 (0)1 654 730
Fax +95 (0)1 654 733
info@thuraswiss.com
www.thuraswiss.com

August Highlights

The Ministry of Construction and Amata Corp (Thailand) signed an agreement to develop the Smart and Eco City in East Dagon township.

A Chinese firm is the latest foreign investor to express an interest to develop an industrial zone in Hlaing Thayar township.

Gold prices have hit a high of MMK 1,241,700 per tical, up almost 1 percent since last week and 18 percent since April users.

We are online and post our articles throughout the week. Visit us on:
newsviews.thuraswiss.com

Myanmar Economics and Politics
Weekly Newsletter





Thura NewsViews
Myanmar's most widely read newsletter on the country's politics, economy and businesses brought to you by Thura Swiss

Visit Thura Swiss Homepage

Companies & Investments
Economy
Politics
Legal Box

We send Thura NewsViews as free weekly newsletter * indicates required

Email Address *

Subscribe

Download latest PDF Newsletter




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 ...

The route between Muse and Mandalay is a key component of the in-development China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. This is important for China's One Belt, One Road initiative. Bridges and other important sites on or near the highway have come under fire since the initial Northern Alliance attacks on August 15. More than 50 foreign tourists were evacuated via helicopter from the city of Hsipaw.

Economy

■ Factory zones hardest hit as flu outbreak kills 102

More than one hundred people have died of H1N1 "swine flu" since the monsoon outbreak began, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Almost 600 people are currently being treated for the disease in government hospitals. Yangon seems to be the epicenter of the outbreak. The two factory zones, South Dagon township and Hlaingtharyar township, took the hardest hit with a combined 44 cases and 11 deaths.

Dr Ye Linn Naing, assistant director of the Yangon Region Health Department, told The Myanmar Times that despite the high death toll, the number of cases is declining. Nevertheless, this outbreak seems to be much worse than the previous swine flu outbreak in 2017. In that year, only 38 people died of the illness.

Myanmar's summer monsoon season is also its flu season, according to the WHO. The virus spreads via small, airborne water droplets and person to person contact, as people spend less time outdoors. Therefore, in closer proximity to one another and the very young and elderly are most at risk. The Ministry of Health and Sports has been ramping up efforts to contain the virus and administer vaccinations. The effort will target the pregnant and nursing women, who may be more susceptible to diseases.

■ Parliament weighs raising import license fees

Ministry of Commerce deputy minister U Aung Htoo proposed an increase of import licensing fees to the Union Parliament on August 26, citing a decrease in imported goods. The new licensing structure would raise fees from between MMK 30,000 to MMK 90,000. Currently, MMK 50,000 is the maximum import license fee, according to a Myanmar Times report.

Myanmar has gradually decreased its number of imported products and total annual value of its imports since 2017, according to World Bank data. Aung Htoo pointed out that Ministry of Commerce revenue is MMK 313 million shy of its goal of MMK 4.16 billion for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which ends September 30. The higher fees would help to fill the ministry's revenue gap as total imports gradually drops from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong, which are Myanmar's biggest import partners. Mineral fuels, machinery, computer parts, vehicles and fabric are among the top imported items. In 2018, Myanmar imported USD 24.2 billion worth of goods.

Aung Htoo did not discuss a timeline for the proposed fee hike, and whether or not parliament will implement it at all remains to be seen.

Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)

GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)

GDP growth rate: 6.2% (2018)

Population: 54.22 mn people (Apr 2019)

Inflation: 7.1% (2018)

Foreign trade: \$35.9bn (2017-2018)

FDI: \$80.9bn (30/06/2019)

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,521K/1\$ (29/08/19)

**For advertising with
Thura Swiss please
contact us by email**

info@thuraswiss.com

or by phone

+95 (0)1-654 730

**Please note that our advertise-
ment contracts are based on a
subscription of a minimum of 4
weeks.**

Companies and Investments

■ Italian hotel approved for southern islands

An Italian company has been approved to construct a USD 3.2 million hotel in Kawthaung, at the southern tip of Myanmar. According to a Myanmar Times reports, The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) granted approval for the beachside resort to be built with a local partner, Myanmar Green Century, on Kyun Mei Gyi island.

Although Kawthaung and its surrounding beaches have only recently become viable destinations for the majority of tourists, this new investment could be a strong sign for Myanmar's tourism industry. It has shown disappointing growth in Myanmar's democratic era.

The southern peninsula in particular has drawn the interest of the public and private sectors. The industry seeks to add its pristine beaches to Myanmar's list of must-see destinations. The Department of Civil Aviation recently invited tender bids to help renovate and expand the Tanintharyi Airport. Golden Myanmar Airlines cited the development of Dawei and Kawthaung as a motivation for its plan to add more flights to southern Myanmar.

Beachside development, however, has historically seen pushback from local communities and environmental groups seeking to protect Myanmar's delicate coastal ecosystems, especially mangrove forests and coral reefs. The Tanintharyi Region has already entered the environmental conversation as industrial activities, especially logging, have threatened community forests. Prospective investors will likely run into ramped-up regulations and social and environmental auditing as they seek to build more hotels and resorts on the southern coast.

■ GMA buys new planes amid industry rough patch

Golden Myanmar Airlines (GMA) has expanded its fleet to three aircraft with plans to offer more frequent flights to more destinations. In an interview with The Myanmar Times, the company's CEO U Kyaw Nyein cited rising demand from Chinese passengers and development of new tourist destinations in Dawei and Kawthaung as motivations for the expansion.

The number of annual domestic passengers has indeed risen slightly, according to data from Yangon International Airport. However, the number of western passengers has fallen, and the industry has suffered major setbacks in the last two years. Five domestic airlines—FMI Air, Asian Wings Airways, Air Mandalay, Air Bagan, Apex and FMI Air—have shuttered, and the industry has also been plagued with accidents. Indeed, the latest of these befell GMA when the nose wheel on one of its aircraft snapped upon landing. There were no injuries, but the incident caused a freeze on all outgoing flights at the Yangon International Airport.

U Kyaw Naing said the company is banking on a projected rise in tourism numbers, although the growth of Myanmar's tourism industry has been disappointing in the years following its transition to democracy, and the industry suffered an additional blow following the 2017 Rakhine crisis on the western border. Worse still, a recent outbreak of violence in Shan State has cut off travel to some of Myanmar's most popular destinations.

Nevertheless, GMA remains optimistic in the future of Myanmar's aviation industry as the tourism season begins. "We see an improvement in terms of passenger numbers now compared to previously. We noticed that more round-trip tickets are being bought. And there is some improvement in terms of foreign tourist numbers," U Kyaw Nyein said.

■ Anthem Asia invests over USD 1 mn in local agri business

Myanmar-focused private equity firm Anthem Asia announced on Friday it invested over USD 1 million in an early-stage agri-business Shan Orchard Myanmar Ltd. This is the first investment from its USD 50-million Myanmar SME Venture Fund. The company is based close to Heho Airport, located near the popular Inle Lake at Southern Shan State in Myanmar. Shan Orchard is an agriculture services business focusing on growing Hass avocados and processing avocado oil. The finances will be used for purchasing an avocado oil processing facility, support facilities, acquiring farmland and working capital.

Shan Orchard is also leveraging its management expertise to add value through trialing of higher-value crops. The company aims to maximize land use and improve seasonality.

Anthem Asia has 10 portfolio companies including influencer management company Piyawasa, digital agency ERA Myanmar, property marketing and management platform Thahara, serviced office space provider Hintha Business Centres, marketing agency Blink, marketing communications firm Zagar Communications, and mobile data collection platform Xavey.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
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
Medex Exhibition	Venue: Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon Date: 9-11 Oct 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	support@ambtarsus.com +603-2692-6888
Myanmar Textile Summit	Venue: Yangon Date: 30-31 Oct 2019	ECV International	marketing@ecvinternational.com +86-2156-797705
International Conference on Wireless Communications and Sensor Networks	Venue: Mandalay Date: 1-2 Nov 2019	SciencePlus	papers.scienceplus@gmail.com +91-8763-630137

Tenders

■ Yangon City Development committee (YCDC): Request for Expression of Interest

1. Applications/ Proposals for Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from interested companies (local, international or joint venture) to carry out the works for the **Project for the development of Zoning Water Distribution System (the Project) in Yangon City** according to the master plan under Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
2. A complete set of the EOI documents may be purchased by the interested companies from the date of **28th August, 2019** at the address below during office hours: Water Resources and Water Supply Authority Office Yangon City Development Committee 12-Storeyed New office Building No. 390, Merchant Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
3. Applications for EOI shall be delivered in sealed envelopes to the above address not later than **03:00 p.m. on 28th October, 2019** by hand. The EOI documents submitted later than the designated time and date will be considered.
4. After the evaluation of EOIs, the Tender Committee will invite Proposal Bids from the applicants that have been prequalified.
5. Further information can be obtained under the telephone number: +95-9-8627992.

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation for Bids

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **National Electrification Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Distribution Transformer for National Electrification Project.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of Steel Parts for 11k Distribution Line and Transformer Station, for the total quantities of 6,326,361 Steel Parts to be delivered in 2019 and 2020 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 9 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding Procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager at the office No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy through email address - nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be issued through email only.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 a.m. on 26th Sept, 2019**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidder's designated representatives at the **Yadanar Hall, Grand Floor, Office Building No. 27**, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw below at **10:00 a.m. on 26th Sept, 2019**.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

National Electrification Project
 Attention: Project Manager, Project Management Office
 Office: Building No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
 Telephone: +95-67-3431175
 Fax: +95-67-3431176
 Email: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

■ **Ministry of Transport and Communications: Invitation for Bids**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the **Yangon Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase 2**. The bid is invited by Myanmar Railways as follows:

Invitation for Bid	Description: Procurement of FD Clips and Concrete Sleeper's Moulds	Issuing Date	Closing Date & Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2107	(1) Supply of 673,500 units of PAN-DOROL FD Clips (2) Design,, manufacture and supply of the concrete sleeper's moulds as follows: (i) 470 sets of the concrete sleeper's moulds for FD clip sleeper	5th August, 2019	18th September, 2019	USD 1,000

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- (a) The eligible Nationality of the contractor (s) shall be Japan in case of the prime contractor.
- (b) In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/ or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.
3. The Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for design, manufacture, supply, installation, delivery, testing and commissioning of FD Clips and Concrete Sleeper's Moulds as described above ("Procurement of Goods"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage (One Envelope) Bidding Procedure.
4. A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased and inspected by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below during office hours.
5. Bids must be submitted to the address below on or before **2:00 p.m. on 18th September, 2019** and must be accompanied by a bid security of Japanese Yen forty-four million (44,000,000 JPY). Electronic submission is not allowed.
6. The address (es) referred to above is (are):
- Managing Director, Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: +95-67-77024
Fax: +95-67-677164
Email: dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm, dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com