

Thura NewsViews

Politics

Aung San Suu Kyi will defend Myanmar genocide charges

State counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will travel to the Hague in December to defend Myanmar before the United Nations’s highest court. The Nobel laureate will lead a delegation to counter charges by the Gambia brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On behalf of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Gambia has accused Myanmar of human rights abuses tantamount to genocide against Rohingya muslims on its western border.

The 2017 exodus of more than 750,000 Rohingya muslims has been a tremendous economic and political setback both for the ruling NLD government and Aung San Suu Kyi herself. At the time of the crisis, the state counsellor categorically denied reports of village burnings, rapes, executions and other human rights abuses. In doing so, she seemed to take the side of the military, a longtime adversary. A United Nations fact-finding mission would recommend formal charges of human rights violations and genocide against several high-ranking military officials. This year, the United Nations also called for a global boycott of all businesses affiliated with the Myanmar military.

Nevertheless, at home, both the military and the NLD appear to enjoy the support of the Myanmar people. Though Aung San Suu Kyi has fallen from grace on the world stage, she remains incredibly popular at home, and the prevailing popular opinion regarding the Rohingya crisis is in favor of the military and its actions.

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This Week’s Highlights

ADB approves a new USD 195 million financing package to improve community resilience, livelihoods of 3,000 Villages

Aung San Suu Kyi in Korea for ASEAN Summit, signs 3 MoUs on fishery, vocational training and environmental conservation.

Parliament approves merger of ministries of Industry and of Planning and Finance.

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Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar



Environmental groups slam Myanmar’s first coal plant

Nov 21, 2019
Environmental and civil society groups are criticizing the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for



China to invest USD 130 million in agriculture

Nov 21, 2019
A Chinese state-owned enterprise will invest in three agricultural centers around Myanmar valuing US

Upcoming Events

Green Power
November 28, 2019 - November 30, 2019

Myanbuild
November 28, 2019 - November 30, 2019

Myanmar Hardware Expo
November 28, 2019 - November 30, 2019

Myanwater
November 28, 2019 - November 30, 2019

Electricity & Energy Expo
November 29, 2019 - December 1, 2019

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Highlights

Vietnamese businesses eyeing Myanmar market
November 21, 2019
Myanmar should be considered as a very promising market for Vietnam-made products said Phạm Thiết ...

■ UEC threatens parties spreading espionage rumors

A group of opposition parties have spoken out against a threat by the Union Election Commission (UEC) to disqualify those who criticize it for accepting equipment from a foreign aid organization.

Twenty political parties, including the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, have slammed the UEC for accepting laptop computers, printers and other equipment from the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), which is funded by the United States and other western nations. Ostensibly, the equipment is meant to modernize Myanmar's election process. But the 20 parties claimed that the arrangement lacked transparency. They have also spread unfounded rumors that the United States would use the equipment for espionage and election-rigging. Some believe the claims to be politically motivated, as inefficiency and disorder could be an advantage for minority parties.

The UEC responded by threatening to revoke the registrations of parties spreading the rumors. It said the claims are totally baseless and that it has full authority to accept aid from the IFES, which works with 145 countries around the world. Furthermore, the UEC claims it has authority to disqualify parties spreading hate speech intended to disrupt the election process under Article 6 of the Election Law. The 20 parties have responded by calling for an overhaul of the UEC, beginning with more transparency in its dealings.

Economy

■ Sugar season delayed as prices fall

Sugar production in Myanmar will begin a full month later than usual due to unfavorable weather and falling prices. An unnamed sugar cane trader told the Myanmar Times that the "unusual weather" has pushed the sugar production season into early December, a delay of almost a month.

U Win Htay, deputy chair of the Myanmar Sugar and Sugar Related Products Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, did not comment on the delayed season. But he acknowledged that the industry has had a difficult year. Speaking to the Myanmar Times, he said: "Sugar mills will buy sugarcane but they will cut the quantity purchased I think. For example, those who always buy 100 tonnes will reduce to 80 tonnes."

Two large sugar companies have announced this year's prices, which are MMK 4000-5000 lower than last year. Nawaday Sugar Mill will sell at MMK 45,000 per tonne of sugarcane, and Great Wall will sell at MMK 40,000 per tonne. Other sugar mills have yet to announce their prices.

The chief cause of the price drop is a growing number of sugar farmers in Myanmar. There are now more than half a million sugar farmers in Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Times. The higher supply caused a sugar cane surplus at processing plants, which has in turn led many sugar mills to reduce this year's orders. To protect Myanmar's sugar cane industry, a group of sugar cane farmers has sent a letter to the government requesting that it restrict sugar cane imports.

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/\$ = 1,512K/1\$ (28/11/19)

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■ **Tourism rises in Mandalay**

Tourism is rising in Mandalay as around 600,000 tourists are expected to have visited the city by the end of the year. That is a significant rise from last year, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Upper Myanmar (DHT) told the Myanmar Times. Chinese tourists accounted for the lion's share of the growth nearly 400,000 visitors, followed by Spanish, Germans, French, Italians, Americans and Indians.

An official from the DHT emphasized the need for improved transportation and an easier visa process. Measures taken this year seem to be behind the recent tourism boom. The Myanmar government has introduced paperless visas and visas on arrival for many countries. The first of the new visas on arrival were for other Asian nations, but this year Myanmar introduced them to a handful of European countries. Furthermore, several Myanmar airlines have added new routes and aircraft this year. Golden Myanmar Airlines said it purchased three new jets in anticipation of a rise in Chinese tourism akin the one Mandalay seems to be already enjoying.

Myanmar's tourism sector saw disappointingly low growth after the country's transition to democracy, and the crisis on its western border further discouraged tourism, especially from the West. But the country's improvements in infrastructure and shift in emphasis to visitors from Asia appears to be bearing fruit.

Companies and Investments

■ **China eyes Ayeyarwady as potential shipping channel**

To overcome Myanmar's underdeveloped roadway infrastructure, China could be turning to the Ayeyarwady River. The country has been conducting feasibility studies for ports that will link Yunnan with Mandalay and Yangon. The developments would be a part of China's ongoing China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, which aims to bring Myanmar into China's larger Belt and Road Initiative.

Liu Jinxin, president of China Kunming South Asia & Southeast Asia International Logistics Research Institute, said that railroads and warehouses connected to inland port have already been constructed on the China side. He continued that Myanmar would require Chinese assistance in building its own inland ports at key spots along Myanmar's largest river. However, developing a river route could help China bypass Myanmar's underdeveloped overland trade routes.

The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor was officially launched in 2017 and called for billions of dollars of new infrastructure projects. These include new highways and a railway linking Mandalay with the border town of Muse. However, many of these projects are years from completion, and roadway conditions remain abysmal at key choke points along major trade routes. Worse, ongoing fighting in northern Myanmar continues to stall trade. By supporting river infrastructure, China appears to be hedging its bets for its economic partnership with Myanmar.

■ **Japanese to invest USD 62 million in telecom infrastructure project**

Four Japanese companies will work with the Myanmar government to build communications lines between the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Myanmar's largest cities.

The companies are the Sojitz Corporation, the NTT Communications Corporation, NEC Corporation and NEC Networks & System Integration Corporation. The state-owned Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, better known as MPT, commissioned the so-called Communication Network Improvement Project (CNIP), which will require an investment of USD 62 million. CNIP will include a wide range of infrastructure additions and improvements designed to link Thilawa with Yangon, Naypyidaw and Mandalay cities by 2021. These varied projects will include high-speed transmission lines and the first rollout of Myanmar's 5G service.

There has been no shortage of Japanese investment in Myanmar in recent years. The Japanese government is a key development partner for the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, and it has also funded roadways, public transportation and power distribution infrastructure in the city of Yangon.

Meanwhile, communications has been one of Myanmar's biggest developmental success stories. Vast resources have been poured into cellular infrastructure in an attempt to achieve 100 percent coverage. In 2014, only around a tenth of the country had cellular coverage. Now that number is around 90 percent, 30 percent higher than the portion of the population with access to the national power grid.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Electricity & Energy Expo	Venue: Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon Date: 29 Nov-01 Dec 2019	Dagon Exhibitions	tagonexhibitions@gmail.com +959 4500 98008
International Conference on Applied Earth Sciences in Myanmar and Neighboring Regions	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max, Yangon Date: 30 Nov-01 Dec 2019	MAESA Myanmar	organizingcommittee@maesa.org
Agrilivestock Myanmar	Venue: Myanmar Expo, Yangon Date: 30 Nov-01 Dec 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	support@ambtarsus.com +603 2692 6888
GDG DevFest Yangon 2019	Venue: Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 8 Dec 2019	Google Developer Group Yangon	gdgyangon@gmail.com
International Conference on Economics and Finance Research	Venue: Best Western Chinatown Hotel, Yangon Date: 29–30 Dec 2019	Research World	info@researchworld.org
Mobile Money & Financial Inclusion Summit	Venue: Park Royal Hotel, Yangon Date: 18–19 Feb 2020	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer and Communication	Venue: Yangon Date: 26–28 Feb 2020	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Management, Economics & Social Science	Venue: Best Western Chinatown Hotel, Yangon Date: 28–29 Feb 2020	Researchfora	info@researchfora.com +91 8895 188531
Myanmar Franchise Expo	Venue: Myanmar Expo, Yangon Date: 6-8 Mar 2020	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60 1233 45696

Tenders

■ Ministry of Construction: Sealed Bids

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the **Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP)**. The Department of the Rural Road Development (DRRD) under the Ministry of Construction, in its role as Implementing Agency of Component 2 of the FLERP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract (s) for the procurement of road works.
2. The Department of Rural Road Development now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following road works in the Ayeyarwady Region:

C2-W01-3-01 Lot 1:

SAN KIN - KALOT THAUK ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS BY USING CONCRETE PAVEMENT (6.065km) - DANUPHYU TOWNSHIP, AYEYARWADY REGION

C2-W01-3-01 LOT 2:

1.RURAL ROAD REHABILITATION IN AYEYARWADY REGION: CONSTRUCTION OF MULTICELL BOX CULVERTS AND BRIDGES

60 M BRIDGE AT CHAINAGE 4+900 AT PA KON BRIDGE ON SAN KIN TO KALOT THAUK ROAD, 30 M BRIDGE AT CHAINAGE 1+900 AT THAN LWIN BRIDGE ON SAN KIN TO KALOT THAUK ROAD, 12.5 M MULTICELL BOX CULVERT AT CHAINAGE 1+200 AT KALAW DAIN BRIDGE ON SAN KIN TO KALOT THAUK ROAD and 39.0 M BRIDGE AT CHAINAGE 7+025 KYONE KA DWIN RIVER ON SHANZU CHAUNG ZAU TO HLE ZEIK ROAD

3. The works are scheduled to start on March 2020 with an estimated maximum duration of 365 days. Bids will be evaluated bid by bid, taking into account discounts offered, if any, for combined bids. The contract (s) will be awarded to the bidder or bidders offering the lowest evaluated cost to the employer for each individual or combined bids, subject to the selected bidder (s) meeting the required qualification criteria for each lot or a combination of bids as the case may be.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Roads Development (DRRD), Ms. Tin Moe Myint, DRRD Deputy Director General (flercproject.drrd@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday within office hours at the address given below.
6. A complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders by simple email request to the address below. No printed bidding documents will be made available or sent by DRRD.
7. Interested bidders that obtained the bidding documents will be invited to attend a Pre-Bid Meeting including an Information Session on the Bidding Documents and Templates on **13th December, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.**
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **14th January, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **14th January, 2020** immediately after the bid submission.
9. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or a Cash Deposit with a reputable bank in Myanmar, licensed by and under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar for this activity.
10. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Department of Rural Road Development

Attn: Daw Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director General

Office: Yanaung (2) Quarter, North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone: +95-0-24821

Fax: +95-0-24762

Email: flercproject.drrd@gmail.com

■ **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 MV Drop Out Fused Switch (DOS), LV Fuse Switch and Other Accessories for National Electrification Project**.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of MV Drop Out Fused Switch (DOS), LV Fuse Switch and other accessories to be delivered in 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 5 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or 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 Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Manager and inspect the bidding documents during office hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language 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 2nd January, 2020**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the **Yadanar Hall, Grand Floor, Office Building No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 a.m. on 2nd January, 2020**.
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):

Project Manager

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office: Building No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw

Telephone: +95-67-3431176

Fax: +95-67-3431176

Email: nep.pmomoe@gmail.com