

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### ■ Top general defends army's power

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar armed forces (Tatmadaw), defended the large role the army plays in civilian politics. He went so far as to suggest a possible bid for the presidency in the future, according to an article in the Irrawaddy. Speaking at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and National Defense College, the senior general argued that the role of the military in civilian politics was still necessary to maintain stability in the country.

The speech touched one of Myanmar's most controversial political nerves. According to the 2008 constitution, the Tatmadaw automatically holds 25 percent of all seats in both houses of parliament. This gives the army an effective veto power over constitutional amendments, which requires a three-fourths majority vote. The military rarely uses its place in parliament to do anything other than defend its own autonomy and block changes to the constitution. Regardless, 2019 saw a growing popular movement in favor of constitutional reform, which was in turn met with pro-military demonstrations in Yangon.

The Tatmadaw's mandated seats in parliament are only part of the issue. The 2008 constitution also grants the army a high degree of autonomy with very little civilian oversight. Some blame this lack of checks to military power for the mass clearance operations against Muslims in Rakhine State. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (whom the constitution also bars from holding the office of President) will soon travel to the Hague to defend Myanmar before the International Court of Justice.

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### This Week's Highlights

ADB and EU preparing a USD 26 million technical assistance grant to boost skills of youth through education and vocational training programs.

Despite falling rent prices, real-estate sector tops FDI ranking with over USD 270 million inflow in October 2019.

Trade Unions to submit proposal to increase minimum wage from MMK 4,800 to 7,200 per day.

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## Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar



Japanese to invest USD 62 million in telecom infrastructure project

Nov-09, 2019



China eyes Ayeyarwady as potential shipping channel

Nov-09, 2019

#### Upcoming Events

GDG DevFest Yangon 2019  
December 8, 2019

International Conference on Economics and Finance Research  
December 29, 2019 - December 30, 2019

Digital Learning Myanmar Conference 2020  
January 19, 2020

Mobile Money & Financial Inclusion Summit  
February 18, 2020 - February 19, 2020

International Conference on Future Computer and Communication  
February 26, 2020 - February 28, 2020

#### ■ Landmine kills German tourist in Shan State

A German man died in Shan State after driving a motorbike over a stray landmine. He was reportedly traveling outside Hsipaw, a popular trekking area, with an Argentinian woman when the incident occurred.

“The man was driving a motorcycle on the village track and rode over the landmine. He was in his 40s and suffered serious injuries to his chest, waist and leg. He died on the spot,” Ko Myo of the group Hsipaw Social Volunteers Without Borders, told Irrawaddy magazine, adding that his companion was shaken but not seriously injured.

Northern Shan state has been one of Myanmar’s chief tourism draws, especially for trekkers seeking to explore its mountain trails. However, fighting between the Myanmar army and the Northern Alliance of ethnic armed groups has wracked the region for the past several months. Border trade with China has been disrupted, civilians have died in the clashes and tourism has been restricted. In August 28 foreigners were airlifted from Hsipaw.

Nevertheless, many tourists, including the recent victim, choose to brave the trails of northern Shan.

#### 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/\$ = 1,500K/1\$ (05/12/19)

## Economy

#### ■ First phase of power plan will be done by 2021

Myanmar will complete the first phase of its sweeping National Electrification Plan (NEP) by 2021, according to the public Electricity Supply Enterprise (ESE). It will be the first step towards the government’s goal of total nationwide electrification by 2030.

ESE managing director U Saw Win Maung told the Myanmar Times that by the end of next year, 5000 new villages will have been connected to the national grid. Eight hundred villages have already been connected by private contractors since the government awarded its first round of NEP tenders.

Currently, only around 60 percent of Myanmar households have access to the national power grid. When the National League for Democracy took power in 2015, it promised total electrification by 2030. That will require upping Myanmar’s generating capacity fourfold to around 25 megawatts per year. Hydro-power, which accounts for more than half of Myanmar’s power, will continue to be a major source of energy. However liquid natural gas (LNG) will also play a significant role, especially in the short term. The government has recently awarded emergency tenders to foreign LNG suppliers in an effort to fill demand for power in the coming dry season.

Development of the NEP has been mired in politics and has actually been influenced by several “master plans” from organizations like the Asia Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. It will require an estimated USD 30 billion in investment, USD 400 million of which has already come from an interest-free loan by the World Bank.

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### ■ **China eyes Myanmar bananas**

China may soon ink a new banana trade deal. Deputy Minister of Commerce U Aung Htoo announced that the two country's are in talks to sign an agreement for China to import large quantities of Myanmar bananas, adding that fruit to the list of high-volume agriculture products China already buys from its southern neighbor.

"Two experts from China recently conducted a field study in Myanmar regarding banana export and both countries intend to sign a memorandum of understanding for the official exports of bananas from Myanmar to China," the Myanmar Times quoted U Aung Htoo as saying. The official was speaking at a session of the Upper House.

China is the largest trade partner for Myanmar agriculture products, which are in turn its primary export. However, demand from China has been somewhat fickle this year, with prices wavering recently for products such as water-melons and cattle. On the other hand, both countries have made steps to secure higher and more consistent trade. A Chinese state-owned enterprise recently announced plans to invest USD 130 million in three agricultural centers in Myanmar. Earlier this year, China signed an MOU to import 250,000 tonnes of Myanmar rice.

Bananas may be only the start, said U Aung Htoo: "We have held talks with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China for official exports of banana, avocado, pear, lime, pineapple, pomelo, roselle, cardamom, white jute, gum tragacanth, and elephant foot yam to China."

## **Companies and Investments**

### ■ **Gwa, Rakhine, slated for beach resort**

A local developer is requesting permission to build a luxury beach resort in Gwa, Rakhine State, that could help establish a new tourism destination to the western coast.

The locally-owned Sea Lion Group has proposed the new "eco resort" for Ma Kyay Ngu Beach, roughly 150 kilometers south of Ngapali Beach, Rakhine State's most popular tourist locale, reported the Myanmar Times. The 20-hectare complex would include an 80-room hotel, shopping center, an arrival jetty and infrastructure for water sports. The project will require an estimated USD 4.9 million.

"We are expecting investors. We have no objection for such a big project with huge investment value at our beach, as long as it is in line with rules and regulations," U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation, told the Myanmar Times.

Currently, the Sea Lion Group has merely purchased the land and is working to have it properly re-zoned by state and township authorities. The success of the resort would partially depend on the completion of the Gwa Bridge, a 1300-foot long bridge meant to connect Rakhine State and Ayeyarwady Region. The bridge is set to be completed next year. Along with the bridge, the government is planning an ambitious project called "The Orbit" that will establish hotels, restaurants and other tourism developments on an area of coast stretching from Nga Yote Kaung, Ayeyarwaddy Region, to Gwa, Rakhine State.

### ■ **Shareholders seek to dump largest bus operator**

Investors in Yangon's largest public bus company want the government to buy back their shares. Around 200 investors in the Yangon Urban Public Transportation Company (YUPT) have called on the Yangon Region Government to acquire their shares, dissatisfied with the company's leadership and disappointing profits.

YUPT General Manager U Maung Maung Lwin told the Myanmar Times: "As far as I know, nearly 200 shareholders want to sell their shares back to the company. YUPT has 289 share holders who [have] invested a total of MMK 5 billion at MMK 100,000 per share."

With around 900 buses, YUPT is the largest bus operator under the Yangon Bus Service, the aegis for public transportation in Yangon. According to U Maung Maung Lwin, the regional government has provided MMK 35 billion of the company's MMK 40.6 billion paid-up capital.

Investors blame the company's poor performance on its leadership. Fed up with its chairman and board of directors, whom many believe lack experience in the transportation industry, shareholders cancelled a meeting scheduled for October and called on the government to select new leadership as soon as possible.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
GDG DevFest Yangon 2019	<b>Venue:</b> Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 8 Dec 2019	Google Developer Group Yangon	gdgyangon@gmail.com
International Conference on Economics and Finance Research	<b>Venue:</b> Best Western Chinatown Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 29–30 Dec 2019	Research World	info@researchworld.org
Digital Learning Myanmar Conference 2020	<b>Venue:</b> Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 19 Jan 2020	Zabai Myanmar	Nyein.chan@zabai.no +959 794395606
Mobile Money & Financial Inclusion Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Park Royal Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 18–19 Feb 2020	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer and Communication	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon <b>Date:</b> 26–28 Feb 2020	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Computer Applications	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max, Yangon, Myanmar <b>Date:</b> 27-28 Feb 2020	University of Computer Studies Myanmar	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95 01 610655
International Conference on Management, Economics & Social Science	<b>Venue:</b> Best Western Chinatown Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 28–29 Feb 2020	Researchfora	info@researchfora.com +91 8895 188531
Myanmar Franchise Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 6-8 Mar 2020	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60 1233 45696
International Hospital & Healthcare	<b>Venue:</b> Sedona Hotel Yangon, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 7-8 Mar 2020	Dagon Exhibitions	dagonexhibitions@gmail.com +959 450098008
Food & Hotel Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 3-5 Jun 2020	Informa Markets - Myanmar	informamarkets@informa.com

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Open Tender

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy invites open tender for 2019-2020 fiscal year for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-023 (19-20) (Retender)	Model 8040 D 10 Dual Cell Pressure Size Consistometer (1) Set	MMK
(b)	DMP/L-049 (19-20) (Retender)	10 Ton Truck with Crane (1) Unit	MMK

2. The open tender forms including description of materials/ Qty with detailed specifications and tender forms and conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **4th December, 2019** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. 44 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
3. The interested bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in tender box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **02:00 p.m. on 3rd January, 2019**.
4. Tender closing date and time is **3rd January, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.**
5. Further information can be obtained at the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the telephone number: +95-67-411206.

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Open Tender

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy invites open tender for 2019-2020 fiscal year for supply of the following services in USD and MMK.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	MOGE-C001/2019	Provision of 3D Seismic Data Services for Onshore Block RSF-1	USD
(b)	DMP/L-180 (19-20)	Maintenance, Inspection and spare requirements Services for PLC (Daw Nyein) and Ywama (GDS)	MMK

2. The open tender forms including description of services with detailed specifications and tender terms and conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **2nd December, 2019** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. 44 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
3. The interested bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in tender box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **02:00 p.m. on 30th December, 2019**.
4. Tender closing date and time is **30th December, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.**
5. Further information can be obtained at the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the telephone numbers: +95-67-411206 and +95-67-411214.

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Request for Proposal

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation is in the process of preparing the **consultancy services of the Middle Paunglaung Hydropower Project (152 MW)** which is located on Paunglaung River, about 32 km North-

East of Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

2. The employer requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced in hydropower projects and eligible international consulting firms on the basis of open tender announcements in order to carry out the consultancy services of the project in MMK.
3. The RFP document can be obtained from the Department of Hydropower Implementation during office hours at **2nd December, 2019** by the authorized representative of the consultant firms upon submission of a written application in the name of the Department of Hydropower Implementation.
4. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP.
5. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" on or before the **15th January, 2020** not later than **01:00 p.m.** to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.
6. Only technical proposal will be opened on **15th January, 2020** at **01:00 p.m.** at the meeting room of Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representatives of the firms who choose to be present. Absence of the representative of the firms shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.
7. A pre-proposal conference will be held at **02:00 p.m.** on **10th December, 2019** at the Department of Hydropower implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
8. Invitation letter and Request for Proposal documents with detailed information shall be available at the following address during the office hours.
9. The address referred to above is  
Procurement Branch  
Department of Hydropower Implementation  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Office: Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw  
Telephone: +95-67-8104189, +95-67-8104190  
Email: [dirpro.dhpi@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dirpro.dhpi@moe.gov.mm)