

•

/ IMF to open Myanmar office in Thailand

The Myanmar Times,

Volume 32, No. 635

July 16 - 22, 2012

International Monetary Fund Chief Christine Lagarde has announced a new office aimed at supporting for Myanmar. The office will be based at the Bank of Thailand (BOT) in Bangkok. The Fund will demonstrate “new emphasis on capacity building and training” which will also provide help to Laos. The date for opening the new office is to be announced in due course.

•

/ KBZ Bank starts Thai remittance service

The Myanmar Times

Volume 32, No. 635

July 16 - 22, 2012

Siam Commercial Bank and Kanbawza Bank will cooperate to allow migrant workers to remit money to Myanmar. The first three months of the service will be free of charge in Myanmar to encourage its operation, but later the transaction fee will be added. However, customers will still have to pay a small fee to Siam Commercial Bank. The service started on 2 July 2012 and it is one-way only, so people could not transfer money from Myanmar to Thailand. The outbound transfers expected to be available in future. Kanbawza was hoping to allow customers to access the system through automatic teller machines (ATMs) as soon as possible.

The Central Bank authorised four domestic banks – Ayeyawaddy, Kanbawza (KBZ), Asia Green Development (AGD) and Cooperative Bank (CB)– to begin forming joint venture with foreign institutions to remit money back to Myanmar from 1 January 2012. Ayeyawaddy Bank moved first and established an agreement with Q-Remit to transfer money from Myanmar working in Malaysia back to Myanmar, starting on 10 February 2012. The Bank started a remittance service through Malaysia’s May Bank and International Management Express on 1 June 2011 and K150 million had already been transferred from Malaysia through the service. CB also cooperated with other domestic banks to transfer money to towns where it did not have branches.

•

3/ Myanmar series will be shooting in cooperation with Thailand

The Voice Weekly Journal,

Monday 16-22 July 2012

Forever Group Company from Myanmar will make a series named “Amyey Dan Mandalay” in cooperation with BEC Tero from Thailand which will take about 4 months. The co-director will be from Thailand and the actors and actresses will be the new faces. BEC Tero will support in some parts of photography, cameras, hair-do and make-up, sounds and lighting. The designer for the whole series

will be “Designer Ma Thet Hnin Aye (Dozo)”. The series will be divided into 20 episodes and aired on Channel 7 or MRTV4.

- **4/ American Giant (GE) signs \$2m deals for health equipment**

The Myanmar Times (Eng)

Volume 32, No. 635

July 16 - 22, 2012

Mr. Robert Hormats, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment, and Mr. Francisco Sanchez, Under-Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, attended the signing ceremony between American giant General Electric (GE) and two Myanmar private hospitals on 14 July 2012 in Yangon. They were joined by newly appointed ambassador Mr. Derek Mitchell. The sales and purchase agreements were signed between GE Healthcare Products and Services and Pun Hlaing and Bahosi private hospitals. The agreements are amounted to US\$1 million each and cover the export of advanced medical equipment.

GE began trading with Myanmar in February 2012 following the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in December 2011. The company has agreed to supply the government with gas turbines in May 2012 following protests over electricity blackouts. Dr Win Zaw Aung, Managing Director of Sea Lion is GE Healthcare Products’ authorized agent in Myanmar. GE has expressed its interest in infrastructure projects across a number of sectors.

- **5/ Yangon**

- **Region Chief Minister a surprise choice for Vice President, replacing Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo**

The Myanmar Times,

Volume 32, No. 635

July 16 - 22, 2012

The Hluttaw’s military representatives nominated U Myint Swe, Chief Minister of Yangon Region and former head of Yangon Military Command, for the Vice President position, on 9 July 2012 as something of a surprise. The replacement is for Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, who resigned for health reasons. (1)Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, (2)General Hla Htay Win, (3) General Secretary of Union Solidarity and Development Party, U Htay Oo, (4) Minister of Home Affairs, Lieutenant General Ko Ko, (5) Admiral Nyan Tun and (6) Chairman of Union Election Commission, U Tin Aye were all believed to be in the running.

- **/ Lt Gen Wai Lwin in line for top job in Yangon**

The Myanmar Times,

Volume 32, No. 635

July 16 - 22, 2012

Lieutenant General Wai Lwin is considered the front runner for the job of Yangon Region Chief Minister following the almost certain elevation of U Myint Swe to Vice President. Lt Gen Wai Lwin, a former Deputy Commander of Yangon Region; Military Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw region had been replaced into the Yangon Region Hluttaw in place of Captain Lin Lin Kyaw on 12 July 2012 as an essential step, to make him eligible for the position.

- **7/ President meet UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Antonio Guterres**
<http://www.president-office.gov.mm/briefing-room/daily-news/news1061> (12 July 2012)



During the meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Antonio Guterres in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July 2012, President U Thein Sein said that Myanmar will not allow illegal immigrant Rohingyas to live in the country.

The only solution to the problem is that Rohingyas are to be handed over to the UNHCR, which would provide them food and shelter in refugee camps or they will be sent to a third country if it accepts. According to history, the British colonialists took Bengalis into Myanmar before it regained independence in 1948 making them engage in farm work. At that time, some settled down in the country because of their good jobs.

According to the law, Myanmar only accepts the third generation born of parents who have come to live in the county before 1948. In Rakhine State, there are complicated problems such as descendents of Bengalis who came before 1948 and illegal immigrants in disguise of Rohingya. It has even threatened State stability so he is taking it very seriously. Myanmar will only take responsibility for its own national ethnics but illegal immigrant Rohingyas will not be accepted.