

1/ Yangon more expensive than NYC sparking boom: real estate

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-29/yangon-more-expensive-than-nyc-sparking-boom-real-estate.html>

Bloomberg reported that the annual rents of Yangon's three sole 1990s-era towers have climbed to more than 100 USD a square foot, compared with less than 75 USD a square foot in downtown Manhattan of New York. Demand for housing and renting is drastically increasing. Yangon needs at least 8.7 million square feet of office spaces, while there will be about 1.9 million square feet available by the end of 2015, compared with 600,000 now.

2/ Bangkok Air opens Mandalay flight

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/investment/9777-bangkok-air-opens-mandalay-route>

Bangkok Airways is set to become the third Thai airline to offer regular flights from Bangkok to Mandalay on 15 September 2013, joining competitors Thai Airasia and Thai Smile.

3/ Tender invitation: Ministry of Finance (MFTB Bank)

<http://www.myanmar-business.org/2013/08/tender-invitation-ministry-of-finance.html>

Local and foreign companies are invited to supply 1) core banking system software and 2) trade finance software for Myanmar Foreign and Trade Bank (MFTB). Deadline for submission of proposals is 09.06.2013

4/ Myanmar allows forex trade between local banks

<http://www.myanmar-business.org/2013/08/myanmar-allows-forex-trade-between.html>

Myanmar has introduced interbank currency trading between the local banks, as a step forward in financial reforms. At present foreign banks are allowed to open their representative offices in Myanmar, while the government is considering to permit them to operate in the near future.

5/ Ayeyarwady region government and PTTEP negotiate 5 billion USD investment

<http://www.myanmar-business.org/2013/08/ayeyarwady-region-government-and-pttep.html>

PTTEP is in process of negotiation with Ayeyarwady region government to make investment in a deep port and other projects.

6/ MOGE begins long process to pick Myanmar's oil and gas investors

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/41160>

Myanmar is in the process of selection foreign investors to explore oil and gas the seas off Myanmar coast. The process could take 8 months before any licenses could be awarded. Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and the Energy Planning Department will hold talks with 61 companies that have been shortlisted as suitable candidates to bid.

7/ Thailand leads in Myanmar's foreign investor line-up in six month

<http://www.myanmar-business.org/2013/08/thailand-leads-in-myanmars-foreign.html>

Thailand invested 410 million USD in Myanmar in the first half of 2013, leading in Myanmar's foreign investor line-up during the first six month of 2013. Overall Figures indicate that sectorally, foreign investment poured most in electric sector with 19 billion USD in the first six months of this year, followed by oil and gas with 14 billion USD and mining with nearly 3 billion USD.

8/ Novotel Hotel to open in Yangon this December

<http://www.myanmar-business.org/2013/08/new-five-star-hotel-to-open-in-yangon.html>

Max Myanmar Company is due to complete the construction of the Novotel Hotel in Yangon by December. The Hotel will be equipped with 366 rooms. Singapore's IIDA will take care of its building design, Vietnam's AA Corporation is handling its interior design and French Accor Hospitality will take care of its operation management.

9/ Government announced allocation of 20 million cubic feet of natural gas to Kyauk Phyu

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/natural-resources/9774-government-announces-allocation-of-20-million-cubic-feet-of-natural-gas-to-kyauk-phyu>

The natural gas pipeline from Kyauk Phyu to Kunming was tested successfully on 15 July 2013. Myanmar Government will allocate 100 million cubic feet of natural gas per day for the local use, while 400 million cubic feet per day will be transported to China.

10/ Factories slated as first step in Thilawa SEZ

Myanmar Business Today, 1-7 August 2013

Factories building will be the first step in establishing the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and the work will start by the end of this year. The project will encompass 296 hectares of land.