



Update on the Situation in Myanmar (on February 2, 2021)

Yusuke Yukawa, Kyi Chan Nyein

The following is an update on the current situation in Myanmar.

1. Ministers and other key personnel of central government ministries and agencies

During the past few days, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services issued Orders appointing ministers at the central government ministries and agencies in rapid sequence.¹

In addition, an Order to dismiss the deputy minister of ministries has been issued, and those named in relation to key ministries and agencies that govern the businesses of investing companies are as follows:

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry	U Maung Maung Win U Set Aung Dr Min Ye Paing Hein
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations	U Bharat Singh
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	U Hla Kyaw
Ministry of Transport and Communication	U Kyaw Myo U Thar Oo
Department of Electricity and Energy	Dr Tun Naing U Khin Maung Win
Ministry of Commerce	U Aung Htoo
Ministry of Construction	U Kyaw Lin
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Dr Ye Myint Swe
Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population	U Myint Kyaing

In addition to the foregoing, it has been made clear that key members of the judiciary system, the Anti-corruption Committee, and the Human Rights Committee will remain in office.

¹ According to the orders themselves, the orders are based on Article 419 of the Constitution.

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According to the Myanmar Constitution, each minister appointed by the Union Parliament is to be dismissed from office, and we are awaiting further updates on personnel affairs other than those already announced. In practice, communication with deputy ministers and other senior officials who serve as counterparts in consultations regarding foreign investment and projects are also very important, and the dismissal of the above-mentioned deputy ministers is expected to have a considerable impact on these matters. It is important to continue to watch future developments closely.

2. Business of banks

The Central Bank of Myanmar issued a letter stating that all banks should operate as usual, and it seems that they are currently operating as usual on February 2.

[Column: Current Situation in Yangon seen by a Myanmar Attorney]

February 1: It was reported at 6 o'clock in the morning that the president, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, and other prime ministers from various states and districts had been detained, and anxious people made long queues in front of ATMs. At about 8:00 a.m., almost all ATMs stopped functioning. In addition, during daytime and night-time, telephone and mobile communications were stopped, except for hotels' WiFi. People fearing political instability ran to secure food, and there were great crowds in supermarkets. In the afternoon, there were almost no products in supermarkets or local markets.

February 2: Telecommunications and the Internet on mobile phones are recovering, but remain in an unstable situation. Some supermarkets, local markets, and other shops are selling small amounts of goods, and people must make long lines for shopping. In many places, police groups are seen waiting, but no other gatherings of people can be seen. In the afternoon, no demonstration activities could be seen, either. Cars are running as usual, including buses and taxis. However, the sight of the police standing by in front of the large market in Mandalay is receiving a lot of attention on Facebook.



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Yusuke Yukawa graduated from Keio University (LL.B.) in 1998 and Stanford Law School (LL.M.) in 2007. He has been in Myanmar since January 2013, longer than any other Japanese attorney of a major Japanese law firm. He has a wide-range of experience and has established an impressive network comprising companies, government ministries and non-profit organizations. He was recognized as one of the leading practitioners in Myanmar by Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global.



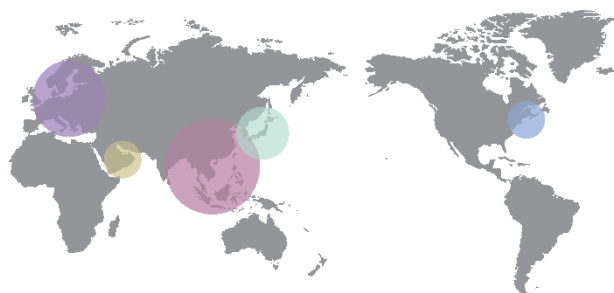
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