

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### Jailed Reuters journalists listed among Time's "Person of the Year"

Ko Wa Lone and Ko Kyaw Soe Oo, the two jailed Reuters journalists are among those chosen by Time Magazine for their "Person of the Year", as the famed publication recognized journalists around the world. Other two people were listed, one being Maria Ressa, founder of Rappler in the Philippines. Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudi dissident writer, who was killed inside the Saudi Arabian consulate in Turkey, was also listed. "I hope that this is received by the public at large far, far beyond the United States as a reminder of the importance of defending free expression and the pursuit of truth and facts," Ben Goldberger, Time Magazine's assistant managing editor, was quoted as saying. The annual distinction recognizes the person, group or idea that had the greatest influence on global events. Previous winners include civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr and Queen Elizabeth. It has been one year since Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested at a restaurant in northern Yangon. Despite claims in court that their arrest was a deliberate set up, the pair was sentenced to seven years under the country's Unlawful Associations Act. At the time of their arrest, they were investigating the killing of 10 Muslim men in Rakhine State.

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### December Highlights

Myanmar Credit Bureau Ltd. will start collecting and providing credit data after a new credit bureau opens within next 9-12 months.

The authorities have shortlisted ten firms to build a 20-kilometer expressway in Yangon to alleviate traffic congestion and facilitate business, according to a statement by (MOC).

Some have criticized the CBM for attempting to lift the value of the dollar as CBM bought USD 37.74 million from the market between November 27 and December 6.

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## Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar




**Yangon to receive much needed new bus stops**

Jul 12, 2018  
U Maung Aung, secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, stated this week that FMIDecaux ha

**Hello Communications to build train station along Yangon Circular Railway**

Jul 12, 2018  
Through a joint venture with a local firm, Hello Communications will commence its work at Thamine st

**Upcoming Events**

Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018  
July 14, 2018

Myanmar Supply Chain Summit  
August 29, 2018

Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum  
August 30, 2018

Myanmar Global Investment Forum  
September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018

Myanmar Connect 2018  
September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

[More Events](#) [Submit Event](#)

**Highlights**

Trade with the Netherlands exceeds USD 61 million  
July 12, 2018  
Bilateral trade with the Netherlands reached USD 61.98 million in two months according to the ...

- **Kachin activists jailed for anti-war protests**

Three Kachin activists have been sentenced to six months in prison according to an article in the Myanmar Times. The activists have been accused of defaming the Myanmar army by hosting protests earlier this year highlighting the fact that civilians were trapped by fighting in their home state. Lum Zawng, Nang Pu and Zau Jat were sentenced to six months in prison and fined K500,000 each on December 7. "We feel that this is unfair," Lum Zawng told journalists outside the court. "Our lawsuit shows that the rule of law in our country is at its worst state, and we are saddened by the decision of the court". The trio helped organize demonstrations held in Kachin State in April and May this year. The fighting between the Myanmar army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) left thousands displaced, caught behind the conflict without access to food. The protesters had called for the evacuation of civilians as well as an end to airstrikes on civilian areas. The fighting between the army and the KIA is described by some as the longest civil war in the world. The war restarted in 2011, after a 17-year ceasefire. Since then, at least 100,000 people have been displaced by the conflict.

## Economy

- **Tourism awards aim to highlight responsible activities**

The second Myanmar Responsible Tourism Awards (MRTA) were held in Yangon this week. The aim of the awards is to highlight those tour companies that promote sustainable practices and empower local communities. "We want to encourage change in the industry and to single out for recognition those who are taking responsibility and can show evidence that they are having a positive impact towards responsible and sustainable tourism in Myanmar," said U Nyunt Win Naing, chairman of the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute (MRTI), which organises the awards. The MRTAs involved seven awards in six categories. All categories go through a shortlist process before being selected by a group of seven judges. Yangon-based Sampan Travel was awarded Best Responsible Tourism Operator. Myanmar Adventure Outfitters, which specializes in tours in northern Shan State, won the newcomer prize. Other award winners on the night included Inle Princess Resort, which won most responsible tourism accommodation, Inle Horse Club for best innovation, and Inle Canoe Lady, for best product for empowerment. Ayeyarwady Dolphin Conservation and Ecotourism won the award for best community involvement in tourism. The Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp was recognized as the best responsible tourism awareness-raising project.

- **Myanmar visa rules relaxed for Indian visitors**

The Myanmar visa rules relaxed for Indian visitors to the country beginning this month. Visas on arrival (VOA) can be applied at the country's three international airports, at Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. "The VOA for Indian citizens is similar to the one offered to mainland Chinese who are able to apply for them at the three international airports," U Myo Win Nyunt, director of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, was quoted as saying in the Myanmar Times. Visas rules have been relaxed in October to attract visitors from Japan, South Korea, Hong

### Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)
GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)
GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)
Population: 52.92 mn people (Oct 2017)
Inflation: 6.5% (2017)
Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)
FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)
International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)
CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,581K/1\$ (13/12/18)

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Kong, Macau, and mainland China. Amidst international criticism of the Myanmar government's handling of the Rakhine crisis from western countries, tourists have refrained from travelling to Myanmar. Therefore, the country has worked to attract more visitors from Asia. The move comes after India introduced free visas to Myanmar citizens in September last year.

## Companies and Investments

### ■ Telenor Myanmar partners with Experian in credit market

Telenor Myanmar partners with digital firm Experian that aims to provide financial services to those without bank accounts in Myanmar. The target population includes individuals, households and small businesses. "Our partnership with Experian will become the very first of its kind and will enable financial institutions to reach out to the millions of unbanked subscribers," Telenor Myanmar's chief marketing officer Amaresh Kumar was quoted as saying by the Myanmar Times. Under the agreement, Experian will help Telenor facilitate pre-qualification for borrowers to secure up to US\$ 1000 in as micro-finance. Additionally, credit cards with spending limits up to \$1000 will also be facilitated, the report said. "Our aim is to improve financial inclusion in Myanmar through the use of alternative data," said Dev Dhiman, Experian's managing director for Southeast Asia and emerging markets. Access to capital is one of the major challenges highlight by companies operating in Myanmar.

### ■ American international school to be established in Yangon

Myanmar Strategic Holdings (MSH), a company that is listed on the London Stock Exchange, is planning to invest US\$ 1 million in establishing the Yangon American International School, according to reports. An article in Dealstreet Asia, said that the school would be completed by the second quarter of 2019. Classes are expected to start August of 2019, hosting classes from pre-kindergarten to third grade in the first phase. "As the first campus reaches capacity, we will evaluate the opportunity to open additional locations in Yangon and other major cities such as Mandalay or Nay Pyi Taw," Jonathan Kolb, a partner with MSH, was quoted as saying. As well as education, MSH also has interests in Myanmar's hospitality and security sectors. Its education investments include the language training franchise Wall Street English, and Auston Institute of Management, which offers vocational training classes.

**Legal Box** by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP**New Myanmar Tourism Law: An effort towards development of accountable and sustainable tourism in Myanmar**

The Myanmar Parliament recently promulgated the new Myanmar Tourism Law (“MTL”) on 17 September 2018, which replaces the old Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Law that was enacted by State Law and Order Restoration Council.

The key spirit of this new MTL is different from the old one, and specifically the area of management level that three committees (*such as: National Tourism Business Development Committee, Tourism Working Committee and Regional Tourism Working Committee*) have been formed for implementation of this law with the collaboration of the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism.

Pursuant to the MTL, the licenses to be issued are classified into five categories, broadly- Tour license, Hotel license, Lodging-House license, Tour guide license and other services relating to tourism license. Application for such licenses can be made with the Regional Tour Business Committee. The licenses shall be valid for 3 Years and the renewal can be made in accordance the requirements of the Regional Tour Business Committee.

The restriction under this new Law is that no one is allowed to carry the business of (a) tour guide, (b) transfer or accept of tour guide (c) tour, hotel, lodging-house, tour guide or other services relating to tourism without having the specific licenses as provided for under the MTL. The MTL also provides for action(s) to counter any non-compliance/breach of the terms and conditions of licenses that *inter alia* includes revocation of license, cancellation and black-listing.

The government with its continuous endeavor to strengthen the tourism industry in Myanmar, with enactment of MTL, the development is targeted to be ensured on an accountable and sustainable manner.

**Through our office in Yangon, Duane Morris & Selvam advises corporations on investment, business and regulatory processes in Myanmar. For further information, please contact Mr Krishna Ramachandra ([kramachandra@duanemorrisselvam.com](mailto:kramachandra@duanemorrisselvam.com)), Ms Babita Ambekar ([bambekar@duanemorrisselvam.com](mailto:bambekar@duanemorrisselvam.com)), Mr Priyank Srivastava ([psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com](mailto:psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com)), or Mr CN Beilo ([CBLo@selvamandpartners.com](mailto:CBLo@selvamandpartners.com)) or visit [www.duanemorrisselvam.com](http://www.duanemorrisselvam.com). Duane Morris & Selvam is recognised as a leading law firm for Myanmar related Corporate, M&A and Projects (including Energy) work – The Legal 500 (2017 & 2018).**

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
6th International Exhibition & Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Industry	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 14-16 Dec 2018	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +84 28 3848 8561~63
Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-2, Nay Pyi Taw Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 14 Dec 2018	Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association	office@myea.org.mm +95 1 230 1867, 230 1573
Pure Gold Myanmar - Upcycling and Design Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Secretariat Office <b>Date:</b> 15 Dec 2018 - January 4, 2019	RICE Communications	enquiries@ricecomms.com +65 3157 5685
Invest Myanmar Summit 2019	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 08-09 Jan 2019	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)	umfcci@mptmail.net.mm +95 1 231 4344 ~ 49
Electric Power Exhibition & Conference	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 17-18 Jan 2019	BUIM Group	info@buimgroup.org +86-21-36509276
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> TBC <b>Date:</b> 24-25 Jan 2019	Organizing Committee of MOSCE	<a href="http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx">http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx</a>
Mobile Money & Agent Banking Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon <b>Date:</b> 19-20 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer & Communication	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon <b>Date:</b> 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Computer Applications	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	University of Computer Studies	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95 (0)1 610 889

## Tenders

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

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy invites open tenders for supply of the following respective items in USD and MMK.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(a)	IFB-035 (18-19)	Spare for VSAT (1) Set	USD
(b)	IFB-036 (18-19)	6" and 4" ERW Steel Line Pipe (2) Items	USD
(c)	DMP/L-139 (18-19)	NDT Services for 20" Domestic Natural Gas Pipe Line (1) Lot	MMK
(d)	DMP/L-140 (18-19)	40 D-76-48 Type Pumping Unit (2) Nos	MMK
(e)	DMP/L-141 (18-19)	228 D-213-120 Type Pumping Unit (1) No	MMK
(f)	DMP/L-142 (18-19)	114 D-119-86 Type Pumping Unit (1) No	MMK
(g)	DMP/L-143 (18-19)	Pipe Wrench and Chain Tong (2) Groups	MMK
(h)	DMP/L-144 (18-19)	Fire Extinguisher (5) Groups	MMK
(i)	DMP/L-145 (18-19)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches (2) Items	MMK
(j)	DMP/L-146 (18-19)	Mobile Welding Machine (2) Sets	MMK
(k)	DMP/L-147 (18-19)	Assorted Sizes of Tyres (12) Items	MMK
(l)	DMP/L-148 (18-19)	13 5/8 × 5K Annular BOP Spares (2) Items	MMK
(m)	DMP/L-149 (18-19)	Spares for Cooper Well Servicing Unit (35) Items	MMK
(n)	DMP/L-150 (18-19)	Spares for 30 Ton Grove Mobile Crane (13) Items	MMK

2. The open tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and tender terms and conditions can be available download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website - [www.moe.gov.mm](http://www.moe.gov.mm) as from **30th November, 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.
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, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **02:00 p.m. on 26th December, 2018**.
4. Tender closing date and time is **02:00 p.m. on 26th December, 2018**.
5. Further information can be obtained at Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the phone number +95-67-411206.

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation for Bids

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The bid is invited by the Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) for Package 2: Supply and Installation for 500kV Transmission Line as follows;

Sr.No	Invitation for Bid	Descriptions	Issuing Date
1	MY-P14, JICA, ODA Loan	Package 2: Design, Supply and Installation for 500kV Transmission Line between Phayargyi and Hlaingthayar Substation	6th December, 2018

2. The order document must be purchased with MMK which is equivalent to USD 1,000 and is non-refundable.
3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Japan in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than 50% of the contract amount. This scheme is based on applicable guidelines of Japanese ODA loan.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the website - [www.moee.gov.mm](http://www.moee.gov.mm) or the documents from the Material Planning Department, the Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
5. Bid documents must be delivered to the address mentioned above on or before **01:00 p.m. on 5th March, 2019.**
6. The bid must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two hundred million Japanese Yen (JPY 200,000,000).
7. Technical bid will be opened on 5th March, 2019 at 01:00 p.m. at the Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw in the presence of representatives from bidders.
8. Any request for the extension of bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.
9. Further information can be obtained at the office within office hours under the phone numbers +95-67-3410282 and +95-67-3410209.

■ **Ministry of Transport and Communications: Open Tender**

1. The Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications invites open tenders for supply of the following items in Euro and MMK.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T) 7/MR (ML) MMK/18-19	Procurement for Assembling and Manufacturing of (5) Nos of Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP Complete Knocked-down Diesel Electric Locomotives
2.	12(T) 8/MR (ML) Euro/18-19	Procurement of (5) Sets of Diesel Engine & Main Alternator Sets with Foundation Frame and Related Necessary Parts for Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives

2. Tender closing date and time is on **22nd January, 2019 at 02:30 p.m.**
3. Tender documents are available at the office starting from 14th December, 2018. during office hours. Further information can be obtained through the contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51th Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon under the phone number: +95-1-291985 and +95-1-291994.