

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

■ **Reuters reporters freed after more than 500 days in jail**

Two Reuters journalists jailed in Myanmar walked free from prison after more than 500 days behind bars. The journalists were investigating the killings of Muslim men in Rakhine State. They were then arrested and convicted for breaking the Official Secrets Act. According to Reuters reports, the two were released under a presidential amnesty to representatives of Reuters and to Lord Ara Darzi, a member of an advisory group to Myanmar’s government on reforms in Rakhine State. Prior to the release, the families of the two journalists wrote to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In January, the Yangon High Court dismissed an appeal, followed by the Myanmar Supreme Court rejecting the journalists’ final appeal in April. The appeal cited the lack of proof of a crime. President Win Myint has pardoned thousands of other prisoners in mass amnesties since last month. The imprisonment of the Reuters journalists was massively criticized by the international community and their release was welcomed and widely reported by international media.

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### May Highlights

Myanmar’s overseas trade stood at USD 19.9 billion in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, up by nearly USD 700 million from the previous year.

Australia-based Myanmar Metals said that its 51%-owned Bawdwin polymetallic project in Myanmar could kick off production as early as 2021.

The first branch of Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB) has started operation in Yangon on Monday, offering financial assistance to tourism companies.

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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 ...

## Economy

### ■ **Hydropower Developers' Association launch by IFC**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, has announced the launch of the Myanmar Hydropower Developers' Association (MHDA). It is an innovative platform for hydropower companies and professionals with the objective to promote sustainable development in the sector. The association was founded in 2016 as a working group led by IFC with support from the Australian government. The article says, the independent association is registered in Myanmar, representing the private sector on the policies, regulatory frameworks and development. The target members are potential and existing local and foreign hydropower players. Those include developers, operators, engineering-procurement-construction (EPC) contractors, vendors and industry professionals in Myanmar. "Hydropower has significant potential to help develop Myanmar, but we need to strike a balance between meeting the country's energy needs and protecting its environment and communities. To support that, we aim to promote health and safety standards, sustainable regulation, and strengthen compliance," said Aung Zaw Naing, Chair of MHDA's Executive Committee.

### ■ **IMF warns momentum loss in Myanmar Economy**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned that "risks are tilted to the downside" referring to the concerns over the failure to address the humanitarian issues of Rakhine crisis. It was also warned that the Myanmar economy "appears to be losing momentum". "A prolonged humanitarian crisis and any withdrawal of trade preferences could reduce concessional donor financing and investment leading to lower growth," it said. Weaknesses in the banking sector, macro finance spillovers in particular may become more severe if banks delay recapitalisation, the IMF added. Inflation was moderate in the fiscal year 2017-18, with 4.0 percent on average, but has been rising from increased fuel prices and a depreciating kyat. The kyat has depreciated 14.5 percent since April 2018. The IMF expects economic growth of 6.4 percent in the fiscal year 2018-19 (October 2018 to September 2019), if government spending picks up.

## Companies and Investments

### ■ **New port to be constructed in Yangon**

Adani Yangon International Terminal is developing a port terminal in Ahlone township, Yangon, to cater to increasing trade volumes. The Myanmar registered company received approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission on 26th April to develop, operate and maintain the Ahlone International Port Terminal (2) (AIPT) under a 50-year Build, Operate and Transfer agreement with the government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The AIPT (2) at USD 290 million value will be developed across 50 acres of land owned by Myanmar Economic Corporation. The construction of the port is expected to begin in September 2019. A DICA official said that the company will enjoy income tax incentives for the first three years of operations. The Yangon River has a draft of nine meters which allows for vessels of 167 meters in length and 15,000 tons in weight. When complete, the new terminal will be able to handle container ships of between 1100 and 1500 TEU.

### Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)

GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)

GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)

Population: 54.22 mn people (Apr 2019)

Inflation: 6.5% (2017)

Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)

FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,528K/1\$ (09/05/19)

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- **Golden Myanmar Airlines to invest in aviation fuel business**

Golden Myanmar Airlines under KMA Group will be investing USD 28.96 million to handle the import, storage and distribution of jet fuel in Myanmar, according to an article in the Myanmar times citing a government official. The airline received the approval of Myanmar the Investment Commission to operate an aviation fuel business competing with Puma Energy. Golden Myanmar Airlines will be operating in the airports of Tachileik, Kawthaung, Nyaung Oo, Heho, Sittway, Myitkyina alongside the Mandalay International Airport. However, in the Yangon Region, the company will only be undertaking work at Thilawa oil tanks and jetty area in Thanlyin-Kyauk Tan township.

- **Logistics startup Kargo raises USD 800,000**

Myanmar logistics startup Kargo announced that it has raised USD 800,000 in a financing round on Tuesday. It was led by Singapore-based venture capital fund Cocoon Capital. Kargo is a B2B logistics mobile platform that connects truck owners and users for both short and long-haul trucking services. It plans to use the capital raised to further develop its platform and expand outside Myanmar in the next year. Additionally, Cocoon Capital managing partner Michael Blakey joins Kargo's board of directors. Kargo was the winner of Seedstars Yangon 2017 and was backed by Seed Myanmar that targets early-stage technology companies. Prior to this round, the company obtained unsecured SME financing through Yoma Bank and also received a six-digit dollar grant from the GSMA Ecosystem Accelerator Innovation Fund.



### SEEDSTARS YANGON, May 2nd

Where? Yangon Innovation Center | Seedspace Yangon  
Kyan Mar Yay Seik Kan Compound, Corner of Pansodan Road and South of, Strand Rd, Yangon

## SEEDSTARS IS COMING TO YANGON TO FIND THE BEST STARTUP IN MYANMAR

On 16th May, ten of Myanmar's best seed-stage startups will compete to represent the country at the Seedstars Asia Summit and win up to USD 500,000 in equity investments and other prizes."



Seedstars Global Winner at [Seedstars Summit 2019](#)

Yangon, Myanmar, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 [Seedstars World](#) the largest startup competition for emerging markets, is coming to Myanmar for the fifth time. The event will be hosted at the Yangon Innovation Center | Seedspace Yangon, the coworking branch of Seedstars in the city. Seedstars World competition is looking for startups that have raised less than USD 500k in funding and built a minimum viable product.

On May 14th, Seedstars will be hosting a dynamic training in Getting Investment Ready and Art of Pitch, followed by mentoring sessions delivered by local experts, for the 20 best startups applicants. The 10 best startups will be invited to present their business in a pitch contest, on May 16th, competing to represent Myanmar at the Asia Seedstars Summit, with the opportunity to be selected to a Growth Program and win up to half a million dollars in equity investment.

All ten startups finalists will also get access to the [Investment Readiness Program](#), a program designed to provide access to training, mentoring sessions and curated insights to entrepreneurs.

The applications are open until May 12th. Startups are invited to apply at <https://www.seedstarsworld.com/event/seedstars-yangon-2019>.

"We are very excited to come back to Yangon for the fifth time! The stakes are higher than ever as we've been in this ecosystem for more than five years now and know there are companies in Myanmar developing high-quality products. We are looking for the best and will take them with us to Asia Seedstars Summit in 2019!", says **Rosie Keller, Regional Manager for Asia at Seedstars**.

In order to provide a long-term support for local entrepreneurs, Seedstars partner up with the Yangon Regional Government, CB Bank and Thura Swiss to open the first Seedspace in the region, running up events and leveraging the ecosystem. Yangon is the first event of the Seedstars World Tour 2019, and part of the many more to come in the Seedspace Yangon.

## ABOUT SEEDSTARS

*"They tried to bury us, they didn't know we were seeds." - Mexican proverb*

[Seedstars](#) is a Swiss-based private group of companies with a mission to impact people's lives in emerging markets through technology and entrepreneurship. The groups' activities cover over 80 emerging ecosystems through a variety of events such as the [Seedstars World Competition](#), acceleration programs, physical hubs called [Seedspace](#), venture capital investments and company building activities.

## ABOUT SEEDSTARS WORLD COMPETITION

Seedstars World is the world's largest startup competition in emerging markets. For the past six years, Seedstars Teams travel around for a 9-month world tour and scout for the best early-stage startups in 65+ countries, organizing 100+ events. One winner is selected to represent each country visited, and is invited to attend one of the 5 Regional Summits, reuniting all local winners of each region to network with regional investors, mentors and corporates. Local winners are also awarded the chance to represent their countries at the [Seedstars Summit](#), the competition's final happening in Switzerland, where startups compete for up to \$500,000 in investment. The [Seedstars Summit](#) is the flagship event of Seedstars, filled with breakout sessions, panel discussions, specialized workshops and the best minds from emerging markets.

## Press Contact:

High-resolution photos, logos, as well as press information and interview options are available on demand.

## CONTACT

Media Relations, Seedstars

Laura Eboa Songue

[laura@seedstars.com](mailto:laura@seedstars.com)

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Yangon Investment Forum 2019	<b>Venue:</b> Lotte Hotels & Resorts, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 10-11 May 2019	Myanmar Investors Development Association	office@mida.com.mm +95(0)98635910
International Food & Drink Carnival	<b>Venue:</b> Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 9-12 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
Seedstars Startup Competition	<b>Venue:</b> Seedspace, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 16 May 2019	Seedstars Yangon	laura@seedstars.com +95 995 754 3530
BuildTech Yangon	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo Hall <b>Date:</b> 17-18 May 2019	Sphere Exhibitions Pte Ltd	sphere@sph.com.sg +65-6319 4020
Mandalay International Livestock and Agriculture Show	<b>Venue:</b> Mandalay Convention Centre <b>Date:</b> 28-30 May 2019	Silver Sea Media	info@mmlfin.com +95-9431 25185
Food & Hotel Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Yangon <b>Date:</b> 5-7 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975
Beauty Connect Expo Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel <b>Date:</b> 6-8 June 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (Veas Co., Ltd)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9420 025684
Complast Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Hall <b>Date:</b> 14-16 June 2019	Smart Expos & Fairs (India) Pvt. Ltd	office@smartexpos.in +91-44-2250 1986/ 87
Myanmar International Job Fair	<b>Venue:</b> Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery <b>Date:</b> 15-16 June 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
GMS Rail Expansion Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 17-18 June 2019	UMS Institute	info@umsinstitute.org +86-21-6101 4318
Emerging Asia Banking & Fintech Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Park Royal Yangon <b>Date:</b> 25-26 June 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Invitation for Price Quotations

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA number of the financing agreement is No. H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the purchase order/ contract for the G 128 Still Cameras. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following item:

Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Quantity
G 128	1	Still Camera	15 sets

2. Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distribute on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an Invitation To Quote (ITQ). Sealed quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding date on **4th June, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**, after which no quotations will be accepted.
3. The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the shopping method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January, 2011.
4. Please submit the Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: Project Director, Mrs. Nyo Nyo Win, NCDD Project Secretariat, Department of Rural Development, Office No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw under the telephone number: +95-67-418604. Detailed information can be obtained from U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section under the telephone number: +95-9-43434333 or office telephone number: +95-67-418637 or through email: [unioncddprocurement@gmail.com](mailto:unioncddprocurement@gmail.com).
5. Please indicate your email address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. Further information about the NCDD Project can be obtained by visiting the Department of Rural Development (DRD) website: [www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org](http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org).

### ■ Ministry of Transport and Communications: Sealed Bids

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contracts for **Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of NPT Datacenter and Forecast Operations Center set up and backend ICT Infrastructure**.
2. The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of NPT Datacenter and Forecast Operations Center set up and backend ICT Infrastructure in one lot comprising four areas of ICT supply referred to as components:

Component No.	Description
Component 1	Primary Datacenter (PDC) and Backup Datacenter (BDC) Facilities and Forecast Operations Centre
Component 2	ICT backend infrastructure - High Performance Computer and Midrange Systems
Component 3	ICT backend infrastructure - Network: Wide Area Network and Internet Appliances
Component 4	ICT Capability Development

3. Bidders shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that they meet the following financial, experience and technical capacity requirements:
  - i) Average annual turnover should not be less than USD 3,000,000 in last three years.
  - ii) A form of credit line from a commercial bank or a bank account statement to demonstrate that the bidder has following amounts available for the respective contracts if awarded to the bidder USD 1,000,000.
  - iii) The bidder should be an established Information Technology Company/ IT System Integrator and has successfully completed at least two contracts of similar nature and complexity including supply, installation, commissioning, training and maintenance in any year over the last five years with the value of each contract not less than 50% of the bid price, in which the equipment has been operating successfully in accordance to international standards. The bidder shall also provide the name and contact information of the users.
  - iv) The bidder should confirm the existence or provide a detailed plan for the establishment of warranty (service centers) in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar or East Asia or South East Asia, for the equipment authorized by manufacturer, to provide warranty service and technical support for the delivered equipment. More details are in the bidding documents. No margin of preference is applicable.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January, 2011 (revised July, 2014) "Procurement Guidelines", and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Dr. Lai Lai Aung, Component 2 Director, PMU Office, Building 7, No. 400, DWIR Compound, Lower Pazuntaung Road, Postal Code 11171, Pazuntaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar through email address: [component2director@airbm.org](mailto:component2director@airbm.org) with copies to [procurement-unit@airbm.org](mailto:procurement-unit@airbm.org), [eikyipyarsoe@gmail.com](mailto:eikyipyarsoe@gmail.com) and [aungminaung1977@gmail.com](mailto:aungminaung1977@gmail.com), and inspect the bidding documents within office hours at the address given above.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English can be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. PDF copy of the bidding documents will be issued through email only.
7. A pre-bid meeting which potential bidders may attend will be held on **29th May, 2019** at **10:00 a.m.** at Yangon DMH Branch Office, No. 50, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **02:00 p.m.** on **31st July, 2019**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **2:00 p.m.** on **31st July, 2019**.
9. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.
10. The address referred to above is:

PMU Office  
Attention: Ms. Ei Kyipyar Soe or Mr. Aung Min, Procurement Officers  
Office: Building 7, No. 400, DWIR Compound, Lower Pazuntaung Road, Postal Code 11171, Pazuntaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar  
Telephone: +95-9-263657191, +95-9-5058307  
Email: [procurement-unit@airbm.org](mailto:procurement-unit@airbm.org) with copies to [project-director@airbm.org](mailto:project-director@airbm.org), [component2director@airbm.org](mailto:component2director@airbm.org), [aungminaung1977@gmail.com](mailto:aungminaung1977@gmail.com) and [eikyipyarsoe@gmail.com](mailto:eikyipyarsoe@gmail.com).  
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