"COME APRIL" TO MYANMAR TO GET WET P-8-9 (OPINION)

NATIONAL

Former drug addicts in northern Shan State rehabilitated effectively: Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

P-2

NATIONAL

Coordination meeting held to establish movie studio, skills training school in Nay Pyi Taw

P-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 358, 10th Waning of Tagu 1379 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Tuesday, 10 April 2018

in Picture

Free ferry service is operating for the travellers after Myaungmya suspension bridge collapse aiming not to delay the flow of commodities and transportation access. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

## State Counsellor's 'peace talk' to be broadcast live today

THE State Counsellor and the local people are holding a 'peace talk' in the Ayeyawady Region's Myaungmya Town in the morning of 10 April. The peace talk will be broadcast live starting from 10.30 a.m. from the Facebook pages of the Myanmar President's office and the Myanmar State Counsellor's office, Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), MITV, MNTV, Channel 9, Skynet Up to Date, Ethnic and Myanma Radio programmes, MOI web portal Myanmar Facebook, MRTV Facebook and Myanmar Digital News Facebook pages. — Myanmar News Agency ■

# Collective strength returns transportation to normal after Myaungmya bridge collapse

By Ye Khaung and Zaw Gyi
PHOTO : ZAW MIN LAT

THE Myaungmya suspension bridge collapsed early morning on 1 April 2018, when a 16-tonne six-wheel truck passed over the bridge. Therefore, efforts are being made to resume the normal flow of commodities with the cooperation of the Ayeyawady Region government, the local people, volunteers and donors. Following are excerpts from interviews conducted with authorities and the local people.

**U Aung Kyaw Zeya, Township Administrator**

U Aung Kyaw Zeya.

The search-and-rescue work was conducted on the night of the accident. While carrying passengers and cars, we had to use the barge alternately and offer our services free of charge. Many people have come here to offer voluntary services, along with the staff from several departments, including transport, fire brigade, police forces and the traffic police force and inland water transport. Beside these departments, members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) have joined the search-and-rescue teams. A new bridge is being built following the collapse of the Myaungmya bridge. As a result, everyone has been affected, and efforts are being made to ensure the situation returns to normalcy.

U Tun Tun Oo.

**U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Watercraft Committee**

We have to raise awareness about the dangers of the bridge and issue some clarifications on the collapse of the bridge. Also, we sent some 6,000 passengers to the other side of the bridge during the first day of the accident. It was estimated that there were some 15,000 to 20,000 passengers in two days. Our committee, including the ministries concerned, the police force and NGOs, are trying their best to serve the local people.

U Nyi Nyi San.

SEE PAGE-2

# Former drug addicts in northern Shan State rehabilitated effectively: Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended a meeting with departmental officials, civil society organisations, cultural groups and the public at the General Administration Department in Lashio District, northern Shan State, yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the government was striving to ensure the rule of law in the entire country, the development of socio-economic conditions, national reconciliation, internal peace and the establishment of a federal democracy union. The ministry is attempting to achieve peace, basic socio-economic development and equality in Shan State and other states, where many ethnic nationals live together. The ministry is cooperating and assessing the strengths of the departments, civil society organisations and the public. The ministry is in Lashio to assist and care for people displaced by armed conflicts, expectant mothers and children who need care, handicapped persons and women-led households. It is believed that such socio-economic assistance works will help socio-economic development, said the union minister. In this district, rehabilitation works, including the rehabilitation of former drug addicts, are being conducted by the ministry. Effective rehabilitation works will be conducted through livelihood courses, and the public is being urged to cooperate, said the Union Minister. At the meeting, donations worth Ks3 million for 10 ethnic national literature and culture groups, Ks3.3 million for people (from Lashio District, Kutkai, Namtu and Namhkam) displaced by armed conflicts, Ks2.2 million for expectant mothers, Ks15.4 million for children under five years, Ks5.4 million for the physically disabled, Ks6.25 million for women-led households and Ks300,000 for the Sinshweli home for the aged were accepted by the officials. Next, the Union Minister and his delegation inspected the rehabilitation camp of former drug addicts, where the camp manager explained the physical and moral rehabilitation work processes conducted for former drug addicts. The Union Minister mentioned the importance of ensuring that former drug addicts do not re-enter the vicious circle of drug addiction. He said volunteers were conducting community-based care programmes to engage with the relevant family members, and referred to the importance of the rule of law and security in resolving the difficulties faced by former drug addicts while re-entering the society, and especially, the importance of providing assistance to the family.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with the staff of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the Lashio District Office in northern Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Later, the Union Minister met with the staff of the ministry at the District Social Welfare Office and fulfilled their requirements.

To conduct systematically the rehabilitation of former drug addicts from northern Shan State and Lashio, Muse, Kyaukme and Laukkai districts, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is conducting village-based rehabilitation works in all the districts and camp-based rehabilitation works in Laukkai District in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.—MSWRR ■

# Union Supreme Court sits to hear cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning, along with other judges, to hear five special criminal appeal cases.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Corrigendum

Please read Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations office in Geneva, instead of Ambassador/ Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations office in Geneva, in last paragraph of the Myanmar Gazette "Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed" on Page-2 of our 9 April, 2018 issue.—GNLM

Mann Tun Kyaing.

U Soe Soe.

Ko Linn Linn.

## Collective strength returns . . .

FROM PAGE-1

**U Nyi Nyi San, Township WTD manager**

As for our water transport department, we render transport services to the local people three times a day. All the barge, together with the SEA Emperor barge used for the transport, are providing services free from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Man Tun Kyaing, a representative of Amyotha Hluttaw**

We reached Myaungmya on 2 April 2018. There are many organisations and NGOs assisting the needy. We are trying to ensure a speedy flow of commodities in this area. Being a member of the Hluttaw, efforts are being made to build a new bridge for the local people.

**U Soe Soe, businessman**

We are finding it difficult to get easy access to transport services since the collapse of the Myaungmya bridge. So, we organised a group, raised a Ks1.5million-fund and sent the passengers across the river free of charge. We want to ensure passengers reach their respective destinations easily. We heard the authority concerned will form several committees for the convenience of the residents. We are cooperating with the relevant ministries and the NGOs as well. Currently, we are offering food, water and the necessary aid to the local residents.

**Ko Lin Lin, travellor**

Regarding the current condition of transport services, we can see that everything is fine mainly due to the efforts of the administrative bodies and well-wishers, who rendered voluntary services to the people. We are all obliged to them for their kindness and generosity. Moreover, the commodity flow is steady and the cost of living remains stable. We hope to build the new bridge as soon as possible.

**Ko Thura Aung, Myaungmya Karuna Youth Volunteer group**

We have helped passengers carry their luggage on to the barge since the bridge collapsed. We are happy to help the people at a time when they are facing obstacles. ■

I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

# Coordination meeting held to establish movie studio, skills training school in Nay Pyi Taw

A COORDINATION meeting to discuss plans and arrangements to establish movie studios and skills training school for the development of the Myanmar motion picture sector was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint spoke about establishing outdoor and indoor movie shooting locales in Nay Pyi Taw. The Union Minister spoke about the requirement of a movie studio and a training school to raise the image of Myanmar through the art of motion picture and for the development of Myanmar motion picture.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the address at the coordination meeting for movie studio, skills training school in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister said the Ministry of Information would assist in establishing movie studios and skills training school and urged all attending the meeting to discuss the development of the Myanmar motion picture sector. He added that another coordination meeting would be held in Yangon.

Next, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung discussed short- and long-term works for the development of the Myanmar motion picture sector, matters to be coordinated and worked on to overcome the country's lack of movie studios and discussed matters related to the sectorial requirements to construct a movie studio in Nay Pyi Taw. Later, Myanma Radio and Television Director-General U Myint Htway discussed about cooperating in the development of the Myanmar motion picture sector, while Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Ye Naing discussed the works conducted for the Myanmar motion picture development.

Following this, Forever Group Co. Ltd. CEO U Win Maw and Shwe Than Lwin Media Company Limited Chairman Daw Myint Myint Win discussed establishing a movie training school and studios. The Union Minister coordinated on the matters that were discussed. — Myanmar News Agency ■

# Over 1,600 hotels, guesthouses get permits

Some 1,628 licensed hotels, motels, guesthouses and inns are operating in Myanmar, as of the end of March 2018, offering some 65,470 rooms, according to statistics provided by the Hotels and Tourism Ministry.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism issued some 4,503 tour guide licences, 3,449 regional tour guide licences and 2,564 transport licences by December 2017.

Further, some 2,676 travel agencies were issued permits by the ministry.

The famous tourism attractions in Myanmar are Mandalay, Yangon, Bagan, Inle, Kayin State and Mon State, Myeik archaeology, Chin Hills and beaches such as Chaungtha, Ngwe Saung and Ngapali.

Additionally, tourists like to explore cultural zones, such as the Bagan-Nyaung U cultural zone, Ava cultural site and PyinOoLwin.

The Hotels and Tourism Ministry created eco-tourism sites and community-based tourism (CBT) spots, establishing Thandaunggyi in Kayin State, Pa-O community-involved tourism in Shan State, the Kayah Cultural Community Tour, CBT with dolphins along Ayeyawady River, the Phoe Kyar elephant camp, Popa Mountain National Park, Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary and other wildlife sanctuaries.

Tourists visit Myanmar through the three international airports, as well as the border checkpoints on bikes or vehicles. Tourists are also flocking to Myanmar via luxury cruise liners. — Ko Htet ■

## Anti-Narcotic Police statement on what to avoid during Thingyan

1. Vehicle drivers must avoid consuming alcohol or other intoxicating substances.
2. Everyone must avoid consuming all types of psychotropic drugs and sexually stimulating drugs and be on the lookout for potential tempters.
3. As responsible citizens, it is everyone's duty to report to the nearest police officers if you stumble upon any drug dealing or consumption. Please help keep the traditional Thingyan festival clean and safe.
4. Young people should partake in the festivities in a fun and responsible manner and avoid intoxication which may lead to adverse effects.
5. We wish to urge community elders, leaders, parents, guardians, and pavilion officials to cooperate and keep vigilance so that the Thingyan Festival may commence peacefully.— *Myanmar Police Force*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**
Aye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**
Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail .com

**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**
Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**
Zaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

**TRANSLATORS**
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTER**
May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

**COMPUTER TEAM**
Tun Zaw ,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin

**EDITORIAL SECTION**
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**
( +95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

**gnlmdaily@gmail.com**
**www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**
**www.facebook.com/**
**globalnewlightofmyanmar**

MYANMAR Digital News
www.mdn.gov.mm

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

PHOTO: MDN

# Mandalay Regional gov't will propose to Union Gov't to allow foreigners to visit Mogok

THE Mandalay Regional government will put forward a proposal to the Union Government to allow foreigners to visit Mogok city, said Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region.

"If foreigners can travel to the city, the region will develop," the Chief Minister said in the opening ceremony of the 800th anniversary of establishing Mogok city, which is also known as Ruby Land.

Currently, the union government designated the city as a restricted area for foreigners.

If development of Mogok improves this will have a positive effect on the rest of Mandalay Region, he will call for the central government to allow foreigners to visit Ruby Land, the Chief Minister said.

"If foreigners can enter Mogok, the local gem stone markets will improve," said U Tun Myat, a resident of Ruby Land.

Although foreigners are restricted to the city, more than 170 foreigners were allowed to visit under the approval of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism during the festival to mark the 800th anniversary of Mogok city.—Myanmar Digital News ■

# Two die in vehicle collision on Yangon-Mandalay highway

An express named Aung Yadana hit a 12-wheel vehicle near Ottwin Township on Yangon-Mandalay highway at 1.30 a.m. on the morning of 9 April.

The express, driven by Wai Yan Htet, en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon hit the 12-wheel vehicle, Fuso, between milepost 123/6 and 123/7 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway. The driver of the 12-wheel vehicle escaped without any injuries.

Of the 28 persons onboard the express, including the driver, a monk and a man were killed on the scene and 11 other people, including four women, were seriously injured in the accident. The injured were taken in a vehicle from the highway police station to Pyu Township Hospital to receive medical treatment.

The Bawdigone Highway Police have filed charges of reckless driving against the drivers.—Than Oo (Laymyethna) ■

# Riverbank residents get peace of mind

Riverside residents in Yesagyo Township, Magway Region, won't need to be worried for their houses since the construction of a revetment wall at the Chindwin River bank is nearly complete.

The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has been developing a 1260 feet long revetment wall to prevent land erosion along the Chindwin River. The Magway Region government allocated Ks.530 million for the project.

The revetment wall is constructed with welded steel mesh gabion that's filled with rock. It's expected to be finished at the end of this month and is now 90 per cent complete, according to the supervisor of the project.

Local residents who are living at the bank of the river welcome the project and revealed their pleasure. They said that they can sleep soundly and won't need to worry about landslides along the riverbank.

"I really appreciate the authorities for building the wall. Previous years we could not sleep if the water rose up to dangerous levels in the river. We were always anxious that our houses may be a victim of a potential landslide," said U Khin Maung Win, a resident near the riverbank.

The project started on 20 December last year and the mid-section of the wall is 1000 ft. in height and the top section is 800 ft., these two sections have already been built. — Myanmar Digital News ■

# Tourists continuously visit Myanmar through Tachilek border check point

In order to experience stunning scenery and the culture of local ethnic people foreign tourists continuously enter Myanmar via the Tachilek/Mae Sai border checkpoint according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. The ministry reported that the total number of day trippers to the Tachilek border town between April 1 and 5 this year is 107.

A total of 140 tourists from Thailand and other foreign countries visited Maing Phat-Kengtung. In addition the number of tourists with visas on arrival was 121, it said.

Most day trippers visited well-known destinations in Tachilek such as the Tarlot Market, the Bayintnaung Statue, the Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, the Shwedagon Pagoda, the National Landmark Gardens, the Arkha Market, and the Chinese temple. — Myanmar Digital News ■

A farmer waters onions on a field in Padigon Township, Bago Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

# Onion exports plunge 70% this year

SOME 18,400 tonnes of onions worth US$7 million were exported to foreign trade partners in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), down 70 per cent compared with the 2016-2017 FY.

The sharp drop in the export volume might be attributed to the temporary suspension on exports due to the soaring price in the local market last year. Onions are now back in the export market, said U Myat Soe, a member of the Mandalay onion merchant group.

Onions are primarily sent to the foreign market through the border gates, as they are perishable, and have a high domestic consumption rate, fetching a high price in the local market.

Myanmar's onions have penetrated markets in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Bulgaria, India, Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Mexico, Viet Nam and Venezuela.

There are some 40,000 acres of onion plantations growing the winter and monsoon crops. Nearly one million tonnes of onions are produced every year. Some 900,000 tonnes are kept aside for domestic consumption, before they are exported after excluding the rotten onions. The onion supply chain is not stable, as extensive acres are available for cultivation when they fetch a good price at the end of the harvest season. Onion plantation acres decrease when onions prices are low at the end of the crop season.

The onion price is high when the supply is low. The price drops when there is a glut in the market. As a result, the onion market is unstable every year. Before 2010, onions were banned from export until the country had achieved self-sufficiency. Onion exports started during the previous government's tenure. During the 2016-2017 FY, some 66,010 tonnes of onions were exported, with 13.17 per cent being excess supply. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

# Tissue-culture banana exports likely to fetch $50m this FY

The export of tissue-culture bananas through the border gates is expected to bring in some US$50 million in the coming 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), according to a report in Myanma Alinn.

The bananas are sent to neighbouring countries through the Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee and Kengtung gates. Tissue-culture bananas are primarily grown in Myitkyina and Waingmaw areas of Kachin State.

Tissue-culture bananas are mainly shipped to China, while a small portion goes to Thailand. The land cost for the cultivation of tissue-culture bananas is exorbitant in Kachin State, said a banana grower.

The bananas have to be grown in organic farms. All the produce is sent to China, and therefore, to maintain their quality, growers do not use chemical fertilisers.

Tissue-culture bananas are grown on 25,000 acres in Waingmaw Township. The cultivation lands are extended every year. Chinese agriculturists visit the banana farms to provide information on growing methods.

The growers depend on China's demand. Some 150,000 tonnes of tissue-culture bananas are exported to China yearly. Also, it is a substitute crop for poppy. Advanced technology helps raise the yield, said U Yan Ja Seng, a grower from Myitkyina. According to the statistics of a grower from Waingmaw Township, there are 40,000 acres of tissue-culture banana plantations in the country. In the 2015-2016 FY, more than Ks700 million were earned through the tissue-culture sector and some Ks500 million was made in the 2016-2017 FY. — Myat Thu (AMIA) ■

# Lablab beans selling well in domestic pulses market

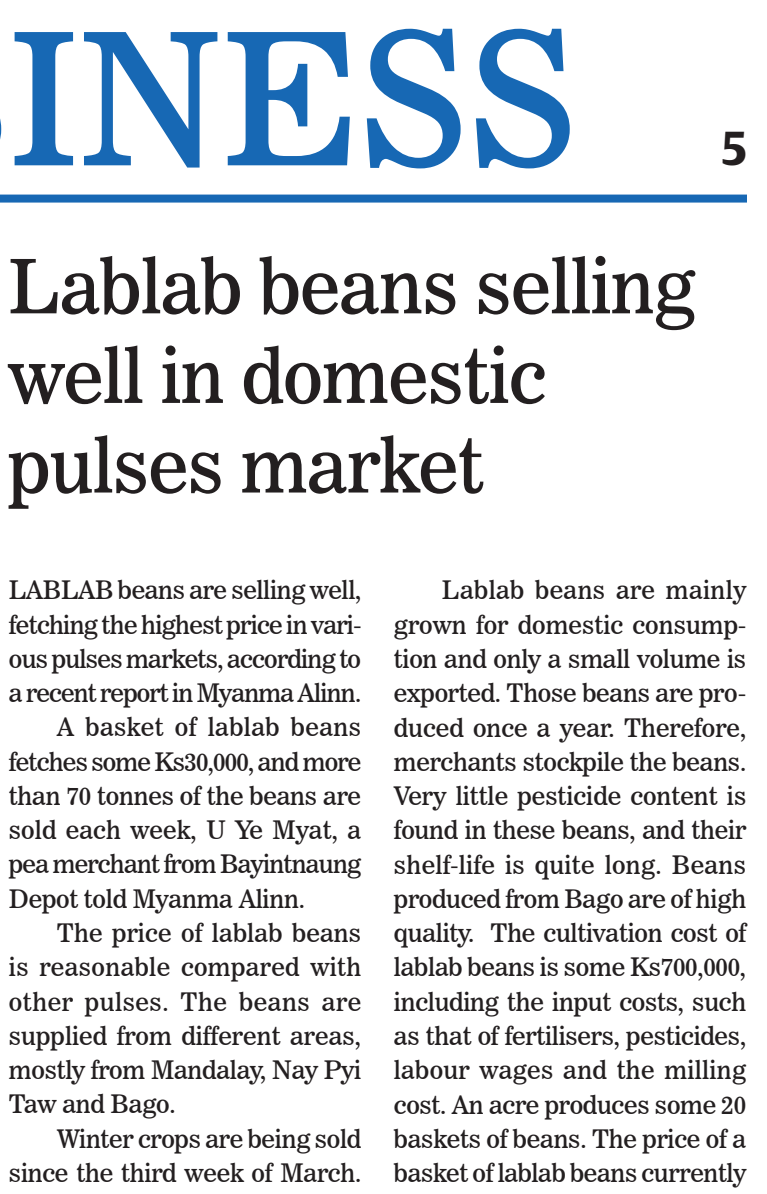
LABLAB beans are selling well, fetching the highest price in various pulses markets, according to a recent report in Myanma Alinn.

A basket of lablab beans fetches some Ks30,000, and more than 70 tonnes of the beans are sold each week, U Ye Myat, a pea merchant from Bayintnaung Depot told Myanma Alinn.

The price of lablab beans is reasonable compared with other pulses. The beans are supplied from different areas, mostly from Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Bago.

Winter crops are being sold since the third week of March. The demand for lablab beans and chickpeas is also high.

Lablab beans are mainly grown for domestic consumption and only a small volume is exported. Those beans are produced once a year. Therefore, merchants stockpile the beans. Very little pesticide content is found in these beans, and their shelf-life is quite long. Beans produced from Bago are of high quality. The cultivation cost of lablab beans is some Ks700,000, including the input costs, such as that of fertilisers, pesticides, labour wages and the milling cost. An acre produces some 20 baskets of beans. The price of a basket of lablab beans currently ranges from Ks36,000 to Ks38,000. — Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■




TradeMark Ads
Call
Thin Thin May,
09251022355,
09974424848

# Achievement of Ministry of Education in the past two years

BY Khin Yadana

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes the booth of vocational skills at the Seminar on Educational Development Implementation in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Education is the ministry that is primarily conducting human resource development works. During the second year period for the people, with an aim of having more education opportunities and for students to acquire better quality education, the Ministry of Education is implementing works outlined in the National Education Law, National Education Amendment Law and National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021.

Ministry of Education identified and designated nine sectors to implement the National Education Strategic Plan aims and 12 priority works were set. Following is the interview with Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi on works conducted for the people by the ministry during the second year period.

Q. Please tell about the aim of the ministry and the policy matters.

**A.** Ministry of Education has formed a commission and committees for the national education sector development. According to National Education Law and with the consent of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw a 21-member National Education Policy Commission was formed in 28 September 2016, a National Curriculum Committee was formed in 9 November and a National Quality Assurance Assessment Committee was formed in January 2017. The Ministry of Education is training and producing good human resource who cooperates and work together, are dutiful and responsible, are capable of being inventive and entrepreneurial with a policies of no discrimination at all education level and at all school

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

Officials cut ribbon to open upgraded Kani Basic Education High School in Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

attending ages, no one is left out and no drop-out from schools.

Q. As part of educational transformation, what sort of changes is made at primary education? What was done at the basic education level?

**A.** Starting from the primary level, a KG+12 System was implemented. From academic year 2016-2017, all five years old children are attending KG and all six years old children are attending Grade-1. The teachings were in a new curriculum, new text books and new teachers guide books.

At the basic education level, with an aim of providing education opportunities, schools were upgraded based not only on the number of students but also based on distance. As such 3,320 schools and 5,100 schools were upgraded during academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 respectively. A total of 8,420 schools were upgraded during the two-year period.

All students were provided with a set of text books, six exercise books and a school uniform for free and compulsory primary education. To continue with middle and high school level education after acquiring primary education Ministry of Education is striving toward providing a set of text books and school enrolment without any payments during the enrolment week.

Q. What has the Ministry of Education done toward education for all?

**A.** With the cooperation of UNICEF and Kubota Company, educational supports like exercise books and school bags were provided to students with hearing and sight impairments.

In addition to scholarships provided to students facing financial difficulties in acquiring an education, during academic year 2017-18, more students from far-off and distant places, students with hearing and sight impairments were able to attend schools as supports were provided. School development funds for basic education schools were provided, libraries established and repair, maintenance, extension and new construction were conducted for dangerous school building, school buildings damaged due to natural disasters and crowded school buildings.

Q. What has been done toward school curriculum?

**A.** Curriculum for primary level is being amended and raised with the cooperation of JICA. Training courses on new curriculum for KG in academic year 2016-2017 and for Grade-1 in academic year 2017-2018 were being conducted for teachers while textbooks and teachers' guide book were being distributed free. Courses for teachers will be held in the 2018 summer school holidays to start a new curriculum for Grade-2 in academic year 2018-19. The Ministry is striving toward printing and free distribution of new curriculums to Grade-3 and Grade-6 during academic year 2019-2020.

SEE PAGE-7

Teachers participating in literacy programmes in Taunggyi District. **PHOTO: MNA**

Literacy volunteers participating in literacy programmes in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Students sitting for the NFPE Level 1-2 pre-examination for primary school at Zaytawun camp in Kyauktan Township.

Teachers supervise students sitting in the exam in Lewe and Thawutthti Townships. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presents education accessories to students. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Primary education is the corner stone of the entire education system

FROM PAGE-6

Q. Explain about the ministry's work on testing and assessment sector.

**A.** Teachers were being employed to have a good student-teacher ratio. Workshops to have an affective examination and assessment of the students at primary Grade-5 level and middle school Grade-9 level, workshops on rules and regulations for matriculation examination centre heads, joint and assistant heads and students sitting in the examination were being conducted annually.

Arrangements were made for handicaps students and students who are unable for various reason (temporarily hospitalized for health reason or serving prison sentence) to sit in examinations. More exam centres were being setup resulting in 0.84 million students sitting for matriculation examination in 2018 compared to 0.714 million in 2017.

To raise the level of education, arrangements are being made to change the matriculation exam questions into format that encourages thinking rather than rote-learning.

Q. Explain about arrangements made to teach in ethnic national languages.

**A.** Teaching in ethnic national languages is part of National Education Strategic Plan. It has been started in basic education schools. Under the arrangement of states/regions governments, Ministry of Education has conducted the free printing and distribution of 49 (text) books prepared by ethnic national language, literature and culture groups. 5,160 ethnic nationals who had attended up to Grade-10 were being appointed as Teaching Assistants in December 2017 in order to teach ethnic national languages in the primary school level.

Q. To raise the education level, how are the qualities of the teachers being raised?

**A.** Conferences on raising the basic education quality were held annually in Nay Pyi Taw. Much depends on the quality of the teacher in order to raise the education level. Due to the weakness in the promotion system for teachers, even though primary education is the corner stone of the entire education system, most primary teachers were being promoted to middle and high school teachers. In order to retain and prevent the reduction in numbers of qualified and experienced primary teachers, these teachers should be promoted and remains as primary teachers. Specialised subjects of middle and high school teachers should be the subject that they taught. Two-year education colleges are being upgraded to four-year education degree colleges and through all the above, more qualified teachers will exist in all level of the education sector resulting in a higher quality education that produces high quality students.

Q. What are the extra-curricular and life-long learning for those who are unable to continue formal education?

**A.** Arrangements were being made for those who are unable to continue formal education obtain life-long learning opportunities. A new department for extra-curricular and life-long learning, Department of Alternative Education, was formed under the Ministry of Education in August 2016. During education year 2017-18, an extra-curricular primary education was provided in 81 townships and a middle school level extra-curricular pilot school was established in one township providing education to 6,845 students.

Basic reading and writing courses for the elderly illiterates were being conducted and a total of 37,386 had become literate.

Q. What is the Ministry of Education doing for the development of technical and vocational skills?

**A.** To raise the social status of the people in the country, the education system should develop the technical and vocational skills of the people. As per the guidance and instruction of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, short term courses were being conducted by government technical colleges and government technical schools based on the requirements of the regions. Nyaungshwe Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) and Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) were established and fourteen short term courses were being conducted.

Ministry of Education hosted the Regional TVET Conference 2017 on 13 and 14 June 2017. Furthermore, under a public-private cooperation, human resources development work committee meetings were held and conferences were being held five time in Yangon, Mandalay, Pathein, Magway and Lashio.

Q. What has been done by Ministry of Education on higher level education?

**A.** In the higher level education sector, during academic year 2017-18, there are a total of 176 universities and colleges of which 134 are under the management of Ministry of Education. There were 0.835 million students in academic year 2016-2017 which increases to 0.879 million students in academic year 2017-2018.

During the two-year period of the incumbent government, Taungup degree college was upgraded and Haka Education College were established.

Attempts are being made to raise the quality of the distant education.

Research is the main to raise the quality of the universities and colleges. Research paper reading sessions, talks and courses on local and foreign research papers were conducted for the teachers to raise their quality.

Q. How many teachers and students organisations were formed during the two-year period in the higher education sector?

**A.** In the 133 universities and colleges, 53 teachers organisations and 90 students unions were established.

Q. What are the arrangements made to raise the reading and learning levels of the teachers and the students?

**A.** Attempts are made to establish more libraries, conduct courses to raise the work capacity and conduct management courses in universities and colleges. Workshops and courses on subjects, English skill raising courses, ICT courses were being conducted.

Q. What is the future plan of the ministry on raising the quality of education?

A. There are many challenges to Ministry of Education in raising the education quality and reforming the education such as assisting those who are facing difficulties in acquiring education, fulfilling requirements in the regions, retaining students in school and reducing drop-outs, meeting the requirement for school rooms due to rising number of students, having a good student-teacher ratio, raising the quality of the teachers and curriculum, changing assessment and examination system, changing from rote-learning to active or meaningful learning, raising the ethnic nationals literature, history and culture etc.

Attempts are being made to raise the education level and for the education system to become sustainable according to National Education Strategic Plan. Reform in education will be divided into basic education, higher education, vocational and technical training sectors and implemented in cooperation with parents, guardians, the public, development partner organisations, Hluttaw representatives, states/regions government and related ministries. ■

# Job opportunities can reduce poverty

THE well-being of workers is vital for the development of a country. The incumbent government has reformed the administrative style and procedures and has worked for their all-round development. At the same time, we cannot deny that we cannot do without employers who are partners and who provide jobs.

Cooperation between the government, employers and employees can boost the development of the country.

One of the significant achievements of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is that it was able to generate 400,000 job opportunities during the last two years.

Meanwhile, more than 307,700 workers have found jobs in nine countries after the Ministry allowed more than 259 overseas employment agencies to operate in the last two years.

The government has been making efforts to create jobs and businesses for the citizens of the country. Meanwhile, it is working to assist migrant workers going overseas to enjoy favourable rights there. We have seen that some migrant workers become scapegoats during economic crises.

Job opportunities can reduce the poverty of a country.

The government is striving to ensure the labour rights of migrant workers as a national priority. Migrant workers are now facing difficulties and challenges. More than 10 per cent of Myanmar's population has been working in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, China, South Korea and Japan, and most are in the Mekong region of Thailand.

Two committees were formed as a mobile team to issue a certificate of identity (CI) for some 1,033,174 workers in Thailand.

As part of the efforts to assist our migrant workers, who are unable to produce valid documents in Thailand, two committees were formed as a mobile team to issue a certificate of identity (CI) for some 1,033,174 workers in Thailand.

According to an International Organisation for Migration (IOM) report, it has now reached 1.4 million. According to the Ministry of Labour, 76 per cent of migrant workers in Thailand are from Myanmar. Of these, only 39 per cent were officially registered. According to the 2014 census, Myanmar had a population of 51.48 million. The previously mentioned 60 million people was an estimate that was calculated based on international standards.

With the ASEAN agreement on the protection and upgradation of human rights of migrant workers emerging as a standard for ASEAN nations, Myanmar migrant workers can enjoy rights and protection in accordance with the rules and regulations of the member countries, when they migrate within the region.

The Ministry for Labour, Immigration and Population has made dramatic changes in its two years in office, and is planning to set up a population policy for future activities, such as conducting a census to serve workers at home and abroad more effectively.

# "Come April" to Myanmar to get wet

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

I AM writing this article from Yangon, the economic and business hub of Myanmar at a time when all the bare-faced lie about chaotic situations in the northern Rakhine State of the nation, where there is neither genocide nor ethnic cleansing nor war crimes.

"Come April" and see by yourself.

I am a simple senior citizen and a retired government employee, but not from the Myanmar tourism industry.

Thingyan or Water Festival is just around the corner in April in Myanmar, and you and your crowd are cordially invited to join the merry making, while exploring the golden opportunity to invest or to do business.

Thingyan derives from **Sanskrit saṁkrānti**, which means "transit of the Sun from Pisces to Aries". It is the Myanmar New Year Festival and usually falls around mid-April. It is a Buddhist festival celebrated over a period of four to five days, culminating in the New Year. The dates of the Thingyan Festival are calculated according to the **Burmese (Myanmar) calendar**. The dates of the festival are observed as public holidays throughout Myanmar, and are part of the summer holidays at the end of the school year. Water-throwing or dousing one another from any shape or form of vessel or container that delivers water is the distinguishing feature of this festival and may be done on the first four days of the festival.

**You are safe**

When many people are celebrating Water Festival, with the slang word "Water Party", security police are on full alert across the country at every nook and cranny, in order to prevent crimes.

> Thingyan is comparable to other festivities in the region such as the Songkran in Laos, the Songkran in Thailand, the Cambodian New Year, the Sinhalese New Year and the Bihu festival of Assam.

**Life of Thingyan in Myanmar is Padauk.**

Everybody is happy and joyful to take part and enjoy in every possible way in the water party. It is the eve of Myanmar New Year, and each and everyone is wearing sweet smile and joy in their hearts with the upbeat mood.

We are especially proud of our national flower "Padauk", filled with strong bright yellow color, sky rocketing into the air with the sweet flagrance. We erect Padauk in the vase and revered in front the Buddha images, while the women young and old adorn Padauk on top of the hairstyle.

During Thingyan Festival, Padauk is the symbol of love of the entire people of the country. One may feel the sweet flagrance of Padauk in the environment as everybody chants "Too Po…Too Po" while they sing, dance, jump and shout.

Cold, clean and clear water is poured among each other with love, happiness and joy.

**Why Myanmar?**

Myanmar has some of the world's greatest heritage sites. I hate to use the word "rival", but our pagodas and temples are not lack in grandeur when compared to other cultural sites in the region. The ancient cities in Myanmar are well preserved and easily accessible to the tourists and visitors.

Thingyan is comparable to other festivities in the region such as the **Songkran** in Laos, the **Songkran** in Thailand, the **Cambodian New Year**, the **Sinhalese New Year** and the **Bihu** festival of **Assam**.

**History**

Thingyan is originated from the Buddhist version of a Hindu myth. The King of Brahmas called Arsi, lost a wager to the King of **Devas** or **Śakra** (Thagya Min), who decapitated Arsi as agreed but the head of an elephant was put onto the Brahma's body who then became Ganesha.

The Brahma was so powerful that if the head were thrown into the sea it would dry up immediately. If it were thrown onto land it would be scorched. If it were thrown up into the air the sky would burst into flames. ***Sakra*** therefore designed that the Brahma's head be carried by one princess Devi after another taking turns for a year each. The New Year henceforth has come to signify the changing of hands of the Brahma's head.

**Regional traditions**

Over the years, since a lot of unproven and unconfirmed news on alleged atrocities in Rakhine State are spreading like wild fire in the international media, I am taking the liberty in describing the Rakhine Traditional Water Festival.

**It's alright in Rakhine State**

Almost all indigenous ethnic groups celebrate the Thingyan in Da Gu La (April). The Rakhine people also have their own New Year water festival, which is the most noteworthy of all traditional festivals.

The Rakhine people have three unique customs that form Thingyan, namely the nantha (sweet delicate scent) grinding ceremony, the nantha pouring ceremony and the water festival.

On the evening of New Year's Eve, Rakhine girls assemble to grind blocks of nantha sandalwood (used as a traditional cosmetic in Myanmar) on a kyaukpyin (a flat, circular stone used to grind sandalwood), as part of a competition. The following morning, the Rakhine community visits monasteries and pagodas to offer the ground nantha to Buddha statues for sacred bathing, as a gesture of ushering the New Year.

The author of the article would like to take this opportunity to include some other traditions of nationalities.

**Mon State**

As part of Thingyan traditions, the Mon people offer a festive dish called Thingyan rice, which consists of rice, dried snakehead fish, a generous sprinkle of fried onions, a few flakes of beeswax and served alongside a salad of green mangoes.

**Taninthayi Region**

The Bamar of Dawei and Myeikpay respects to elders and provide free meals to accompany Thaman Kyar (mythical tiger) dance performances.

**Shan State**

The Shan people call Thingyan "Sangkyan" and prepare a steamed sweetmeat called khaw mun haw, made of glutinous rice flour and jaggery, wrapped in banana leaf. This is offered to neighbors as a gift of goodwill.

**In Chittagong Hill Tracts**

The author, while serving as a Myanmar diplomat, had been to Bandarban District of Chittagong Hill Tracts some years ago and had participated Thingyan Festival there. It is in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh.

Maramagyi people organize water pouring stages or podiums in their villages. The main participants are young boys and girls. Apart from water pouring, they also visit the monastery to make special offerings and pray for well-being in the coming year. Maramagyi people commonly follow the lunar calendar produced in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

**Conclusion**

The very act of splashing and pouring water at each other is complimented with Metta (Loving Kindness), Garuna (Compassion), Upekkha (Neutral Feeling) and Mudita (Rejoice at other's success).

Water Party or Thingyan is the Festival of rejoice.

"Come April" and get wet. ■

PHOTO: MNA

# French rail strike has cost around 100 million euros: CEO

Rail workers began their strikes on two out of every five working days last week to protest the government's planned overhaul of the operator. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France) — The head of French railway operator SNCF said on Monday that rolling strikes that began last week have cost the company around 100 million euros ($123 million) as staff carried out further stoppages.

Monday marked the fourth day of the strikes, which unions have vowed to continue until at least 28 June unless the government backs down on its reform plan for the debt-laden operator.

SNCF chief Guillaume Pepy told BFM television the action has so far caused losses of around 20 million euros per strike day, though the disruptions often spill into non-strike days.

Rail workers began their strikes on two out of every five working days last week to protest the government's planned overhaul of the operator.

Just one in five high-speed TGV trains were running on Monday, and one in six on other mainline routes, while two-thirds of regional trains had been cancelled. About 20 per cent of the Eurostar trains in and out of London have also been cancelled.

Pepy noted "quite heavy participation" for the strike on Monday, "though there are more trains than last time", a reference to the stoppages last week.

"From what I can see, France has not been paralysed," Pepy said, "but clients are being heavily penalised."

Under the reform plan, new hires would be denied the jobs-for-life and early retirement guarantees enjoyed by current rail employees, and the SNCF would be transformed into a private company whose shares are owned by the state.

The government has insisted it won't back down, while unions claim to have broad public support, with more than 510,000 euros pledged to a fund set up to compensate lost wages for striking workers.

President Emmanuel Macron, who has not spoken on the conflict publicly since it started, plans to give an hour-long televised interview at midday on Thursday.

Macron will also address the strike during a two-hour prime-time interview Sunday with BFM television and the investigative news website Mediapart.

Parliament is scheduled to begin debating the government's overhaul on Monday, though Macron has said he will implement the changes by decree in order to move quickly ahead of the opening of French passenger rail traffic to competition starting in 2020.

Monday's strike is scheduled to end at 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) before resuming for another two-day stoppage on Friday.—AFP ■

# UK govt to launch crime blitz as violence spikes

LONDON — The British government's new initiative to curb crime, backed by £40 million in funding, aims to steer young people away from crime and tackle violent drug-dealing gangs

British Home Secretary Amber Rudd will vow on Monday to do "whatever it takes" to curb crime as she unveils a new multi-million pound response to a surge in violence in London and elsewhere.

The new initiative, backed by £40 million (46 million euros, $56 million) in funding, aims to steer young people away from crime and tackle violent drug-dealing gangs, according to Britain's interior ministry.

It comes after a deadly start to 2018 in the British capital in which a spate of stabbings and shootings has left more than 50 people dead — pushing its murder rate higher than New York's in recent months.

"As a government we will never stand by while acid is thrown or knives wielded," Rudd will say in a speech in London.

"I am clear that we must do whatever it takes to tackle this so that no parent has to bury their child.

"A crucial part of our approach will be focusing on and investing more in prevention and early intervention."

Rudd is set to announce the introduction within weeks of new laws targeting offensive weapons, including action to stop knives being sent to residential addresses after they are bought on the internet.

She will also call on social media companies to do more to rid the web of violent gang content.

There are funds for new "community projects" for young people and a coordination centre targeting national drug dealing networks, the interior ministry said.

Following a rise in violent crime in towns and cities across Britain, the Conservative government has faced criticism for years of cuts to police funding and a reduction in officers.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said Sunday that Rudd and Prime Minister Theresa May were "ignoring their record" and there were 21,000 fewer officers than in 2010.

But the government insists the rise in robbery, knife and gun crime is due to improvements in police recording and a rise in drug dealing.

London's Metropolitan Police deployed an additional 300 officers over the weekend to areas most impacted by crime after a particularly violent week.

Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has devolved powers over policing, announced he would host a summit on Tuesday, as he faced pressure to act over the crime spike.

Rudd, Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, London MPs and other local leaders from across the capital were among those invited, according to City Hall.

The Home Office declined to confirm whether Rudd would attend the meeting.—AFP ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Four die in shoe factory fire in Indian capital

NEW DELHI — At least four people were killed in a fire at a shoe factory here on Monday, officials said.

"The fire broke out at the Raja Park factory in Sultanpuri this morning when some 12 workers were inside. While four of them died of burns and suffocation after getting trapped in the blaze, we managed to evacuate others," a fire official said. As many as nine fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames, he said. "It took nearly three hours to contain the fire," the official said.—Xinhua ■

### UK police say man in van arrested outside Buckingham Palace

LONDON — London police say a man driving a van has been arrested outside Buckingham Palace on suspicion of a public order offense. Police said roads were closed and cordons put in place outside the palace on Monday while the suspicious vehicle was assessed. The restrictions were lifted later Monday morning. Police say a man in his early 30s was arrested while driving a white Ford Transit. He was not identified or charged. —AFP ■

### Dozens injured in New York bus crash: police

WASHINGTON, (United States) — Dozens of New York teenagers returning from a school trip to Eastern Europe were injured when their bus crashed on the journey home to Long Island, police said.
New York State Police Major David Candelaria said of the 44 people on board Sunday evening, two were seriously wounded and five moderately, with the rest of the injuries minor.
The passengers included 38 students aged between 16 and 18.
Images on local media showed the bus, owned by New Jersey-based Journey Bus Line, with its roof sheared off after reportedly striking an overpass on the Southern State Parkway in Lakeview, around 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of Manhattan.—AFP ■

# Erdogan tells Putin of concern over attacks in Syria's E.Ghouta

ANKARA (Turkey)— President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday expressed concern to Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over attacks in Eastern Ghouta, the Turkish presidency said, after an alleged chemical attack killed dozens of people.

"President Erdogan expressed concern about the attacks in Douma and Eastern Ghouta and emphasised the importance of preventing civilian deaths and working together to deliver humanitarian aid," said a Turkish presidential source after telephone talks between the two leaders.

Turkey and Russia have been on opposing sides of the conflict in Syria, with Moscow a chief ally of President Bashar al-Assad but Ankara backing rebels seeking to oust him.

Yet Turkey has worked closely in the last months with Russia and Assad's other main ally Iran in a bid to bring peace to Syria. Last week, Erdogan hosted a summit on Syria in Ankara with President Hassan Rouhani of Iran and Putin.

The presidential source said that in the telephone talks the two leaders expressed "satisfaction" with the results of the Syria summit.

Turkey has recently largely steered clear of criticising Putin and Russia in public over Kremlin policy on Syria.Rescue workers said dozens of civilians had been killed on Saturday in a chlorine gas attack on Douma in the former rebel stronghold of Eastern Ghouta — claims denied by Assad's regime and Russia.

The Turkish foreign ministry at the weekend said there was a "strong suspicion" that Assad's regime was responsible for the attack.—AFP ■

# Exchanges of gunfire near president's residence in C Africa

BANGUI (Central African Republic) — UN troops and an armed group exchanged gunfire during the night near the president's residence in the Central African Republic, a security source said on Monday.

The incident in the capital Bangui came hours after United Nations and Central African forces launched an operation targeting armed groups in a mainly Muslim district of the city. At least two people were killed and dozens wounded during the joint operation, according to UN and medical sources.

The security source said the exchanges late on Sunday took place after an armed group arrived "by the Ndeke Luka radio station by the road that leads to the residence" of President Faustin-Archange Touadera.

"The group was repulsed by UN peacekeepers from Egypt," the source said.

A spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force (Minusca), Herve Verhoosel, said 11 peacekeepers, mostly Egyptian, were among the injured in Sunday's joint operation.

The operation, which had targeted, the "bases of certain criminal groups", would continue "until the goal is achieved", Verhoosel told AFP.

Eight people belonging to the armed groups Force and 50/50 had been detained by Minusca and ammunition had been seized, he added.

The operation follows a resurgence in violence in the flashpoint PK5 neighbourhood of Bangui.

UN and Central African forces have launched a joint operation targeting armed groups in a mainly Muslim district of the capital Bangui. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Central African Republic has been struggling to return to stability since the country exploded into bloodshed after the 2013 overthrow of longtime leader Francois Bozize by the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel alliance.

France intervened militarily to push out the Seleka alliance but the country remains plagued with violence pitting groups competing for control of resources and areas of influence.—AFP ■

# Strike on Syria air base kills 14, including Iranian forces: monitor

BEIRUT, (Lebanon) — An early-morning strike on a Syrian government air base in the country's centre killed 14 fighters, including Iranian forces allied to the regime, a monitoring group said on Monday.

"At least 14 fighters were killed in the strike on the T-4 airport, among them Iranian forces," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor.

Syrian state media had earlier reported dead and wounded in the strike, without giving casualty figures.

The T-4 base lies in Syria's central Homs province and is also known as the Tiyas airport.

Forces from regime allies Russia and Iran, as well as fighters from the Tehran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah militia, are known to have a presence there, said Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman.

The Observatory, which has a wide network of sources across war-ravaged Syria, said it could not confirm who carried out the attack on the T-4 base

Israel carried out strikes against a Syrian government base in the country's centre in February, with the Observatory identifying it at the time as T-4. Israel has struck targets inside Syria on multiple occasions throughout the country's seven-year war, including those linked to Iran and Hezbollah or to Assad's chemical weapons programme.

An Israeli military spokeswoman declined to comment. The raid came as worldwide outrage mounted over a reported chemical weapons attack on a rebel-controlled town outside the Syrian capital. —AFP ■

**Bank Holiday**

All Banks will be closed on 13th to 17th April 2018 "THINGYAN FESTIVAL" under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

**Central Bank of Myanmar**

**Myanma Port Authority**
**Holiday Notice**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 13th April 2018 to 17th April 2018 Thingyan Water Festival (New Year Public Holiday), Lading, UnLoading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LEGAL ADVISORY FOR ELABORATION OF CYBER LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) invites eligible firm or Lead firm with sub-consulting firm/s ("Consultant") to indicate their interest to provide their services for Legal Advisory for Elaboration of Cyber Legal and Policy Framework program, which aims to prepare a draft Cyber Law and policies related to Cyber Security, e-Commerce and e-Government for Myanmar under the World Bank/IDA funded Telecommunications Sector Reform Project.

The Consultant is requested to submit the EoI documents to the address mentioned below April30, 2018. Interested Consultant should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the program.

Further information can be obtained from the below addresses during office hours 09:30 to 16:30 hours and www.motc.gov.mm.

Attention: Ministry of Transport and Communications
Post and Telecommunication Department
Attention: U Than Htun Aung,
Office No. 2, Ministry of Transport and Communications,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95 67 407435 Fax: +95 67 407539
E-mail: thanhtunaung@ptdmyanmar.com, seintseintaye@ptd.gov.mm, tsrporject2014@gmail.com

CC: Ministry of Transport and Communications
Information Technology and Cyber Security Department
Attention : Daw Nwe Ni Soe Yin,
S12 Exchange Building, Ground Floor
Zabu Kyatthayay Road, Zabuthiri Township,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95 67 422447 Fax: + 95 67 422447
E-mail: nwenisoeyin@e-motc.gov.mm, soemyintnaung@e-motc.gov.mm

In 2017, four missile regiments were armed with S-400 Triumf missile systems. **PHOTO: TASS**

## Russian Aerospace Forces to get three S-400 regimental sets this year — Defence Ministry

MOSCOW — The Russian Aerospace Forces will get three regimental sets of the S-400 air defence system this year, a Russian Defence Ministry official told TASS in the run-up to the Air Defence Day.

"In 2017, four missile regiments were armed with S-400 Triumf missile systems. Other three S-400 [regimental sets] will enter service with the Russian Aerospace Forces in 2018," the source said.

The S-400 Triumf is the Russian long-and medium-range air defence missile system intended to hit attack and reconnaissance planes, including stealth aircraft, and any other air target. The S-400 can engage up to 80 targets at a time at a distance of 400 km and an altitude of 30 km. Deputy Commander of Russia's Aerospace Force Viktor Gumenny said last April that Russia S-400 air defence systems had begun receiving missiles capable of destroying targets in the near space. —Tass ■

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**
**Department of Highways (DOH) under the Ministry of Construction (MOC)**
**Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP)**
**IDA Credit5889-MM**
**Assignment Reference Number: C1-MOC-CS02**
**Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the Kalay – Hahka Road Rehabilitation in Chin State**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Highways (DOH)under the Ministry of Construction (MOC) which implements the FLERP intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of a specialized consulting firm in the area of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the development of Resettlement Action Plans (RAP).

The FLERP responds to the priority sectors and geographic areas affected by the 2015 floods and landslides of which the transport sector was the hardest-hit public sector through financing with focus on the geographic areas that experienced the highest per capita damages such as Chin, Rakhine, Ayeyarwaddy, Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon.The project also provides livelihood support through labor-intensive rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads in order to help alleviate the suffering of the most-affected segments of society with both immediate and long-term benefits of income generation, capacity building, increased connectivity as well as business opportunities.

The DOH now invites expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced NGOs/ Consulting Firms (the Consultants) for an assignment of which the objective is threefold:

1. To develop an ESIA specifically with regard to the road works that have already taken place including an inventory of losses and damages with a time-based RAP to compensate losses. Especially the sub-project Kalay – Falam – Hakha Road Rehabilitation in Chin State will require the consultant's immediate attention
2. To develop an ESIA for upcoming road worksincluding ancillary facilities such as borrow pits, quarry areas, disposal sites, crushing plants, workers' camp, etc. as well as potential impacts in the immediate vicinity of the physical works and downstream and down slope. The ESIA will examine the effects of the planned activities on existing environmental and social conditions in the areas which may be affected by the project, and propose measures for mitigating and monitoring any potential negative impacts. Importantly, it will also consider already occurring impact of road widening and improvement works carried out by MOC, and measures to mitigate them.
3. To support actively the MOC in such way that environmental and social impacts associated with the project are assessed and examined at the earliest planning stage possible, including environmental factors that impact public health and safety as well as the natural environment, such as: air, water, soil, waste, accidents, water usage, ecosystems, and biota. Social concerns include: involuntary resettlement of the population, cultural heritage, landscape, gender, communicable diseases, adverse impacts on ethnic communities, labor influx impacts, labor and working conditions, traffic impacts, community safety.

The ESIA methodology the consultants will follow will be based on:

1. Current environmental and social regulations of Myanmar, especially the EIA Procedures (2015) and EIA Guidelines (2014)
2. The World Bank environmental Operational Policies OP 4.0,1OP 4.04, OP 4.11, OP 4.36, as well as the social policies OP 4.12 and OP 4.10 and relevant guidelines
3. The World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs)
4. The Consultant will also consult the typical methodology for ESIA preparation in Bank projects (Appendix I) and typical Table of Content (Appendix II) and define the Project Area of Influence that will be covered by the ESIA and identify sensitive receptors and inventory pre-existing (legacy) issues.

The Consultant will be required to propose a team of social and environmental specialists which have previous experience working with the World Bank's social safeguards requirements and prior experience in preparing ESIA, ESMP and RAP.In addition, the specialists are expected to be familiar with Myanmar National environmental requirements and the team should also include Myanmar-speaking and Chin State ethnic minority language(s) speaking personnel. The total duration of the assignment is estimated at 1.5 years on an intermittent basis.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Monday 30 April 2018. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the CQS method set out in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants, January 2011 and revised July 2014.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays, or by simple e-mail request to:
The Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction
Attention of U Khin Zaw, FLERP Project Director
Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Email address: dkhinzaw@gmail.com, flerp.moc@gmail.com
Telephone: +95-9-2450600, +95-67-407658

## Northern Ireland: a fragile peace tested by Brexit

LONDON–Two decades after the Good Friday Agreement formally ended the conflict in Northern Ireland, the peace process remains fragile and Brexit is provoking concerns over its durability.

The accord, signed on 10 April, 1998, by the British and Irish governments and local political parties, ended 30 years of unrest that had left more than 3,500 dead.

It came four years after the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which had waged a deadly campaign of bombings and shootings in Northern Ireland and mainland Britain against London's rule on the island, declared a historic ceasefire. "I have been a member of the Labour Party for 54 years and a parliamentarian for 32 years and nothing in my life has compared with 5.30 pm on Good Friday, 10 April, 1998," Paul Murphy, a British Foreign Office minister for Northern Ireland at the time, told reporters as the anniversary approached.

Since then violence by the IRA and unionist paramilitary groups fighting for continued British rule of the province, has receded.

But communities continue to be divided along sectarian lines and political tensions remain —most pointedly around devolved governance.— AFP ■

# Japan foreign minister asks IAEA to verify future N Korea nuke deals

TOKYO — Foreign Minister Taro Kono and the head of the UN nuclear watchdog met in Tokyo on Monday to discuss how the organization might resume inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities if upcoming dialogue with the North yields progress toward its denuclearization.

"We want you to make use of your knowledge and experience," Kono told International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano at the outset of their meeting, open to the press.

Ahead of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's planned summits with South Korean President Moon Jae In and US President Donald Trump, both officials said it is still unclear which direction Pyongyang will take on its nuclear programme.

"Any agreement will be meaningless if it isn't verifiable, so we need the help of the IAEA, and your opinion as specialist in the event that an agreement is made between the United States and North Korea," Kono said.

The Japanese government has offered to cover the initial costs of IAEA inspections if North Korea agrees to resume them.

The IAEA has not had direct access to North Korean nuclear facilities since its inspectors monitoring them were kicked out in April 2009. North Korea carried out its second nuclear test a month later, and has since conducted four more. "If some kind of agreement is reached this time, the IAEA must fully carry out verification activities so it doesn't end up like last time," Amano said.—Kyodo News ■

# China says trade talks with US 'impossible under current conditions'

BEIJING, China — China said Monday trade talks with the United States are "impossible" under current conditions after President Donald Trump tweeted that he saw an end to the dispute "Up to now, Chinese and US officials have not held any negotiations on the trade dispute," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters during a regular press briefing.

"Under the current conditions, it is impossible for the two sides to have any negotiations on this issue," Geng added.

Asian markets rose earlier in the day as fears about a potentially catastrophic China-US trade war were tempered by hopes the two sides will be able to hammer out an agreement. On Friday, Trump had warned of tariffs on an additional $100 billion worth of Chinese imports, to which Beijing responded by saying it would stand firm. But on Sunday he seemed to back off, tweeting that he saw an end to the dispute: "China will take down its trade barriers because it is the right thing to do," he wrote.

US President Donald Trump's remarks came weeks after his decision to tax imports of steel and aluminium. **PHOTO: AFP**

However, top advisor Larry Kudlow, who has often suggested the tariffs might not go into effect, warned Friday the announcements were not negotiating tactics.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the White House hoped to negotiate but acknowledged a trade war was a possibility.—AFP ■

**CAUTIONARY NOTICE**

We, **Carabao Tawandang Co., Ltd.**, a company registered under the laws of Thailand, which is located at 393 Silom Building, 7th – 10th Floor, 393 Silom Road, Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

**Reg. Nos. 1440/2004, 1859/2007, 1298/2010, 5759/2013, 463/2016**

The above trademarks were registered and recorded with the Office of Registration of Deeds in respect of the following goods in **Class 32**: Energy drinks (non-medical drinks), mineral water, aerated water, non-alcoholic beverages, fruit juices, beer, soda and sport drinks and all included in International Class 32.

**Carabao Tawandang Co., Ltd.** claims the trademark right and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. Carabao Tawandang Co., Ltd. reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its trademark and trade name, or goods which are being illegally imported into Myanmar and distributed by other companies and distributors without its consent and authorization. Therefore, it is requested that all persons, wholesalers, and any other retailers cease and desist from buying and selling all illegally imported and distributed products. This illegal trade, use and import constitute a violation of the Penal Code, Myanmar Merchandise Marks Act, and the Specific Relief Act, which may result in an injunction, fine, imprisonment of one to three years, or both for the infringer.

**Carabao Tawandang Co., Ltd.** claims the trademark, trade name, and other relevant intellectual property rights to the subject mark and variations of the CARABAO trademark, including but not limited to variations in Thai, Burmese and English. It reserves the right to take any and all available legal actions, such as sending a statement, launching a raid action, and filing civil and criminal actions at the court under the applicable laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, against any infringer and/or person and/or company that violates its rights, passes off its trademark, and/or intimidates or deceives the public, including its customers, by any means, including through sales, distribution, or advertising.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For **Carabao Tawandang Co., Ltd.**
**Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.**, No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 10th April 2018.

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရှင်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများအနေဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us.
HOTLINE
09-974424848

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

**MHG IP HOLDING (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.,** a company registered under the laws of Singapore, which is located at 2 Alexandra Road, #05-04/05 Delta House, Singapore (159919), is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

**Reg. Nos. 5376/2014, 1372/2018**

**Reg. Nos. 5375/2014, 1373/2018**

**Reg. Nos. 5377/2014, 1374/2018**

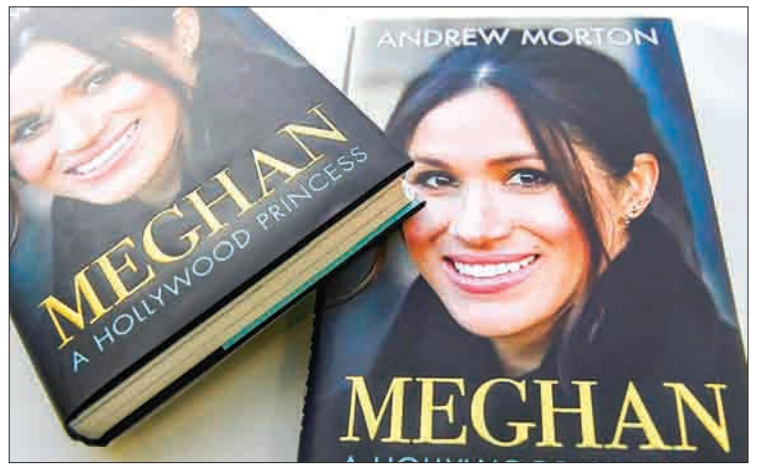
In respect of **Class 43:** Hotel services; motel services; temporary accommodations; accommodation exchange service (time shares); hotel management services; service for providing foods and drink, restaurants and snack bar services; bar services; cocktail lounges and nightclubs, cafe services; catering service for food and drink; self service restaurants; reservation services for hotel accommodation and for other accommodation, holiday information and planning relating to accommodation; provision of conference, meeting and exhibition facilities; hotel check-in and check-out services; electronic information services relating to hotels; advisory and consultancy services relating to the aforesaid services.

In respect of **Class 44:** Spas, aromatherapy services, beauty care services, beauty salons, beauty treatment services, health spa services, reflexology, relaxation therapy, salon and spa styled health care salon services, sauna and steam room services, spa styled health care room services, Thai/traditional massage.

**MHG IP HOLDING (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.** claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. MHG IP HOLDING (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD. reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For **MHG IP HOLDING (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.**
**Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.** No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 10th April 2018.

# Prince Harry's fiancee craves 'Diana 2.0' role: biography



In his new biography, "Meghan, A Hollywood Princess", Andrew Morton says the 36-year-old "Suits" star "wants to be princess Diana 2.0". **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Meghan Markle has her heart set on becoming "Diana 2.0", according to a new biography of Prince Harry's fiancee that details her lifelong embrace of good causes but also points to a calculating streak.

The US actress, who is set to marry her royal beau on 19 May, is fiercely protective of "Brand Meghan" and sidelines people as she moves ahead in life, according to people who know her cited in the book.

"Meghan: A Hollywood Princess", which is due out in Britain on Thursday, details how the 36-year-old "Suits" star ditched her first husband in a way that also cost her a lifelong friend.

The biography was authored by Andrew Morton, the British royal writer who penned the blockbuster "Diana: Her True Story", with the late princess's covert assistance.

**Diana comparisons**

Morton also details her fascination with Harry's mother Diana around the time of her death in 1997, watching her funeral in tears and old tapes of her marriage to Prince Charles.

Family friends said she was intrigued by Diana "not just for her style but for her independent humanitarian mission, seeing her as a role model".

Her childhood friend Ninaki Priddy is cited as saying: "She was always fascinated by the royal family. She wants to be princess Diana 2.0."

Morton says comparisons with Diana are inevitable, given her humanitarian work and glamorous appeal. However, he notes the crucial distinction between the timid Diana, who married Charles aged 20, and the 36-year-old Hollywood professional.

"In some ways, the groomed and camera-ready Ms Markle was the woman Diana always strove to become," he wrote.

**Rising networker**

The book also claims that as she finally found success as an actress, Markle shed her old acquaintances — including her film producer husband Trevor Engelson, who helped her get on the acting ladder with early parts.

"Her friends in Los Angeles noticed the change in her now that she was on the way up," Morton wrote. "She no longer had the time for friends she had known for years.

"A networker to her fingertips, she seemed to be carefully recalibrating her life, forging new friendships with those who could burnish and develop her career."

Markle had been with Engelson since 2004 and they married in Jamaica in 2011.

Shortly after their engagement, she landed her signature role as Rachel Zane in the US legal drama television series "Suits". Filmed in Toronto, their relationship became long-distance as she became a star.

The marriage collapsed in 2013. "Trevor went from cherishing Meghan to, as one friend observed, 'feeling like he was a piece of something stuck to the bottom of her shoe'," it reads.

Another friend said the decision to end the marriage was made by Markle and another that she sent her rings back in the post.

**Impressive student**

Markle's parents split when she was two and divorced five years later. She went to a private school and was remembered for her strong sense of right and wrong. Aged 11, her letter-writing campaign got the consumer goods giant Procter & Gamble to change a washing-up commercial, referring to people rather than just women.

Markle graduated in theatre and international relations at Northwestern University.

She landed a six-week internship as a press officer at the US embassy in Argentina.

"If she had stayed with the State Department she would have been an excellent addition to the US diplomatic corps. She had all that it takes to be a successful diplomat," said Mark Krischik, her superior in Buenos Aires.

**Ancestors royals and slaves**

The book finds Markle is descended from both British royalty and slaves. On her mother's side, she is descended from slaves who worked on cotton plantations in Georgia. On her father's, she is a descendant of king Robert I of Scotland. Robert the Bruce reigned from 1306 to 1329.

Diana's trusted biographer concludes that Markle "will make the monarchy seem more inclusive and relevant to multicultural Britain".

Armed with a sharp mind, sophistication, beauty and talent, Markle "will complement her husband and the august institution she has married into, bringing a freshness, diversity and warmth to the chilly corridors of Buckingham Palace."—AFP ■

# Americans world's biggest TV addicts watching four hours a day

CANNES (France) — The average person around the world spent nearly three hours a day in front their television last year, according to a report released on Monday.

Eurodata TV Worldwide said that television viewing was holding up despite more and more people watching online platforms like Netflix and Amazon.

Americans and Canadians are the biggest TV addicts, said the report, watching four hours and three minutes on average daily. European viewers came next watching three hours 49 minutes a day in 2017, just ahead of Russia and Brazil, the data gathered from 95 countries showed.

"The length of time people watch television is holding up despite the growing availability of online content," said its vice president Frederic Vaulpre as the report was presented at MIPTV, the world's biggest TV market in Cannes, France.

"There was a slight fall in TV viewing in North America and Asia, but it is still growing in South America and in Europe it is maintaining historically high levels," he added.

Asians watch less TV than any of the other major markets, spending two hours 25 five minutes in front of the box. In China that drops to two hours 12 minutes.

**TV is not dead**

But viewing habits were also changing, the report found.

Replay services on average "added an extra eight percent to audiences" in the 35 countries where they were measured.

And millennials and young adults were spending more time on their mobile phones, often catching up with programmes that way. In Sweden, one of the most digitally advanced countries in the world, young adults watched slightly less than two hours of TV a day.

Eurodata TV found that most young people who watched programmes on the Internet and on replay services were logging on for shows aimed specifically at them. These included reality shows and youth dramas whose audiences were sometimes more than twice as big on the internet as they were for broadcasts.

The US and Britain remain the world's two biggest exporters of TV programmes and formats, ahead of France, Germany and Turkey, whose family-oriented soaps have been big hits across the Middle East, South America and the Balkans.

But the report found that there were fewer big international blockbuster shows like "The Voice" than in the past.

"Local productions always go down best" in most markets, said Avril Blondelot of Eurodata TV. She said the big trend was for producers and TV channels to "create content aimed a particular niche audiences (young people, women or older people) rather than look for something that tried to take in a mass crossover audience."

Paul Youngbluth of the TAPE consultancy told MIPTV delegates that there was a lot of "fake news" about the death of TV and insisted that "consumption is not decreasing. "New US shows like 'The Good Doctor' and 'Roseanne' show that linear (traditional) TV can still draw very high live audiences," he added—AFP ■

Americans gathered to watch the final presidential debate ahead of 2016 US election that Donald Trump went on to win. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Three quit in protest as #MeToo scandal rocks Nobel literature academy

STOCKHOLM — Three prominent members of the Swedish Academy resigned on Friday in protest at close ties between the institution, which awards the Nobel Literature Prize, and a high-profile man accused of sexual assault.

The Academy has been reeling since it was revealed as part of the #MeToo campaign in November that several members, as well as members' wives and daughters, had allegedly been assaulted by the well-known figure at the centre of the scandal.

Sweden's Dagens Nyheter newspaper broke the news, publishing the testimony of 18 women claiming to have been assaulted or raped by one of the most influential figures in Stockholm's cultural scene. The Academy has since cut all ties with the man, who has not been publicly identified. But his identity is generally known by the public as he is a high-profile person in cultural circles. The alleged sexual assaults occurred between 1996 and 2017, according to Dagens Nyheter.

One of the resigning members Peter Englund said the scandal had deeply divided the Swedish literary world.

"Over time, a crack that appeared has continued to grow," he said in a letter to the Aftonbladet newspaper, adding that the Academy's permanent secretary Sara Danius had been subject to "unjustified" criticism.

The prestigious Academy has been reeling since it was revealed as part of the #MeToo campaign in November that several members, as well as members' wives and daughters, had allegedly been assaulted by the well-known figure at the centre of the scandal. **PHOTO: AFP**

The fallout continued Friday as King Carl XVI Gustaf was informed of developments as the director general of the Nobel Foundation Lars Heikensten expressed concern over a "serious and difficult situation".

### 'Tower of Babel is crumbling'

Along with Englund, members Klas Ostergren and Kjell Espmark decided to step down after the group's normal meeting on Thursday at a Stockholm restaurant. "It is with great sadness that after 36 years working at the Academy, including 17 as chairman of the Nobel Committee, I feel forced to make this decision," Espmark said in a letter to the media. "When prominent academy members put friendship ahead of responsibility and integrity, I can no longer participate in its work". Ostergren condemned "a betrayal of the founder and his great protector", referring to the Academy's founder, Swedish King Gustav III, and inventor Alfred Nobel, who left some of his fortune to the institution.

The three men are lifetime members and cannot technically resign, but there is nothing forcing them to attend meetings. Of the academy's 18 members, five are no longer active after two women, Kerstin Ekman and Lotta Lotass, went on leave for several years. Bjorn Wiman, the culture editor of Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter, said the resignations are "a disaster" for an academy "in ruins". His counterpart at the Aftonbladet newspaper, Asa Linderborg, said "the tower of Babel is crumbling". The allegations against the man were first revealed as part of the #MeToo campaign exposing sexual misconduct, which began in Hollywood and went on to shake artistic, media and political circles in Sweden, one of the most gender equal countries in the world. In March, Stockholm's public prosecutor's office announced that part of the investigation, into claims of alleged rapes and assaults between 2013 and 2015, had been called off as the statute of limitation had passed or due to lack of evidence. —AFP ■

# Gone girl: Hamilton deletes 'Thank you Jesus' grid girls post

SAKHIR (BAHRAIN) — Lewis Hamilton created another social media storm on Friday when he backed the return of grid girls at this year's Monaco Grand Prix — and then removed the post.

The defending four-time world champion had posted a grab from another Instagram user, which had a picture of some grid girls and added "Thank you Jesus".

The picture-story was in support of the Monaco and Russian Grands Prix indicating they plan to defy Formula One's decision to use 'grid kids' instead of girls this year.—AFP ■

Goodbye girls: Lewis Hamilton at Sakhir on Friday where he appeared to back the return of grid girls. **PHOTO: AFP**

Patrick Reed of the United States pumps his fist after winning the Masters Tournament for his first major title in Augusta, Georgia, on April 8, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

# Reed wins Masters, Matsuyama 19th

AUGUSTA, Georgia — Japan's Hideki Matsuyama ended his seventh Masters in 19th place after Sunday's fourth round, 12 strokes behind winner Patrick Reed of the United States.

Matsuyama shot four birdies against a bogey for a 3-under-par 69 to finish at a 3-under 285 total. Reed, who led since the second round, shot a 71 for a 273 to earn his first major tournament victory.

"I feel like I gave it my best. These shots and approaches, my putting overall — I was able to stick it out for four days in poor conditions, so that was good," said Matsuyama, whose best finish at the Masters was fifth in 2015.

Matsuyama fell from sixth to eighth in the world rankings, while Reed jumped 13 spots to No 11. Despite six birdies including one on the last hole, American Rickie Fowler finished one stroke back of Reed, while American Jordan Spieth's tournament-best 64-under was not enough to outdo his 2-over 74 on Day 2, landing him in third with a 275. Japan's Satoshi Kodaira, who was five strokes off the pace after the first round of his maiden Masters appearance, cancelled out four birdies with four bogeys to end in a tie for 28th with an even 288. "If you just look at the results you'd think I played all right, but there's a little more to it. Since I couldn't get into the 60s I want revenge," said Kodaira, whose best days were 71s in the first and third rounds. Tiger Woods, making his first appearance at one of golf's big four tournaments since he missed the cut at the 2015 PGA Championship, finished at 1-over in 32nd.—Kyodo News ■

# Roma coach Di Francesco hoping for Barcelona 'miracle'

ROME — Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco has urged his side to believe in a "miracle" to overturn a 4-1 deficit against Barcelona and advance to the Champions League semi-finals on Tuesday.

"We have to believe in something important and go for it with great love and passion. They will play their best to confirm the result but we can also produce a miracle," Di Francesco told a pre-match press conference.

"It's difficult, but we have to believe. We stopped (Lionel) Messi (in the first leg) and we have to try to do it again tomorrow."

Edin Dzeko scored a valuable away goal after own goals from Daniele De Rossi and Kostas Manolas in the Camp Nou, but the Italians need a remarkable comeback at the Stadio Olimpico to advance to final four for the first time since 1984.

Here are some talking points ahead of the quarter-final second leg clash:

**Messi hoping for more Roman heroics**

Barcelona star Lionel Messi returns to the Stadio Olimpico where his stunning header sealed the Champions League title in 2009 against Manchester United.

The Argentine — back from a hamstring problem and subdued in the first leg — warmed up with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win over Leganes Saturday as Barcelona equalled the record longest unbeaten run in La Liga history.

"I don't see it as being tied up in any way," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde ahead of the return.

Messi and teammate Andres Iniesta are poised for a milestone of 100 Champions League appearances together. Iniesta is a veteran of 129 Champions League games, and Messi, 124.

Roma struggling at home

Roma have slipped to fourth in Serie A after a 2-0 home defeat to Fiorentina, making it three games without a win, and a seventh home defeat. Di Francesco's side will be looking to avoid equalling the club's record of eight home defeats in all competitions going back 70 years.

"Maybe Barcelona away are not the same team as at the Camp Nou, we will try to close down Messi wherever he is on the pitch," said the Roma coach.

Roma have kept a clean sheet in all of their European games at home this season while the Catalan giants have struggled to get goals away in the Champions League, setting the scene for a low-key scoring affair in the Stadio Olimpico.—AFP ■

# Ibrahimovic's late spark not enough to power Galaxy again

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Russell and Daniel Salloi scored second half goals as Sporting Kansas City grinded out a well-deserved 2-0 victory on Sunday night over the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The Galaxy were hoping for another miracle late finish by Zlatan Ibrahimovic who gave his team a lift when he finally entered as a substitute in the 62nd minute, but couldn't erase Sporting's two goal lead.

Before the game Ibrahimovic had warned Galaxy fans not to expect a repeat of his remarkable debut last week.

The Swedish superstar made a sensational start to his Major League Soccer career last week, scoring twice after coming on as a late substitute in the Galaxy's 4-3 comeback win over Los Angeles FC.

There were no fireworks this time around, but the 36-year-old striker did create some scoring chances including one where his playmaking helped lead to a shot off the woodwork.

There were other close calls but each time goalkeeper Tim Melia came up with the clutch save.

Ibrahimovic joined the Galaxy from Manchester United, signing a two-year deal last month.

Salloi opened the scoring by collecting a loose ball in the penalty box and blasting it past Galaxy keeper David Bingham for first place Sporting who improved to 4-1-1 on the season.

Scotland's Russell celebrated his 28th birthday by dancing through the Galaxy defence pair of Ashley Cole and Daniel Steres and then poking it past a startled Bingham.—AFP ■

Zlatan Ibrahimovic from LA Galaxy (L) is tackled by Jimmy Medranda of Sporting Kansas City at the StarHub Centre. **PHOTO: AFP**