

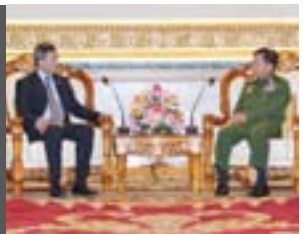
President U Htin Kyaw leaves for Russian Federation to attend Russia-ASEAN Summit **PAGE 3**



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Army will strive for national stability and development: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing **PAGE 9**



POSSIBLE CYCLONE BREWS IN BAY OF BENGAL



Jaiden Coonan

Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) has issued a 'yellow' warning for a depression developing over the Bay of Bengal. Hla Tun, Deputy Director of Meteorology at the DMH said at 3pm yesterday that the depression could have formed into a cyclone over the past 24 hours.

He also said that based upon initial projections, if the cyclone develops, it may make landfall over Northern Rakhine State

and Chittagong Division, in South-East Bangladesh. Though other predictions expect Bangladesh to receive the brunt of the storm.

"[It could] develop into a cyclone over the next 24 hours as it moves in a north-eastern direction," he told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

The color 'yellow' is given to a cyclone that is not set to make landfall, but is to affect a country.

As of 3pm yesterday the DMH warned of possible landslides in Chin

State, as rains intensify over Rakhine and Chin States over the past 24 hours, flash flood warnings have also been issued for the states.

Hla Tun told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that localised heavy falls will begin to effect the states as of today. If the depression turns into a cyclonic storm widespread devastation is to be expected.

The potential cyclone will affect vulnerable communities still recovering from Cyclone Komen that ravaged Myanmar in July 2015. **See page 3 >>**

Restrictions on mining mounds

Aye Min Soe

As part of the new government's '100-day plan' the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is working towards preventing deadly landslides caused from improper dumping of soil left over from mining operations.

U Win Htein, Director-General of Mining Department told Myanmar News Agency yesterday that the frequent deadly landslides in Hpakant have become an "urgent consideration for the government."

From November 2015 to May 2016, 13 landslides have occurred due to mining companies improperly dumping soil, where migrant workers scavenge through refuse hoping to recover jade.

Local authorities have been enforcing strict rules lately when it has come to dumping, he added.

"Currently, we have suspended issuing licenses to companies, and will make arrangements for systematic mining there," U Win Htein said.

A total of 37 landslides have occurred in Kachin State's Hpakant Township, in-



Miners search for jade stones at a mine dump at a Hpakant jade mine in Kachin state on 28 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

cluding the 11 November event where 114 migrant miners searching through the refuse were buried under the waste. Most recently on 8 May, thirteen miners were killed in a land slide.

Mining companies and local authorities poorly enforce safety regulations as

migrants set up camps near large piles of mining refuse.

In order to prevent further deaths local authorities have attempted to move "at-risk" camps to "safe areas," so that mining companies may dispose of wasted soil in accordance with 'technical safety regulations'.

"This year, tight restrictions have been placed on dumping soil, changing our previous practice so as to ensure landslides do not occur," Daw Ni Lar Myint, of Hpakant Township General Administration Department, told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. **See page 3 >>**



Police arrest a demonstrator. PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE

Police disperse labour protest near Nay Pyi Taw

Thein Ko Lwin

POLICE dispersed a demonstration held by employees of a factory in Sagaing Region yesterday as they tried to pass barricades blocking them from entering Nay Pyi Taw, arresting the movement's leaders outside the capital.

"The workers from the Myanmar Veneer and Plywood Private Co Ltd factory in Sagaing

Region did not accept the offer from police to negotiate in accordance with the Labour Law, and when they tried to pass the barricades, the police broke up the crowd without hurting them," said U Aye Thauang, the administrator of Ottarathiri District.

Before the crackdown, the protestors reached an agreement with negotiators to hold talks with the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

However, the protestors ultimately rejected the offer from the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman to negotiate with five labour leaders and attempted to pass the barricades.

"Legal action will be taken against the leaders of the protest, which was held without permission from the authorities. The remaining protestors would be sent back to Sagaing," said U Aye Thauang.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves \$200m loan from World Bank for three ministries



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu.
PHOTO: MNA



Daw Khin San Hlaing. PHOTO: MNA



Lt-Col Myo Khaing Aung.
PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved a US\$200 million loan from World Bank for the Ministries of Construction; Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; and Planning and Finance during its 23rd-day session yesterday.

The \$200 million loan will be used for development undertakings of the three ministries, allotting \$115 million to the reconstruction of disaster-resistant transport infrastructure and project management under the con-

struction ministry; \$70 million to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation for renovation work on rural transport infrastructure; and \$15 million to the planning and finance ministry's fund for disaster relief and support.

In his comments on the bill, military MP Lt-Col Myo Khaing Aung called for the implementation of projects that meet international standards and focus on the durability of infrastructure. Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale Constituency welcomed the proposed spending on undertakings for the recovery of victims of disasters in 2015, stressing the need to present biannual reports on the ministries' progress to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The World Bank's terms and conditions for the \$200 million interest-free loan include a six-year concession period with a 32-year repayment term, plus an annual service charge of 0.75 per cent.

Also during yesterday's session, U Kyaw Tint Swe was sworn in as Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor before the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and an MP

submitted a proposal to rename the Ministry of Health as the Ministry of Health and Sports and to rename the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs as the Ministry of Nationalities Affairs.

Vice governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Khin Saw Oo reported to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the CBM's K500 billion loan to be disbursed to farmers during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu said his ministry will borrow the K500 billion loan from the Bank before the rainy season, and the two organisations will coordinate to meet the terms and conditions of the loan.

Parliamentary approval on the loan from the CBM will be sought on 23 May. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for 28th day

THE Pyithu Hluttaw entered its 28th day session yesterday with Union ministers responding to questions regarding a cash assistance program for monastic school teachers across the country and the upgrading of a rural road in Shan State (East).

In his reply, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko said that K3.71 billion has been allocated to provide cash assistance to monastic school teachers across the country.

While answering a question on the upgrading of a vil-

lage-to-village road in Mongphyat Township in Shan State (East), Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dr Aung Thu said that the road will be upgraded next fiscal year as upgrading works for the road were not included in this year's budget. The Union minister continued to say that the condition of 35 dams with low water storage capacity are being studied, adding that there are 581 irrigation facilities being managed by the ministry.

During yesterday's parliamentary session the Pyithu Hluttaw

Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee was formed with 13 members led by U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency, and U Tun of Htantabin Constituency was appointed as a member of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee to replace U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency.

Moreover, three Defense Services personnel were sworn in as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and the Bill Committee's reports on Bills to revoke the People's Council Law and State Council Law were read out. —Myanmar News Agency

Cash assistance to monastic teachers to double

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will seek parliamentary approval to double cash assistance to teachers from monastic schools across the country as of next fiscal year, said Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko yesterday.

While answering a question raised by a Pyithu Hluttaw representative, the Union minister told the Pyithu Hluttaw that a twofold increase in the cash assistance programme for the teachers will be included in the ministry's proposed budget starting from the coming fiscal year.

U Kan Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Salin Constituency who raised the question at

Parliament, said there should be an increase in cash assistance to monastic education school teachers.

According to sources, the ministry is providing K36,000 per month to a primary teacher, K41,000 to a middle school teacher and K45,000 to a high school teacher from monastic schools in Myanmar.

Daw Saw Thet Mon, a primary teacher from a monastic education school in Hlinethaya Township said that workers from the industrial zone get paid more than the monthly cash assistance received by monastic school teachers. It is hard for the monas-

tic school teachers to make ends meet as the price of commodities increases, she added.

According to the ministry, it spent K3 billion over the 2013-2014 FY on its cash assistance programme for 6,820 teachers from monastic education schools in the country, K3.32 billion for 7,457 over the 2014-2015 FY and 3.47 billion for 7,770 over the 2015-2016 FY.

According to statistics, monastic schools operated by monasteries have provided education to more than 300,000 children across the country with the use of funding from donors and the ministry. —Thein Ko Lwin

CBM Governor, US Ambassador discuss banking sector

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two representatives held discussions

regarding monetary policy implementation, banking sector stability and international payments by state-owned banks, private banks and branches of foreign banks in accordance with recognised international codes of conduct.

In his discussion, the Am-

bassador stated that the US plans to cooperate with Myanmar in a number of sectors, hoping to foster and witness economic development in the country following banking sector reform and development. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 25th day session

THE Amyotha Hluttaw entered its 25th day session yesterday, with two Defence Services personnel taking oaths and Bill Committee members reading out reports on bills to amend the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw Election Laws.

First, Defence Services personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representatives Brig-Gen Chit Oo and Brig-Gen Thet Naing took their oaths before Amyotha Hluttaw

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee members read out reports on bills to amend the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw Election Laws for the fourth time, calling for approval of the bills.

The Speaker then invited representatives who are willing to discuss the bill committee's reports to list their names. —Myanmar News Agency

Mandalay Region Police Force releases 100-day plan

THE Mandalay Region Police Force released its 100-day plan to ensure security and the rule of law and reduce crimes in the region at a meeting in Mandalay yesterday.

During the meeting the Mandalay Region Chief Minister called on law enforcers to make great strides in fighting against crimes, stressing the need for cooperation among

departments concerned for the effective implementation of the plan.

Police Captain Han Tun said that the 'Yadanabon' operation is underway to combat narcotic drugs and related crimes in cooperation with partner organisations in the region, adding that the 100-day plan is also set to reform the region's police force. —Aung Thant Khaing



President U Htin Kyaw is being seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

President U Htin Kyaw leaves for Russian Federation to attend Russia-ASEAN Summit

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw left Yangon yesterday for the Russian Federation to attend the Russia-ASEAN Summit on the 20th anniversary of dialogue relations scheduled to be held in the resort city of Sochi, Russia.

The President and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, regional ministers, Patron of National League for Democracy Thura U

Tin Oo, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov and officials.

Together with the President, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Minister of the State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials left for Russia on the same flight.

The Russia-ASEAN Summit on the partnership's 20th anniversary is set to enhance cooperation between the two nations following discussions on future cooperation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar, Singapore look to boost future cooperation

MYANMAR'S Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with her Singaporean counterpart Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, holding talks on areas of future cooperation that include education, health, agriculture, infrastructure development and trade as well as matters relating to a commemorative ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Singapore diplomatic ties at the Myanmar-Singapore Vocational Institute.

At a joint press conference afterwards, Singapore's Foreign Minister said that the talks were a good example of the new government's systematic adminis-

tration and its sacrifices for the next generation.

He also expressed his belief that there would be more connectivity between the two countries at this stage of political transition in Myanmar.

Singapore, Myanmar's third largest trading partner after China and Thailand, is the second biggest investing partner for Myanmar, added the Singaporean Foreign Minister.

While answering questions from the media, the Singaporean FM said that Singapore investing in Myanmar's infrastructure sector will help Myanmar youth find job opportunities through more investments in education and opening of vocational training courses.

In her address, Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that there is no concern over sanctions against Myanmar, adding that sanctions on the country will be lifted at an opportune time.

She expressed her belief that Myanmar would be able to manage and overcome current and future difficulties.

Myanmar wants to continue its partnership with the United States, she added.

In the evening, a dinner reception in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Singapore was held at the Parkroyal Hotel. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Singaporean counterpart Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

Possible Cyclone Brews in Bay of Bengal

>> From page 1

Cyclone Komen, even though not making landfall in Myanmar, caused disastrous flooding and landslides, affecting western parts of the country.

Previous Myanmar President U Thein Sein declared Rahkine and Chin States, as well as Magway and Sagaing Regions as natural disaster zones on 31 July 2015. Rahkine State suffered the most from flooding.

Massive public, private and governmental support came in the wake of the aftermath. People on the streets of Yangon could be seen walking through traffic collecting donations.

A massive support base grew online as Myanmar citizens abroad through their weight behind the relief efforts.

125 people were killed with 1.7 million people displaced from last years' disaster. 1.1 million acres of farmland was inundated by floodwater, with 872,000 acres destroyed.

Myanmar will wave off its unrelenting heat wave, as isolated heavy falls descend upon Yangon, Ayeyawady, Magway, Bago and Tanintharyi Regions as of today. "The depression will also bring unseasonably strong monsoonal winds," Hla Tun said.

70 to 80 km per hour winds (45-50 miles) are expected with heavy squalls and rough seas for Myanmar's coastal areas.

The same depression has caused widespread flooding and landslides in Sri Lanka with 200 families missing, according to the Sri Lankan Red Cross. On Tuesday sixteen bodies were discovered and 180 people were rescued, in an area affected by landslides in the storm rattled country.

Heavy falls are expected in India's southeastern states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh where falls of up to 300mm is expected.

Restrictions on mining mounds

>> From page 1

Mining companies began using heavy machinery to extract jade in Myanmar as of 2005. Due to the fast extraction a deluge of migrants descended upon mining operations – seeing migrant numbers jump from an estimated

20,000 in 2012 to approximately 300,000 in 2015.

According to the Department of Mines, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, as of 30 November 2015: 627 mining companies operate on 7,714 plots throughout

the country. While 231 companies share 311 other plots, these are small-scale productions.

As of 2000 mining companies must surrender 25 per cent of their income to the government.—*Myanmar News Agency w/ GNLM*

UCSB, EU discuss civil service reform

CHAIRMAN of the Union Civil Service Board Dr Win Thein received an EU (GOPA) delegation led by Dr Manzoor Alam at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two represent-

atives held discussions on technical assistance to curriculum reform for the Central Institutes of Civil Service, lectures to be given at management courses of the Institutes, visits of UCSB delegations to in-

stitutes in the region and Europe and civil service reform in Myanmar.

Also present at the call were UCSB members U Win Maw and Dr U Pwar and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Police Force supplies water to communities facing water crises



Police officers distribute clean water. PHOTO: MPF

THE Myanmar Police are helping to provide clean water to communities facing water shortages due to the recent high temperatures brought on by El Niño.

Police members of the Special Intelligence Department (Special Branch) under the My-

anmar Police Force distributed 1000 gallons of clean water and 750 gallons of drinking water to the communities of Khayan Township, Yangon Region, which are currently suffering a water scarcity crisis. The delivery was made on 15 May.

Similarly, police members from Taungzun Police Outpost donated 1250 gallons of water for drinking and bathing to residents who are facing water shortages in Bilin township, Mon State on Monday. —*Myanmar Police Force*

Emerald Green project benefits about 4 million people in two years

OVER 4 million people have derived benefits from the Emerald Green project in two years, it has been reported. More than 2,000 villages will be included in the Emerald Green project, according to the Rural Development Department.

The project will be implemented in all regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw this fiscal year, said Dr. Zarni Min, Deputy Director of the Rural Development Department.

The villages were not selected by the department for the project. They were selected by local people who knew and could identify the needy in their community. The project will use kyats 6 billion for funding, he added.

The project will be launched in 20 villages in Nay Pyi Taw, 63 villages in Kachin state, 20 villages in Kayin state, 80 villages in Kayin state, 60 villages in Chin state, 140 villages in Sagaing region, 30 villages in Tanintharyi region, 140 villages in Bago region, 165 villages in Magwe region, 178 villages in Mandalay region, 30 villages in Mon state, 104 villages in Shan

state, 390 villages in Ayawady region and 107 villages elsewhere which are badly in need of assistance.

The project was started in 2014. Greening activities are being carried out at 1150 villages in 125 townships, 45 Districts. Myanmar consists of 14 regions and states, two sub-states, 60 Districts, 330 townships and 64917 villages. Seventy per cent of populations live in rural areas.

The project was first launched in 143 townships in 38 Districts which have a high poverty rate. The pilot projects were launched in the 2014-2015 financial year in 1,150 villages out of 11,004 villages under the rule of the Self Administered Regions as well as the Nay Pyi Taw Council. The project included vocational training courses.

Under the Emerald Green Project, there is a revolving fund from which each village will be granted a loan amounting to K30million. The loans will be managed by village committees elected by local people. The interest rate ranges from 0.5 kyat to 1.5 kyat per cent per month.—*Zar Zar*

Crime NEWS

Fire destroyed four houses in Thakayta

A FIRE broke out at 06:25 am in North Quarter (4), Thakayta Township on 16 May and quickly spread.

The huge fire destroyed two two-storey RC buildings, a two-storey pucca building and a one-storey building. The cause of blaze is still under investigation, said U Aung Khin Sint, Head of Township Fire Department.

The fire fighters rushed to the scene with over 20 engines and extinguished the blaze at 6:50 am. Police are still investigating the case.—*Thet Naing (Pyin Oo Lwin)*



The scene of the outbreak of fire. PHOTO: THET NAING (PYIN OO LWIN)

Car incident injures 22 passengers

A vehicle turned over on Myaing Gyi Ngu-Mae Tha Waw Road, Hlaing Bwe Township on 15 May, leaving twenty two passengers injured.

The vehicle driven by U Moe Gyi alias A Thay Lay with 30 passengers on board turned over beside the road when the driver lost control.

The accident injured twenty-two out of 30 passengers but not seriously. Eleven passengers are undergoing medical treatment at Myaing Gyi Ngu general hospital while eleven passengers are sent for medical treatment other to Hpa-an general hospital.—*IPRD*

Car plunges down, kills one, seriously injures 12

A vehicle plunged down at milepost 19, Hsit Phyu-Myat Chai road, near Myo Soe village, Pakokku township on 15 May, killing one and leaving 12 in critical condition.

The accident occurred when the vehicle driven by Honda Kyaw, 34, carrying 13 passengers on board plunged down a creek when the vehicle's break failed.

The accident killed a passenger identified as Kyat Ka Lay alias U Win Myint, 60, injuring another 12 passengers. They are undergoing medical treatment at District General Hospital. The reckless driver has been charged by the police.—*Ko Ye*

Yaba seized

AN ANTI-DRUG squad in Kamayut township arrested Bo Bo Yan Naing Tun alias Yan Naing on suspicion of drug trading while he was walking along on Bayintnaung road, searched a house of Yan Naing at Sagarwarpin road, Kyimyindine township and seized 3,770 Yaba tablets.

On the same day, the police searched the house of Ma Nwe

Kyi at Htee Khan village, Yat Sauk township and discovered 1,950 yaba pills.

In another case, police in the same township seized 490 Yaba tablets from Ye Hlaing's house at ward 3, Myawady town. Police have filed charges against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*The mirror*



Bo Bo Yan Naing Tun alias Yan Naing. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

A novice drowned at bathing place

A novice from Sangha Goneyi monastery was drowned at Kyauk Pone river-side bathing place, Chaung Nge Ward, Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Region.

The novice named Mg Za-

yar Min, 15, was missing while he was taking bath with other novices. Ashin Jawtika, presiding monk of MyoOo and local villagers were searching with nets and found his body.—*Nan Thayer Htein Win (IPRD)*

LOCAL Business



Buses seen at Hledan junction in Yangon on 2 April 2016. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

New circular bus line to run in Yangon

A NEW bus line called Nyein Chan Kabar 5 will operate with a fleet of nine buses in Yangon starting in May, said U Hla Aung, chairman of the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

The bus line's route will

operate in a circular system starting from Kargyi Gate on Laydaungkan Road, passing through Kyaikkasan Road, Moe Kaung Road, North Horse Race Course, Hledan, Kyimyintdine Kanna Road, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Theinphyu Street,

Thanthumar Road and ending at Kargyi Gate again. The bus line will be supervised by the Yangon East District All Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

The bus fare will be set at K300 for the whole route and K50 for part of the route.—200

Salt shake up conducted by UNICEF

UNITED Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been providing the technical assistance to improve the refining process of raw salt in Mon and Rakhine States, as well as the Ayeyawady Region, said Mon States's chairperson of the Salt Entrepreneurs Association, U Win Htein.

UNICEF has been assisting on developing refiners' knowledge on the drying process. Under its technique, the salt is placed on a plastic tarp to dry. To produce refined salt, the process of refining salt has to be changed. The manufacturers need to use the

drying pots, which has been the process internationally for some time, so in order for Myanmar to meet international standards it is necessary for the refiners to meet these standards in order to export the product, he added.

Seventy salt factories in Myanmar, produce 180,000 tonnes of refined salt and 250,000 tonnes of raw salt each year. Around 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes of salt are imported from other countries. Local salt production requires access to more investments and to help establish factories and improve their capacities.—WPP/Union Daily

Durians seeing high price on fruit market

FOLLOWING the late yield of durians, mangosteens and rambuntans in Ye Township, Mon State, fruits produced in Myawady, Thanbyuzayat and Mudon towns are entering the fruit market, allowing growers from those townships to earn a handsome price, it has been learned.

The rambuntans from those townships are being sold in Ye in which fruits are being yielded late this year. The rambuntan sells for up to K6,000 per viss (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms). "The

market has not flourished yet because the price is still on the rise despite the high supply", said Daw Sandar, a fruiterer.

The locals of Ye townships are mainly engaged in the agricultural businesses. The local seasonal fruits like durians, mangosteens and rambuntans are suffering from scorching temperatures and drought this season. These factors have badly affected the yield meaning growers are suffering financially from the losses.—Htut Htut (Ye)

China demand for Cumin Seed raises prices

THE export price of black cumin sesame seeds has risen during the second week of May, as demand from China rises. According to the sesame merchants from Myanmar's northern border areas.

The border trade is reported to have risen than the sea trade in sesame export to China, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

Black cumin sesame seeds are offered higher prices more so than other varieties of sesame. Yet prices of other varieties remain stable. Yangon merchants are also known to produce the product. Sesame seeds are ground up in order to make sesame powder which is mainly exported by sea, U Thauang, a sesame merchant from Mandalay noted.

In the second week of May, export volumes of various sesames reached 662 tonnes worth US\$900,00 via Chin-Shwe-Haw trade terminal on the Myanmar/ China border. Small export operations occur in the Muse and Myawady trade zones, according to the figures of border commodity depots.

The black cumin sesame seeds trading is similar

to last year's but the price of them increased this year, with baskets of black cumin seeds fetching Ks62,000 while red sesame and the black sesame fetch Ks23,000 and Ks33,000 at markets. White sesame is worth Ks1,414,858 per tonne while that of the black sesames is Ks2,126,601 per tonne, according to merchants. —MPPS/Union Daily

UMFCCI to hold three more expos with Yorkers

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will hold three more exhibitions with Yorkers Trade and Marketing Service Co Ltd, said U Myo Thant, the general secretary of the UMFCCI.

This year, the UMFCCI held a machinery exhibition in cooperation with Yorkers, featuring construction materials, lighting equipment and machines and tools for making finished wood products. UMFCCI has also signed MoUs with Yorkers to hold three more exhibitions in the coming months.

The UMFCCI usually holds between 10 and 12 trade fairs every year, most of which involve MoUs with other organisations. The federation usually has signed MoUs with entrepreneurs from Taiwan, China, Thailand and India, but exhibitions from Japan and South Korea are held without MoUs, according to the UMFCCI.—MPPS/Union Daily

Fish quality drops in delayed containers

WITH containers delayed at Myanmar's ports, fishery exporters are faced with a decline in the quality of their fishery products. They have reported the situation to the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Fishery products require cold storage. Delays can lead to drops in quality because of the rising temperature during the waiting time, said a member of the Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association.

Foreign markets may reject low-quality fish, causing entrepreneurs losses, said an entrepreneur.—200

Samsung smartphones, tablets to be purchased in instalments through KBZ

SAMSUNG Myanmar has announced that seven Samsaung products will be available for purchase in six-month instalments with zero interest through Kanbawza (KBZ) starting from 16 May.

These seven Samsaung products include five smartphones—Galaxy S7 Edge; Galaxy S7; Galaxy Note5; Galaxy A5 (2016); and Galaxy A7 (2016); and two tablets—the 8-inch Galaxy Tab S2 and the 9.7-inch Galaxy Tab S2.

"Samsung Myanmar has introduced the new purchase

plan in cooperation with KBZ. The current accounts will have no access to interest from the bank, whereas other accounts that pay interest will remain unchanged. We have a plan to add other Samsung products to this programme," said Ko Zarni Win Htet, head of the IT and Mobile Department of Samsaung Myanmar.

Those who wish to buy these Samsung products in instalments can do so by opening a Current Account as well as a Call Account. Owners of these accounts will be able to pur-

chase up to two smartphones or tablets per account.

The minimum amount of money that buyers must keep in the accounts will vary by product, and money cannot be withdrawn from the account during the duration of the six-month programme.

The products have one-year Samsung official warranties, and the programme includes door-to-door service. Buyers can also participate in other promotion programmes related to the products they buy.—GNLM

Obama speaks to Philippines' president-elect, stresses human rights

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama called incoming Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday to congratulate him on his election win, stressing that their countries' alliance was based on a commitment to human rights and the rule of law, the White House said.

US officials have signalled that Washington is ready to work with Duterte despite allegations of human rights abuses in the city he led as mayor for over two decades.

Obama's deputy nation-

al security adviser, Ben Rhodes, told a Washington seminar earlier on Tuesday that the US administration was aware there was some "controversy" surrounding Duterte and "statements that drew attention in the past," but he did not elaborate.

Obama offered his congratulations to Duterte as the "presumptive president-elect."

He won the largest share of the votes in a 9 May presidential election, according to an unofficial count by a poll watchdog, although the official result has yet to

be confirmed. Obama "highlighted the enduring values that underpin our thriving alliance ... and the longstanding ties between our two peoples, including our shared commitments to democracy, human rights, rule of law, and inclusive economic growth," the White House said.

Washington hoped "to build on progress made with the last administration" in the Philippines, Rhodes said. "This is a new government and we'll want to hear from them directly what their priorities are," he said when

asked about the election, adding that Washington wanted to see continued efforts to respect the rule of law and combat corruption. Duterte has been criticised for allowing a spree of vigilante killings under his administration in Davao city, and critics fear he could let them happen on a larger scale as president.

He has denied ordering any of the killings, but has not condemned them.

Washington has steered clear of the controversy, however, which analysts say reflects the reality of US na-

tional security interests given China's increasingly assertive stance in Asia and maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Duterte's vows to restore law and order resonated with voters, but his incendiary rhetoric and advocacy of extrajudicial killings to stamp out crime and drugs have alarmed many people.

Rhodes noted US support for Manila efforts to resolve its territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea through international arbitration, and a recent deal allowing a greater US mili-

tary presence in the Philippines.

"We believe that now as much as ever it's important that the US and Philippines are seen working together," he said. The US stance on Duterte could echo its approach towards India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At one point, Modi was unable to obtain a US visa because of concerns about sectarian riots in the state of Gujarat when he was chief minister, but was later invited to the White House when he became prime minister.—Reuters

Thailand orders halt to Uber, Grab motorbike taxi service

BANGKOK — Thailand has ordered Uber Technologies and Grab to halt their motorcycle taxi-hailing services, a senior transport official said on Tuesday.

The services are popular in Thailand's grid-locked cities, where bikes weaving through traffic jams get people around in a fraction of

the time a car takes.

There are more than 186,000 motorcycles registered to provide taxi services in Thailand, almost half in the capital, Bangkok, government data shows.

UberMoto and Grab Bike services had caused conflict with those registered to provide taxi services,

said Nunthapong Cherdchoo, a senior official at the transport ministry.

Grab Bike said it was working with the government to resolve the issues, while UberMoto said it would temporarily suspend services.

"Grab Bike offers a service that reduces traffic in

Bangkok, one of the world's most congested cities," Singapore-headquartered Grab said in a statement. "Staff are well-trained and insured."

Uber's Asia-Pacific spokeswoman Amy Kunrojpanya told Reuters, "We will temporarily suspend UberMoto services. We are

doing it because we respect Thai laws. We see the need to cooperate with related agencies and have the intention to operate under the existing law."

Uber launched its services in Bangkok in February. Authorities have arrested 66 motorcycle drivers working for Uber and Grab

Bike, Nunthapong said. They will face fines of up to 4,000 baht (\$112) for first-time offences and have their licenses suspended for repeat offences. San Francisco-based Uber has grown rapidly around the world but has faced protests, bans and restrictions in a number of cities.—Reuters

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YANGON — Photo taken on 17 May 2016 shows a scene of the vehicles running on a road near the Sule Pagoda in downtown Yangon, Myanmar. Foreign direct investment in Myanmar's power sector reached 19.6 billion US dollars as of April, accounting for 30.89 per cent of the total, according to Myanmar Investment Commission last Friday.

PHOTO: XINHUA

Gov't seeks smaller wage gap between regular, nonregular workers

TOKYO — The government on Wednesday called for reducing the wage gap between regular and non-regular employees to about 20 per cent from the current 40 per cent in an effort to achieve "equal pay for equal work" as advocated by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

In a draft plan to realize a society where every citizen plays an active role,

a new goal set by Abe, the government also called for raising salaries for child-rearing staff by about 6,000 yen to 40,000 yen a month and those for nursing-care staff by 10,000 yen a month on average.

The draft plan, which the Cabinet will adopt in late May, said that with a sound social security system and increased child-rearing support, Japan

"will maintain the population of 100 million even half a century later." The ruling coalition of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito party will make the plan a major campaign pledge for this summer's House of Councillors election.

"Developed countries share a common challenge of achieving sustainable growth in an aging society

with a low birth rate," Abe told a meeting with Cabinet ministers and private-sector members on a campaign to achieve "a society in which all citizens are dynamically engaged."

The call for "equal pay for equal work" and improved working conditions for nonregular employees is key for the government to realize such a society.—Kyodo News

Ex-PM Koizumi backs US sailors suing over Fukushima radiation

CARLSBAD (California) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Tuesday he stands behind a group of former US sailors suing the operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, who claim health problems they now suffer were caused by exposure to radiation after three reactors melted down in the days after a devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

Koizumi made the remarks at a press conference in Carlsbad, California, with some of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit brought in the United States in 2012 against plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co., which is now Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.

The plaintiffs include crewmembers of the US aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan as it provided humanitarian relief along the tsunami-battered coastline in a mission dubbed Operation Tomodachi.

“Those who gave their all to assist Japan are now suffering from serious illness. I can’t overlook them,” Koizumi said.

The former premier spent Sunday through Tuesday meeting with roughly 10 of the plaintiffs, asking about the nature of the disaster relief they undertook and about their symptoms.

“I learnt that the number of sick people is still increasing, and their symptoms are worsening,” he told the press conference.

Koizumi called on those in Japan, both in favour of and



Former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (R) attends a press conference in Carlsbad, California, on 17 May, 2016, with former US soldiers who have sued Tokyo Electric Power Co. for damage to their health caused by the nuclear crisis at the company's Fukushima Daiichi plant. Koizumi said it is impossible to overlook those Americans who developed serious illnesses after engaging in relief operations for the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster in northeastern Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

against nuclear power, to come together to think of ways to help the ailing US servicemen.

The group of about 400 former US Navy sailors and Marines alleges the utility, known as TEPCO, did not provide accurate information about the dangers of radioactive material being emitted from the disaster-struck plant.

This led the US military to judge the area was safe to operate in, resulting in the radiation exposure, the group claims.

One of the plaintiffs at the press conference, Daniel Hair, said Koizumi's involvement

made him feel for the first time that Japan is paying serious attention to their plight.

According to lawyers for the group, seven of its members have died so far, including some from leukemia.

Koizumi, who served as prime minister between 2001 and 2006, came out in opposition to nuclear power in the wake of the 2011 disaster.

He has repeatedly urged the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to halt its efforts to restart dormant reactors across Japan.—*Kyodo News*

China says military drills ahead of Taiwan inauguration part of annual plan

TAIWAN — China's Defence Ministry said recent military drills on its southeastern coast were annual exercises, after Chinese media had suggested they could have been timed ahead of Taiwan's inauguration of a new president from a pro-independence party.

China and self-ruled Taiwan underwent a rapprochement under the outgoing government which was run by China-friendly Nationalists.

But ties have strained with the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and Tsai Ing-wen, who is set to be sworn in as president on Friday.

Chinese state media have reported that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has carried out at least three landing exercises on the country's southeast coast since the beginning of May.

The largest drill was conducted in recent days by a regiment under the PLA's 31st Group Army, which is based in coastal Fujian province, across the strait from Taiwan, the official *China Daily* newspaper said on Wednesday.

China's Defence Ministry said the drills were intended to increase responsiveness to “security threats”.

“These drills are routine arrangements conducted according to annual training plans,” the ministry said in a short statement on its

website. “They do not target any specific objective. Relevant individuals should not over-interpret [them],” the ministry said.

The ministry made a similar statement after state-media broadcast footage of live-fire military and landing drills just days after the landslide Taiwan election win in January by Tsai and the DPP.

Chinese state media have made no mention of Taiwan in the reports on the exercises, though some Chinese domestic media have hinted that the timing might be coordinated ahead of Tsai's inauguration to deter pro-independence moves.

Taiwan's defence ministry said the recent footage in Chinese-state media of the drills involved annual PLA exercises and that it had “a grasp” of the situation, but declined to further comment.

The United States has expressed concerns about the danger of worsening China-Taiwan ties, at a time when China's navy is increasingly flexing its muscles in the South China and East China Seas and expanding territorial claims.

Taiwan's military has warned that China has practiced attacks on targets modeled on places in Taiwan. Taiwan also estimates China aims hundreds of missiles at the island. — *Reuters*

More than 150 people feared buried in Sri Lanka landslides — rescue officials

COLOMBO — More than 150 people are feared dead after they were buried under two landslides triggered by more than three days of heavy rain in central Sri Lanka, disaster officials said on Wednesday as rescuers raced to find survivors and recover the dead.

Torrential rains have forced more than 196,000 people from their homes, the latest official data showed, with the recovery of another 19 bodies across the South Asian country bringing the official death toll so far to 35.

More than 350 people were plucked to safety during rescue operations in landslide-affected areas across the country early on Wednesday, officials said.

Rescue efforts have focused on the town of Aranayaka, 100 km (60 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo, where three villages were buried late on Tuesday in the central district of Kegalle.

A Sri Lankan Red Cross official who attended a disaster meeting at the Aranayaka landslide site early on Wednesday said it was feared the death toll was

much higher than the official figures listed so far.

“At that meeting, it was revealed that around 300-400 people

are feared to have died in the Aranayaka landslide,” Neville Nanayakkara, director general of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society,

told Reuters.

Nanayakkara was speaking before other officials said that about 150 people had been res-

cued from the Aranayaka area, leaving fears for the safety of at least another 150 people.

The Red Cross has set up a welfare camp for survivors of the Aranayaka landslide.

Police said another landslide at Bulathkopiya, also in Kegalle district, had buried at least 16 people.

Military spokesman Jayanath Jayaweera said troops had recovered 13 bodies from the Aranayaka site and three from Bulathkopiya.

He said the 150 people who were rescued from Aranayaka earlier on Wednesday had been sent to six camps set up for displaced people in the area.

Troops using boats and helicopters also pulled to safety more than 200 people trapped in the northwestern coastal district of Puttalam, Jayaweera said.

Flooding and drought are cyclical in Sri Lanka, which is battered by a southern monsoon between May and September, while a northeastern monsoon runs from December to February. — *Reuters*



Villagers pull a boat with people after rescuing them, on a flooded road in Biyagama, Sri Lanka on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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.

As long as we refuse to remain isolated

Kyaw Thura

TIME is often quoted as a great healer. Even after more than 50 years, the people in some states are yet to enjoy the fruits of peace. In a bid to end the long-festering internal armed conflict between the army and ethnic groups, the government renamed the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), following a meeting on 9 May.

It is encouraging to hear

what Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said in a press conference with journalists three days ago. The army chief admitted some difficulty in dealing with ongoing fighting. It is quite understandable that the army has the capacity to root out the ethnic armed organisations left to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement. However, the commander-in-chief showed an unusual broadmindedness, stressing that the army

has to take into consideration the friendly relations with the ethnic armed groups and the neighbouring countries as well.

At this rate, negotiation with the remaining armed groups is expected to start soon, despite some sporadic clashes. Clearly, now is an opportune time for the conflicting sides to make renewed efforts to improve their strained relations by putting the interest of the people first. It does take time

for the wounds to heal.

People often compare the time taken to solve a difficult problem to the length of time to dig a well, saying that you cannot have water with a single stroke of digging. Similarly, it takes a little long for a seedling to grow from a seed and a little longer for a seedling to grow into a tree. Either way, peace is neither a well nor a tree. Peace does not take time to prevail, as long as we refuse to remain isolated.

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE: FAMILY DOCTORS SAVE, NULLIFY PAINS AND ACHES

Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

A number of family doctors in general public study and obtain post-graduate degree of Family Medicine subject so as to be recognized as Family Physicians. Department of Family Medicine in one of the prominent foreign Medical College States that "Emergence of 'Family Medicine' has been hailed as a rediscovery of the human, social and cultural aspects of health and disease, and the recognition of the 'family' as a focal point of health care, and the right place for integrating preventive, promotive and curative services"

Doctors, no doubt, are healers or health-care providers whereas families comprise all age groups, from new borns to elderlies including children, adolescents, adults men and women.

Families are on the frontlines of global efforts to realize the bold and inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are particularly essential to achieving SDG3, in which all United Nations Member States committed to promoting healthy lives and wellbeing for all ages.

Children thrive when they receive love as well as healthcare

education and other basics. During the sensitive time of adolescence, young people need emotional support along with reproductive health information and services. Family life is also crucial to the health of older people, who stay active and healthy when their contributions are appreciated in the family and community.

Family doctors support the crucial role of families in all their diverse forms. They provide access to reproductive health services so that parents can decide on the timing and size of their families. Maternal healthcare paternal leave are also vital to enable parents to give their newborns the best possible start in life.

Family Medicine may be defined as a discipline concerned with the personal, primary, comprehensive and continuing health care of the individual in relation to his family, community and environment.

Family physicians provide several types of services such as:- Preventive care; Acute care; Chronic disease care management; Stepped down care; Elderly care; Domiciliary care and Palliative care.

There is a ten million dollar

worth saying that "Prevention is better than cure," So let me mention some points regarding Preventive Medicine of family doctors. Preventive Medicine is science and art of:- preventing disease; prolonging life; promoting physical and mental health and efficiency.

It is also Science and art of health promoting disease prevention, disability limitation and rehabilitation.

Family doctor has important roles:- in preventive medicine; in the primary care setting at family and community level; in better position to give preventive services and Encountering illness and disease at early stages of pathogenesis.

Preventable diseases are :- Genetic disorder; Conditions occurring during pregnancy and puerperium; Developmental disorders; Accidents; Infections; Addictions; Behavioural disorders; Occupational disorders; Premature vascular disease; Neoplasms; Handicap; Others; Geriatrics and Cardiology.

Preventive Strategies are:- Primary Prevention; Secondary Prevention; Tertiary Prevention; To make the occurrence of disease impossible by anticipatory action and advanced provision (to prevent the disease occurrence); to check and reduce the numbers of cases of disease on

going operation aimed at; reducing the incident of a disease; Duration of d/s, risk of transmission; The ill effect of disease and The burden on the family, community, country, (economic, social).

I. Primary prevention Include

- A. Health Promotion
- B. Specific Prevention

Action is taken to avert the occurrence of disease by removing the risk factors; Reduce the possibility that the agent and host will ever come in contact; Remove of noxious agent; Preventing contact between agent and host and Strengthening of human host to increase their resistance.

A. Health promotion

HP is process of enabling people to increase control over and improved health; e.g Education about lifestyle; Personal hygiene; Elimination of vectors; Environmental Sanitation; Family welfare and Nutrition promotion.

B. Specific Prevention

To prevent occurrence of specific disease; Environmental sanitation for plague, cholera; Active immunization for EPI D/s; Chemoprophylaxis Malaria; Specific health legislation (IHR); Accident protect measure; Radiation control and Genetic counseling.

II. Secondary Prevention
Action taken to stop or delay the progression of disease; Early di-

agnosis; Prompt and adequate treatment; Screening for early disease detection and prevention measures and Hospitalization and supportive measures.

III. Tertiary prevention

Action taken to minimize disability by managing established disease; All measures instituted under 2 prevention; Disability limitation; Preventing a recurrence; And rehabilitation (physical, mental and social, psychological); To reduce the burden on family; To bring back individual towards normal life and As a productive and independent member of the family.

For the sake of general interest to Myanmar GPs, may I impart the knowledge that seven most important opportunities for prevention in UK are :- Family planning; Antenatal care; Immunization; Fostering the bonds between mother and children; Discouragement of smoking; Detection and management of raised BP and Helping the bereaved.

No doubt, some opportunities may overlap in Myanmar too, in addition to premarital check ups, obesity, diabetes, drug properly laxis, advising people travelling oversea and so on.

My good wishes to all Family Doctors, on the auspicious World Family Doctors' Day on May 19.

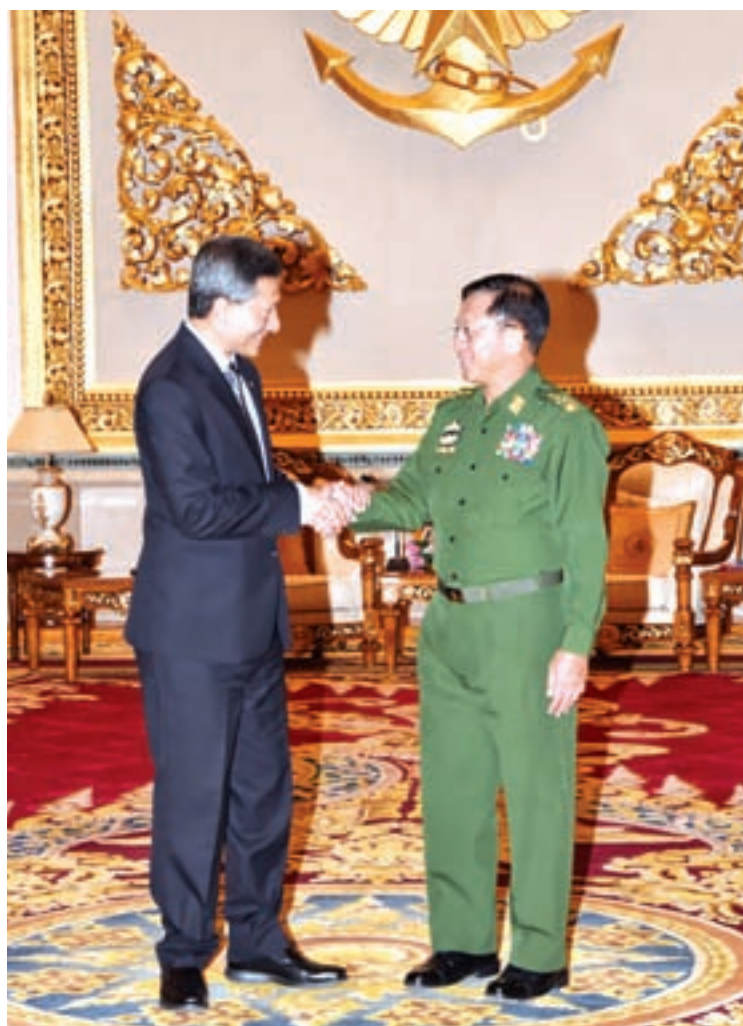
Army will strive for national stability and development: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

THE army will continue to strive for the country's stability, political integrity and development, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Singapore's Foreign Minister Mr Vivian Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The friendly relations between the two countries were established on trust, the commander-in-chief said, stressing the need to further deepen cooperation in regional affairs and bring bilateral defence collaboration to a higher level.

Mr Vivian Balakrishnan spoke of a long tradition of relations between the peoples of the two countries, reaffirming that his country would remain a friendly neighbour to Myanmar with no interference in its internal affairs. The Singapore's foreign minister expressed support for the ongoing changes in the country.

Singapore is Myanmar's third largest trade partner and second biggest investor.—*Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets Singapore's Foreign Minister Mr Vivian Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Russian fleet enters Thilawa Port

A RUSSIAN flagship arrived at Thilawa Port yesterday on an official visit to the country, officials said.

Under the command of Captain (Navy) Alexander Potapov, the large anti-submarine warship named the Admiral Vinogradov entered the port accompanied by

two auxiliary vessels: a sea-going rescue tug and a tanker.

According to Russia's embassy in Yangon, the warship is an Udaloy-class destroyer which has been in active service since 1988.

The visiting Russian naval officers are reported to be here to

meet Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and local high-ranking naval officers.

Officials said that the visit of the Russian fleet is to strengthen the military ties and enhance the long-standing traditions of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.—*GNLM*

Traditional medical team provides free care to rural communities

AS part of its 100-day project, a medical team led by traditional medical practitioners is taking a tour of rural areas to provide free healthcare services to rural communities, according to team member U Zaw Moe Htwe.

During the project, the team will carry out medical treatment at target villages once a month, he added.

Healthcare professionals on the team working for the Hospital of Traditional Medicine in Thaton Township, Mon State, recently provided free healthcare to residents of Taungzun and Thayettaw villages.

They treated common health problems such as chronic heart disease and paralysis.



Villagers await appointments with Thaton-based team offering free medical care to rural communities. PHOTO: THET OO

"Most villagers prefer traditional medicine over Western medicine.

We didn't know there exists

a traditional medical hospital in our township," said Daw Mar Cho, a patient from Taungzun Village.—*Thet Oo*

Arms, ammunition seized from KIA armed groups

KIA armed groups arrested for no obvious reasons seven innocent villagers from sabawhmaw village in Nantya Village-tract in Karmai Town, Hpakan Township, Kachin State and released only five people recently.

To save the two villagers, the Tatmadaw columns are, in cooperation with the people's militia groups, carrying out area consolidation activities, and on 16th May morning, the

Tatmadaw columns were engaged in a clash with 30-strong KIA troops near Point 646 Chankabum, with KIA retreating in disarray to the north east.

The Tatmadaw columns, in hot pursuit of KIA armed group, found a ground tent from which the Tatmadaw seized 39 small arms, three heavy weapons, 42 assorted arms, 205 rounds of assorted bullets, four hand grenades among other weapons, it is learnt.—*Myawady*



Arms, ammunition seized from KIA armed groups. PHOTO: MYAWADY

First adolescents conference takes place in Nay Pyi Taw

AN adolescents-focused conference took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attracting 400 teenage representatives from different parts of the country.

The two-day conference was described as a product of the joint effort by the UNICEF, ActionAid Myanmar and civil society under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

As the first of its kind in the

country, the event was organised with the aim of addressing the challenges Myanmar adolescents face. According to organisers, the conference will issue a joint statement to map out the policy-making process.

At today's event, the adolescent participants will express their rights and aspirations to be included on the development agenda.

—*GNLM*

UN seeks Myanmar nationals

THE Office of Human Resources Management has announced that it will launch a programme in an attempt to attract new recruits to the United Nations.

The Young Professionals Programme (YPP) is designed to attract new talent willing to work for the global body, with officials saying that candidates to the programme will be selected through an entrance examination which will include both written and oral sections.

The written exam is sched-

uled to take place on 14 December, with the period for applications set from today until 19 July.

Graduates with a good command of English or French are advised to visit the UN's career portal at careers.un.org for further details.

The programme is described as a recruitment initiative to new members at the junior professional level at the United Nations.

—*GNLM*

Democrats Clinton, Sanders split nominating contests in Oregon, Kentucky



US Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders announces to the crowd that he had just won Oregon during a rally in Carson, California, US, on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Democrat candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders each picked up primary wins on Tuesday in yet another demonstration of how divided the party is in the drawn-out national race to win the nomination for November's general election.

Clinton narrowly defeated Sanders in Kentucky, a state where she was not expected to win. Sanders bested her in Oregon, a state that played to his strengths.

In Kentucky, the two candidates will likely split the 55 delegates up for grabs. In Oregon, Sanders will take only a handful more of the 61 delegates that were awarded.

Clinton's sizeable lead in delegates means it is likely she will eventually be her party's nominee, but she remains more than 100 delegates short of sealing the deal. The Democratic primary now hits a two-week lull, with the final set of major contests, including California, scheduled for 7 June.

Clinton, who spent the past two days campaigning in Kentucky, would like to lock up the nomination and turn her attention to the 8 November general election and presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Trump has begun to organise his general election campaign. On Tuesday, he signed a joint fundraising agreement with the Republican National Committee. The agreement allows him to raise \$449,400 from a single donor by splitting the funds between his campaign, the RNC and state Republican parties.

Trump, who eschewed donations in the political system through the primary, has thus far insisted on mostly self-funding his campaign. The shift to a more

traditional fundraising approach could draw the ire of some supporters.

Trump, in an interview with Megyn Kelly that aired on Fox News Tuesday night, said he did have regrets about his actions during the Republican primary process.

"I could have used different language in a couple of instances, but overall I'm happy with the outcome," Trump said.

Sanders supporters became angry when Nevada state party officials chose to end their convention and block efforts to award the US senator from Vermont more delegates than he initially won in the February caucus. Clinton won the caucus.

The Nevada incident was a warning about the potential for fireworks at July's Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Clinton's campaign continued to express confidence that she would be able to unify the party. "Hillary Clinton is grateful to the thousands of Nevadans who came out to participate in the caucuses and convention process," Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said. "She believes every voice should be heard and no one should be intimidated, harassed or threatened in this process. When the primary process is complete, our party must come together and ensure a Democrat is elected to serve as our next president," Mook said.

Sanders on Tuesday joined his supporters in criticising the Nevada Democratic Party after Saturday's events.

One Sanders supporter threw a chair, unhappy about being blocked in a rules vote that was part of the effort to help the senator win more delegates to the national convention. Others drew

chalk graffiti on a party building, while the state's party chairwoman has been receiving death threats.

Sanders framed Nevada's incident as a warning.

"If the Democratic Party is to be successful in November, it is imperative that all state parties treat our campaign supporters with fairness and the respect that they have earned," Sanders said in a statement on the Nevada incident.

Sanders — who said he condemns violence and personal harassment of individuals — levelled some of the same complaints his supporters did, arguing that state party Chairwoman Roberta Lange did not allow a headcount on a disputed rules change. He also argued that 64 delegates to the state convention were not given a hearing before being ruled ineligible.

The state party disputed the Sanders campaign's interpretation of the events. It said some delegates did not show up at the convention and others were disqualified because they were not registered as Democrats in time.

"The Sanders campaign is continuing to be dishonest about what happened Saturday and is failing to adequately denounce the threats of violence of his supporters," the Nevada Democratic Party said in a statement.

Sanders supporters began circulating a picture of Lange on the internet that included her cell-phone number and encouraged others to contact her to express their unhappiness.

Lange said on MSNBC she had been receiving death threats, including many containing vulgar language. Public messages sent to her Twitter account included a barrage of derogatory statements.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Djuric: State border with KiM will never exist for Serbia

BELGRADE — A state border between Serbia and Kosovo-Metohija (KiM) will never exist for Serbia, Director of the Serbian Government Office for Kosovo-Metohija (KiM) Marko Djuric said on Tuesday, dismissing as absurd the announcements from Pristina that a demarcation of borders would be the priority of the next round of the Brussels dialogue.

"For Serbia, there will never be a state border between Serbia and KiM, as it does not exist under our Constitution. For us, that is not a border, but rather an administrative line, and this will be the case as long as this Constitution and people exist," Djuric said.

Djuric told broadcaster B92 that Belgrade was ready to discuss ways to ensure an easier flow of people between Belgrade and Pristina.— *Tanjug*

China accuses US of 'unfair methods' in steel dumping probe

BEIJING — The United States has employed "unfair methods" during an anti-dumping investigation into Chinese cold-rolled steel products and should rectify its mistakes as soon as possible, China's commerce ministry said on Wednesday.

The United States on Tuesday said it would impose duties of more than 500 per cent on Chinese cold-rolled flat steel, which is widely used for cars body panels, appliances and construction.

China expressed "strong dissatisfaction" with the ruling, the Ministry of Commerce said.

"The United States adopted many unfair methods during the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese products, including the refusal to grant Chinese state-owned firms a differentiated tax rate," the ministry said in a statement posted on its website. "China urges the United States to strictly obey World Trade Organisation rules and rectify its mistaken methods as soon as possible," it added.—*Reuters*

Russia says it backs IOC over Beijing doping action

MOSCOW — Russia's sports ministry said on Wednesday it fully supports actions by the International Olympic Committee to bar athletes who dope from competitions, but said clean athletes should not be excluded from the Rio games.

The ministry issued a statement in response to the IOC's announcement that suspicious test results were found in the cases of 31 competitors in the 2008 Beijing games, and that they may be banned from Rio.

"We strongly believe that clean athletes, who have spent years of their lives training for the Games, should not be deprived of the right to participate," the ministry said in its statement.

"Moreover, we are willing to fully cooperate with WADA (the World Anti-Doping Agency) in their investigation and we have officially informed WADA of this." —*Reuters*

Turkish warplanes hit PKK targets in Turkey, northern Iraq, 10 killed

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — Turkish warplanes hit Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets in southeast Turkey and northern Iraq, killing at least ten fighters, security sources said on Wednesday.

The military has been carrying out regular air strikes against positions of the outlawed group in the mountainous regions of northern Iraq, where it has camps near the Turkish border, after the collapse of ceasefire last year.—*Reuters*

India successfully testfires nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile

NEW DELHI — India Wednesday successfully testfired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile that can carry up to 1,000 kg of warhead and hit targets 350 km away, said local media. The Indo-Asian News Service quoted officials as saying the surface-to-surface ballistic missile was fired from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast in eastern India. The trial was carried out successfully by the Strategic Force Command (SFC) and monitored by the scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said the report.—*Xinhua*

Major powers fail to agree new date for Syria peace talks

VIENNA/BEIRUT — Major power foreign ministers failed to agree a new date to resume Syrian peace talks at a meeting on Tuesday, and the opposition said it would not come back to Geneva negotiations unless conditions improved on the ground.

A pessimistic atmosphere pervaded the meeting in Vienna between countries that support President Bashar al-Assad and his enemies, all of which have committed to reviving a ceasefire and peace process that have been unraveling since last month.

In a joint statement after the meeting attended by the United States, European and Middle East powers that oppose Assad as well as Russia and Iran which support him, the powers called for a full cessation of hostilities and access for aid.

In stronger language

than in the past, they warned the warring factions that if they repeatedly broke the truce they risked forgoing the protection of the 27 February cessation of hostilities agreement sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

They also directed the UN's World Food Programme to air drop food, medicine and water to besieged communities starting on 1 June if humanitarian access was denied by either side.

But they did not agree on a date for peace talks to resume. The Geneva talks broke up last month after the opposition delegation quit, accusing the government of ignoring the ceasefire, and recent weeks saw an intensification of fighting, particularly near Aleppo, Syria's largest city before the war.

UN envoy Staffan de Mistura told a news confer-



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L), US Secretary of State John Kerry (C) and United Nations special envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura (R) attend the ministerial meeting on Syria in Vienna, Austria, on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ence there was still a strong desire to keep the peace process moving.

"We want to keep the momentum. The exact date, I am not at the moment revealing it because it will depend also on other facts," he said. He noted that the Muslim fasting

month of Ramadan, which begins in early June, was coming soon.

The main opposition High Negotiations Committee said it was not willing to return to negotiations without a full ceasefire and access for humanitarian aid.

"I don't think there

will be results, and if there are any results they will not be sufficient for the Syrian people," HNC chief negotiator Asaad al-Zoubi told Reuters ahead of Tuesday's Vienna meeting. "The HNC has said that if aid does not reach everybody, if the sieges aren't lifted

and if a full truce does not happen, there will be no negotiations."

After Tuesday's meetings, the opposition said the powers had rebuked Assad by demanding that aid should reach towns his forces were blockading.

"The Vienna Communiqué listed towns where our fellow Syrians are starving under siege and crying out for humanitarian access," HNC spokesman Salem al-Meslet said in a statement. "Assad is not only blockading those towns, but also blocking the path to a political solution, which is the only way to end the suffering."

But HNC member Bassama Kodmani told Reuters the powers must do more to silence the guns: "We cannot be bombed while we're talking about a peaceful arrangement and a peaceful transition." —Reuters

After bombings in Baghdad kill 77, Sadr's forces deploy in some areas

BAGHDAD — At least 77 people were killed and more than 140 wounded by three bombings in Baghdad on Tuesday, extending the deadliest spate of attacks in the Iraqi capital so far this year and driving Shi'ite fighters into the streets to defend some areas.

Powerful cleric Moqtada al-Sadr blamed the government for failing to provide security and hundreds of militiamen loyal to him deployed in Sadr City and five other mainly Shi'ite areas where the worst of the recent violence has been centred.

Islamic State claimed a suicide bombing which killed 41 people and wounded more than 70 in the northern district of al-Shaab as well as a car bomb in nearby Sadr City that left at least 30 dead and 57 wounded, police and medical sources said.

Another car blew up in al-Rasheed, south of the capital, killing six and wounding 21, the sources said.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered the arrest of the official in charge of al-Shaab's security, his office said in a statement, without giving a reason.

Attacks claimed by Islamic State in and around Baghdad last week killed more than 100 people, the highest death toll in the capital in so few days so far this

year.

Security had improved in recent years as sectarian tensions waned and the city's perimeter was fortified. Islamic State, the ultra-hardline Sunni militants who control parts of northern and western Iraq, have not tried to take the capital but carry out increasingly regular suicide bombings there, hitting Shi'ite areas and government targets.

With the latest death tolls, fears are growing that Baghdad could relapse into the bloodletting of a decade ago when sectarian-motivated suicide bombings killed scores of people every week and set off revenge attacks against Sunnis.

This has cranked up pressure on Abadi who is struggling to solve a political crisis or risk losing control of parts of Baghdad

to Islamic State militants. Away from Baghdad, Iraq's military is waging a counter-offensive against Islamic State.

Abadi has said a political crisis in Baghdad, sparked by his attempt to reshuffle the cabinet in a drive to tackle graft, is hampering the fight against Islamic State and creating space for more insurgent attacks on the civilian population.

The bombings also risk adding a dangerous new element to a power struggle within Iraq's Shi'ite majority, which has intensified in recent weeks as the attempts to form a new government flounder. In a statement, Sadr called the bombings "the clearest evidence that your government has become incapable of protecting you and providing you with security". —Reuters



Iraqi security forces and people gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad's mainly Shi'ite district of Sadr City, Iraq, on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES- FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: MYANMAR, **Project:** Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project, **Credit No.:** IDA 55590, **Reference No.:** C3.3

Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) Monitoring and Reporting during Construction for the AIRBM Project

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project. The focal agency, the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) within the Ministry of Transport and Communications is the implementing agency of the AIRBM through the Project Management Unit (PMU) established under the supervision of the Director General of DWIR, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

Under Component 3, the DWIR proposes to undertake a number of projects to provide enhanced navigation for vessels using the Ayeyarwady River particularly during the dry season. The works include Sub Project One (Mandalay waterway) which has designed infrastructure and Stretch One which proposes to assess a number of proposed projects for future investment. The consulting services ("the Services") for Sub Project One and Stretch One include:

Part 1: Preparation of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Sub Project One – the ESIA will assess four options for a 3.45 km guide bund to stop/restrict flow into two anabranches north of Mandalay. The ESIA will also assess the construction of groynes (and an alternative design) south of Mandalay. The designs and modelling will be undertaken by an engineering consultant hired under a separate contract;

Part 2: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for Stretch 1 covering a length of approximately 160 km between Mandalay to Nyaung Oo; and

Part 3: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) Monitoring and Reporting during Sub Project 1 construction.

The overall assignment length is expected to be approximately one year. The preparation of ESIA is expected to be completed within eight months with preliminary reporting on the preferred design within six months. The preparation of the SESA is expected to be completed within ten months. The ESMP Monitoring and Reporting is expected to take six to eight months from commencement of construction in or about October 2017.

The PMU now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consulting Firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- (a) A minimum of five years of experience in carrying out consulting services as a consulting firm in the field of preparing ESIA's; SESA; and undertaking ESMP Construction Monitoring and Reporting, especially in riverine projects, including preferably in developing countries; and specifically in South East Asia;
- (b) At least 2 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past ... years
- (c) Knowledge, World Bank Safeguard Policies or other International Development Bank's safeguard policies and good international industry practices (GIIP) for large infrastructure project in developing countries is essential;
- (d) Knowledge of navigation and vessel requirements would be an advantage;
- (e) Experience working with governments (national, regions, local), development partners, international organizations, local communities, river users, environmental NGOs, and advocacy groups.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants (under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers)* dated July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on the Consultant's Qualifications (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during 09:30 to 16:00 hours, office hours. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 9 June 2016.

Attn: Mr. Win Hlaing, PMU Director, AIRBM Project, PMU Office
Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, DWIR Compound, Ministry of Transport and Communications

400 Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar,
Tel.: +95 92013271, +95 9 5150213, Email: dwir.airbm@gmail.com

With a copy to: component3director@gmail.com; eikyipyarsoe@gmail.com; khinkhinaye155@gmail.com

British paper's 'Queen backs Brexit' headline misleading, press watchdog rules

LONDON — A headline in Britain's top-selling newspaper *The Sun* claiming that the "Queen backs Brexit" was significantly misleading, press regulator IPSO ruled on Wednesday, although the paper stood by its story.

Buckingham Palace had complained to IPSO over the 9 March report, which quoted unnamed sources as saying Queen Elizabeth had made her opposition to British membership of the European Union clear on at least two occasions in the past decade.

Britons will vote on 23 June in a referendum on whether to remain in the bloc, and the suggestion that the popular monarch was in favour of leaving was potentially an important factor in the debate.

"The headline was not supported by the text and was significantly misleading," IPSO said in its ruling, published on its website. "The headline contained a serious and unsupported allegation that



Queen Elizabeth II departs her 90th Birthday Celebrations at Home Park, Windsor on 15 May, 2016 in Windsor, England. PHOTO: REUTERS

the queen had fundamentally breached her constitutional obligations in the context of a vitally important national debate."

Under her constitutional role, the 90-year-old queen must remain politically neutral and she has studiously avoided letting her views become public during her 64-year reign.

The Sun published

the headline "IPSO rules against *Sun's* Queen headline" at the foot of its front page on Wednesday, as well as an article at the bottom of page two that set out what both sides had argued and what IPSO had ruled.

But in a combative editorial, the newspaper owned by media mogul Rupert Murdoch, which

sells some 1.7 million copies a day, defended its headline and said it stood by the entirety of its story.

"Does the Queen back Brexit? We're sure she does," the editorial read.

"Having devoted her life to Britain, we believe (her opinions) are particularly strong about the erosion of our sovereignty by the EU.

"A newspaper wouldn't be a newspaper if it got wind of such views, so clearly in the public's interest to read, and didn't publish them."

The palace had argued that the headline gave the impression that the queen backed the "leave" camp in the referendum debate, a view it described as misleading and distorted.

The newspaper said it was nonsense to say that the queen always kept her thoughts to herself, citing some remarks about Chinese officials she described as "very rude" in a private conversation that was caught on camera last week.—*Reuters*

Europe faces increased Zika transmission risk: WHO

GENEVA — The overall risk of a Zika virus outbreak across Europe is expected to increase in late spring and summer, with 18 countries in particular having a moderate likelihood of local transmission, the WHO Regional Office for Europe said Wednesday.

WHO assessed the risk of an outbreak in 51 of 53 member states in the region and Lichtenstein, based on the combination of two factors: the likelihood of Zika virus spread and existing national capacity to prevent or rapidly contain local transmission.

The report said the risk of local Zika virus transmission in Europe is low during the winter season, the mosquitoes are still inactive. However, in late spring and summer, the risk for spread of Zika virus increases.

While *A. aegypti* is the primary Zika vector, *A. albopictus*, which is present in 20 European countries, has been shown to be able to transmit Zika virus and remains a potential vector

for its spread.

In 18 countries in the European region, there is a moderate likelihood of local Zika virus transmission. Among them, France, Italy, Malta, Croatia, Israel and Spain have the highest risk.

In limited geographical areas, namely Madeira Island (Portugal) and the north-eastern Black Sea coast, there is a high likelihood of local Zika virus transmission.

WHO said these countries and areas should prepare well in order to protect their populations from the spread of Zika virus disease and its potential neurological complications, including microcephaly and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Overall, the risk of a Zika virus outbreak across the WHO European region is low to moderate during late spring and summer. A total of 36 states have a low, very low or no likelihood, owing to the absence of Aedes mosquitoes and/or suitable climatic conditions for their establishment.—*Xinhua*

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Department of Rural Development
National Community Driven Development Project
IDA Grant: H814-MM

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project. The Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, which implements the National Community Driven Development Project, intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of the following individual consultant positions.

The contract will cover for a period of 12 months and will be extended based on the performance of individual consultant, need for the services and the availability of funds.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1. National Finance Assistant | Ref (C12.1) | 1 Post |
| 2. National Senior Finance Assistant | Ref (C22.1) | 1 Post |
| 3. National Training Expert | Ref (C24 & 24.1) | 2 Posts |
| 4. National Gender Consultant | Ref (C31) | 1 Post |
| 5. National Communication Specialist | Ref (C31) | 1 Post |

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites expressions of interest from qualified and experienced Myanmar Nationals for the above positions. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for each position can be requested from the email address below (OR) downloaded from the project page link (<http://cdd.drdmyanmar.org/eng/>)

In submitting their expressions of interest, consultants are kindly requested to indicate the position they apply and the reference number stated above. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments. Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) not later than **06 June 2016 at 16:00 PM.**

The successful consultant will be selected in accordance with the provisions, under the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans, IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011".

Attn: U Kyaw Swa Aung (Director),
NCDD Project Secretariat Office, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Tel & Fax: +95 67 409071,
Email addresses: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

Ecuador hit by 6.7 earthquake; president says no damage

QUITO — A magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck Ecuador's coast overnight in the same zone where a 7.8 tremor killed more than 650 people last month.

There was no report of significant damage from Wednesday's quake, which cut electricity in some coastal areas and sent people running into the streets as far away as the highland capital

Quito, witnesses said.

President Rafael Correa said the epicenter was the fishing village of Mompiche on the Pacific coast, and only some "small damages" had been caused.

"Keep calm everyone," he tweeted, adding there was no tsunami warning.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre also said no Pacific-wide tsunami was

expected from the quake, whose depth the US Geological Survey put at 10 km (6 miles).

The April earthquake, Ecuador's worst in nearly seven decades, flattened buildings along the coast. As well as the fatalities, it also injured around 16,600 people and caused an estimated \$2 billion of damage.—*Reuters*

Citizens post selfies with new policemen

KIEV — The launch of Ukraine's new police patrol force last year sparked an internet craze of citizens posting selfies with newly recruited officers.

Their popularity stemmed not from their uniforms, body cameras and tablets, but the fact they did not demand bribes.

The most visibly successful reform to have emerged from the pro-European Maidan protests in 2014 is now under threat, serving and former law enforcement officials say, accusing vested interests of seeking to obstruct and

discredit the force.

Vladyslav Vlasiuk, a lawyer by training who rose through patrol police ranks to become Chief of Staff of the National Police, quit in March, "exhausted" by the pushback against change, he told Reuters in his first media interview since.

The experience he described shows how fragile Ukraine's progress in transforming itself into a Western-facing free market democracy could prove to be.

The police reform, possibly for the first time in the former Soviet re-

public's history, "showed international partners that we in Ukraine are actually able to carry out some reforms," Vlasiuk said.

Before Maidan, police "would always do what the prosecutors say. Then it changed," he said. "The National Police positioned itself as a separate and equal law enforcement power. Prosecutors did not like it."

"We are seeing the prosecution service chasing patrol officers for wrongdoings. There is now a tension which is blocking the reform of the national police."—*Reuters*

Canada wildfire rages near oil sand facilities, extending shutdowns

CALGARY (Alberta)— A massive wildfire raged near Fort McMurray, Alberta on Tuesday and threatened major oil sands production facilities, forcing the evacuation of thousands of workers and prolonging a shutdown that cut Canadian oil output by 1 million barrels a day.

The fire jumped a critical firebreak late Monday where plants and trees had been removed to stop its spread, moving north of Fort McMurray into oil sand camp areas. Some 8,000 workers were evacuated in the heavily forested northern part of the province.

The wildfire was taking a toll on the province's economy, with one study estimating the lost oil production would cut gross domestic product (GDP) by more than C\$70 million a day.

The uncontrolled blaze covered 355,000 hectares (877,224 acres), up from

285,000 hectares on Monday. The fire on Tuesday burnt a 655-room lodge for oil sands workers about 35 km (20 miles) north of Fort McMurray and threatened other housing.

High temperatures and winds were working against firefighters, and the fire was forecast to move to the east, putting oil operations in its path, officials said.

None of the oil sands have caught fire, and the industry was redoubling efforts to ensure facilities were well-protected, said Alberta wildfire manager Chad Morrison.

"Because of the cleared vegetation, lots of gravel on site and because they have an industrial firefighting service on site that understands this ... we feel fairly confident the sites themselves will be OK," Morrison told a news conference.

The lost Canadian production of 1 million barrels



A wildfire burns near Highway 63 south of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on 8 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

rels a day represents about one-quarter of total Canadian output. Canadian crude oil prices strengthened in light trading on Tuesday and Global oil prices touched a six-month high, with the Al-

berta outages among factors lending support.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said westerly winds were expected to push the fire closer to facilities operated by Suncor Energy Inc

(SU.TO), one of the area's biggest operators, and Syncrude, majority owned by Suncor, on Tuesday.

Suncor started an orderly shutdown of its base plant operations and said its

Firebag facility will move to minimal essential personnel, while Syncrude has evacuated the majority of its workforce to Edmonton but left a minimum staff of some 100 people at its Mildred Lake upgrader and Aurora Mine.

The fire also threatened Enbridge Inc's (ENB.TO) Cheecham crude oil tank farm south of Fort McMurray, but Notley said the fire line built there has held and winds were blowing away from the facility.

TransAlta Corp's (TA.TO) Poplar Creek cogeneration power plant, operated by Suncor and providing power to its site, was also shut by early Tuesday due to the wildfire.

In Ottawa, federal Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr said he planned to have talks soon with energy companies to assess the damage from but gave no further details.—Reuters

Australian minister warns against 'illiterate, innumerate' refugees

SYDNEY — Australia's immigration minister brought border security and immigration to the centre of the 2016 election campaign, warning that resettling "illiterate and innumerate" refugees would strain the social safety network and take Australian jobs.

Border security and immigration are hot political issues in Australia that have swayed past elections and resulted in a bipartisan policy under which asylum seekers arriving by boat are sent to South Pacific island detention camps in tiny Nauru and Papua New Guinea and are deemed ineligible for resettlement.

The number of refugees attempting to reach Australia pales in comparison to those flooding into Europe from the Middle East, and the United Nations has criticised its detention camps.

The conservative government last year pledged to take 12,000 refugees from Syria on top of its 13,750 annual quota. The centre-left opposition Labor Party says it will double the annual quota to 27,000 by 2025 if it wins elections on 2 July.

"They won't be numerate or literate in their

own language, let alone English. These people would be taking Australian jobs, there's no question about that," Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said when asked about the proposed increase in the humanitarian intake quota.

"For many of them that would be unemployed, they would languish in unemployment queues ... and the rest of it so there would be huge cost and there's no sense in sugar-coating that, that's the scenario," he told Sky News late on Tuesday.

The comments drew sharp reactions from Labour and the small left-wing opposition Greens Party, which is arguing for the intake quota to be increased to 50,000 people.

Labour leader Bill Shorten blasted Dutton and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull for lowering the tone of the election.

"Mr Dutton didn't just insult refugees when he made those comments. He insulted the millions of migrants who've contributed to making this a truly great country," Shorten told reporters.

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young called the comments "xenophobic" in a Twitter post.—Reuters

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

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I can't tour in Argentina: Justin Bieber

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Justin Bieber says his Purpose Tour cannot happen in Argentina.

The 22-year-old musician did not explain why he could not perform in the country, but mentioned that his lawyers passed along the verdict from the Argentinian government.

"Argentinian believers I would like nothing more than to bring the purpose tour there but until the legal conditions change there I can't.

"If things were to change I



Pop star Justin Bieber.
PHOTO: REUTERS

would love to come but at this time I cannot. For everyone else in South America I look forward

to seeing you. Argentina I do love you. It is in fact one of my favourite places to tour. I wish this was not the case. My lawyers say it is what it is. Sorry Argentina. I love you," he tweeted.

Bieber found himself in hot water there in 2013 when he was seen as disrespecting the country's flag during a concert, and again last year when an Argentinian judge issued an arrest warrant for him related to an alleged assault of a photographer. The arrest warrant was revoked afterwards.—PTI

Kesha's Billboard Music Awards performance blocked by Dr Luke

LOS ANGELES — Singer Kesha's performance at the Billboard Music Awards has been canceled by Dr Luke and her label Kemosabe Records.

Dick Clark Productions, which oversees the annual awards show, released a statement saying that the 29-year-old "TiK ToK" hitmaker has been barred from taking the stage on 22 May, reported *US* magazine.

"Kesha accepted an invitation to perform on the show and she received written approval from Dr Luke's record label, Kemosabe

Records. "Kemosabe subsequently rescinded its approval following a media report on Wednesday, 11 May regarding Kesha's appearance on the BBMs. Unfortunately, Kesha and Kemosabe have since been unable to come to an agreement for Kesha to perform on the show," the statement read.

Kesha took to Instagram to respond to the cancellation of her BBMs set.

"I was very excited to perform a tribute to Bob Dylan by singing a cover of 'It ain't me, babe' at the Billboard awards this

year. I'm very sad and sorry to say I won't be allowed to do this.

"I just wanted to make very clear that this performance was about me honouring one of my favourite songwriters of all time and has never had anything at all to do with Dr Luke," Kesha wrote.—PTI



Japan-born ballerina O'Neill wins prestigious Benois dance prize

MOSCOW — Dancer Hannah O'Neill on Tuesday

won the prestigious award for the ballerina category in the Benois de la Danse competition, becoming the only second recipient from Japan to do so.

O'Neill, a 23-year-old premier dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet, shared the prize with Alicia Amatriain from the Stuttgart Ballet in Germany. She won the Russian award for her title role in the classic "Paquita" at the Paris Opera Ballet.

Mariko Kida of the Royal Swedish Ballet was the first Japanese ballerina to win the prize in 2014.

Speaking to Kyodo News, O'Neill's mother Sumie, a

Japanese national, quoted her daughter as saying she could not believe she had won and was lost for words. O'Neill, whose father is from New Zealand, was born in Tokyo and lived there until she was 8, according to her mother.

O'Neill began her career with the Paris Opera Ballet in 2011. In 2014, she won the silver medal at the Varna International Ballet Competition.

This year's winners of the Benois award were announced at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. The annual award was created in 1992 to recognise the world's most accomplished dancers and choreographers. Previous winners include French dancer Sylvie Guillem and Swiss dancer and director Maurice Bejart.—Kyodo News

Kim Kardashian wins 'break the internet' prize at Webby awards

NEW YORK — Reality television stars, Hollywood actresses and social media fans came together for the 20th Webby Awards in New York on Monday, where the likes of Kim Kardashian West and Jessica Alba were honoured.

Kardashian picked up the "Break the internet" prize for her social media presence while her husband, Kanye West, who did not attend, was named Webby Artist of the Year.

Alba received the Entrepreneur of the Year award for The Honest Company, which the actress founded in 2011. The annual ceremony honours outstanding online achievements.—Reuters



Actress Kim Kardashian West poses as she arrives for the 20th Annual Webby Awards in Manhattan, New York, US, on 16 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



File photo taken in July 2014 shows Hannah O'Neill (R), turning in a silver-winning performing during the final of the Varna International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria. The 23-year-old O'Neill, a premier dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet, won the prestigious award in Moscow on 17 May 2016, for the ballerina category in the Benois de la Danse competition, becoming the only second recipient from Japan to do so. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Pear-shaped pink diamond sells for \$31.5m at Sotheby's

GENEVA — A rare pear-shaped vivid pink diamond fetched 30.8 million Swiss francs (\$31.46 million) at auction on Tuesday, Sotheby's said, but several other large stones failed to reach the reserve prices set by the sellers.

The "Unique Pink", weighing 15.38 carats and mounted on a ring, sold to an Asian private collector bidding by telephone, the auction house said.

It was the star lot at the saleroom's semi-annual auction in Geneva, with a pre-sale estimate of \$28 million-\$38 million.

"The Unique Pink set a new world record for a fancy vivid pink diamond ... It's the highest price ever paid for a fancy vivid pink diamond," David Bennett, worldwide chairman of Sotheby's international jewel-

lery division, told reporters.

The "Sweet Josephine", a fancy vivid pink diamond weighing 16.08 carats, held the previous record since selling for \$28.5 million at rival Christie's in November, and still retains the price per carat record in the category.

Overall, the Sotheby's sale netted \$175.2 million, "setting a new world record for any jewellery auction", Sotheby's said in a statement. It eclipsed \$160 million set a year ago.

In all, 83.2 per cent of the 488 lots on offer found new owners, but "The Emperor Ruby" was among those stranded, with a bid of 3.6 million francs.

"There were a few stones that were disappointing but overall the sale was a huge success," Bennett said.

A British collection of 29 jewels by French jeweller Cartier sold for \$3.4 million, doubling its low estimate, he said.

A "new world record" was set for a jewel by the late Paris-based jeweller Alexandre Reza — a fancy intense blue diamond brooch surrounded with diamonds sold for \$13.4 million, he said.

"We've made a great effort to put together a sale that we thought was suitable for this particular market which is strong for the right things," Bennett said. "It seems to have paid off."

Ehud Arye Laniado, chairman of New York-based Cora International LLC, which cut, polished and sold the pink diamond, told Reuters in the showroom: "It was the time to sell. It is quite a strong



A model poses with "The Unique Pink" diamond mounted during a preview at Sotheby's auction house in Geneva, Switzerland on 9 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

price. "We think slowly the market is grouping together with people who do believe in strong prices for

fancy coloured diamonds. It is a good sign because we see people who do believe in the resale value of those

stones, like art," he added. "The trend will move to white diamonds." —Reuters

Le Corbusier-designed Tokyo museum endorsed for World Heritage list

TOKYO — A UNESCO advisory panel has recommended listing 17 structures designed by

Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, including a museum in Tokyo, as World Heritage sites, the Japanese

government said Tuesday.

The structures in seven countries by Le Corbusier (1887-1965), one of the

leading architects of the 20th century, include the main building of the National Museum of Western

Art in Tokyo, the Villa Savoye in France, considered the building most representative of his style, and the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh, India.

The endorsement paves the way for a formal decision by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to list the structures at a meeting of the World Heritage Committee in July in Turkey.

Japan recommended the Le Corbusier-designed structures together with six other countries — France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Argentina and India.

If officially acknowledged, the Tokyo museum, the only structure in Japan designed by the architect, will be the country's 16th cultural property registered as a World Heritage site. It is also the first time a recommendation has covered sites in different countries.

The museum in Ueno Park in Tokyo was completed in 1959 as a symbol of resumed diplomatic ties between Japan and France after World War II. The three-story building features the architect's signature style of raising the bulk of the structure off the ground and supporting it by pilotis, or columns.

Past efforts to register his works failed in 2009 and 2011. In the latest and third recommendation, advocates reduced the number of sites to highlight works that had an impact on modern architecture.

Born in Switzerland and later becoming a French citizen, Le Corbusier, whose real name was Charles Edouard Jeanneret-Gris, is known as one of the pioneers of modern architecture along with Frank Lloyd Wright of the United States and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe from Germany. —Kyodo News



National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo on 17 May 2016, designed by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier. It was reported the same day that a UNESCO advisory panel has recommended listing 17 structures designed by Le Corbusier, including the museum, as World Heritage sites. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Entertainment Channel

(19- 5-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:20 pm

- Cartoon Programme " Tales from Earth Sea " (Part- I)

7:00 pm

- International Drama Series

7:40 pm

- International Drama Series

8:20 pm

- Music Programme

8:50 pm

- Horse Cart Driver

9:00 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:10 pm

- Music Programme

9:30 pm

- English Premier League (Review) (Part-II)

9:50 pm

- Myanmar Video

From 19-5-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 20-5-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(19-5-2016 07:00am ~ 20-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:27 | Am | Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | MURAL PAINTING BAGAN |
| 08:38 | Am | Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Myanmar Handicrafts |
| 09:57 | Am | Myanmar Street Food |
| 10:03 | Am | News |

10:26 Am Back To A Paradise (Episode -1)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:26 | Pm | Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-2) |
| 07:54 | Pm | Now in Yangon |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- The Making Procedure of Goldsmith |
| 08:42 | Pm | Up Against The Tide |

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Britain's Peaty wins European gold in Rio warm-up

LONDON — Rio-bound world champion Adam Peaty gave Britain their first swimming gold of the European aquatics championships on Tuesday with the fastest time of the year in the 100 metres breaststroke.

The 21-year-old world record holder, still in hard training and unshaven, then went back into the pool and did it again to help the hosts end the night with another gold in the non-Olympic 4x100 mixed medley relay.

While Peaty's time of 58.36 seconds was well off his 2015 record of 57.92, it was quicker than he had expected given that he was treating the event as a training exercise.

"I'm in one of the hardest training blocks but I can still produce a 58.3 or 58.6 on demand," he told Reuters. "That's a good sign for me."

Peaty will make his Olympic debut in Rio in August as Britain's hottest prospect in the pool. He does not lack confidence.

"It is going to be a good race in Rio because Britain is looking

in a very strong place," he said. "I don't shiver in the pressure, I thrive in the arena so come Rio we can hopefully nail it."

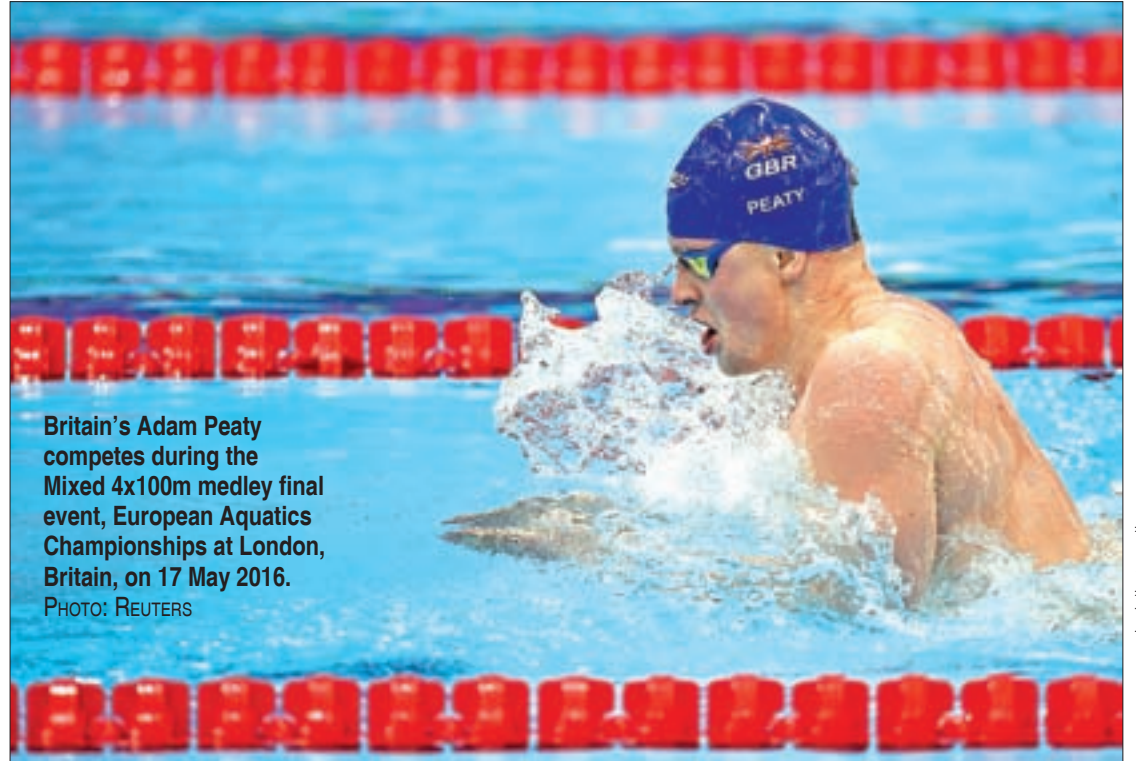
Peaty was well ahead at the turn and touched out 1.37 seconds ahead of compatriot Ross Murdoch, the 2015 world silver medallist, in a British one-two. Lithuania's Giedrius Titenis took bronze in 1:00.10.

The medals represented a better haul in one race than British male swimmers managed in the same pool during the 2012 London Olympics, where they came away with only a solitary silver.

"We are going to be on top strength," Peaty said of Rio.

"My stroke just feels like it's in a really great place. It feels strong and I'm feeling even better within myself. I didn't think I'd go under a minute so to do it twice in one week just shows where I am."

Hungary's Katinka Hosszu, who may enter six events in Rio, took her second gold in two days with the women's 200 metres



Britain's Adam Peaty competes during the Mixed 4x100m medley final event, European Aquatics Championships at London, Britain, on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

backstroke. The world champion won the 400m individual medley on Monday.

France's Camille Lacourt, silver medallist at the 2015 world

championships and fourth at the 2012 London Olympics, took the men's 100 metres backstroke gold in 53.79 seconds.

World champion and re-

cord holder Sarah Sjoestrom of Sweden retained her title in the non-Olympic women's 50 metres butterfly in 24.99 seconds.—Reuters

Manchester United ease past Bournemouth to seal fifth spot

LONDON — Wayne Rooney and Marcus Rashford scored to lift Manchester United to a comfortable 3-1 win over Bournemouth on Tuesday that secured fifth place in the Premier League table.

The game was hastily rearranged after the match on Sunday was abandoned due to a bomb

scare and the first half was very low key in front of a sparse Old Trafford crowd. The one moment of quality produced a fine goal, however, just before the interval when United's French forward Anthony Martial injected pace down the left and Rashford stepped over his cross to leave Rooney with a simple finish. The

18-year-old Rashford provided another example of his burgeoning talent with a clinical finish, his eighth goal since making his debut in February, in the 74th minute and Ashley Young added United's third before defender Chris Smalling's stoppage-time own goal gave Bournemouth a consolation.—Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney and son Kai during a lap of honour after the game during Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bencic, Wozniacki pull out of French Open

PARIS — Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki and rising Swiss talent Belinda Bencic have withdrawn from the French Open due to injuries, the WTA said.

Wozniacki had withdrawn due to a right ankle injury while world number eight Bencic was out with a lower back injury, the WTA said on its Twitter feed.

Wozniacki's injury continues a difficult season for the Dane, who was dumped from the

opening round of the Australian Open and has now slumped to 34th in the rankings.

She suffered another ankle injury last month, forcing her to pull out of the Istanbul Cup tournament and a Fed Cup tie.

Bencic has also had a tough run, losing opening round matches at four of her last five events since the 19-year-old made the final at St Petersburg in February.—Reuters

Sharapova to face anti-doping hearing in London

LONDON — Maria Sharapova will attend an International Tennis Federation anti-doping hearing in London on Wednesday, British media reported, with the Russian facing a possible ban of up to four years for failing a drugs test at the Australian Open.

The five-times grand slam champion stunned the world in March when she said she had returned a positive test for meldonium, a Latvian-made heart medication which was added to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) banned list from 1 January.

Sharapova, the world's highest-paid sportswoman, claimed to have been taking meldonium on doctor's orders for 10 years and had failed to note that it had become a banned substance until hearing of her failed test at the first

grand slam of the year.

She was provisionally suspended on 12 March pending the hearing. Hundreds of athletes have tested positive for meldonium this year but WADA admitted last month that their bans might be overturned due to a lack of clear scientific information on how long the drug takes to be excreted from the body.

The drug's manufacturer said traces could remain in the body for several months depending on dosage, duration of treatment and sensitivity of testing methods.

The ITF's anti-doping program calls for a four-year suspension for a failed test but it can be reduced in various circumstances, such as for first-time offences or if the player shows no significant fault or negligence.—Reuters