



President U Thein Sein drives stakes at Myanmar Arts Center under construction in Mandalay

PAGE 3

PERSPECTIVES

Minimum wage, a curse or cure?

PAGE 8

TWO MYANMAR LETHWEI STARS WIN OVER FOREIGN OPPONENTS

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 30 Aug — Both Myanmar fighters defeated their foreign opponents before a sell-out crowd at the Theinbyu Gymnasium, retaining their championships at “All Stars Big Fights” of the traditional five-round competition Sunday.

Too Too, who won gold at the 2013 Southeast Asian Games Champion title in Muay, and ranked number two in the open-weight category of the Myanmar’s traditional boxing form, landed punches on the belly of Canadian Matthew Richardson, a fighter from the Phuket Top Team, and had badly hurt the Canadian fighter in the fourth-round.

Matthew Richardson who had received a badly hurt on his right fist as his punch landed on the head of Too Too, surrendered after the referee’s counting in the fourth-round.

Tun Tun Min, Lethwei’s current golden belt open-weight champion, knocked Brazilian Jackson Alves de Souza down in the first round with powerful kicks, ending the fighting quickly.

The Myanmar’s open-weight champion had Jackson Alves, who is currently ranked ninth the WBC Mway Thai listings, badly hurt, slumping down to the canvas for two times in the first round.

(See page 3)



Tun Tun Min (Right) kicks Brazilian Jackson Alves in first round of the traditional five-round competition.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Campaign aims to increase social investment in children

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 30 Aug — In an attempt to promote the child rights status in Myanmar, NGO Child Rights Working Group will conduct “vote for children” campaigns in townships across the country, starting September, Daw Ni Ni Hla of NCRWG said Sunday.

The NCRWG was established by Save the Children, World Vision and Pestalozzi in 2009 to protect and fulfill children’s rights with full participation of civil society.

“The aim of campaign is to demand commitments from political candidates to increase social investment in children,” said Daw Ni Ni Hla, who is

also head of programmes, Child Rights Governance and Save the Children.

In the second week of September, the group will give one-day training to its active members interested in the campaigns to be launched in more than 50 townships across the country, she added.

During the event, the trained children will meet candidates standing for the Election 2015 on 8 November in their constituencies. The candidates are expected to prioritize the issue of child rights in their election campaigns.

According to Daw Ni Ni Hla, the main topics of the meeting will include child health care, quality education, drug use, child labour and violence

against minors.

“In addition, the children will urge voters to choose the political parties which will pay attention to the child rights.”

U Aung Soe Oo of Pan Daing Shin, a community-based organization, said; “Many children in Shwepyitha township have often undergone domestic violence and sexual harassments.”

“The main reason is lack of parental care and insecurity in the locality.”

Most children in suburban areas have no birth registration certificates and household censuses, he said, adding that these documents can provide the full protection to suburbanites, he added.—GNLM



A child worker helping owner at a roadside shop. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Merchants, officials prepare successful holding of Mandalay Investment Fair

MANDALAY, 30 Aug — Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a preliminary meeting on holding the Mandalay Investment Fair at its hall in Chanayethazan Township, here, on 28 August.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan expressed his hope for creation of job and investment opportunities through Mandalay Investment Fair, urging departments concerned, MRCCI and social organizations to actively participate in successfully holding the fair.

Director-General U Aung Naing Oo of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration briefed all on the mission and vision of the fair.

Chairman of the MRCCI U Aung Than and senior adviser to Japan International Cooperation Agency Mr Toru Homma spoke about preparations of both sides to hold the fair. Research Manager U Arkar Soe of MMRD submitted the reports on Mandalay Investment Opportunity Survey and Project Manager U Aung Min, on programmes for the fair.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand donated 50 water purifiers, torches and medicines worth baht 3,999,999 for flood victims of Myanmar through Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials on 28 August.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)

Mandalarians mark International Youth Day 2015

MANDALAY, 30 Aug — The United Nations International Youth Day 2015 was celebrated at the hall of Methodist Church in Seiktaramahi Ward, Chanayethazan Township, on 29 August.

After giving a speech, Project director U Ye Lin Maw of Equality Myanmar presented certificates of honour to the youths who participated in voluntary services in relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected areas and victims.

Six students from PhaungdawU Philanthropic School took part in the debate entitled “role of youth greater than the older in nation-building tasks”.

It was also attended by youths from Mandalay's civil society organizations and universities.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Departmental officials gather at rural development meeting

MUSE, 30 Aug — A coordination meeting on implementation of projects by Rural Development Department in 2015-16 fiscal year took place at the hall of District General Administration Department in Muse, northern Shan State, recently.

Head of the Township RDD U Win Zaw spoke about tasks of the department this fiscal year, future plans and spending its funds while heads of Namkham and Kutkai Township departments reported on progress of their townships in the fiscal year. Head of District RRD U Sai Loung Kham gave an additional speech relating to the projects.—Muse District IPRD



Release of fingerlings into Inlay Lake to balance ecosystem

NYAUNGSHWE, 30 Aug — A ceremony to release Hamilton's carp fingerlings into Inlay Lake was held at the bungalow of the lake, Nyaungshwe Township, on 29 August.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, ministers, departmental officials and residents released 200,000 fingerlings into the water.

“As grass and weed are occupying the larger area of the lake, the authorities arranged release of Hamilton's carp into the lake to be able to balance ecosystem,” Head of Shan State Fisheries Department U Tin Tun Aung.

He added, “A plan is underway to release 100,000 more fingerlings of same fish species into the lake in September and October.”

Nay Myo Thurein



Organization for Myanmar workers in Thailand offers relief aids for flood victims

YANGON, 30 Aug — A Mahachai-based organization for Myanmar workers in Thailand recently donated K4 million to buy cooking oil for disaster victims in Ayeyawady Region via Ayeyawady Foundation.

The organization in cooperation with Myanmar-Thai Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association on 26 August handed over relief supplies worth more than K30 million to officials of Ayeyawady Foundation and Tomorrow Journal.

Their donation covered rice, clothes, food and medicines. The relief aids went to the flood-hit villagers in Thapaung Township in the region on 27 August.—MNA

President U Thein Sein drives stakes at Myanmar Art Center under construction in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—President U Thein Sein drove stakes to mark the construction of the Myanmar Art Center in Chanmyathazi township, Mandalay Region, on Sunday, officials said.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, the president was given a progress report on archaeological designs and partitions. In a speech, he described Mandalay as a remaining city of art and sculpture, calling for cherishing the long tradition of cultural heritage as national concern.

The government is having two art centers constructed in Yangon and Mandalay, with the intention of giving entertainment

to the public and bequeathing a legacy of performing arts to posterity.

On completion, the art center will be able to stage formal and high-tech performances and invite cultural tropes of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

President U Thein Sein stressed the need for maintenance of the building, which will be handed over to the arts association when completed.

The Myanmar Art Center (Mandalay) is being constructed on 8.50 acres of land. The seven-storey building with 100 feet in height is designed to house 3,000 spectators.—MNA



President U Thein Sein drives stake for construction of Myanmar Art Center (Mandalay) building.—IPRD

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Almu' Tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu' Adzam Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia XIV, and His Excellency Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary of the National Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2015.—MNA

Kawkareik-Thingan-nyinaung-Myawady highway to promote bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand



Vice President U Nyan Tun and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Somkid Jatusripitak attend handing over ceremony of Kawkareik-Thingan-nyinaung-Myawady highway.—IPRD

HPA-AN, 30 Aug—The 45.45-km Kawkareik-Thingan-nyinaung-Myawady highway linking Myanmar and Mae Sot in Tak Province of Thailand is part of India-Myanmar-Thaiway highway and East-West economic corridor of Greater Mekong Sub-region, Vice President U Nyan Tun told the handing over of the highway at Thingan-nyinaung junction on Sunday.

The vice president said that the highway will pro-

mote bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand while improving transport between Myanmar and countries of GMS and Asian countries.

Chairman of Karen National Union-KNU Saw Mutu Sae Po said that thanks to the highway, Myanmar can share benefits of better transport with regional countries and contribute to shaping the ASEAN Economic Community, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister

Dr Somkid Jatusripitak said that Thailand upgraded the road between Myawady and Kawkareik to the highway for benefiting not only Myanmar but other countries. Thanks to the highway, the flow of commodities will be smoother between Myanmar and Thailand.

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, KNU Chairman General Saw Mutu Sae Po, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Foreign Affairs

of Thailand formally opened the highway.

The vice president and the Thai deputy prime minister unveiled the stone plaque. The chairman of See Sang Co Ltd of Thailand handed over documents relate to the weighing machine to the director-general of Highway Department. The highway was built at a cost of baht 1,166 million with the assistance of Thailand as of 11 January 2012. It was complete in April 2014.

On arrival at Mae Sot in Thailand, the vice president attended the stake-driving ceremony of Thai-Myanmar friendship bridge No 2.

On the occasion, the vice president said that the friendship bridge located on the route of East-West economic corridor among Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar will benefit Myanmar, Thailand and GMS countries.

The vice president and the Thai deputy prime minister drove stakes for construction of the bridge. The bridge will be 270 metres long, with 3.60 km long approach road on Myanmar and 17.25 km on Thailand.—MNA

Two Myanmar Lethwei stars win over foreign opponents

(from page 1)

Some fans left the competition when Myanmar fighter put his Brazilian opponent for the first time in the first round, leaving the message that they could foresee the final result of the fighting. A quick-win of Tun Tun Min did not satisfy the fans who anticipated a big fighting between them.

“Brazilian Jackson is also a good fighter and he also won his opponents with the use of his powerful kicks. But, this time, Tun Tun Min is stronger than him,” said U Chit Ko Ko of Myanmar Boxing Federation.

Myanmar letwai fans voiced to see a big fighting between Tun Tun Min and his rival Cyrus Washington in December at the same stadium.—GNLM

Torrent weakens bailey bridge in Tamu

TAMU, 30 Aug — Ceaseless rain in a district of Sagaing Region for two days has turned creeks into torrents, weakening the brick pile of a bailey bridge on the side of Kanan, officials said.

The raging torrent in Tamu on 28 and 28 August swayed the bridge on the Khampat-Kanan road on 29 August, prompting officials to close the facility to traffic while repairs are under way.—Tamu IPRD



Local people participate in repairing bailey bridge on Khampat-Kanan road.—TAMU IPRD

India's Modi accepts defeat on contentious land decree, will change law

NEW DELHI, 30 Aug — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will let an executive order making it easier for businesses to buy land lapse on Monday after failing to win support from opposition parties in a major blow to his economic reform agenda.

Modi said on Sunday the government was ready to amend the proposed law and criticised the spreading of false rumours that made farmers afraid of the changes.

"I have always said that, in the dispute related to the land acquisition law, the government is open minded," Modi said in his monthly radio address. "I am willing to accept any suggestion for the benefit of farmers."

Modi swept to power last year on expectations he would accelerate an economic transformation that began in the 1990s but is struggling to build support for reforms in parliament, where his party is in the minority in the upper house.

Leaders of Modi's party said they had not given up on

making it easier to acquire land needed to kick-start hundreds of billions of dollars in stalled projects. However, after failing to win support in parliament, they may ask states to pass their own laws.

Modi has had to issue temporary executive orders in the past seven months that allow the government to forcibly purchase farmland for industrial development. He has failed to secure the votes in parliament needed to make the changes permanent.

Land reform is critical for Modi's drive to build new roads, homes and factories and, if stalled, would blight his vision of 100 new 'smart' cities across India linked by industrial corridors and high-speed rail routes criss-crossing the country.

Conflict between farmers and companies trying to secure land for industrial projects has hampered India's plans to expand its network of highways, build mines and other infrastructure, holding up about \$300 billion of investment.—*Reuters*

Cambodian youths urged to prepare for ASEAN integration

PHNOM PENH, 30 Aug — Cambodian deputy prime minister and foreign minister Hor Namhong on Sunday urged youths, who represent about 35 percent of the country's population, to prepare themselves for an ASEAN Community, which will become a reality by the end of this year.

"It's just four months away, on Dec 31, 2015, ASEAN's new historic chapter will be opened, it is the ASEAN Community, which will turn ASEAN into a single market," he said during a

lecture on ASEAN to nearly 1,500 youths here.

The realization of the ASEAN Community will lead to the free flow of goods, services, skilled labor, capital and investment in the ten-member regional bloc. "For skilled labor, it is a challenge for Cambodia, but in the world today, we cannot close the door to live alone; instead, we have to overcome it," he said.

"I hope that you all will further increase your English proficiency, general knowledge and skills in order to compete with

the youths of other ASEAN member states in job markets."

According to the deputy prime minister, ASEAN has the combined population of approximately 625 million, in which about 60 percent are youths aged below 35 years old.

Established in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—*Xinhua*

Arrested Bangkok bombing suspect speaks Turkish

BANGKOK, 30 Aug — Thai police confirmed Sunday that a foreign man arrested the previous day in connection with the deadly bombing of a popular shrine in central Bangkok speaks Turkish but with an accent.

The disclosure lends weight to the theory that the Aug 17 bombing of Erawan Shrine was in retaliation for Thailand's controversial deportation last month of more than 100 Uyghurs, an

ethnic Turkish group, to China.

While police continue to suspect the man's involvement in the attack that killed 20 people and injured more than 120 others, he has yet to make a confession, according to the police.

"He's certainly a member of the group that committed this crime but his exact role is still unclear," said police spokesman Lt Gen Prawut Thavornsiri.

Numerous bomb-making materials were seized from the

man's apartment in northern Bangkok's Nong Chok district during a raid by around 100 police on Saturday. The man has been formally charged with possessing explosives without permission.

The police, who have only identified him only as a 28-year-old foreigner, said he was carrying a Turkish passport that was later found to be fake, and so his nationality is yet to be determined.—*Kyodo News*

Thai police hunt more suspects after Bangkok bomb arrest



Thai police stand guard at Erawan Shrine, the site of the recent bomb blast, in Bangkok August 30, 2015
REUTERS

BANGKOK, 30 Aug — Police probing Thailand's deadliest bombing widened their search for more suspects on Sunday after a foreigner was arrested and stacks of fake passports and bomb-making materials found during a raid on a Bangkok apartment block.

Authorities said police were monitoring about 1,000 mobile phone numbers and checking photographs used in some 200 seized passports to track down

members of an unspecified group they believe orchestrated the Aug. 17 attack on a Hindu shrine in Bangkok. The bombing killed 20 people and stunned Thailand.

Fourteen foreigners, seven from mainland China and Hong Kong, were among those killed in a blast the ruling junta said was intended to cripple an already flagging Thai economy.

Police have not released the identity or nationality of the 28-year-old man they arrested on

Saturday. They believe he was also involved in a second, smaller bombing in the Thai capital a day after the attack at the crowded Erawan Shrine, to which Thais and Asian tourists flock daily.

The man is being held on charges of possessing illegal explosives and has been in Thailand since January 2014.

"We're not only using information about phone usage from this man, but also usage of the group," police spokesman Prawut

Thavornsiri told Channel 3 television.

Prawut did not elaborate on what group that might be.

Police have been criticized for an erratic investigation that had, until this weekend, uncovered few clues about who was behind the blast. No group has claimed responsibility.

Prawut declined to say how many suspects were being sought and said police still believe the arrested man could be the yellow-shirted individual with shaggy dark hair picked out on a surveillance camera leaving a bag at the site of the blast.

Police and residents in Bangkok's Nong Chok district said the suspect rented four rooms on the same floor of the rundown building.

A man and woman living on the same floor told Reuters the suspect did not live alone and they had seen a taller man with similar appearance entering and leaving several times each day. They had not seen the second man since Friday. "We've seen two of them, frequently. One was the arrested man, but there's another, he's much taller," said the man, who requested anonymity because he feared for his safety. The detained man was reclusive but always appeared focused and walked with intent. They said he was often seen on his knees praying outside the room.—*Reuters*

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Huge protest in Tokyo rails against PM Abe's security bills



People hold placards and shout slogans as they gather to protest against Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's security bill outside the parliament in Tokyo, in this photo taken by Kyodo August 30, 2015.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 30 Aug — Tens of thousands of protesters gathered near Japan's parliament building on Sunday to oppose legislation allowing the military to fight overseas, the latest sign of public mistrust in Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe's security policy.

In one of Japan's biggest protests in years - organizers put the crowd at 120,000 - people of all ages braved occasional rain to join the rally, chanting and holding up placards with slogans such

as "No War" and "Abe, quit".

Demonstrators swarmed into the street before parliament's main gate after the crowd size made it impossible for police, out in heavy numbers, to keep them to the sidewalks. A second

nearby park area also filled with protesters.

The rally was one of more than 300 this weekend in Japan protesting Abe's move to loosen the post-war, pacifist constitution's constraints on the military.

"Sitting in front of TV and just complaining wouldn't do," said Naoko Hiramatsu, a 44-year-old associate professor in French and one of the Tokyo protesters.

"If I don't take action and try to put a stop on this, I will not be able to explain myself to my child in the future," said Hiramatsu, holding a four-year-old son in her arms in the thick of the protest.

Abe in July pushed through parliament's lower house a group of bills that let Japan's armed forces defend an ally under attack, a drastic shift in Japan's post-war security policy.

The bills are now before the upper chamber, which is also controlled by Abe's ruling bloc and aims to pass the legislation before parliament's session ends on Sept. 27.

Abe's ratings have taken a hit from opposition to the security bills. Media surveys showing those who oppose his government outnumber backers, and more than half are against the security bills.

"We need to make the Abe government realise the public is having a sense of crisis and angry. Let's work together to have the bills scrapped," Katsuya Okada, head of Japan's largest opposition party, the Democratic Party of Japan, told the Tokyo rally.

The demonstration was the biggest in Tokyo since the mass protests against nuclear power in the summer of 2012, after the March 2011 Fukushima atomic disaster.—Reuters

World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

BEIJING, 30 Aug — The fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament is scheduled to take place from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 at United Nations headquarters in New York to tackle global challenges to peace and sustainable development.

The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament is a unique forum for dialogue and cooperation among parliaments at the highest level. It is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) every five years and supported by the UN.

The first such conference,

the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, was organized by the IPU in cooperation with the United Nations at the UN headquarters in New York in 2000.

It was held in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly with the aim of showing support for international cooperation and pushing forward reforms at the IPU for it to work more closely with the UN system and other major international organizations. Parliamentary leaders from 142 countries took part in the first conference -- the largest gathering

since the establishment of the IPU.

The second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments was organized by the IPU and took place, again, at the UN headquarters in New York in 2005, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

The second conference saw leaders of over 150 parliaments discuss multilateral cooperation and new challenges facing the world in the 21st century.

The third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was

held in Geneva in July 2010 and adopted a declaration on the need to secure global democratic accountability.

The IPU, established in 1889, is the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy, according to the IPU website. The IPU currently has 166 members and 10 associate members. It is financed by its members out of public funds and it is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.—Xinhua

Egypt summons UK ambassador over criticism of AlJazeera trial



British Ambassador to Egypt John Casson

CAIRO, 30 Aug — Egypt's foreign ministry summoned the British ambassador over comments he made on an Egyptian court's decision to hand down prison sentences for three Al Jazeera journalists, state television reported on Sunday.

After the court on Saturday sentenced the journalists to three years imprisonment for operating without a license, British Ambassador John Casson suggested that Egypt's stability should be built on freedom of the press and freedom of expression.—Reuters

Terrorists attack airport radar system in Pakistan's Balochistan, engineer killed

ISLAMABAD, 30 Aug — Armed terrorists attacked an airport's radar system in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province early Sunday and killed an aviation engineer, officials said.

Pakistan Civil Aviation spokesman Pervez George confirmed the attack on the radar

system at the Jiwani airport, some 980 kilometers from Quetta, the provincial capital.

Official sources said electronic supervisor Khalidullah was killed in the pre-dawn attack while another officer, Altaf Hussain, was injured. The injured was airlifted for treatment in the

port city of Karachi.

The attackers kidnapped the manager of the airport, Mehmoodullah, local officials said.

Aviation authorities said the attack caused some damage to the radar system.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The

authorities blame anti-government Baloch insurgents for such attacks.

Officials said that the Jiwani airport in Gwadar district has not been functional for few years.

Security forces rushed to the area and started a search operation for the assailants.—Xinhua

Brazilian weekly says Lula lobbied for Odebrecht in Cuba

BRASILIA, 30 Aug — A Brazilian news magazine has accused former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of acting as lobbyist in Cuba for Brazil's largest engineering firm Odebrecht, which built the container terminal at the Cuban port of Mariel.

In this week's edition headlined "Our man in Havana," Epoca magazine cited Brazilian diplomatic cables about visits to Cuba by Lula after he had left office. During those visits he sought to further Brazilian business interests on the island, it said.

One cable from 2014 reported on a meeting in Havana at which Lula discussed with Odebrecht executives how to secure Cuban guarantees for loans from Brazilian state development bank BNDES to finance new projects sought by Odebrecht in Cuba.

Lula's foundation called the Epoca story "offensive" and "malicious" and "criminal manipulation" of government documents.

"These are normal activities. The ex-president did nothing illegal and was discussing sovereign guarantees for loans to Cuba in a meeting where a diplomat was present," said Jose Chrispiniano, a spokesman for the Lula Institute.

Lula is under investigation for improperly using his influence to benefit Odebrecht, whose billionaire chief executive Marcelo Odebrecht was arrested



Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks during a Workers' Party meeting regarding the National Act for Education, in Brasilia August 14, 2015.—REUTERS

in June in connection with the massive bribery and political kickback scandal focussed on state-run oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA.

Prosecutors say Lula frequently travelled abroad at Odebrecht's expense after leaving office, from 2011 until 2014.

The inquiry puts the legacy of one of Brazil's most popular former leaders on the line at a time when some are calling for the impeachment of his chosen

successor, President Dilma Rousseff, for alleged campaign finance irregularities.

Epoca, owned by the Globo media group, said Lula lobbied to get Cuba good terms for a \$682 million loan from BNDES that went to finance the Mariel port project built by Odebrecht.

The Lula Institute said that, by the time Lula visited Cuba in 2011, the loan for Mariel had been approved two years earlier in contracts "that no alleged lob-

byist could alter." Lula, founder of the ruling Workers' Party, said in a radio interview on Friday he could run again for the presidency in 2018 to prevent his opponents winning the elections.

While still an influential politician, Lula's popularity has been hurt by the arrest on corruption charges of his former chief of staff and the treasurer of his party. Recent polls show the leftist leader would be defeated if he ran again.—Reuters

Kurz: Serbia is important partner to EU

VIENNA, 30 Aug — Serbia is an important partner to the EU, said Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, commenting on the wave of immigrants which Europe is facing. I am grateful to Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic for being a good partner in our cooperation, regarding our proposal for the solution to the problem of asylum-seekers, he said for Tanjug, adding that in this respect the EU has left the Western Balkan countries in the lurch.

It is absolutely unacceptable for Greece to simply let the refugees through to Macedonia and Serbia. That should not be allowed to continue and we must demand from Greece to meet its obligations, but we also must support it, said Kurz. He noted that Austria expects around 70,000 asylum-seekers this year and stressed that in dealing with this problem, a common solution is needed on a European level.

We have managed to coordinate better with the countries in the Western Balkans on this issue, so we could present our stand jointly in Brussels, added Kurz.—Tanjug

American arrested on Sierra Leone "blood diamond" charges

DAKAR, 30 Aug — Spanish authorities have arrested a American man on charges of enslavement and diamond pillaging during Sierra Leone's civil war, a victims' association said on Saturday. Michel Desadeleer, who has US and Belgian citizenship, is suspected of forcing enslaved civilians to mine for diamonds in Sierra Leone's eastern district of Kono between 1999-2001, according to Swiss-based Civitas Maxima.

During Sierra Leone's long conflict, the diamonds were sent to neighbouring Liberia where former President Charles Taylor used the proceeds to finance weapons for rebels. "(The case) will help to raise awareness of the pivotal role played by financial actors in the trade of mineral resources that fuel armed conflicts in Africa and elsewhere," said Alain Werner, director of Civitas Maxima, which has been working for years to document the crimes and assist victims. A Belgian investigation led to a European arrest warrant being issued against Desadeleer earlier this year. He is normally resident in the United States. More than 50,000 people died in the 11-year conflict and many more were left maimed by the notorious Revolutionary United Front. Taylor is now serving a 50-year sentence for war crimes.—Reuters

Turkish opposition leader says talks would secure Kurdish ceasefire

THE HAGUE, 30 Aug — The joint leader of Turkey's opposition People's Democracy Party (HDP) said on Saturday he expected the militant Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to lay down its arms if Turkey resumed negotiations with the armed group.

A process aimed at bringing to an end the 30-year conflict between Turkey and the armed Kurdish group has been suspended since a bombing in the southeastern city of Suruc in July which killed 30 people.

Speaking to reporters ahead of an election rally in The Hague, HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas said renewed negotiations would end the flare-up in clashes between Turkish armed forces and Kurdish fighters near Turkey's southeastern border.

The HDP, most of whose support comes from Turkey's Kurdish minority and which entered parliament for the first time after elections in June, has been at loggerheads with the more radical PKK since the bombing.

The PKK has scorned HDP calls for a ceasefire. But Demirtas said this did not spell an end to prospects for peace.

"What (PKK) meant was: 'if a solution is brought back onto the political agenda, they won't even have to call for us to lay arms, we will do it anyway,'" Demirtas said, adding that a strong showing for the HDP in parliamentary elections in November would increase the chances of resuming talks.

More than 240,000 people from the Netherlands were eligible to vote in the June election, and voters abroad played a key role in the party's poll success.



Selahattin Demirtas, leader of Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), greets the crowd during a peace rally in Istanbul, Turkey, August 9, 2015.—REUTERS

The HDP's success deprived the Justice and Development Party (AKP) founded by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of a parliamentary majority.

Demirtas called repeat elections scheduled for Nov. 1 a "coup" designed to prevent a government not controlled by the AKP from being formed.—Reuters

Refugee children, close to death, found in van in Austria

VIENNA, 30 Aug — Three young children suffering from dehydration and close to death have been rescued from a van crammed with 26 refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, Austrian police said on Saturday.

The two girls and a boy, aged five and six, were found in a dire state when police stopped the vehicle after a chase near the Austrian town of St. Peter am Hart on the border with Germany, a police spokesman said. They are recovering in hospital.

"The emergency doctor told us they would not have made it much longer - two, maybe three hours," said David Furtner, police spokesman for Upper Austria province.

The incident follows the discovery of the corpses of 71 refugees in an abandoned lorry on an Austrian highway on Thursday - victims of an unfolding tragedy as refugees and migrants escaping conflict and poverty in Africa, Asia and the Middle East flock to Europe in unprecedented numbers.

The International Organization for Migration estimates a third of a million people have crossed the Mediterranean so far

this year, leaving from Libya, Turkey and other countries to land in Europe.

Hundreds have drowned in shipwrecks but the recent deaths on land have exposed another horrific side of the people-smuggling racket.

"The driver did not give a damn about the people in the back. We would not transport animals under these conditions on our roads in Austria," said Furtner, referring to Friday's discovery.

Austria lies on the way from poorer countries in southern and eastern Europe where many refugees first land, such as Greece, to more prosperous nations in the north and west.

The 29-year-old Romanian driver of the van found on Friday, registered in Romania, was arrested. The children and their parents were taken to the hospital in Braunau, where they are now in a stable condition.

Among the dead found in the lorry on Thursday, four were children, one of them a baby girl, police said on Saturday. They were presumed to be from Syria - in the grip of a four-year-old civil war - or possibly Afghanistan.

Three Bulgarians and



Police escort suspects in the deaths of 71 refugees found in a truck on an Austrian motorway, in Kecskemet, Hungary, August 29, 2015. — REUTERS

an Afghan arrested in Hungary in connection with the deaths made their first appearance in a court in the central Hungarian town of Kecskemet on Saturday. They were given one month's detention pending further proceedings.

A prosecution spokesman told journalists the truck had left Kecskemet and picked up the migrants near Hungary's border with Serbia, before taking them through Hungary to Austria.

Police hoped to identify the dead refugees by examining mobile phones found on some of the bodies. Searches of backpacks, luggage and clothing had provided few clues apart from one Syrian travel document, said Helmut Marban, a police spokesman in Burgenland province.

Marban was speaking in front of a former customs hall where the lorry was parked on a tarpaulin to catch fluids, with investigators in protective suits

gathering forensic evidence.

Police estimated the refugees could have been dead for up to two days and the truck might have been standing on the hard shoulder of the highway for as long as 24 hours.

"It seems unbelievable," said Marban, asked about how 71 people could have fitted into the medium-sized refrigeration lorry. "At first when they got in they were of course standing, but when we had

to bring them out they were (entangled) all together."

In nearby camps, refugees said the news had left them stunned, but they saw little choice but to flee to Europe.

"We had to walk so much, it was so dangerous, in the forest and in the water," said 21-year-old Qariburahman, who had been on the road for a month before Austrian police picked him up and brought him to the Nickelsdorf refugee reception centre.

"When I came from Afghanistan, about three people died on the way, the way is very dangerous," he said. His journey had cost him \$5,000.

A Syrian refugee in the camp of Traiskirchen south of Vienna said people had no choice but go with traffickers.

"We didn't know what the car was, maybe it's a truck, maybe it's a van. And we had to follow (the trafficker) because in his area, he is the boss," he said, his pregnant wife and baby son close by.

"My wife, she told me, oh maybe we were supposed to be one of them ... maybe it is one of my friends, maybe it is one of my brothers on that truck."—Reuters

Saudi-led coalition air strike kills around 30 Yemeni civilians — residents



A man walks past a truck hit by a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's northwestern province of Amran, Yemen, August 29, 2015. — REUTERS

SANAA, 30 Aug — An air strike by a Saudi-led coalition killed around 30 civilians working around a bottling plant in the northern Yemeni province of Hajjah on Sunday, residents said.

"The process of recovering the bodies is finished now. The corpses of 36 workers, many of them burnt or in pieces, were pulled out after an air strike hit the plant this morning," resident Issa Ahmed told Reuters by phone from the site.

The coalition inter-

vened in Yemen's war in March and has waged an aerial campaign that has rolled back some of the territorial gains of Iranian-backed Houthi forces with the goal of restoring exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.—Reuters

Fire at Saudi Arabian oil workers compound kills two, injures 105

KHOBAR, 30 Aug — A fire at an oil workers' residential compound in Saudi Arabia on Sunday killed two people and injured 105 others of various nationalities, including some who are in a critical condition, the Civil Defence said on its Twitter account.

National oil company Saudi Aramco said the fire broke out in a basement of the Radium residential compound in Khobar. "At 05:45 today a fire was reported in

the basement of the Radium residential compound in Al Khobar which is leased by Saudi Aramco for its employees," Aramco said in a statement. On Twitter, the Civil Defence said "Cars and furniture caught fire in the basement of one of the towers, heavy smoke bellowed, obstructing rescue and fire-fighting operations." Colonel Ali Al-Qahtani, Eastern Province Civil Defence spokesman said evacuation efforts continue to save people from rooftops. Residents said helicopters were seen flying in the area. According to Aramco's website, the Radium Residential Complex consists of eight six-storey buildings and comprises 486 units. Saudi Aramco is headquartered in Dhahran and has more than 55,000 employees. Saudi Aramco has not identified the nationalities of its employees in the statement but it is believed that the compound houses expatriates.—Reuters

Afghan forces regain control of a symbolic district in south

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 30 Aug — Afghan government forces, backed by NATO air strikes, have regained control of a key district in volatile Helmand province after days of fierce fighting with Taliban insurgents, provincial officials said on Sunday. The fall of Musa Qala in Helmand to the Taliban on Wednesday put government forces under more pressure than at any time since most NATO combat troops withdrew at the end of last year, with no sign of violence abating. Helmand province in the south has seen some of the fiercest battles over the course of the war that began almost 14 years ago. British forces lost more than 400 men trying to defeat the Taliban and some 350 U.S. Marines were also killed there.

"A comprehensive operation led by chief of the army staff, managed to retake Musa Qala in which 220 enemies were killed and wounded," Afghanistan's defence ministry said in a statement.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 31 August, 2015

Minimum wage, a curse or cure?

By Kyaw Thura

It is encouraging to hear that the central government has given the green light to the National Minimum Wage Committee to set the daily wage at K3,600 (US\$2.80) for a standard eight-hour work. The committee announced the country's first-ever national minimum wage

on 28 August, saying that all workers of entire industries across the country are entitled to earn the daily wage as from 1 September. The law however does not cover small businesses employing less than 15 people.

It was not easy for the parties involved in making the decision on the wage, given several rounds of negotiations and talks between the government, the committee, labour groups, employers and workers. A law that proposed the introduction of the daily minimum wage received parliamentary approval in 2011.

A wave of labour disputes and protests has since then swept big cities, demanding for better pay and pleasant working conditions. Nevertheless, the initiative is seen as a welcoming sign amid the country's sluggish political and economic reforms.

One good thing about the official minimum wage is that workers can be prevented from being exploited by employers. In addition, they are expected to secure a somewhat socially acceptable standard of living.

All things considered, the establishment of the minimum wage is no doubt an effective tool to fair distributions of wages.

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Tracking the Footprint of the Wrath of Nature in Chin State

Salai Siangawr Vanhnin

Recent natural disaster in Chin State is extraordinary, at least for the Chins, because it is unprecedented in history. Previous disasters were unworthy of mention in comparison with what happened in other parts of Myanmar. It is part of excessive and continuous raining caused by the cyclone Komen which has been wreaking havoc in the whole country making more than 1.5 million people homeless. In other parts of Myanmar flood is the principle cause of disasters. In Chin State, however, landslide is the main culprit. The exception is lowland Paletwa township where flood reigns. Chin State capital Haka has gotten a lot of rainfall, i.e., 31.42 inches, within a week from the 25th to 31st July. This is more than one-third Haka gets in a year. Average yearly rainfall in Haka is about 80 inches while average rainy day is closed to 130 days. Other Chin cities such as Mindat (15.51 in.), Paletwa (42.52 in.), and Falam (17.82 in.) got a lot of rain, too.

At Haka, landslides began on the 26th July but only on small scale. On the 31st, however, a big chunk of the slope of Mount Rung (7,127 ft.) which is called Rungtlang in Chin, slid down to the Resistance Lake which lies at its foot. The Lake itself is but a small pond of only an acre though it has rooted in the hearts of the Chins because it was built by prisoners of 1917 Haka Rebellion. Mud and water have poured down through a creek which originates at the Lake triggering a waterway along the creek down under. Khuabe and Beute villages and Myohaung Ward which lie under

its path are greatly damaged making over 7,000 people homeless.

We three aspirant candidates of a political party (U Zo Bawi, Major Van Thio and I) and a friend (U Sang Cem) have heard all this bad news in Yangon with heavy hearts. We have no choice but to go to Haka on foot to register our names at Chin State Election Commission Office before the deadline of submission on 8th August. We knew that Gangaw-Haka road (86 miles) is greatly damaged and travelers are forced to go on foot from milepost 42 onwards till Haka. We made ourselves ready for this journey mentally and physically. Mental preparedness is more important for us to personally experience the footprint of the wrath of nature in our homeland. We are old physically (I am about to turn 67, U Zo Bawi is 60, Major Van Thio is 56, U Sang Cem is 50 +) but young in spirit and mind.

We left Yangon on 2nd August, 2015 by Major Van Thio's newly bought car. I accidentally made my phone disfunctioned while fetching water from a creek to cool our overheated car near Gangaw. This makes me incommunicado for about three weeks. Very bad in the information age! We left the car at milepost 42 which is a place it could go furthest. Our suitcases and heavier belongings are left with the car. When Gangaw-Kalay road (about 90 miles) is ready to open our driver would come up to Haka through it and Kalay-Haka road (123 miles). At milepost 42 the road disappeared because of landslide. It is about 500 feet wide and 1,500 feet long. We climbed up to about 200 feet

and from there we crossed the crest to the other side and then descended to the road. I heavily leaned on a stick while crossing it. A false step means death. There is no way to come up alive if one falls.

We stopped for a while at Lungcawi village. The village chief told us that this morning they went to a place where a new village would be built because they felt that their village (about 60 houses) is no longer safe. We came across U Zing to who is an engineer with his workers at a worksite with bulldozers. They have been confined to stay here to make the road passable. At Lamtuk village (41 miles from Haka) we stopped for a rest and dinner.

We spent three days and two nights on the road. The first night is at Ruavan village, 33 miles from Haka, which has suffered some damages. The second night is at a working camp at milepost 16. Landslide at milepost 18 is the largest (about 1,500 feet wide) and the longest (about two miles long). Here, the crest is so large and steep that we dared not cross by ourselves. We have been waiting for local travellers for about three hours. At last, Zokhua village chief and his men came to our help. One of the hardest crests to cross is at milepost 16 where we took rest for the night. Here, we are told, that three workers were swept away by landslide while they were exchanging foodstuffs. We requested the campers to cook for us but they refused because their food stock is very low. However, they happily let us to have their leftover food which was enough to fill our empty stomachs. Crossing the crest at milepost 13 is the hardest. The slope is 90 degree steep and is about 300 feet long. We used rope to descend it with the help of

a Burman worker Ko Zaw Min Oo. He carried our belongings to the other side in three shifts. He told us that a worker was swept away by a torrent at this site.

Every step I take is a challenge for me. My knees tremble every descent I make. My heart is about to explode every step I ascend. The stick is my life-saver. Without it I could not make it. Every step I make to descend or ascend makes me angry at the Chin State Government. It has failed to make temporary tracks between landslides and villages. Making tracks between villages is a one-day work for villagers concerned who need only an order to do so by the authorities.

Damages are extensive. There might be more than 50 places where road disappeared. We can see innumerable patches of landslides on mountain ranges with many sizes. Many paddy fields are swept away by torrent of floods. Damages are small in number when we compared with damages in other parts of Myanmar. For the Chins, however, such magnitude of damages is the first for them.

According to initial reports, list of damages are like this: 49 schools, 128 government buildings, 105 miles of road, 73 bridges, 16 churches, 1,707 acres of fields, 1,893 households with a population of 9,177. The damage is estimated to be about 20 billion kyats.

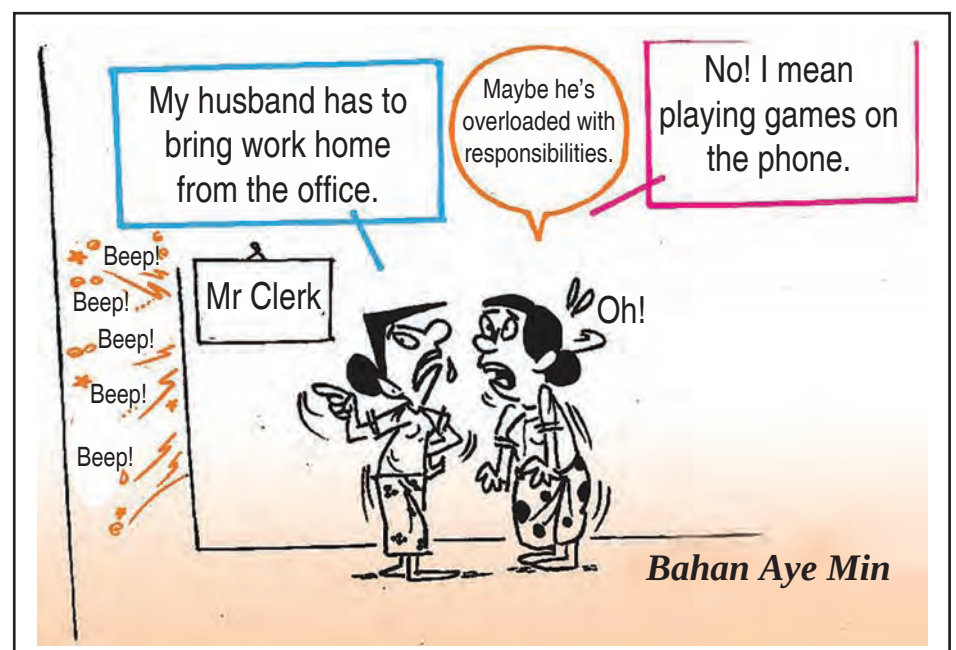
Houses damaged by landslides could be classified as: (1) totally damaged ones, (2) houses being destroyed, (3) houses needed to be dismantled and rebuild at other places. The third type are increasing in number. For example, my own birthplace of Surkhua village, 50 miles south of Haka, has suffered two totally damaged houses, but there are at least 23 houses needed to be dismantled and rebuilt at safer places.

The greatest problem for people of Haka and Thantlang townships (more than 100,000) is the increasingly scarcity of food. Only Kalay-Haka road is operational. Even this is for the Haimual Jeeps. Haimual Jeeps are famous for rough

roads. A Haimual Jeep can carry 50 to 70 sacks of rice. They are products of Kalay Industrial Zone. Many well-wishers who camp themselves in Kalay and want to send rice and other foodstuffs to Chin State are competing to hire Haimual Jeeps that send transport charges sky-high of 13,000 kyats per sack of rice which is almost two times a few days ago from 7,000 kyats.

The city of Haka suffers most in terms of population affected by the disaster. There were 7,417 persons during the first days who were homeless. Later, their number has been dwindling day by day. This is due to people who prefer to live with relatives. There is a silver lining in the cloud. There is a plot already chosen by victims of Myohaung Ward, Khuabe and Beute villages and it is approved by the Chin State Government. A better-built, a better-run, and a better-lively urban centre would come out in the near future.

The author is a retired Director of Myanmar Ecumenical Institute, Myanmar Council of Churches.



ARTICLE

Beware of blatant liars in human society!

Tommy Pauk

According to circumstances and occasions, we might tell white lies among us, but white lies do not hurt the feelings of anybody. The blatant lie is told with no sense of shame. Blatant liars are the ones who do not comply the norms of human dignity and decency or ignore the moral values or ethical teachings of religions. The statement of the blatant liars always deviates from or perverts the truth. The blatant liars are in the habit of breaking their promises, pledge and commitment and hiding their malpractice. Their intent is to take opportunities for their personal gains dishonestly, selfishly and unjustly.

They usually tell lies blatantly in response to the questions about the truth asked by the general public. In other words, blatant liars respond with falsehood to the query concerning political situation in the society. Some administrators or authorities concerned tell lies blatantly in order to hide the truth and deceive the public in some society. This means that they do not frankly or cordially tell what is bad or weak in handling or performing public services. Telling lies is used as their defensive shield or tool whenever they are accused of political abuse or power abuse. Moreover, they try to conceal their mismanagement and inefficiency as well. If the certain government or politicians or authorities concerned tell a pack of lies, the majority of people will be disappointed. As a result, people will not trust them whatever they say or promise in future. The blatant liars are extremely dangerous for the honest people who love integrity and truth. As for the blatant liars, they do not want to see or hear or face the truth. Normally, that sort of behavior or practice is

exercised by dictators or despots in the world. Usually, the totalitarian regimes do not allow their lackeys or followers or minions to tell the true situations or true news about the country such as politics, social welfare, military services, economy, the expenditure of public funds and public wish. They never ever tell the truth pertaining to people's wish while they are in power. Most importantly, they know that they need to hide their misdeeds, malpractice, biases and misconducts.

The totalitarian regimes do not dare to have some interviews with foreign journalists as they are scared of potential questions about human rights, civil rights, and freedom of speech, freedom of press and political rights. In fact, they hate to hear these topics in interview as they are intoxicating with the state power that they have seized without the assent of the vast majority of people concerned. So, they protect their power by making unjust restrictions or constraints on all that stuff. Since they are being blatant liars, there is no mutual trust between the regime and the people concerned. It is normal that all the brutal and corrupt regimes in the world always tell lies to the alien observers or UN agencies or journalists or diplomats pertaining to the domestic issues and the outcome of socio-economic development of the society concerned. Due to their blatant lies, the trust of international community is lessening and these communities hesitate to contribute aids to the dictatorial regimes and their people concerned. Only the humanitarian aid has been provided to aforesaid countries by international community. This situation directly affects the people concerned who are in misery. The illegitimate regimes

in the world normally ignore good reputation, fame, glory and human dignity. However, in world history, most of the brutal and corrupt regimes eventually encountered great downfall in tragedy.

The self-seeking politicians are also regarded as blatant liars because they usually play dirty tricks not for the sake of people but for their interests and benefits only. They are known as mealy-mouthed politicians. This means that they are not willing or honest enough to speak in a direct or open way. The general public must be aware of their blatant lies so that they might not select the wrong candidates for the parliaments. That type of politicians just pay lip service to the supporters concerned deceitfully.

These days, some of the shopkeepers or vendors or bazaar-sellers either at the daily bazaars or at the markets use blatant lies about hike in commodity prices. They usually say the illogical reasons for why they have hiked up the prices of commodity. Such illogical reasons are considered as an obvious-lie indeed. Actually, those vendors are blatant liars as they greedily want to take a huge amount of profit from what they sell. Especially, during times of emergency, they deceive their regular customers or buyers, telling that the goods are in shortage or in scarcity and the transport links are cut off due to flooding or bad weather or natural calamity in some areas in the country. In reality, the sufficient storage of commodities is available in the country and the transport links are not severely damaged. The sellers spread fabricated news in order to take advantage over the regular buyers or customers by increasing the prices of daily commodities exorbitantly and incredibly. In

this case, ordinary people must be aware of the vendors' usual words and illogical reasons for increasing the selling prices. Their inordinate or undue greed leads to economic chaos in the society. This is also an act of profiteering indeed. i.e the act of making a lot of money in an unfair way. They show neither compassion nor sympathy on the customers as they are overwhelmed by extreme greed. The customers should know or notice that the deceitful vendors or bazaar-seller or shopkeepers use blatant lies to take a large amount of unfair profit from the essential commodity items they sell every day. The customers should not believe their reasons for increasing prices of the essential commodity items. The authorities concerned are to be held ultimately accountable for the instability of essential commodity prices.

In human society, the sensible and considerate people regard the act of blatant-lie as a disgusting or detestable behavior. Blatant liars can be found in business circle in every community. Among the businessmen they use to tell lie each other for gaining much more profit and winning over business competition. In this field, the blatant liars intentionally give false statement to other businessmen so that the blatant liars can take advantage the business opportunity. This is a sort of technique that they use it to deceive other businessmen who do the same business. They ignore the moral values and ethical norms

for humans. Being selfish and materialistic, they cannot abstain from telling-lie while earning.

Some people use blatant-lie in social arena too. When they exchange conversation about their social status or background or earning, they exaggerate all that stuff and tell blatant-lies about personal affairs or educational qualification in order to hide their true nature or characters. The relation between them is just a superficial social dealing indeed.

The hypocrites can be called blatant liars. The hypocrites pretend as if they have moral standards or opinions, but they are of complete blatant liars indeed. They normally use pretence and blatant-lie for their personal gain and benefit. A hypocrite is a rotten apple i.e. a bad person who has a bad effect on others in a group or a society. However much the hypocrites pretend or tell blatant-lie, they cannot veil their inner rotten characters or true nature for long. This happens because truth and justice naturally stand on the innocent people concerned. The vast majority of people bitterly discredits hypocrites and regards their acts as disgusting behaviors.

In conclusion, we, the ordinary people must make our own judgment about the discreditable or shameful acts practised by those mentioned above. All innocent, simple, honest and gullible people are warned to beware of those blatant liars in their society!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He had experience in teaching English at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

NOBLE OCCUPATION TO HELP SOMEONE SUCCEED

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

"There is no more noble occupation in the world than to assist another human being – to help someone succeed".

Alan Loy Mc Ginnis

These words were uttered in last week-end in Yangon by Chanida Pachotikam, PhD, LD, MPH, CDT Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University President of Thai Dietetic Association during a seminar on nutrition and dietetics.

No doubt, the global nutritional development month, that is, the month of August is going to end. Such nutritional development activities as exclusive breastfeeding, prevention of goitre, cretinism, under development of brain, promotion of nutritional development of ante-natal, natal, lactating mothers, children under

five etc were among the agenda during the nutritional development month. On the other day, the Global New Light of Myanmar described a news saying Hinthada District Hospital presented "best mother" awards as part of its nutritional development activities, regarding exclusive breastfeeding.

During our student days, we were taught food constitutes such components as carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins, micro-nutrients and water. Healthy nutritious diet should contain all these components proportionately. To meet this end, dietitians play a key role.

"A dietitian is a person with a legally recognized qualification (in nutrition and dietetics), who applies the science of nutrition to the feeding and education of groups of people and individuals in both

health and disease".

Dietitians work in various fields, such as:

- *Hospitals*, and other health care facilities, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health care team.
- They may also manage the *hospital foodservice* operations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers.
- *Sports nutrition* and corporate wellness programs, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness, and health.
- *Food and nutrition-related businesses and industries*, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, or product development, marketing, or product development.
- Private practice, working under contract with health care or food companies, or in their own business. RDs may provide servic-

es to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors, and distributors, or athletes, nursing home residents, or company employees.

- *Community and public health settings* teaching monitoring, and advising the public, and helping to improve their quality of life through healthy eating habits.
- *Universities and medical center*, teaching physicians, nurses, dietetics students, and others the sophisticated science of foods and nutrition.
- *Research areas* in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities, and hospitals, directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

Although there is scarcity of dietitians in Myanmar and hard to find any dietician appointed in

primary, secondary or tertiary hospitals in the country, there is a good number of such diet experts around the world and in the region as well. Japan, for example with a population of over 128 million, has 58,500 dietitians, accounting for a ratio 456 dietitians per million population. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore with respective populations of 222.78 million, 25.35 million and 4.33 million has 3500, 320 and 92 dietitians, fulfilling 15.7, 12.6 and 21.3 dietitians per million citizens respectively, according to figures of Mahidol University Thailand.

It is a pleasure to know that STI Myanmar University in MICT Park is seeking candidates among medical field graduates to link teaching agenda for dietitians very soon.

Looking forward for nationwide health development in Myanmar.

Half of UK manufacturers worried by China, some review plans - EEF

LONDON, 30 Aug — Just under half of British manufacturers are worried by the possibility of a sharp slowdown in China's economy and one in ten are reviewing their business plans, a survey from an industry group showed on Sunday.

EEF said 47 percent of manufacturers were concerned by signs of a slowdown in China, which have rocked financial markets over the past week.

Big manufacturing firms were most likely to be worried, and also more likely to be looking at their business plans to take into account different scenarios, the survey showed.

"Overall, UK factories send only a small proportion of their goods to Chinese customers, but a sharper slowdown would also see a halt to growth in export sales through supply chains in Europe," said Lee Hopley, EEF chief

economist. "The more widespread impact, at least in the near term, is likely to be the knock to already delicate confidence levels. Time will tell whether this takes a further toll on growth across the sector."

EEF said the most directly exposed manufacturing sectors were road vehicles, which account for 16 percent of exports to China, followed by metal working machinery and leather goods.

The survey of 284 companies also showed just over a fifth of manufacturers were still worried about a re-escalation of Greece's crisis.

Manufacturing has been one of the weak spots of Britain's strong economic recovery this year. Official figures last week showed manufacturing output slipped 0.3 percent in the second quarter as the economy overall expanded 0.7 percent.—Reuters



Apartment towers are seen in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen August 28, 2015.—REUTERS

Facebook must obey German law even if free speech curtailed: minister



A Facebook logo reflected in the eye of a woman is seen in this picture illustration taken in Skopje November 6, 2014.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 30 Aug — Facebook will have to abide by German laws banning racist sentiment even if it might be allowed in the United States under freedom of speech, Justice Minister Heiko Maas said in an interview with Reuters.

Maas, who has accused Facebook (FB.O) of doing too little to thwart racist and hate posts on its social media platform, said that Germany has zero tolerance for such expression and expects the U.S.-based company to be more vigilant.

"One thing is clear: if Facebook wants to do business in Germany, then it must abide by German laws," Maas told Reuters.

"It doesn't matter that we, because of historical reasons, have a stricter interpretation of freedom of speech than the United States does.

"Holocaust denial and inciting racial hatred are crimes in Germany and it doesn't matter if they're posted on Facebook or uttered out in the public on the market square," he added.

Maas sent a letter to Facebook public policy director Richard Allan in Dublin saying he received many complaints from users that their protests on racist posts have been ignored. He suggested meeting in Berlin on Sept. 14.

Maas is a leader of the

center-left Social Democrats (SPD). The party faced a flood of racist emails, phone calls and bomb threat after its chairman Sigmar Gabriel denounced an anti-refugee "mob" behind anti-refugee violence in the eastern town of Heidenau.

The town near Dresden was the scene of violent clashes last weekend as far-right militants, protesting against the arrival of around 250 refugees at a local shelter, pelted police with bottles and rocks, some shouting "Heil Hitler".

"The internet isn't a place where laws are ignored, where indictable comments can be spread with impunity," Maas said, adding he found it appalling that some were using Facebook to spread hatred against refugees and the Germans helping them.

"There's no scope for misplaced tolerance towards internet users who spread racist propaganda. That's especially the case in light of our German history."

A spokeswoman for Facebook said the company took his concerns seriously and it was interested in meeting the justice minister. Maas said he was looking forward to the meeting.

"It's in Facebook's own inherent interest that it is not used as a platform for racist content," he said.—Reuters

Europe fails on electronics recycling goals

OSLO, 30 Aug — Only a third of Europe's electronic waste is properly recycled, with vast numbers of cellphones, computers and televisions illegally traded or dumped, a study led by the United Nations and INTERPOL said on Sunday.

Sweden and Norway were close to European targets of collecting and recycling 85 percent of all electrical and electronic waste, at the top of a ranking in which Romania, Spain and Cyprus were bottom with less than 20 percent, it said.

European rules demand recycling of "e-waste", products with a plug or a battery, to recover metals such as gold or silver and avoid release of toxins such as lead or mercury.

Overall, 35 percent of the continent's e-waste was properly recycled in 2012, it said. The report dismissed past suggestions that most gets illegally shipped to African nations, such as Nigeria and Ghana, and repaired to get a new lease of life.

"Most of the illegal e-waste trade is taking place next door rather than far away in Africa," said Jaco Huisman of the United Nations University, scientific coordinator of the project that included police agency INTERPOL and other partners.

"Mismanagement is occurring everywhere," he told Reuters. In Europe "there is a lot of theft, scavenging ... and quite a significant amount going into the waste bin."

A broken fridge, for instance, is valuable scrap mainly because of copper in its compressor. Often the compressor get ripped out and the rest dumped. Such theft of valuable components means compliant processors in Europe lose up to 1.7 billion euros (\$1.90 billion) a year, the report estimated. Overall, it said 3.3 million tonnes of 9.5 million tonnes of e-waste generated in Europe in 2012 was properly discarded and recycled. Only about 1.3 million were exported, with the rest recycled in Europe outside regular programs or dumped.

Ioana Botezatu, an environmental expert at the international police agency INTERPOL, said prosecutions were rare although some nations have strict penalties for environmental crimes.

The report's recommendations include better police cooperation, more education of consumers about recycling, and a ban on cash transactions in the scrap metal trade.

One problem is making people aware of recycling centers. "Consumers don't know where to find them," said Pascal Leroy, secretary-general of the Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Forum which also contributed to the report.—Reuters

US consumer spending increases moderately in July

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — US consumers' income and expenditures increased moderately in July, indicating the inflation run consistently below the Federal Reserve's target.

Personal income increased 0.4 percent in July following the

same growth in the previous month. Personal spending increased 0.3 percent after rising at the same rate in June, the Commerce Department said on Friday.

Personal saving rate continued rising in the month,

reflecting consumers' caution on spending. The personal saving rate rose to 4.9 percent in July from June's 4.7 percent.

The price index for the personal consumption expenditure (PCE), a gauge for the inflation level preferred by the Federal

Reserve, increased 0.1 percent in July, compared with an increase of 0.2 percent in June. The PCE price index, excluding food and energy, increased 0.1 percent in July, the same increase as in June.

Both the headline and core

PCE index have been below the central bank's 2 percent target for years. The Fed chair Yellen said in her recent testimony to the Congress that low oil prices and ongoing employment gains should continue to bolster consumer spending.—Xinhua

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Sleep-deprived kids are more tempted by food

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — Children who don't get enough sleep might be more tempted by food, a new study suggests.

Five-year-olds who slept less than 11 hours a night were more eager to eat at the sight or reminder of a favorite snack, compared to those who slept longer, researchers reported in the *International Journal of Obesity*.

The children who slept less than 11 hours at night also had a higher body mass index — a measure of weight in relation to height — than those who slept 11 hours or more. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 11 to 12 hours of sleep for pre-school children.

"There is now accumulating evidence in both children and adults to suggest that short or insufficient sleep increases reward-driven ('hedonic') eating," said Laura McDonald, the study's lead author and a researcher at University College London, in email to Reuters Health.

"This is, of course, a concern," she added, "given that we live in a modern 'obesogenic' environment" where tasty, high-calorie foods "are widely available and cheap to consume."

Previous studies have shown that too little sleep significantly increases the chances that a child will be overweight or obese, McDonald and her team point out. But less was known about how sleep affects daily calorie intake.

"Some studies using brain imaging in adults have shown that sleep re-



Travelers wait at Penn Station in New York, November 21, 2012, on the eve of Thanksgiving. REUTERS

striction increases responsiveness in reward centers of the brain in response to images of palatable food . . . however, no studies in children have examined whether sleep changes food responsiveness," noted McDonald.

The new study involved 1,008 five-year-olds born in 2007 in England and Wales. The researchers had mothers answer a questionnaire about their youngsters' responsiveness to food cues and their behavior toward food when they were presumably full, soon after eating.

The average sleep duration for the children in the study was 11.48 hours.

Among kids who slept less than 11 hours a night, food responsiveness was 2.53 on a scale of 1 to 5, compared to 2.36 for those who slept 11 to 12 hours, and 2.35 for those who got

at least 12 hours of sleep a night. "In children who do not get enough sleep at night, limiting exposure to palatable food cues in the home might be helpful at preventing overconsumption," McDonald said.

The study found no link between sleep duration and whether kids were still willing to eat when they were full.

While the study can't prove that less sleep causes more eating, McDonald said another possibility is that the reverse might be true.

"It is definitely a possibility that food responsiveness might impact sleep behavior," she said. "For example, it could be that children who are more food responsive are also more difficult to settle at night (when adults or older children might be eating)."

Emerson Wickwire, director of the Insomnia

Program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, told Reuters Health by email that the study adds a new twist to research showing sleep is a risk factor for obesity.

"The current study suggests a new potential explanation (hedonic eating) for weight gain among children who sleep less . . . in other words, kids in the study who slept less were more susceptible to unhealthy food cues in the environment," said Wickwire, who was not involved in the study.

Wickwire said the study also showed the importance of sleep for children. "We know that parents have a huge influence on the sleep patterns of five-year-olds. So really, it's incumbent on parents to make sure their kids are getting enough sleep," said Wickwire, a board-certified sleep specialist.—Reuters

European heart experts okay longer use of blood thinners

LONDON, 30 Aug — European heart experts on Saturday endorsed the potential use of multiple blood thinning drugs for heart attack patients beyond one year, in a move that may boost demand for AstraZeneca's Brilinta.

New European Society of Cardiology (ESC) guidelines state for the first time that use of so-called P2Y12 inhibitors in addition to aspirin beyond one year "may be considered after careful assessment of the ischaemic and bleeding risks of the patient".

The move follows an assessment of two large clinical trials, known as PEGASUS and DAPT, showing that prolonged dual drug treatment can reduce the risk of repeat heart attacks or strokes in patients with previous heart problems.

Plavix, which was developed by Sanofi and Bristol-Myers Squibb and is now available as a cheap

generic, is the most widely used P2Y12. But Brilinta has shown additional benefits and AstraZeneca is working to ramp up its use.

Following the success of the PEGASUS trial, the British drugmaker is hoping for US Food and Drug Administration approval for extended use of Brilinta as early as next week.

Giving Brilinta to patients who had a heart attack over a year ago could more than double the number of people eligible for the medicine.

Growing Brilinta is a top priority for AstraZeneca, which has forecast that annual sales of the drug could reach \$3.5 billion by 2023. The new ESC guidelines, announced at the organization's annual meeting in London, also allow for shortened dual drug use of just three to six months, if patients are at high risk of bleeding, as well as extended use up to 30 months.—Reuters

India conducts orbit raising of communication satellite

NEW DELHI, 30 Aug — India's state-owned space agency Saturday said it has successfully done the first orbit raising of the country's latest communication satellite GSAT-6.

"The first orbit raising operation of GSAT-6 was successfully completed by firing the Apogee Motor for 3,385 seconds at 8.35 hrs (local time) on August 28," the Indian Space Re-

search Organization said.

It added, "Realized orbit is 8,408 km (perigee height) by 35,708 km (apogee height) with an inclination of 7.5 degree and an orbital period of 13 hours, 15 minutes and 24 seconds." The space agency had Thursday successfully launched GSAT-6 on board the GSLV-D6 rocket from the southern spaceport of Sriharikota.—Xinhua

Alnylam, Medicines cholesterol drug lasts months after one shot

LONDON, 30 Aug — A new drug in early development cuts cholesterol as much as two potent injections recently cleared for sale but lasts much longer, meaning it may need to be given only every three to six months, initial findings suggest.

Results with Alnylam Pharmaceuticals' and Medicines Co's experimental product ALN-PCSsc highlight the competition for a market tipped to generate billions of dollars in sales.

Unlike rival antibody-based PCSK9 medicines that work in the

blood, the new under-the-skin injection is a first-in-class treatment that stops synthesis of the protein which is linked to "bad" LDL cholesterol in the liver. Targeting PCSK9 is a hot area for drug companies seeking to cut heart risks for millions of people who don't benefit from conventional statin drugs.

Amgen's Repatha and a rival product, Praluent, from Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, are each expected to generate more than \$2 billion a year in sales by 2020, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Pfizer also has a

PCSK9 drug in late-stage trials, and is experimenting with an oral pill.

Alnylam and Medicines Co's product will be relatively late to the party, as it is unlikely to go on sale before 2020 even if subsequent late-stage studies are successful, but its reduced injection frequency could make it an attractive option.

Results from 69 patients in a Phase I trial, reported at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) congress on Sunday, found a single dose of 300 mg reduced LDL by just over 50 percent at 12 weeks, similar

to the 50-60 percent seen with antibody drugs, and the reduction was still 44 percent after 140 days.

"We're not quite sure exactly how long this stuff lasts but we know it is more than 140 days for many patients," Medicines Co Chief Executive Clive Meanwell told Reuters.

"The ability to control LDL cholesterol with an injection every three to six months will mean patients can get their cholesterol checked while doctors decide if they need another shot, which should improve adherence."

ALN-PCSsc was gen-

erally well tolerated with no significant adverse events, though bigger safety and efficacy studies are needed. Medicines Co plans to start a Phase II study by end-2015 and a final-stage Phase III trial by end-2017.

The new drug uses a novel approach known as RNA interference, or gene silencing, to stop the synthesis of PCSK9, giving it the ability to knock down the protein with an injection administered once-quarterly or possibly bi-annually.

"It is a follower, but really it's more of a next-generation idea," said Meanwell. Cost is a major issue

for PCSK9 drugs, with Repatha and Praluent priced at more than \$14,000 a year, before discounts. Meanwell said the new drug would probably be cheaper to make but its price would be determined by the value it offered.

Jefferies analysts currently model peak ALN-PCSsc sales of \$980 million, after applying a 50 percent risk discount because the drug is still at an early stage.

Shares in Medicines Co and Alnylam rose 6 and 4 percent respectively on Friday ahead of the ESC meeting.—Reuters

Hurricane Ignacio gains strength but expected to bypass Hawaii

HONOLULU, 30 Aug — Hurricane Ignacio intensified as it blew across the Pacific on a route likely to bypass Hawaii on Saturday, said the Central Pacific Hurricane Center of the National Weather Service.

With winds gusting up to 115 miles per hour (185 kmph), the hurricane centered 835 miles (1,344 km) southeast of Honolulu and 625 miles (1,006 km) south east of Hilo was moving northwest at 8 miles per hour (13 kmph), said center spokesman Neil Honda.

“It just became a hurricane from a tropical storm,” Honda said, noting the weather became fierce enough to be classified a hurricane at 5 a.m. Pacific on Saturday. “It will just pass by the islands,” Honda said, noting it could blow by later on Saturday morning. “There might be some wind and surf.”

Sunday into Monday waves as high as 20 feet (4 meters) were expected, along with sustained winds of 39 miles per hour (63 kmph), he said.

Hawaii officials urged residents to prepare in the event the storm hits the island early next week. Governor David Ige signed an emergency proclamation on Friday freeing up funds for disaster relief and allowing the suspension of certain laws that could impede “emergency functions”.

Farther away than Ignacio, Hurricane Jimena in the Pacific Ocean about 1,900 miles (3,058 km) to the southeast of the Big Island of Hawaii was moving to the west-northwest at a speed of 9 miles an hour (14 km/h), according to the National Weather Service. The Category Four hurricane poses no immediate threat to land, according to the Weather Service. It is expected to remain a major hurricane through Monday.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A group of people wearing full solid-coloured bodysuits walk along a promenade as they take part in a street art performance in Bat Yam, near Tel Aviv, Israel August 29, 2015. Some 40 people participated on Saturday in the performance, initiated by a group of artists called Prizma Ensemble, as part of the city's annual international street art and street theatre festival. The group says the performance deals with concepts of identity and movement in public spaces. —REUTERS

French PM booed by young Socialists as party split over pro-business policy

LA ROCHELLE, (France), 30 Aug — Young Socialist Party members booed the French prime minister at a party dinner on Saturday, calling for the resignation of his economy minister, whom they accuse of favouring business over Socialist ideals, participants said on Sunday.

The young Socialists are known to be well to the left of the party mainstream and others did not join in with their jeering. But the hecklers are not the only ones who object to the government's economic policy that includes tens of billions of tax cuts for businesses.

Many hardcore PS members are uneasy about Economy Minis-

ter Emmanuel Macron, who epitomises the pro-business approach adopted by President Francois Hollande at the beginning of 2014.

France's economy slowed to a standstill in the second quarter and pressure for Hollande to change tack is growing as parties begin to gear up for the 2017 presidential elections.

“They shouted ‘Macron resign’,” party member Marise Faye said of a group of youths at the Socialist Party's (PS) annual end-of-summer meeting, which is held behind closed doors.

While Faye was not one of the hecklers, she became uneasy when asked what she thought of Macron, shaking her head when

asked again if she liked him.

Macron on Thursday criticised Socialists' treasured 35-hour working week saying the party had been mistaken in thinking that France would fare better if people worked less, a move decried as a “provocation” by PS secretary-general Jean-Christophe Cambadélis.

A party spokeswoman confirmed there had been “a few boos” from members of the party's youth group when Prime Minister Manuel Valls walked through the room. The jeering did not last long, those attending at the dinner said.

Macron did not take part in the three-day PS meeting in La

Rochelle, a town on the Atlantic coast, but the former banker turned economy minister was the focus of many discussions.

Hollande has managed to contain rebellion in PS ranks over his policies, but discontent persists, and backbenchers keep pressing for fewer tax cuts for businesses and more help for households.

Hollande and Prime Minister Manuel Valls have said they would stick to their policy of putting a lid on public spending, which is required to meet EU budget targets. However, Hollande showed he is willing to compromise when he announced that the 2016 budget would contain tax cuts for households.—Reuters

Ten years later, “unbowed” New Orleans reflects on Hurricane Katrina disaster

NEW ORLEANS, 30 Aug — From the Lower Ninth Ward to the Superdome, New Orleans observed the 10th anniversary of devastating Hurricane Katrina, paying tribute to its victims and homage to the city's resilience in the face of disaster.

It was the culmination of a week of reflection about a storm that left 80 percent of the Louisiana city famed for its Mardi Gras under water and displaced 130,000 residents.

On Saturday, dignitaries

made speeches to honor the 1,500 who died, brass bands marched through the streets and neighbors gathered for block parties across New Orleans, where the mood shifted in turns from somber to reflective to celebratory.

“It is kind of bittersweet. We want to celebrate because we are still here, but a lot of people are not,” said Natasha Green, 36, a resident of the wrecked Lower Ninth Ward at the time of the storm. “It is important to remember what we went through here.”

A decade after Katrina, while residents and visitors alike said it was difficult to deny the rebound that New Orleans has achieved, there was also recognition that the poorest districts, like the Lower Ninth, have lagged.

The day began with Mayor Mitch Landrieu leading a somber tribute for the 83 “forgotten” victims whose unclaimed bodies lie in mausoleums at the Hurricane Katrina Memorial, housed in one of the city's historic above-ground cemeteries. Thirty of those bodies

remain unidentified.

“Though they are unnamed, they are not unclaimed because we claim them,” Landrieu said on a clear morning reminiscent of the calm before storm's landfall on Aug. 29, 2005.

“This has been 10 years of struggle,” said the mayor, who was joined by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and other dignitaries. “But New Orleans is unbowed and unbroken.”

Across town, hundreds gathered in the Lower Ninth Ward on a

grass verge abutting the Industrial Canal levee that was breached 10 years ago, unleashing some of the worst flooding. Some locals wore traditional Mardi Gras parade dress including colorful head-dresses. Vendors sold soft drinks and beer from large coolers. The mood started out reflective but not downbeat. There was also an undercurrent of anger over the lagging redevelopment of the Lower Ninth, where empty lots and the shells of destroyed houses are still common sights.—Reuters

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Ministry of Industry Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries Notice Inviting Tenders for ISO Certification

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries invites Tender in bid from internationally recognized ISO Certification Bodies for performing Third Party Assessment/ Audit and providing the ISO 14001:2004 UKAS (England) and ISO 9001:2008 UKAS (England) Certification to manufacturing of pharmaceutical at Pharmaceuticals Factory (Insein). The proposal, complete in all respects, shall be submitted to **Deputy Minister's Office, Office No (37), Nay Pyi Taw, Ministry of Industry**. The Tender closing date is **21st, September, 2015**. The detail information concerning the tender documents can be obtained from the following address within official time at working days:

Planning Department
Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries
Office No (37), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 408140 , 408380, 408195

Ministry of Industry Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries Invitation to Tender

Tenders are invited for the establishment of Quality Management System (QMS) and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) system for Anti Snake Venom Production Plant Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), in accordance with PIC/s GMP Guide Lines and for the development of a Validation Master and Validation Program.

Tenders are to be delivered by hand to : Deputy Minister's Office, Office No(37), Ministry of Industry not later than 16:00 hours local time on 21. 9. 2015.

Tenders received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Detail information can be obtained from the following address during official hours at working days:

Planning Department
Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries
Office No (37) Nay Pyi Taw
Ph : 067408140, 067408380, 067408195

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Erika no longer a tropical storm, loses steam over Cuba

MIAMI, 30 Aug — Erika, a tropical storm that killed 20 people on the Caribbean island of Dominica and at least one person in Haiti, fell apart on Saturday over eastern Cuba, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

Erika's maximum sustained winds had dropped to 35 mph (56 kph), just below the tropical storm threshold, the Miami-based hurricane center said in a Saturday forecast advisory.

Still posing a threat of wind gusts and flooding in Cuba and Florida, the remnants of Erika were now expected to move over central Cuba, potentially providing welcome relief from a drought, before heading out into the Gulf of Mexico and skirting South Florida.

The NHC said the weather system could still regenerate into a tropical storm before reaching the northwest Florida Panhandle.

Florida Governor Rick Scott, who declared a state of emergency on Friday, said officials were closely watching the forecasts. "We know that when any weather

system enters the Gulf it can bring a lot of rain to Florida," he said in a press release.

Forecasters have described Erika, the fifth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, as unusually hard to predict due to disruption from wind patterns and interaction with mountainous terrain.

In impoverished Haiti, at least one man was killed in a mudslide in the town of Carries. His corpse lay in the remains of his mountainside shack.

"Thirteen houses were completely washed away

last night," said Brice Lefils, the principal of a local school.

However, Erika's sustained winds dropped to 45 mph (72 kph) as it moved over the capital, Port-au-Prince, on Friday night, the NHC said. Haiti is acutely vulnerable to landslides due to widespread deforestation of its hillsides.

Dominica in the eastern Caribbean was the island worst-affected by Erika, with 20 killed and some still missing in swollen rivers and rain-triggered landslides that swept away homes,



Residents stand by the remains of houses affected by a mudslide caused by Tropical Storm Erika in Carries, Haiti, August 29, 2015.—REUTERS

roads and bridges.

Dominica's prime minister, Roosevelt Skerit described the loss of life and economic damage as

"monumental", with some communities cut off on the small, mountainous island with a population of about 72,000.—Reuters

Rachel Platten tops British singles chart for first time

LONDON, 30 Aug — US singer Rachel Platten scored her first Number 1 on the British singles charts on Friday with “Fight Song”, the Official Charts Company said, while Britain’s Jess Glynne went straight to the top of the album charts with “I Cry When I Laugh.”

Fight Song climbed 67 places since last week and has proven a big hit across the globe, entering the Top 10 in the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Belgium.

Platten’s first Top 40 hit ended the week narrowly ahead of Felix Jaehn’s “Ain’t Nobody (Loves Me Better),” with last week’s Number 1, Glynne’s “Don’t Be So Hard On Yourself” falling to Number 3.

Calvin Harris & Dis-

ciples’ “How Deep Is Your Love” at Number 4 took the title of the most streamed track for a third week running, racking up 2.4 million listens in the last seven days.

Glynne’s first album, which includes her five Number 1 singles, had sales of just under 60,000, giving her the second-biggest opening week of any debut record in 2015.

Last week’s Number 1 “The Very Best of Cilla Black” slipped into second place, and Bon Jovi’s 13th album “Burning Bridges” entered the charts at Number 3.

The highest climber of the week was English singer Ella Eyre whose new single “Good Times” climbed 143 places to the 37th spot.—Reuters



US singer Rachel Platten

Salman Khan wishes Nagarjuna, unveils his son’s debut movie teaser

MUMBAI, 30 Aug — Superstar Salman Khan has wished Telugu actor Nagarjuna on his 56th birthday and unveiled the first teaser of his son Akhil’s debut film.

The 49-year-old “Bajrangi Bhaijaan” actor took to Twitter to give birthday greetings to the “Siva” star and also wished the debutantes, Akhil and Sayesha Saigal, grand niece of veteran actor Dilip Kumar, for their upcoming film “Akhil”.

“Happy bday @iamnagarjuna #AAA & best of luck for future @akhilakkineni8 & Sayyeshaa #thelegacyliveson Watch the promo,” he tweeted, along with the link of the teaser.

Nagarjuna, reverted by writing, “#AAA Thanks Salman for the gesture/here we go, Akhils first look, may the power of JUA be with you!!”

Akhil, also tweeted to the “Kick” star and thanked him.

“@BeingSalmanKhan thank you so much Bhai this means more than the world to me. No words...”

Earlier, Khan had visited actor-politician Chiranjeevi’s grand 60th birthday bash, along with other celebrities including Kamal Haasan, Sridevi, Abhishek Bachchan and mother Jaya Bachchan.

Sayesha will make her Bollywood debut next year with Ajay Devgn’s “Shivaay”.

Directed by VV Vinayak, “Akhil” is produced by actor Nithin Reddy.—PTI

Robert Downey Jr celebrates 10th wedding anniversary



Robert Downey Jr

LOS ANGELES, 30 Aug — Hollywood superstar Robert Downey Jr celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary by posting a sweet message on Instagram.

The 50-year-old actor is celebrating 10 years of wedded bliss with film producer Susan Downey, 41, and took to the photo-sharing site to express his joy.

Posting the sweet picture of them together, he wrote, “A perfect 10. Happy Anniversary, Mrs. Downey.”

Robert and Susan met on the set of 2003 movie “Gothika” before getting engaged later that year.

The couple have two children, three, and nine-month-old daughter Avri while Robert has a 21-year-old son, Indio, with his first wife Deborah Falconer. They also started the Team Downey production company together in 2010.—PTI

Hugo Award winner Liu Cixin attends book-signing in Beijing



Science fiction author Liu Cixin answers questions from readers in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 29, 2015. Liu Cixin, winner of the 2015 Hugo Award for Best Novel with his work “The Three-Body Problem”, attended a book-signing for the English version of his book “The Dark Forest” on Saturday.—XINHUA

‘Wolverine’ star Hugh Jackman’s daughter finds him boring

LONDON, 30 Aug — ‘Wolverine’ star Hugh Jackman’s daughter has publicly branded him “boring”.

The actor was performing on New York’s Broadway when 10-year-old Ava, who was in the audience with a friend, put her hand up while people were applauding, prompting him to call out

to check if she was okay, only for him to likely regret inviting her on stage, reported Female First.

“She walks straight up on stage and I said ‘Everyone this is Ava’...I said ‘Is everything alright, do you want something, you hungry?’ She said, ‘No it’s a bit boring’.”

“She said, ‘Can we

go backstage and hang in your dressing room?’. Everyone is laughing and I say ‘Yeah sure’,” he recalled during an interview.

The 46-year-old star, who also has a son, 15-year-old Oscar, with wife Deborah-Lee Furness, still hopes his daughter will be more impressed when he performs in Aus-

tralia later this year.

Jackman’s “Broadway to Oz” stage show runs at the same time Taylor Swift, who is known for bringing famous star guests out during her shows, tours the country and he would be open to singing with her.

“I think it’s a great idea. My daughter would love it.”—PTI



‘Wolverine’ star Hugh Jackman’s daughter has publicly branded him “boring”.—REUTERS

GENERAL

West Brom sign Man United defender Evans

LONDON, 30 Aug — West Bromwich Albion have bolstered their defensive ranks by signing centre half Jonny Evans from Manchester United on a four-year deal.

“This is a great signing for the club,” manager Tony Pulis told Albion’s official website on Saturday. “Jonny brings a lot of experience and will be a big player for us. He’s a player I’ve been watching for some time.” The fee was

undisclosed but media reports put it at eight million pounds. Northern Ireland international Evans, 27, made his United debut in 2007 and played almost 200 games for the club, picking up three Premier League winners’ medals.

United hoped the one-club man would develop into a suitable replacement for long-time defensive stalwarts Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic, who both left in 2014, but he struggled with in-

juries last season and his form suffered. West Brom are 14th in the Premier League with four points from their opening four fixtures.—Reuters

Manchester United’s Jonny Evans (L) celebrates after scoring a goal against Bayer Leverkusen during their Champions League Group A soccer match at the BayArena in Leverkusen November 27, 2013.—REUTERS



Serena, Djokovic in first-day action at US Open



Aug 19, 2015; Cincinnati, OH, USA; Novak Djokovic (SRB) returns a shot against Benoit Paire (not pictured) on day five during the Western and Southern Open tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Center. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 30 Aug — Top-seeded world number ones Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic help launch the US Open tennis championships on Monday’s opening day of the year’s final grand slam.

Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Djokovic closes the day programme at

Arthur Ashe Stadium against 89th-ranked Joao Souza of Brazil.

Three-times defending US champion Williams, the Australian, French and Wimbledon champion seeking to become the fourth woman ever to complete a Grand Slam, opens the night programme against 86th-ranked

Vitalia Diatchenko of Russia.

The tournament’s first match on the Arthur Ashe centre court pits seventh-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia, followed by two-times US Open winner Venus Williams against Puerto Rican Monica Puig.

The second Opening Night match under the lights features two-times winner Rafa Nadal of Spain, the eighth seed, against up-and-coming Borna Coric of Croatia, an 18-year-old ranked 35th. Ninth-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia begins the defence of his men’s title with a Louis Armstrong Stadium tilt against Guido Pella of Argentina.

Cilic follows Japan’s Kei Nishikori onto the Armstrong court. Fourth seed Nishikori, who fell to Cilic in the 2014 US Open final, faces France’s Benoit Paire in his opening match. Russia’s Maria Sharapova, the third seed, closes the Louis Armstrong day session against Australian Daria Gavrilova.—Reuters

Bronze wares themed exhibition held in C China



Visitors view a bronze ware during an exhibition themed with “bronze wares of Shang (16th-11th century B.C.) and Western Zhou (11th century-771 B.C.) dynasties unearthed in Hunan”, Changsha, capital of central China’s Hunan Province, Aug. 29, 2015.—XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(31-8-2015 07:00 am~1-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
07:43	Am	The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Hanlin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
08:52	Am	Porcelain and Glass
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
09:39	Am	Civic Duty
09:52	Am	Tea Leaves
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	The Richly Blessed Gem Land
10:53	Am	Dengue Fever

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday 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	Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Architect: U Thaw
08:51	Pm	The Firefighter

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday 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)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(31-8-2015, Monday)

6:00 am

• Mono Classical Songs

6:30 am

• Myanmar Series

6:50 am

• Fashion Show

7:05 am

• TV Drama Series

7:50 am

• TV Drama Series

8:35 am

• Musical Programme

8:50 am

• Myanmar Video

10:00 am

• ASEAN Cultural Fair (2015)

10:15 am

• Myanmar Video

6:20 pm

• AFF U-19 Championships (2015) Football (Live) (Myanmar U-19 Vs Vietnam U-19)

Dibaba sprints to thrilling marathon win in Beijing

BEIJING, 30 Aug — Ethiopia’s Mare Dibaba won the women’s marathon at the world athletics championships after a thrilling sprint finish along the home straight of the Beijing National Stadium on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Dibaba out-kicked Kenya’s Helah Kiprop to win the gruelling event by just one second, crossing the finish line in two hours, 27 minutes and 35 seconds.

The long-striding Kiprop briefly threatened to take the gold medal when she loomed up on the outside of Dibaba with 50 metres left to run but couldn’t get past the pint-sized Ethiopian.

Kiprop faded slightly and had to settle for the silver medal, while the bronze went to the reigning Asian champion Eunice Kirwa, who was born in Kenya but now competes for Bahrain.

Ethiopia has a long and proud tradition in marathon running but Dibaba was the first Ethiopian female to win the lung-sapping event at the world championships.

“I’m so happy to get the first medal for my country,” she said through a translator.

“Just after 40km, I tried to test them. I came out in front because I wanted to control. Then we came into the stadium, I just tried my best. “I take off and I win the marathon.” Dibaba went into the race as the favourite after recording the fastest time in the world this year but was unable to shake off her mostly East African challengers on a overcast morning in the Chinese capital where conditions were less brutal than usual.

There were still a dozen runners in the leading pack at the 30 kilometres mark but as the pace picked up, they slowly began to drop off. By the 35km mark, just six remained in the leading bunch, then five as they passed 40km.

Kenya’s Edna Kiplagat, who won the last two world championships marathons, dropped from the leading group about two kilometres from the finish and settled for fifth.—Reuters

Aungmyethazan Tsp holds up overall championship trophy in track & field competitions



Youths in Mandalay taking part in track & field contests at Mandalay Thiri Stadium.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

MANDALAY, 30 Aug — Athletes took part in the inter-township track and field competitions for 2015 of Mandalay Region, at Mandalay Thiri Stadium, from 26 to 29 August.

They competed in the final matches of 5000-m men's and

women's race, 100-mx4 and 200-mx4 men's and women's relay events.

Principal of Mandalay Education College and officials presented prizes to the first, second and third prize winners.

On behalf of the Chief Minis-

ter of Mandalay Region, Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing awarded championship trophy and cash award to Mahlaing township women's team and overall championship trophy and cash award to Aungmyethazan men's team.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Chinlone players in Meiktila raise funds for flood victims

MEIKTILA, 30 Aug — A skill demonstration in Chinlone event and Township Chinlone Contest took place in the compound of Post Office, Meiktila, on 29 and 30 August.

"Local enthusiasts staged a skill demonstration of Chinlone event with participation of 15 teams to provide assistance for flood victims in Pwintbyu Township," said Patron of the

Township Chinlone Subcommittee U Ba Htein.

"Township Chinlone Subcommittee holds the contest yearly. Income from the contest will be donated to the flood victims," he added.

Aungdagun, Sanpya, Soe Pyae Htaik San, Nan Nyunt Nwe and Nyuntpaung teams participated in the township Chinlone contest.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)



Enthusiasts playing Chinlone in skill demonstration in Meiktila. CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

James, Bale lift Real as Vermaelen rescues Barca

MADRID, 30 Aug — Real Madrid got their season up and running when Gareth Bale and James Rodriguez struck twice in a 5-0 drubbing of Real Betis on Saturday while La Liga champions Barcelona edged Malaga 1-0 to maintain their perfect start.

New coach Rafa Benitez restored James to the starting lineup against last season's second division winners after he was controversially left out in the 0-0 draw at another promoted side, Sporting Gijon, on the opening weekend.

The Colombian was in scintillating form at the Bernabeu and crossed for Bale to head home in only the second minute.

James smashed in a superb free kick before halftime and Bale crossed for Karim Benzema to make it 3-0 two minutes into the second half.

Playmaker James then fired in an acrobatic overhead kick three minutes later as Real put Seville-based Betis to the sword.

Betis had a chance to pull a goal back when Raphael Varane conceded a penalty for a foul on substitute Jorge Molina but Keylor Navas saved Ruben Castro's weak 61st-minute effort.

Bale, who overshadowed an out-of-form Cristiano Ronaldo, sealed a resounding win with a long-range effort a minute from time that cannoned in off a post.

"We were able to finish more accurately today," Real full back Marcelo told Spanish television.

"It was a very good performance," added the Brazil international. "But we're just at the start and there are many things still to improve."

Earlier, Thomas Vermaelen scored

his first goal for Barca in their laboured win over Malaga at the Nou Camp, a second consecutive 1-0 victory for the European champions after they beat Athletic Bilbao by the same score last weekend.

Gijon spoiled Asier Illarramendi's return to Real Sociedad's midfield after rejoining from Real Madrid this week when they held the Basque club, coached by Scot David Moyes, to a 0-0 draw in San Sebastian.

Rayo Vallecano had goalkeeper Tono sent off for felling Celta Vigo midfielder Daniel Wass in the ninth minute at the Balaidos stadium.

Nolito scored for the hosts from the resulting penalty and then made it 2-0 five minutes into the second half before Andreu Fontas wrapped up the win late on.

Celta also have two victories from two matches and top the table ahead of Barca on goal difference, with Real two points behind in third and Villarreal, who won 3-1 at home to Espanyol on Friday, also on four points in fourth.

With a fit-again Neymar restored to the attack alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez for the first time this season, Barca looked to their normally lethal South American trio to break down stubborn Malaga.

However, it was Vermaelen who finally broke through following relentless pressure when he hammered a loose ball into the net from a 73rd-minute corner.

The Belgium defender suffered an injury-plagued first season at Barca last term after joining from Arsenal.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Gareth Bale celebrates his goal against Real Betis during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, August 29, 2015. REUTERS

Mourinho aims dig at Chelsea performance and spirit

LONDON, 30 Aug — Jose Mourinho blamed an under-performing handful of his multi-millionaire Chelsea players and a bad refereeing decision after suffering the second home defeat of his 200-match Premier League career on Saturday.

The Portuguese also aimed a dig at the spirit of the champions, who have taken only four points from their first four matches this season, and said that three substitutions were not enough as his team went down 2-1 to a fired-up Crystal Palace.

In two spells at Chelsea the 52-year-old holds the highest win percentage record of any of the club's managers but this is by far his worst start to a campaign.

Saturday's embarrassment came on the back of a lacklustre opening draw at home to Swansea City, a 3-0 drubbing at Manchester City and an unconvincing win at West Bromwich Albion in which captain John Terry was sent off.

"I'm not happy and for me a performance is a collective performance and obviously to perform collectively you need individual performances," a grim-faced Mourinho told reporters.

"I cannot say I had 11 players performing together, two or three players were not good," he added without naming the culprits.

"I blame myself for not changing them and when I made the third change (substitution) I realised I needed a fourth."

Mourinho brought on midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek and fellow 19-year-old, Brazilian forward Kenedy, as Chelsea chased the game in the second half.

Palace, well organised at the back and dangerous on the break, deserved the victory achieved through second-half goals by Bakary Sako and Joel Ward either side of a first Chelsea goal from Radamel Falcao.—Reuters