MYANMAR JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION holds first annual general meeting.  

PHOTO: KO THEIN AYE

The Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) held its first annual general meeting today at the National League for Democracy (NLD) head office in Yangon, which is also the office of the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA). The meeting was attended by MJA members from different branches across Myanmar.

At the meeting, Patron Po Thauk Kya and Chairman U Ko Ko Thiri addressed the members. The meeting urged the government to take reasonable action against journalists who cover news in accordance with the law. The meeting also called for the development of media ethics and departmental cooperation.

Three donor groups have distributed water here until now this year." Ko Than Aung, a resident in Yangon, said. "Our family contributes cash assistance for distribution of drinking water to rural areas each year. The organizers collect money, buy water bottles and carry them by pick-up truck to nearby villages."

Locals complained that some car owners are using abundant water to wash their cars every day, ignoring the problems of grass roots despite local authorities are prohibiting not to do so.

The extreme day temperatures are also threatening the health of hard labourers, including trishaw men and motorcycle taxi drivers. Children, heavy drinkers and old persons are particularly vulnerable to hot season.

Monsoon normally enters southern part of Myanmar between 15 and 20 May.

MJA to offer journalism courses

By Myint Win Thein

Myanmar Journalists Association said that it was discussing with international universities to organize internationally recognized journalism diploma courses in the near future.

The association was founded about 20 months ago and its first annual general meeting was held at the Orchid Hotel at the corner of Botataung Pagoda Road and Anawrahta Road in Yangon on 4 May.

Its first part-time journalism courses are starting on 1 July 2014 in Yangon and Mandalay, according to a statement of the association. The medium of teaching for these courses will be in Myanmar language and thirty trainees will be admitted to each course.

Trainees are required to pay training fees for the courses but scholarships are also available for those who cannot afford.

The objective of the course is to nurture qualified journalists for the development of the entire media industry of Myanmar, the association said in its statement.

At the meeting, Patron of the association Sayagyi Po Thauk Kya and Chairman U Ko Ko Thiri delivered speeches. The meeting urged the union government and state/regional governments to help journalists, who cover news in accordance with the law, overcome unnecessary difficulties and not to take unreasonable action against journalists.

The discussion was made during the first meeting of the MJA’s central committee. The other two proposals were acting in accord with media code of ethics and departmental cooperation.

During the meeting, MJA’s patron Po Thauk Kya and chairman U Ko Ko Thiri delivered introductory speeches, explained the association’s functions and announced financial statements.

The MJA was founded on 11 August 2012. It has 12 branches across the country with about 2,000 members.—MNA

Scorching heat causes shortage of water sources in Yangon suburban areas

By Aung Khin

As monsoon has not come yet in Myanmar, scorching heat has led to shortage of water in Yangon suburban areas.

With the daytime maximum temperature of around 35 degrees celsius, many lakes and ponds nearby areas in Yangon have dried up, causing problems for the residents to get clean water.

A local in Thongwa Township, about 43 kilometres south of Yangon, said: "Rain began to fall in the third week of April last year, and we could enjoy regular rains starting May."

Ko Maung Phyo who is working as a carpenter said: "I have to carry water for household use by a bicycle in the morning before I go to work. As water for a pair of buckets is three hundred kyats and my family needs six buckets for household use, it will cost K 900. My daily wage is K 3,500, and that I have to carry water myself."

Residents in suburban areas and villages of southern Yangon have to rely on lakes and ponds for drinking water. As the water levels have fallen in these water resources, people are also facing difficulties of hygiene drinking water. A housewife Daw Aung Khin

Myint said: "We encounter the problem of drinking water in hot season every year. Some well-wishers, mostly from Yangon, come to distribute drinking water. Three donor groups have distributed water here until now this year."

Ko Than Aung, a resident in Yangon, said: "Our family contributes cash assistance for distribution of drinking water to rural areas each year. The organizers collect money, buy water bottles and carry them by pick-up truck to nearby villages."

Locals complained that some car owners are using abundant water to wash their cars every day, ignoring the problems of grass roots despite local authorities are prohibiting not to do so.

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Journalists Association discusses ‘no unreasonable action against media’

YANGON, 4 May—Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) members today discussed three proposals, including no inappropriate or unreasonable action against the media.

The discussion was made during the first meeting of MWJA’s central committee. The other two proposals were acting in accord with media code of ethics and departmental cooperation.

During the meeting, Po Thauk Kya and Chairman U Ko Ko Thiri delivered introductory speeches, explained the association’s functions and announced financial statements.

The MJA was founded on 11 August 2012. It has 12 branches across the country with about 2,000 members.—MNA
Residents hope new road for better transport

KALAY, 4 May—Plan is underway to submit the construction of road in Khaungnan area of Sagaing Region to the National Parliament, said U Thein Hlaing, the Representative of the National Parliament.

In the previous session of the National Parliament, he also submitted the construction of a rural health branch in Chinchuang Village-tract where the parliament has already upgraded the basic education middle school.

One resident said that the officials should come to the village frequently for development tasks, aimed at solving the villagers’ difficulties. Chinchuang, Waipon and Kyaunggyi villages in Khaungnan in Mahamyayng Forest of Kalewa Township relying on timber extraction roads but these roads cannot be used in every monsoon.

Lin Latt Kel Sin

Knowledge about animal health, anti-human trafficking shared

MOHNYIN, 4 May—An educative talk was given in the precinct of monastery in Namppok Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, on Friday.

Head of Mohnyin District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Win Oo, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Win Maung and the rural health nurse gave lectures on health advantages of drinking milk, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases from pet animals, prevention against trafficking in persons, drug elimination, fire prevention measures and use of fly-proof latrines.

The talk was attended by 150 trainees from Summer Buddhist culture course and 140 people from Namppok village. A similar talk was given to 500 local people from eight villages of Ingon Village-tract on 28 April.—NLM-001

Nyaunglebin Tsp needs upgrading of wooden bridge before raining season

BAGO, 4 May—A wooden bridge in Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region needs upgrading before the raining season.

The 60 ft long and 12 ft wide bridge is located in Kyuchaung Village in Yaphyukan Village-tract in the Township of the Region. At present, residents from eight villages of the township everyday use the unsafe bridge.

Khin Maung Lwin

MPs visit projects in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 4 May — Members of People Parliament and National Parliament, teaming up with governmenttal officials, visited construction projects in Mohnyin in Kachin State Saturday.

They visited a dam project, a highway project, three bridge projects, and a hospital project. They also met with local people and clarified regional development measures being taken by the government. They stressed the need of public participation in the successful completion of these projects.

K. Hsai Naw (Phakant)

Dredging lake to store large volume of water in Bogale

BAGALE, 4 May—Maha Tiwa Lake in Bogale of Ayeyawady Region had never dried out during over 60 years period. The 30-acre Lake is a water source for consumption of the local people. This year, the lake is gradually drying out in high temperature of summer.

Fortunately, water is still available at Kandawlay Lake for consumption of residents from Ward No 2, 4, 6 and 7 and so they have no difficulty in shortage of water, U Tin Win, a townelder said. As Maha Tiwa Lake has lesser capacity to store water, the local authorities manage dredging of lake by buckhoe as of 29 April so as to store larger volume of water. As a result, the lake may not be dried out next year, said U Thein Tun, Administrator of Ward 7 in Bogale.

Market demand higher for air-conditioners, air-coolers, fans

HAPPY 100th Birthday Dr. Win San Hlaing

Foursome for foreign press

FORTY-Four foreign reporters, including journalists from China and Thailand, are in Mandalay to cover the activities of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in the city and the upcoming by-elections.

The reporters are participating in a programme for foreign press, which runs from May until 20 June. The reporters are due to visit three by-election constituencies, the NLD candidates in each of which has pledged to support the programme.

Thura U Shwe Mann, leader of the NLD, told the press that the party was determined to uphold democracy in the country and that the programme was part of this process.

The journalists are expected to cover the by-elections and other NLD activities in the city.

The programme is being held under the auspices of the NLD and the Yangon Regional Development Committee.

Aye Mya (Mandalay)
Comander-in-Chief meets scouts in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW 4 May—Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Command-er-in-Chief of Defence Services, on Sunday met outstanding students, members of Red Cross Society and scouts at Zeyathiri Beikman here.

He said: "As you are brilliant young people, I would like to urge all of you to try the best for the welfare of State and peo-

dle. I also wish you to be-come outstanding leaders of the country."

The Commander-in-Chief also said that the young people are responsi-
bile for the development of the country hand in hand as it is the State of all national races.

The group was camped in National Kandawgyi Gar-den of PyinOoLwin from 20 April to 1 May.—MNA

Dy Education Minister arrives back from US

YANGON, 4 May—Dr Zaw Min Aung, deputy minister for Education, ar-

rived back here by air on Saturday evening after at-
tending the Going Global 2014 at Miami Beach Con-

vention Center of the Unit-
ed States of America from 29 April to 1 April.

The going global or-

ganized by the British Council was attended by 16 education ministers and heads of advanced edu-
cation institutions.

They exchanged views on challenges of education organizations and progress of education sector.—MNA

BMW group contributes 70 units of BMW limousines for ASEAN leaders, delegates

The fleet comprises of the flagship BMW 7 series, the BMW 5 series execu-
tive sedan and the premium BMW X5 Sports Activity Vehicle, will be used to chauffeur ASEAN leaders and dele-
guates during the ASEAN Summit in May 2014. The BMW group also contributed the vehi-
cles for ASEAN Summit which were held in Brunei and Cambodia in 2012 and 2013 respectively.—MNA

Union Minister Mt-Gen Thet Naing Win views development of rural area in Rakhine State.—MNA

Ayyawady delta sees projects for mangrove forest rehabilitation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—Myanmar has the seventh largest mangrove forests in the world. The area of its mangrove forest is about 1.2 million acres account-
ing for 3.3 percent of the to-

tal area in the world. Most of the mangrove forest ar-

eas are found in Rakhine State, Ayyawady Region and Taninthayi Region.

However, the vast stretches of mangrove for-

ests in the Ayyawady del-
ta have turned into paddy fields, salt fields and fish or shrimp ponds as chang-
ges occur such as increasing population and economic needs.

The remaining mangrove forests gave humans a natural protection when the cyclone Nargis hit the region in 2008. Through the mangrove forests, local people enjoy such benefits as firewood, herbal plants and other forest prod-

ucts. They can also pre-

vent storms and tsunami in coastal regions and salt water from entering into farmland. Local people can also enjoy benefits through eco-tourism.

Now, the Ministry of Environmental Conserva-

tion and Forestry is tak-
ing measures to protect the mangrove forests in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA. A mul-

ti-purpose management and reforestation plan was successfully carried out from 2007 to 2013. Anoth-

er project on rehabilitation of the mangrove forests in the Ayyawady delta was completed during the same period.

In a ceremony to launch a project for the re-
bilitation of mangrove forests on 30 April, Dep-

uty Minister U Aye My-

int Maung said the project tasks had been success-

fully carried out in Bago, Pyapon and Labutta townships in Ayyawady Region where mangrove forests exist. Moreover, a mangrove garden, four camps educating about forest extensions, four cy-

clone shelters and com-

munity-owned plantations were established, the deput-

y minister said.

The latest project to be launched now would cover 3,000 acres of man-
grove forest plantations in Kadonkani forest reserve and more cyclone shelters would be built, he added.

The ceremony was at-
tended by regional cabinet members, MPs, members of political parties, rep-

resentatives from NGOs and INGOs, officials from JICA Myanmar office, Kokusi Kogyo Co Ltd and local people.
Erosion causes landslides in Taikkyi Tsp

Although 10 lamp-posts were erected along the traffic island of the road, two lamp-posts only are lighting there. Thus, the road is dark at night, causing traffic danger to pedestrians and cyclists. So, the road where the railway station, Zeyathiri cinema and No.2 Basic Education High School are located should be illuminated at night for security measures, said local people.

Now, the road users rely on lighting from the houses along both sides of the road.

As the market road is leading to Sagaing Hill, local visitors and globetrotters go to ancient sites and pagodas of Sagaing along the road daily. Therefore, the road should be supplied electricity in line with the town characteristics.

Nanda Min Lwin

Residents hope electrification for market road in Sagaing

Market road from Sagaing Railway Station to Myoma market is a main road in the hub of Sagaing. Although 10 lamp-posts were erected along the traffic island of the road, two lamp-posts only are lighting there. Thus, the road is dark at night, causing traffic danger to pedestrians and cyclists. So, the road where the railway station, Zeyathiri cinema and No.2 Basic Education High School are located should be illuminated at night for security measures, said local people.

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Nanda Min Lwin

Rural roads commissioned into service in Taikkyi Tsp

Ceremonies to inaugurate the concrete roads were held at the venues in Aphyauk, Taikkyi Township, north of Yangon, on Friday.

People’s Parliament MP U Han Sein, Yangon Region Parliament MP U Soe Win Maung and departmental officials attended the inauguration ceremonies.

The People’s Parliament MP and Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Hla Tin cut the ribbon to open the roads.

Union Parliament funded K 5 million each on construction of the road linking Kywebaganchaung-Ngalachauung village road and Ohnhingwin-Yaylegyi inter-village road.

The MP and party donated K 2 million to clinics in Kywebaganchaung and Ohnhingwin villages.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

Illiterates in Budalin Township become literates

Monywa, 4 May—Activities of literacy campaign are being conducted in 1263 wards and villages of 29 townships in regions and states.

A total of 150 university students led by nine faculty members of Monywa University teach 1253 local illiterates at 150 teaching sessions in 188 villages of Budalin Township of Sagaing Region from 1 April to 15 May. The teaching suspended during the period of Maha Thingyan festival. The students teach the illiterates during 120 hours.

“I am very happy to teach the rural people in literacy campaign. They are eager to learn. We set an aim to broaden horizon of the learners through literacy campaign,” said Ma Aye Mon Win, final honest student in Biochemistry Major of Monywa University.

“We missed the chance to learn education in my childhood due to various reasons. At first we started to learn education with some difficulties in literacy activity. But we tried hard in learning with diligence. Now I can read the books on Buddhism,” said Daw Ohn Nyunt of Po The Aung Chan Road in Myingin Ward of Myeik.

Fire engulfs materials on board motorized boats in Myeik

Myeik, 4 May—A fire broke out at a boat “Aung Myat Aung” that anchored near Thetkwin of Strand Road in Nyein Chan Yay Ward of Yepon Area in Myeik of Taninthayi Region at 6.30 pm on Friday. The boat was owned by Daw Oha Nyunt of Po Tha Aung Chan Road in Myintge Ward of Myeik.

Firefighters, social organization members and local people put out the fire with the use of 15 fire trucks within 15 minutes. The fire engulfed properties and materials worth K 174,500 on board Aung Myat Aung and Theikdi Aung motorized boats.

Root course on outbreak of fire is under investigation.—Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)
ASEAN-plus-3 agree to boost cooperation to strengthen Asian bond markets

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, China and South Korea pose for photos at their meeting in the Kazakhstan capital of Astana on 3 May, 2014. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank’s annual conference.—Kyodo News

ASTANA, 4 May — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea agreed in the Kazakh capital on Saturday to boost financial cooperation in the region to prevent any recurrence of an Asian currency crisis.

The financial ministers and central bank governors affirmed the importance of developing resilient local currency bond markets across the region to allow the area’s large savings to be channeled into financing its own investment needs.

To develop resilient and safe bond markets in the region, the leaders confirmed they would link the nations’ settlement systems, which is expected to help increase regional investment. In a statement released after the meeting held in Astana on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank’s annual meeting, the leaders also endorsed a decision made in November to increase the size of the credit guarantee capacity for corporates. Bond rates from $700 million to $1.75 billion. Ever since massive outflows of US dollar-based capital triggered the Asian currency crisis in 1997-1998, the development of resilient local currency bond markets has been a long-term challenge in the region.

On recent economic and financial developments, the financial chiefs said in a statement that the accommodative monetary policy in advanced economies will end in due course, but added the conduct of monetary policy “should be communicated clearly and calibrated carefully” and that policymakers should “be mindful of its impacts on the global and regional economies.”

The statement came amid concerns about an economic slowdown in emerging markets in the wake of the US Federal Reserve’s tapering of its large-scale asset purchases.

From Japan, Finance Minister Taro Aso and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda attended the meeting and co-chaired the ASEAN-plus-three meeting with Myanmar.

At a press conference after the meeting, Aso said, “Economic growth in the region shows signs of strengthening, but there are some remaining risks. We agreed on the necessity to bolster regional cooperation.”

Meanwhile, Japan, China and South Korea failed to hold a trilateral meeting of their financial chiefs for the second consecutive year, possibly casting a pall over their financial collaboration at a time when diplomatic relations are strained.

Last year, no such meeting was held due to political tensions over issues such as the territorial dispute between Japan and China over the East China Sea, which China claims as Diaoyu.

The trilateral meeting had been regularly held on the sidelines of the ADB’s annual meeting.

The ASEAN-plus-three consists of the 10 ASEAN members — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — plus Japan, China and South Korea.

On the same day, Japan’s Finance Ministry announced it has agreed with the Indonesian government regarding a framework to support financing Japanese companies in the Southeast Asian nation. Under the framework, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation provides a guarantee when Japanese banks procure the rupee in exchange for the yen.

The Japanese government has also agreed with Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia on a scheme in which Japanese banks introduce Japanese corporations to local banks that can provide them with loans in local currencies.—Kyodo News

Egypt court sentences 102 Islamists to 10 years in jail

CAIRO, 4 May — More than 100 supporters of Egypt’s deposed Islamist President Mohamed Mursi were sentenced to ten years in jail on Saturday on charges of killing and inciting violence, judicial sources said.

The verdicts for the 102 defendants, handed down ahead of a 26-27 May presidential election, relate to deaths that occurred during clashes in Cairo last July between supporters of Mursi’s Muslim Brotherhood and security forces.

Two other Brotherhood supporters who were defendants in the case received seven-year jail sentences, the sources said. Only 35 defendants were present in court, the others were tried in absentia.

Militant violence has spiralled since last July, when the army toppled Mursi and the authorities launched a crackdown on his supporters in the Brotherhood. Thousands of the movement’s supporters have been arrested and hundreds killed, and its leaders are on trial. Another Egyptian court sentenced the leader of the Brotherhood and 682 supporters to death earlier this week, intensifying the crackdown and drawing Western criticism.

Former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who led theousting of Mursi, is expected to win the presidential election.

Egypt has declared the Brotherhood a terrorist group, but Egypt’s oldest Islamist movement says it is committed to peaceful activism.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 4 May — Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia on Saturday endorsed Hillary Clinton for president, even though the former secretary of state had not announced whether she will seek the White House in 2016.

Kaine, who backed Barack Obama when he beat Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, announced his support on Twitter and at breakfast meeting of the South Carolina Women’s Democratic Council in Columbia, South Carolina.

“Today I encouraged Hillary Clinton to run for president & pledged my support for her candidacy if she does,” Kaine said in a tweet that linked to his story on www.readyforhillary.com, website of one of the most prominent pro-Clinton organizations.

“She understands the challenges facing Americans from all walks of life and has the compassion and skills necessary to help improve our everyday lives,” Kaine, former governor of Virginia, said in remarks prepared for the breakfast meeting, according to the website.

Kaine added Clinton’s work as secretary of state, senator from New York and first lady during her husband Bill Clinton’s presidency also give her a deep background on foreign policy.

Polls taken this year show Clinton with an advantage of more than 50 percentage points over other potential Democratic candidates, including Vice President Joe Biden.

Clinton said in April she was thinking about running in 2016 and was “going to continue to think about it for a while.” Last year Democratic Senators Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Charles Schumer of New York publicly announced their support for Clinton and the 16 Democratic women in the Senate also sent her a letter urging her to enter the race.

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton participates in A No Ceilings Conversation at Lower Eastside Girls Club in New York on 17 April, 2014.—Reuters

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton participates in A No Ceilings Conversation at Lower Eastside Girls Club in New York on 17 April, 2014.—Reuters
WASHINGTON gridlock butt of Obama jokes at White House correspondents’ dinner

WASHINGTON, 4 May — President Barack Obama poked fun at himself and what he called a hard year but aimed his most caustic humor at Washington gridlock on Saturday when the political and media elites gathered at the annual White House Correspondents’ Association dinner.

“In 2008 my slogan was, ‘Yes we can.’ In 2013, it was control-alt-delete,” Obama joked to an audience also stuffed with film and television stars.

“At one point, things got so bad the 47 percent called Mitt Romney to apologize,” he said, referring to 2012 presidential campaign scandal in which the Republican candidate was secretly taped saying that 47 percent of Americans have become reliant on government handouts.

More than 2,000 guests packed the ballroom of the Washington Hilton, where the capital’s political and media worlds collide every year in lubricated goodwill punctuated by a long dash of glamour on loan from Hollywood. The association marked its 100th year this year.

The president highlighted some of the low points of his administration’s last year, dwelling on the disastrous rollout of the website for his landmark health insurance reform legislation.

“Of course we rolled out HealthCare.gov. That could have gone better,” he deadpanned.

Later he turned on Republican opponents in Congress who are clamoring to repeal the legislation despite higher than expected enrollment figures in the government health care exchanges: “How well does Obamacare have to work before you stop trying to repeal it?”

At the end of his speech, Obama turned the audience’s attention to a video monitor, which failed to work. Kathleen Sebelius, the health secretary who announced her resignation this month after overseeing the botched rollout of Obamacare, stepped to the podium to try to fix the technical glitch.

Obama also took a swipe at Republicans for blocking his bid to raise the minimum wage. “If you want to get paid for not working you should run for Congress just like everyone else,” he said.

In a self-deprecating crack at his own low popularity ratings, the president referred to his fellow Democrats not wanting to campaign with him for November congressional elections in a wistful joke involving one of his daughters: “I did notice the other day that Sasha needed a speaker for her career day and she invited Bill Clinton.”

Joel McHale, star of NBC comedy “Community,” followed Obama with a well-received routine that had New Jersey Governor Chris Christie’s weight as its latest target.

Congressmen and cabinet members rubbed elbows with Hollywood celebrities including Lupita Nyong’o, the Oscar-winning actress in “12 Years a Slave,” along with its director, Steve McQueen.

“Gravity” director Alfonso Cuaron was a guest, as was actress Diane Lane. Television stars included Olivia Munn of HBO’s “The Newsroom,” and Julianna Margulies of CBS’ “The Good Wife.”

“VEEP,” Julia Louis-Dreyfus was there with her cast from the hit HBO comedy parodying a dysfunctional vice president’s office. A video played earlier in the evening a showing Louis-Dreyfus in character, asking a real-life Joe Biden, “Are you going to the Snoopdoggens’ dinner tonight?”

The video skit included health-conscious first lady Michelle Obama sneaking some ice cream in the White House kitchen, House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi getting a tattoo and House Speaker John Boehner skipping the dinner to watch a panda video in his office.

The skit ended with a joke on the Hollywood-Washington romance, as Louis-Dreyfus explains slowly to Biden, “I’m not really a VP but you are. I’m an actress from Hollywood.”

EU says ready to provide assistance to landslide-hit Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 4 May — The European Union on Saturday said it is following closely the situation in landslide-hit Afghanistan and is ready to provide assistance.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and European commissioner for humanitarian aid Kristalina Georgieva are deeply concerned about and saddened by the devastating landslide in northern Afghanistan.

More than 2,000 people were reportedly killed as landslides hit northern Afghan province of Badakhshan on Friday, according to local officials.

Athenso, 4 May — Greece’s co-ruling conservatives have regained a narrow lead over the main, anti-bailout opposition three weeks before a European Parliament election, two polls showed.

The election, which coincides with a key local vote, is seen as a test for Prime Minister Antonis Samaras’ fragile coalition in a country still reeling from the debt crisis and banking on loans from the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

Samaras’ New Democracy — which leads the coalition with the Socialist PASOK party — and its rival, the leftist Syriza party, have been running neck-and-neck in polls for months, with voters often swinging in favour of one or the other party.

But New Democracy has seen a boost in ratings since Athens tapped bond markets in April for the first time in four years and Samaras promised to spend a $27 billion euro ($37 billion) windfall from Greece’s 2013 budget surplus on poor, austerity-hit Greeks.

The poll conducted on 28-30 April by Metron Analysis for Sunday’s Ethnos newspaper put support for New Democracy at 28.4 percent and for Syriza at 27.6 percent, excluding undecided voters — who otherwise stood at 17 percent.

In a poll by the same agency in April, Syriza was leading with 1.4 percentage points.

To Potami, a movement launched in February by a popular TV journalist, ranked third with 10.9 percent.

It was followed by the Communist KKE party with 6.6 percent.

The far-right Golden Dawn, which entered parliament for the first time in 2012 tapping into popular anger with austerity and rising unemployment, was in fifth place scoring 6 percent.

Syriza has called the vote a referendum on austerity and the EU/IMF bailout and wants to push for early parliamentary elections.

About 60 percent of the respondents in the Metron Analysis poll said they did not want early elections.

An MRB poll for Star TV, which was broadcast on Friday, also showed New Democracy leading with 0.8 percentage points. Syriza was ahead with 0.2 percentage points in a previous MRB poll.
Libyan commander survives assassination attempt in Benghazi

BENGHAZI, 4 May — A Libyan security official on Saturday survived an assassination attempt by members of an Islamist militia in the volatile eastern city of Benghazi, a security spokesman said.

Gunmen opened fire on the car of Abdullah al-Saïti, commander of the city’s security operations center, while he was travelling in central Benghazi, said Ibrahim al-Shara, a security spokesman.

Saïti escaped unhurt, he said. The security operations centre is the top command of government security forces and militias allied to the government in the eastern city.

On Friday the government accused Islamist militias of the Ansar al-Sharia group of killing nine special forces soldiers during an attack on the city’s security headquarters.

The army’s weak central government is struggling to control armed groups, militias and brigades of former rebels who helped oust long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi in the 2011 civil war and who now refuse to disarm.

Car bombings and assassinations of soldiers and police officers have become common in Benghazi, where a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed minibus outside a special forces camp on Tuesday, killing two people.

Most countries have closed their consulates in the city and some foreign airlines have stopped flying to the city since the US ambassador and three other Americans were killed in an Islamist militant attack in September 2012.

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IMF team arrives Albania to evaluate loan

TIRANA, 4 May — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission team arrived in Tirana on Saturday to get acquainted with the situation on the Albanian economy, as a determining factor for the disbursement of the second tranche of the loan funds, according to ATA.

The IMF has decided in March to lend Albania 330 million euros (about 457 million US dollars) in total for three years to support economic reforms in the country. Under the deal, Tirana got an immediate disbursement of 26.4 million euros to assist its planned reforms in finances, Albanian Minister of Finance, Shkelqim Cani, Governor of the Albanian Bank, Ardian Fullani and Democratic Party leader, Luizim Bashë.

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Three people killed by blasts in Kenya’s Mombasa

MOMBASA, 4 May — At least three people were killed when attackers threw an explosive device at passengers at a bus station in Mombasa on Saturday, and a luxury hotel in the Kenyan coastal city was damaged in a separate blast, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Kenya has blamed similar attacks on the al-Qaeda-linked Somali group al Shabaab, which killed at least 67 people at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi last September.

There have been a string of attacks since then. “What happened is a grenade was thrown at passengers,” Mombasa county commissioner Nelson Marwa told journalists.

“The attackers were riding on a motor bike, and lobbed the grenade at the crowd of people at the bus terminus.” More than 20 people were wounded.

Plain-clothed policemen check the damage on a passenger bus at the scene of an explosion at the populous Mwembe Tayari market, in the Kenyan coastal town of Mombasa on 3 May, 2014.—Reuters

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Jordan says Hamas-Fatah unity crucial to peace progress

AMMAN, 4 May — Jordan’s Prime Minister Abdallah Ensour on Saturday said unity among the Palestinian factions is crucial to render peacemaking efforts a success, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

Commending the reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas movement recently, the Jordanian premier said all efforts to support peace and make progress in peace talks will be in vain if there is no unity among the Palestinians.

“We hope that the deal reached recently between the Palestinians for unity and reconciliation is honoured as the Arab and Islamic nation will condemn any party that hampers the implementation of this deal,” said Ensour following a meeting in Amman with his Palestinian counterpart Ramzi Hamdallah.

In April, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah party and the Hamas movement announced a reconciliation agreement, declaring an end to their internal split.

“Palestinian unity is crucial at this stage of the Palestinian issue,” said Ensour.

The Jordanian premier reiterated Jordan’s support for the Palestinians, saying any difference amongst them harm Jordan as well as the Palestinian issue.

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Yemeni colonel shot dead in Aden, two hurt in bomb attack

ADEN, (Yemen), 4 May — Unidentified gunmen shot dead a army colonel in his car in Yemen’s southern port city of Aden late on Friday and two soldiers were injured when a car bomb exploded in another major southern port on Saturday, security sources said.

The attacks follow dozens of others directed at security targets in the US ally in recent months, killing hundreds. The army is conducting a big operation against Islamist militants in the southern provinces of Shabwa and Abyan.

On Saturday the army seized control of a militant bastion in the southern area of al-Mahfad, a stronghold for the Islamists, killing four of its defenders and injuring a number of others, a military source was quoted as saying on the state news agency.

Western countries fear further destabilization in Yemen could give more space to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the local branch of the global Islamist militant movement, to plot attacks on international targets.

AQAP and its local ally, Ansar al-Sharia, have been waging an insurgency in southern Yemen for more than three years, battling both government forces and local tribal militias.

Colonel Sanad Badr was shot dead in his car by unknown assailants on a major Aden street late on Friday, a local official said.

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Chinese competitors take part in the 6th annual Warrior Competition at the King Abdullah II Special Operation Training Center in Amman, capital of Jordan, on 3 May, 2014.—Xinhua

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It would be unfair to leave out the role of auxiliary fire brigade members, who are of great service to firefighters in the face of action. The founding of auxiliary fire brigades at township and village levels dates back to 1910. Their voluntary and selfless services deserve special mention. Unfortunately, Myanmar sees at least over 1,000 fire outbreaks annually. Summer is the most notorious season when fire outbreaks are the most frequent occurrences.

Firefighters daringly take risks with their own lives whenever and wherever fires break out. There was a striking story of a firefighter who lost his life in a fire outbreak. His name was U Than Phay, a member of an auxiliary fire brigade in Rakhine State. He never failed to play an active part in rendering his voluntary services for community-based activities. A house in Khetan of Myebon Township, Rakhine State, caught fire. He braved the fire burning down the house and saved the lives of the people inside. He died in action.

As a token of tribute to his unselfish act, an honorary award was presented to his family on his behalf at the 2014 Excellence Awards and Special Honorary Awards of the President, which took place at the Presidential Palace on 3 May.

Heroic are those who lost their limbs and sometimes lives for the good of others. Honour is due to them all.

Nowadays, as part of preventive measures, the government has provided firefighting equipment and vehicles for fire stations nationwide. In addition, firefighters and auxiliary fire brigade members are giving training. This makes them ready in time of fire outbreaks. All in all, firefighters do earn public adulation.

Write for us

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

strategy

Kyi Mun

C. Max Killan

If a man takes no thought about what is distant, he will find sorrow near at hand. He who will not worry about what is far off will soon find something worse than worry.

Confucius

It is human nature to make decisions based on emotion, rather than fact. But nothing could be more illogical.

Toshiba Corporation

No business can do everything. Even if it has the money, it will never have enough good people. It has to set priorities. The worst thing to do is a little bit of everything. This makes sure that nothing is being accomplished. It is better to pick the wrong priority than none at all.

Peter Drucker

Executives, consultants, and B-school professors all agree that strategic planning is now the single most important management issue and will remain so for the next five years. Strategy has become a part of the main agenda at lots of organizations today. Strategic planning is back with a vengeance.

John Byrne

A Comprehensive Strategic-Management Model

Notable Quotes

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Without a strategy, an organization is like a ship without a rudder, going around in circles. It’s like a tramp; it has no place to go.

Dale McConkey

The formulation of strategy can develop competitive advantage only to the extent that the process can give meaning to workers in the trenches.

Robert Waterman Jr.

Most of us fear change. Even when our minds say change is normal, our stomachs quiver at the prospect. But for strategists and managers today, there is no choice but to change.

Robert Waterman Jr.

If business is not based on ethical grounds, it is of no benefit to society, and will, like all other unethical combinations, pass into oblivion.

C. Max Killan

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 5 May, 2014

Tribute to the bravery of firefighters

By Kyaw Thura

Today, the fifth of May, is of great significance simply because it marks the 68th anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day.

Firefighters are those who willingly help the general public realize how important it is to be aware of and prevent fire outbreaks. They never go relentless when it comes to fire-extinguishing and rescue works. Apart from that, they are always ready to render their services, if need be, as social and state auxiliaries.

Strategy

(Continued from Yesterday)

The Eight Principles of Competition (War)

The Principle of:

- Definite and Achievable Objective
- Concentration or Focus or Mass
- Offensive
- Economy of Force
- Cooperation
- Security
- Surprise
- Mobility

The Hierarchy of Strategies

- The Grand Strategy e.g: MEROR Strategy
- The Corporate Strategy e.g: MIPG Strategy
- The Business Strategy e.g: Customer Value Strategy
- The Functional Strategy e.g: Marketing Strategy

Types of Strategy

- Competitive Strategy e.g: Cost Leadership, Differentiation or Focus
- Customer Strategy e.g: Exceeding Expectations
- Product/Service Strategy
- Price Strategy
- Productivity Strategy
- Innovation Strategy

The Characteristics of Strategy

- Growth Strategy
- Offensive Strategy
- Defensive Strategy
- Retrenchment Strategy
- Diversification Strategy
- Survival Strategy

In order to be able to formulate and develop Strategy, a business organization has got to have thorough clarity in Direction and Purpose in the following manner:

- What business are we in?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How can we get there?
- Which is the best way?

Without a Definite and clear-cut Destination, nobody can commit oneself to a Journey. Before launching on a journey, one has got to have a definite, clear-cut Destination in mind. So, in business, definite, clear-cut goal and objective must first be determined before choosing a strategy.

The Requirements of a good Strategy are:

- A Good Objective
- Good Resources & Capabilities, and
- A Good Implementation

The Requirements of a Good Implementation:

- Effectiveness (Doing the Right things)
- Efficiency (Doing the things Right)
- Total Quality Management (Continuous Quality Improvement)

The following are some of the Important Business Objectives:

- Without Objective, there can be no Strategy. Hence, the importance of OBJECTIVE.
- Market Standing • Innovation • Productivity
- Management • People • Profitability
- Effectiveness • Development • Values
- Customer & Employee • CSR • Committee
- Satisfaction • Morale & Growth

Steps in the Strategic Management and Strategic Marketing Process

The Strategic Management Process

Notable Quotes

If we know where we are and something about how we got there, we might see where we are trending-and if the outcomes which lie naturally in our course are unacceptable, to make timely change.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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C. Max Killan

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING GROUP Capital CO., LTD.
Pegu, an emporium city of the time

Pegu did not produce rubies or precious stones. They were brought from Kyatpin which Europeans pronounced Portungi and Mogok in upper Myanmar. But Pegu being an emporium city of the time attracted jewelers from overseas particularly European jewelers in Italy. Caesar Frederic describes a trade in rubies he experienced in Pegu and speaks highly of the honesty he experienced in Pegu and describes a trade in rubies and ed jewelers from overseas Mogok in upper Myanmar. They were brought from the time employed his money well, if he found that hee hath not unto whom hee will, and alwayes conferre and take will he shall have space to the merchant carrieth them and have agreed for them, citie, is this yt, when any bargain, and if not, they employ a Good roundes broke his minde to one of a most vile and base price. eghe and telleth him that he cometh to one of these Tar- der, which is this. There “Also it is a thing to be New Light of Myanmar Monday, 5 May, 2014 9 Article speaks highly of the honesty he experienced in Pegu and describes a trade in rubies and ed jewelers from overseas Mogok in upper Myanmar. They were brought from the time employed his money well, if he found that hee hath not unto whom hee will, and alwayes conferre and take will he shall have space to the merchant carrieth them and have agreed for them, citie, is this yt, when any bargain, and if not, they employ a Good roundes broke his minde to one of a most vile and base price. eghe and telleth him that he cometh to one of these Tar- der, which is this. There “Also it is a thing to be

Pegu, an urban and commercial centre in Mon-Myanmar Kingdoms (Part IV)

Maha Suddhamma Jotika dhaja Sihu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Pegu was a rich town, particularly in its desirability as a trade centre. Time and again it is described as a very important place for rubies and gems. As a matter of fact, the value of rubies mined in Mogok region was only a small fraction of the total trade of rubies in Pegu.

Pegu region is located on the SE coast of Burma. It was once an emporium city of great importance due to its location on the Indo-Siam border. However, the city's decline began in the 16th century when the Portuguese took over the Aden region.

Pegu was an important trading centre in the 18th century, and it continued to be so until the 19th century. However, the city's decline began in the 16th century when the Portuguese took over the Aden region. After the Portuguese, the Dutch took over Pegu and made it their main port in South-East Asia. The Dutch were the first to collect and trade in rubies and gems from Pegu. They established a monopoly on the trade and controlled it for many years.

In the 19th century, the British took over Pegu and made it their main port in South-East Asia. The British were the first to collect and trade in rubies and gems from Pegu. They established a monopoly on the trade and controlled it for many years.

In the 20th century, Pegu was an important centre for the trade in rubies and gems. However, the trade declined in the 1950s due to the political instability in the region.

In the 21st century, Pegu has become a centre for the trade in jade and gems. The city is still famous for its gem trade, and it has become a major centre for the trade in rubies and gems in Asia.
Sinn Fein poised for Irish poll success amid Adams murder probe

DUBLIN, 4 May — Sinn Fein is in contention to win three of the Irish republic’s 11 seats in the European Parliament, a poll showed on Saturday ahead of an election which the party says the arrest of leader Gerry Adams was timed to disrupt.

Northern Ireland police extended the detention of Adams by another two days on Friday to give detectives more time to question him about a 1972 murder, raising the stakes in a case that has rocked the British province.

Sinn Fein, which shares power in Northern Ireland and has gained popularity south of the border during the country’s financial crisis, could win as many European Parliament seats as Prime Minister Enda Kenny’s Fine Gael party in the 23 May poll, according to a survey in the Sunday Business Post newspaper.

The party’s candidates lie third in the two-four-seat rural constituencies and its Dublin contender is second, although Ireland’s proportional representation voting system favours larger parties who run more than one candidate because running mates can pick up surplus votes from those elected.

Sinn Fein, which is the second largest opposition party in Dublin’s parliament after Fianna Fail, failed to win a seat in the last European elections five years ago after capturing its first ever seat in the European parliament in 2004.

It was the second opinion poll in a week which has shown Sinn Fein are poised to perform well in the elections that will take place the same day as local polls.

However, the 500 potential voters surveyed in each constituency were interviewed between Monday and Thursday of last week, mostly before the arrest of Adams on Wednesday.

Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein member, reiterated on Saturday that the arrest was “inextricably linked” to the polls when he addressed hundreds of supporters who staged a rally by a new mural of Adams painted in Belfast. Sinn Fein will also contest European and local elections in Northern Ireland. Adams’ arrest over the killing of Jean McConville is among the most significant in Northern Ireland since a 1998 peace deal ended decades of tit-for-tat killings between Irish Catholic nationalists and mostly Protestant pro-British loyalists.

The Sinn Fein leader, who is a member of parliament in the Irish republic, has been dogged throughout his career by accusations from former IRAghten that he was involved in its campaign of killings, a charge he has repeatedly denied.

IAEA inspectors to visit Iran’s nuclear facilities

TEHERAN, 4 May — A team of inspectors from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will arrive in Teheran on Sunday for a two-day visit to some of Iran’s nuclear facilities, local media reported on Saturday.

The IAEA inspectors are scheduled to meet some officials of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) before they travel to Yazd Province to visit Saghord uranium mine and Arakdan Yellowcake production plant in accordance to the agreement signed by the UN nuclear watchdog and the AEOI last November, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

IAEA Deputy Director General Massimo Aparo will lead the inspection according to an agreement signed on 11 November by the head of the AEOI Ali-Akbar Salehi and IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano on mutual cooperation, AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said.

The UN nuclear watchdog is not legally entitled to visit the country’s Parchin military site, stressing that any possible access to the site will be managed by Teheran, Kamalvandi said Saturday.

Afghan landslide rescue now focuses on displaced

LISBON, 4 May — Japan and the United States have yet to reach a broad agreement in bilateral talks on the envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, but the two nations have made significant progress, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday.

“We have made major progress. I think we have been a crucial turning point,” Abe told reporters in reference to a summit meeting with US President Barack Obama in late April in Tokyo.

“Whatever the definitions of words are, we have yet to reach a broad agreement,” said Abe, who is on a six-nation tour of Europe.

Although Abe and Obama did not announce an agreement at the summit, they said in a joint statement that the two sides “identified a path forward” on important issues, marking “a key milestone” in the TPP negotiations.

Some Japanese media reported that the two sides effectively reached a broad agreement on the bilateral talks for the TPP when Obama visited Tokyo.

Tokyo and Washington have been negotiating tariffs on five farm product categories that Japan designated as off-limits — rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy products and sugar — as well as automotive issues.

Among the key categories, the two sides appear to still remain apart over Japan’s tariffs on pork and safeguard measures for Japan’s beef imports.

Japan and the United States are the two biggest economies among the 12 TPP negotiating nations, and the course of broader TPP talks would depend on the outcome of the Japan-US negotiations.

Japan, US yet to reach broad TPP pact, but make major progress

BELARUS urges Ukrainians to stop bloodshed

MINSK, 4 May — Belarussian Foreign Ministry on Saturday called on Ukrainians political forces to stop bloodshed and take real steps toward building up a national dialogue.

Belarus is deeply concerned and worried about the recent developments in Ukraine, which led to the open armed confrontation in a number of regions of the country, the Belarusian ministry said in a statement, stressing all the parties to the conflict should realize their fullest responsibility for the future of Ukraine and should sit down at the negotiating table.

“We are particularly concerned with the tragic events in Odessa that resulted in numerous human casualties,” said the statement.

Violent clashes occurred on Friday between pro- and antigovernment protesters in Ukraine’s Black Sea city of Odessa, leaving at least 43 people killed and 174 others injured.

Belarus hopes for a prompt peaceful resolution of the crisis in Ukraine with the rights and interests of all citizens of the country fully observed, the statement said. —Xinhua

Afghan landslide is absolutely wrong

AFGHANISTAN rescue now focuses on displaced

KABUL, 4 May — Afghans gave up hope on Saturday of finding any survivors from a landslide in the remote northeast, with the number killed or missing put at between a few hundred and as many as 2,700.

The United Nations said the focus now was on helping more than 4,000 displaced people.

International organisations and Afghan officials said at least 300 mud brick homes were buried on Friday, but precise information on the number killed was hard to come by.

The landslide affected the impoverished province bordering Tajikistan.

The UN mission in Afghanistan said more than 350 people were killed, but a spokesman for the local governor put the number in excess of 2,100.

The Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM) said 2,700 were dead or missing.

“The scale of this landslide is absolutely devastating, with an entire village practically wiped away,” IOM Afghanistan Chief of Mission Richard Danziger said. “Hundreds of families have lost everything and are in immense need of assistance.”

The United Nations said the focus was now on the more than 4,000 people displaced, either directly as a result of the landslide or as a precautionary measure from villages at risk. The IOM said over 14,000 people were affected.

Their main needs are water, medicine, food and emergency shelter, said Ari Gaitanis, a spokesman from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

Officials expressed concern about the unstable hillside above the site of the disaster, which may cave in again, threatening the homeless as well as the UN and local rescue teams working there.

Villagers and a few dozen police, equipped with only basic digging tools, resumed their search on Sunday but it soon became clear there was no hope of finding survivors buried in the deep mud and rubble.
China cartoon festival sees 2.2 bln USD transaction

HANGZHOU, 4 May— The contracted transactions reached 13.8 billion yuan (2.2 billion US dollars) at the 10th China International Cartoon & Animation Festival which closed on Saturday, said organizers. The six-day event held in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, attracted a record high of 1.36 million participants.

During the festival, 12 industry trade and exchange activities were organized and more than 400 animation-related products were released.

As China’s biggest animation event, it attracted 602 companies and organizations from 74 countries and regions. The new company, which also involved spinning off profitable activities into a “bad” company, has been unable to make a profit ever since and is burning around 1 million euros of cash a day to keep flying.

Alitalia’s 800 million euros ($1.11 billion) of debt into a separate company, a source told Reuters confirming details of an earlier report by Italian daily Il Messaggero.

The plan was discussed at a meeting in Milan on Friday between executives of the loss-making airline and four Italian creditor banks, including top Italian lenders UniCredit (CRDI.MI) and Intesa Sanpaolo (ISP.MI).

Alitalia Chief Executive Gabriele Del Torchio is flying to the Gulf on Monday and will meet Etihad’s boss James Hogan on Tuesday, the source said. “The aim is to agree by Tuesday on a proposal to be put to Etihad with a view of clinching a deal,” the source added.

Alitalia, which was privatized in 2008 under a plan that also involved spinning off unprofitable activities into a “bad” company, has been unable to make a profit ever since and is burning around 1 million euros of debt.

Old workers return, new hires arrive, as construction jobs grow

CARPENTERS frame a home at a residential construction site in the west side of the Las Vegas Valley in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 5, 2013.—Reuters

LOS ANGELES, 4 May— When the US economy crashed in 2008, following the implosion of the housing market, Dave Klein’s southwestern California construction company almost folded.

Overnight, he went from employing 40 construction workers to four. Some returned home to El Salvador, others to Mexico. Several left the state to find work in pork and chicken factories in the Midwest.

But in the past two months, Klein says, some of them have returned as he has started hiring again — moves that reflect a recent trend in the US construction industry as the American economy continues to pick up steam.

“There is a little bit more money out there and there are a lot of apartments being built,” Klein said. “So things are getting a little better. Some of these guys went into the restaurant industry, but they are coming back. Or friends of friends are.”

The US construction industry saw its largest gain in jobs since the start of the year, and the highest number since 2009, according to preliminary figures from the Bureau of Labour Statistics on Friday. The construction sector added 32,000 jobs in April, the fourth straight month of gains over which 124,000 building site jobs have been created.

The gains were part of an unexpectedly bright jobs report which saw the overall unemployment rate drop from 6.7 percent to 6.3 percent as US employers added 288,000 jobs in April, well above estimates.

Saudi Arabia registered 2 deaths, 16 new MERS coronavirus cases

RIYADH, 4 May— The Saudi Health Ministry announced on Saturday two more deaths and 16 new Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus cases, raising the number of infection to 396, including 111 deaths.

Of the new cases, five were in Riyadh, six in Jedda, three in Mecca and two in Medina. The two deaths were reported in Jeddah and Mecca. Six of the cases were without symptoms, five receiving treatment at normal wards and five at the ICU. The first such case was diagnosed in 2012.

Despite the registering of new cases on a daily basis, the World Health Organization has not yet declared the infection as epidemic.

Saudi Arabia announced earlier that it is working with five international medicine companies to develop a vaccine for the virus. It also said that the death rate among infected persons has been reduced from 60 percent to 32 percent.

Antibiotic resistance imposes serious threats to public health

GENEVA, 4 May— Antibiotic resistance taking place in every region of the world has imposed serious threats to public health, according to a new global report launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday. The report focuses on antibiotic resistance in seven different bacteria responsible for common and serious diseases such as blood-stream infections, diarrhoea, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and gonorrhoea. It said resistance to antibiotics, when bacteria no longer work in people who need them to treat infections, was occurring across many different infectious agents in all regions of the world.

“Without urgent, coordinated action by many stakeholders, the world is headed for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries which have been treatable for decades can once again kill,” Keiji Fukuda, WHO’s assistant director general, said in a statement.

Despite some countries having taken important steps in addressing the problem, WHO warned every country and individual needed to do more.

The UN health body said the situation should be tackled through the prevention of infections, better hygiene, access to clean water, infection control in health-care facilities and vaccinations. WHO recommended that health workers and pharmacists prescribe and dispense antibiotics to patients only when truly needed. It added policy-makers should strengthen resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, as well as regulate appropriate use of medicines.

China’s animation industry has seen rapid growth in recent years. Last year, 29 home-made animation films were screened in China. The total box office of China’s domestic animated films hit 646 million yuan in 2013, up 48 percent year-on-year, said Zhou Jiandong, an official with the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

The domestic animated films are expected to account for 10 percent of China’s total box office over the next two to three years, compared with 5.2 percent last year, Zhou said during the event. Beginning in 2005, the festival has been held in Hangzhou annually.
ADB annual meeting to discuss boosting lending capacity

ASTANA, 4 May — Financial leaders and delegates from the Asia-Pacific region are set to discuss strengthening the lending capacity of the Asian Development Bank at the organization’s two-day meeting to begin Sunday in the capital of Kazakhstan.

At a Press conference on Friday, ADB President Takehiko Nakao said he wants to share a proposal to combine the bank’s two lending windows so as to increase its lending capacity by over 20 percent and provide greater support to lower income countries.

The member nations are also expected to boost cooperation in such areas as poverty reduction, inclusive economic growth, the environment and climate change, as well as infrastructure development, which are listed as among the 10 strategic priorities to spur growth in the region by 2020.

A representative of each member nation is expected to deliver a speech on the country’s economic situation and its efforts to assist poorer nations.

From Japan, Finance Minister Taro Aso and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda are attending the annual meeting, which will be concluded with Nakao’s closing Press conference on Monday.

In a separate meeting of ASEAN nations and Japan, China and South Korea on Saturday, financial chiefs confirmed their commitment to enhancing financial cooperation to promote the resilience of local currency bond markets.

Abe seeks in-depth collective defence talks before Cabinet approval

LISBON, 4 May — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday he will seek extensive debate within the ruling coalition parties on Japan’s reinterpretation of the Constitution, to lift its long-held ban on exercising the right to collective self-defense, before pursuing Cabinet approval on the matter.

Abe, who is on a six-nation tour of Europe, made the remarks as New Komeito party lawmakers have expressed caution toward the reinterpretation.

New Komeito is the junior coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party.

While noting that he is expected to receive a report of proposals by a panel of experts discussing the issue in the week beginning on 12 May, Abe said, “I refrain from specifying timing for Cabinet approval” on the matter. “What is important is not the timing, but reaching an agreement among the ruling coalition. It may take time,” Abe told reporters.

The panel, headed by Japan’s former Ambassador to the United States Shunji Yanai, is expected to call for a change in the interpretation of the Constitution to enable Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense while limiting its exercise by establishing conditions. The conditions include Japan’s security being under great threat or countries with close ties coming under attack, with the prime minister requiring Diet approval to exercise the right, sources close to the matter said earlier.

Based on the panel report, the government is expected to compile its basic policy on the matter and seek Cabinet approval. The basic policy “will present ideas for the direction of discussion, but not set policy direction,” Abe said. As for Japan’s policy on North Korea, Abe hinted that Japan may ease some of its sanctions against Pyongyang if sufficient progress is made on the issue of North Korea’s abductions of Japanese nationals.

Leftist rebels hold 40 hostages in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 4 May — Leftist rebels are holding close to 40 civilians in southern Philippines, and negotiations were conducted to free the hostages, authorities said on Sunday.

The alleged hostage-taking in Mahayahay village, Maragusan town, in Mindanao’s Compostela Valley started around 10 am on Saturday as dozens of heavily-armed New People’s Army guerrillas gathered 39 villagers, said Ernest Carolina, spokesperson of the army’s 10th Infantry Division.

The incident came just a day after Philippine police arrested a ranking rebel leader tagged as behind the killing of government officials.

Pat Lucero, an aide to provincial governor Arturo Uy, said an emergency meeting has been called on Sunday for local authorities to negotiate with the rebels for the victims’ safe release.

“No motive seen yet (behind the hostage-taking),” Governor Uy told Xinhua by mobile phone, adding the hostage-takers also have yet to issue any demand.

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“Who said it is the hostage-takers?” Governor Uy told Xinhua by mobile phone, adding the hostage-takers also have yet to issue any demand.

India, Pakistan troops exchange fire on Kashmir LoC

SRINAGAR, 4 May — The troops of India and Pakistan posted on line-of-control (LoC) in Kashmir resorted to firing on each other’s positions, officials said on Sunday.

The ceasefire violation took place on Saturday night in Mendhar sector of frontier Poonch district, about 185 km southwest of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

“Pakistani army last night at 11:30 (local time) violated ceasefire and targeted our positions in Mendhar sector using small arms and automatics.” Lt Col Manish Mehta, Indian army spokesman in Jammu said. “Our men posted there also fired in retaliation using similar caliber weapons.” “We have not suffered any damage due to Pakistani firing,” Mehta said. Last month, also two ceasefire violations were reported on LoC in Poonch. The fresh violations on LoC have come after a full of more than two months.

In December last year, Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of two countries met for talks held at Wagah-Attari border and pledged to uphold 2003 ceasefire agreement on the LoC. Besides agreeing to work out a mechanism to ensure peace and ease tensions.

On Wednesday, Pakistani army chief Gen Raheel Sharif described Kashmir as the “jugaad” vein of Pakistan and said the issue should be resolved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiris as per United Nations resolutions. The statement evoked sharp criticism from India.

Last year, deadly skirmishes took place between Indian and Pakistani troops posted on the 720-km-long LoC and 198-km International Border (IB) in Kashmir. Both sides have suffered troop as well as civilian casualties during the stand-off. Indian army said around 200 ceasefire violations were recorded on LoC and IB in Kashmir last year.

Indonesian troops exchange fire on Kashmir LoC

XINHUA

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ADB annual meeting to discuss boosting lending capacity
CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate the Patron of Myanmar-Japan Association and the Chairman of the Kanbawza Bank Ltd., U Aung Ko Win, who has been awarded the “Special Honorary President’s State Excellence Award” once again for the Tax Assessment Year of 2012-2013, highest income tax payer in Myanmar, at the President’s State Excellence Award Presentation Ceremony, at Nay Pyi Taw on 3.5.2014. We hope that you continue to be the highest tax payer in the upcoming years and continue to contribute toward the betterment of society and development of the country.

Chairman and Central Working Committee
Myanmar - Japan Association
Rani Mukerji’s Film Mardaani Veiled in Secrecy

Mumbai, 4 May — The fact that Rani Mukerji is playing a cop in Pradeep Sarkar’s upcoming film Mardaani is known.

Now the news is that the production house (Yash Raj Films) has made every-
China premier says Sino-Africa disputes just ‘growing pains’

BEIJING, May 4 — Disputes arising over China’s investment projects in Africa are just “growing pains” in a burgeoning relationship that saw their trade top $200 billion last year, Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday ahead of a tour of the continent.

Li, speaking before starting a 4-11 May trip to Ethiopia, Nigeria, Angola and Kenya, said Chinese firms in Africa needed to abide by local laws and regulations as well as also take responsibility to protect the interests of local communities.

He said the Chinese government was willing to sit down with African countries to resolve any issues that arose between the two sides, but said these were “isolated” cases in a relationship based on equality and mutual benefit.

“I wish to assure our African friends in all seriousness that China will never pursue a colonialist path like some countries did, or allow colonialism, which belongs to the past, to sit down with African government was willing to sit down to talk and consider them to resolve any disputes arising over China’s investment projects in Africa,” Li quoted Li as saying.

People in favor of protecting Japan’s current Constitution march through a street in Tokyo’s Ginzza district on 3 May, 2014, Constitution Day, a national holiday to commemorate the enforcement of the supreme law 67 years ago. Various events hosted by people in favor of protecting or revising the Constitution were held in the capital.—KYODO NEWS

Constitution Day in Japan

LONDON, 4 May — Manchester United’s deficiencies were laid bare by relegation battlers Sunderland on Saturday as a 4-0 home loss punctured the optimism induced by Ryan Giggs’s promotion to caretaker manager. The long-serving Giggs’s first taste of managing his boyhood club had a cathartic effect last week in a 4-0 home win over relegation-threatened Norwich. This match loomed as the gloom of the ill-fated and short David Moyes era.

However, in-form Sunderland were worthy of a first Old Trafford victory since 1968 — a result which condemned United to a seventh home league defeat, their worst result since 1973-74 when they were relegated. While things are certainly nowhere near as bad as during the dark days of the early 70s, the scale of the re-building job required during the summer was there for all to see.

Giggs, who is likely to step aside with Dutchman Louis van Gaal favourite to become the club’s new manager, looked a frustrated figure as he stood in the technical area in a smart suit, unable to influence what was happening in front of him.

“We were putting five or 10-yard passes astray and if you do that in the Premier League you get punished,” Giggs said. “We’ve had a problem at home all season, it’s not been good enough. I can’t tell you anything about the next manager, I am just concentrating on the next game. The quality is still there in the dressing room but we didn’t show it.”

Victory would have given United a good chance to at least claim the consolation prize of Europa League football next season by edging out Tottenham Hotspur to sixth place. That now looks unlikely as they remain six points behind the Londoners in seventh with two games left. The 40-year-old Welshman’s side huffed and puffed in search of an equaliser to Sebastian Larsson’s goal but never really looked dangerous, especially with Wayne Rooney missing through illness and injury.

Giggs, still registered as a player at the club where he has won every honour in club football, sent on Robin van Persie, Danny Welbeck and Adnan Januzaj after the break, all to no avail. “The players were a bit flat, why I don’t know,” Giggs said. “We controlled the game but lacked that bit of quality in the final third.”

Giggs said he might even consider picking himself for Tuesday’s game against Hull City. “I’ll train over the next few days and if I’m fit enough I’ll play,” he said. —Reuters

The Five Times European Champions have been the revelation of the Premier League season with their high-tempo attacking game and could still win a first English league title in 24 years over the next week.

“We will need to bring in players over the summer and the great plus about being in the Champions League is that it makes it easier to attract the top ones,” Rodgers told the Observer.

“We have a way of working and a way of playing that recommends itself to leading players.

“We have established a reputation as a creative, attacking team that wants to win games and that should stand us in good stead.

“Last summer when we were speaking to certain players they said they respected what we were trying to achieve but they wanted to play at the top level.”—REUTERS

Giggs effect wears off as United slump again

LONDON, 4 May — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers is preparing a raid on the transfer market at the end of the season and believes the guarantee of Champions League football and the style of play he has developed at the club will make recruitment easier.

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MANCHESTER, 4 May — Manchester United caretaker player manager Ryan Giggs reacts during his side’s English Premier League soccer match against Sunderland at Old Trafford in Manchester, on 3 May, 2014.—REUTERS
Man City clear Everton obstacle, Cardiff and Fulham down

LONDON, 4 May — Edin Dzeko’s double at Everton helped Manchester City clear the biggest obstacle blocking their route to a second English title in three years on Saturday but Cardiff City and Fulham fared through the relegation trapdoor.

Bossian striker Dzeko scored either side of halftime at Goodison Park as City won 3-2 to return to the summit for the first time since January and home wins against Aston Villa and West Ham United next week would almost certainly seal the title.

Everton, whose defeat means Arsenal will finish in the top four and qualify for the Champions League, led early on with a gem from Ross Barkley but Argentina striker Sergio Aguero equalised and Dzeko put the visitors in command.

Romelu Lukaku ensured a nervy finale with a second for the home side but City, for whom keeper Joe Hart made several fine saves, needed one to move above Liverpool on goal difference.

Both sides have 80 points with two games to play while Chelsea are third on 78, also with two games to play beginning at home to relegation-haunted Norwich City on Sunday.

Liverpool play their penultimate game away to Crystal Palace on Monday with City, who boast a nine-goal superior goal difference, at home to Villa on Wednesday before next Sunday’s finale to a gripping season.—Reuters

Garcia admits Serie A title race is over

ROME, 4 May — Roma head coach Rudi Garcia admitted on Saturday that the Italian Serie A title race has been over already as Juventus are set to win it Monday.

Though Roma scored nine consecutive victories, they could not narrow the eight-point gap with Juve, who could win the Scudetto on Monday with a win over Atalanta at home.

Garcia said even if Roma win at Catania on Sunday, they still could not bring any pressure to Juventus.

“Will our victory at Catania put pressure on Juve? No, the Scudetto race is solved,” he said.

“Nothing will be changed by the result of our match, but we’ll play to win anyway, as we want to extend our winning streak, even if it’s meaningless in terms of the title,” he said.

Garcia suggested that Juventus and Roma have spurred each other this season to make historical records.

“We compliment Juve, a great club with great players. Their record-breaking campaign is in part down to us and vice-versa,” he said.

Roma already set a new club record of points in a single Serie A season, and Juventus are on track to reach the 100-point milestone — something no team has ever achieved in Italy’s top flight.—Xinhua

Arsenal stroll in the sun to victory over West Brom

LONDON, 4 May—Olivier Giroud’s first half header gave Arsenal a 1-0 win over West Bromwich Albion in a largely uneventful end-of-season stroll in the sun at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

With Arsenal assured of a top-four finish in the Premier League and securing Champions League football for the 17th successive time they lacked some urgency against a West Brom side still not completely safe from relegation.

Giroud headed home from a 14th minute corner to secure the points for Arsenal, who play at Norwich City in their final league match next Sunday before meeting Hull City in the FA Cup final on May 17.

The nearest Arsenal came to a second goal was when Lukas Podolski hit the post in the second half.

Defeat left 16th-placed West Brom hoping that Chelsea beat Norwich later to guarantee their survival although they still have two matches left to play.

Cardiff City and Fulham were relegated on Saturday with Norwich favourites to join them in the Championship.—Reuters

Napoli win fifth Italian Cup on violent Rome night

ROMA, 4 May — Napoli beat Fiorentina 3-1 to win their fifth Italian Cup on Saturday in a match that kicked off 45 minutes late after three fans were shot, one critically, in an incident near Rome’s Olympic Stadium.

A first half brace from Italy international Lorenzo Insigne and a late strike from Dries Mertens helped the southern side, who finished with 10 men, to their second Cup victory in three years.

Insigne’s goals in the 11th and 17th minutes put Fiorentina on the back foot but Juan Vargas brought his side back into the game just before the half hour with a fantastic volley. Mertens then added Napoli’s third in injury time.

Fiorentina took the game to their rivals in the second half, with Giuseppe Rossi making a first appearance since Jan 5 as a 69th-minute substitute, but Napoli held on despite Fiorentina’s equalising and three goals in three years on Saturday but City, for whom keeper Joe Hart made several fine saves, needed one to move above Liverpool on goal difference.

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Liverpool play their penultimate game away to Crystal Palace on Monday with City, who boast a nine-goal superior goal difference, at home to Villa on Wednesday before next Sunday’s finale to a gripping season.—Reuters

Rafael Benitez told reporters.

“It seemed at the start that everything was going to be easy for us. But Fiorentina are a strong side, they hit back and but in the end it was a great result for us.

“The squad is strong, they want to win and I think this bodes well for us in the future,” added the Spaniard. “It was one of those games that could have ended in any number of ways,” said Fiore coach Vincenzo Montella who felt the match was overshadowed by the trouble ahead of the game.

“My only biggest regret is not being able to enjoy the final as I should have been able to due to what happened before the match. I think that was the case for everyone.”

The match had looked in danger of being cancelled as news of the shooting filtered through.

Police said in a statement that the incident did not appear to be linked to broader clashes in the Tor di Quinto area, with rival supporters throwing firecrackers and other objects at each other before the game.—Reuters

Michelson shoots 63 to trail Holmes by two in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, (North Carolina), 4 May — Phil Mickelson shot his best ever score at Quail Hollow, a nine-under-par 63, to move within two shots of leader J.B. Holmes after the third round of the Wells Fargo Championship on Saturday.

Mickelson picked up seven strokes in a stunning six-hole stretch before the turn to negotiate the front nine in 29 and move within striking distance of his 43rd PGA Tour victory.

“I’m not worried about winning (but) I would like to win because it’s a course I dearly love,” the five-time major champion, who is alone in third place, told reporters.

Fellow American J.B. Holmes (66) sank a 20-foot birdie from the fringe at the last to hit the front on 13-under 203, one stroke ahead of countryman Martin Flores (69). “It was a very meaningful round for me,” added Mickelson, who attracted a huge gallery on a magnificent spring afternoon.

“I hit the ball well and was able to capitalise with some good putts, and it feels good because I haven’t been able to put it all together this year.”

“My game is starting to feel sharp and mentally I was much more focussed throughout the entire day.”

This week’s tournament signals the start of his preparation for the US Open at nearby Pinehurst No 2 next month.

Mickelson finished second behind the late Payne Stewart in 1999 — one of six runner-up finishes in the only major he has yet to win.

But the Open will be far from Mickelson’s mind on Sunday as he attempts to improve on last year’s third-placing here.

Holmes, however, is unlikely to be a pushover.

He spent the corresponding day last year at the Kentucky Derby, because he was injured, but hopes to gallop to a victory of his own Sunday.—Reuters

Arsenal’s Olivier Giroud (R) challenges West Bromwich Albion’s Chris Brunt during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 4 May, 2014.—Reuters

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