Nay Pyi Taw, 18 May
—Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, who also chairs the committee for stability and development of Rakhine State, met with the state chief minister and officials in Sittway on Sunday morning.

The vice-president said communal violence was hampering regional development and urged all responsible persons to cooperate in the affairs of Rakhine State.

He also said that the government would coordinate with the UN and INGOs to provide for the welfare of people in temporary camps.

The Rakhine State chief minister briefed the vice president on the current situation, e.g. stability and development of Rakhine State. Ms. Yosi Burckhardt of UNICEF and Ms. Nicola Pyatt of Save the Children met with people in Kantha Htwet Wa temporary camp. To wrap up his visit, the vice-president and officials went back to Sittway on Friday, the managers of three bus lines are chairman of the committee for stability, health, sanitation, and food for people in temporary camps.

Mr. U Kyaw Naing from Shwe Sin Bus Line (Nay Pyi Taw) and Mr. Ma Nwe Nwe Zin, a bus conductor of Mandalar Min Bus line (Nay Pyi Taw) said, “10 minutes before leaving the bus station, bus conductors are to check the bus for extinguishers and emergency hammers on the bus. It is the job of the bus conductor to remind passengers to fasten belts for safety. The bus line has passenger insurance, but not for buses. The bus line will have insurance for express buses after its meeting on 17 May.”

“The bus line has already got insurance for buses. Regarding passenger insurance, it will sell for K300 each as of 17 May,” she added. “I check the passengers are ok whenever the express bus passed forty miles on the route (Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw) and help the driver by talking to him,” said Ma Nwe Nwe Zin, a bus conductor of Mandalar Min bus line (Nay Pyi Taw).

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Children under training of basic culture course in Meiktila Tsp

Meiktila, 18 May—The basic Buddhist culture course is being given to children at the monastery in Kwetnge Village of Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region.

Altogether 160 children from Kwetnge Village and nearby villages are attending the course. The course is aimed at providing cultural knowledge and Buddhist culture to the children before opening the schools. The course will last from 3 to 20 May, said the abbot of Zaygon East Monastery of Kwetnge Village.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Locals have opportunity to raise reading habit thanks to library

Yangon, 18 May—A ceremony to open Myitta South District Library was held in Hsapachaung Kyauksu Ward of Dala Township, Yangon South District, on Saturday.

At the opening ceremony, township level officials discussed durability of the library. Township Information and Public Relations Department and well-wishers donated books and publications to the library chairman and officials.

“We are pleased for opening the library as our children are eager to read books,” said a local.

It was aimed at widening the scope of knowledge of local people thanks to the library.

It is a 16 feet long, 12 feet wide and 13 feet high. Construction of the building cost K2,416,100.

U Banya Maung Maung

Preservation of ancient palm-leave inscriptions performed at Pitakat Chamber in Thaton

Thaton, 18 May—Thuwunna Bhumiparyatiti Sasanaitha Association takes responsibility for maintenance of the palm-leave inscriptions and systematic storage at U Po Thee Pitakat Chamber in the precinct of Saddhamma Jotikarama monastery at the foot of Myathabeik Hill in Thaton, Mon State.

“The chamber is owned by the association. Rare palm-leave inscriptions, folded papers and Pitakat treatises donated by retired assistant officer U Po Thee-Daw Khin Khin Gyi and family are being stored at the chamber many years ago. International researchers arrived here to do research the palm-leave inscriptions and folded papers. We maintain these rare works for durability. We take care of works as the palm-leaves are ancient works,” said U Khin Aung, secretary of the association.

A total of 788 packets of ancient palm-leave inscriptions and 28 folded papers in Mon, Pali and Myanmar languages are being stored at the chamber.

Members of the association carried out maintenance of the works twice a month.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

City developments tasks undertaken in Magway

Magway, 18 May—Magway Region government is making strenuous efforts for keeping Magway, the city of Magway Region, pleasant and clean in line with the city characteristics and for ensuring traffic safety.

The local authorities install steel fixing along the 2630 feet long traffic island on Bogyoke Road and the wire mesh along the 120 feet long section from Myinkin to Thitsa streets and another section from Myitta to Thitsa streets on Magway-Taungdwin Road.

All the development task cost K52,693,818.

Officials and workers are pouring out their efforts for timely completion of the tasks.

Ko Myo (IPRD)

Village library fulfills wish of locals for reading

Monywa, 18 May—As part of efforts to implement rural development and poverty alleviation scheme, the books donation to Thuta Pyinnya library was held at the library building in Nyuangbinwun Village of Kani Township, Sagaing Region, recently.

Township Education Officer Daw Htay Yi urged the local people to read the books for development of knowledge.

Staff Daw Thin Thin Aye of the Township Information and Public Relations Department demonstrated on systematic keeping of books and registration.

Township Management Committee Chairman U Htin Aung handed over books to the village librarian.

“In the past, we went to urban area crossing the creek to borrow books. So, we could not go to the shops due to lack of spare time.

Now, the village library will fulfill our wishes for reading, and I thank the officials for their efforts in establishment of the library,” said U Kyaw Win, a bookworm from Nyaungwun Village.

Sagaing Region IPRD
60th anniversary of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence celebrated

YANGON, 18 May—The 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence implemented by India, China and Myanmar, was celebrated on Sunday at Strand Hotel on Seikkantha Street in Yangon, with an address by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung Maung Lwin.

During the celebration, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Chairman U Sein Win Aung of Myanmar-China Friendship Association and Vice-Chairman Mr Geng Zhiyuan of China-Myanmar Friendship Association made speeches to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.—MNA

World Bank helps rural development in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—As part of the Community Development District (CDD) project jointly steered by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and the World Bank, Deputy Minister U Tin Ngwe met with local people of Makyaung-zee  Village in Kanpetlet Township of Chin State, sources said.

The deputy minister explained ongoing rural development tasks, which include the expansion of a three-mile-long earthen road linking the township and the village, the renovation of the village primary school, and the construction of reservoirs and pumps.

The community-based project covers 62 village-tracts, each of which is entitled to US$27,000 a year for three consecutive years.—MNA

Leader of NLD, 88 Generation call for amendment of Section 436 of Constitution

MANDALAY, 18 May—Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Leader of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society U Min Ko Naing expressed their willingness to amendment of Section 436 of the 2008 Constitution at Aungpinle Sport Ground in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay on Sunday. MNA

Myanmar’s Priorities for ASEAN Chairmanship

Myanmar’s priorities of ASEAN Chairmanship will be:
• To ensure the full implementation of the remaining tasks in realizing ASEAN Community by 2015.
• To set the priority areas for acceleration in implementation of the ASEAN Community, to review the status of community building, to set future initiatives to vitalize ASEAN, to formulate programmes in promoting ASEAN external relations.
• To carry out the review of ASEAN Charter, in order to maintain the relevance of ASEAN in changing circumstances.
• To conduct the mid-term review of the implementation the ARF vision statement and to develop a new vision for ARF.
• To transform ASEAN as a people-centred organization, to enhance engagements with civil society, to accelerate participation of women, youth, parliamentarians and media in the activities of ASEAN.
• To work on developing the ASEAN Vision beyond 2015.

Southwest monsoon enters southern Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—The southwest monsoon has entered southern part of Myanmar, the Andaman Sea and southeast of the Bay of Bengal last 24 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Travellers urged to buy insurances following fatal bus crash

MANDALAY, 18 May—Following the recent fatal bus crash on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, travellers are now advised to buy travel insurance. Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance U Aye Min Thein said on Friday.

“Traveller may buy two different types of travel insurance for over 100-mile long trips on expressways. This insurance will compensate families with K3.5 million in case of death and K2.4 million for injuries. In the past, MI compensated only with K1 million in such cases. In order to get more compensation for travellers, all bus lines will sign a MoU with MI and twelve private insurance companies. To avoid fatal bus crashes in the future, he also urged the bus line owners to only hire drivers with a valid licence. Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

Private medical centre to introduce sophisticated technology

YANGON, 18 May—The opening ceremony of PERFECT- Myanmar Molecular Imaging and Therapy Centre (MMITC) took place at Sedona Hotel on Sunday afternoon, sources said.

Addressing the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the use of cutting-edge technology is of great help in diagnosis and treatment, adding that molecular imaging is a latest branch of radiology, with the application limited to high-tech countries. He expressed his gratitude to MMITC, which will render services unavailable even in general hospitals.

An official explains services of Myanmar Insurance for travellers.
A first for Indonesia, ethnic Chinese leader takes charge in the capital

Jakarta, 18 May — Indonesia’s presidential race isn’t until July. But there’s already one winner.
Basuki Tjaaha Pit, better known by his nickname “Ahok”, has taken over as acting governor of the Indonesian capital Jakarta. He is the first ethnic Chinese to do so in a country that is 95 percent native Indonesian and has the world’s largest Muslim population.

A Christian, Ahok succeeds Joko “Jokowi” Widodo who has stepped aside to run for the presidential election on 9 July, which opinion polls suggest he will win. Ahok will automatically take over to complete Jokowi’s five-year term if he does win.

Indonesia’s Chinese make up only about 2 percent of the 240 million population.

Deserted for their wide control over trade and business, and suspected of loyalty to China, Indone-

Sian-Chinese have been deliberately kept out of the political and military hierarchy for most of the country’s almost 70 years of independence.

The resentment, which has burst into bloody riots in the past, appears to be on the wane, although it’s not over.

Even critics of Jakarta’s acting governor complain mostly about what they see as his abrasive style of governance, not his background. “People are voting for a track record today,” Ahok told Reuters in an interview in his office in April. “It’s not about the race or religion...or some primordial idea of who should run (the country).”

Ahok has been the bad cop to Jokowi’s good cop. In contrast to the typically soft-spoken and Javanesa Jokowi, Ahok has gained a reputation for being a tough guy not afraid to shake up the country’s sleepy bureaucracy.

“The first thing we have to fix here is the bureaucracy...by testing and evaluating their perfor-
mance, ” Ahok said. “We say to them if they don’t want to follow us, they can get out. Sometimes we have to kick them out. Of course they are angry but we don’t care.”

Next Iran nuclear talks due on 16-20 June

Dubai, 18 May — The next round of nuclear talks between Iran and six world powers will take place in Vienna on 16-20 June, senior Iranian nuclear negoti-

ator Abbas Araghchi was reported as saying by the IRNA official state news agency.

There were no further details in the agency’s re-
port late on Saturday about the planned discussions, which are aimed at ending a decade-old standoff over Iran’s nuclear program.

Teheran says its nuclear programme is for peace-

ful aims such as power gen-
eration and medicine. The West and Israel suspect it is a cover for acquiring the capability to make nuclear weapons. The latest round of negotiations in Vienna last week resulted in little progress.

The six powers want Iran to agree to scale back uranium enrichment and other sensitive nuclear ac-
vity and accept more rig-
orous UN inspections to prove it any capability of quickly producing atomic bombs, in exchange for an end to sanctions.

In a related develop-
ment, Iranian media re-
ported that an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation would visit Teheran on Monday to discuss Iran’s nuclear work. In Vienna, there was no immediate IAEA com-
ment, but diplomatic sourc-es on Friday said a meeting early this week was expect-
ed. Iran has offered to work with the IAEA in clarifying what the UN agency calls the possible military di-

mensions of the country’s nuclear programme.

New Delhi, 18 May — Hundreds of Indians thronged the leafy streets of New Delhi on Saturday to greet Narendra Modi’s triumphant march into the capital after he decimated the Nehru-Gandhi dynas-
ty and the ruling Congress party in the biggest election victory the country has seen in 30 years.

Modi leaned far out of his car, waving a victory sign to jubilant support-
ers, in a drive from the air-

port to the headquarters of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the center of town.

A Hindu nationalist who critics fear will be di-

visive and autocratic, Modi toned down religious issues in his pitch to India’s 815 million voters and won the world’s biggest ever elec-
tion with promises of eco-
nomic development for all.

The three-times chief minister of the western state of Gujarat is an outsider to Delhi’s power circle. The low-caste son of a tea stall-owner, his rise to pow-
er signals the end of an era dominated by the descend-
ants of India’s first prime minister, independence hero Jawaharlal Nehru.

“Four to five gener-
ations have been wasted since 1952, this victory has been achieved after that,” Modi said, in a jibe at the Nehru-Gandhi family and the Congress it dominates.

Describing himself as a “worker”, he hailed grass-

roots campaigners who showered him with pink rose petals as he arrived at party headquarters. There he met other party leaders and was expected to start discussions about forming a cabinet. Modi will not for-
mally take office until after Tuesday, the party said.

Modi has given India its first parliamentary ma-

jority after 25 years of co-
alition governments, with his party winning more than six times the seats garnered by Congress. With almost all 543 seats declared by Saturday morning, Modi’s BJP looked set to win 282 seats, 10 more than the majority required to rule. With its allied parties, it was heading for a comfort-
able tally of around 337 — the clearest result since the 1984 assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi’s son Rajiv to office.

Cambodian PM flies to Shanghai for leaders’ summit

Phnom Penh, 18 May — Cambodian Prime Min-
ister Hun Sen flew to Shang-
hai, China on Sunday morn-
ing to attend the 4th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to be held from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Hun Sen is accompa-
nied by Deputy Prime Min-
ister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Minister of Rural Development Chea Sophara, and other members of the government, Sry Thammarong, a senior official at the Prime Minister Hun Sen’s Cabinet, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport ahead of departure.

“The summit will focus on enhancing dialogue, con-

fidence and coordination, and on jointly constructing a new Asia with peace, stabil-

ity and cooperation,” he said.

“It will also be a forum for leaders in Asia to exchange views on security issues and new challenges.”

He said the summit is called in the context that the situations in Asian re-
gion and the world are going through complicated chang-

es, and the Asian region has faced unprecedented oppor-
tunities and challenges. Ac-

cording to Sry Thammarong, Hun Sen will meet with Chi-
nese President Xi Jinping and visit the Shanghai Air-
craft Design and Research Institute during his stay in Shanghai.

Indonesia’s Modi gets hero’s welcome as he brings new era to New Delhi

Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi (wearing a garland), the prime ministerial candidate for India’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), gestures to his supporters outside party’s headquarters in New Delhi on 17 May, 2014.

Reuters

Video cameras are set up for the start of a news con-


Reuters

IRNA reported as saying by the Prime Minister Hun Sen’s Cabinet, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport ahead of departure.
APEC to craft road map in 2014 for realization of new free trade area

QINGDAO, (China), 18 May — At a time when maritime tensions involving China are under the spotlight, Asia-Pacific trade ministers agreed on Sunday to promote regional economic integration and create a road map, possibly by the end of 2014, for the realization of a new free trade area.

"We are committed to further advancing the Asia-Pacific’s role as an engine for the global economy through increased cooperation and mutual support," the ministers said in a statement adopted at the end of a two-day meeting in the eastern Chinese port city of Qingdao.

The ministers said they are "determined to uphold the principles of openness, inclusiveness and cooperation under a win-win spirit...and deepen and strengthen regional economic integration."

The ministers agreed to develop a road map for the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, embracing all APEC partners and cooperation under Openness, Inclusiveness and Cooperation (APEC’s motto) and the Asia-Pacific Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

The meeting effectively marked the start of China’s chairmanship this year of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and came at a time when the region, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of the world’s gross domestic product, is fraught with maritime tensions, most recently between Beijing and Hanoi in the South China Sea.

"We are committed to further advancing our cooperation on global challenges," the statement said.—Kirin INS

Obama calls outgoing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after election

WASHINGTON, 18 May — US President Barack Obama called outgoing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday to thank him for developing deeper relations with the United States, a day after Singh’s political party was swept from power. On Friday, Obama called Singh’s successor, opposition leader Narendra Modi, and invited him to Washington at a mutually agreeable time.

Obama, who hosted Singh at a White House state dinner in his first term, thanked him for "his critical role in transforming and deepening the US-India strategic partnership and our cooperation on global challenges," a White House statement said. "The president conveyed his appreciation for Dr. Singh’s friendship, noting that he looked forward to further expanding the strong relationship between the United States and India with Prime Minister-Elect Narendra Modi," the statement said.—Reuters

Israel hints back-channel talks launched with Palestinians

JERUSALEM, 18 May — A senior member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government hinted on Saturday that Israel was involved in back-channel contacts with Palestinian and Arab officials despite the collapse of US-brokered peace negotiations last month.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman confirmed that centrist Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, Israel’s main negotiator in the nine months of talks, had met secretly in London this past week with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"I think that’s true that she met (him)," Lieberman told Israel’s Channel 2 television when asked about a report the same station had broadcast on Friday saying the two had met.

Livni insisted she had visited London but aides have declined comment on reports that she met Abbas there. Abbas has also made no comment.

Lieberman said Israel was sticking by its decision of last month to suspend formal talks with the Palestinians over Abbas’s deal to forge a unity government with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The Islamist group rejects dialogue with the Jewish state.

The negotiations renewed under the tutelage of Secretary of State John Kerry in July were already teetering towards failure. Lieberman said "there is no stagnation" in diplomacy despite the negotiations’ formal end last month.

"The fact there are no negotiations with Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) doesn’t mean there aren’t other things” taking place, he said, suggesting Israel should seek out other figures, including in the Arab business world, as potential partners and dismissing the possibility of a deal with Abbas.

"We must play along the length and breadth of the playing field," he said.

Netanyahu has also hinted at seeking a way to break the diplomatic deadlock. Haaretz daily said on Friday he planned to consult with cabinet ministers about alternative courses of action.—Reuters

Elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors kick off in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 18 May — The elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors began on Sunday morning in Cambodia with five political parties joining the contest.

The non-universal poll is cast by only 11,459 sitting commune councilors — typically along party lines — for the municipal, provincial, and district councilors.

According to the National Election Committee (NEC), the five parties participating in the elections are the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), the royalist Funcipatiey, the League for Democracy, and the Republican Democracy Party. NEC secretary-general Tep Nytha said 11,459 sitting commune councilors, including nearly 8,300 coming from the CPP and 2,955 coming from the CNRP, lined up to cast their ballots on Sunday.

More than 300 observers from political parties and civil society are monitoring the poll at 197 polling stations across the country, NEC said.

Preliminary result will be released on Sunday evening as the official one will be announced on 30 May. It is the second time the nation held the elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors. The mandate for the councilors is five years.—Kirin INS

National Election Committee officials prepare to count ballots in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18 May, 2014.

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Xinhua

International Cooperation Forum held in Tianjin

TIANJIN, (China), 17 May — The two-day meeting of APEC trade ministers opened on Saturday.

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Livni has confirmed she visited London but aides have declined comment on reports that she met Abbas there. Abbas has also made no comment.

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“We must play along the length and breadth of the playing field,” he said.

Netanyahu has also hinted at seeking a way to break the diplomatic deadlock. Haaretz daily said on Friday he planned to consult with cabinet ministers about alternative courses of action.—Reuters

The APEC trade ministers’ meeting is held in the coastal city of Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, on 17 May, 2014. The two-day meeting of APEC trade ministers opened on Saturday.—Xinhua

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Israel Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman
Ukraine crisis will be “game changer” for NATO

The 28-nation military alliance accuses Russia of tearing up the diplomatic rule book with its annexation of Crimea. “For 20 years, the security of the Euro-Atlantic region has been based on the premise that we do not face an adversary to our east. This premise is now in doubt,” NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said last month.

The crisis, called a “game changer” by Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, will dominate the alliance’s agenda as it prepares for a summit in Wales in September, which will mark the imminent end of the NATO-led combat mission in Afghanistan.

The United States, Britain, Denmark, France, Canada and Germany have sent or promised extra fighter aircraft to increase patrols and training over the Baltics, Poland or Romania.

The battle for Soma, a coal mine explosion on 17 May, 2014.

Turkish mine disaster town under lockdown as death toll rises to 301

Miners rest in front of the coal mine in Soma, a district in Turkey’s western province of Manisa, after a coal mine explosion on 17 May, 2014. — Reuters

With Russia, its strategy and how it deploys, trains and equips its forces, although Europe has no wish to return to a Cold War confrontation between huge armies. The crisis will compel the alliance to refocus on its core mission of defending its members after years in which its main effort has been far away in Afghanistan.

The 28-nation military alliance accuses Russia of tearing up the diplomatic rule book with its annexation of Crimea. “For 20 years, the security of the Euro-Atlantic region has been based on the premise that we do not face an adversary to our east. This premise is now in doubt,” NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said last month.

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A fleet of nine mine hunters from NATO countries has been dispatched to the Baltic and another task force of five ships to the eastern Mediterranean.

In the longer term, NATO will consider permanently stationing forces in eastern Europe, something it has refrained from doing in the 15 years since the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland joined the alliance after the fall of the Berlin wall.

NATO will also have to think about how it deals with the unorthodox tactics used by Russia in Crimea, including exploiting political divisions, using large-scale military exercises as cover for intervention.

Turkish mine disaster town under lockdown as death toll rises to 301

Soma, 18 May

Turkish police in the mining town of Soma on virtual lockdown on Saturday, setting up checkpoints and detaining dozens of people to enforce a ban on protests as rescue efforts follow the country’s worst industrial disaster ended.

The last two bodies of workers thought still to have been left in the mine were carried out four days after a fire sent deadly carbon monoxide roaring through it.

That brought the death toll to 301, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said.

Hundreds of riot police patrolled the streets while others checked identity cards at three check points on the approach road to Soma, a Reuters witness said.

The local governor banned protests in response to clashes a day earlier between police and several thousand demonstrators.

Eight lawyers from the Contemporary Jurists Association, including its leader, were handcuffed and detained during the lockdown on suspicion that they had gone to the town to take part in more protests, the private Dogan news agency reported.

A total of 36 people were arrested and taken to a sports center in the town where they chanted: “the pressure cannot intimidate us”, the agency said. The number of detentions could not immediately be confirmed.

Tuesday’s disaster has triggered protests across Turkey, aimed at mine owners accused of ignoring safety for profit, and at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan’s government, seen as too close to industry bosses and insensitive in its response.

Erdogan has presided over a decade of rapid economic growth but worker safety standards have failed to keep pace, leaving Turkey with one of the world’s worst industrial accident records. The plant manager denied any negligence at the mine which was inspected by state officials every six months.

Demonstrators clashed with police in the western port city of Izmir overnight, some setting up makeshift barricades and throwing stones and fire-works aimed at the police, Hurriyet newspaper reported. Some 40 people were detained.

Reuters

Sri Lanka’s president warns of attempts by Tamil diaspora

Colombo, 18 May — Sri Lanka’s President Mahinda Rajapaksa was Sunday warned that some members of the Tamil diaspora are attempting to mislead the Tamils in the country, five years after the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Speaking at victory day celebrations held in the southern town of Matara to commemorate five years since the end of the 30 year war with the rebels, Rajapaksa insisted that the war was not against the Tamils but the rebels.

However he said that some people are attempting to mislead the Tamils in an attempt to divide the country once again.

President Rajapaksa assured the public that the government will not leave any room for the country to be divided again.

A massive military parade was held in Matara to commemorate five years since the end of the war.

Members of the security forces took part in the parade in front a large crowd, which included diplomats in Sri Lanka.

President Rajapaksa said that the best place to address any political issue is the parliament and that is why a Parliament Select Committee was appointed.

Almost all the political parties but the main Tamil party in Sri Lanka joined the Parliament Select Committee.

The Tamil National Alliance is demanding direct talks with the government before it joins the committee, a demand the government has so far refused. —Xinhua
Street by street, Assad extends grip in central Syria

BEIRUT, 18 May — From his base in Damascus, Bashar al-Assad can contemplate a broad sweep of Syria clawed back from rebels who once threatened to drive him out. The capital which they targeted is now plastered with posters inviting Syrians to reelect him president.

Powerful foreign allies have helped Assad hold or retake a chain of cities which form the north-south backbone of the country, keep his grip on the Mediterranean coast to the west and restore control over the Lebanese border.

The culmination of that slow, grinding military turnaround came last week with the final withdrawal of rebel fighters from the town of Homs, a month before the presidential election in which Assad faces no serious challenge. Hasan says he dismisses the 3 June vote as a farce, saying the huge areas still under his command make a creditable vote impossible, but following the meeting, “consider a notionally countrywide ballot reveals their growing confidence.”

Gunfight erupts in Mali’s Kidal as PM visits

KIDAL, 18 May — A gunfight erupted between the Malian army and MNLA Tuareg separatists in the northern city of Kidal on Saturday shortly before a visit by the prime minister, an army source and an MNLA spokesman said.

Mali’s prime minister, Moussa Mara, landed in the city for the first time since his appointment last month as he seeks to revive long-delayed peace talks with armed groups seeking autonomy for a region of the country where the army twice dubbed former French colony.

A spokesman for the MNLA said the gunfight began on Saturday morning after the army opened fire on their barracks following pro-independence protests in the city.

“It were the first to fire and they aimed at our position and we respond,” said MNLA spokesman Attaye Ag Mohamed in Kidal, speaking over occasional bursts of gunfire.

An army source travelling with Mara confirmed that clashes had taken place near the local governor’s office and said that at least one person had been killed, without giving details.

Mali, a vast land-locked former French colony of 16 million in West Africa, descended into turmoil when Islamist fighters took advantage of a 2012 Tuareg-led rebellion and seized control of the country’s north.

French troops drove back the Islamists last year, elections were held and a UN peacekeeping mission is rolling out.

The trip to Kidal, a city 1,500 km north of the capital Bamako and seen as part of the Tuareg heartland, is symbolic for the government as it seeks to show that it has stamped its authority there.

“Long live a diverse Mali but one that is united and indivisible.” Mara said on Twitter ahead of his departure.

One of the two candidates officially approved to run against Assad said the overwhelming majority of Syrians would be able to vote, downplaying the fighting that still kills around 200 people a day and the almost three million who have fled.

“In the middle of the country the situation is perfect for election. On the coast the situation is very good. In the southern part of Syria the situation is getting better,” said Hassan al-Nouri, a US-educated former minister of state.

The military resistance has come at a cost. Assad’s foreign Shi’ite supporters have often taken the lead in battle, leaving his own forces to play a peripheral role against rebels who are themselves increasingly directed by outside Sunni powers.

Whoever pulls the strings, though, the long term momentum is clear. Reuters

Paris, 18 May — West African leaders vow to wage ‘total war’ on Boko Haram

A picture of Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad is seen along the Mezzeh highway in Damascus on 12 May, 2014.—REUTERS

PARIS, 18 May — West African leaders on Saturday agreed to wage “total war” on Boko Haram, saying the Nigerian Islamist group has become a regional al-Qaeda that threatened all of them.

Nigeria’s neighbours Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin and Western officials, met in Paris to flesh out a plan enabling them for the first time to share intelligence, coordinate action and monitor borders.

Although Boko Haram has been fighting for five years, carrying out bombings and attacks on civilians and the security forces, the kidnapping last month of more than 200 girls from a school in the northeast has focused world attention on them.

“Boko Haram is no longer a local terrorist group, it is operating clearly as an al-Qaeda operation, it is an al-Qaeda of West Africa,” Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan told a news conference in Paris following the meeting.

“We have shown our commitment for a regional approach. Without West African countries coming together we will not be able to crush these terrorists,” he said.

Outrage over the mass abduction has prompted Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan — criticized at home and abroad for his government’s slow response — to accept US, British and French intelligence help in the hunt for the girls.

French President Francois Hollande (C) poses for a family photo with (LtoR) British Foreign Secretary William Hague, Niger’s President Mahamadou Issoufou, Chad’s President Idriss Deby, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Cameroon’s President Paul Biya, Benin’s President Thomas Yayi Boni, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman during a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

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British Foreign Minister William Hague, speaking before the start of a meeting, said the Nigerian military was not organized in a way to deal effectively with the group, and offered military advisers to help structure them. “There is determination to tackle this situation head on... to launch a war, a total war on Boko Haram,” Hague’s statement Tuesday.

Chad’s President Idriss Deby said the countries agreed to launch coordinated patrols and rescue operations, share intelligence, put in place a mechanism to prevent weapons smuggling and monitor borders.

Reuters
Young and promising athletes will get more support in future

By Myint Win Thein

S
uccess in sports brings high status, not just for the athlete, but the country and its citizens as well. By encouraging sports, a country can win the respects of others, and its relations with will become broader and deeper, contributing to national development. For national development, achievement in sports plays an essential role.

It is important to nurture talented athletes. Myanmar once boasted many outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen, helping to raise its status. In other words, it is not wrong to say that the success of Myanmar in the SEA Games resulted from nurturing young athletes with systematic training. Athletes must be physically and mentally strong, and while there is much talent out there, they need to be supported.

The Ministry of Sports, in cooperation with sports federations, is organizing various sports events including soccer matches in the capitals of states and regions starting from June in order to give athletes from different parts of the country the chance to train to well and to participate in the next SEA Games and other major sports events.

Management-cum-Leadership

For the young aspirants who want to become good managers and effective leaders in their respective fields, I’m now trying my best to offer them the most salient points about Management-cum-Leadership, not about, mind you, Management vs Leadership.

I’m offering my own understanding of Management and Leadership, not stereotypes from most textbooks on Management and Leadership.

The Analytical Meanings of Management and Leadership

First, please note that Management and Leadership, especially Business Management and Leadership, typically in Corporate Management & Leadership have been defined, here, as follows:

Management is assumed to be MAGIC, and Leadership is interpreted as POETIC.

So, MANAGEMENT means MAGIC in the following sense:

M for Making Things Happen and Getting Things Done for the right purpose, in the right way and at the right time; cost-effectively.

A for Accountability which means everyone must have a tremendous sense of responsibility and commitment.

G for Goal-Driven which means everybody involved in a project, or in a team-work must have a Burning Desire to achieve the Goal on time and within allotted Budget.

I for Innovation which means all the team members must be more or less innovative, totally committed to out-innovating the best existing innovators.

C for Customer which clearly and unequivocally means everything must be done with the unwavering spirit of meeting or exceeding Customer Expectations, because Customer is Business.

Now, let’s see what is meant by the term LEADERSHIP, since we have assumed that Leadership is being POETIC.

P for Persuasion which means persuading the followers to be resolute, to fear no sacrifice and to surmount all difficulties to win victory, by offering all possible incentives and encouragement.

O for Obsession for the utter Accomplishment of the MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. The Leader must, first of all, have the Determination.

Kyi Mun

Management-cum-Leadership and the Capability to turn Heaven & Earth upside down! E for Empowerment which means all the team members must be appropriately and adequately Empowered to be able to fully discharge their duties.

T for TARGETING relentlessly the OBJECTIVE which has been strategically agreed to be attained.

I for INSIGHT which is the ultimate talent of a strategist who must see the Big Picture as well as far into the Future.

C for COURAGE which simply means that nothing worthwhile can be superbly accomplished without faithfully following the good advice: “Be Strong and of Good Courage; Be not Afraid; neither Be Thou Dismayed.”

This is a concise form of analytical interpretation of Management-cum-Leadership which aspiring young managers and leaders can adopt, improve and practice in their long march towards their goal of OUTGENERALLING the GENERAL.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital CO., LTD.

The more young athletes a country nurtures, the higher the chances to be able to select the best. By selecting the best athletes training them systematically, the potential for success in sports will be greater. Although host Myanmar was successful in the last SEA Games, they could not choose the best athletes due to the lack of time to prepare. Myanmar had to participate in the SEA Games with older athletes and inexperienced young ones. But officials have said they will in future invest to build strong teams to represent the country.

Union Industry Minister discusses cooperation, investment in Vietnam

Nay Pi Tan, 18 May—U Maung Myint, Union Industry Minister for Industry, paid a visit to Vietnam from 11 to 15 May to discuss a wide range of issues on cooperation.

In a meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, the Union Industry Minister said he wanted to promote cooperation in the fields of chemicals, fertilizers, steel and agricultural machinery, with the Vietnamese Prime Minister pledging to invest in Myanmar’s economic sector.

On 14 May, the union minister held discussions with the chairman of SMIDB Bank of the Vietnamese Industry Ministry on signing an MoU.

The Union Industry Minister also visited a number of factories, including Biti’s shoe factory in Ho Chi Minh City, and held talks on investment matters with chairman from Vinatex garment industry, Vietnam-Steel industry and Vietnam National Chemical Corporation in Hanoi.

The Union Industry Minister also visited Eresson food-stuff and beverages factory in Quang Minh Industry Zone in Hanoi.—MNA

Honorary Ph.D. degree conferred on Mandalay's University

Official of New Age International University, the Europe/USA confers honorary Ph.D. degree on Su Dhamma U Kyaw Win.

Mandala, 18 May—New Age International University, the Europe/USA conferred honorary Ph.D. degree (Philo.) on Su Dhamma U Kyaw Win, managing director of Mann Myay Yazar Co., Ltd. at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay on Sunday morning.

President of Peace Society Worldwide Dr Vijay Kumar Shah presented a certificate of honorary degree to Su Dhamma U Kyaw Win.

Dr. Chandan Agarwal, Central Committee member of the Peace Society Worldwide, explained excellent performance of U Kyaw Win in religious affairs and social welfare tasks in Myanmar.

Ph.D degree holder Su Dhamma U Kyaw Win expressed thanks for recognition of the New Age International University, the Europe/USA for his contributions to propaganda of Buddhism and social welfare tasks. Later, Dr. U Kyaw Win gave gifts to the guests of the university.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)
Kanma Township sees boost in production from thriving paddy plantations

KANMA, 18 May—Summer paddy plantations are thriving in the irrigated areas of Madae Dam in Kanma Township of Magway Region, officials said.

Local farmers put 2,645 acres of farmlands under short-term paddy strains namely Palethwe, Yadana Toe and Shwepyithay.

Due to cultivation of short-term paddy strains, farmers have the opportunity to produce paddy in a short period and have the adequate time to prepare ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Kyaw Zeyar Win (IPRD)

Straw hat production increases family income of rural people

NGAZUN, 18 May—Local people in Nyaungbinyoe Village in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region are doing agricultural tasks as main business. In their spare time, the local people produce hats made of wheat straws. Most of the local people can make the straw hats skillfully.

In making the hats, they can earn K 400 per hat. Skillful adult can make four hats a day. A child can produce two hats each a day.

The families of the village can fetch K 5,000 to K 6,000 a day. The shops sell K 800 to K 1,000 per product depending on the quality and size. In the domestic market.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Village library opened to improve literacy of people

TAUNGTHA, 18 May—A ceremony to put the rural library identified as “Mee Ein Shin” into service took place at the library in Hsinbyu Village of Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, on 15 May morning.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Hein Lin explained the plan of durability of the libraries.

Mandalay Region

Basic first-aid course conducted to strengthen Red Cross Brigade

KYAUKPADAUNG, 18 May—The basic first-aid course No. 1/2014 is being conducted at Myoma Kkwtthi Basic Education Primary School in Kyaukpaduang Township of Mandalay Region as of 16 May.

It is aimed at turning out the qualified Red Cross members as reserved force of the State who can give a helping hand to the victims in the State of Emergency.

The training course is conducted under the different levels of committees systematically.

A total of 60 trainees from 12 wards and 120 students from basic education schools, totalling 210 are attending the course that will last up to 22 May.

Ko Nay (Kyaupadaung)

Tax law, law amendment clarified in Kyaukpaduang Township

KYAUKPADAUNG, 18 May—A meeting to clarify tax law and amendments in 2014 was held at the office of Internal Revenue Department in Kyaukpaduang Township, Mandalay, on Saturday morning.

It was conducted by Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance.

Head of Township Organizing Committee, Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an) explained matters related to the law in respective chapters on tax law and law amendment to township authorities and entrepreneurs.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Kayin national students learn their languages

KAUKPADAUNG, 18 May—The 17th Kayin literature course concluded on the lawns in the compound of Basic Education Primary School No 7 in Ward 6 of Hpa-an in Kayin State on Thursday.

Under the instruction of the Kayin State government, the Kayin literature and culture course was launched in wards and villages of the township. As of 2013, the courses have been conducted in Ward 6. “Ward 6 of Hpa-an has opened the course for the 17th time although other wards have conducted second time. As Kayin nationals have to learn not only Sakaw Kayin language but Poe Kayin language. If the literature and culture fade out, the nationals will disappear. So, all the people are to try hard to preserve their languages and culture,” said a member of the course organizing committee.

U Aung Pyi Soe, Vice-Chairman of Phalon Sawaw Party, said, “We attended the concluding ceremony of the training course because it is an importance of Kayin nationals. I have a wish that Kayin language should be put in the curriculum of the school.”

Local authorities and Kayin don dance trainers joined the concluding ceremony of the language course. Over 50 students attended the course.

Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)
UK housing market has deep problems, says BoE’s Carney

LONDON, 18 May — The British housing market has “deep, deep” structural problems which pose the biggest current risk to the economy, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney has said in an interview.

“The issue around the housing market in the UK — is there are not sufficient (numbers of) houses (being) built,” he told Sky television. In extracts of the interview released by Sky ahead of its full broadcast on Sunday, Carney noted that the number of large mortgages being approved is on the rise and said more houses needed to be built in Britain.

“We’re not going to build a single house at the Bank of England,” he said. “We can’t influence that.

“What we can influence... is whether the banks are strong enough. Do they have enough capital against risk in the housing market?” Carney said the Bank could also check lending procedures “so people can get mortgages if they can afford them but they won’t if they can’t.”

“By reinforcing both of those, we can reduce the risk that comes from a housing market that has deep, deep structural problems.” Carney said there was evidence that large mortgages, where house-buyers are given loans up to four times their salaries, are on the rise again.

“We don’t want to build up another big debt overhang that is going to hurt individuals and is very much going to slow the economy in the medium term,” he said.

“We’d be concerned if there was a rapid increase in high loan-to-value mortgages across the banks. We’ve seen that creeping up and it’s something we’re watching closely.” Last week the Bank played down the chances of an imminent rate rise despite fears of a growing house price bubble.

“The biggest risk to financial stability, and therefore to the durability of the expansion, centers on the housing market and that’s why we’re focused on that,” he said.

US states take lead in writing bitcoin rules

CHICAGO, 18 May — A task force of US state regulators is working on the first bitcoin rule-book, the head of the group said, hoping to protect users of virtual currency from fraud without smothering the fledgling technology.

“Numerous companies in the United States enable customers to pay for goods and services in virtual currencies. But since bitcoins are not regulated by the federal government, users face a maze of rules in the 50 states. “We may be looking at some type of model definitions, or model laws or regulations, and very likely recommendations to either our federal colleagues or to Congress,”

David Cotney, Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, told Reuters on the sidelines of a public hearing into the issue on Friday.

Cotney was appointed in February to head the new Emerging Payments Task Force, a group of nine members of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS). He said the task force had given itself roughly a year to complete the task.

The task force was hoping for a clearer definition of which operators needed to be regulated and which ones did not, Cotney said in the interview.

“Who’s in and who’s out? So if we can offer that... big step,” he said. Cotney’s group also looks at new payment technologies, such as mobile phone payments, and PayPal, an online money transfer service. Bitcoin is the most prominent of a group of so-called virtual currencies created by computers and governed by the Bitcoin Foundation, outside the control of any government.

China says faster economic reforms needed

BEIJING, 18 May — China will try to quicken the pace of economic reform this year as part of the government’s efforts to arrest a slowdown in the world’s second-largest economy, the country’s top economic planning agency said late on Saturday.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) reaffirmed nine reform priorities for 2014, including developing reforms in the power and the oil and gas industries and cutting red tape for investment approvals, according to a statement on its website, www.ndrc.gov.cn.

“Not only for reform draft planning, but also to solve the risks and problems of the current economy, we all need to try boldly to quicken the reform,” the NDRC said in the statement after a two-day meeting on economic reform.

The statement followed a batch of economic data that showed across-the-board weaknesses in China’s economy, sparking new calls for Beijing to ease policies to shore up growth.

US reports third case of MERS virus

WASHINGTON, 18 May — A third case of the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus infection has been found in the United States, the country’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Saturday.

The patient is an Illinois man who had close contact with the country’s first confirmed case of MERS virus infection in Indiana and “probably got the virus from the Indiana patient,” the CDC said in a statement.

The Illinois resident “did not seek or require medical care” and “is reported to be feeling well” at this time but as part of the MERS virus infection follow-up investigation of the first case, local health officials have monitored his health daily since 3 May, the CDC said.

It said that the Illinois resident, who has no recent history of travel outside the United States, met with the Indiana patient on two occasions shortly before the latter was identified as having had MERS virus infection.

The Illinois man tested positive for the MERS virus on Friday night, the CDC added.

The first US MERS case is a US resident who had traveled back from Saudi Arabia and was admitted to an Indiana hospital on 28 April. He was confirmed to have MERS virus infection on 2 May, and has since been released from the hospital.

A second US imported case of MERS virus infection was confirmed on 11 May on a 44-year-old man who also came to the US from Saudi Arabia. This patient is currently hospitalized in Florida and doing well, the CDC said.

The MERS is a virus that is new to humans and was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. As of 16 May, there have been 572 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS virus infection in 15 countries with 173 deaths, the CDC said.

Most of these people developed severe acute respiratory illness, with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Officials do not know where the virus came from or exactly how it spreads. There is no available vaccine or specific treatment recommended for it.

Property map reveals agony of home buyers

BEIJING, 18 May — An average wage earner has to save for 13 years just to raise the down payment for a small flat in Beijing — if he or she can live on thin air.

The Chinese capital is one of nine places that are marked as “red zones” in an unofficial map indicating how much home buyers suffer in different parts of the country.

In the red zones, home buyers have to scrape together every single cent they earn for at least nine years — without spending anything even on food — to cover the down payment for a home no bigger than 80 square meters in floor space.

The down payment makes up an average 30 percent of the home price.

According to this “map,” which has become popular on the web since Friday, home buyers in Beijing are the third most miserable groups after those in Hong Kong and Macao, where ordinary wage earners have to save 19 and 14 years respectively for the down payment.

Other Chinese cities that are printed red on the map include Xiamen, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Shenzhen and Taipeh. — Xinhua

China says faster economic reforms needed
**Intel’s CEO looks to hobbyists for wearable innovations**

**San Mateo (California), 18 May** — Intel Corp’s Chief Executive Officer Brian Krzanich mingled with electronics buffs at Silicon Valley’s annual maker mecca on Saturday as the chipmaker looks to amateur inventors to inspire a new wave of smart clothing. With sales of smartphones losing steam, technology companies including Intel believe that wearable computing devices—a still undefined category including smart watches, fitness trackers and Google Glass—could become a major trend in personal computing.

But smartwatches and fitness bands launched by Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and other tech companies in the past year have yet to really take off. At the Maker Faire in San Mateo, California, Krzanich told Reuters that successful smart clothes will come from individual inventors focused on their own needs.

“The trick to making their families a chance to socialize and check out other people’s projects. Among the most popular attractions were demonstrations of flying drones, voice-activated robots and a giant metal octopus shooting fire from its tentacles.

Krzanich is a weekend tinkerer in his own right and just finished restoring a 1974 Land Cruiser. Intel is not the only technology company to look to the growing maker movement for inspiration but it has been among the most aggressive.

**China says Internet security necessary to counter ‘hostile forces’**

**Beijing, 18 May** — Chinese official in charge of regulating the Internet has said Beijing must strengthen Internet security because “overseas hostile forces” are using the Internet to “attack, slander and spread rumors”, state media said on Sunday.

Wang XiuJun, the deputy director of the China National Internet Information Office, said political security is fundamental, reported The People’s Daily, the official newspaper of the ruling Communist Party.

Wang’s remarks coincide with a broad crackdown on online freedom of expression that has intensified since President Xi Jinping came to power last year. The crackdown has drawn criticism from rights advocates at home and abroad. “Now, overseas hostile forces are using the Internet as a main channel to penetrate and destroy (us),” Wang was quoted as saying. “Using the name of ‘Internet freedom’ to repeatedly attack, slander and spread rumors in an effort to undermine our country’s stability and national security.”

Wang said China wants to strengthen its security in cyberspace and to steal a large volume of political, economic, military and corporate secrets”, Wang said.

He did not name any country but questions over cyber-espionage have long cast a shadow over China-US ties, with each side accusing the other of spying. The Defence Ministry said in March China would beef up its Internet security after the New York Times and Der Spiegel reported that documents leaked by Snowden said the US National Security Agency accessed servers said by more than 5,000 people. More than 500 times or seen on microblogs are reposted on other sites, the company said.

The case of former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden showed that “a few countries have used their superiority in Internet resources and technologies to conduct large-scale Internet surveillance and to steal a large volume of political, economic, military and corporate secrets”, Wang said.

China maintains tight control over the media. Censorship is widespread and Internet users cannot access information about many topics without special software to circumvent restrictions. The party renewed a strategy to strengthen its security systems in part due to intrusions in cyberspace by foreign governments, according to the People’s Daily. The case of former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden showed that “a few countries have used their superiority in Internet resources and technologies to conduct large-scale Internet surveillance and to steal a large volume of political, economic, military and corporate secrets”, Wang said.

**Intel CEO Brian Krzanich (R) listens to Node.js Sandbox creator Michael McCool (L) at the Maker’s Faire in San Mateo, California on 17 May, 2014.** — Reuters

**China’s antitrust regulator investigation **

China’s antitrust regulator investigation of Apple, Google and Amazon for alleged unfair practices, the country’s antitrust and competition authority said.

The investigation will determine whether the four companies are misleading customers by advertising mobile game apps as free, when in fact purchases are required to continue playing beyond a certain point, the regulator said in a statement.

“Consumers could wrongly believe that the game is entirely free and, in any case, that they would know in advance the full costs of the game,” the antitrust watchdog said.

Moreover, insufficient information seems to be provided to consumers about the settings needed to stop or limit the purchases within the app. **Reuters**

**Italy investigates mobile app practices at Apple, Google, Amazon**

**Milan, 18 May** — US tech giants Apple, Google and Amazon and French game developer Gameloft are under investigation in Italy for alleged unfair commercial practices, the country’s antitrust and competition authority said.

The investigation will determine whether the four companies are misleading customers by advertising mobile game apps as free, when in fact purchases are required to continue playing beyond a certain point, the regulator said in a statement.

“Consumers could wrongly believe that the game is entirely free and, in any case, that they would know in advance the full costs of the game,” the antitrust watchdog said.

Moreover, insufficient information seems to be provided to consumers about the settings needed to stop or limit the purchases within the app. **Reuters**

**A map of China is seen through a magnifying glass on a computer screen showing binary digits in Singapore in this 2 Jan, 2014 photo illustration.** — Reuters

The party renewed a campaign on online discourse last year, threatening legal action against people whose perceived rumors on microblogs are reposted more than 500 times or seen by more than 5,000 people.

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Greeks vote in first round of local elections

ATHENS, 18 May — Greeks began voting on Sunday in the first round of local elections that mark Prime Minister Antonis Samaras’s first big electoral test since coming to power two years ago.

The vote, along with European Parliament elections a week later, are being closely watched as a gauge of sentiment towards Samaras’s fragile coalition, which could be in jeopardy if the far-left Syriza and far-right Golden Dawn parties fare well.

Nearly 10 million Greeks are eligible to vote on Sunday to elect mayors and town councils for 325 municipalities as well as prefects—similar to state governors—for 13 regions across Greece, with a runoff vote to be held on May 25.

After six years of recession and repeated waves of austerity measures that have shrunk incomes and pushed unemployment over 26 percent, the electorate is being fought as much on national issues like an unpopular EU/IMF bailout as on local issues.

“I’ll vote for Golden Dawn or Syriza. Why vote for those who have robbed us? My husband’s salary has shrunk to 600 euros, I’m out of work and my young son got a night-job for 400 euros to help us out,” said 45-year-old Vaso Stathakou, a mother of two.

“It’s not a matter of ideology, I don’t give a damn about their politics. My message is clear and I’ll use every opportunity to send it: Get out!”

After falling in recent months, Greek bond yields have crept up again on fears that a new bout of political instability or a collapse of Samaras’s government could unnerve a fragile economic recovery taking root in the country after a prolonged recession.

Pollsters say the outcome of the first round could have an impact on the more crucial EU vote to be held next week, where polls show Samaras’s New Democracy party lagging behind Syriza.

“I want managers looking at Greece the vote is an event surrounded by uncertainty, hence the volatility,” said Theodore Krintas, head of wealth management at Attica Bank, referring to the outcome of the EU election later this month.

“The uncertainty is due to the fact that the vote has been played up domestically as crucial to stability. Markets will reassess the situation after the vote.”

The focus on Sunday is on the race for Athens mayor, where the current mayor—a leftist-backed independent—is in the lead followed by candidates for Samaras’s New Democracy party, rival Syriza and the anti-immigrant Golden Dawn.

A surprise second-place finish by Golden Dawn’s spokesman Ilias Kasidiaris, who shot to fame for slapping a female lawmaker on live television, that allows him to go to the second round would pose a major setback for Samaras.

Samaras, a conservative who has promised Greeks that the country is finally pulling out of its economic crisis, has led a crackdown against the far-right party after a party sympathizer fatally stabbed an anti-fascist rapper last year.

The far-right party’s leader and senior lawmakers are behind bars pending trial on charges of being part of a criminal organization, but the group consistently ranks as Greece’s third or fourth-most popular party in opinion polls.

On Saturday, Samaras made a final appeal to voters to reject his rivals in the Athens race.

“There is a very specific dilemma in Athens,” he said.

“Are we going to leave the city in idleness and to those who want anarchy or will we unite our forces so that no vote is lost and Athens pushes ahead?”

Bangladesh salvages capsized ferry, 54 bodies recovered

DHAKA, 18 May — Rescue workers in Bangladesh completed the search of a stricken river ferry on Saturday, bringing the number of bodies recovered to 54 two days after the vessel capsized with around 200 people on board.

“We were able to salvage the capsized ferry today and there are no more bodies inside the wreck,” said Saiful Islam Badal, deputy commissioner of Munshiganj district.

About 40 people swam to shore and 35 were rescued after the double-decked ferry went down in the Meghna river near the capital Dhaka during a storm on Thursday afternoon, police and rescue officials said.

An official of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said the MV Miraj 4 ferry had capacity for 122 passengers, but according to several survivors and a district official the number on board was almost double, though there was no log kept.

Divers attached chains to one side to pull the ferry right side up on Saturday. At the end of the day, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) declared the end of the rescue operation inside the vessel, but Saiful said a search of the river would go on.

“Rescuers from the navy, coast guard and police will continue to search while there is a possibility of finding more bodies in the river,” he said.

Hungry and enduring the summer heat, grieving relatives thronged the river bank. Many were grieving in distress, and voiced anger that the rescue operation had been ended.

“I am here to find out what happened to my uncle and my brother and I cannot go back to my home without them,” said Muhlesar Rahman.

Families evacuate Benghaz as renegade general vows more attacks

ABYAR / TRIPOLI, 18 May — The self-declared Libyan National Army led by a renegade general told civilians on Saturday to leave parts of Benghaz before it launched a fresh attack on Islamist militants, a day after dozens were killed in the worst clashes in the city for months.

Families could be seen packing up and driving away from western districts of the port city where Islamist militants and LNA forces led by retired General Khalifa Haftar fought for hours on Friday. Dressed in military uniform, Haftar — whom the speaker of parliament accused of plotting a coup — said his troops had temporarily withdrawn from Benghaz for tactical reasons.

“We’ll come back with force,” he told reporters at a sports club in Abyar, a small town to the east of Benghaz. “We’ve started this battle and will continue until we have reached our goals,” he said.

He said government and parliament had no legitimacy as they had failed to achieve security. “The street and the Libyan people are with us,” he said, adding that his troops were spread out in several parts of eastern Libya.

In Tripoli, parliamentarian speaker and military commander-in-chief Nuri Abu Sahnain said Haftar was trying to stage a coup.

“(LNA) members who have carried out the clashes in Benghaz are out of the control of the state of Libya and they are trying to tempt a coup for their own interests,” Abu Sahnain said in a televised news conference.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) from Interested Parties
For Sales and Distribution of Jet Fuel

1. The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The MPE is currently distributing jet fuel to 11 airports in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of jet fuel in Myanmar’s airports and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, the Government and the MPE are seeking an experienced partner to form a joint venture. The purpose of this future joint venture company is to operate and improve the existing Jet Fuel Distribution Enterprise’s business activity at the Yangon International Airport first. As a later stage, negotiations will be opened with the MPE to expand the joint venture to the remaining 10 airports.

3. Interested foreign companies should please submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) under the above title from 1.04.2014 to 7.04.2014 in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper and to be submitted by 15.05.2014 during office hours.

4. Pre-qualification applications that cannot include all the documents under the above paragraph (3) and that cannot reach the above address by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014 will not be considered.

5. Applicants shall be the company running jet fuel distribution at least three International airports in three different countries.

6. Detailed and detailed information regarding EOI are available at http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement and applicants can personally contact jawaheer@energy.gov.mm.

7. Documents and detailed information regarding EOI are available at http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement and applicants can personally contact jawaheer@energy.gov.mm and the following address if they have any further queries.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Office No. 6, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel:067-411488;067-411053;067-411119;067-411135
Fax: 067-411109
Email: mpea.dept42@myanmar.net.mm

Extension of the Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)

Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyangon Don)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested foreign investors for the request of the Expression of Interest regarding the above title from 1.04.2014 to 7.04.2014 in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper and to be submitted by 15.05.2014 during office hours.

Now, MPE hereby announces that the additional information for LOEI shall be as follows:

(a) The submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 26.05.2014 from 15.05.2014.

(b) The endorsement from the respective embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of company’s registration or nearest shall be submitted.

(c) No submission of LOEI shall be considered in Tender Process and only the companies who had met MPE’s requirements shall be proceeded for the Invitation to Tender.

Advertisements & general

Tarmiya, some 30 km north of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, a medical triage of Fallujah, 50 km by artillery and rocket killed and 13 others injured—killed and 29 others wounded in attacks across Iraq

At least 15 people were killed and 29 wounded in attacks across Iraq

Baghdad, 17 May — At least 15 people were killed and 29 others wounded in separate attacks and clashes across Iraq on Saturday, police and medical sources said.

Nine people were killed and 13 others injured by artillery and rocket shelling in different districts of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, a medical source at Fallujah General Hospital said on condition of anonymity.

A roadside bomb struck a popular market in Tarmiya, some 30 km north of Baghdad, killing two civilians and wounding 13 others, a local police source said.

A Iraqi soldier was killed and two others wounded when a roadside bomb hit an Iraqi army patrol in the area of Oqua near Tikrit, 170 km north of Baghdad, the police source said.

An military officer was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near the town of Balad, 80 km south of Tikrit, the source said.

In Mosul, unidentified gunmen also shot dead a policeman, a local police source said, adding that a gunman was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb in Fallah neighbourhood suddenly exploded.

Xinhua

North Korea says apartment building collapses, offers rare apology

SEOUL, 18 May — North Korea has apologized to bereaved families after an apartment building collapsed in Pyongyang last week, possibly killing hundreds, the official KCNA news agency said, a rare admission of fallibility from the reclusive state.

Pyongyang’s expression of “profound consolation and apology” was the first official news of the disaster, which happened in the Phyongchon district of the North Korean capital on Tuesday.

“The construction of an apartment house was not done properly and officials supervised and controlled it in an irresponsible manner,” said the statement from KCNA, which is better known for its strident attacks against South Korea and the United States.

The KCNA statement also said the collapse of the apartment building “claimed casualties” but did not give any indication of how many may have been killed or injured. It said a rescue operation ended on Saturday.

An official from South Korea’s unification ministry confirmed on Sunday that a 23-storey apartment building had collapsed in Pyongyang on Tuesday, although he would not say from where the information had been obtained.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the building was presumed to have held 92 households, or families, and that it was common for North Koreans to move into new buildings before construction was completed. “Hundreds are presumed to be dead, assuming that each family has an average of four members,” he said.

A spokesman for the unification ministry said it was presumed there were four households on each storey but she also said it was not known exactly how many were in the building at the time.

The KCNA statement said North Korean authorities put emergency measures into place to rescue people from the collapsed building and to treat the injured. It said that Choe Pu Il, North Korea’s Minister of People’s Security, had “repented”, saying he had failed to supervise the project adequately, “thereby causing an unimaginable accident”.

Reuters

Chinese Navy training vessel Zhenghe arrives at port of Visakhapatnam in east Indian on 17 May, 2014. Chinese Navy training vessel Zhenghe and missile frigate Weifang arrived in port of Visakhapatnam in east Indian and started a 4-day visit on Saturday.

Xinhua
ENTERTAINMENT

Kareena Kapoor shoots for Singham Returns despite ill-health

LOS ANGELES, 18 May — Actress Angelina Jolie says that the next movie she will star in with her husband and actor Brad Pitt will be an experimental art piece.

The duo has planned to collaborate on a movie penned by Angelina Jolie, reports contactmusic.com.

“I wrote something a few years ago for Brad and me. Just for fun. Just an independent little art piece. Because we don’t get to do those as much as we’d like. But it’s something really small and experimental,” said 38-year-old Angelina.

The pair’s five-year-old daughter Vivienne, who recently received her first acting credit, will be featuring alongside her mother in her forthcoming film Maleficent as Princess Aurora.

Early George Harrison guitar fetches $657,000 at Beatles auction

NEW YORK, 18 May — An electric guitar played by George Harrison on British television before the Beatles’ US “invasion” fetched $657,000 (390,641 pounds) at auction on Saturday in New York, topping pre-sale estimates, Julien’s Auctions said.

Harrison, who died in 2001 at age 58, played the black-and-white 1962 Rickenbacker 425 electric guitar on 1963 appearances on the British TV shows “Ready Steady Go!” and “Thank Your Lucky Stars!” with the Beatles.

Harrison also played the guitar during the sessions when the Beatles recorded “I Want to Hold Your Hand” and “This Boy” in October 1963, months before they brought “Beatlemania” to the United States, launching the British Invasion of rock bands.

The guitar was estimated to sell between $400,000 and $600,000, Julien’s said ahead of the auction.

Harrison bought the guitar in 1963 in Mumbai, India. It is all set to release on 15 August.—PTI

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt to star together in “Experimental Art Piece”

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The pair’s five-year-old daughter Vivienne, who recently received her first acting credit, will be featuring alongside her mother in her forthcoming film Maleficent as Princess Aurora.

Did Lady Gaga just politely accuse Katy Perry of copying her?

LOS ANGELES, 18 May — Lady Gaga has taken a subtle dig at singer Katy Perry, hinting that the latter’s new Prismatic tour looks eerily similar to her past live concepts.

Katy Perry kicked off the Prismatic World Tour in Belfast, Ireland on 7 May.

Lady Gaga saw photographs of the 29-year-old’s new show and took a slight jab at her on Twitter, reports contactmusic.com. “It looks like green hair and mechanical horses are the thing now,” she posted.

The Poker Face singer previously sported neon green hair for a shoot with controversial photographer Terry Richardson and made an unforgettable entrance at last year’s American Music Awards, riding a white mechanical horse.—PTI
Arsenal end trophy drought with thrilling FA Cup win

LONDON, 18 May — Arsenal ended their nine-year wait for a major honour when they beat Hull City 3-2 after extra time in a pulsating FA Cup final on Saturday after a dreadful start when they conceded twice in the opening eight minutes.

They recovered with a first half free-kick from Santi Cazorla, a second half equalizer from Laurent Koscielny and a brilliant last minute winner from Aaron Ramsey who scored with the outside of his right foot.

After the final whistle jubilant manager Arsene Wenger, in charge of Arse

Wenger, showing rare emotion after he was soaked with water by his supporting players, replied “yeah, yeah, yeah” when asked if he was signing a new contract.

Not only was this Arsenal’s first major honour since their FA Cup win in 2005, they equalled Manchester United’s record of 11 FA Cup wins.

Wenger equaled former United manager Alex Ferguson’s record of five FA Cup wins by a manager and Arsenal became the first team since Everton beat Sheffiled Wednesday 3-2 in 1966 to win the FA Cup after coming from two goals down.

Frenchman Wenger, beaming with satisfaction, said: “We wanted to make history and win the game. It was the turning point in

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (R) lifts the trophy as he celebrates with his players their victory against Hull City at their FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium in London, on 17 May, 2014. — REUTERS

ty, with Cazorla the main midfield creator and Ram

Arsenal’s superiori

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (R) lifts the trophy as he celebrates with his players their victory against Hull City at their FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium in London, on 17 May, 2014. — REUTERS
China earns first ticket to 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup

Myanmar Football Academy recruits new players for football teams

Williams to face Errani in Italian Open final

Han Peng (L) of China vies for the ball with Than Than Htway (R) during the Group B match against Myanmar at the 2014 Women’s AFC Cup held at Thong Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam, on 17 May, 2014. Xinhua

Martino quits as Barcelona coach after trophyless season

President Sepp Blatter in 2011.—By Nyi Myat Thawda; Photo: Soe Nyunt

Barcelona’s coach Gerardo “Tata” Martino

Rome, 18 May — Top seed Serena Williams held off 11th seed Ana Ivanovic 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 on Saturday to face Sara Errani in the final of the Italian Open.

Ivanovic rallied off four straight games in the second set to level up the match that had looked to be heading in only one direction. However, as often so many occasions in the past, Williams responded by raising her level once again.

She earned a break at the start of the deciding set with a series of devastating returns, and from that point on it was one-way traffic as the American coasted across the finish line.

Williams praised Ivanovic’s performance in the second set.

“She played really well in the second set and at the same time my first serve percentage dropped. She’s a great

The FIFA Women’s World Cup next year, confirming that it was the first ticket among qualifiers in all continents around the world.

According to the qualifying rule of the 2015 Women’s World Cup, the top five finishers of the 2014 AFC Women’s Asian Cup will automatically advance to Canada.—Xinhua

Barcelona coach Gerardo Martino resigned on Saturday after just one season in charge having finished second to Atletico Madrid in the La Liga title race and failed to win a major trophy. The Argentine had been faced with the tough challenge of maintaining Barcelona’s incredible recent record of success and while they remained in the title chase until the final game of the season, their performances drew criticism.

Victory in Saturday’s final game at home to Atletico, would have drawn them level on 89 points with the Madrid side and seen them finish first with a superior head-to-head record. In the end, however, they could only manage a 1-1 draw, which left them without major silverware for the first time in six years.

Barca also failed to reach the last four of the Champions League for the first time in seven years after being knocked out by Atletico in the quarter-finals.

“I would like to thank the club for putting their confidence in me and I am sorry that I was unable to deliver,” Martino told a news conference.

The team fought to the end with lots of dignity. I would like to congratulate Atletico they have done very well all through the season.”

Martino’s task was made more difficult over the season with injuries to key attacking talents Lionel Messi and Neymar while defensive weaknesses were badly exposed.

Martino had said earlier in the campaign that it would be difficult for him as he was not from the Barcelona or closely-linked Dutch school of football and there were constant debates about his more direct style.—Reuters

Myanmar Football Academy conducted the final recruitment of trainees for Myanmar Football Academy opened in Mandalay, at the training ground No 1 in Thwuwunna on Sunday.

MFF organized the first stage sports trials for new trainees in seven major cities—Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, Monywa, Magway and Mawlamyine from 26 to 29 April.

Technical director U Win Thu Moe and coaches chose 30 selected players out of 87 tentative trainees to form the U-12 men’s football team.

The remaining candidates will be picked out for U-13, U-14 and U15 football teams. Players for these football teams will be trained at the football academy. The Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) was inaugurated by FIFA President Sepp Blatter in 2011.

Monday, 19 May, 2014

The New Light of Myanmar