

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 Botahtaung 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



Myanmar Journalists Association holds first annual general meeting.

PHOTO: KO THEIN AYE

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 delivered speeches.

The meeting urged

the union government and state/region governments to help journalists, who cover news in accordance with the law, overcome unnecessary difficulties and not to take unreasonable action against journalists.

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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 co-operation.

During the meeting,

MJA's patron Po Thauk Kya and chairman U Ko Ko made introductory speeches, explained the association's functions and announced financial statements.

Myanmar Press Council (Interim), Myanmar Journalists Network and Myanmar Journalists Union sent messages.

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 Phyto 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

Locals in Thongwa are facing scarcity of water.

PHOTO: 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.

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.

TOUNGOO, 4 May—Trainees of the courts are to learn judicial affairs, administration and accountancy and to relate with the people politely, the judge of Bago Region High Court said at the concluding ceremony of the clerical refresher course for staff of courts in Toungoo District and townships.

On Saturday, the ceremony was held at the hall of Toungoo District Court.

The judge urged the trainers to share their knowledge and expertise to

Knowledge refreshed for clerks of courts



the trainees.

A total of 23 clerks from the district and township courts attended the

four weeks course.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

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



MANDALAY, 4 May—Air-conditioners, air-coolers, moistured fans and ordinary fans are on high demand in Mandalay as the people bought the electronic equipment to be able to resist the high temperature of summer.

As the electronic stores were crowded with customers from the morning to the evening, traffic police clear the traffic congestions in front of the shops. Among the various brands and types, 1.5 HP air-conditioners are on high demand. It is because electrification has been conducted not only in urban areas but also in many villages across the nation.

Some people bought air-coolers and fans to be installed at their homes where air-conditioners cannot be installed. That is why the sales of electronic equipment is on the increase this month more than last month.

Aye Mya (Mandalay)

MPs visit projects in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 4 May — Members of People Parliament and National Parliament, teaming up with government 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 develop-

ment measures being taken by the government. They stressed the need of public participation in the successful completion of these projects.

K. Hsai Naw (Phakant)

BOGALE, 4 May—Maha Thiwa 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 townselder said. As Maha Thiwa Lake has lesser capacity to store water, the local authorities manage dredging of lake by backhoe 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.

Bogale Htay Naing

Dredging lake to store large volume of water in Bogale



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 Chinchauing 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. Chinchauing, Waipon and Kyaunggyi villages in Khaungnan in Mahamyaing 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 Nampok Village in 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 ad-

vantages of drinking milk, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases from pet animals, prevention against trafficking in person, 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 Nampok 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 Yayphyukan 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

NATIONAL

Comander-in-Chief meets scouts in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW 4 May—Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-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 people.

I also wish you to become outstanding leaders of the country.”

The Commander-in-Chief also said that the young people are responsible 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 Garden 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, arrived back here by air on Saturday evening after attending the Going Global 2014 at Miami Beach Convention Center of the United States of America from 29 April to 1 April.

The going global organized by the British Council was attended by 16 education ministers and heads of advanced education 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



Officials of BMW Asia and Prestige Automobiles hand over vehicles to Secretary of ASEAN Summit Transport Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—BMW Asia and Prestige Automobiles (BMW's authorized importer in Myanmar) on Sunday jointly handed over the first batch 70 units of BMW limousines to Government of Myanmar.

At a handover ceremony at Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw, an official of Prestige Automobile Co., Ltd handed over the documents of the vehicles to U Tin Htoo, Secretary of

ASEAN Summit Transport Committee.

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

Union Border Affairs Minister oversees regional development in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — The Union Minister for Border Affairs today inspected regional development and water supply tasks in Rakhine State's town of Sittway.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, together with the regional minister for security and border affairs and officials, first inspected laying of concrete on Strand Road in Sittway. They next oversaw the digging of artisan wells in two wards.

For water supply, measures are reportedly being taken for digging 100 lakes and 200 wells in the townships of Rakhine State. So far, K 426.89 million has been spent on the work.

The union minister then visited the Sittway training school for development of the youths from the border areas and gave cash assistance.—MNA



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

Ayeyawady 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 accounting for 3.3 percent of the total area in the world. Most of the mangrove forest areas are found in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region and Taninthayi Region.

However, the vast stretches of mangrove forests in the Ayeyawady delta have turned into paddy fields, salt fields and fish or shrimp ponds as changes 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 prevent 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 Conservation and Forestry is taking measures to protect the mangrove forests in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA. A multi-purpose management and reforestation plan was successfully carried out from 2007 to 2013. Another project on rehabilitation of the mangrove forests in the Ayeyawady delta was completed during the same period.

In a ceremony to launch a project for the rehabilitation of mangrove forests on 30 April, Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Maung said the project

tasks had been successfully carried out in Bogale, Pyapon and Labutta townships in Ayeyawady Region where mangrove forests exist. Moreover, a mangrove garden, four camps educating about forest extensions, four cyclone shelters and community-owned plantations were established, the deputy minister said.

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

The ceremony was attended by regional cabinet members, MPs, members of political parties, representatives from NGOs and INGOs, officials from JICA Myanmar office, Kokusi Kogyo Co Ltd and local people.

MNA

Ooredoo and Rocket Internet Partner to develop online businesses in Asia

YANGON, 4 May—Ooredoo Myanmar today announced a partnership with the internet incubator Rocket Internet, to jointly develop e-Commerce and other digital services in Asia.

Ooredoo and Rocket Internet will become equal partners in Asia Internet Holding, a joint venture that will create and develop online businesses in the region.

Ross Cormack, CEO of Ooredoo Myanmar said, “A fundamental shift is happening across our markets especially in Myanmar and more people would buy goods and services online through their mobile phones. We are pleased to have entered into a partnership with Rocket and look forward to harnessing their knowledge and experience gained elsewhere into making our joint venture an

e-Commerce market leader across Asia.”

Asia Internet Holding will cover 15 markets in Asia including Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines and Australia, with ventures ranging from online retail and marketplaces to payment services.

Oliver Samwer, co-founder of Rocket Internet, commented, “We look forward to working with a

partner as innovative and customer-centric as Ooredoo in Asia. We feel that by bringing e-Commerce models that have worked well elsewhere in the World to Asia, and that by partnering with an operator like Ooredoo, we can jointly better services to customers.”

This investment is subject to the approval of the regulatory authorities in the countries where the service will be provided, and it is expected to be concluded in the second quarter, 2014.—NLM

TAIKKYI, 4 May—Ayeyawady River erodes part of ward 4 in Aphyauk, Taikkyi Township, of Yangon Region.

People's Parliament MP U Han Sein and local authorities discussed prevention against erosion for the bank of river and construction of retaining walls at ward 4. At present, landslides cause at about 100 feet long area of 2000 feet long bank in Ward 4. The authorities decided to submit the plan of prevention against bank erosion to the region government and to prevent more landslides as quickly as possible.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

Erosion causes landslides in Taikkyi Tsp



Residents hope electrification for market road in Sagaing



SAGAING, 4 May—The market road from Sagaing Railway Station to Myoma market is a main road in the hub of Sagaing. Although 10 lamp-

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

Rural roads commissioned into service in Taikkyi Tsp



TAIKKYI, 4 May—Ceremonies to inaugurate the concrete roads were held at the venues in Aphyauk of 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 Af-

fairs 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-Ngalachaung village road and Ohnbingwin-Yaylegyi inter-village road.

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

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

posts were erected along the traffic island of the road, two lamp-posts only

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," Daw Khin San Yin, 50, of Bandoola Ward in Budalin said.

Region IPRD

**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

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 Thekwin of Strand Road in Nyein Chan Yay Ward of Yepon Area in Myeik of Taninthayi Re-

gion at 6.30 pm on Friday. The boat was owned by Daw Ohn Nyunt of Po Tha Aung Chan Road in Myitnge 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 property 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)*

WORLD

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 corporate bonds from \$700 million to \$1.75 billion.

Ever since mas-

sive 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 Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in 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 rupiah 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 the ousting of Mursi, is expected to win the presidential election.

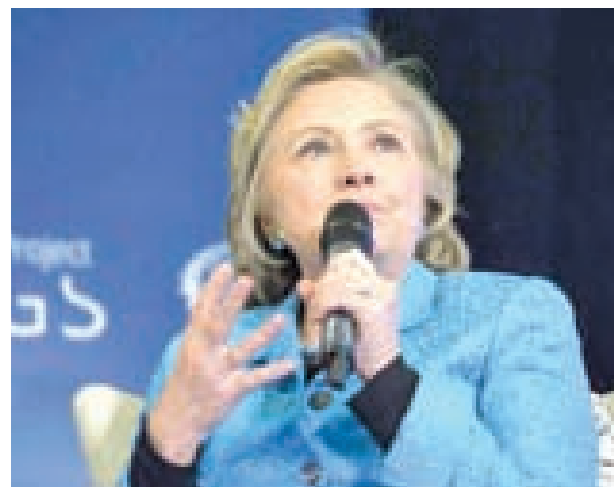
Egypt has declared the Brotherhood a terrorist group, but Egypt's oldest Islamist movement says it is committed to peaceful activism.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 4 May — Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia on Saturday endorsed Hillary Clinton for president, even though the former secretary of state has 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 remarks on www.readyforhillary.com, website of one of the most prominent

Senator urges Hillary Clinton to seek presidency



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

pro-Clinton organizations.

"She understands the challenges facing Americans from all walks of life and has the compassion and skill 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.

Reuters

Washington gridlock butt of Obama jokes at White House correspondents' dinner



US President Barack Obama makes a joke as he speaks during the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington on 3 May, 2014.—REUTERS

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 studded 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 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 largest 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 Cuarón was a guest, as was actress Diane Lane. Television stars included Olivia Munn of HBO's "The Newsroom," and Juliana 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 showed Louis-Dreyfus in character, asking a real-life Joe Biden, "Are you going to the Snorepondents' 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."

Reuters

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.

Xinhua

ATHENS, 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 527 million euro (\$731 million) 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

Greek conservatives regain lead in polls ahead of EU election



Greece's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras holds a news conference at the end of a European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

leading with 1.4 percentage points.

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

cent. 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.

Reuters

WORLD



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

Jordan says Hamas-Fatah unity crucial to peace progress

AMMAN, 4 May — Jordan's Prime Minister Abdullah 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 Rami 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.

Xinhua

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

ADEN, (Yemen), 4 May — Unidentified gunmen shot dead an 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 oth-

ers, a military source was quoted as saying on the state news agency.

Western countries fear further destabilisation 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.

Reuters

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-Saiti, commander of the city's security operations center, while he was travelling in central Benghazi, said Ibrahim al-Shara, a se-

curity spokesman.

Saiti 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 militants of the Ansar al-Sharia group of killing nine special forces soldiers during an attack on the city's security headquarters.

Libya'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 mini-bus 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.

Reuters

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 the pension system, energy, local government finance, public administration and business environment.

The IMF mission team held several official meetings with senior management of public finances, Albanian Minister of Finance, Shkelqim Cani, Governor of the Albanian Bank, Ardian Fullani and Democratic Party leader, Lulzim Basha. —Xinhua

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.

Guards at the seaside Reef Hotel told *Reuters* they had prevented attackers from gaining entry, but the suspects threw a bag with an explosive device

into the compound. A roof of one building was ripped off by the blast and part of its wall collapsed.

At the bus terminus, victims were sprawled in a pool of blood and the road was littered with shattered glass from a bus.

"I didn't see who threw the object, but I heard a loud explosion before I fell to the ground. I then felt my legs go numb," Halima Sidi, 26, who works at a local supermarket, told *Reuters* at a hospital as nurses bandaged her wounded legs.—Reuters



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

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.

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 honor-

ary 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 given 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

(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 Strategy
- 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:

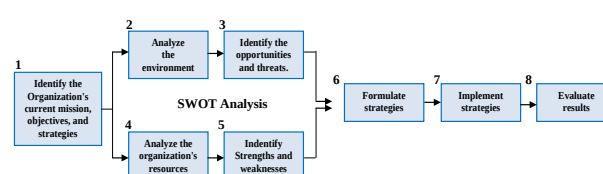
Without Objective, there can be no Strategy. Hence, the importance of OBJECTIVE.

- Market Standing
- Cutting-edge
- Management Effectiveness
- Customer & Employee Satisfaction
- Innovation
- Resources
- People Development
- CSR
- Productivity
- Profitability
- Values Commitment
- 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

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 combi-

nations, pass into oblivion.

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

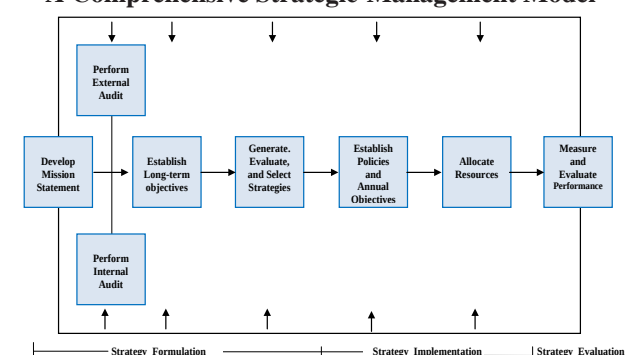
No business can do everything. Even if it has the money, it will never have enough good people. It has to set priorities. The worst thing to do is a little bit of everything. This makes sure that nothing is being accomplished. It is better to pick the wrong priority than none at all.

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



The Strategic Management Process

- Ref :
1. Strategy by B.H. Liddell Hart
 2. The Art of War On Land by Lt. Colonel Alfred H.Burne
 3. Strategic Management Concepts by Fred R. David
 4. Management by Stephen P. Robbins and Mary Coulter
 5. Marketing by Berkowitz, Kerin and Rudellus
 6. 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene

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

ARTICLE

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

Pegu, an emporium city of the time

Pegu did not produce rubies or precious stones. They were brought from Kyatpyin which Europeans pronounced “Kapalan” and Mogok in upper Myanmar. But Pegu being an emporium city of the time attracted jewelers from overseas particularly from Venice in Italy. Caesar Frederick describes a trade in rubies he experienced in Pegu and speaks highly of the honesty of the ruby brokers there, as follows:

“Also it is a thing to be noted in buying of jewels in Pegu, for he that hath no knowledge shall have as good Jewels, and as good cheap as he that hath been practised there a long time, which is a Good order, which is this. There is in Pegu four men of good reputation which are called Tareghe, or brokers of Jewels. These four men have all the Jewels, or Rubies in their hands, and the merchants that will buy, cometh to one of these Tareghe and telleth him that he hath so much money to imply in Rubies. For through the hands of these four men passeth all Rubies; for they have such quantity that they knowe not what to do with them, but sell them at a most vile and base price. When the merchant hath broke his minde to one of these Brokers or Taraghe, they carie him to one of their Shoppers, although he have no knowledge in jewels and when the Jewellers perceive that he will employ a Good roundes Summe, they will make bargaine, and if not, they let him alone.”

“The use generally of this citie, is this yt, when any merchant hath bought any great quantity of Rubies and have agreed for them, the merchant carrieth them home to his house, let them bee off what value they will he shall have space to looke on them and relook them two or three days; and if hee have no knowledge in them he shall always have many merchants in that city that hath vere Good knowledge “in Jewels: with whome hee may alwayes conferre and take counesell, and shew them unto whom hee will, and if he finds that hee hath not employed his money well,

he may returne his Jewels backe to them whom hee had them of without any loss at all.”

“Which thing is such a shame that Tareghe to have his Jewels return that he had rather to heare a blow on the face then that it should be thought that he should sell them so deere have them returned. For these men have always great care that they make good employmentes, especially to these that have no knowledge. This they doe because they would not loose their credite: and when those merchants that have knowledge in Jewelles buy any, it they buy them deere it is their owne faults and not the Brokers yet it is good to have knowledge in Jewelles, by reasons that he may somewhat ease the price.”

“There is also a vere good order for which they have in buying of Jewelles: which is this there is many merchants that standeth by at the making of the bargain, and because they shall not understande howe the Jewelles be solde: The Broker and the merchants have their handes under a cloth and by touching of fingers and nipping the joynts they knowe what is done, what is demanded from them although it be for a thousand or ten thousand Duckets for everie joynt and everie finger hath his signification. For it the merchants that stand by, should understand the bargain, it would breed a great controversie amongst them.”

We also learn from Caesar Frederick the medium of exchange used in Pegu of these days. He says:

“The corant money that is in this cities, and throughout all this kingdome is Gansa or Ganza which is made of Copper and Leade: It is not the monk of the king, but everie men may stampe it that will, “because it hath his juste partition or valure but they make many of them false by putting over much leade into them.”

“When any man will receive money or make paiment, hee must take a publique wayes of money, a day or two before hee goe about his businesse, and give him in payment for his labour, two Byza a moneth, and for this hee is bounde to make good all your money heerby: are to maintain it for good for that hee receiveth it and seals the bagges with

his seale.

“That money is very waightie, for forth Byza is a great Porters burthen, and commonly a Byza of a Ganza is worth (after our account) half a ducket, like more or lesse.”

Things did not change in the time of the successor king, Nanda Bayin who was Bayint Naung’s son. Ralp Fytch, a British merchant who came to Pegu in the reign of this king left us an account of Pegu which was not much different from that of Caesar Frederick. But it was the greatest tragedy in Myanmar history that Pegu at the height of its glory and greatness was brought to an abrupt end by the war waged on it by a combination of its common enemies—Toungoo, Rakhine, Syriam and Ayuthia. The magnificent Palace “Kambawza Thadi” was ransacked and burnt to the ground to melt down its solid gold cover and disperse precious gems by the victors to take as war scrambles. Nanda Bayin lost his life as a result of his defeat in war.

Pegu of the Second Myanmar Kingdom in Lower Myanmar

Although another son of Bayint Naung, Lord of Nyaung Yan tried to reconsolidate the domains of his father and set up a new dynasty “Nyaung Yan”, Pegu did not recover its past glory. His two worthy sons and successors King Anauk Phet Lun (1605-1628 AD) and King Tha Lun (1629-1648 AD) did make many creditable achievements. The former stamped out the Portuguese influence by destroying their stronghold at Syriam (Thanhlyin) in 1613 AD. The later restored law and order and brought peace and prosperity to the country by stopping war game and encouraging foreign trade particularly with the Dutch. But he abandoned Pegu as his Capital and moved to Inwa in 1635 A.D.

English historians like G.E. Harvey and D.G.E. Hall blamed King Tha Lun for transferring his capital from Pegu to Inwa on the ground that long distance from the sea caused loss of easy contact with the outside world thus keeping the rulers and people ignorant and making their outlook backward. In fact Tha Lun had sound reasons to shift his capital from Pegu to Inwa in the context of the then time, place and circumstances.

Negative factors which led to the downfall of Pegu

Firstly, Pegu lies on an earth’s fault. There had been outbreaks of earthquake inflicting casualties and seriously damaging buildings. Many religious monuments in Pegu were toppled down by quakes. The Shwe Hmaw Daw and the Maha Ceti Pagodas after fell victims to severe

sible seaports like MraukU, Pathein, Dala, Syriam, Taninthayee, Dawei and Myeik. Without maritime trade, source of revenue and customs was lost and Pegu’s economic prosperity declined.

Fifthly, the location of Pegu being on the flat land exposed the city to attack from the seafront as well as from inland. There were no natu-

Maha Suddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

quakes. You can still see at the Shwe Hmaw Daw Pagoda a large chunk of it lying on the ground which was brought down by the earthquake of 1931. Until recently Maha Ceti Pagoda was a heap of ruins caused by earthquakes.

Secondly, Pegu was prone to climate disasters particularly storm and flood. Myanmar chronicles have frequent mentions of the events of new hti hoisting ceremonies on the pagodas as the previous htis were blown down by storms. [Miraculously the Nagis of bypassed Pegu region]. Flood visits Pegu in every cycle of 3 to 4 years. Pegu and the surrounding areas were submerged due to the overflow of creeks and rivers at the peak of monsoon. The writer of this article, as the Director-General of Archaeology Department had two experiences of heavy flood at Pegu, during his inspection tour.

Thirdly, Pegu of those days was not self-sufficient in food. If any, there were few paddy plantations in Pegu area. Paddy was brought to the capital from faraway places. With its speedy urbanization and rapid rise in population, Pegu under Bayint Naung encountered shortage of staple crop. In Myanmar chronicles, we find reports of soaring price of rice in Pegu under Bayint Naung because the supply ran out while the demand increased manifold. The king ordered his men to the four corners of his kingdom to purchase paddy.

Fourthly, Pegu after eight centuries of existence [825-1635 A.D.] had become geopolitically obsolete, unfit to remain a capital or commercial emporium. Its natural waterways became silted. Sea voyagers could not come into the Pegu river. As the sea receded farther and farther away from Pegu, maritime trade moved to more acces-

ral barrier-mountains or hills in the immediate neighbourhood. In every event of war the city was easily invaded.

Sixthly, there was change in international relations and trade of the 17th century. Towards the end of the 16th century the Portuguese power had collapsed and their influence withdrawn from Asia, leaving only scattered enclaves of their strongholds. It was the Dutch who appeared on the Asian scene. The merchandize much sought after by the Dutch were spices, rubies, farm slaves and rice to feed them. Spices and rubies fetched good price in the markets of Europe. To produce spices they needed farm labourers and rice to feed them. For spices the Dutch had got hold of the East Indies. For farm labourers they want to Bengal and for rice to Rakhine Kingdom. For rubies the Dutch tried to reach the Ruby mine areas in Myanmar. But as no Myanmar King allowed foreigners to go there, the Dutch turned to Inwa where they could get better quality with cheaper price than in Pegu market. Besides King Tha Lun whom the Dutch aptly called “a shrewd businessman” held ruby emporium in his courtyard where he personally participated in auction scale. There on foreign buyers could make best choices at good bargain prices.

Under such changed in circumstances Pegu could no longer withhold her sustainability. It was in the natural order of things that Pegu as an urban and commercial centre waned and faded out in the 17th century and Inwa revived once again as a political power house, administrative as well as a trade centre.

Pegu in the 21st Century

In the current 21st century which we rightly call the Age of Globalization because of the superhighway of information and communication

technology, abrupt changes are taking place across the world. Myanmar is no exception. Back to the international community of nations undergoing with speed, a series of reforms and changes for the better, preparing to take opportunities and face challenges, we would soon have different stories of Pegu and Inwa.

Internationally, Myanmar occupying the position of bridge between East and West Asia, between two great neighbours India and China, and part and parcel of fast-growing S.E Asian region, active partner in other regional and sub-regional organization, BIMSTEC, SAARC, GMS, ACMECS and EAC, APEC etc. many economic, political and strategic programmes and projects cover Myanmar.

Internally, with the democratization process in full swing, foreign investment, trade, commerce and business pour in. Economic corridor and Asian highways crossing the country, Dawei deep seaport, Thilawa and Kyaukpau seaports, gas pipe line west to east, improved and extended water transportation in all rivers of the country Myanmar cities and towns are bound to develop.

Recently, temporarily suspended project of building Hanthawaddy International Airport at Pegu was resumed with full vitality. With the speedy booming of Myanmar tourism right now, Mingaladon international Airport in Yangon has reached its capacity limit. Another airport which is a necessity within 50 miles to the north-east would be Hanthawaddy International Airport.

Yangon, the commercial capital of the country, has reached the status of a mega city, with challenges of extended urbanization. Pegu, the nearest old city, is the one and only possible place to turn to for Yangon’s urban extension. Time is quite ripe for Yangon and Pegu to be linked by modern means of connectivity. Besides Pegu being an old historic city is rich in cultural heritage. Its archaeological and historical landscapes are quite famous. Pegu as “Humsavadi” is known to neighbouring countries Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka as well as Italy, Portugal, England and France. So we may safely predict in the 21st century that Pegu’s star is rising once again.

Concluded

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 par-

liament 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



Sinn Fein President
Gerry Adams

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 IRA fighters that he was involved in its campaign of killings, a charge he has repeatedly denied.

Reuters

Belarus urges Ukrainians to stop bloodshed

MINSK, 4 May — Belarusian Foreign Ministry on Saturday called on Ukrainian 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

IAEA inspectors to visit Iran's nuclear facilities

TEHRAN, 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 Saghand uranium mine and Ardakan 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.

Xinhua

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

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 it will have been a crucial turning point," Abe told reporters in reference to a summit

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.

Kyodo News

Afghan landslide rescue now focuses on displaced

KABUL, 4 May — Afghan officials 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 in 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



Afghan villagers gather at the site of a landslide at the Argo district in Badakhshan Province, on 3 May, 2014.—REUTERS

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 im-

mense 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 assessed to be 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 the unstable hillside above the site of the disaster 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 when daylight broke but it soon became clear there was no hope of finding survivors buried in the deep mud and rubble.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Alitalia, creditors working on plan to woo Etihad at key meeting

MILAN, 4 May—Alitalia and its creditors are rushing to finalize by Tuesday a proposal aimed at persuading Gulf-based airline Etihad to invest in the loss-making Italian carrier, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told *Reuters* on Saturday.

One of the options under discussion envisages hiving off a large chunk of 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

cash a day to keep flying.

The airline, which has struggled to compete with low-cost carriers and high-speed trains, came close to bankruptcy in 2013 before being rescued in a government-engineered capital injection. Under the plan to woo Etihad, Alitalia would be turned into a holding company and would take on the majority of the airline's debt, the source said.

Alitalia's business operations, including its fleet and flying slots, would be conferred to a new company controlled by the holding company. The new company would be open to a direct investment of more than 500 million euros by Etihad through a capital increase, the source added.

Etihad is looking to buy up to 49 percent of the Rome-based airline but does not want to absorb all of Alitalia's debt. It has also asked that Alitalia's 14,000 staff are cut by up to 3,000, several sources close to the situation have told *Reuters*.

The bad company idea may face resistance as financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* said creditor banks do not look favorably on the prospect of creating a separate company to hold the bad debt, since this would likely expose them to greater losses.

Reuters

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 5 April, 2013.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 May—When the US economy crashed in 2008, following the implosion of the housing market, Dave Klein's southern 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

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.

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 bloodstream infections, diarrhea,



pneumonia, urinary tract infections and gonorrhea. 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

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.

Xinhua

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 Jeddah, 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.

Xinhua





Journalists march to mark World Press Freedom Day in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 3 May, 2014.—XINHUA

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 at-

tending 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.—Kyodo News

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-defence, 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-defence 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.—Kyodo News



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.

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.

The incident came just a day after Philippine police arrested a ranking rebel leader tagged as behind the killing of government troops in Davao del Sur and Cotabato provinces, hundreds of kilometers to the south.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua



Edible rose petals are collected by tourists in Bajie Township of Anning City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 3 May, 2014, the last day of the three-day Labour Day holiday. Blossoming roses attracted many tourists to spend their holiday in the township, where they could not only view the scenery but also pick up edible roses.—XINHUA

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 cease-fire 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 has come after a lull 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 cease-fire agreement on the LoC, besides agreeing to work out a mechanism to ensure peace and ease tensions.

On Wednesday, Pakistan army chief Gen Raheel

Sharif described Kashmir as the "jugular 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.—Xinhua

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

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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

I. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)14/MR(YUC)	Spare Parts for Locomotive	131-item
2.	12(T)15/MR(ISN)	Spare Parts for 2000HP Diesel & Alstom DEL	263-item
3.	12(T)16/MR(ISN)	Nickle Cadmium Battery for Locomotive	50-Set
4.	12(T)17/MR(ISN)	Locomotive Rolled Steel Tyres and Wheel Mono Bloc for DEL	2-item
5.	12(T)18/MR(ISN)	Carbon Brush for DEL	1-Lot
6.	12(T)19/MR(ISN)	Spare Parts for Loco: Engines(CAT, Jinan, Alco, MCI (ZIBO)	432-item
7.	12(T)20/MR(ISN)	Spare Parts for DEL	236-item
8.	12(T)21/MR(ISN)	Electrical Spare Parts for DEL	260-item

Closing Date & Time - 13.6.2014(Friday) 12:00Hour

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 5.5.2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994.

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Aung Naing Moe, Advocate May Phyo Kin, H.G.P For. Allicor Inc.

Myanmar Global Law Firm Ph: 0973220023
Dated: 5 May 2014



Google honours
Audrey Hepburn's
85th birth
anniversary with
Doodle

NEW DELHI, 4 May — Google's latest Doodle celebrated actress Audrey Hepburn's 85th birth anniversary. Audrey Hepburn's Hairstyle Voted Most Influential The British actress, star of movies such as Roman Holiday (1953), War and Peace (1956), Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961), My Fair Lady (1964) and Wait Until Dark (1967), is counted among the greatest film legends in the history of cinema. She was, and still is, also considered a fashion icon and one of the world's most beautiful women.—PTI

Britain's
music heritage
income to
double

LONDON, 4 May — Music tourism in Britain earns the country over 3.7 billion US dollars, a study revealed on Saturday.

But that figure could almost double to 6.75 billion dollars if English cities cash in on their own big-name pop groups in the way Liverpool celebrates its most famous foursome, the Beatles, said UK Music, a campaigning and lobbying group for the music industry.

In a major study, 'Imagine, the value of music tourism in the UK', the group said the Beatles' tourism alone in Liverpool earns the city almost over 70 million pounds (120 million dollars) a year.

Jo Dipple, CEO of UK MUSIC, said 'Beatlemania' has kept Liverpool at the top of music destinations for tourists.

"Millions have made pop pilgrimages for 50 years to see the birth place of Macca or where Ringo went to school. In the report we argue that the UK has more to offer than just the Beatles," said Dipple.

"Music heritage has created a bed for businesses to take root in the city and make Liverpool top of the list for tourists," said Dipple.—Xinhua

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-

one associated with the film sign a non-disclosure agreement to ensure that they don't speak about the film's subject.

A birdie chirps to say that since the film has an edgy storyline, the makers

want to avoid unwanted controversy. It will be Rani's first big screen outing after her marriage, so hubby Aditya Chopra is pulling out all the stops to make the film grab eyeballs.

PTI

'F.B.I.' actor Efrem Zimbalist dies in California

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Efrem Zimbalist Jr, who portrayed the indefatigable Inspector Lewis Erskine on the long-running US television series "The F.B.I.", died on Friday at the age of 95, according to media reports.

Zimbalist died at his home in Solvang, California, his daughter, actress Stephanie Zimbalist, and his son Efrem Zimbalist III, said in a statement, Hollywood trade magazine Variety and other media reported.

"A devout Christian, he actively enjoyed his life to the last day, showering love on his extended family, playing golf, and visiting with close friends," the statement said, according to Variety.

A spokesman for the family could not be immediately reached for comment. From the late 1950s to the mid-1970s, Zimbalist was one of the top stars on US television, playing a private detective on the ABC series "77 Sunset Strip" from 1958 to 1964 before his stint on "The F.B.I." on the same network from 1965 to 1974.

Zimbalist, the son of opera singer Alma Gluck and concert violinist Efrem Zimbalist Sr, also appeared in about 20 movies — usually in supporting roles but

sometimes as the leading man.

He was born on 30 November, 1918, in New York and saw US Army combat duty during World War Two.

During its nine seasons on the air, "The F.B.I." dramatized the Federal Bureau of Investigation as its agents solved murders, kidnappings and bank heists. Its episodes — inspired by real cases — required FBI approval. Zimbalist portrayed Erskine as an assiduous, dedicated investigator during an era when the FBI in real life was embroiled in America's tumult during the Vietnam War era.

The actor said the FBI's larger-than-life director J Edgar Hoover was initially reluctant to give his permission for the series and "was not a lover of Hollywood." The two eventually met and had a steady correspondence.

In 2009, the FBI hon-

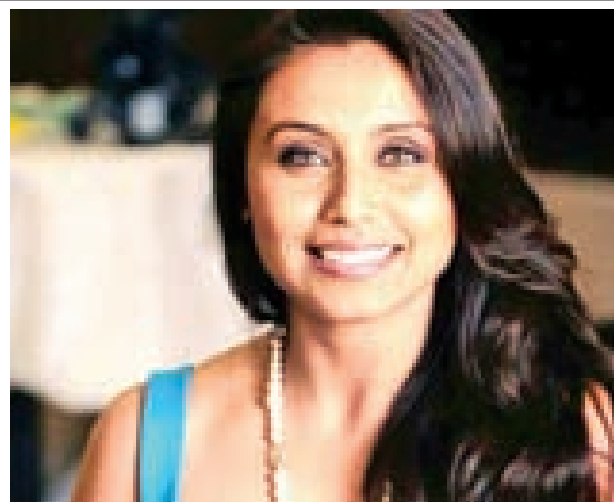
oured Zimbalist, at age 90, in a ceremony in Los Angeles in which agency Director Robert Mueller presented him with an honorary special agent badge.

Mueller said Zimbalist over the years helped the FBI by narrating recruitment commercials and taking part in fundraising events for children of agents killed in the line of duty. "I'm a conservative Republican," Zimbalist told the Oklahoman newspaper in 2011. "And I wasn't a friend of the FBI just because I was in the show. My philosophy is the same. I was deeply aware of the sentiment against the bureau and against Hoover."

On "77 Sunset Strip," a show that was more carefree than "The F.B.I." Zimbalist played wisecracking private detective Stu Bailey, starring alongside Roger Smith and Edd Byrnes.—Reuters



'F.B.I.' actor Efrem Zimbalist



This will be Rani's first release post marriage to YRF honcho Aditya Chopra.—PTI

Ben Affleck banned from blackjack at Las Vegas casino



Actor Ben Affleck poses backstage at the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 12 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Actor Ben Affleck was banned from playing blackjack at a Las Vegas casino because he was "too good," a source close to the Oscar-winner said on Friday.

Affleck, 41, was stopped earlier this week by security guards at the Hard Rock Casino in Las Vegas while playing blackjack because "you are too good," the source said. He was told he could play other games at the casino.

Affleck, who won Oscars for co-writing 1997's "Good Will Hunting" and producing 2012's "Argo," recently starred in last year's crime thriller "Runner Run-

ner," where he played an online gambling tycoon. The actor was on a short break in Las Vegas with his wife Jennifer Garner before he left to shoot Zack Snyder's upcoming "Man of Steel" sequel where he will play Batman opposite Henry Cavill's Superman.

An earlier story by celebrity news outlet TMZ.com said Affleck had been banned for life from the casino for counting cards, a method of using probability to predict the next hand.

A representative for the Hard Rock Hotel did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday.—Reuters

GENERAL

China premier says Sino-Africa disputes just 'growing pains'



China's Premier Li Keqiang

BEIJING, 4 May — 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 reappear in Africa," the official news agency *Xinhua* quoted Li as saying.

Chinese enterprises have spent heavily on infrastructure, mining and energy projects in Africa as the country seeks to expand its access to supplies of vital commodities such as oil and copper.

But in some cases, Chinese firms have been accused of treating local staff unfairly. Oil workers at two China-invested projects in Chad and Niger went on strike in March in protest against unequal pay.

In 2009, China overtook the United States as Africa's biggest trading partner, and *Xinhua* said more than 2,500 Chinese firms operate on the continent.—Reuters

Rodgers looks to bolster Liverpool squad in summer sales

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.

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



Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers

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

Constitution Day in Japan



People in favor of protecting Japan's current Constitution march through a street in Tokyo's Ginza 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

Giggs effect wears off as United slump again

LONDON, 4 May — Manchester United's deficiencies were laid bare by relegation battlers Sunderland on Saturday as a 1-0 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 against relegation-threatened Norwich City which lifted some of 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 record 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

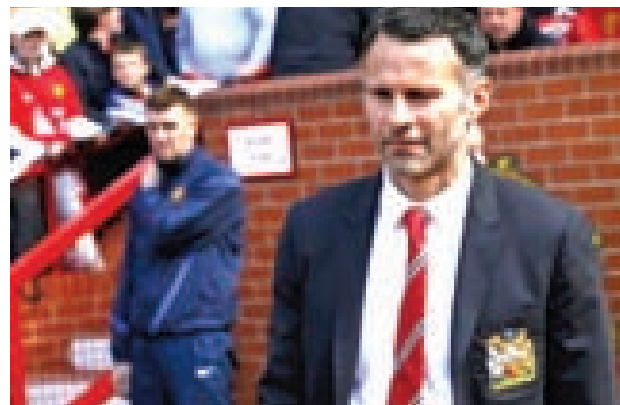
concentrating on the next game." The quality is still there in the dressing room but we didn't show it."

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



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

MYANMAR TV

(5-5-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
 2. Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am
 3. News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
 4. People Talks
- 8:00 am
 5. News/ International News
- 9:30 am
 6. Cartoon Series
- 12:00 pm
 7. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
 8. Myanmar Movie
- 3:00 pm
 9. News
- 3:15 pm
 10. Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 4:15 pm
 11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Philosophy)
- 5:00 pm
 12. News
- 5:30 pm
 13. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
 14. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
 15. Traditional Boxing
- 7:00 pm
 16. News
- 8:00 pm
 17. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:45 pm
 18. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm
 19. News
20. Documentary
21. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-5-14 07:00am~ 6-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Sculpture-work of Art
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Local News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food-(Episode-4) (Pyay Daw Oo Rice Salad)
- * World News
- * The Photographer
- * Local News
- * A Tourist Destination of Shan State
- * World News
- * Art Students : Their Dream
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea) (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
- * World News
- * Black Gold (Part-2)
- * Local News
- *Changes
- * World News
- * Orphanage
- * Local News
- * Short Trip With Steve (Mon State)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Htam Hsan Cave : A Miraculous Place
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe

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



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

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 Ful-

ham were relegated on Saturday with Norwich favourites to join them in the Championship.

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 fell through the relegation trapdoor.

Bosnian striker Dzeko scored either side of half-time 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 Ser-

gio 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, hung on 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

Mickelson 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 there 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 on Sunday.—Reuters

Napoli win fifth Italian Cup on violent Rome night

ROME, 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 ap-

pearance since Jan. 5 as a 69th-minute substitute, but Napoli held on despite Gokhan Inler's 79th minute sending off.

"The most important thing tonight is the performance we saw on the pitch. We showed we wanted to win and went out and delivered," Napoli manager

Rafa 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 it 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 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



Fiorentina's David Pizarro (R) is challenged by Napoli's Marek Hamsik during their Italian Cup final soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 3 May, 2014.

REUTERS

Garcia admits Serie A title race is over

ROME, 4 May — Roma head coach Rudi Garcia admitted on Saturday that



Roma head coach Rudi Garcia

the Italian Serie A title race has been over already as Juventus are set to win it on Monday.

Though Roma scored nine consecutive victories, they could not narrow the eight-point gap with Juventus, 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 finished," 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