Club wall collapse kills five in Egypt

CAIRO, — Five people died and six others were injured Wednesday after a wall of a club collapsed in a district of Egypt’s Helwan governorate, witnesses said.

The wall in the Arab Gohorn area of Helwan, south of Cairo, fell at around 6:30 p.m., according to nearby residents.

Workers were still using bulldozers to clear roof debris to search possible missing persons late Wednesday night. (Xinhua)

Mutual gains to drive China-Africa relations

By David Muyoka and Ben Ochieng

NAIROBI, — China-Africa relations are expected to grow further in the next decade, partly as a result of strong commitments from the both sides and Africa’s need to protect infrastructure development and related gains it has achieved through friendship with China.

Kenya’s government officials and foreign policy analysts told Xinhua that China has been able to direct the received resources to help channel more Chinese aid in favor of strategic sectors that are important to the recipient country.

Kenya’s government, they said, has a clear picture of how an aid project will be funded.

It is a South-South cooperation resource specific approach. “Our negotiators must be able to defer casualty identification process. It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification,” Gen. Shamilatey, the ISAF commander said in the press release today.

Taliban militants have often attacked Afghan and NATO-led forces with IEDs and roadside bombs but the ISAF soldiers also inflict casualties on civilians. (Xinhua)

S Korean military denies reports of imminent firing exercises

SEOUL, — South Korean military officials denied Thursday media reports that the military will soon resume routine live-fire exercises near the border with the North.

“NATO soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, — A soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed Thursday, bringing to two the number of the military alliance casualties over the past two days.

An “International Security Assistance Force member died following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan today,” a press release of ISAF announced.

NATO forces report the use of IEDs as one of the major threats to ISAF forces in the country.

Another ISAF soldier was killed in similar attack in Washington wrapped up their latest naval drills in the Yellow Sea Wednesday, where the two Koreas traded fire near a disputed western sea border.

Pyongyang, claiming its bombardment of the western island was for self-defense, denounced the war games for bringing the region closer to war. (Xinhua)

Russia supports dialogues with DPRK, Iran: Putin

MOSCOW, — Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Thursday reiterated Russia’s support for continuing dialogue with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Iran.

In his address to a conference of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Putin said Moscow supports the idea of peaceful solutions to the conflicts in the region.

Russia has been a key player in efforts to end the conflict in Afghanistan, and it has been supportive of the NATO-led forces in the country.

Putin said that Russia supports the idea of continuing dialogue with Iran and North Korea, but also that dialogue is not enough.

“We are not saying that we support dialogue, but we do believe that it is necessary,” Putin said. (Xinhua)

Indonesia denies visa to former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf

NEW DELHI, — India has denied visa to former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf who sought to visit the Indian national capital to attend a conference this weekend, local media reported Thursday.

The decision was taken by the Ministry of External Affairs after the Ministry of Home Affairs expressed reservations over the visit of the former Pakistani military ruler due to his recent anti-India statements, The Indian Express quoted sources as saying.

It is learnt that the government of India also did not want Indian soil to be used for any purpose against the democratic government of Pakistan, the report said.

Musharraf, who is at present living in self-imposed exile in Britain, had recently said that India was responsible for creating unrest in Pakistan’s Balochistan province and claimed that Islamabad had “solid evidence” in this regard. (Xinhua)

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