Extremists attack, kill five Daingnet ethnic villagers

ONGOING violence in northern Rakhine State resulted in the evacuation of a village, five more deaths and several injuries to civilians and the military.

Security forces yesterday evacuated 55 surviving members of the Daingnet ethnic tribe in Rakhine State who were attacked by extremists on Saturday, resulting in the death of five of villagers, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office.

It was previously reported that six members of a Hindu family were killed after shots were fired in their home on Saturday.

Saturday’s killings came a day after an ambush of several police and border guard outposts that left over 90 dead across northern Rakhine State. Security forces were attacked again yesterday with dozens of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The Information Committee’s report released yesterday states that 22 Daingnet ethnic villagers left Yankar Zaydi village on Saturday for Aungzan village in an effort to ensure safety for their people after the violence in northern Rakhine rapidly escalated on Friday.

When they neared Kyaungdoe village, they were attacked by about 100 terrorists who were armed with sticks and machetes. U Maung Ba Sein, 28, managed to escape and said that security forces arrived in Yankar Zaydi village on Sunday and rescued 38 tribespeople who had remained.

SEE PAGE-6
MPs discuss responsible extraction of natural resources

Myo Myint, Hmwe Kyu Zin (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

A motion urging the government for systematic extraction and conservations of gems and minerals wealth owned by the country and its nationals for the country’s future as well as future generations was tabled by U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency and the Hluttaw decided to approve the motion in Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session held yesterday.

In discussing the motion, Taungthay representative Major Myat Ko said due to illegal extraction and mining, weaknesses of the enacted laws and rule of laws, companies not abiding by the rules and laws and weaknesses of the joint field inspection groups, extracted and mined gems and minerals went to black markets while the government is left with incomplete collection of taxes. In the agreements signed with the companies, block types and areas were defined but depth to which the gems and minerals are to be extracted and mined were not specified resulting in deep open pit mines that damages the natural environment and as such the depth of the pit should be determined said Major Myat Ko.

Gems and minerals are non-renewable resources and benefits and profits from extraction and mining of gems and minerals ought to be invested for the future generations’ benefit. Ministry need to work together with states and regions governments to effectively controlling the extraction of gems that are mainly produced in areas where there is no rule of laws. In blocks where extractions are being done legally, responsible personnel should cooperate and work with local people to ensuring that rules, laws and agreements were followed and effective action taken for any breaches. Daw Kin Tin Nu of Mindon constituency discussed on drawing up firm and exact laws together with locals who are actually working in the extractive industry to properly extract and produce, obtain good market, collect exact taxes due, improve in gem technology and long term conservation for the benefit of future generation. Gem Law ought to have sections and sub-sections that are practical and systematic for business to do extraction works and conduct conservation and restoration of the natural environment. To enable future generations to extract gems and minerals, machinery usage for extraction and mining should be limited. Similarly Dr. U Khin Maung Thin of Ayadaw constituency, Dr. U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency discussed.

Responding to the discussions, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win explained that reserved gems and mineral deposits were systematically designated in order to be extracted and mined in the future for the benefit of the country and future generation and therefore the motion should be approved.

The essential need for the development of fishery is legislation. It is necessary to accomplish for fish breeders to acquire the rights in accord with the existing rules and laws. And, it also needs to ease restrictions, which are hindrances to fishery industries, so that lands can be easily utilized according to land law and law on vacant, fallow and virgin lands. Prior to opening the fishery university, student should be sent to foreign universities as state scholarship students.

At today’s meeting, concerning the substitution of committee members in committee on people’s complaints, it was submitted to Amyotha Hluttaw and approved by Hluttaw.
Round-table talks on revision and preparation for Union Peace Conference

A CEREMONY for opening round-table talks on review and preparation for Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong was held at 9:30 am yesterday at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the ceremony were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister and Vice-Chairman of NRPC, parliamentarian U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Lt Gen Yar Pyae, Lt Gen Tun Tun Naung, Lt Gen Tin Maung Win, Secretary of Peace Commission U Khin Zaw Oo, 15 representatives to the conference (government group), 15 representatives from the Tatmadaw group and 18 who should be invited for participation from the Hluttaw, government and Tatmadaw groups and responsible officials.

First of all, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe made an opening address, “The present roundtable talk is being held to discuss the matters that should be prepared for the third meeting to be held next time, after finding out advantages and disadvantages based on experiences encountered in the second meeting of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong which had already been held. Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong is the political roundtable talk held with a view to solving political problems through political negotiations. Throughout the tenure of successive governments in the country, internal armed conflicts were said to have been attributed to inability to deal with political problems.

Nowadays, efforts are being made to solve political problems through political means and ways under the leadership of the State Counsellor. All accepted that the only solution to all political problems is to build a federal republic that can be accepted by all. The present conference is to find out principles on federalism acceptable to all,” he added.

The Union Minister went on to say, “Success of political dialogues will decide Myanmar’s Peace and the emergence of principles on federalism will create the future for new generations. Importance of political negotiations can shape the future of the country and its people, hence the efforts of the whole populace. 37 principles on federalism were signed at the previous 2nd meeting of the conference. Regarding the way in which the conference had been held, framework and guidelines for working procedures, a lot of criticism had emerged. Yet, this has been the first-ever political dialogue in Myanmar’s history. In this first-ever political talk, it was not an easy task to have reached the agreement on principles of federalism.

The State Counsellor herself disclosed that it was the first-ever initiative of great importance. The present roundtable talk is the one for us to prepare for further steps how we shall proceed on our way to peace and federalism, with which kinds of conception, behind the first-ever step.”

And, the Union Minister added, “Our government includes 3 groups—government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw. In some parts of policy of great importance, we—including leaders, reached a common agreement through negotiations beforehand, but there were some disagreements at the time of negotiations of the conference due to individual views. It is actually needed to cooperate and negotiate among the 3 groups. Accordingly, it is necessary to thoroughly discuss and debate arguments in advance, prior to the commencement of the 3rd meeting of the coming conference. We need to discuss the part of structure at different levels, firstly. Secondly, we have to discuss political framework and thirdly there is the part of principle on federalism to be included in the coming conference. Only if these 3 parts have been thoroughly discussed, can the government group consisting of government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw stand on its common stance. In the meeting U Khin Zaw Oo and U Zaw Htay, director-general of the Ministry of the Office of State Counsellor discussed respectively.

Roundtable talk on revision and preparation for Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong will continue to be held on August 29 and 30.—Myanmar News Agency
Poached lumber seized on Ayeyawady River

KATHAR District Forestry Department officials seized 90 tons of illegal lumber, including the Dipterocarpus tuberculatus species, from 10 wooden rafts discovered near Kaokkway Creek between Shwegu Township, Kachin State and Katha Township, Sagaing Region, on 23 August.

In a separate incident on 19 August, law enforcement officials arrested seven people who were on board rafts near Nalae Inn Village, Katha Township and seized 65 tons of contraband lumber.

The police charged those suspects.— Maung Chit Lin (Inwa) ■

Flooding increases prices of staples at Yangon Market

PRICES of commonly used ingredients including edible palm oil, dried fish and onions have increased in Yangon Region Market due to crop damaged caused by torrential rains, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Edible palm oil increased to Ks 1,800 per viss (3.6 pounds) from Ks 1,300 per viss. Onion prices increased to Ks 1,900 per viss from Ks 800 per viss in the Thiri Mingalar market.

Dried commerson’s anchovies has increased to Ks 7,500 per viss from Ks 5,500 per viss and dried Thunnus tonggol fish increased to Ks 18,000 per viss from Ks 15,000 per viss. Salt, fish paste, green chilli power and other less perishable food stuffs are more stable. “The price of dried fish has increased around Ks 1000 and Ks 1500 per viss this year compared to the same period of last year. The dried fish are scarce in the rainy season,” said a dried fish sellers from the Thiri Mingalar market.— GNLM ■

Bago pickled fish enterprises to be inspected by government

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will inspect pickled fish enterprises in Bago Region to make sure they are following food quality regulations, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

“Currently, we have sent a powder from Thailand, which is used in the pickled fish enterprises to the laboratory with the assistance of the FDA to test. Most of the pickled fish enterprises are not registered with the FDA and do not know how to register their products with the F, said U Nyunt Shwe, Bago Region Hluttaw representative.

Although the pickled fish enterprises are not registered in FDA, they are paying municipal tax and fisheries tax. And there are cases of well-known pickled fish enterprises filing copyright lawsuits against people selling pickled fish under their brands.

FDA seeks to determine whether or not pickled fish enterprises are using banned chemicals.—GNLM ■

Border trade under individual trade card programme worth Ks14.8 billion this year

TRADE values under the Individual Trading Card (ITC) system was worth Ks14.8 billion as of 18 August this fiscal year, including exports of Ks1.1 billion and imports of Ks13.7 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Under the programme, Myawady border reported the largest trade volume, estimated at Ks11 billion.

According to Ministry statistics, export value under the programme was was Ks6.8 billion as of 18 August this fiscal year and imports were Ks11 billion.

Trade values under the programme was Ks689 million at Tamu trade camp; Ks11 million at Muse border gate; Ks28 million at Tachileik trade camp; Ks56 million at Lwejei trade camp; Ks4 million at ChinShweHaw border gate; Ks860 million at Kanpikete; Ks293 million at Kawthoung border town; Ks250 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks619 million at Mawtaung gate and Ks71 million at Kengtung border trade camp.

Total trade value under the program in FY2016-2017 was Ks18.97 billion.


Since its introducing to date, the ministry issued a total of 1,330 ITCs.— Zwe ■
Project aims to improve sesame seed quality, export volumes

The Network Activities Group has a plan to help local farmers in Magway Region produce and market 600 tons of black sesame seeds for export.

The seeds are being grown in Mohn, Minbu, Natmauk and townships in Magway Region, according to a report of Myanmar Alin Daily, yesterday.

Network Activities Group (NAG) is carrying out quality sesame production and marketing project. Over 20,000 baskets of sesame seeds (about 600 tons) are expected to be exported to foreign countries in the end of September. Harvesting has just begun.

The farmers working with the production and marketing program are seeking to reduce free fatty acid content of their seeds to under two per cent in order to compete in premium international markets.

The project will also improve their sesame seeds traceability, another prerequisite for premium markets. The Regional Farmers Development Association (RPDA) will assist with packaging to maintain quality.

The project will also provide processing equipment. – Zin Oo (Myanmar Alin)

Shrimp paste producers explore export potential

Fisheries businesses in Kawthoung, Tanintharyi Region are exploring opportunities to export shrimp paste to ASEAN markets, according to a report in yesterday’s edition of Myanmar Alin Daily newspaper.

Currently shrimp catchers are lower than usual due to weather conditions. A viss (3.6 pounds) of shrimp paste is worth Ks1,400 to Ks2,800 depending on its quality.—GNLM

Border trade lower this year

BORDER trade value during the past four months of this fiscal year was US$2.82 billion compared to $2.67 billion last year, due in part to bank account seizures and resultant trade interruptions at Muse, Myanmar’s busiest of 16 land ports of entry.

Sino-Myanmar border trade from 1 April to 18 August this fiscal year was worth $2.17 billion, $133 million less than last year. China trade takes place at Muse, Lweje, Chintheceh-Thaungtwin and Keng Tung. Myanmar also trades with Thailand, India and Bangladesh. Thai-Myanmar border trade worth $461 million at Tachileik, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Mahtawang and Maese also decreased slightly.

India-Myanmar trade through Tamu and Reed check points decreased $13 million this year. Sittway and Maungtaw land points of entry between Bangladesh and Myanmar saw a small increase this year.

Unlike Myanmar’s sea routes, land trade exports surpassed imports. Exports were $1.6 billion, imports were $1 billion.—Ko Htet

Grab to invest $100 mn in Myanmar over three years

GRAB, a ride-hailing platform with mobile payments, is setting aside US$100 million for future investment plans within three years, according to Grab Myanmar’s head office.

Grab wants to expand cab services to more big cities across Myanmar and will roll out other products through Grab’s suite including Grab Pay. Grab will also establish a team recruiting about 200 qualified staff.

“Grab in Yangon has taken off at an incredible pace,” said Anthony Tan, Grab’s co-founder and CEO. “This demonstrates the massive and immediate potential of this fast-growing market. Our commitment to address transport challenges with locally-suit ed and innovative solutions that create more social and economic opportunity works well for both Grab and our local communities. This is already one of our fastest-growing markets, and we are very excited to deepen our commitment into Myanmar”

Grab will increase its presence in Yangon by cooperating with regional governments to operate its ride-hailing transportation in other cities. Grab will also provide 24-hour call center service and cashless payment system GrabPay through a planned Grab application. Grab’s ride-hailing services is available in 87 big cities in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar.—Khin Zarli

Millers fail to find capital investment, new export markets

RICE millers are struggling to acquire bank loans due to their lack of land use certificates, also known as a Form 30, according to a report of yesterday’s edition of Myanmar Alin.

Only about 20 percent of Myanmar’s rice mills meet international criteria.

Although rice is a major agricultural commodity for Myanmar, export volumes are relatively small. Despite a large overall volume, for what is a staple food crop in Myanmar, 88 per cent of Myanmar’s rice production is consumed domestically.

Myanmar’s rice processing and storage industries require investment to keep up with export markets’ quality demands. Rice millers seeking to make capital investments in machinery and facilities requested the Myanmar Rice Millers Association for loans without the required land use certificates, said U Kyaw Kyaw, a rice miller from Tamkong, Nay Pyi Taw.

Most of the rice millers in regions and states are run their mills without these certificates due to unclear land policies and land tenure challenges.

Millers’ loan applications have been denied due to their lack of land use certificates. Loans are also scarce due to lack of development in Myanmar’s finance industry and its weak microfinance sector.

“We reported this to Myanmar Rice Millers Association,” said U Moe Kyaw Oo, a rice miller to Myanmar Alin Daily.

Insufficient electric supply and capital investment also make upgrading rice mills a struggle. To boost rice export, quality rice mills are essential. Government subsidies and paddy mortgage scheme is needed to develop for rice millers so that they can run their business throughout the year, said U Kyaw Kyaw.

Rice mills in more developed nations typically process 400 to 1,000 tons of rice daily, while Myanmar’s best millers can only process 50 tons a day.

Myanmar’s mills are small and decentralized, another factor that adds logistical costs and degrades overall crop quality. Myanmar has 15,000 rice mills, including 1,400 mills with a capacity of less than 15 tons, daily. —Zar Lin Thu
Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at 9th Meeting with Myanmar Entrepreneurs

Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, attended the 9th meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs held with a view to easing the difficulties and fulfilling the needs of Myanmar entrepreneurs, at the UMFCCI in Yangon at 9:00 am yesterday morning and delivered the opening speech.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Cabinet and Yangon Region Ministers, departmental heads and central executive committee members of UMFCCI and responsible officials. In addressing the meeting, Vice-President said, “Monthly regular meetings with entrepreneurs for the development of private sector have been being held since 1st December 2016 by sectors, the present one being the 9th meeting. Up to the last 8th meeting, the respective ministries, Region and State Cabinets and working committees have replied to all the suggestions and difficulties presented by entrepreneurs, whereas some cases are still being coordinated as they are closely related to two or three ministries. The Private Sector Development Committee held its meetings once every two months, now reaching 4 times. Working committees which took the responsibilities of 5 Panels held their meetings once a month, having held meetings for 38 times.”

The Vice-President added, “The State has been exerting its efforts for the national economic development in every way. In the present financial year foreign investments reached US $ 3500 million, increasing considerably compared to that of the previous year—US $ 400 million. As for the investment of Myanmar citizens as well, it reached K 1275 billion in the present financial year; exceeding by a large margin that of the last year—K 109 billion. Regarding the investments in Regions and States, Yangon Region reached 80 per cent with Bago Region reaching 11 per cent only.

Efforts need to be made in every way for the investments to enter regions and states proportionally. As Region and State Investment Committees had been formed and assigned respectively, the said committees are implementing to issue approval orders to enterprises with the capital investment under US $ 5 million or K 6000 million. Now due to restriction of India’s import policy over Myanmar’s pulses—mung beans, green gram and toor whole, bilateral negotiations are under way to solve the difficulties of Myanmar beans and pulses merchants. Private entrepreneurs need to openly discuss their difficulties and give suggestions.”

Afterwards, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win explained the situations on the achievements in various sectors for private sector development.

The meeting came to a conclusion after the closing address by the Vice-President. —Myanmar News Agency

Extremists attack, kill five Daingnet ethnic villagers

The surviving 16 villagers who were attacked near Kyaukdoe village arrived at the district police station yesterday morning. Ma Oo Khin Khin, 27, suffered slash wounds and was hospitalised. Among the five Daingnet villagers killed on Saturday was U Sein Htun Maung, 28, according to the Information Committee.

Rakhine State continued unabated yesterday when extremist terrorists ambushed security forces with improvised explosive devices, small arms and machetes, resulting in injuries to one policeman and one civilian.

“From 27th to 28th August, 45 explosions of IEDs occurred”, said a statement from the Information Office. “Seven villages, one police outpost and two wards in Maungtaw were also burnt down by extremist terrorists”. Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu visited a local battalion in northern Rakhine and spoke words of encouragement to the ethnic Rakhine people and civil servants taking shelter there.

At the meeting, the internally displaced people asked authorities for their help in returning to their native towns. With the killings of the Daingnet ethnic villagers, the death toll from the violence that erupted on Friday with coordinated attacks by extremist terrorists has climbed to at least 110.

Meanwhile, the government said it was investigating whether members of international aid groups had been involved in an alleged siege by the extremist terrorists of a village in Rakhine.

UN, foreign countries condemn terrorist attacks in Rakhine

The United Nations and foreign ministries of the United States of America, India and Turkey and embassies of USA, Britain and Australia released statements recently condemning deadly attacks on border posts in northern Rakhine.—GNLM/Myanmar News Agency
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TATMADAW and security forces are searching for extremist terrorists in area clearance operations. These extremist terrorists launched coordinated surprise attacks on security outposts in northern Rakhine State. Last year as well, Tatmadaw and security forces cleared them away after they made violent armed attacks on 3 border guard security outposts.

Now again, due to their attacks, security forces have sacrificed their lives for the country. Other security forces and innocent civilians have been wounded. To our great sorrow, we heard about these incidents. We must take notice and understand clearly that these incidents of atrocity and terror can grow bigger and threaten the very existence of Maungtaw district itself, which is of vital importance to the country. We need to live in unity and co-operation with a broader vision and security awareness so as to oppose any attempts to harm our national sovereignty. In addition we need to protect the lives of the innocent civilians.

Based on this incident, we need to take a lesson from international events. Presently, extremist terrorists have occupied Marawi, the biggest city in the southern Philippines, trying to occupy the whole region of Mindanao Island. Likewise, extremist armed terrorists are making attacks almost every day to occupy the areas in southern Thailand—Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat which abut with Malaysia. Our country should study these events carefully and attempt to understand the broader picture as it relates to the events in the Rakhine State. To sum it up, we are also required to be aware of the dangers of these extremist terrorists and do our utmost to protect the property and lives of local populace. All Myanmar citizens should unite and join hands with the Union Government to protect the national sovereignty of Myanmar and to assist our national brethren in the Rakhine State as much as possible.

Here’s How Nearly All Nations Could Run on Renewable Power by 2050

The obstacle to transitioning away from fossil fuels is more of a matter of political will than technical limitations, a new Stanford study suggests.

The world could almost completely convert to renewable electric power in time to head off the worst effects of climate change, according to a new analysis led by a Stanford University professor. And, the study suggests, ditching fossil fuels is not only possible, but might be a net plus economically.

Following up on an earlier study arguing that the United States could be powered by wind turbines, hydroelectric dams, and solar power by mid-century, Mark Jacobson projects that 139 of the world’s nearly 200 countries could run entirely on renewables by 2050. Phasing out fossil fuels in little more than 30 years will require a massive chunk of money, but would pay for itself in energy savings, better health, and limiting the expected losses due to carbon-driven climate change.

“Technically and economically, it’s feasible,” said Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering with a background in atmospheric science and energy. “We have 98 percent of all the technology needed. Those are existing. And the ones that are not existing, there are prototypes available.”

Technologies that would still need to be developed include the use of high-powered electrical motors for aircraft and commercial ships, driven either by hydrogen fuel cells or a combination of battery-electric and fuel cell technology. But Jacobson said the main obstacles to his vision “are more social and political.”

The new analysis by Jacobson and more than two dozen co-authors was published Wednesday in Joule, a new research journal focusing on sustainable energy. In addition to the 15-page study, a 186-page package of supplemental material lays out projected demand scenarios and timelines for transitioning different sectors.

It’s an ambitious plan, calling for the build-out of “smart” electrical grids immediately; an end to new coal, natural gas, or nuclear power plant construction by 2020, along with the conversion of all heating, cooking, and other appliances to electricity by the same point. The last fossil fuel-powered industrial furnaces would be built by 2025, the last internal combustion-driven trucks would roll off the line by 2030, and all new aircraft would be electrically powered by 2040.

The estimated price tag for all that runs to nearly $125 trillion worldwide—about 3.5 percent of the world’s annual economic output over the next 30-plus years, Jacobson said. That’s a share comparable to the American auto industry’s contribution to the US economy.

Jacobson’s previous study of a US conversion to renewables came under fire earlier this year from other scholars, who called it far too optimistic unless it included nuclear power and some limited fossil-fuel capability combined with technology to capture its carbon emissions. But he said his conclusions are buttressed by two dozen other studies “that have found it’s possible to keep the grid stable without fossil fuels or nuclear power.”

And Jacobson said the transition will result in a lower cost of electricity and reduced demand. Producing and shipping fossil fuels are energy-intensive. Electric car motors deliver a far bigger share of their power to the wheels than gas-burners do. And the efficiency of electrical devices is expected to improve. All told, Jacobson and his colleagues estimate going electric would reduce power demand by more than 42 percent.

While the conversion could cost nearly 25 million jobs in today’s industries across those 139 countries, he said the net result would be an increase of more than 24 million permanent, full-time jobs. Countries that depend more on fossil fuel production — the oil exporters of the Middle East, for instance — might bear the brunt of the losses, but they can recover by retooling their economies toward new technologies associated with renewables. And in countries that are still developing their electrical system and extending the benefits of power to their population, there’s no old infrastructure to replace.

“It’s the equivalent of remodeling versus building a new house,” Jacobson said. “Certainly, things can be cleaner and more efficiently done and you can save more money if you’re starting from scratch, rather than having the cost of removing something old.” —Matt Smith (Seeker)
Pope Francis plans to visit Myanmar in late November, according to the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar in Yangon.

The announcement came yesterday at a press conference at CBCM yesterday.

The statement released at the press conference by the CBCM said “Pope Francis comes to meet all the people of Myanmar. The four days visitation will take place from 27th to 30th November 2017.”

The Vatican also announced yesterday that he would visit Myanmar from Nov. 27 to 30, stopping in Yangon and in the capital, Nay Pyi Taw. He would visit the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, according to Reuters. — GNLM

PLANNERS for the annual International Day of Democracy was held at the Joint Public Accounts Committee, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, organizing executive committee chairman Dr. Than Win and members, work committee members and Hluttaw officials attended the meeting.

The Hluttaw has held the International Day of Democracy annually since 2011 and intends to invite union level legislative, administrative and judicial organisations, political parties, international non-governmental organisations and ambassadors.

The ceremony will be held in Thabin Hall of the Hluttaw compound with the theme: “In defense of Democracy.”

—Myanmar News Agency

On 24 August 2016 an earthquake in Bagan region destroyed various pagodas and religious buildings. A Technical Expert Team was formed to inspect and review the restoration projects of these structures. The team held its 11th meeting at the Bagan Archaeological Museum yesterday and was joined by Hluttaw representatives, staff from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Department for Archaeology and National Museums and experts from UNESCO.

U Kyaw Oo Lwin, the Director General of the Department for Archaeology and National Museum, gave the opening address followed by U Aung Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Engineer Association, who gave a speech. Afterwards, representatives from the Myanmar Architecture Association and Myanmar Engineer’s Association reported the status of the restoration of Bagan’s damaged buildings.

This was followed by Mr. Pierre Pichard and Manitha Gavrilovic and Rodolfo Lujan presented future restoration projects which will be given priority and U San Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Architecture Association, presented the association’s survey on Bagan’s pagodas.

In the afternoon session of the meeting, the deputy district administrator of NyaungOo District reported the amount of donations received for repairing the damaged pagodas and the status of restoring the pagodas. This was followed by other attendants presenting their report for the restoration status in Bagan.

Meeting on restoring Bagan pagodas destroyed by earthquake

The meeting for planning the International Day of Democracy was held at the Joint Public Accounts Committee in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MEETING on restoring Bagan’s pagodas, stupas, monastaries and ruined city in Myanmar, had over 2,200 pagodas, stupas, monastaries and other structures left from the thousands built between the 11th and 13th century.

The earthquake which occurred at 5pm on 24 August last year measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale and ruined 389 pagodas in Bagan and 3,133 pagodas and stupas in the greater Bagan region.–Myanmar News Agency

Bagan, once a significant city in Myanmar, had over 2,200 pagodas, stupas, monastaries and other structures left from the thousands built between the 11th and 13th century.

The earthquake which occurred at 5pm on 24 August last year measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale and ruined 389 pagodas in Bagan and 3,133 pagodas and stupas in the greater Bagan region.–Myanmar News Agency

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to doc@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office
Indian court sentences self-styled "godman" to 10 years in prison

NEW DELHI — An Indian judge on Monday handed a 10-year jail sentence to self-styled 'godman' Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, whose followers went on a deadly rampage after he was convicted of rape on Friday.

"The court has ordered 10-year jail term for the accused," Ram Niwas, senior bureaucrat in charge of law and order in Haryana, told Reuters. Supporters of Singh's cult resorted to violent protests last week, which killed at least 38 and injured more than 200 in Haryana state, after a local court found him guilty of raping two women in a case dating back to 2002.—Reuters

Samsung scion Lee's counsel appeals against 5-yr jail term for bribery

SEOUL — Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Jay Y Lee's defence lawyer has filed to appeal against a five-year jail term for bribery handed down by a lower court, the Seoul Central District Court's website said on Monday without giving details. A Samsung spokeswoman did not have any immediate comment about the appeal against the sentencing handed down on Friday.—Reuters

Russia's new Washington envoy meets US ambassador to Russia

MOSCOW — Russia's new ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov met US ambassador to Russia John Tefft on Monday to discuss ties between Moscow and Washington, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday. Antonov, appointed ambassador by presidential decree last week, takes over from Sergei Kislyak, whose contacts with members of President Donald Trump's campaign team made him a central figure in the row over alleged Russian influence in the US presidential election.—Reuters

Trump could lift ban on military equipment for US police — report

WASHINGTON — The US government may soon lift a ban on the transfer of some surplus military equipment to police departments, according to a news report on Sunday. USA Today reported it had obtained documents outlining a plan which would lift an Obama-era ban on putting some of the military's surplus equipment, such as armored vehicles and large-caliber weapons, in the hands of local police departments. On Monday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions plans to address the annual meeting of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest police union. The report said Sessions could unveil the plan at that time. A representative for the Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.—Reuters

Russia ‘not seeking to vie with anyone’ to settle Qatari quandary, vows Lavrov

KUWAIT CITY — Moscow is not planning to vie with anyone in settling the crisis between Qatar and a number of Arab states, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

“We support the Kuwaiti initiative, we do not want to vie with anyone,” Lavrov said. “We have good relations with all the countries which found themselves in such a difficult situation.”

“We strongly believe that Kuwait’s initiative deserves the support of all those who can generate a positive impact on this situation. We are ready to provide this support in any mode that will be acceptable to all participants in this situation,” Lavrov stressed.

On 5 June, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt accused Qatar of supporting terrorism and meddling in their domestic affairs. Subsequently, they said that they were severing diplomatic relations with Doha. Economic sanctions and a transport blockade were imposed on Qatar.

On 22 June, the four Arab states put up 13 demands to Qatar for restoring relations and gave it a 10-day deadline to comply with them. Doha said that the demands were unacceptable as they had nothing to do with the war on terror but aimed at limiting the country's sovereignty.

Since the very outset of the crisis, Kuwait has been seeking to play the role of a mediator.

The State of Kuwait suggested holding a high-level meeting of countries involved in the conflict.—Tass
Netanyahu: Iran building missile production sites in Syria, Lebanon

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Iran is building sites to produce precision-guided missiles in Syria and Lebanon, with the aim of using them against Israel.

At the start of a meeting in Jerusalem with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Netanyahu accused Iran of turning Syria into a “base of military entrenchment as part of its declared goal to eradicate Israel.”

“It is also building sites to produce precision-guided missiles towards that end, in both Syria and in Lebanon. This is something Israel cannot accept. This is something the UN should not accept,” Netanyahu said.

Iran, Israel’s arch-enemy, has been Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s staunchest backer and has provided militia fighters to help him in Syria’s civil war.

There was no immediate comment from Iran. Israel has pointed to Tehran’s steadily increasing influence in the region during the six-year-old Syrian conflict, whether via its own Revolutionary Guard forces or Shi’ite Muslim proxies, especially Hezbollah.

On Wednesday, Netanyahu, in a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Israel was prepared to act unilaterally to prevent an expanded Iranian military presence in Syria.

Pakistan postpones US visit after Trump speech

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan postponed a visit by a US acting Assistant Secretary of State, officials said, as small protests broke out against President Donald Trump’s accusations that Islamabad was prolonging the war in Afghanistan.

The visit of Alice Wells, acting assistant Secretary of State for South and Asian Affairs, scheduled for Monday, would have been the first high-profile visit by a US official since Trump’s Afghan policy speech on 21 August.

“At the request of the Government of Pakistan, Acting Assistant Secretary Wells’ trip has been postponed until a mutually convenient time,” a US Embassy spokesperson told Reuters in Islamabad on Sunday.

Pakistan’s foreign ministry released a statement with similar wording. Neither side gave a reason for the postponement, but US officials working in Pakistan have been on high-alert since Monday’s speech.

“Trump accused Pakistan of harboring “agents of chaos” and providing safe havens to militant groups waging an insurgency against a US-backed government in Kabul. Pakistani officials responded by saying the US should not “scapegoat” Pakistan and accused the American military of failing to eliminate militant sanctuaries inside Afghanistan.

In the southern metropolis of Karachi, police fired teargas at protesters from a religious student group as they began moving toward the US consulate building.

Between 100 and 150 protesters carrying placards bearing pictures of President Trump and chanting anti-US slogans were kept at bay by police and not allowed within 3 km (2 miles) of the consulate.

On Friday, banned Islamist organization Jamaat-ud-Dawa, held responsible by Washington and New Delhi for a series of coordinated attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai in 2008, staged nationwide protests but also failed to draw large numbers.

Car bomb kills eight in eastern Baghdad market — medics

BAGHDAD — A car bomb killed at least eight people in a crowded vegetable market in a Shi’ite Muslim district of Baghdad on Monday, police and medics said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, though the Sunni Muslim militants of Islamic State have said they carried out a string of other recent attacks in the capital.

The car rigged with explosives detonated in the mainly Shi’ite eastern district of Jamila, police said, as Iraqi government forces were preparing to declare victory over Islamic State more than 400 km (250 miles) further north in the city of Tal Afar.

It was not immediately clear if a suicide bomber had driven the vehicle to the target or if it was a parked car bomb, police sources said.

Medics and police sources said eight people died and 25 were wounded.

Interior Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Saad Maan said four people were killed and 12 wounded, including two policemen.
Two Russian submarines on way to Black Sea enter Mediterranean

MOSCOW — Two Russian submarines on the way from the Baltic Fleet to the Black Sea have entered the Mediterranean, Black Sea Fleet spokesman Vyacheslav Trukhachyov said on Monday.

“Two diesel submarines — The Kolpino and the Velikiy Novgorod — on the way from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea Fleet have entered the Mediterranean,” he said. The submarines will be part of the Russian Navy’s permanent group in the Mediterranean.

The submarines are moving in the surface position. They are escorted by a salvage tug of the Baltic Fleet.

The Kolpino and The Velikiy Novgorod are the fifth and sixth in a series of six submarines of project 636.3 built at the Admiralty Shipyards for the Black Sea Fleet.

Another project 636.6 submarine — the Krasnodar — was redeployed from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea earlier. It performed a number of tasks as part of the Russian Navy’s group in the Mediterranean.

On 23 June, as the Defence Ministry said, it launched Kalibr cruise missiles against facilities of the Islamic State (outlawed in Russia) in Syria. — Tass

US navy recovers remains of all sailors missing after USS McCain collision

SINGAPORE — The US Navy on Monday confirmed recovery of the remains of all 10 sailors killed after the warship John S McCain collided with a merchant vessel in waters near Singapore and Malaysia.

“Two Russian submarines on way to Black Sea enter Mediterranean

MOGADISHU — The guided-missile destroyer collided with the Alnic MC east of Singapore last week while approaching the city state on a routine port visit.

“The US navy and marine corps divers have now recovered the remains of all 10 US John S McCain sailors,” the Seventh Fleet said in a statement on its website.

The news follows the navy’s Thursday announcement that it had suspended wider search and rescue operations after finding and identifying the remains of one sailor.

The navy found the remains of missing sailors inside sealed sections of the damaged hull of the warship, which is moored at Singapore’s Changi Naval Base.

“The incident is under investigation to determine the facts and circumstances of the collision,” the statement added. Aircraft, divers and vessels from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United States joined a search-and-rescue operation for the missing sailors over an area of about 5,500 sq km (2,124 square miles) around the crash site.

The pre-dawn collision, the fourth major accident for the US Pacific Fleet this year, has prompted a review of its operations.

The Navy has removed Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Joseph Aucoin from his post, citing “a loss of confidence in his ability to command” after the run of accidents.

Rear Admiral Phil Sawyer takes command of the fleet from Aucoin, who had been due to step down next month.

The US navy has also flagged plans for temporary and staggered halts in operations across its global fleet to allow staff to focus on safety.

In a one-day operational pause last Wednesday, officers and crew of Seventh Fleet ships deployed at a facility in Yokosuka, Japan, received fresh training in risk management and communications.

The Seventh Fleet, headquartered in Japan, operates as many as 70 ships, including the US navy’s only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, and has about 140 aircraft and 20,000 sailors. — Reuters

Ireland calls for realism from UK on border issue in latest Brexit talks

DUBLIN — Much of the future border arrangements between Northern Ireland and Ireland can be solved before Brexit talks enter the next phase, Ireland’s foreign minister said, urging Britain to be realistic in negotiating terms to leave the European Union.

British officials arrive in Brussels on Monday to push the EU towards talks about their post-Brexit ties, which the bloc refuses to do without an agreement first on London’s exit bill and other divorce issues.

Among those issues is the conundrum of the currently invisible border between EU member state Ireland and Britain’s province of Northern Ireland, a matter fraught with economic consequences and politically complexities.

“We want some realism. There is a suggestion in the British government papers on Ireland that really the Irish border issues can only be solved in the context of a free trade agreement and I think there is a lot we can do in advance of that,” Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told national broadcaster RTÉ.

As part of a series of papers published by London this month it hopes will push forward talks with the EU, Britain said there should be no border posts or immigration checks on the neighbouring island of Ireland once London quits the EU in 2019.

At the same time, Britain’s Conservative government intends to regain complete control over immigration as part of Brexit, raising questions how this would work if there was a “back door” into Britain along an open land frontier with Ireland.

The Irish government, which has grown critical Britain’s approach to the talks, welcomed what it called significant progress in the papers but reiterated on Monday that London now must spell out in detail how their plan could be implemented.

“It’s up to the UK this week to outline how the position papers, particularly in relation to Ireland and the border issues, can actually work,” Coveney said.

“Many in the EU, while they accept what Britain wants, they don’t see how the negotiating approach can achieve that.” The European Parliament’s Brexit pointman, Guy Verhofstadt, has dismissed the British government’s outline approach, calling the idea of an invisible border a “fantasy”.

The issue of how the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland will fare after Britain leaves the EU is particularly sensitive given the decades of violence in the province over whether it should be part of Britain or Ireland. — Reuters

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

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NEW DELHI/BELING — India and China have agreed to an “expeditious disengagement” of troops in a disputed border area where their soldiers have been locked in a stand-off for more than two months, India’s foreign ministry said on Monday.

The decision comes ahead of a summit of the BRICS nations — a grouping that also includes Brazil, Russia and South Africa — in China next month, which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend.

Indian and Chinese troops have been confronting each other at the Doklam plateau near the borders of India, its ally Bhutan and China, in the most serious and prolonged standoff in decades along their disputed Himalayan border.

The Indian ministry said the two sides had agreed to defuse the crisis following diplomatic talks. “In recent weeks, India and China have maintained diplomatic communication in respect of the incident at Doklam,” the ministry said in a statement.

“The incident has caused border personnel at the face-off site at Doklam to be on high alert and has increased the risk of casualties,” it added.

It did not offer more details of the terms of disengagement from the area which has raised fears of a wider conflict between the Asian giants that fought a brief border war in 1962.

China and India have been unable to settle their 3,500-km (2,175-mile) frontier and large parts of territory are claimed by both sides.

“China hopes India respects the historical boundary and works with China to protect peace along the border on the basis of mutual respect of each other’s sovereignty,” Hua added.

“Hopefuly, Doklam is a new chapter in India-China relations. Too much at stake for both big powers to let legacy militaries continue to fight over a small piece of territory,” the ministry said.

Delos Santos was killed in an anti-drugs operation in the most serious and prolonged standoff in decades along their disputed Himalayan border.

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India and China agree to end border standoff

Philippines’ Duterte says police can kill ‘idiots’ who resist arrest

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told police on Monday they could kill “idiots” who violently resist arrest, two days after hundreds of people turned the funeral of a slain teenager into a protest against his deadly war on drugs.

Duterte met the parents of the schoolboy, 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos, at the presidential palace in Manila on Monday, officials said. Details of the meeting were not immediately available.

Earlier, Duterte broke off midway through a prepared speech at the Heroes’ Cemetery on the outskirts of Manila and addressed impromptu comments to Jovie Espenido, the police chief of a town in the south where the mayor was killed in an anti-drugs raid.

“Your duty requires you to overcome the resistance of the person you are arresting... if he resists, and it is a violent one... you are free to kill the idiots, that is my order to you,” Duterte told the police officer.

Duterte added that “murder and homicide and unlawful killings” were not allowed and that police had to uphold the rule of law while carrying out their duties.

Duterte unleashed the anti-drugs war after taking office in June last year following an election campaign in which he vowed to use deadly force to wipe out crime and drugs.

Thousands of people have been killed and the violence has been criticized by much of the international community.

Domestic opposition has been largely muted but the killing of delos Santos by anti-drugs officers on 16 August has sparked rare public outrage.

More than 1,000 people, including nuns, priests and hundreds of children, joined his funeral procession on Saturday, turning the march into one of the biggest protests yet against Duterte’s anti-drugs campaign.

Delos Santos was dragged by plain-clothes policemen to a dark, trash-littered alley in northern Manila before he was shot in the head and left next to a pigsty, according to witnesses whose accounts appeared to be backed up by CCTV footage.

— Reuters

Class 12: “Paper, cardboard; articles of paper or cardboard; printed matter; periodicals, books, stationery and advertising materials (stationery); instructional and teaching materials (except apparatus)"

Class 21: “Toothbrushes, electric toothbrushes, floss for dental purposes, toothpicks, toothpick holders (not of precious metal) and plastic containers for holding toothpaste and toothbrushes”

Class 29: “Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, fruit sauces, eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats”

Class 30: “Coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, rice paper, paper for confectionery, coffee, tea and confectionery preparations for making beverages”

Class 35: “Promotional and advertising services; provision of the aforementioned services on-line, via cable and/or the internet; information services provided from a computer database or on the internet or by other electronic means; the provision of information on pharmaceutical products and services through an on-line computer network”

Class 40: “Consultancy services relating to pharmaceutical, diagnostic, veterinary, proprietary medicines, food, drink, toiletries and cosmetics”

Class 42: “Medical, hygienic and beauty care; veterinary and agricultural services; scientific and industrial research; healthcare services”

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Kendrick Lamar wins big, but absent Taylor Swift steals VMA show

LOS ANGELES — Kendrick Lamar and Ed Sheeran won the top prizes at the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) on Sunday, but an absent Taylor Swift and lifetime achievement honoree Pink dominated the show.

An angry Swift took on her critics in the world premiere of the music video for her first solo single in three years, “Look What You Made Me Do.”

The satirical music video depicted Swift, 27, crawling out of a grave and declaring her old self dead in a portrayal of a hard-edged artist with nothing left to lose, drawing more than 470,000 views on Youtube within an hour of its premiere.

Lamar, who went into Sunday’s event in Los Angeles with a leading eight nominations, kicked off the show with a medley that featured dancers in flames.

The California rapper went home with six statuettes, including the top award for video of the year and best hip hop video for “Humble.”

British singer-songwriter Sheeran was voted artist of the year. Despite days of fevered speculation, Swift herself was a no-show, though she won the album of the year and best hip hop video for “I Don’t Wanna Live Forever” with Zayn Malik.

Nevertheless, her new video quickly became one of the show’s most talked-about moments, largely overshadowing performances by the likes of Sheeran, Fifth Harmony and Lorde.

The video ended with Swift reviving all the personas of her music career — from gawky, guitar playing 16-year old to poised Grammy winner — and having them call each other out for being fake, pretending to be nice and playing the victim.

Hosting the VMA show was Swift’s long-time rival, Katy Perry, who made her entrance from the ceiling wearing a space suit instead of a grave and declaring her hard-edged artist with nothing to lose.

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Pink, the winner of the 2017 Vanguard Award, gave a speech about beauty and acceptance directed to her six-year-old daughter Willow, who was in the audience, that moved many to tears.

“Baby girl, we don’t change,” the singer said. “We take the gravel and the shell and we make a pearl, and we help other people to change so they can see other kinds of beauty.”

The event also showcased social issues.

Six transgender military service men and women walked the VMA red carpet, and a group of suicide survivors stood silently on stage during a performance of the song “1-800-273-8255,” the number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Taylor Swift skips MTV VMAs

LOS ANGELES — Singer Taylor Swift gave Sunday’s MTV Video Music Awards a miss despite the debut of her self-referential music video for “Look What You Made Me Do” at the ceremony.

There were reports that Swift, who was also nominated for the best collaboration with Zayn Malik for “I Don’t Wanna Live Forever” at the awards show, would attend the VMAs.

But the 27-year-old star decided to skip the ceremony.

The reason of her absence was unknown, reported Entertainment Weekly.

However, the duo won the award for their hit track from the film “Fifty Shades Darker” and the song’s co-writers Jack Antonoff and Sam Dew took to the stage to accept the Moon Person trophy on Swift’s behalf.

The show was hosted by Katy Perry, who also performed her latest hits.

I find it very hard to meet people:

Mollie King

LONDON — Singer Mollie King says she is still getting used to dating as she finds it difficult to interact with people.

The Saturdays singer says she gets a bit nervous about going out on dates following her split from model David Gandy, reported Femalefirst.

“I’m still getting used to (dating). At first I was like, ‘Ah, I’m single, what do you do?!’ And it all seemed a bit nerve-wracking. My friends tell me to go on and get out there, and if Mr Right comes along then great.

“But I haven’t really been on that many dates. I find it very hard to meet people — I feel like everybody meets on apps these days. I’m hoping that one of my friends will set me up.

The 30-year-old singer says she prefers to keep her romance under wraps.

“I make a real effort to try to keep things private, but it does feel very different when you’re saying something in a song. At the time I wrote it, it was exactly what I was going through and it was all I could think about,” she tells Fabulous magazine.
Japanese cutlery maker Kai group opens 1st retail shop in India

NEW DELHI — Japanese cutlery-related product maker Kai group has opened its first retail outlet in India, betting on the fast-growing consumer market on the back of the establishment of a manufacturing facility in line with the local government’s ‘Make in India’ policy.

The group also plans to produce most of its products in India from among more than 10,000 items in the cooking, grooming, beauty care and medical fields. It aims to more than triple sales through the opening of five houseware and beauty care shops in key cities by 2022 in addition to dealings at general stores in other parts of the country, Endo said.

“The goal is to grab in-margin to dealings at general stores in other parts of the country,” Koji Endo, group president, told NNA during an opening ceremony of its first retail outlet in India on 25 August, 2017, in New Delhi. PHOTO: (NNA/Kyodo)

Japan plans to invest 1.75 billion rupees ($27.33 million) in the country, “Koji Endo, president and CEO of Japanese cutlery maker Kai group, and Rajesh Pandya (L), managing director of Kai Manufacturing India Pvt Ltd, pose for a photo at the opening ceremony of the company’s first retail outlet in India on 25 August, 2017, in New Delhi. PHOTO: (NNA/Kyodo)

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London's Notting Hill Carnival remembers Grenfell Tower fire

LONDON — Notting Hill Carnival, the biggest street party in Europe, fell silent for a minute on Sunday to remember the more than 80 people who were killed in June in an apartment block fire in the west London district.

Sound systems were turned off at 14:00 GMT in tribute to the victims of the disaster at Grenfell Tower, a tower block of the Grenfell Tower fire.

The local community is determined that celebrates Afro-Caribbean culture. But as well as sadness there is anger directed at the local authorities and the government after fire racing through the block and trapped dozens living in its upper floors in June. Some feared that tempers could boil over at the festival, but the local community is determined it should be a peaceful vigil.

The council was criticized by locals and politicians for its slow and ineffective response to the fire, while many accuse the authority, which administers one of Britain’s wealthiest areas, of having turned its back on social housing.

At Maltese festival, climbing the greasy pole is part of the fun

ST JULIAN’S, (Malta) — For more than a century, locals in the small Maltese town of St Julian’s have celebrated their patron saint by running up a steeply angled log, smeared with lard, protruding over the sea.

The goal is to grab increasingly difficult-to-reach flags. The unconventional form of worship is the centerpiece of the Feast of St Julian, which takes place in late August, and dates back to the 1800s. Men, women and children take part in the contest, running up a 30-foot-long pole, known as the gostra, suspended over the town’s harbor. Whether they win or lose however, the competitors all ultimately end up in the water.

“At midday, I stand there before I go up, I have a bad feeling in my gut that something might go wrong — which is very common but the adrenaline rush overcomes that bad feeling, which pushes me to go,” said competitor Ivan Barron, 21. — Reuters
Myanmar won bronze in Taekwondo and Weightlifting at SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar gained bronze medals in Taekwondo and Weightlifting competitions at the 2017 SEA Games held at the KLCC Convention Center in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

In the Kyorugi Men's Taekwondo Competition, Myanmar fighter Zaw Lin Htet won the bronze medal as he was defeated by Vietnam fighter in the semifinal by the point of 5-18. Taekwondo is a martial art combining combat and self-defence techniques. Both the Kyorugi and Poomsae events were competed at the 29th SEA Games in 2017. Kyorugi is the combat event involving sparring between two athletes. Poomsae on the other hand, is a demonstrative, non-combative pattern event. At the 62 Kilo Weight Class of the Weightlifting competition, Myanmar weight lifter Myint Kyi also collected the bronze medal as he could manage to lift 284 kilo. There were in total five events of weightlifting in 29th SEA Games, Men’s-56kg, Men’s-62kg, Men’s-69kg, Men’s-77kg and Men’s-85kg respectively.

In the Medal Tally, Myanmar ranked in seventh stage with seven gold medals, 9 silver medals and 19 bronze according to the yesterday’s results.

Australia face divided Japan in World Cup qualifier — Degenek

TOKYO— Japan are battling dissent within their ranks and the angst has reached a point that some local players would rather Australia won Thursday’s crunch World Cup qualifier, Socceroos defender Milos Degenek said on Monday.

The Samurai Blue face Australia in their World Cup qualifier — Degenek, who plays for J-League team Yokohama, said his club mates had “mixed emotions” about the match.

“In my team and my club, from what I’ve heard, it’s kind of silly to say, but they kind of want us to win,” the 23-year-old told reporters. —Reuters

Mignolet still Liverpool’s number one, says Klopp

LONDON— Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet will start the club’s next Premier League match against Manchester City after being rested for Sunday’s 4-0 win over Arsenal, manager Jurgen Klopp said after the Anfield drubbing.

Mignolet’s omission from the matchday squad raised some eyebrows but Klopp explained that the Belgium international was still his first choice and had been left out to keep him fresh.

“Intensity for a goalkeeper is different,” Klopp said.

“It’s not a physical intensity, it’s a mental intensity. We... said we wanted to have three really strong goalkeepers, that’s our situation now.

“That means you cannot deal with it like you do when you have a clear number three, a clear number two — yes, Simon is a clear number one, but the others are not clear number twos and number threes, they are really strong goalkeepers.”

Mignolet was handed the gloves at the start of the season, playing in Liverpool’s 3-3 Premier League draw at Watford, the 1-0 home win over Crystal Palace and both legs of their 6-2 aggregate Champions League qualifying win over Hoffenheim.

The Belgian has been criticised over the past few seasons, particularly for his vulnerability under the high ball, but Klopp said he had earned his spot as first choice.

“He’s a machine, he’s always there, he’s solid, really, really reliable... so he won the race,” the German added.

“One hundred percent if nothing happens, Simon will play against City.” Loris Karius came into the team and kept a clean sheet on Sunday, despite a few nervy moments when he dwelt on the ball too long and was nearly punished by Danny Welbeck.

Klopp hinted he would continue to rotate his goalkeepers. “(Karius) had a lot of good things, he played really cool football, yes sometimes a little bit too cool and waited a little bit too long but... we all need to learn and get used to playing football in close situations,” Klopp added. —Reuters