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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho offer Kathina robes to Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa at Sasana Beikmandaw in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers Kathina robes to Aggha Maha Saddhama Jotikadaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa at Sasana Beikmandaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Govt holds Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw

THIS year's Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony was conducted by the Union government at the Sasana Beikmandaw of the Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Members of Sangha led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Monk of Bhaddanta Kyaungtaik Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Mahasaddhamajotika, Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa attended the ceremony.

Before the ceremony, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered an emerald bowl with alms, fruits, flower and water to

Buddha Image in Sasana Beikmandaw.

Next, President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the congregation took the Five Precepts and the Sangha recited Paritta verses.

After this, the President and his wife then offered Kathina robes and donation items to Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and Presiding Monk of Maha Dhammika Rama Ohn Taw Monastery in Pyinmana Township Bhaddanta Tissa.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also offered a Kathina robe and donation items to Than-

lyin Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery's Presiding Monk Aggha Maha Pandita, Aggha Maha Saddhama Jotikadaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa.

Then, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Nant Kyin Kyi, and Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo offered Kathina robes and donation items to members of the Sangha.

Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife, Deputy

Commander-In-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of the Peace Commission, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air

Force), the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, and Deputy Ministers donated Kathina robes and donation items.

Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw delivered a sermon dedicated to the Kathina ceremony, and shared merits together with the congregation.

After the ceremony, members of the Sangha were offered with "soon" (a day meal).

At this Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony, the Union government donated robes, donation items and over K43 million to members of the Sangha.

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# Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives UNHCR Representative

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr Johan Cels, UNHCR Representative in Myanmar, at his office of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to global social security, human rights protection and, building a better future for refugees, stateless and displaced persons, exchanging experiences among MPs and Hluttaw staff and organizing capacity-building workshops and seminars for them, and Hluttaw legislation processes.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attends the meeting 52/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 52/2019

MEETING 52/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Joint

Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



## Union Minister for Information returns from Japan

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and delegation returned from Japan yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint is welcomed by Deputy Chief of Mission of the Japanese Embassy Mr Toru Maeda and officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Their visit focused on observing Japan's film studios, academies, film library, museum, archives centre, media agencies, film services and production companies, and they also attended the Tokyo International Film Festival.

The Union Minister was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Mr Toru Maeda, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Japanese Embassy, and MoI officials.

The delegation consisted

of IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing, Film Promotion Division Director U Thein Naing, MRTV Deputy Director Daw Theinlar Soe, NPE Editor Daw Khin Yadanar, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman U Zin Wine, Director A-One U Thein Htut and Save Myanmar Film Director U Okkar. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Constitution amendment scrutinizing committee holds meeting

THE Joint Committee to Scrutinize Second Bill for Amending the Constitution held another meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win, who is also Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw

Bill Committee, Committee Vice-Chairman U Zaw Min, who is also Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin, committee members and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



A meeting of Joint Committee to Scrutinize the Second Bill Amending the Constitution held in progress. PHOTO: MNA





The congregation led by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attend the ceremony to offer Kathina robes to Sayadaws. PHOTO: MNA

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This ceremony was attended by President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-In-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun

Tun Hein and wife Dr Sein Sein Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, the Chairman of Peace Commission, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air Force), the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers, the Deputy Attorney-General, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives, departmental heads and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offer soon (a day meal) to the Members of Sangha at the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Myint Swe and wife offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw at the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony, Uppatasanti Pagoda, in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Henry Van Thio offers Kathina robes to a Sayadaw at the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony, Uppatasanti Pagoda, in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



# Myanmar, Thai open second friendship bridge



Thai Transport Minister Mr Saksayam Chidchob, Union Ministers U Han Zaw, U Soe Win, Dr Than Myint, and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge-2. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR and Thailand officially opened the second friendship bridge that crosses Thaungyin River, linking Myawady Township of Kayin State with Mae Sot district of Tak Province yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony of the

bridge began with video clips on the project, followed by the explanations of the Director general of Road Department of Thailand.

Director General of Bridge Management Department U Shwe Lay briefed on the construction of bridge.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivered an opening remark of the bridge, emphasizing bilateral relations of the two neighbouring countries, bilateral trades, tourism sectors, investment and labour issues. The surge in border trade volume

has led to traffic congestion on the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 1. The second one was built with the help of Thailand. The completion ceremony of the bridge was held on 19 March this year, and attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

After the extended greeting of Thai Transport Minister Mr Saksayam Chidchob, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Thai Transport Minister Mr Saksayam Chidchob and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially launch the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge-2 (Thaungyin River). They observed crossing of vehicles on

the bridge.

During the second session of ceremony, the Director-General of Road Department and the Deputy Director-General of Department of East Asian Affairs of Thailand explained the Border Control Facilities (BCF) and its equipment.

U Ohn Lwin, the Director-General of Road Management Department under the Ministry of Construction, presented the works of development of transportation. Union Minister U Han Zaw and Thai Transport Minister Mr Saksayam Chidchob opened the monument of BCF, and Myanmar accepted its facility.

The Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge-2 (Thaungyin River) is 760-meter long and 17.2 meter wide. It is a box girder bridge with two traffic lanes, border control facilities and traffic changeover.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Union SWRR Minister meets NZ, Norwegian, Swiss ambassadors

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye separately received New Zealand Ambassador Mr Stephen Marshall, Norwegian Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes, and Swiss Ambassador Mr Stefano Toscano who is also General Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

In meeting with Mr Marshall, they discussed capacity building for human resources, promoting the livelihoods of people with disabilities, providing them rehabilitation programmes and greater access to judicial rights.

In the meeting with Ms Tone Tinnes, they discussed sharing information on landmine, assisting landmine victims with



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with GICHD General Director and Swiss Ambassador Mr Stefano Toscano. **PHOTO: MNA**

rehabilitation, the 4<sup>th</sup> conference of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention coming up next month in Oslo, Norway, the latest situation in Rakhine State, and carrying

out landmine clearance for resettling IDPs.

In the meeting with Mr Toscano, the Union Minister discussed the National Mine Action



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with New Zealand Ambassador Mr Stephen Marshall at the meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Authority workshop, cooperation with ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center, sharing information on the dangers of landmine, and possible cooperation with Gene-

va International Centre for rehabilitation and capacity building initiatives.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Myanmar hosts 27<sup>th</sup> IHP RSC Meeting for Asia and Pacific



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo addresses the 27<sup>th</sup> IHP RSC meeting for Asia and the Pacific in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 27<sup>th</sup> International Hydrological Programme Regional Steering Committee (27<sup>th</sup> IHP RSC) Meeting for Asia and the Pacific is organized at the Hotel Royal Ace in Nay Pyi Taw.

The opening ceremony was held yesterday morning, and presided over by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific Chairperson Professor Dr Ignasius Sutapa, the committee's Secretary Dr Yasuto Tachikawa,

UNESCO Representative from Jakarta Office Mr Hans Dencker Thulstrup delivered opening remarks. At the meeting, hydrologists and experts from the departments related with water resources exchanged hydrological information, discussed water related technologies being applied in respective countries, implementations in these projects, publishing catalogues for hydrological analysis, challenges and success stories in water related projects in the world.

The objectives of this meeting include to share information about river waters in the countries of Asia and Pacific regions, to discuss scientific programmes for reduction of problems and losses from hydrological disasters and to promote capacity of works in water related issues. The two-day meeting will conclude on 31 October and the 28<sup>th</sup> IHP RSC Meeting for Asia and the Pacific will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam next year.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



## Union Minister Dr Aung Thu attends 'Our Ocean 2019' Conference in Norway



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu makes a discussion at the 'Our Ocean 2019' Conference in Oslo, Norway, on 23 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation attended the 'Our Ocean 2019' Conference held in Oslo, Norway, on 23 October.

Prime Minister of Norway Ms Erna Solberg delivered an opening remark at the ceremony, and international ministers and scientists discussed the topics on the global response to the threats facing the ocean, taking action on climate change, taking action on ocean pollution, taking action on overfishing and

challenges in fisheries governance, food and livelihoods from the ocean, Building a sustainable ocean economy, and promoting and protecting a healthy ocean.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu made a discussion on special fisheries management areas and the future expansion of fisheries conservation zones in Myanmar.

He also met with Minister of Ocean and Fisheries Mr Moon Seong-hyeok from the Re-

public of Korea, and held talks on fisheries sector development and cooperation between the two countries.

On 24 October afternoon, the Union Minister discussed with Norwegian Minister for International Development Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein about the assistance of Norway for capacity building in fisheries sector and natural resource management in Myanmar.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## First Mandalay jade emporium sells K30 bln worth of jade lots

THE first jade emporium using Myanmar Kyats as the default currency in Mandalay Convention Center was held from 23 to 29 October and sold 1,867 jade lots with a combined total exceeding K30 billion.

U Aung Win Oo of the organizing committee's information

group said it is the first event of its kind to be held in Mandalay and while they didn't have enough time to organize properly it still turned out to be successful.

Jade sellers had to pay 11% as sales tax and 2% to the emporium as service charge while buyers had to pay 5% on their

purchase. This will ensure the nation receives the correct tax revenue, companies receive the raw material they need and workers in that industry will have jobs.

Organizing committee chairman U Kyaw Zaw Aung said 0.5% will be deducted out of every 2% service charge and donated as CSR funds for the region. He said there may have been shortcomings since it's their first time organizing this sort of event but they will try even harder next time.

Mandalay City has the largest demographic of jade entrepreneurs and workers. The open tender system used in the emporium offered a transparent purchasing opportunity for domestic jade businesses.—Khaing Set Wai



Gem merchants gather at auction room after sale opened at jade emporium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: KHAING SET WAI**

## Union Minister U Kyaw Tin accepts credentials from Mr Ola Almgren, United Nations Resident Coordinator to Myanmar

U KYAW TIN, Union Minister for International Cooperation, received Mr. Ola Almgren, the newly-appointed Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system's operational activities for development in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw on 30 October 2019 at 2 pm. During the meeting, Mr Ola Almgren presented his credentials to the Union Minister.

After the presentation of credentials, they exchanged views on ways to strengthen

cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations in Myanmar's efforts for peace and national reconciliation, democracy and development and the implementation of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), the role of the new Resident Coordinator system of the United Nations and the efforts of the Government of Myanmar for repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State and creating conducive environment for returnees.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin shakes hands with Mr Ola Almgren, United Nations Resident Coordinator to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Anti-Corruption Commission gets technical assistance from Denmark

AT Nay Pyi Taw's Hilton Hotel yesterday, Myanmar's Anti-Corruption Commission signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for acquiring technical assistance in compiling surveys related to combating corruption and capacity building.

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi and Danish State Secretary for Development Policy, Ms Trine

Rask Thygesen, both delivered opening addresses. This was followed by U Htin Kyaw, Director-General of ACC's Administration Department, and Danish Ambassador Mr John Nielsen signing the LoI. Afterwards, the ACC Chairman and Danish State Secretary separately met to discuss promoting integrity and anti-corruption measures.—MNA  
*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi witnesses the signing ceremony between the Anti-Corruption Commission Office and the Embassy of Denmark in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Press Release 40/2019  
2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1381 ME  
(29 October 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 26 October 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Tin Ko who lives in Mawkel Village, Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 21 October 2019, police searched the farm hut of Tin Ko, 55, son of U Nyo Maung, who lives in Mawkel Village, Kyunhla Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Thaphan-seik) MaYa(pa)8/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Htein Win who lives in Yayngangyi Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 October 2019, police searched the house of Kyi Soe, 52, son of U Thaug, who lives in Ywathit Village, Bokpyin Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and speciosa. Acting on a tip-off, Htein Win, 48, son of U Latt Lar, who lives in Yayngangyi Village, sold this stimulant tablets and speciosa to Kyi Soe. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa(Bokpyin) MaPa (pa)27/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Maung Man (a) Soe Win and Ma Nyo Ma (a) Gyoma who live in Letpan Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 September 2019, police searched the house of Maung Man (a) Soe Win, 36, son of U Twar Shin, who lives in Letpan Village, Kyaukse Township, and arrested him together with '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Kyaukse) MaYa (Pa)44/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Ma Nyo Ma (a) Gyoma, 30, daughter of U Twar Shin, who lives in the same village, and arrested her together with '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa(Kyaukse) MaYa (Pa)45/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Maung Maung Lwin (a) Thar Nge who lives in No 6 Ward, Intaw Township, Shan State (south), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 20 October 2019, police searched the house of Maung Maung Lwin (a) Thar Nge, 44, who lives in No 6 Ward, Intaw Township, but he absconded from his house. Police seized 'WY' stimulant tablets from there. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Intaw) MaYa (Pa)17/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 813 cases have been opened files as of 26 October 2019. A total of 1258 people, including 1,055 men and 203 women had been arrested with 7,049.1394 g of heroin, 1,341.92 g of ICE, 39,914.11 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 52934.92 g of speciosa powder, 7,833.19 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 351,149 stimulant tablets, 8,363.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 29.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 18 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

**Contacts:**

Landline No. — 067-590200  
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233  
Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

Mekong nations' Dharmayatra pilgrimage concludes in Cambodia

THE second Dharmayatra pilgrimage of Members of Sangha from five Mekong nations – Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos – concluded in Cambodia.

A ceremony to conclude the Dharma journey was held yesterday at Phokeethra Ballroom, Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Siem Reap in Cambodia.

The ceremony was attended by Cambodia Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw and Members of Sangha, Members of Sangha from five Mekong countries, officials from Cambodia and Thailand, and Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation and Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Chairman Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Khin Shwe and members.

At the event, Bodhi trees

were planted and a Pindacara (the programme of monks going on alms-round) was also grandly organized.

The grand opening ceremony of the Dharma journey, which brought together 470 Members of Sangha from five Mekong nations, was held in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, on 15 October.

On 16 and 17 October, the Bodhi trees carried from Bodh Gaya were planted and Pindacara programmes were also organized in Tachilek and Kengtung townships.

The Dharmayatra pilgrimage was jointly organized by Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Chairman and Thailand-based Bodhigayavijjalaya 980 Institute. — Lin Lin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A closing ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> Dharmayatra in five Mekhong River Basin Countries held in Cambodia on 30 October 2019. **PHOTO: LIN LIN**



YRIC endorses 12 projects worth K880 mln, \$22.35 mln in manufacturing sector

By yein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the green light to 11 foreign projects from China, Hong Kong, China (Taipei), the British Virgin Islands, and the UK, and one domestic enterprise at a meeting held on 30 October.

The projects have an estimated capital of US\$22.35 million and K880 million.

The enterprises will be engaged in the manufacturing sector and are expected to create over 6,000 jobs, according to a press release issued by the YRIC.

The manufacturing sector attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, for enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) garments.



Yangon Region Investment Committee has approved 11 foreign projects and one domestic enterprise on 30 October. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Since its establishment, the YRIC has approved more than 200 domestic and foreign projects in the sectors of manufacturing, hotel services, and other services from China,

Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, and Seychelles.

Among the regions and states, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of investments, while Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. The other regions and states get only a small share of investments, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the Region and State Investment Committees to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar shows improvement in five areas; moves up 6 spots in Doing Business 2020

MYANMAR has moved up in the Ease of Doing Business ranking to the 165<sup>th</sup> spot from a lowly 171 last year after the initial report of the World Bank, according to U Thant Sin Lwin, the director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The World Bank report pointed out that Myanmar showed substantial improvements in five areas of doing business—starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, protecting minority investors, and enforcing contracts.

Myanmar launched an online company registry platform, merging several procedures and reducing the need for in-person interaction. It also enacted the Myanmar Companies Law, in which directors’ stipulated duties and changes in shareholding are embodied.

In terms of construction permits, Myanmar strengthened construction quality control by imposing stricter qualification requirements for architects and engineers and making building permit requirements available on-

line. Myanmar also improved its water and sanitation infrastructure and made the process of obtaining building permits more efficient by introducing service quality standards.

In addition, Myanmar made property registration faster by streamlining deed registration and appraisal. It also improved the quality of its land administration system by publishing the fee schedule, official service standards, and statistics on property transfers for the previous calendar year.

Myanmar strengthened minority investor protection by mandating greater disclosure of transactions with interested parties, increasing director liability, and seeking greater corporate transparency.

Finally, Myanmar made enforcing contracts easier by publishing performance measurement reports.

Myanmar has been ranked as one of the top 20 improvers in Doing Business 2020 by the World Bank, based on the number of reforms and the degree by which the country’s ease of doing business score has improved in five initiatives, two of which are directly related to

the DICA.

Myanmar expects an under-100 ranking in Doing Business 2021, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce, who is also a part of the Improving Ease of Doing Business Ranking working group.

Myanmar was ranked 171<sup>st</sup> among 190 countries in the World Bank’s Doing Business 2018 report. The country remained 171 in the 2019 report.

The Myanmar Investment Commission under the Ministry of Planning and Finance is targeting a rank of 100 in 2020, 80 in 2025, 60 in 2030, and 40 in 2035, according to the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan.

The World Bank has determined ease of doing business rankings based on 12 indicators: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency, employing workers and contracting with the government, all of which have been incorporated in the indicators in the 2020 report. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MAB offers K 57 bln in loan to five microfinance businesses

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanma Apex Bank (MAB) is providing SME loans of K57 billion to five microfinance businesses, said U Kyaw Ni Khin, MAB’s chief business officer during the signing of the loan agreement with the microfinance businesses on 30 October. The signing was done at the MAB office on the first floor of Tower B of the Union Financial Center in Yangon.

The Fullerton Finance (Myanmar) Company Limited, Proximity Finance Microfinance Company Limited, Vision Fund Myanmar Company Limited, Early Dawn Microfinance Company Limited, and Pact Global Microfinance Fund signed the loan agree-

ment with MAB.

“Microfinance companies can help support Myanmar’s small businesses. SMEs play a crucial role in creating jobs. I am so glad that we can help assist SMEs through microfinance businesses,” said U Kyaw Ni Khin.

“Those businesses will lend a maximum of K10 million to SMEs. The loan term will be one to three years,” he added.

The microfinance businesses will take MAB loans at a certain interest rate, and they will offer loans to SMEs at an interest rate of 28 per cent per annum. The MAB is also offering two-step loans to SMEs.

SMEs constitute 90 per cent of businesses in Myanmar. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# End human- elephant conflict

WITH their habitats disappearing due to the depleting natural forest cover, wild elephants have begun frequenting villages and crop fields near their habitats in search of food.

Earlier, the habitats, which were covered in forests, made a good home for wild animals. But, the forest cover made the areas difficult to access.

Forest reserves in Taninthayi, Patheingyi, Ngazun, and Thabang townships in Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, and western areas of Bago Region are home to wild elephants.

Recently, a group of wild elephants damaged about six acres of paddy fields at the Ywathit Village in Ngazun Township, Ayeyawady Region, in search of food. Villagers were killed in some incidents.

Similar incidents are mostly being reported in Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, and Bago Regions, and Rakhine State.

Expansion of human settlements and deforestation have resulted in the loss of habitat of wild animals and human-animal conflict.

When elephants and humans come into conflict, people may feel the need to retaliate. All too often in such conflicts, the elephants ultimately lose. Human-elephant conflict will only worsen in the coming years due to continued increase in population, the associated growth of agriculture, and a reduction in wildlife habitats.

To reduce human-elephant conflicts in the Ayeyawady Region, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Ayeyawady Region is forming five Elephants Emergency Response Units (EERUs) which can control wild elephants.

If they are successful in reducing human-elephant conflict, similar units should also be formed in areas facing the same problem.

Another issue which is resulting in the decline in elephant population is poaching, and the recent discovery of two carcasses in Ayeyawady Region has raised concerns that poaching for ivory and skin still remains a threat to wild elephants.

Today, poachers are targeting not only adult wild elephants, but also younger ones as their skins are highly valued in the market.

Taking stock of the two situations, we would like to urge the related departments and organizations to work with villagers to find suitable protective measures against wild elephants, while also saving wild elephants from poachers.

We need to protect elephants as well as forests. Now, wild elephants have lost their habitats as people have felled trees in large numbers.

Today, raising awareness about the nature and behavior of elephants and the threats they face is a must, and measures need to be taken as quickly as possible to provide protection to humans and elephants.

■ ■ ■

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# Towards a better business environment

By Maung Thitsa (Yankin)

THE World Bank Group released an indicator of 20 most progressive countries in Doing Business 2020. The rating of the indicator is based on the ease of doing business, and Myanmar is included in it. The World Bank Group started to include Myanmar in the indicators in 2013, and it is the first time Myanmar is included in the 20 countries which economies improve the most. The World Bank Group compiled the list during the period from April to May 2019 based on regulatory reforms. It releases the indicator annually in October.

The indicator is based on the following 11 areas of business regulations.

1. Starting a business
2. Dealing with construction permits
3. Getting electricity
4. Registering property
5. Getting credit
6. Protecting minority investors
7. Paying taxes
8. Trading across borders
9. Enforcing contracts
10. Resolving insolvency
11. Labor market regulation

The initial information of



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Vice President U Myint Swe and dignitaries strike a ceremonial stake to signify the beginning of the Myanmar-Korea industrial complex on 4 September, 2019. PHOTO: MNA

for the convenience of starting a business, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic

## Ease of Doing Business

Starting a business indicator is based on the following factors. (a) Procedures to legally start and operate a company (b) Time required to complete each procedure (c) Cost required to set up company (% of income per capita) (d) Paid-in minimum capital

Myanmar enacted the Myanmar Companies Act on 6 December 2017. The law helps facilitate the work of setting up a company, make the reforms easier, ensure better corporate administration and reduce unnecessary procedures and regulations. World Bank says that Myanmar is included in the countries which economies improve the most based on the five areas. They are Yangon City Development Committee's dealings with construction permits; two areas -- starting a business and protecting minority investors -- undertaken by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations; the area of registering property undertaken by Department of Settlements and Land Records; and the area of enforcing contracts undertaken by the Union Supreme Court. Doing Business 2020 says that Myanmar has improved the quality of construction works by adopting strict measures for the qualifications of engineers and architects. It also states that as

Relations has reduced the procedures of work process and the number of office visits through the establishment of an online company registry platform which is called MyCo. Myanmar has also taken appropriate measures for facilitating the work of registering property and strengthening the work of protecting minority investors, it also states. Myanmar formed Ease of Doing Business Ranking Committee and support bodies under the leadership of Vice President U Myint Swe. The Directorate of Investment and Company Registration takes the responsibility of providing encouragement for starting a business and protection for minority investors. The following factors serve as the base in assessing the pro-

tection for minority investors.

- (i) Conflict of interest rules and regulations indicators
- (ii) Shareholder administrative indicators
- (iii) Minority investor protection indicators

The assessment is based on the public companies listed in the stock exchange. The ranking is based on the level of the protection for the minority investors. The clear expression of the responsibilities of directors of a company, fidelity, the right of a shareholders to convene a general meeting if necessary, transparency in company functions, structure, administration and ownership are also the basic requirements.

As the 1914 Companies Act lacks the provisions effectively protecting investors, Myanmar's ranking was low in the past. On

the other hand, the Myanmar Companies Act 2017 guarantees full protection for investors through its comprehensive and innovative stipulations. So the country ranking rises till reaching the list of most progressive countries in the World Bank's initial report of the indicators. The chapter 19 of the Act includes the provisions enabling minority investors to file lawsuits against companies and persons who are involved in the unfair activities against their powers and rights to remedy.

## Further actions

As other countries of the world are also in the race to facilitate business functions, we should not be satisfied with the current level. As the race continues we must make efforts to improve our ranking in the coming years.

years. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been making amendments, additions and adoptions of legal measures and rules and regulations for greater convenience of startup businesses and investors. The ministry has already reduced the company registration fee from Ks 500,000 to 250,000.

Its follow-up businesses are as follows:

1. Establishment of a task force to ensure integrated business registry
2. On-going collective efforts for creation of a single submission force which meets all the requirements of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Internal Revenue Department, Labour Department and Social Welfare Department
3. Taking coordinated measures for the development of single company identification or unique business identifier (UBI) which can be used by all the business-related government bodies.
4. Taking coordinated measures for the application of uniformed online platform or integrated business registry that can be used in all business registrations.

As regards the resolving insolvency indicators undertaken by Union Supreme Court, all the matters in connection with the insolvency registration can go through the MyCo or the electronic registration system of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

As Myanmar will implement the single electronic registry (integrated electronic registry) system that will smoothen the registration of all other businesses, it is certain that Myanmar will reach a higher ranking in the near future.

The global indicators of the World Bank will surely reflect the image of the country and reputation of the government for its measures to improve the country's entire business environment. Moreover, the country will gain extra wealth through the ongoing reforms that further improves the country's business environment and its power to attract more foreign and local investments of all kinds.

(Translated by TMT)

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မကွေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရကွန်ပရီဖိုင် ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ဖြည့်သွင်းရေးဦးစီးဌာန  
အခြေခံပညာဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ပုသိမ်ခရိုင်ဆိုင်ရာ ပြန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာန



မကွေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီး  
စာအုပ်စာပေဖြန့်ဖြူးမှုနှင့် စာအုပ်စာပေ  
(ချောင်းသာမြို့)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၁၂)ရက် (သောကြာနေ့)နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ  
မည်သူမဆို ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။

အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ ချောင်းသာမြို့။



Myanmar Daily Weather Report  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan State and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, (Northern and Eastern)Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers  
for Sunday Special

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 work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own 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



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

YBS to install card payment systems to first 1,500 buses in November

YANGON Bus Service (YBS) will install card payment systems in the first phase to its 1,500 buses in November, said U Min Naing, the director of Parami Bus Line operated by Bandoola Transport Co. Ltd.  
The equipment and systems are now ready for the first phase, and the installation and trainings will take 18 days commencing 1 November at Dagon University in the suburb of Yangon.

Some 500 buses of Yangon Urban Public Transport Public Company (YUPT), 500 buses of Yangon Bus Public Company Ltd (YBPC), 314 buses of Bandoola Transport Co Ltd and 88 buses of Shwe Taung Pine company will be installed with the system that is expected to be complete in December.

After the first phase, the installation will continue at 1,000 Fonton buses and 39 Scania buses in the second phase. The two sets of card payment system could be set



A staff of YBS demonstrates how to use a smart card with the card payment system. PHOTO: AYE MIN THU

up to each of 2,539 buses in total of the two phases by 16 January next year.  
However, transport authorities are still discussing bus fares under the new payment system depending on the trips.

The Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co Ltd, the tender winner company for installation, said it will use advanced technology equipment for YBS buses.  
A total of 211 companies are operating over 4,000 buses in 100

routes in Yangon for about two million daily commuters, according to the figures of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).— Aye Min Thu  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Magway Regional Tourism Committee grants licenses to two motels

THE Magway Region Tourism Committee issued licenses to two motels and permitted license renewals of two hotels at a meeting held on Tuesday.  
During the meeting, the tourism committee granted permission for forming a local tour guide association and one tour company. It also approved the license renewal of

five tour guides.  
The regional tourism committee gave its permission to the inspection team to check My River View Hotel in Magway to grant a business license.  
Additionally, the meeting highlighted developing a hotel zone near the Shwesettaw area, developing eco-tourism, elephant-based tourism, cultural

tourism, and organic tourism in the Shwesettaw Pagoda precinct and Nat Yekan village; Myanmar traditional hairstyle Sayintwine (top-knot with a fringe) culture; community-based tourism in Htantabingon village in Htilin Township and Kyunkalay village in Pakokku Township.  
Earlier, the hotels and tourism sector were regulated by

the Union government. With the Myanmar Tourism Law 2018 coming into effect, the sector has been decentralized to the region and state governments, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs. —Than Naing Oo  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A public health officer gives drops of the oral polio vaccine to a child in Shwekyin Township. PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)

Polio vaccination campaign planned for 13,679 children in Shwegyin

AN oral polio vaccination campaign is being conducted from 25 to 29 October for 13,679 children at 176 camps in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region.  
This is the second anti-polio campaign in Shwegyin Township. Thirty-two camps have been opened in the town and 144 camps in wards and villages for the drive, which is being conducted by officials from the Public Health Department, related departments,

and society. The vaccine will be administered to 13,679 children and awareness talks will be conducted in rural regions, according to Dr. Ko Oo, the head of the department.  
After the vaccination programme has fully covered in Shwekyin Township, it will continue in the remaining townships of the region from 26-28 November. —Tin Soe (Bago)  
(Translated by La Wonn)



## MOSWRR holds 2<sup>nd</sup> TWG meeting on implementation of ASEAN-ERAT Preliminary Needs Assessment's Recommendations

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye attended and delivered an opening speech at the second technical working group meeting on the implementation of Preliminary Needs Assessment's Recommendations prepared by ASEAN-ERAT in April 2019.

In his speech, the Union Minister updated the TWG members about the progress of the Ministry's endeavors for Rakhine State including but not limited to the adoption of Rakhine Joint Assessment Report (RJA) and the National Strategy for the Closure of IDP Camps and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons. The Union Minister emphasized the ongoing efforts on the social and economic development of Rakhine State through UEHRD and the MoU with UNDP and UNHCR. He also encouraged TWG members to review those ongoing projects and programmes in order to avoid duplications and



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends the second technical working group meeting on the implementation of Preliminary Needs Assessment's Recommendations. **PHOTO: MNA**

effectively fulfill the remaining gaps for the local communities. The Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye also spoke about the second anniversary of UEHRD and the comment made by State Counsellor at the event that solving a regional problem successfully with the collaborative efforts leaves experiences for addressing other global issues. He additionally highlighted that from the issues and challenges that the

Government has encountered since 2017, a lot of experiences of both good and bad are acquired and he also stressed, "once we have experiences, the challenge will no longer be a new one to us. Actually it is the challenge that brings us together and makes us stronger. Moreover, our country can also be seen as a family, if someone is not ok in the family, other family members need to look after and support

each other. In some cases, we might even need help from our neighbors. The same for Rakhine affairs and we have worked together for Rakhine State as the national concern. In this sense, we cannot forget the support and assistance of our friendly countries and partners. Especially, I cannot thank enough both ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre for your lasting support and closest cooperation with the

Department of Disaster Management since the beginning of our journey."

The Union Minister further shared with the TWG members about the current efforts on repatriation process and very recent Coordination Meeting held in Rakhine State, and called for the TWG's consideration on the support of repairing the existing houses and reconstructing new houses for the resettlement of the displaced persons who remained in Rakhine State after the violence happened in Maung-taw in 2017.

After that, TWG members discussed the proposed projects, ASEAN side sought clarification for detail information and TWG's chair, Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director General of Department of Disaster Management undertook overall coordination. During the second TWG meeting, seven priority projects were identified and would be implemented as the first step. —MNA

## AIA Myanmar to donate solar panels to Bagan residents



Ms Linh Nguyen, Chief Marketing Officer of AIA Life Insurance Company, explains about the solar panels donation to households in Bagan. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

LIFE insurance company AIA Myanmar will donate electric solar panels to a hundred village households in Bagan on 17 November to celebrate the company's centenary, Chief Marketing Officer Ms Linh Nguyen told journalists at Sule Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

AIA's main group was founded in 1919 and has offices in 18 countries. Ms Nguyen

said AIA mainly provides health and life insurance and said they have been ready to enter Myanmar's market since insurance companies were given the green light back in April. She said people in most countries put 10 per cent of their income into life insurance and it has become a common practice for them in safeguarding their lives.

At 4 am on 17 November,

AIA will organize a 50km walk and running competition for the locals beginning from Htee Lo Min Lo Pagoda. The winners will be gifted with a chance to view Bagan's scenery from the skies. At the same time, they will be handing over the solar panels for 100 households to relevant local authorities.—Than Htike

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Myanmar Women's entrepreneurs attend first Summit of ASEAN WOMEN CEOs in Bangkok

A MYANMAR women entrepreneurs delegation is attending the first Summit of Women CEOs in ASEAN from 30 to 31 October, 2019.

The 22-member delegation is led by Chairperson of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (Myanmar) Daw Khaing Zaw and focal leaders, and comprised of advisers and members of the Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs Association. The delegation left for Bangkok, Thailand, on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 to attend the "WOMEN CEOs Summit: Globalization 4.0 and

Beyond: Shaping the Future of Women Enterprises".

The summit is aimed at addressing the major and pressing development problems of our times.

The Women CEOs Summit is themed as Globalization 4.0 and Beyond: Shaping the Future of Women Enterprises and it brings together industry leaders plus prominent CEOs and policy executives to share their views and experiences on the challenges posed by, and the responses made to, Globalization 4.0 within and beyond ASEAN. —GNLM



The Myanmar women entrepreneurs delegation poses for a group photo before departure for Bangkok on 29 October. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



# Putin visits close EU ally Hungary again

BUDAPEST — Russian President Vladimir Putin visits Hungary's nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest Wednesday for trade and energy talks, the latest in a regular series of meetings with his closest ally in the EU.

The pair, who met twice in 2018, have held talks at least annually in the last five years, unsettling Western powers worried over Putin's proximity to an EU and NATO member state leader. Putin last visited Budapest in 2017.

Orban, a self-styled "illiberal" strongman and anti-immigration figurehead for nationalists around Europe and beyond, has adopted a policy of "Eastern opening" in recent years.

He has tasked his foreign ministry with sourcing trade



Orban and Putin have held talks at least annually over the last five years **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

deals in countries such as Russia, Turkey and China, a strategy that has seen the 55-year-old maverick accused of cozying up

to autocrats and dictators.

"Orban presents himself as the bridge between the East and the West," said Peter Kreko, di-

rector of Budapest-based think tank Political Capital.

"Even if Hungary is a member of the Euro-Atlantic alliance, he opens to the East," he told AFP.

## - Eastern opening -

Last year during a visit to Moscow, Orban denounced EU sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Crimea.

Next week Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visits Orban in Budapest, soon after praising the Hungarian for his "support" of Ankara's military operation in Syria.

Orban has argued that Hungary's national interest lies in allying with Turkey to avoid it sending millions of Syrian refugees currently in the country toward Europe.—AFP ■

## NEWS In BRIEF

### Egypt, Germany agree on joint efforts to solve Libyan crisis

CAIRO — Egypt and Germany agreed on Tuesday to intensify their efforts to reach a comprehensive solution to the Libyan crisis.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi discussed with visiting German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas a number of regional issues of bilateral interest, including the Libyan and Syrian conflicts, said Bassam Radi, spokesperson of the Egyptian presidency's office.

The two leaders agreed on "the need for a Libyan solution which would conserve the state's resources and its national institutions, and limit foreign interference and thus contribute in eliminating terrorism," Radi said. Sisi emphasized Egypt's stance on supporting a solution in Syria to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of the country.—Xinhua ■

### British lawmakers say yes to 12 December general election

LONDON — Britain's House of Commons voted on Tuesday night for a snap general election on 12 December, which is set to send the country to go to the polls for the first time in December in nearly 100 years.

More than 46 million people in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will take part in what will be the first December parliamentary election since 1923.

A bill to pave the way for the election won by a vote of 438 to 20 after a day-long debate in the House of Commons with lawmakers backing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's call for an election.

### MAJOR VICTORY FOR PM

Johnson called for a 12 December, polling day, but an opposition Labour amendment wanted to bring election day forward to 9 December.

Labour lost their bid by 295 votes against 315, a major victory for Johnson, who has suffered repeated defeats in the House of Commons over his Brexit efforts since taking office in July.—Xinhua ■

# Syria has little to lose at UN-backed talks: experts

DAMASCUS — Syria's government may be on board for the UN-brokered review of its constitution, but it will sink the Geneva talks opening Wednesday before agreeing anything that compromises its authority, experts have said.

Opposition negotiators and some analysts also fear that Damascus will use its participation as a bargaining chip to normalise relations with the West, and eventually get sanctions lifted.

UN envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen welcomed as a "sign of hope" the creation of the committee tasked with amending the constitution for a nation battered by eight years of war.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres agreed. The committee would be taking "the first step on the political path out of the tragedy of the Syrian conflict", he said in a statement. The committee's 150 members — includ-



Opposition negotiators fear that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will use its participation in the Geneva talks as a bargaining chip to normalise relations with the West. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing government, opposition and civil society delegates — start work on Wednesday. But some

experts argue that it will merely offer yet another opportunity for President Bashar al-Assad's

government to appear open to UN-backed diplomacy without giving anything away.—AFP ■

# London fire service criticised in high-rise tragedy report

LONDON — The emergency response to a 2017 high-rise fire that killed 71 people in London had "serious shortcomings", British media said on Tuesday, quoting an official report into the tragedy.

The long-awaited assessment into the Grenfell Tower fire is due to be published on Wednesday and indicated fewer people would have died had

London Fire Brigade been better prepared.

The June 14, 2017 inferno at the 24-storey residential block in west London was Britain's deadliest domestic fire since World War II and prompted widespread outrage.

Several media organisations said the report says the fire service's readiness for such a blaze was "gravely inadequate" and

that its response suffered from "systemic" failures.

It also accused LFB commissioner Dany Cotton of "remarkable insensitivity" after she told the inquiry she would not have done anything differently on the night.

"I identify a number of serious shortcomings in the response of the LFB, both in the operation of the control room and

on the incident ground," wrote inquiry head Martin Moore-Bick.

"It is right to recognise that those shortcomings were for the most part systemic in nature," he stated, according to the domestic Press Association news agency.

A public inquiry into the fire began in May 2018, led by retired High Court judge Moore-Bick, and is expected to take evidence in two phases.—AFP ■



# Mullah on the march: Pakistan cleric takes on Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan faces the first major challenge to his leadership as a grey-bearded, orange-turbaned rival he calls “Maulana Diesel” marches to Islamabad with thousands of Islamists hoping to bring down the government.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman — one of the country’s most seasoned political operators — has dominated the airwaves in recent days with his calls to unseat his old adversary Khan.

The prime minister,



Maulana Fazlur Rehman is leading thousands of protesters in a march on Islamabad, calling for the overthrow of Prime Minister Imran Khan. PHOTO: AFP

he says, did not win last year’s election, but was “selected” by the powerful security establishment — a suggestion denied by

Khan, but spread widely by Pakistan’s opposition since even before the July 2018 election.

“This movement will

continue until the end of this government,” Rehman told reporters ahead of the march.

“There is no other way... to bring Pakistan back on the democratic path.”

Rehman, who heads the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) — one of the country’s largest Islamist parties — has been leading supporters from across Pakistan for days on a “Azadi (Freedom) March” towards Islamabad, with tens of thousands expected to converge on the capital.—AFP ■

## Asleep in Jesus Naw Molly Moh Age (88) years

Daughter of (Saw Po Tu-Naw Daisy) and daughter-in-law of (Rev. Saw Aung Moh-Naw Sarah), residing at No. 13 (C), Zion Hill St., Nant-tha-gone Ward, Insein, beloved wife of Saw Gilkey Moh, beloved eldest sister of (Saw Robert), (Saw Tun Hla Aung Tu)-Naw Joyce Accord, Dr. Saw Ba Tun Kyi-Dr. Naw Katherine Thet Gyi, Saw Ba Hla Tin Tu-Naw Peggy, (Saw Ba Ni), Naw Mitzi Tu-U Aung Lwin, Naw Mette Tu, (Naw Dorodhy Moh-Saw Tu Tu), Saw Harkie Moh-Naw Lormay, beloved mother of (Naw Thida Moh @ Gillian Thida Moh), Saw Rommel Moh-Naw Moo Eh Htoo, Saw Gilson Moh-Naw Barbara Moh, Saw Gilman Saw Moh @ Aung Soe Moe-Naw Alice Nu Htwar Yin, Saw Zar Ni Moh-(Naw Lay Lay Thein), Saw Gilkey Moh Jr.-Naw Lyn Lyn Ju, beloved grandmother of Saw Rommel Moh Jr., Naw Sandy Moh, Saw Mark Aung Moh, Saw Max Tu Moh, Naw Sandra Moh, Naw Sarah Moh, Saw Gilson Moh Jr., Naw Cindy Rebecca Moh, Saw Daniel Gilkey Moh, Saw Glenn Jonathan Moh, Naw Judyline Moh, Saw Rain Joseph Moh, Saw Gabriel Joshua Moh, Naw Julia Rose Moh, and Saw Shawn Nathan Moh, peacefully went home to be with the Lord on Oct 30, 2019 (Wednesday), 00:45 AM. The funeral service will be held on Nov 1, 2019 (Friday) 9:00 AM, at Ko Tha Phyu Memorial Hall, Karen Baptist Theological Seminary, Insein, after which the cortege will leave for Yeway Christian Cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved Family

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# Family joins desperate search for Brit tourist in Cambodia

KOH RONG — The family of a 21-year-old British tourist who went missing on a Cambodian island a week ago boarded boats with authorities Wednesday to continue a metic-

ulous search around the waters and dense jungle territory.

The desperate search for backpacker Amelia Bambridge on Koh Rong includes more than 100

army, navy and police personnel as well as relatives and volunteers.

Bambridge did not check out of her hostel on October 24, while her bag and phone were later found on party spot Police Beach, where she was last seen hours earlier.

Her family members scrambled to the island to help with the investigation and have also been active on social media asking travellers for possible clues.

Brother Harry Bambridge posted a video on his Instagram showing him sitting on a racing boat with Cambodian officials.

“Still no Amelia,” he wrote.—AFP ■



The desperate search for backpacker Amelia Bambridge on Koh Rong includes more than 100 army, navy and police personnel as well as relatives and volunteers. PHOTO: AFP

# Travel boom has not made world smaller, says writer Pico Iyer

TOKYO —From crowded temples at Angkor Wat to queues to scale Everest, there’s no escaping the downsides to mass tourism but renowned writer Pico Iyer says the boom in world travel has brought positive changes.

Speaking to AFP ahead of his headline appearance at next month’s Hong Kong International Literary Festival, the au-

thor argues that people are sometimes “so aware of the bad things tourism brings, we forget the good things”.

“In many cases, in Rajasthan in India or Bali, the advent of tourists has woken people up to native customs and traditions that might have been falling away, and moved them to take care of their heritage and even expand it,” he says.—AFP ■

## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Kyat/Euro:

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)9/MR (CME)/Kyat	Procurement for Assembling and Manufacturing of (5) Nos of Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP Complete Knocked-Down Meter Gauge D.E.L
2.	12(T)10/MR (CME)/Euro	Procurement of (5)Sets of Diesel Engine & Main Alternator Sets with Foundation Frame and Related Necessary Parts for Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP D.E.L
3.	12(T)11/MR (RBE)/Euro	Wheel Steel Forged for RBE (240) Nos
4.	12(T)12/MR (ISN)/Euro	Wheel Monobloc for YDM 4 Locomotive (240) Nos
5.	12(T)13/MR (ISN)/Euro	Spare Parts for Alco Engine (100) Items
6.	12(T)14/MR (ISN)/Euro	Spare Parts of Caterpillar Engine (94) Items
7.	12(T)15/MR (ISN)/Euro	Spare Parts for DPMS (89) Items

Closing Date & Time- 10.12.2019 (Tuesday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 29.10.2019 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE SYROS VOY. NO. ( 942N/943S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE SYROS VOY. NO. ( 942N/943S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 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  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. ( 016W )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. ( 016W ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T 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  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES  
Phone No: 2301185



## Furious Bolsonaro denies links to Brazil politician's murder

BRASILIA — President Jair Bolsonaro angrily denied links to last year's assassination of a prominent Brazilian politician on Wednesday, after reports that a suspect in the murder investigation visited his residence before the killing.

Marielle Franco, a popular leftist city councillor in Rio de Janeiro, was gunned down alongside her driver in March 2018 — a drive-by shooting that investigators described as a “summary execution.”

One of the two suspects in

the murder apparently published a photograph of himself alongside Bolsonaro on his Facebook account, since deleted.

Meanwhile the other lived in the same Rio de Janeiro residential complex as the president — links that the Brazilian police have dismissed as a “coincidence.”

On Tuesday night, TV network Globo reported that the first suspect visited the condominium building where Bolsonaro lived, telling the doorman he intended to visit the then-presidential



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN/AFP

candidate.

The doorman then watched the man instead visit the home of the second suspect, the broadcaster's Jornal Nacional program reported, citing a leak from the police investigation.

Bolsonaro hit back forcefully at the report during a 24-minute live broadcast on YouTube early

Wednesday from Saudi Arabia, where he is currently on a diplomatic tour.

“I have no reason to kill anyone in Rio de Janeiro,” the president said, appearing agitated and at times shouting through the recording, and accusing Il Globo of “rotten and unscrupulous journalism”. —AFP ■

## Chicago teachers' strike enters 10<sup>th</sup> school day

CHICAGO — A teachers' strike in Chicago moved into the 10th school day on Wednesday, as the teachers' union and district worked to resolve a contract deadlock over class sizes, support staff levels and pay at the bargaining table.

The strike is the second-longest in a wave of teachers' strikes that played out across West Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona and California over the past few years, topped only by a three-week strike in June in Union City, California.

Classes will not be held as the teachers remain on strike, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) said late on Tuesday, hours after the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) met with school officials to discuss negotiations, only to continue the stalemate.

“It's not too late,” CTU president Emerita Karen Lewis said in a statement, imploring Mayor Lori Lightfoot to make a deal.

“Our members have resolved and will not relent when it comes to the families they serve,” she warned Lightfoot, for whom the strike represents the first major political test since election in April. —AFP ■

## Iraq PM's future on the line as demonstrators smell change

BAGHDA — The future of Iraq's embattled premier was in the hands of his onetime parliamentary backers Wednesday, as they deliberated over his ouster after mass anti-government protests that have left over 240 dead.

Massive rallies broke out in Iraq's capital and south this month against corruption and unemployment, spiralling into angry calls for a total overhaul of the political system.

By Wednesday, demonstrators were waiting to see whether the first fruit of their struggle — the ouster of Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi — was finally



Iraqi protesters are demanding a total overhaul of a political system they see as corrupt. PHOTO: AFP

within reach.

“Isn't it the people who have

the power? Isn't it the people who put them all there?” asked pro-

testor Athir Malek, 39.

He had come from Diwan-iyah, 200 kilometres (130 miles) further south, to join the biggest rallies so far in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, where celebration was in the air. Youssef, 33 expressed optimism late Tuesday as he spent his sixth straight night in the square. “They said we wouldn't be able to do anything. But even if we change one name, now we have a voice,” he said.

Parliament has demanded that the premier appear “immediately” for questioning amid speculation he will face a no-confidence vote. —AFP ■

## Australia's 'backpacker tax' illegally targets foreigners, court rules

SYDNEY — Australia's “backpacker tax” illegally targeted some foreign workers, a court ruled Wednesday, leaving people who spent time in the country on holiday working visas in line for tax rebates.

From 2017, Canberra applied a 15 percent levy for every dollar earned for two categories of working holiday visas linked to seasonal labour.

In a landmark decision Wednesday, a Brisbane court ruled the levy — dubbed the “backpacker tax” — cannot be applied to a British woman due to a double taxation treaty between Australia and the UK.

Similar agreements are also in place with the United States, Germany, Finland, Chile, Japan, Norway and Turkey according to international accounting firm



From 2017, Canberra applied a 15 per cent levy for every dollar earned for two categories of working holiday visas linked to seasonal labour. PHOTO: AFP FILE

Taxback.com.

“That is a disguised form of discrimination based on nation-

ality,” judge John Logan said.

Australians begin paying tax once their annual income

exceeds Aus\$18,200. That was also the previous threshold for the working holiday visas.

The Australian Tax Office said it was considering whether to appeal the decision.

It added the ruling only affects a minority of working holiday makers “who are also residents, and only those from countries affected by a similar clause in the double tax agreement with their home country”.

In the case decided Wednesday, the British woman lived mainly in a Sydney sharehouse and stayed for the most part in the state of New South Wales — meaning she was considered a “resident” for tax purposes in Australia.

According to the ATO website, others — who travel from place to place — can be classed as “foreign residents” for taxation. —AFP ■



# British family to sue American suspected of killing their son

LONDON—The family of a motorcyclist killed in a crash involving the wife of an American diplomat has announced it is planning to sue US President Donald Trump’s administration over an alleged cover-up.

Harry Dunn, 19, died on August 27 when his motorbike and a car driving on the wrong side of the road collided. In a statement issued through her lawyers and reported in US media, Anne Sacoolas admitted she was driving. She left Britain claiming diplomatic immunity before she was interviewed by police.

Dunn’s parents, Charlotte Charles and Tim Dunn, have urged US President Donald Trump’s administration to extradite Sacoolas to Britain, to no avail. “We are bringing claims against both Mrs. Sacoolas in the USA for civil damages as well as the Trump administration for their lawless misconduct and attempt to cover that up,” family

spokesman Radd Seiger said. “The Trump administration is not only hellbent on breaking international laws, rules and conventions on diplomatic immunity,” he added, “but they have no care or concern for the welfare of Harry’s family or any real intent on finding a solution.”

Seiger told AFP that the family’s ultimate goal is for Sacoolas to return to face the British justice system and to “uncover the misconduct of the US government” in allowing her back in the United States. The US government “brought her back to America so that she never faces trial,” Seiger said. With a US criminal trial out of question since the accident occurred in Britain, the family is pursuing a civil case, Seiger said, adding that it would seek “significant” damages. “In the US you can sue for millions of dollars if someone spills some hot coffee on your hand at McDonalds,” he said.—AFP ■



Charlotte Charles (R) and Tim Dunn have asked the United States to extradite to Britain the American suspected of killing their son in a road accident in England. PHOTO: AFP



Experts warn that climbing Mount Fuji outside of the official season is dangerous, though it is not prohibited. PHOTO: AFP

# Rescuers hunt man missing after livestreaming Mt Fuji climb

TOKYO—Rescuers in Japan are searching for a man who appears to have fallen down part of Mount Fuji as he was live-streaming his climb up the country’s highest peak, police said Wednesday.

The man, whose name has not been made public, was live broadcasting from the snow-covered upper reaches of Mount Fuji on Monday afternoon when he appeared to slip and begin falling.

He could be seen tumbling downwards for several seconds before the stream cut out, and local media said people watching online first alerted authorities to the apparent accident.

A team of ten rescue workers began searching for the man early Tuesday, a spokesman for the local Shizuoka police told AFP.

The man had been complaining of freezing temperatures, deep snow, steep slopes and slippery surfaces in the final minutes of his broadcast.

Several viewers commented on the feed, warning the situation appeared dangerous, but he pushed on.

Footage of the climb and his fall have been taken down from the site he was using to live-stream.

Temperatures were well be-

low freezing near the top of the 3,776-metre (12,388-foot) volcanic mountain Tuesday night.

Every year hundreds of thousands of people climb Mount Fuji, regarded as a holy mountain in Japan.

The official climbing season runs from the start of July to the end of August. Outside this period, lodges and toilets are shut yet climbing is not prohibited.

But rescue team chief Kuniyasu Suzuki at the Shizuoka police warned that off-season weather conditions were severe.—AFP ■

# Japan’s beer shipments to S. Korea dive 99% in Sept.: gov’t

TOKYO—Japan’s beer shipments to South Korea plummeted 99.9 percent in September from a year earlier to 588,000 yen (\$5,400), affected by a boycott of Japanese products in the neighboring country amid worsening bilateral ties, government data showed Wednesday. The campaign to boycott Japanese goods, including vehicles, has spread widely among South Korean consumers after tighter Japanese export controls were implemented in July on key materials used by South Korean chipmakers.

In the reporting month, exports of hydrogen fluoride, a chemical subject to newly tightened export controls, were also sharply down 99.4 percent to 3.72



Photo taken Aug. 19, 2019, shows a notice in Korean about not selling Japanese products at a supermarket in Seoul. Anti-Japanese sentiment has grown in South Korea in response to Tokyo’s trade policy shift against Seoul. PHOTO: KYODO

million yen, according to the data compiled by the Finance Ministry.

The sharp drop in beer shipments in September followed a 92.2 percent plunge in August to

50 million yen. Export volume and value of the chemical material used to clean semiconductors stood at zero in August, the ministry data said.—Kyodo ■

# Drug overdoses driving down US life expectancy

WASHINGTON—Drug overdoses have driven the first significant reduction in US life expectancy since the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s, an official report published Wednesday showed.

Americans have lost almost four months of longevity since 2014, the report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

“This is the first big drop since 1993, and the main driver behind that was the HIV epidemic,” Renee Gindi, a health statistician for the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics told AFP.

An American born in 2017 can expect to live an average

of 78.6 years, compared to 78.9 years in 2014, according to the report which confirms previously published preliminary data.

Up until the 1960s, life expectancy was under 70 years.

The recent decline illustrates the devastating impact of the opioid crisis, especially synthetic opioids like fentanyl, which can be deadly even in minute quantities of a few milligrams.

Opioid overdoses killed 32,000 people last year, according to provisional figures.

The United States ranks 28th among OECD countries in life expectancy. Japan is highest at 84.2 years.—AFP ■



## Myanmar U-22 beat Qatar's Al Uwayanah club 3-1 in friendly match

THE Myanmar U-22 national football team played their second friendly match in Qatar against Qatar's Division Two Football Club, Al Uwayanah, on 29 October in Doha, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar beat the Al Uwayanah F.C. with a 3-1 result.

Goals for team Myanmar were scored by reliable youth players Aung Kaung Mahn and Htet Phyo Wai.

Myanmar made a strong effort and scored three goals in the first half. Two goals were netted by Aung Kaung Mahn and one goal by Htet Phyo Wai.

Meanwhile, Al Uwayanah F.C. scored a consolation goal in the

first half. No goals were made in the second half and the match ended with Myanmar leading by two goals.

After the friendly match, the Myanmar U-22 team greeted Myanmar football fans at the stadium and posed for group photos with them.

The friendly match was part of team Myanmar's preparations for the upcoming 2019 South East Asian Games, which will be held from 26 November to 10 December in the Philippines. The football competitions are scheduled to be played at the Rizal Memorial Stadium and the Biñan Football Stadium.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar's Aung Kaung Mahn (white) vies for the ball with a player from Al Uwayanah F.C. during a friendly match at a stadium in Doha, Qatar. **PHOTO: MFF**

## AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019: Myanmar to face China today



The Myanmar U-19 national women's team pose for a group photo before their opening match against the Japan U-19 team in the AFC U-19 Women's Championship, which is being held in Chonburi, Thailand. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar U-19 national women's football team will play against the China U-19 team today in the second Group B match of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019 at the Institute of Physical Education (IPE) Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand.

Myanmar suffered a 5-0 loss against Japan in the opening match on 28 October, and China lost 1-2 to South Korea in their first match the same day.

As both teams faced a defeat in their previous match in Group B, they will be struggling to enter the semifinal stage of the Asian level tourney.

China, which placed third in the previous AFC U-19 Women's Championship, possesses experienced and fast players, who can get past their opponents with high-speed runs and fast

deliveries.

In the meantime, led by head coach Daw Thet Thet Win, the Myanmar U-19 team has young talented players, some just 16 years old, and they put up a massive defense and midfield assist in the first half of their previous match against Japan.

Speaking about the upcoming match against China, the Myanmar U-19 team captain San Thaw Thaw said that the team is prepared for the next challenge. She said the Chinese team is strong and has quality players, and the Chinese squad would be different from team Japan.

The captain also said the team will take the lesson from the previous match against Japan and adopt the best tactics against China to get a good result.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Messi fires in Barcelona demolition of Valladolid

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi made it clear he is fit and back to his scintillating best by tearing apart Real Valladolid on Tuesday in a thumping 5-1 victory for Barcelona.

Messi scored another spell-binding free-kick at Camp Nou after his sumptuous pass had already teed up Arturo Vidal for Barca's second. He then drove home his second late on before sliding through Luis Suarez to make it five.

Yet in truth his two goals and two assists were just the start of it, the defining moments of another mesmeric all-round performance that was dotted with flicks, passes and dribbles, not to mention two humiliating nutmegs.

"I don't know what more I can say," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde.

"There were wonders coming out of his foot," said Valladolid's Michel. "You can only applaud and enjoy it."

Valladolid had threatened to make a game of it when Kiko Olivas benefitted from a rare Marc-Andre ter Stegen error to equalise after Clement Lenglet had struck in the second minute.

But with Messi in this sort of mood, the result never felt in doubt as victory sent Barcelona back to the top of La Liga after Atletico Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw by Alaves a couple of hours before.

Valverde's side has now won seven consecutive matches in all competitions, a run that began by beating Villarreal on September 24, when Messi returned from injury to make his first start of the season.

He has needed time, admitting earlier this month he was still short of sharpness even as goals flew in against Sevilla, Eibar and Slavia Prague.

But this display sent a resounding message that Messi is back to his best even if Valverde feels there is more to come.

"He is still getting back to full fitness," Valverde said. "But he is getting better and better."

Valladolid was perhaps unfortunate the 32-year-old was fresh after the postponed Clasico on Saturday meant Barcelona

and Real Madrid were given the weekend off.

It meant this was the first game at Camp Nou since violent protests broke out across Catalonia after nine pro-independence leaders were sentenced to imprisonment on October 21.

Giant yellow banners with 'Independencia' and 'Llibertat' written across them were unfurled before kick-off but there was no sign of unrest. Instead, the mood turned celebratory as Messi got to work.

It was his free-kick that Valladolid made a mess of clearing, as Sergi Guardiola lashed the ball against Joaquin Fernandez and Lenglet reacted fastest, his shot deflecting in before two minutes were on the clock. —AFP ■



Barcelona's Argentine forward Lionel Messi celebrates his goal during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Valladolid FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on October 29, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**