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 Upapatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Members of Sangha led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Monk of Bhamo Kyaungtaik Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Mahasaddhamajotika, Dr Bhanddanta 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 Bhamo Sayadaw and Presiding Monk of Maha Dhammika Rama Oo Thaw Monastery in Pyinmana Township Bhandata Tissa.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also offered a Kathina robe and donation items to Thanlyin Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery’s Presiding Monk Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Suddhamajotika Dr Bhivamsa at Sasana Beikmandaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers Kathina robes to Agga Maha Saddhamabhivamsa at Sasana Beikmandaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho offer Kathina robes to Bhamo Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Mahasaddhamajotika Dr Bhanddanta Kumara Bhivamsa at Sasana Beikmandaw in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers Kathina robes to Agga Maha Saddhamabhivamsa at Sasana Beikmandaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2019

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

NATIONAL Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives UNHCR Representative

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NATIONAL Constitution amendment scrutinizing committee holds meeting

NATIONAL Myanmar, Thai open second friendship bridge

NATIONAL Anti-Corruption Commission gets technical assistance from Denmark

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Vol. VI, No. 197, 4th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1381 ME

PAGE-8 (OPINION)

inside today

END HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT
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)

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 Nyan Na 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

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 officials 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 Nyan Na Soe, Joint Secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin, committee members and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Govt holds Kathina Robe Offering...

FROM PAGE 1

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 Thaung 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)
Myanmar, Thai open second friendship bridge

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 rehabilitation, the 4th 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 Programme Regional Steering Committee (27th IHP RSC) Meeting for Asia and the Pacific.

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 28th IHP RSC Meeting for Asia and the Pacific will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam next year.

Myanmar hosts 27th IHP RSC Meeting for Asia and Pacific

Myanmar hosts 27th IHP RSC Meeting for Asia and the Pacific in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. 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 28th IHP RSC Meeting for Asia and the Pacific will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam next year.
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

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 65% 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. —Khing Set Wai

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 technical assistance on combating corruption and capacity building.

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi and Danish State Secretary for International Cooperation, 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 opening the meeting.

Upon the signing ceremony, the Danish State secretary congratulated the ACC Chairman and the Myanmar government for their strong efforts in fighting corruption and capacity building. She stated that the ACC is a strong institution and has been effective in the fight against corruption.

She further said that the Danish government will continue to support Myanmar in the fight against corruption and capacity building.

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi appreciated the Danish government’s support and commitment in the fight against corruption and capacity building.

He stated that Myanmar has made significant progress in the fight against corruption in recent years and will continue to strengthen capacities in this area.

U Aung Kyi said that Myanmar is committed to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and is a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) which promotes transparency and accountability.

He stated that the government is taking steps to strengthen the legal framework and institutional capacities to combat corruption.

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi also thanked the Danish government for the technical assistance provided to Myanmar in the fight against corruption and capacity building.

U Aung Kyi also said that the ACC will continue to work closely with the Danish government and other international partners in the fight against corruption.

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, received Mr. Ola Almgren, the newly-appointed Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system, 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

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 40/2019
2nd 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Details on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Information received of Tin Ko who lives in Mawkel Village, Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Information received of Htein Win who lives in Yayingngyi Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 22 October 2019, police searched the house of Kyi Soe, 52, son of U Thaung, 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 Yayingngyi Village, sold this stimulant tablets and speciosa to Kyi Soe. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(Bokpyin) MaPa(pa)27/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Information received of Maung Man (a) Soe Win and Ma Nyo Ma (a) Gyoora who live in Letpan Village, Kyaukse Township, Manda- lay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 23 September 2019, police searched the house of Maung Man (a) Soe Win, 36, and 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 NaMaSa(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) Gyoora, 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 NaMaSa(Kyaukse) MaYa(Pa)45/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, 32934.92 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, 25.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.01 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contacts:</th>
<th>Landline No.</th>
<th>Fax Phone No.</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>067-590200</td>
<td>067-590233</td>
<td><a href="mailto:antinarco@presidentoffice.gov.mm">antinarco@presidentoffice.gov.mm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Sayawad 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 Bodhiaykyawgala 900 Institute. — Lin Lin (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

A closing ceremony of 2nd Dharmayatra in five Mekong River Basin Countries held in Cambodia on 30 October 2019. PHOTO: LIN LIN
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)
End human-elephant conflict

With their habitats disappearing due to the depletion of 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 Thantlangyi, Pathein, Ngapun, and Thaton township in Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, and western areas of Rangoon Region are home to wild elephants. In the first time instances, elephants damaged about an area of paddy fields at the Thaungyi Villages in Ngapun Township, Ayeyawady Region, in search of food. Villagers were killed in some incidents.

Similar incidents are mostly being reported in Thantlangyi, Ayeyawady, and Rangoon 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 come into contact with people, they may step on the need to retaliate. All too often in such conflicts, the elephants have been killed, reduced in number and continues to endanger the loss of habitat of wild animals and human-animal conflict.

To reduce human-elephant conflict, it will only worsen in the coming years due to continued increase in population, the associated growth of agriculture, and a reduction in wildlife habitats.

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.

Towards a better business environment

By Maung Thititas (Yankin)

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 doings with construction permitting; two areas – starting a business and protecting minority investors – undertaken by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations; the areas of registering property undertaken by Department of Settlements and Land Records; and the areas 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 have reduced the procedures of work process and the number of office visits through the establishment of an online company registry platform which is called MyGov, 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 boards under the leadership of Vice President U Myint Swe. The Directorates of Investment and Company Registry takes the responsibility of providing encouragement for starting a business and protection for minority investors.

Easy of Doing Business

Starting a business indicator is based on the following factors:

i. Procedures to legally start and operate a company
ii. Time required to complete each procedure
iii. Cost required to set up a company
iv. Percentage of income per capita
v. 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.

Myanmar Companies Act 2017 guarantees full protection for investors through its comprehensive and innovative stipulations. In the country ranking rises till reaching the list of most progressive countries in the World Bank’s indicator 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 profits 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.

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.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 30th October, 2019

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 21ST October, 2019: Rain or Sandstorms will be scattered in Tanintharyi Region and Southern Shan State and isolated in Upper Sajagon, Rangoon, Ayeyawady and Arakan Regions. Rapids, whirrings and light rains will exist in Cox’s Bazar and Rangamati Townships of Chittagong and Khagrachari and Cox’s Bazaar States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STAGE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar. The sea height will be 1-3 feet and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms in Rangoon, Ayeyawady and Arakan Regions.

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

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

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st October, 2019: Partly cloudy.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion articles, essays, and short stories from young writers aged 18-25. The deadline is November 16, 2019. The selected candidates can send their work to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 502, Ringway Office, Pyay Road, Sanchinwa, Yangon, in person or by email to phyu@globalnewlightmyanmar.net with the subject “Young Writers.”

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion articles, essays, and short stories from young writers aged 18-25. The deadline is November 16, 2019. The selected candidates can send their work to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 502, Ringway Office, Pyay Road, Sanchinwa, Yangon, in person or by email to phyu@globalnewlightmyanmar.net with the subject “Young Writers.”
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 560 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 Fine company will be installed with the system that is expected to be complete in December.

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

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

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 pre-cinct and Nat Yekan village; Myanmar traditional hairstyle Sayintwe (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 Magway Region Tourism Committee grants licenses to two motels.

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 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 Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs. —Than Naing Oo

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
MOSWRR holds 2nd TWG meeting on implementation of ASEAN-ERAT Preliminary Needs Assessment’s Recommendations

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

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 (JAR) 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 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 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 on the repair of the existing houses and reconstructing new houses for the resettlement of the displaced persons who remained in Rakhine State after the violence happened in Maungtaw 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 Kyaw 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 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

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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, unsettled 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 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, director of Budapest-based think tank Political Capital.

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. Sai emphasized Egypt's stance on supporting a solution in Syria to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of the country. —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 — including 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

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, spokesman 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. Sai 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, and 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
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, 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.

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

Rehman, who heads the Jamaat 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

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 on a Cambodian island a week ago boarded boats with authorities Wednesday to continue a meticulous 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 last 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

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 author 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

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

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

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<td>Procurement for Assembling and Manufacturing of (5) Nos of Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP Complete Knocked-Down Motor Gauge D.E.L</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>12(T)10/MR (CME)/Euro</td>
<td>Procurement of (5) Sets of Diesel Engine &amp; Main Alternator Sets with Foundation Frame and Related Necessary Parts for Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP D.E.L</td>
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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 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

Asleep in Jesus

Naw Molly Moh

Age (88) years

Daughter of (Saw Po Tu-Naw Daisy) and daughters-in-law of (Rev. Saw Aung Moh-Naw Sarah), residing at No. 13 (C), Zion Hill St., Nant-sha-gone Ward, Insein, believed wife of Saw Gikley Moh, believed 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 Bu Ni), Naw Miiz Tu-U Aung Lwin, Naw Mete Tu, (Naw Donotry Moh-Saw Tu Tu), Saw Harkie Moh-Naw Lomay, believed mother of (Naw Thu Moh @ (Gillian Thida Moh), Saw Rommel Moh-Naw Moo Eh Htoo, Saw Gilon Moh-Naw Barbara Moh, Naw Gilmaw Saw Moh @ (Aung Soe Moo-Alice Ne Htaw Yin, Saw Zi Noh Moh-Naw Lay Lay Tho), Saw Gikley Moh-E-Naw Lyn Lyu, believed grandmother of Saw Rommel Moh Jr, Naw Sandy Moh, Saw Mark Aung Moh, Saw Max Tu Moh, Naw Sandra Moh, Naw Sarah Moh, Saw Gilon Moh Jr, Naw Cindy Rebecca Moh, Saw Daniel Gikley 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 4k Tho Phyu Memorial Hall, Karen Baptist Theological Seminary, Insein, after which the corpse will leave for Yewaw Christian Cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved Family
**WORLD**

**Furious Bolsonaro denies links to Brazil politician’s murder**

BRASILIA — President Jair Bolsonaro angrily denied links to the murder of a popular leftist city councillor Wednesday, after reports that a suspect visited the condominium building where Bolsonaro lived. He had come from Diwania, 200 kilometres (130 miles) further south, to join the biggest rallies so far in Baghdad’s Tahrir Square, where celebration was in the air. Youssuf, 33 expressed opposition to 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 — would finally produce results. 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 Globo of “rotten and unscrupulous journalism”. —AFP ■

**Iraq PM’s future on the line as demonstrators smell change**

BAGHDAD — The future of Iraq’s embattled premier was in the hands of his onetime parliamentary backers Wednesday, as they deliberated over his ouster after 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 a reality. “Isn’t it the people who have the power? Isn’t it the people who put them all there?” asked protestor Athir Malek, 39.

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” — could not 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 Taxback.com. “That is a disguised form of discrimination based on nationality,” Judge John Logan said.

**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. PHOTO: AFP FILE

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 their 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 an US criminal trial out of question since the accident occurred in Britain, the family is pursuing a civil case, Seiger added, saying 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

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 livestream. Temperatures were well below 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 for civil damages as well as the Trump administration for their lawless misconduct and attempt to cover that up.

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 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, according to 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 78.5 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, 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 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)

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

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

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 Championship.

Myanmar U-19 women’s football team coach Aung Kaung Mahn said that his team will try hard to get some points from this match.

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, admitted earlier this month he was still short of sharpness even as goals flew in against Sevilla, El Barca and Slavia Prague.

But this display sent a reassuring 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 Clásico 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 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 benefited 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.

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

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.

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