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President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho participate in the Chin traditional performance at the 71st Anniversary of Chin National Day in Haka, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho attend 71st Chin National Day celebrations

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended the ceremony to celebrate the 71st Anniversary of Chin National Day at Vum Thu Maung sports grounds in Haka, Chin State yesterday.

Attending the ceremony were Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Thant Sin

Maung, U Thein Swe, and U Han Zaw, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, State Hluttaw Speaker U Zoe Bwe, Chin State Chief Justice U Win Myint Kyaw, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Phone Myat, members of the State Cabinet, the State Advocate General, State Auditor-General, Hluttaw MPs, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force, heads of departments, ethnic cul-

tural troupes, representatives of civil society organizations, and resident ethnic people.

Local residents greeted the President, First Lady, and Union Ministers with flower bouquets as they arrived at Vum Thu Maung sports grounds.

Firstly, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung and U Han Zaw, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, and State Hluttaw

Speaker U Zoe Bwe cut ribbons to formally open the archway into the sports grounds for celebrating the 71st Chin National Day. The President then touched an orb shaped switch and unveiled the signboard on the archway. This was followed by the President and First Lady, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister, and state Hluttaw Speaker took a documentary photo with officials and resident

ethnic people.

Next, Reverend Dr. Steven Lian Hom Lain prayed for good blessings and the Chair of the ceremony delivered a speech on the 71st Chin National Day. The State Chief Minister then read the Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the 71st Anniversary Celebrations of Chin National Day.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds fifteenth-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE fifteenth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat reported to the Hluttaw on next one year extension of the Hluttaw's International Relations Committee, Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee and Farmers and Labour Affairs Committee starting from 17 February 2019; Education Development Committee from 24 February 2019, and Citizenship Rights Committee, Economic and Financial Development Committee and Public Affairs Management Committee from 26 February 2019 respectively.

No plan yet to establish education college in Hinthada

U Khin Maung Yi of Hinthada constituency asked if there is a plan to construct an education



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

college in Hinthada Township. In his reply to the question, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said that there are three education colleges namely Pathein Education College, Myaungmya Education College and Bogale Education College in Ayeyawady Region, adding that the ratio of teachers and students in Ayeyawady Region and Hinthada District are in balance.

No plan yet to establish education college in Hinthada

He continued to say that being focusing on upgrading 25 two-year education colleges in

the country to four-year education degree colleges, the ministry is no plan to open an education college in Hinthada.

No plan to upgrade two BEHSs in Ywangan Tsp

Afterwards, U Aung Soe Min of Ywangan constituency asked if there is a plan to upgrade the Basic Education High Schools (branches) of Ya Gyi Village and Kyaukku Pyin Village in Ywangan Township to Basic Education High Schools.

In his reply to the question, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun said that Ya Gyi Village's Basic Education High School (branch) has only 168 students and it is only seven miles away from Myin Kya Do Basic Education High School. Kyaukku Pyin Village's Basic Education High School (branch) has also only 78 students and is only three mile away from YeU Basic Education High School.

As the Basic Education High Schools (branches) of Ya Gyi Village and Kyaukku Pyin Village in Ywangan Township does not

need to be upgraded to the high school level. The ministry has no prioritized plan to upgrade the two schools, and the local students have several opportunities to study high school education, he added.

Construction of new school building in Mogaung Tsp to be funded next budget

U Win Naing of Mogaung constituency also raised a question whether there is a plan to allocate budgets for building a new school building for Kya-in Village's Basic Education High School (branch) in Mogaung Township in the nearest fiscal year. The Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied that the plan to build a single storey 120x30 foot RCC framed building will be submitted under capital title in 2019-2020 fiscal year. If the allocated budget is permitted, the new school building construction will be carried out, he added.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds its 15th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw

A 15th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held, yesterday, at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, where questions were asked and answered, and a motion was announced to be discussed.

Construction of airfield in Loikaw

At the Hluttaw session, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 asked when the construction of airfield that runs in Loikaw, Kayah State would be completed. Regarding this question, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that the proposal of upgrading the airport would be under scrutiny in line with the prescribed rules and standards, and analytical works would be conducted in accordance with set procedures of the State Government while hiring a counseling company to make the structural appraisal of existing building. After that, the processes of Request for Proposal (RFP), invitation to tender, scrutiny process, and signing the contract would be carried out to



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

do so.

Managing the river bank collapses

Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 asked whether there was a plan to manage the river bank collapses in Okpo Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, and which was caused due to torrential rains and mountain valley water occurred in August, 2018. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that there was no plan to carry out in 2019-2020 FY, and efforts would be made to implement that plan

after submitting it to the Bago Region government's fund in 2020-2021 FY.

Upgrading Mawlamyine-Yangon Railway lines

U Aye Min Han of Mon State constituency 1 asked if there was a plan to upgrade Mawlamyine-Yangon Railway lines and bridges along the railway lines, to replace old coaches and engines of the trains while making an arrangement to buy train tickets quickly and easily.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that efforts

were being made to improve railway sector performance while making an effort to facilitate the passengers on the trains.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied the queries raised by U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, Daw May Than Nwe of Ayeyawady constituency 11, U Phay Yae (a) U Myint Than Tun of Kayah State constituency 1 and U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7.

Major Bridge Bill

Then Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed and announced for Hluttaw representatives interested in discussing the Major Bridge Bill to enroll their names. The Major Bridge Bill had been sent back from the Amyotha Hluttaw after approving it, and which was sent back again from the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Compilation of a specific cartography system

U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 tabled a motion urging the government to create a long-range plan for compilation of a specific cartography system to conduct

the land registration process, in cooperation with international development partnership organizations and other local and international experts. He said that the development of a country was dependent upon the systematic land management, arrangement and a sound land utilization policy, and it was needed to keep records of precise and specific cartography. And the land registration process would need to utilize manpower, money, time, modern technologies and devices to make it a success, and he clarified on the motion and urged the Hluttaw to discuss it.

U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency 5 supported the motion and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the Hluttaw's acceptance to discuss the motion after he had obtained the decision of the Hluttaw. He announced that the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the motion to register their names.

The 16th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 22 February, it was learnt. ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark 71st Anniversary of Chin National Day in Haka, Chin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

As long as the Chin National Day is celebrated every year, the Chin State's pride and integrity, customs, culture, and traditions will persist

FROM PAGE-1

President U Win Myint then delivered a speech. He said it was an honor to give a message of greetings on Chin National Day, and expressed his feeling of familial kindness from the Chin people's warm welcome. He highlighted the unique aspects of Chin State, such as the great hornbill and rhododendron plants, the symbols of the state, and the red flowers that portray the courage and bravery of the Chin people. He said the great hornbill symbolizes loyalty, as a mating pair stays together for life, and if one mate dies, the other sacrifices its life.

The relationship between great hornbills represents col-

laboration through thick and thin, and the Chin people have been living with the same mentality in the Union for many years.

The President said the Chin people joined other ethnic peoples in resisting the colonial expansionists for our country's independence. He said not only did they participate in the struggle, Chin National leaders U Hlur Hmone, U Htaung Zar Khoke, and U Ki Yo Manh also signed the historic Panglong Agreement in 1947. In addition, U Vum Thu Maung submitted a proposal for the independence of both Central plains and the hilly regions, was at the head of the independence struggle, and under whose leadership the Chin people strived

tirelessly in resisting the expansionists and fascists, said the President.

The President said the Chin people continued to reside together with other ethnic nationals in the Union and are participating in the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. He said this is the Union spirit that has been

manifest in the Chin people throughout history. As long as the Chin National Day is celebrated every year, the Chin State's pride and integrity, customs, culture, and traditions will persist.

On 20 February 1948, 5,000 Chin State representatives attended the people's conference held in Falam Township, where

The relationship between great hornbills represents collaboration through thick and thin, and the Chin people have been living with the same mentality in the Union for many years.

form development in all the states and regions. He said we must exert effort until Chin State's beauty becomes the nation's beauty and the Chin people's democratic values spread across the entire nation. He said Chin State's languages, literature, culture, customs, and traditions must be developed and safeguarded, and urged all other ethnic nationals in the country to do the same.

Following the President's speech, officials put various messages from different organizations to commemorate Chin National Day on record. The President and First Lady, state cabinet members, and Chairs of the ceremony took a documentary photograph together. They then observed the department booths commemorating Chin National Day.

In the afternoon, the President and First Lady participated in planting the exalted pillar and were then joined by the Union Ministers and ethnic people in a Chin traditional dance, after which they took a documentary photograph together.

Next, the President and First Lady and entourage praised the cultural troupes performing traditional bamboo dances as they watched on. They then viewed the beauty of Haka from the city's View Point.

Later in the evening, the President, First Lady, and entourage attended the bonfire ceremony, with traditional dances, held in the compound of the state Hluttaw building. —MNA



President U Win Myint looks around the departments' booths to mark 71st Anniversary of Chin National Day in Haka, Chin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

a decision was made to change from an administrative system ruled by Chieftains to a democratic administrative system, and this highlights the Chin people's stance on democracy and their foresight, said the President. He said the Chin people were able to envisage the global perspective, and their value for democracy and respect for human rights have brought the fruits of democracy to them.

The President said there are 53 tribes in Chin State who each contribute their uniqueness to the beauty of the state and shows their collective strength through their solidarity. He said the Chin people must maintain this beauty and strength as they work together with other ethnic nationals in safeguarding the nation.

The President said the Union government is working for uni-

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Australian Ambassador

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Australian Ambassador H.E. Ms. Andrea Faulkner, at the Parlour of Bayintnaung Villa, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to cooperation on Myanmar-Australia diplomatic relations after gaining independence, language proficiency classes, UN peacekeeping training, the Counter-Narcotic Training and medical training, Australia's assistance for in-

ternal peace in Myanmar, educational and economic sectors, efforts of the Tatmadaw for achieving eternal peace in Myanmar, endeavors of the Government and the Tatmadaw to handle the incidents of the Rakhine State in Buthedaung and Maungdaw in accordance with the law, and conditions of the Australia's participation, according to a statement issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Australian Ambassador Ms. Andrea Faulkner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at the meeting with media representatives from UNESCO, IMS/Fojo, Internews, BBC Media Action, JICA, DW Akademie and My Pol in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives media representatives

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received media representatives of UNESCO, IMS/Fojo, Internews, BBC Media Action, JICA, DW Akademie and My Pol at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed the matters related to the four sectors that were discussed at the 7th Conference on Media Development

in Myanmar including freedom of press and right of access to information through legislative reforms, the broadcast media law and implementation, security of media personnel and sustainability of local media in transition to digital platform.

Also, present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Mandalay hosts 9th Traditional Medicine Research Congress

THE 9th Traditional Medicine Research Congress opened in Mandalay yesterday with an opening address by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Union minister called for promoting research on the traditional medicine and for cooperation between agriculturalists, botanists, traditional medicine producers and researchers to grow more herbal plants.

“Research programs must be accelerated to develop treat-

ment and teaching of traditional medicine, production and planting of related herbs, plants and medicine, and accumulating positive public opinion on traditional medicine,” said Dr. Myint Htwe.

He continued to say that research is important for equitable development in all sectors of traditional medicine.

The Union minister urged the authorities to invite traditional medicinal practitioners from foreign countries including neighbouring countries in next congress, stressing the need to



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe looks at a research poster displayed at the 9th Traditional Medicine Research Congress in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

hold seminars on the traditional medicine.

The congress will present 39 research papers and

11 research posters.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds fifteenth-day meeting

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Afterwards, the questions raised by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Thauung Sein, U Aye Win of In-gapu constituency and Daw Soe Ngwe Aye of TadaU constituency were replied by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Following the question and answer session, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw of receiving the bill amending the Criminal Act approved and sent with second amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and bill committee member U Aung Sein read the

committee's report on the bill to the Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker asked Hluttaw representatives to register their names to table amendment motions to the Hluttaw.

Digital Literacy Framework

Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion urging the Union Government to accelerate the nationwide Digital Literacy movement and to lay down Digital Literacy Framework policy tabled by Daw Zin Mar Aung of Yankin constituency.

Daw Wint Wah Htun of Shadaw constituency discussed that e-Government system that included in the Economic Poli-

cy (4) is being developed in accordance with the Economic Policy-1, and the Hluttaw has also approved a motion related to e-Government.

The Union Government has formed a committee on e-Government and Myanmar is also a signatory to the ASEAN e-Commerce, she said.

The MP said she is confident that Myanmar can tackle the challenges of the 21st century by adopting the Digital Literacy Framework considering its high smart phone density as the strength to overcome the challenge of how to effectively use the mobile device.

Afterwards, Daw Aye Mya Mya Cho of Kyauktan constituency, Dr. Khin Sithu of Loikaw

constituency, Dr. Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency and Dr. Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency discussed.

Next, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said one of the e-Government processes being carried out in the ministries is formation of an e-Government Steering Committee with State Counsellor as patron.

The deputy minister said the motion is timely as it is apt with the processes included at national education development strategic plan.

The viewpoints and suggestions for Digital Literacy Framework discussed by Hluttaw representatives will be utilized when the Digital Literacy

Framework is carried out. While implementing the Digital Literacy Framework, all sectors of education must be upgraded step by step with the development of ICT infrastructure, computer accessories, software and training, starting from primary school level, he explained the Hluttaw to give the motion approved.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw approved the motion after he sought the approval from MP who tabled the motion.

The sixteenth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 22 February. ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Joint Committee to amend constitution 2008 holds first meeting

THE first meeting of the Joint Committee to amend the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitution (2008) was held yesterday at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building (D) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy

Speaker U Tun Aung (alias) Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 constitution Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, the Joint Committee's Secretary, joint secretary and members who are political parties' MPs and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the first meeting of the Joint Committee to amend the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitution (2008). PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin receives Australian Ambassador

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation received H.E. Ms. Andrea Faulkner, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar on 20th February 2019 at 15:20 hrs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the matters pertaining to bilateral relations and cooperation between two countries, Australia's continued support for

Myanmar's democratization process, potential areas of bilateral cooperation such as education, eradication of narcotic drugs and prevention of human trafficking.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets Australian Ambassador Ms. Andrea Faulkner in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint leaves for New Delhi to attend 4th ASEAN-India Expo and Summit



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint departs from Yangon to attend 4th ASEAN-India Expo and Summit yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint left Yangon for New Delhi, India by air to attend 4th ASEAN-India Expo and Summit that will be held on 21 to 23 February in New Delhi.

The 4th ASEAN-India Expo and Summit will be held with the aims of promoting trade and investment cooperation between

India and ASEAN countries, solving the technical problems related to trade, promoting transport connectivity related to regional production value chain, and promoting social lives from the development of E-commerce and other service sectors.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Line Walker-2 films additional scenes at the YMCA building

IN the YMCA building (Young Men's Christian Association) on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, the cast and crew of Line Walker-2 (Operation Midnight Shadow) filmed additional scenes for the action thriller throughout the entire day yesterday.

Traffic around the film set was partially closed from 6 am to 4 pm and officials from the township General Administration Department, Myanmar Traffic Police, Yangon City Development Committee, Myanmar Police Force, and Ministry of Information worked together to ensure traffic was smooth.

Eager onlookers and observing officials were asked their impressions of the Hong Kong movie being filmed. **Ko Aung Thein Tun (Managing Director, Institute of Business & Investment Management)**

"Our school isn't very far from the filming so we could hear the gunshots. I've read about it in the news so I came to see for myself. I could see they've invested a lot of energy, money and time into this. I've heard they took 2 to 3 months choosing the film locations alone and they take 50 sample takes of a single scene. They are very professional."

"I come from a finance background, so in my view they are bringing a lot of financial benefits to the country. For one thing, they are all from abroad so in a way they're international travelers bringing in foreign revenue, and I've heard they are 200 of them. They'll also be filming our local scenery and exposing it to the world."



Ma Nan Khin San Khant (Dawbon Township).



Ko Aung Thein Tun (Managing Director, Institute of Business & Investment Management)



Pan Ei San (Operation Assistant, KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Company Limited)



Film crew of Line Walker-2 taping a scene from the Hong Kong movie on top of a roof of the YMCA building on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

"I also want to point out that our roads have traffic jams even before this Hong Kong movie came to film here. There are alternative routes provided. I don't want people to be pointing blame at this fact and failing to see the many positive benefits this film is bringing to Myanmar."

Ma Nan Khin San Khant (Dawbon Township)

"I was just passing by when I noticed the crowd gathering. I've liked this series ever since seeing the first Line Walker film. I'd hoped to see the actor since I admire him. I heard the sound of gunfire but I couldn't see the filming in progress clearly. I'll

be visiting the set again in the next days."

Dr. Thar Nyan (General Secretary of YMCA)

"An associate of mine contacted me about a Hong Kong company coming to film in Yangon. They discussed about using our YMCA Hall for the film and after several rounds of

discussions the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the State assisted us with the filming."

"We carefully discussed the elements involved in the film, such as the car chases, helicopters, using real guns with blank cartridges, and fire scenes. We've arranged film sets in the basement of our building and set up stalls on the upper floor. They're also filming a scene where they jump from building to building."

"They were initially going to shoot the film in a neighboring country and we had to carefully explain to them that it is possible to film in Myanmar and the authorities will give permission too."

Pan Ei San (Operation Assistant, KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Company Limited)

"I knew they were starting action scenes when I heard gunshots. They were rappelling down the side of buildings. Watching a scene in a movie takes a few seconds but they take a long time filming one just to get it right. The world will see Myanmar actors in the film and our country's cinema landscape will expand as well. I'm going to see the film when it comes out because I admire the main actor."

Yangon Synthesis Productions Company, who are taking shared responsibility for the film on Myanmar's side, has issued an apology to the public for the temporary traffic inconveniences caused during the filming process and has kindly requested their continued patience. —Win Mi Mi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoI staff learns skills for gathering public opinion on state-run media

THIRTY-eight staff members from the Ministry of Information learnt how to conduct surveys to collect views and opinions from the public about public services provided by the State-run media.

During the training, held at the office of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinbyu Road in Yangon, the staff learnt how to collect public opinions about the State-run broadcast, print and online media.

By conducting surveys, the ministry would better understand the opinions of

members of the public from different types of people and from varied locations, while categorizing them in terms of age groups, locations, social standards, favorite sections of newspapers, as well as sections they do not like, as well as suggestions.

The training is meant to allow the media staff to put in place suggestions by the people, following completion of surveys.

In his opening address, the deputy director-general of the Information and Public Relations Department of

the Ministry of Information stressed the need to practice patience, diligence and far-sightedness when conducting surveys, since they are research activities.

During the training, the staff learnt about systems used in surveys, as well as how to understand results from surveys.

Instructors delivered lectures on Governance in a Globalized World under the title, "The Development of Institutions and Reforms During a 40 Year Journey". —MNA (Translated by GNLM)



U Khaing Win, Director of Sandhi Governance Institute, lectures to staff from the Ministry of Information during a training on proper methods to conduct surveys. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice Senior General Soe Win receives United States Ambassador



Vice Senior General Soe Win holds talks with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C**

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received Mr. Scot Marciel, Ambassador of the United States of America, yesterday morning, at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the relation of Myanmar-American bilateral civil-military cooperation, the US's purpose

and position in the Indo-Pacific region, the progress of peace talks with Ethnic Armed Organizations after the Tatmadaw's unilateral ceasefire on 21 December 2018, efforts of the Government and the Tatmadaw to assist resettlement of the displaced persons at the IDP camps in Kachin State, Tatmadaw's full cooperation with the Independent Commission of Enquiry on Rakhine issue, Tatmadaw's safeguarding the

lives and properties of the people against ARSA terrorists and AA insurgents in the Rakhine State, seizures of narcotic drugs in Rakhine State and implementation process of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that Myanmar signed in 2015, according to a statement issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivers a speech at workshop in Bagan. **PHOTO: MNA**

Bagan hosts workshop on managing heritage sites

THE Workshop on Heritage Sites Management in Lancang-Mekong Countries will be held at Bagan Hotel in Bagan from 19 to 21 February.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Chief Ministers from Mandalay and Magway regions, the Chinese and Vietnamese ambassadors to Myanmar, the first secretaries of the Cambodia and Thai embassies, the Vice-Chairperson

of the Coordination Body on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Kyaw Oo Lwin and officials of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Hluttaw representatives from NyaungU District and regional administrators, and representatives from Lancang-Mekong associate countries of Cambodia, China, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam attended

the second day of the workshop yesterday.

The Union Minister delivered the opening speech, highlighting the importance of preserving cultural heritage while simultaneously boosting tourism. He expressed his gratitude to China for supporting project funding with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Norwegian Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes yesterday at the Hluttaw Building (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and openly discussed the matters related to legal affairs, bilateral relations affairs and bilateral cooperation between the two nations. — MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Thura U Shwe Mann meets with Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Egg-tapping game draws crowds at Sagaing Buddha Pujaniya festival

A traditional egg-tapping game attracted visitors at the Zina Mhan Aung Lawka Chanthar Pagoda festival, which is being held in Sagaing from 18 to 20 February.

Visitors to the annual festival enjoyed the game in which two contestants tap boiled eggs against each other and the player who makes the rival's egg crack is considered the winner. The winner also gets the losing player's egg. If both eggs crack in the fight, the player whose egg is placed at the bottom is considered the winner.

Boiled duck eggs were sold with a price of K250 per unit to contestants.

The folk game can be seen only at the Zina Mhan Aung

Lawka Chanthar Pagoda in Sagaing.

The festival aims to preserve the country's intangible culture which is believed to date back to the time of Myanmar kings, said U San Tun, the chairman of the Dhamma Yakitha social team in Sagaing.

The festival is still popular today due to the game.

In their time, king's servants played the egg-tapping game at night, and it soon became popular, he added.

The game is a part of the Buddha Pujaniya festival. Visitors also offered ration rice and offertories to Sanghas (Buddhist monks) as part of the festival. — Ko Min (Indaw)
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



We will make constitutional amendments in line with the law

PEOPLE wish for change so that their living standards improve. The people of Myanmar collectively voted for a civilian government that would fulfil this wish. Since assuming the mantle, the civilian government has been initiating reforms and changes in keeping with the people's wishes.

The government has been working vigorously to implement the peace process successfully and establish a democratic federal Union, the two sorely needed initial requirements for the country. But the main requirement for implementing them both is trust. There must be no feelings of suspicion between ethnic brothers

and sisters. Instead, there must be enough trust for us to discuss and negotiate on ways to realize our aspirations.

For establishing a democratic federal Union, for peace, prosperity, and development, and for all the states and regions to share the fruits of democracy, without discrimination, we must make necessary changes and reforms in every sector. And while carrying this out, we need to work together to ensure our Constitution is in line with democratic norms and federal principles.

We are currently governed by the 2008 Constitution, which was drawn up and enacted under the Tatmadaw government to implement a democratic system in Myanmar. The Constitution was amended for the first time during the First Hluttaw's term and now, during the Second Hluttaw's term, MPs are working to amend it again, so that, it is in accordance with democratic norms and federal principles suitable for our country.

Lawmakers are not breaking the laws and procedures set

under the Constitution by directly appealing to make amendments to it. They are working in line with existing laws and following procedure to draft a bill to amend the Constitution, which still needs to pass through the legislature for any actual changes to our charter.

The Constitution is the very life and soul of our nation and as such, it needs to be revised when necessary to be relevant to the needs of modern society. The completion of our democratic transition must necessarily involve the realization of a truly democratic Constitution.

At the same time, a democratic federal Union can be established only if we ensure freedom, equality, and mutual respect among the ethnic people.

The will of the people is carried out by the Hluttaw representatives voted to represent them in the legislative pillar and thus, it requires everyone's continued support to get the desired results.

The Constitution is the very life and soul of our nation and as such, it needs to be revised when necessary to be relevant to the needs of modern society. The completion of our democratic transition must necessarily involve the realization of a truly democratic Constitution.

Surbung Airport, the high altitude gateway to Chin State

By Thura Zaw

LOCATED in the northwest of Myanmar, the 13907-squaremile Chin State is decorated with rhododendrons, cherries and various species of orchids and bluish mountains and ranges, almost touching the grey and white clouds, floating high in sky.

Chin State is formed with Kanpetlet, Mindat, Paletwa, Matupi, Haka, Thantlang, Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang townships. Its capital city is Haka, and the second capital is Matupi. Kaladan and Laymyo are two famous rivers of the state.

Poor transport

Chin State, with its natural beauties and breathtaking mountainous terrain, can be visited only by motorcar through Kalay its main territorial entry point. Although transport is smooth and swift in the open season, downpours occasionally trigger landslides along the mountain road during the monsoons. As road transport is the only means of access to reach Chin State, it takes much time and efforts to travel between the state and other places of the Union.

A new airport

The building of Surbung Airport in Falam Township will complete soon. The airport will solve the transport difficulty of the mountainous state, apart from helping improve social health, administrative, economic, trade and tourism sectors and emergency relief measure.

A field study of the map of the airport project area, an old airport used during the World War II, regional situation and requirements have already been conducted. Moreover, an aerial survey of the perimeter in connection the limits in the aviation sector have also conducted with a Caravan Cess-



An aerial view Surbung Airport that is currently under construction in Falam, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

na, a light civilian aircraft. Experts also made technical calculations to ascertain the safety of the runway for takeoffs and landing and the Access & Circuit Pattern and ascending and descending air traffic. The project also covers the work of measuring the distance of the nearest airport, the degree of visibility and wind speed and direction and implementing urban, infrastructure and economic development programs for the increasing future population of the area. The Surbung Airport has been implemented on a 1289.5-acre land in Falam Township at a cost of K 32.36 billion and USD 1.19 million. As the project is almost completed, the airport will be put into service soon.

Contractors

The Department of Avia-

tion drew the geometric design of the airport, the runway and the apron, and the design of the terminal, the air traffic control tower and fire department building of the airport. The inspection and quality control department of the Ministry of Construction and the Department of Aviation have jointly taken the responsibility of the structural designing and standardization processes. It is planned to complete the first phase of the project in fiscal year 2020-2021. Surbung Airport project has been implemented under the directive of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the close supervision of the Department of Aviation. The work was led by the engineers of the airport standardization division, with the participation of airports administration division, air trans-

port division, flight control and inspection division and flight safety division. The project has a taskforce of 166 units of heavy equipment and a workforce of 300 personnel.

With might and main

A 6000-foot long and 100-foot wide tarred runway is being built to handle the takeoffs and touch-downs of ART-72 commercial planes. Moreover, there will be a tarred taxiway and a 250-foot by 250-foot apron. The project also involves the construction of the Slope Stability Gabion Retaining Wall through Compaction Method, the 156-foot by 84-foot terminal, the air control tower and other related works. The Chin State government is giving close supervision of the project.

Smooth transport

Up to now, Chin State has no airport. So, after the completion of the Surbung Airport project in Falam Township, it will become an entry and exit point of the state. Internal and international travelers can reach the state in a short time, and the locals will be able to travel to other places of the Union conveniently and swiftly.

Surbung Airport is situated in the middle of Chin State and towns such as Falam, Haka, Thantlang and Tiddim and can connect all airports in states and regions.

The first ever airport for Chin

State is a part of efforts by the Union Government for making the transportation smooth in the hills of Chin State which was not easily accessible by road.

Surbung Airport will become the air Gateway of Chin State and will enable visitors to reach Chin State in a short travel time.

The project was started in 2013 and construction began in 2015. Falam Airport is situated on Surbung mountain range 8.5 miles northwest of Falam Town and is at an altitude of 6,000 ft. above sea level. The airport runway is 6,000 ft long and 100 ft wide and is a Flexible Pavement type runway.

Thanks to the Surbung Airport in Falam Township, which is located in the centre of Chin State, travelers can easily travel to principle destinations of the state such as Falam, Haka, Thantlang and Tiddim towns and Loni Mountain and Reed Lake. Additionally, ethnic brethren of the state can be able to fly to many other airports of the country in a very short time.

The airport project is under implementation at present. But when completed it will be much helpful for the economic, health, administrative, social, trade and tourism sectors of the Chin State as well as the whole country. For example, patients suffering from diseases which cannot be cured in Chin State can be conveyed to the hospitals of other places where they can be treated. Moreover, air

transport will be a useful tool for all emergency cases including health, search and rescue and disaster relief and rehabilitation undertakings of the government and the public. In this way, lives can be saved and the public hardships can be lessened to a certain degree.

Benefits

The Surbung Airport will help uplift the socio-economic condition, and help connect locals with the rest of the country. If there is all-sector development in Chin State, it will be supportive to implementing the Union's goals -- equitable progress in the whole country and reduction of the gap in infrastructure between the plains and the mountains.

With the completion of the Surbung Airport, the transport access to the state would be improved and the state would see booming of its tourism sector.

At present, transport is more difficult in Chin state, when compared with its counterparts as it is a mountainous region. But, our brethren form other places of the Union can reach the state with a short when the airport is completed. Come and visit Chin State, and enjoy its natural beauties and hospitality of its people when the airport is completed.

Translation: TMT

Opening ceremony of Rakhine Investment Expo 2019 to be broadcast live on MRTV

AN opening ceremony of Rakhine Investment Expo 2019, which will be held at Jasmine Ngapali Resort in Thandwe, Rakhine State on 22 February, will be broadcast live on MRTV channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook starting from 8:45 am.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 20 February 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30

hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing Region. Weather has been partly cloudy in Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi regions, Eastern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperature in Yangon Region, (2°C) above February average temperatures in Mandalay Region and Kachin State and about February average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (5°C) in Hsipaw, (6°C) each in Namhsan and Heho, (7°C) in Nawngkhio and (8°C) each in Mongmit, Pinlaung, Haka and Mogok. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao and Machanbaw (0.08)inch each.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 21 February 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING

AREA FOR 21 February 2019: Generally fair weather.
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2019: Generally fair weather.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

Correction

PLEASE read "Mr. Tim Enderlin" in the news story "President accepts credentials from Switzerland Ambassador" on page-3 of February 20 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar and please read "Ms. Andrea Faulkner" in the news story "President accepts credentials from Australian Ambassador" on the same page of the issue.—GNLM

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Shan Yoma elephant camp plans more activities for visitors

THE Shan Yoma elephant camp located near the Nampantant Village in Kalaw Township is planning to add more activities for visitors, such as a hiking trip to a nearby waterfall and a motorcycle trip to a lake in the vicinity.

“Preparations are under way to offer elephant rides in the forest and other services to foreign and domestic visitors. Officials from the resort are planning more facilities and activities such as a hiking trip to the Buuchaungwaphyar waterfall, which is two miles away from the resort, elephant-ride tour, and a motorcycle trip to the waterfall and lake. The resort is also expanding accommodation facilities and plans to sell souvenirs,” said U Sai Than Naing, in-charge of the elephant resort.

“At present, visitors can ride elephants, watch and help them bathe, and observe the daily life of elephants and the mahouts



Visitors enjoy elephant ride at Shan Yoma elephant camp. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR - MEIKTILA**

and the village of the mahouts. They also get a chance to take photos and videos with the elephants, relax, and take a bath at the waterfall and lake,” said U Sai

Than Naing.

The Shan Yoma elephant resort was opened on 13 February last year. The resort has two twin elephants, aged a year and a half,

four female elephants and two male elephants, and it is making efforts to increase the number of elephants.—(Chan Thar- Meiktila) ■ (Translated by La Wonn)

Nyaung Chaungtha beach to be opened on 23 Feb

THE Nyaung Chaungtha beach, which emerged as a natural, sprawling beach with beautiful bathing place six years ago in Yankin San Yar Village, west of Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, will be officially opened for this year on 23 February.

“Nyaung Chaungtha is one of the famous beaches in Myanmar. We have made some safety arrangements for visitors so they can venture into the water and it is a place with a car access to the beach. We have also fixed the entrance fees, hotel rents, and rates for chairs and food. The beach will be officially opened for this year on 23 February,” said U Aung Myo Win, the chairman of the Nyaungdon Township Municipal Committee.

“The Nyaung Chaungtha Inland beach, which was first



Nyaung Chaungtha beach in Nyaungdon attracts visitors in summer. **PHOTO: TUN KYAW (NYAUNGDON)**

opened in 2013, is crowded with beach-goers annually during the high season for tourism. The number of visitors who came to the beach has increased year by year.

This year, visitors can venture into the water across the 500-foot-wide flat sandbank. The township supervision committee

is making arrangements to ensure the safety of visitors,” said U Aung Naing, the deputy township municipal head, who is in charge of the Nyaung Chaungtha beach supervision committee.

The committee has constructed buildings for 50 food shops to be opened around the beach. Visitors can breathe in the

fresh air, go into the water, and order fresh food at the beach.

Local and foreign visitors have been coming to Nyaung Chaungtha beach as it is not costly like Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches. Additionally, the beach can be reached in one hour by car from Yangon.—Tun Kyaw (Nyaungdon) ■

Low-cost housing: Japan ODA loan scheme for buyers

LOW-COST apartments can now be purchased by low-income people using with Japanese ODA loans, which have a lower rate of interest, according to the Construction, Housing, and Infrastructure Development Bank.

The interest rate charged under Japanese ODA loans is lower than that charged by the CHID bank. The Japanese ODA

loans are being offered at an interest of 8.5 per cent for a 15-year repayment period plan. The Japanese ODA loans are mainly targeted at local people so they can afford low-cost housing. All low-cost apartments from each township will be included in the program.

The Urban and Housing Development Department un-

der the Ministry of Construction will sell more than 1,500 low-cost apartments at Yuzana housing Part-1 and 2, and Kanaung housing from Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Shwelinban housing Part-2 and 3, and affordable housing units at the Htee Hlaing Shin housing project in Hlinethaya Township in the first phase of the Japanese ODA loan program.

Those who have an account with the CHID bank and meet the house savings amount criteria as of 31 January, 2019 can apply for the loan scheme to buy low-cost homes. The CHID bank will issue a list of people approved for the scheme on 11 February. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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.

Myanmar Investment Commission approves seven investment proposals which will create over 3,500 job opportunities

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (3 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in Yangon on 20 February 2019. U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC and 10 members attended the meeting.

The meeting approved seven projects in parent stock farming from the Netherlands, cultivation, production and sales of hybrid variety rice seeds by contract farming from China, manufacturing of knitted wear on CMP basis from Hong Kong, development and operation of industrial complex (phase-1) from

South Korea, generation of 90 mill electricity from gas engine, supply and sales of electricity from Hong Kong, wholesale and retail services from Thailand and retail and warehouse from Singapore.

The amount of USD 182.629 million have been approved for above projects which will be create 3,572 job opportunities for citizens.—MNA

The Myanmar Investment Commission meeting (3 / 2019) convened at the meeting room of MIC in Yangon on 20 February 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar Int'l Agrimach Expo 2019 to be held next month at Tatmadaw Hall

By Nyein Nyein

A three-day expo, Myanmar Int'l Agrimach Expo 2019, will take place from 1 to 3 March at Tatmadaw Hall and showcase agro equipment, latest innovations in technology, fertilizers and inputs, according to the Myanmar Paddy Producers Association, the expo organizer.

Exhibitors from Japan, Italy, Switzerland, India, China, South Korea, Thailand, and other countries will display items such as farm equipment, value-adding technology, other agro products and inputs at the expo, said U Sein Win Hlaing, the chair of the Myanmar Paddy Producers Association.

“The objective of the expo is

to commemorate the Peasants' Day, which falls on 2 March, and also, help build connections with international participants from India, China, Thailand, Italy, etc., hold demonstrations, business-to-business matching, and showcase latest technology and agro-based machinery. Hopefully, it will be a chance for local farmers to buy agro machinery under

a hire-purchase system,” said U Sein Win Hlaing. Additionally, educative talks, seminars, and performances, including a country song competition, will be held at the expo. Amateurs who wish to enter the contest for country song in folk music of Myanmar can submit their applications at the office of the Myanmar Paddy Producers Association, located

on level 5 at the UMFCCI Office Tower, No.29, on Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, Lanmadaw Township, by 22 February. They can make enquiries via mobile phone at 01-2314841, 09-8600219.

The expo is being held for the fifth time, and will feature 80 stalls from 40 local and foreign companies. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Maritime trade totals \$8.59 bln as of 8 February

MYANMAR'S trade value by sea from 1 October to 8 February in the current fiscal year (Oct 2018- Sep 2019) was estimated at US\$8.59 billion, which is up by over \$124.7 million compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year 2017-2018, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Over four-month period, import through sea routes outperformed export, with export worth \$3.15 billion and imports valued \$5.43 billion.

Export showed increase of \$417.9 million while import value declined by \$293 million compared with the trade values of last FY.

In the same period, the value of trade through border camps was over \$3.4 billion. External trade both through sea route and border gates amounted to over \$12 billion, which increased from \$11.8 billion of last FY.

The country exports agricultural products, fishery prod-

ucts, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods and other products while capital goods, personal goods and raw industrial materials are imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar currently has nine ports to facilitate sea trade. However, the Yangon Port is the main gateway for sea trade, which consists of the Yangon inner terminals and outer Thilawa Port.— Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

January average inflation rate highest in a year

THE average inflation rate in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, touched 6.94 per cent in January, the highest level since February 2018, according to the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The rate had plunged to a low of 4.03 per cent in March.

The annual average inflation rate in January indicates a small increase from 6.66 per cent recorded in December.

In January, the CPI showed an increase for non-food group, tobacco and beverages group, household goods and maintenance group, other commodities group, clothing, health, education services, transportation, recreation and culture, and housing groups. The Myanmar currency gained against the US dollar in January compared to December. Therefore, the price of imported fuel slipped. But, local gold, food, and commodity prices are on the rise, leading to the surge in consumer prices.

The year-on-year inflation rate in January 2018 touched a high of 6.14 per cent.

In January, Mandalay City recorded the highest inflation rate at 11.08 per cent, followed by Rakhine State at 10.48 per cent, and Magway Region at 10.09 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated, with a maximum rate of 10.23 per cent in Magway Region and a minimum rate of 1.56 per cent in Kachin State.

Earlier, the inflation rate was evaluated based on a 2006 survey but later, the base year was changed to 2012. The CSO conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. To reduce the inflation rate, the authorities concerned made efforts on the basis of policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development plan. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A container vessel is seen near Yangon Port which is the main gateway for sea trade. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Fashion diplomacy: S Korea officials don coats with message to Kim

SEOUL (South Korea) — Seoul security officials are wearing jackets embroidered with a secret well-wishing message for Kim Jong Un, deploying a code representing key moments in inter-Korean relations ahead of a summit between the North Korean and US leaders.

The dark blue coats — worn by about 10 officers in the Blue House's National Security Office — have the 12-digit sequence 615104427919 sewn onto the back.

The number 615 marks the 15 June North-South joint declaration in 2000, 104 is for the 4 October North-South joint declaration in 2007, 427 is for the historic Panmunjom Declaration on 27 April last year, and 919 stands for the September 19 Pyongyang Joint Declaration that also took place in 2018.

"We just hope to keep the positive spirit alive," one jacket-wearer told AFP.

"We have ordered and are wearing the jackets at work voluntarily. It was solely our idea to do this," he added.

A Blue House spokesman refused to say whether the jacket wearers had the upcoming summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim specifically in mind this week as they donned the coats, which they had made last year.

Kim is expected to visit Seoul not long after the summit.

Cross-border ties improved dramatically as the leaders of the two Koreas met three times last year — twice at the border

truce village of Panmunjom and once in the North's capital Pyongyang — and a reconciliatory push gathered pace.

The 26 May summit, the second inter-Korean talk held at Panmunjom last year, was not included on the coats as no declaration was released following the event, the Blue House jacket-wearer said.

"We wanted to have these numbers sewn on the back of our jackets so that we remember those key dates and wish our best for the next inter-Korean summit," he added.

He told how one of his colleagues came up with the idea, brought it up during a work meeting and others agreed.

During Moon's visit to Pyongyang last year, the North Korean leader promised to pay a return visit to the South's capital Seoul.

If he visits as expected this year, Kim will be the first North Korean leader to set foot in the capital since the nations split at the end of World War II.

Moon welcomed Kim's comments at the time, agreeing to meet with him "more frequently" in 2019.

Kim is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi on 27-28 February, following their first summit in Singapore last year.

Critics say Pyongyang has made no concrete commitments so far and is unlikely to surrender its nuclear weapons. —AFP ■



An F-2 fighter jet. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japanese fighter crashes in Sea of Japan, two crew rescued

TOKYO — A Japanese Air Self-Defence Force F-2 fighter jet crashed into the Sea of Japan off the western Japan coast during flight training on Wednesday morning, with both crew members rescued.

The plane based at the Tsuiki Air Base in the southwestern prefecture of Fukuoka disappeared from the radar around 9:20 am off the coast of Yamaguchi Prefecture, two minutes after a distress signal from the aircraft was received, the ASDF said. Its last

confirmed location was about 130 kilometres northeast of the base.

One of the crew was holding a smoke candle, while the other was waving his hand in the sea when they were found in a search operation by the ASDF around 10:10 am, the ASDF said, adding they sustained no significant injuries.

The plane left the base with two other fighters at 8:48 am for an air-to-air combat exercise, the ASDF said.

Defence Minister Takeshi

Iwaya apologized for "causing anxiety to local residents" near the base in comments at a Diet committee, saying the ministry will take preventive measures.

The ASDF set up an investigating committee to look into the cause of the mishap and began emergency safety check-ups on all fighter jets it operates.

The F-2 is derived from the US F-16 fighter jet and built by Lockheed Martin Corp and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd for the ASDF.—Kyodo News ■

Hundreds of students flee violence in Indonesia's Papua

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — Hundreds of students have fled fighting in Indonesia's restive Papua province, a local NGO said, amid unconfirmed reports of violent military reprisals after a massacre of civilian workers by separatist rebels.

The deaths of 16 government-linked employees at a remote jungle work camp in early December, marked a dramatic escalation from decades of mostly sporadic skirmishes between poorly armed and disorganised guerrillas and a powerful Indonesian military.

Subsequent clashes prompted the Nduga district government to evacuate more than 400 students to the neighbouring Jayawijaya district, according to Humanitarian Volunteers for Nduga and a local education agency official.

"Some of the students are suffering from trauma," said Ence Geong, a coordinator at the NGO, told AFP. "When the military came to the school in

uniforms, some of the students ran" in fear.

Scores of other residents are believed to have fled to neighbouring districts or into the jungle amid allegations soldiers carried out arson, harassment and the killing of livestock and civilians, residents and activists said.

Local resident Sripona Niri told AFP her elderly father Gemin — a priest — was shot dead in December during a sweep of the area by the military.

His burned corpse was found by one of her siblings some two weeks later, she added. Her account could not be independently verified. Papua military spokesman Colonel Muhammad Aidi rejected claims the military had fired on civilians, calling it a "hoax".

"If there are claims of civilian victims, they're definitely not ordinary civilians," Aidi told AFP. "They are part of the (separatists) that are attacking the military."

Aidi said the army had inves-

tigated the alleged killing of the priest and denied he was shot by soldiers, saying it was still unclear whether he was alive or dead. He added that two soldiers have been killed and several more were injured in clashes with rebels since the December massacre of workers who were building bridges and roads in Indonesia's most impoverished region.

The rebels claimed they were legitimate military targets.

Local commander Binsar Sianipar separately confirmed the students had been evacuated, but said it was due to a teacher shortage in the area not the military presence. Indonesian security forces have long been accused of rights abuses against Papua's ethnic Melanesian population including extrajudicial killings of activists and arrest of peaceful protestors. Papua, which shares a border with the island nation Papua New Guinea, just north of Australia, has been the site of low-level insurgency since the 1960s.—AFP ■



This picture taken on 18 February, 2019 shows 12 digits — 615104427919 — sewn onto the back of a jacket of one of South Korea's presidential house staff members, on the street outside the presidential Blue House in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

'Invasion' of polar bears in Russian Arctic over



Officials has declared a state of emergency a week ago. PHOTO: AFP

MOSCOW, (Russia) — An “invasion” of aggressive polar bears in inhabited areas of Arctic Russia has come to an end, officials said Tuesday, ten days after the animals came to the area looking for food.

Officials in the remote northeastern Novaya Zemlya archipelago declared a state of emergency last week after 52 bears were seen entering homes and public buildings.

Local authorities appealed for help from Moscow to tackle the “unprecedented” situation on the archipelago, where Russia has bases for military personnel.

“The mass invasion of

polar bears into inhabited areas has ended,” Novaya Zemlya authorities said in a statement, adding that emergency measures had been lifted.

The number of bear sightings has fallen sharply and are now close to “statistical average” for the time of year, they said.

“The threat has been minimised,” the head of the local government, Zhigansha Musin told TASS news agency.

Officials said 24-hour patrols were preventing bears from entering the main settlement of Belushya Guba in Novaya Zemlya, which has a population of around 3,000.

Polar bears are affected by global warming with melting Arctic ice forcing them to spend more time on land where they compete for food.

Polar bears are recognised as an endangered species in Russia and hunting them is banned.

Officials said that polar bears were attracted to an open-air rubbish tip in Belushya Guba where they foraged for food.

The authorities in the Arkhangelsk region, which includes Novaya Zemlya, said Tuesday that the rubbish tip would be closed next year and replaced by an incinerator.—AFP ■

Aussie rodent becomes first 'climate change extinction'

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia officially declared a Great Barrier Reef rodent extinct on Tuesday, making it the first mammal believed to have been killed off by human-induced climate change.

The rat-like Bramble Cay melomys — whose only known habitat was a small sandy island in far northern Australia — has not been spotted in a decade.

Researchers from Queensland determined a key factor in its disappearance was “almost certainly” repeated ocean inundation of the cay a low-lying island on a coral reef — over the last decade, which had resulted in dramatic habitat loss.

Australia’s environment ministry on Tuesday said it had officially trans-



The rat-like Bramble Cay melomys lived on a tiny island at the top of the Great Barrier Reef and had not been seen in a decade. PHOTO: AFP

ferred the animal to the “extinct” list.

The declaration was expected. The researchers completed a wide-ranging survey in 2014 in a bid to track down the species, but found no trace.

Available data on sea-level rise and weather events in the Torres Strait region “point to human-in-

duced climate change being the root cause of the loss of the Bramble Cay melomys”, a study released in 2016 said. The Melomys rubicola, considered the Great Barrier Reef’s only endemic mammal species, was first discovered on the cay in 1845 by Europeans who shot the “large rats” for sport.—AFP ■

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(8/2019)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-180(18-19)	Spares for Clean Energy Mother & Daughter Compressor (10) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-181(18-19)	Spark Plug & Electronic Card (2) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-182(18-19)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1000) Drums	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 21 February 2019. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 21 March 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **21-3-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (626 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (626 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UM ELHANAYA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UM ELHANAYA VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIP SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HAI PHUONG 45

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAI PHUONG 45 VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Gory spirit festival lights up Cambodian capital



Mediums participate in the Hei Neak Ta or Spirit Parade in Phnom Penh on 19 February, 2019. The parade marks the end of Lunar New Year celebrations. **PHOTO: AFP**

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia)—Spirit mediums in headdresses and lurid make-up, their cheeks pierced by needles and tongues cut by knives, led a striking procession on Tuesday through the Cambodian capital to mark the end of Chinese New year.

Hundreds of people poured through an alley for the colourful annual festival, known as the Hei Neak Ta, or the spirit parade. The procession mixes Chinese ritual and local folk traditions in a country where beliefs in the spirit world run deep. Believers invite spirit-possessed mediums into their shops and homes to bless them with good luck or to banish illness or bad fortune. The mediums forced needles and spears through their cheeks and cut their tongues, using their blood to write mystical diagrams known as yantras on paper slips before distributing them to the crowd.

“It is a ceremony to invite spirits to bless people so they could make more money from their business, have prosperity and live with happiness,” medium Pov Pheakna told AFP, taking a break from the raucous proceedings.

“This is a superstition. Some people believe in it, some people don’t... I believe in this ceremony.”

As did many of the festival-goers crammed into the tight alley.

“I believe this ceremony will bring good luck to my family and business. We do it every year, 15 days after Chinese new year,” Y Ghek, 51, said.—AFP ■

Japanese talent agency giant creates its first virtual idols

TOKYO—Major Japanese entertainment agency Johnny & Associates Inc announced on Tuesday that it is creating its first virtual idols in collaboration with video streaming service

Showroom.

The virtual idols—all-singing, all-dancing digital performers—will be able to interact with fans during videos that will be streamed live every day at 9:30

pm starting from 19 February.

Joichiro Fujiwara and Kazuya Ohashi, members of the Kansai Johnny’s Jr sub-unit Naniwa Danshi, will be the respective voices of virtual idols

Asuka Kaido and Kanata Ichigoya. Yuji Maeda, the president of general producer Showroom, said, “We want to introduce the characters to the world, not just Japan.—Kyodo News ■



Paris Hilton. **PHOTO: PTI**

Pink to star at British pop music’s big night

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Dua Lipa, The 1975 and George Ezra are some of the big names vying for prizes at British pop music’s annual celebration on Wednesday, with US singer Pink also set to be honoured. The 39th annual Brit Awards at London’s O2 Arena will recognise Britain’s top talent of 2018, and also feature live performances from Hollywood A-lister Hugh Jackman and Pink.

The coveted Best Album of the Year Award will be fought out between pop rockers The 1975, rising star Anne-Marie, Florence + The Machine, indie singer George Ezra and Grammy-nominated diva Jorja Smith. Electro-stars Clean Bandit are up for two awards for their collaboration with US actress/singer Demi Lovato while Dua Lipa, the 23-year-old star of last year’s show, is up for four prizes and will perform with hit producer Calvin Harris during the glitzy ceremony.

Anne-Marie, who shot to fame as the vocalist on Clean Bandit’s worldwide hit “Rockabye”, is nominated for four awards, including for the Britney Spears inspired video to “2002”,



Singer Dua Lipa poses with her awards for Best New Artist and Best Dance Recording “Electricity” in the press room during the 61st Annual Grammy Awards on 10 February, 2019, in Los Angeles. **PHOTO: AFP**

her fourth top 10 UK single.

Baritone singer George Ezra will also perform live, and could walk away with three awards, including Best British Male Solo Artist. He is up against garage pioneer Craig David, veteran avant-garde techno producer

Aphex Twin and soul singer Sam Smith. The British Group award pits indie heavyweights Gorillaz and Arctic Monkeys against each other, with the latter’s May album “Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino” earning plaudits for its experimental direction.

Three categories recognise foreign artists, with hip-hop giants Eminem, Drake and The Carters all up for awards, along with Ariana Grande and French star Christine and the Queens.

The Brit Awards have recognised the cream of British pop music since they were first held in 1977, and have often been peppered with scandal and farce.

The 1989 Brits are best remembered for the shambolic presenting skills of model Samantha Fox and Fleetwood Mac’s Mick Fleetwood and a comical series of mishaps.

Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker stormed the stage in protest while Michael Jackson performed surrounded by children in 1996.

In 1998, Chumbawamba vocalist Danbert Nobacon dumped a bucket of iced water over then deputy prime minister John Prescott. And Madonna suffered whiplash injuries at the 2015 edition when she fell off the stage wearing a giant cape and surrounded by dancers wearing bondage-style costumes and horns on their heads. The awards have also been criticised for failing to be bold in their choice of performers in recent years.—AFP ■

Paris Hilton to release new music

LOS ANGELES—Socialite and reality TV star Paris Hilton has revealed that she is working on new music and it will be out soon.

The track will mark her first in 12 years. In 2006 the hotel heiress released her debut album “Paris”. The album peaked at Number 6 on the Billboard 200, and the debut single, “Stars are Blind,” reached 18 on the Hot 100. “Back in the studio. New music coming soon” Hilton posted on Twitter.

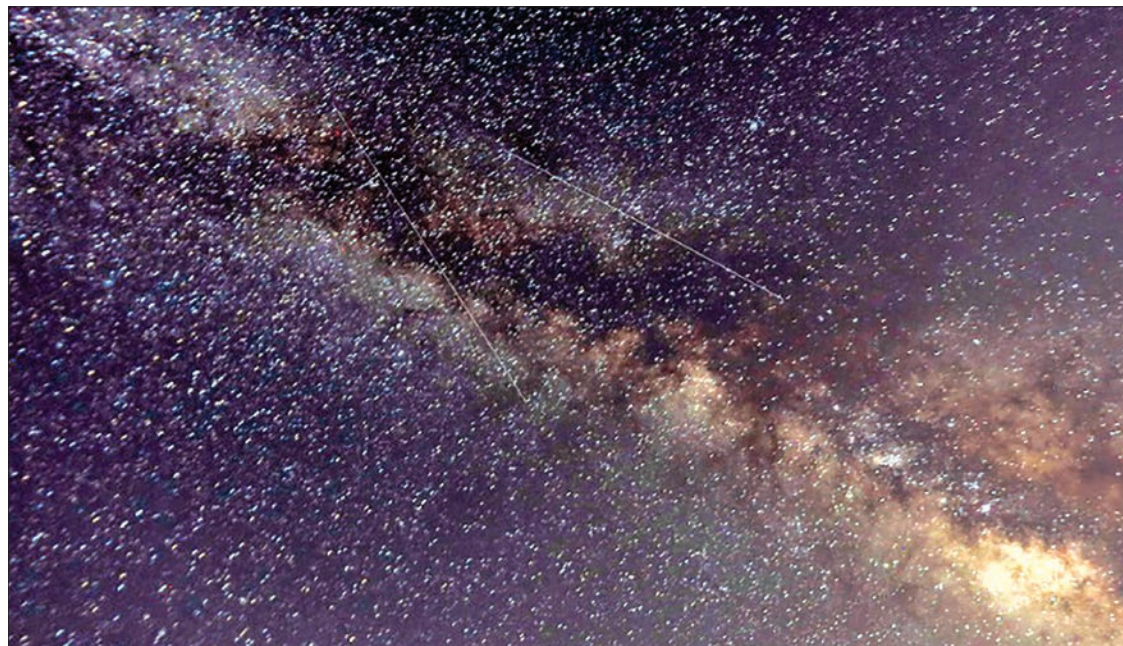
In 2008, Hilton announced that she had finished a second album, but it was never released.—PTI ■

New Universe map unearths 300,000 more galaxies

PARIS (France)—A new map of the night sky published on Tuesday charts hundreds of thousands of previously unknown galaxies discovered using a telescope that can detect light sources optical instruments cannot see.

The international team behind the unprecedented space survey said their discovery literally shed new light on some of the Universe's deepest secrets, including the physics of black holes and how clusters of galaxies evolve. "This is a new window on the universe," Cyril Tasse, an astronomer at the Paris Observatory who was involved in the project, told AFP. "When we saw the first images we were like: 'What is this?!' It didn't look anything at all like what we are used to seeing." More than 200 astronomers from 18 countries were involved in the study, which used radio astronomy to look at a segment of sky over the northern hemisphere, and found 300,000 previously unseen light sources thought to be distant galaxies.

Radio astronomy allows scientists to detect radiation produced when massive celestial ob-



The study used radio astronomy to look at a segment of sky and found 300,000 previously unseen light sources thought to be distant galaxies. PHOTO: AFP

jects interact. The team used the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope in the Netherlands to pick up traces—or "jets"—of ancient radiation produced when galaxies merge. These jets, previously undetected, can extend over millions of light years. "With radio observations we can detect radiation from the tenuous medium that exists between galaxies," said Amanda Wilber, of the

University of Hamburg. "LOFAR allows us to detect many more of these sources and understand what is powering them." The discovery of the new light sources may also help scientists better understand the behaviour of one of space's most enigmatic phenomena. Black holes—which have a gravitational pull so strong that no matter can escape them—emit radiation when they engulf other

high-mass objects such as stars and gas clouds. Tasse said the new observation technique would allow astronomers to compare black holes over time to see how they form and develop.

"If you look at an active black hole, the jets (of radiation) disappear after millions of years, and you won't see them at a higher frequency (of light)," he said. "But at a lower frequency they contin-

ue to emit these jets for hundreds of millions of years, so we can see far older electrons."

'Universe's oldest objects'

The Hubble telescope has produced images that lead scientists to believe there are more than 100 billion galaxies in the Universe, although many are too old and distant to be observed using traditional detection techniques. The map created by the LOFAR observations, part of which was published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, contains data equivalent to ten million DVDs yet charts just two percent of the sky. The LOFAR telescope is made up of a Europe-wide network of radio antenna across seven countries, forming the equivalent of a 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) diameter satellite dish. The team plans to create high-resolution images of the entire northern sky, which they say will reveal as many as 15 million as-yet undetected radio sources. "The oldest objects in the Universe are around 11-12 billion light years old," said Tasse. "So we are going to see lots more of these objects."—AFP ■

Fountain of youth? Study finds new anti-ageing compound in plant



The Ashitaba plant appears to induce a key process that helps remove 'cellular garbage' that can build up as cells age. PHOTO: AFP

TOKYO (Japan)—In Japan, the slightly bitter leaves of the Ashitaba plant have long been considered healthy, and a new study has found the traditional belief may have good scientific grounds.

A natural substance in the plant appears to induce a key process that helps remove the "cellular garbage" that can build up as cells age and cause a range of diseases and disorders.

"It is always nice to find a scientific rationale for traditional medical folk tales," said Frank

Madeo, a professor at the University of Graz's Institute of Molecular Biosciences, in Austria.

Madeo, who helped lead the research, said the substance known as 4,4'-dimethoxychalcone or DMC, which occurs naturally in Ashitaba plants, induces a process called autophagy.

"This is a cleansing and recycling process," he told AFP. It removes "superfluous material, especially cellular garbage like aggregated proteins."

That "cleaning" process is

key to sustained good health as the body ages. When cells fail to promptly and efficiently remove damaged parts, they can build up and that can lead to diseases including cancer.

There are already a handful of compounds known to scientists that work to stimulate the cleaning process. Fasting also appears to naturally encourage cells to undertake spring cleaning.

But in a bid to expand the field of compounds able to protect cells and turn back the hands of time, the team of researchers turned to a class of substances called flavonoids.

Many flavonoids have already been shown to have a range of beneficial effects, ranging from anti-inflammatory properties to protecting against brain degeneration and cancer. The team reasoned that they might find flavonoids that could also help prevent destructive ageing in cells.

They screened 180 compounds representing various subcategories of flavonoids, looking for candidates that might have the natural ability to "counteract age-related cell demise."—AFP ■

Healthy lifestyles reduce cancer risk among Chinese adults: research

BEIJING—Maintaining healthy lifestyles can significantly reduce the risk of cancer, with each additional healthy lifestyle reducing the risk by 6 per cent, according to recent research based on the data of over 100,000 Chinese adults.

Many studies conducted in Western populations have shown that adopting a favourable lifestyle pattern was associated with lower risks of cancer. However, evidence regarding this relationship in the Chinese population remains limited. Researchers from the Fuwai Hospital under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences evaluated the association between clustering of healthy lifestyle factors and cancer risk based on data collected from more than 100,000 Chinese adults.

By referring to the international report *Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer: A Global Perspective* and the Dietary guidelines for Chinese residents, researchers listed six healthy lifestyle factors including not smoking, maintaining a

healthy weight, adequate physical activity, restricting alcohol consumption, adequate vegetable and fruit consumption and limited red meat consumption.

Results showed that 83.4 per cent of the participants had three to five healthy lifestyle factors, whereas only 9.1 per cent had all six healthy lifestyle factors. About 7.5 per cent had no more than three healthy lifestyle factors. Participants with six healthy lifestyle factors had a 17 per cent lower risk of cancer compared with those with no more than three healthy lifestyle factors. The incidence of overall cancer decreased along with an increasing number of healthy lifestyle factors. Each additional healthy lifestyle factor was associated with a 6 per cent lower risk of cancer.

Healthy lifestyles are most relevant to reducing the risk of lung cancer and colorectal cancer. Approximately 47.4 per cent of liver cancer cases and 31.9 per cent of colorectal cancer cases were attributed to unhealthy lifestyle factors.—Xinhua ■

AFF U-22 Championship: Myanmar fall to Cambodia in surprise loss

MYANMAR lost 0-2 to host Cambodia in a surprise defeat in the second group match of the AFF U-22 Championship 2019 at the National Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, yesterday night.

Myanmar lined up with keeper and captain Phone Thitsar Min, Hein Phyo Win, Win Moe Kyaw, Ye Yint Aung, Soe Moe Kyaw, Nan Htike Zaw, Lwin Moe Aung, Zeyar Naing, Myat Kaung Khant, Hein Htet Aung, and Win Naing Tun.

Myanmar forced the play from the kick-off and dominated in the early minutes, but Cambodia put up too strong defence to clear the ball. Unluckily for Myanmar, Cambodia got a super chance at 27 minute and Cambodian player Yue Safy made an opening goal.

After losing a goal, Myanmar fought hard to score an equalizer, but they made more mistakes in the last minutes of the first half.



Myanmar keeper Phone Thit Sar Min grabs the ball as Cambodian strikers try to score during yesterday's AFF U-22 Championship group match at the National Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO: MFF**

The second half saw better play by Myanmar, but Cambodia stayed strong in their defence and middle field.

Due to poor coordination among team Myanmar, it was

Cambodia that made the second goal, and Myanmar did not get enough time to even the score in the later minutes of the match.

After the match, Myanmar's assistant coach Soe Myat Min

said: "I want to congratulate the Cambodian team for their effort. But some decisions made by the referees were not clear to me. It was a hard match for both teams, too. And, we will focus on

the match against Malaysia for the best result."

Myanmar will next play a decisive group match against Malaysia on 22 February.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Summer football courses to be conducted for kids

WITH the aim of teaching basic football to children, a summer youth football course will be launched in three cities — Yangon, Mandalay, and Patheingyi — from 11 March till 10 April, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The football course will be

conducted at the football academies of the MFF in Yangon, Mandalay, and Patheingyi.

The course will be open to both girls and boys between the ages of 9 and 14.

The month-long course will be held in the three cities on Mondays, Wednesdays, and

Fridays, and will be supervised by AFC licensed trainers and former Myanmar national team footballers, said MFF officials.

The course fee for one child will be K30,000, and each child attending the course will receive a jersey, said a source with the federation.

Forms for the course in Yangon will be available at the Myanmar Football Academy (Yangon), M3 artificial football turf in Bahan Township, Padonmar Stadium, and Salin Stadium.

Forms will also be available at the Myanmar Football Acade-

my in Mandalay and in Patheingyi, said the source.

Those interested in attending the course have to submit their application by 5 March. They may call 09-697262998 for further information, according to the federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Neymar 'cried for two days' after new foot injury

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil)—Neymar "cried for two days" after injuring his right foot for a second time in January, he told Brazilian television according to an excerpt of an interview broadcast on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Paris Saint-Germain star recognized that damaging the same metatarsal he hurt in February 2018, necessitating an operation, was serious. "It's more complicated. The first time I hurt myself I said, 'I'll have an operation, it has to be fixed as quickly as possible'. I wasn't sad," he told Globo TV. "This time, I took it harder. I cried for two days at home."

The injury sustained in a

French Cup win over Strasbourg on 23 January has sidelined the Brazilian forward for 10 weeks. PSG hope he will be healed enough to get back on the pitch in time for a potential Champions League quarter-final in April.

This time, the club's medical staff have decided on conservative treatment of the fracture rather than another operation.

Last year, Neymar was laid up for three months after surgery, returning just in time to play in the World Cup in less than stellar form. His full interview with Globo TV is to be broadcast on 3 March.—AFP ■

Clay king Nadal opens tennis academy in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Mexico)—Tennis superstar Rafael Nadal has opened a new academy in Mexico at the Caribbean seaside resort of Cancun.

The Costa Mujeres center is an extension of Nadal's original academy based on his native Mallorca.

"We've been coming here for many years and we know the area," said the 11-time French Open champion at a press conference in Cancun on Monday.

The tennis centre includes eight floodlit clay courts, a paddle court, gymnasium and a sports clothing and equipment store. Although the centre will initially cater to tourists and locals, Nadal said "one of the medium- and long-

term aims is to contribute to the development of tennis in Mexico".

Mexico's most successful ever player was Rafael Osuna, a former world number one who claimed the US Open title in 1963. He also won three Grand Slam doubles titles and the Olympic doubles gold medal in 1968 when tennis was a demonstration event. He helped Mexico to the 1962 Davis Cup final, their only ever appearance in the team competition championship decider. World number two Nadal is due to play in the Acapulco Open next week, an event he has won twice before although he had to pull out before his first match last year due to injury.—AFP ■



Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal is pictured during the inauguration of the "Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre" at the Palladium Hotel in the Mexican seaside resort of Cancun on 18 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**