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 internal 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 respresentatives 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

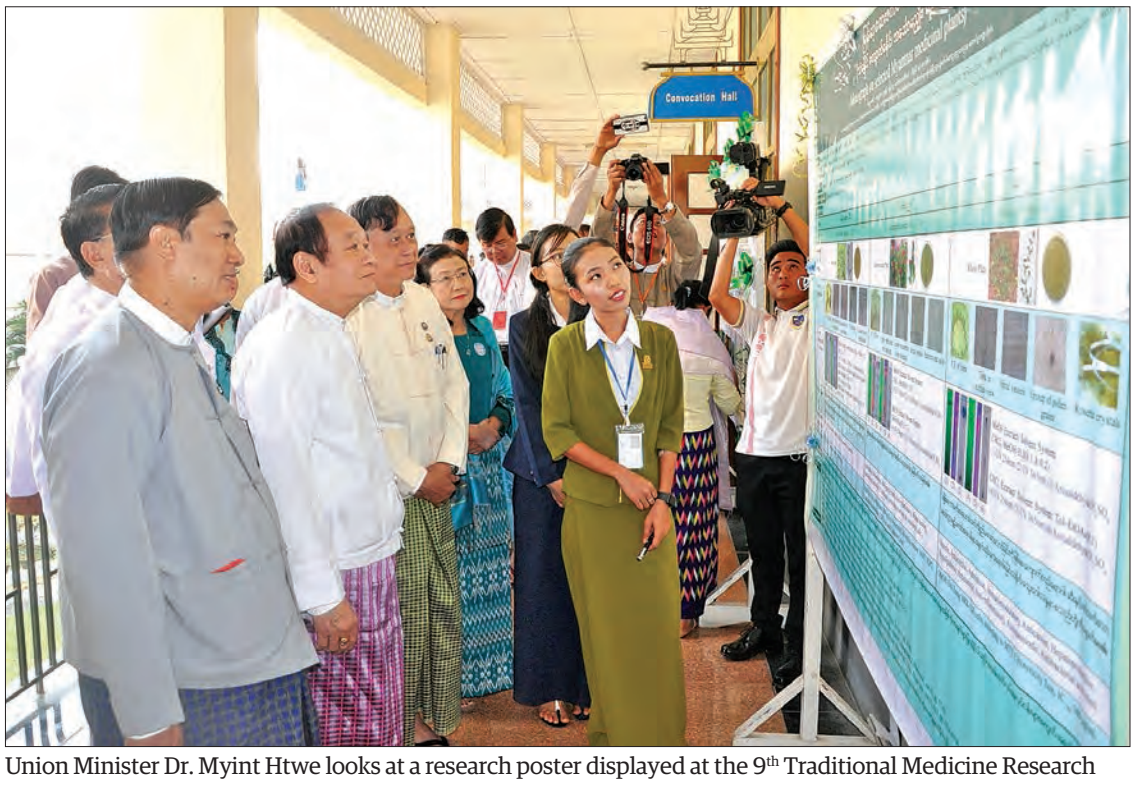
THE 9th Traditional Medicine Research Congress opened in Mandalay yesterday with an opening address by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

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 treatment 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 hold seminars on the traditional medicine.



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

The congress will present 39 research papers and 11 research posters.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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)

