Saw Ba Oo fights against Thway Thit Win Hlaing during 60-kilo Lethwei event in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: AYE MIN THU**

Maungtaw hosts first Lethwei event

THE first traditional lethwei challenge in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, was held yesterday with men's and women's matches in a variety of weight classes.

In the 60-kilo division, in which the matches last five rounds and can be won only by knockout, Ko Ko Aung (Shwe Aung Myay) faced off against Suu Mike (Shwe Mea Myay), while Saw Ba Oo (Taung Kalay) clashed with Thway Thit Win Hlaing (Adventure). Both fights ended in a draw amid enthusiastic support from the audience.

In the 62-kilo division, in which matches lasted four rounds and could be won only by knockout, Tun Tun (Shwe Aung Myay) faced Than Zaw Htay (Maungtaw), where Than Zaw Htay incapacitated Tun Tun in the first round. The second bout had Kyaw Kyar (Taung Kalay) facing Saw Zarni (Adventure). The fight ended in a draw.

In the women's division, in which the bouts lasted three rounds and could be won only by knockout, Linn Yon May (Shwe Linn Yon) and Nan Cho Cho Win Maung (Kayah) squared off. After a barrage of punches and kicks from Linn Yon May, her opponent was defeated in the first round.

The rest of the lethwei event saw many spirited combatants dueling in knockout-only fights where some ended in draws while some were swiftly defeated.

The Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Challenge was held in collaboration with the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and the National Development Company to honour the 73rd anniversary of Armed Forces Day. — Kyaw Thu Win ■

Former Brazilian footballer Edmílson teaches basics in Yangon

EDMÍLSON, a former footballer of the Brazilian national team and a member of the 2002 World Cup winning squad, will hold a CBF camp to teach football basics to youngsters in Yangon on 28 and 29 March.

Some 160 youth footballers are attending the two-day short course, including 120 participants aged between 12 and 13 years from the National Football Academy (Yangon), and 40 external participants. A handpicked team from the CBF camp and the MFF U-13 team will hold a friendly match at 4.30 pm on 29 March.

In a press conference at Novotel Hotel on 27 March, Edmílson told reporters that he initiated the CBF camp to realise the dreams of aspiring young footballers. "I faced a lot of difficulties in my youth too, so now, I have established four centres in four countries to help aspiring young players," Edmílson told the media. "You have to work really hard to become a great player. Even though I only have two days, I will give young Myanmar players the inspiration and discipline they need to become successful footballers one day," he added.

Hirayama, representative director of the Asian Young Football Development Association, delivered the opening speech at the press conference, followed by Edmílson and former Kawasaki Fron Turn player Tadashi Hayashi explaining the CBF camp to the media. Next, U Ko Ko Thein, general manager of Myanmar Football Federation, delivered a speech, and then he, Edmílson and Hayashi answered questions posed by reporters. Finally, Hiroyuki Naka, managing director of Genyu-Ko, delivered the closing speech.

Edmílson played as defensive midfielder or a central defender for Brazil from 2000 to 2007 and was part of the Brazil team that won the 2002 World Cup. He has also played for prominent teams such as Barcelona, Lyon, São Paulo, and Villarreal.—Shine Htet Zaw ■

Former Brazilian star player Edmílson, centre, and the team of coaches. **PHOTO : SOE NYUNT**

Facial recognition tech to make Olympic debut at 2020 Tokyo Games

Facial recognition machines at Narita airport. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO—The 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics are set to be the first games in history to use facial recognition technology, according to the organizing committee's security plan guidelines revealed to Kyodo News.

After submitting photographs to a database, athletes and games staff will be issued identification cards containing IC chips which will allow facial recognition technology to automatically verify the identity of those entering the venues.

In addition to increasing security and preventing terrorism, the plan is also expected to facilitate movement of the anticipated 300,000-400,000 personnel.

The advanced technological measures aim to prevent entry using borrowed, stolen or counterfeit ID cards, while the reduced waiting time is expected to lower athlete stress and avoid possible heatstroke or heat exhaustion during the humid summer months. Facial recognition will not be used for spectators, but X-ray and metal detectors will be employed to check for weapons and hazardous materials.

Each venue will also be surrounded by a fence 2.5-3 metres high, and infrared sensors and surveillance cameras will monitor for suspicious activity 24 hours a day. New high-performance cameras are also being considered.

Other measures include using machines to determine if tickets are valid for the day of entry or forged, as well as strict inspection of vehicles entering the venues. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics are scheduled to be held between 24 July and 9 August, followed by the Paralympics from 25 August to 6 September.—Kyodo News ■