

NATIONAL

Gov't delegation meets leaders of Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4 separately
PAGE-2



NATIONAL

Department of Rural Development conduct basic sewing course in Buthidaung
PAGE-9

NATIONAL

97th National Day 2017 event
PAGE-6

ARTICLE

Friendship between brethren living over one thousand miles far away
PAGE-8

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Tuesday, 14 November 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (2nd Left) and other ASEAN leaders join hands during a family photo at the opening ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State Counsellor attends ASEAN summit in Manila

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the 31st The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit began in Manila on Monday, with the attendance of heads of the states of the member countries and the

partner nations.

Today's meetings following the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Summit, are ASEAN Plenary Session, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, ASEAN-US 40th Anniversary

Commemorative Summit, 5th ASEAN-US Summit, 20th ASEAN-China Summit, 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit and 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit. At the opening ceremony in Manila, Philippine President

Rodrigo Duterte, said that the two days of meetings presented an excellent opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion on matters of regional and international importance.

SEE PAGE-3

Camps, new houses to complete in one month

CONSTRUCTION of repatriation camps and houses for local people affected by late August terrorist attacks is targeted to complete within a month.

Work on construction of the infrastructures which includes buildings, roads and water and electricity supply launched on 8th November as the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine has stepped up its efforts, according to UEHRD.

Ko Zaw Min Thein, Secretary-General of Construction and Building Infrastructures Group, said "Our team is primarily related to infrastructures but it includes roads, water resources, electricity, bridges and other kinds. We came here to perform all-inclusive tasks. For the time being, rehabilitation and resettlement for the nationals and those who are currently in the rescue camps was being implemented as a priority. Simultaneously, camps to accept returnees will be implemented. Now, Oh-Htein Hindu village with 72 houses started to have been built since 8th November. Similarly, 7 surrounding villages of 173 houses and repatriation camps will be complete in days and in a month respectively."

SEE PAGE-2



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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The delegation led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with leaders of ethnic nationals led by chairman U Sai Lin in Mongla Special Region-4. **PHOTO: MNA**



The delegation led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with leaders of ethnic nationals led by Wa Special Region-2. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Gov't delegation meets leaders of Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4 separately

A delegation led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung held talks with leaders of Wa Special Region-2 in Panghsan in the region on 11 November, according to Myanmar News Agency released yesterday.

The delegation comprised of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Triangle Region Command commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye, Peace Commission's Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, Secre-

tary U Khin Zaw Oo, member U Aung Soe, representatives from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports departed from Yangon arrived Lashio on 10 November by air.

The Union Minister and party left Lashio by car on the morning of 11 November for Panghsan where they were welcomed by leaders of ethnic nationals led by Wa Special Region-2 chairman U Bao Youxiang.

Next, the Union Minister and party met with leaders of ethnic nationals led by Wa Spe-

cial Region-2 vice chairman U Xiao Minliang and cordially discussed matters relating to regional development and peace after which the Union Minister and party presented gifts to Wa Special Region-2 vice chairman U Xiao Minliang.

On 12 November, the Union Minister and party paid homage to Panthu Theingi Pagoda in Panghsan and then donated offerings to sayadaws of monasteries in Panghsan at Mahawun monastery.

They then met and encouraged departmental officials assigned to Panghsan.

Afterwards, they left Pang-

hsan by cars and viewed the regional development status along the Panghsan-Mong Pauk-Mong Yang-Silu-Mongla. In the afternoon the Union Minister and party arrived Mongla and met with leaders of ethnic nationals led by chairman U Sai Lin in Mongla Special Region-4 meeting hall and cordially discussed matters relating to regional stability, development and peace.

Afterwards, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung and party presented Ks 70 million to Mongla Special Region-4 chairman U Sai Lin, a donation to renovate and repair Dwe Nagara Pogo-

da and a monastery building in Mongla Special Region-4. Next, the Union Minister and party presented gifts to ethnic national leaders.

On 13 November, the Union Minister and party paid homage to Dwe Nagara Pagoda and then donated offerings to sayadaws of monasteries in Mongla.

During the trip, while in Lashio, the Union Minister visited and provided the necessary to Training School for Ethnic Youths from Border Areas and Shan State north office of border area and national races development department. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Public responsibility in fighting human trafficking discussed

HUMAN trafficking police force has called for public participation in fighting the human trafficking in Myanmar as the government is working together with international organizations to reduce and eliminate the crime.

“Prevention takes the most important role in reducing the human trafficking in our country. We are fighting the human trafficking as a national duty.

Moreover, we are cooperating with the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations.”, said Police Major Zaw Min Than.

He said the remark at the workshop on the role of social responsibility by the private sector for fighting the trafficking in persons held in

Yangon yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar police force is conducting educative talks on trafficking persons as part of efforts raising public awareness against the crime at border towns, according to Myanmar Police Force. Human trafficking problems are mainly caused by insufficient job opportunities, salaries and public migration due to natural disaster.

“A person who was trafficked by someone will suffer fear in such a bad condition and even when she was released from trafficking luckily, she might not have her ordinary mentality.

Thus, public talks are launched with respective ethnic languages to acknowledge

the public in border regions of our nation for combating the human trafficking”, said Police Major Zaw Min Than.

There are 53 cases of human trafficking occurred in Yangon Region from January to November, 2017 while 31 cases out of 53 could be charged in a court of law according to No.(6) Anti-human Trafficking Police Force. Human trafficking to China is mostly found, it is learnt.

In an attempt to combat human trafficking in Myanmar, Yangon Region's Anti-human Trafficking Police Force are launching anti-trafficking program including holding public talks about anti-human trafficking and delivering pamphlets.

— Ko Moe ■

Repatriation camps, houses for ethnic people to complete in a month

FROM PAGE-1

Basic infrastructures construction team out of nine teams from private sector commenced to implement construction of camps for accepting returnees, renovation of lodging places for staff and building new houses for local nationals to be accommodated on 8th November. Generally, it will take one or one and half month to finish, but a labour force of 50 employees will make concerted effort to complete in period of days. The major challenge of labor shortage is being solved with laborers brought from the mainland, it was learnt.

Ko Zaw Min Thein added, “I think it will take one or one and half month to build a new village because of planning plots, building roads and 40-60 ft RC houses, as built by the department of border area and national ethnics development.

The present challenge is labor problem. For now, the region is in the state of peace and stability. Our team includes 18 in all, consisting of managers and engineers, as a pilot team. Further, we planned to fulfill the need of laborers. If possible, we would like local people to take part in the construction. We will pay enough wages as an opportunity of creating job.”

Construction and building infrastructures which commenced to implement the tasks of resettlements in Maungta region is one of the nine teams from private sector under UEHRD.

It is learnt that the team include MCEA, Engineering Association, Architect Association, Timber Entrepreneurs Association, Water Transport Association led by Myanmar Licensed Contractor Association.—News Team ■



From left to right: Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak, Myanmar's State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha, Viet Nam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, Indonesia's President Joko Widodo and Laos' Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith pose for a family photo during the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in metro Manila, Philippines, on 13 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

State Counsellor attends ASEAN summit in Manila

FROM PAGE-1

"Terrorism and violent extremism endanger the peace, stability and security of our region because these threats know no boundaries," Duterte said, who last month declared victory over Islamic State-inspired militants in the southern Philippine city of Marawi.

He identified terrorism and violent extremism as threats that "know no boundaries" and piracy and armed robbery in the region's seas as damaging to economic growth.

At the start of the ASEAN-only meeting, Duterte said

issues he expects participants to discuss include threats posed by "non-traditional security issues" to the peace and stability and prosperity of the region.

Following the ASEAN Plenary Session, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Prime Minister of Thailand Prayut Chan-o-cha at the Philippines International Convention Centre-PICC over bilateral cooperation.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the ASEAN Business Advisory Council meeting.

Following the ASEAN BAC

meeting, she participated in the ASEAN-US 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit, 5th ASEAN-US Summit, 20th ASEAN-China Summit, 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit and 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit.

The ASEAN Summit is the most important event of the bloc this year with the participation of leaders from 10 member countries and ASEAN partners.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.— GNLM ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (L) shakes hands with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (C) before the opening ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, on 13 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



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Efforts aim to turn out 5,000 skilled employees

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is planning to turn out around 5,000 skilled workers through trainings that will enhance their technical capability required to work, according to the Myanmar Daily.

U Aung Htay, deputy director-general of the ministry, said that arrangements are being made to provide trainings to the target population from skills development training divisions opened in Yankin and Dagon Myothit (North) townships in Yangon, Patheingyi Township in Ayeyawady Region and Setse Township in Mon State.

The skills development training divisions is scheduled to be opened in Hpa-an, a town of Kayin State, with an intention of promoting capability of employees to meet the international standards.

The ministry has a plan to



A construction labour works at the site in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

open skills development training schools and centers on a yearly basis. No degree is required to apply for skills development courses. Every sector needs

skilled workers who are able to add value.

Myanmar enacted the Employment and Skill Development Law in August 2013. The country

is putting continuous efforts to give trainings to meet the technical skill norm for the employment seekers and employees.—GNLM

Customs seizures at Myanmar ports of entry worth Ks4.8 billion in October

UNAUTHORIZED goods worth more than Ks4.8 billion were seized by Myanmar customs last month, according to the official figures released by the Customs Department.

In October, the customs department confiscated a wide

range of illegal goods with an estimated value of Ks4.817 billion at all customs checkpoints including Yangon International Airport, Yangon port and jetties, Yebu and Mayangyaung checkpoints and other significant points in regions and states,

recording more than 456 cases. Seized illicit goods included protected timber, alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, unregistered motor cars and other restricted commodities. The Customs Department has insufficient strength of staff to prevent the il-

legal trade throughout the country. At the present time, there are about 1,700 staffs with nearly 600 of them assigned in border areas, ports, coastal areas and inland customs check points in cooperation with the other departments.—Shwe Khine

Innovation Centre to be constructed near Yangon Nan Thida Jetty

AN Innovation Centre will be constructed near Yangon Nan Thida jetty in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region next year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"To be able to set up the project, Yangon Region government will provide the capital of US\$300,000," said Daw Pan Thinzar Myo, Yangon Regional Government Minister of Kayin

Ethnic Affairs.

"We are making arrangements to conduct a competition at the innovation center. We are also planning to invite technical experts at the competition with their own titles. Then, we will select the best professionals and let them to create their own ideas into realities," she added.

"The young people can have a discussion or meeting at

the innovation center. Moreover, if the young people want to work their own businesses with own creation, they have to submit a project proposal to the international technology companies which will provide monetary and technical assistance," said Daw Pan Thinzar Myo.

"The innovation center will be established with an aim to create job opportunities as well

as to produce entrepreneurs. Therefore, we would like to invite all the people who are interested in creation.

Currently, we have already connected with a foreign technical company to provide the workshop and training at the innovation center", she said.

The innovation centre will be completed within six months, officials said.—GNLM

Police investigate suicide case of middle-aged man in Hpa-an Township

A 49-year-old man on Saturday allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence on Thudanu Street in Ward-4, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, police reported yesterday. According to investigators, the man identified as U Aung Myo was found hanging in his room by his brother-in-law Saw Tu Htoo Baw at around 11 am on 11 November.

Finding him hanging, Saw Tu Htoo Baw shifted the body to Hpa-an

General Hospital at once and informed the police. His brother-in-law said that the tragic suicide may be connected with heavy drinking. Since one and a half months ago U Aung Myo had been drinking too much. The man made abnormal. The case has been registered at the police station concerned. Township police are still investigating to ascertain the reason behind such extreme step.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

Authorities take legal action against five illegal diggers

FORESTRY department authorities took legal action against five illegal diggers under the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law on 7 November.

Acting on a tip-off, authorities searched the Minwountuang Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region and found five illegal diggers, including Myo Tun, alias Ko Myo, together with illegal digging equipment. Authorities filed charges against the five men under section 36 (8) of the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)



Taxis run in downtown Yangon. The Yangon licensed taxis needed to register as the City Taxi by this year. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Yangon taxis needed to register

YANGON licensed taxis are needed to register as City Taxi by the end of December, said Dr. Maung Aung, the secretary of Yangon Region Transport Authority.

There are more than 60,000 Yangon licensed taxi running on Yangon road joined by a number

of non-Yangon licensed taxis. This action is to control taxi in a bid to reduce traffic congestion.

After that, Yangon region government will take actions against non-Yangon licensed taxis running on Yangon road.

Previously, Yangon City De-

velopment Committee handled the extension of City Taxi which was handed over to All Bus lines Supervisory Committee (Central). Yangon Region Transport Authority is currently conducting extension and registration of City Taxi. —GNLM ■

Import of capital goods by private sector continues to decrease

CAPITAL goods imports by the private sector in the current fiscal year amounted to over US\$3.38 billion, a decrease of \$162 million matched against the same period of last year, according to figures issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

This time last year, the private sector bought \$3.548 bn worth of similar products from overseas traders.

The government sector imported \$404 mn worth of capital goods from its trade partners between 1 April and 3 November of this year. Despite a decrease in value of capital goods by the private sector, the government import of these kind of products increased by \$260 million compared with the similar

period of last year.

In the current FY, the total import value between Myanmar and international trade partners totalled \$10.61 bn, including \$3.79 bn worth of capital goods, \$4.19 bn worth of intermediate goods and \$2.64 bn worth of consumer products. The total import figures are \$1.8 bn more than that of the similar period of the last year, according to the ministry.

Myanmar continues to trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries, European and African states, and some other western countries mainly through sea routes, seeking new trading opportunities.— Swe Nyein ■



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97th National Day 2017 event

A 97th National Day 2017 event and a pre-100th year anniversary of Myoma school held yesterday morning in the assembly hall of No. (2) Basic Education High School (Myoma), Yangon.

No. (2) Basic Education High School students first sang “Pyi Myanmar” song and then head of Dagon Township Administration read the 97th National Day message sent by President U Htin Kyaw.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said Myoma National High School has a grand tradition of producing many educated youth with nationalist fervor. Myoma school begins on Shwedagon Pagoda during the first college boycott in 1920. At that time, college students taught first to tenth standard students in the pagoda Zayat (a shelter

and rest place for travelers and devotees paying homage to the pagoda and a shelter where people can gather to talk and share news). A nationwide campaign was organized to open schools not only in Yangon but all across the country resulting in opening of 93 national schools. When these schools were established, they were called national schools and ethnic national schools while Myoma School became the central national school. The day the school was established was seen in the record as 17 December 1920 and on 17 December 2020, it will be the 100th year of its establishment. The day it was established became the National Day and National Day events were held every year. Looking back at the history of the school, it was at its zenith during Sayagyi U Ba



Students from BEHS No.2 (Myoma) perform Pyi Myanmar song to mark the 97th National Day 2017 ceremony in Dagon Township, Yangon on 13 November 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Lwin's time. The school produced Myanmar's first prime minister as well as many outstanding sons and daughters of the nation. It was also during Sayagyi U Ba Lwin's time that the present three storey school building was built. Foundation was laid for the school with Myanmar architectural features on the 9th National Day in 1929. After two years, the new school building was opened on 1931 National Day (Friday).

This school will be 100 years and has the possibility of becoming a national heritage building. Thus, it must be maintained. All in all, of all the national schools that were built all over the country, Myoma National School is at the top and the responsibility to retain this lies in those who are related to this school.

The Union Minister then presented gifts of honors to two students who achieved six

distinctions. A former Myoma school student delivered a greeting message after which Daw Su Su Lwin, daughter of Sayagyi U Ba Lwin presented a gift of honor to Maung Myat Hein Khant who achieved five distinctions. Finally, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Muang Tun and officials presented certificates of honors to winners of 97th National Day essay writing contest it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Children kidney foundation Mandalay, emergence of sharing

By Min Htet Aung
(Sub-printing House)

There still exists a great gap between poverty and richness, health situation in urban and rural areas and in the various sectors including technology in a developing country such as Myanmar. So as to narrow such gaps, the Government alone cannot implement, needing much cooperation of well-wishers and donors.

The State Counsellor used the word “Sharing,” for contribution of well-wishers and donors to the extent they can, in needy places. That sharing includes “renal donation for children kidney patients” launched by Cetanar Shin Thingaha Foundation.

The CSTF held the ceremony for handing over the initiative donation for sustainable acquisition of finance in establishing Mandalay Children Kidney Foundation and kidney cleansing machine at the Shwe Man Taung Golf Club, Mandalay at 10 am on 13th November.

At the ceremony, initiative contribution of K 500 million to set up Mandalay Children Kidney Foundation and K 80 million worth of kidney cleansing machine was handed over to Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region by donor U Chit

Khaing, the Chairman of Thingaha Foundation.

Chief Minister said, “Here, I would like to name ‘kind-hearted doctors’ to the doctors who nature and develop the survival of future’s children and youths in the country. Today’s ceremony saw beauty of kind-hearted people. Thingaha Foundation, the major donor contributed K 500 million as the initiative donation and 24-hour-operating kidney cleansing machine. More 30 donors appeared. Such cooperative help is a kind of sharing, we assume. So, I would like to thank responsible persons from Thingaha Foundation and all other donors, on behalf of Mandalay Region Cabinet and children kidney patients.”

Afterward, U Chit Khaing, Chairman of Thingaha Foundation and the donor said, “On seeing children suffering renal diseases during the visit to see kidney patients at the invitation of Chief Minister, I felt great sorrow for them, hence the prompt decision to donate as an initiative to set up Kidney Foundation, in consultation with the Chief Minister. Our company’s theme is ‘Sharing wealth for health.’ Our Eden Group of Companies Myanmar founded Thingaha Foundation, helping aids in accord with our theme laid down. In response



Chairman U Chit Khaing delivers the speech at donation ceremony at the Shwe Man Taung Golf Club, Mandalay. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

to the voices of children hoping for their survival—if kidney was substituted successfully, we continued to implement for revival of their hopes. Provided that we, the entrepreneurs, will move on together with the State as the State said that it will move on together with the People, our nation will develop very soon. So, I would like to say thanks to all the donors who took part in the contribution, with the conception that we will go together with the State.”

Urinary and Renal Unit of Mandalay 300-Bed Children Hospital was set up since 2015. The first-ever renal transplantation of a child in Myanmar was successfully made through the concerted efforts of kidney surgeons and with the support of the government and donors, since 2015 till

now, said Professor Dr Daw Aye Aye Myint, Mandalay 300-Bed Children Hospital.

Dr Daw Chaw Su Khaing, In-Charge of Urinal and Renal Patient Treatment Unit of Mandalay Children 300-Bed Hospital said, “On seeing children survive by having kidney cleansed at this hospital, the Chief Minister tried to set up the Thingaha Kidney Foundation with the supports of Thingaha Foundation and under the leadership of Chief Minister. On 22nd February 2015, the children renal treatment unit was opened. In the past, chronic renal patients found it difficult to have kidneys cleansed as there are difference between children and adults in cleansing, suffering loss of lives. From 2015 February on, as the donors who donated

2 kidney cleansing machines, chronic patients are being giving treatment of cleansing kidneys 3 days per week. Now we have 20 children receiving treatment. Out of them, 17 were from far away, being given treatment by making them stay here. FOC cleansing was given away, but they could not manage to live in Yangon for lack of money. So, we the doctors from this unit tried to give care to patients, with the support of well-wishers.”

Dr Daw Chaw Su Khaing, added, “On January 24 and 25, 2017 kidney transplantation for two children were successfully operated with the technical aids of Singapore National University Hospital in cooperation with surgeons from Mandalay. On June 24 and 25 another two children’s kidney transplantation were successfully operated for the second time. The present donations will be used for children who will have kidneys cleansed, for living allowance of children who have kidneys cleansed as transplantation was not convenient yet and for the expenses for kidney transplantation. On behalf of children patients I would like to thank all the donors for their beneficial help and donation.”

Then, those present at the ceremony collectively donated K 225.559 million. ■



19TH ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT

13 November 2017 | Manila, Philippines

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (2nd left), South Korea President Moon Jae-in (5th left) and other ASEAN leaders join hands during a family photo before the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit in Manila. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

31st ASEAN Summit and Related summits held in Manila



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participates in the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related summits in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



ASEAN LEADERS' INTERFACE WITH ASEAN BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (ASEAN BAC)

13 NOVEMBER 2017 | MANILA, PHILIPPINES

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Third from Left in the Front Role) poses a family photo before the meeting of the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with ASEAN Business Advisory Council at the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related summits in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



The meeting of ASEAN-US Summit being held in Manila on 13 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



The meeting of ASEAN-Japan Summit being held in Manila on 13 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

We never let destructive elements ruin our aims and objectives

Khin Maung Oo

THE UEHRD - Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State has been operationalized and is now moving full steam ahead. For the successful implementation of the UEHRD, the State Counsellor, Chairperson of UEHRD and her entourage travelled to Maungtaw region in northern Rakhine State very recently to make an inspection tour to better understand the situation on the ground and meet key people. She also took time to meet members of different communities including members of the Islamic faith.

Rakhine nationals, Hindus and local ethnic nationals such as Mro and Thet suffered a great deal in terms of human

lives in northern Rakhine State. At the same time the Union Government is providing humanitarian assistance and carrying out relief and resettlement operations regardless of race, religion and status, with a view to maintaining friendly bilateral relations with Bangladesh. While Myanmar is trying to bring about peace, stability and development in Rakhine State, the region which regained nascent progress has seen potential dangers bent on destroying the region again. Myanmar people are well-trained and well-grounded in the teachings of the Buddha. We have decided to respond to acts of terrorism with unity and strength and carefully crafted anti-terrorism strategies. We have decided to fight falsehood with truth and hatred with patience, tact and loving-kindness.

The fact that Buddhism is a very tolerant and accommodating religion should not be taken as a sign of weakness. On the contrary, all the people of Myanmar are solidly behind our national leaders and the Myanmar Tatmadaw.

A few days ago, signs of activities made by some remaining ARSA extremist terrorists or those who got involved in the attacks were found out. On 1st November an ARSA extremist terrorist who committed crimes was arrested in 'Kyauk-Hlay-Gar' village, Maungtaw township. On 3rd November three ARSA extremist terrorists who attacked local nationals going out for fishing near the grove at Pachiyartan village in Maungtaw were arrested. On 5th November caves made by ARSA extremist terrorists were found at Kyauk

Pandu and Thibaw Kway villages in Maungtaw region by security forces. And, in the evening on 5th November, 4 policemen who were inspecting border fences between milestones 45 and 46 were attacked with firearms. Following the outbreak of events which started to happen in northern Rakhine State on 25th August, the Union Government is dealing with all matters relating to national security and rule of law, with great care. Meanwhile, we must be vigilant and alert against all kinds of surprise attacks. Otherwise, we should understand that nascent progress which northern Rakhine State has started to achieve will be greatly harmed. To sum it up, we must eradicate all possible dangers to ensure the success of our projects and Programmes in Rakhine State. ■

Friendship between brethren living over one thousand miles far away

By Lulay Waing

DIPLOMATIC relation between Myanmar and Philippines was established on 29th September 1956, reaching now for over 60 years. ASEAN's birth will enter 50 years of age, this year, hence diplomatic ties between the two countries older than ASEAN's existence.

Archipelago Country

Though being ASEAN member countries, Myanmar and Philippines are geographically far away from each other, to be exact, 1811 miles far away. It will take us round about three and half hours to travel by air. According to the World Almanac 2015, population in the Philippine outnumbered 107 million, much more than that of Myanmar. The Philippines is an Archipelago country made up of over 7000 islands, but 95 percent of the national populace is living on 11 biggest islands of the country.

Plenty of Imports

The Philippines is the country consisting of national ethnic people, but the amount is lower than compared to that of Myanmar. Of them, Tagalog ethnics occupy 28 percent of the national populace, with Cebuano 13 percent, Ilocano 9 percent, Bisaya 8 percent, Haligaynon Ilonggo 8 percent, Bikol 6 percent and Waray 3 percent respectively. As regards the religion they profess, 86 percent of the populace belongs to Christianity and 5 percent to Islam. The Philippines imports 11.5 percent of imports from USA, with 18.8 percent



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (L) in Yangon, on 20 March 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

imported from China, and 10.4 percent from Japan. Most of its exports are also delivered to those countries.

19 Percent of its exports go to Japan, 14.2 percent to USA and 11.8 percent to China. Per capita GDP is US \$ 4700, greater than that of Myanmar—US \$ 1700. Here, it can be said that it is an advantage for the Philippines to have got huge markets such as USA, Japan and China.

Myanmar-Philippines Co-operation

To put it simply, looking back into the history Myanmar-Philippines Relation stood at the normal stage at the very advent. Though there were exchanges of State Visits of both countries in the later part of 1990, remark-

able progress was not found between them. Yet, in April, 2004 Myanmar-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation-JCBC was formed and its first meeting was held in Yangon. At this meeting, the delegation led by Mr Delia Domingo Albert, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Philippines took part in the discussion, in which agreements including cooperation in the sectors including trade, investment and agriculture. Plus, 1st Myanmar-Philippines Policy Consultations was held in June 2006 in Manila, with 2nd Policy Consultations held in July 2007 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Good wishes on friendly country

Myanmar people have owed many thanks to people of Philippines in the post cyclone Nargis period. As all know

the Cyclone Nargis occurred in 2008 May 28 had caused a tremendous loss to Myanmar people. Many thousands of people died in that horrible tragic event. Philippines had sent a medical team that comprised 30 medical professionals and wide variety of medicines. Moreover, Philippines used C-130 military transporting aircraft in that event. The assistance of Philippines can be said not too much in terms of money value, however their good wishes to the friendly country can be vividly perceived.

6 Memorandums of Understanding

In December 2013, Myanmar and Philippines could have signed 6 MOUs in total. The MOUs had involved many different cases ranging from sustainable energy sector to commerce and trade affairs. Furthermore, the MOU between the two countries included visa exemption for the people of two countries. Philippines can visit Myanmar for 14 days without visa while Myanmar can visit Philippines 30 days without visa.

Important Event

The important event during the incumbent government was the visit of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte to Myanmar. The President Duterte had arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 March 2017 and stayed two days in Myanmar. The President U Htin Kyaw and the President Duterte delivered the speech at the State Dinner given in honour of the visiting President Duterte.

Department of rural development conduct basic sewing course in Buthidaung

Interviewed by News Group
Photo by Han Lin Naing (Sittway-Kopwa)

BUTHIDAUNG township department of rural development started a basic sewing course on 7 November in the township department of rural development office to create job opportunities, earn income and support livelihood for young women from villages.

Officials from the Department of Rural Development, course trainers and trainees were interviewed about the course.

U Tun Hlaing, Head of Buthidaung Township Department of Rural Development

Previously, Department of Rural Development had conducted a motorcycle repair course twice for men. Now, it is conducting a sewing course for young women to create job opportunity. Trainees were provided with breakfast and lunch and they stay at their relatives houses in Buthidaung town. There are two parts in the course. A basic course is conducted for



U Tun Hlaing.

20 days after which there is a break of one week and then a refresher course of another 20 days is conducted. The course runs for a total of 40 days. Contact is made with Rakhine State Minister for Development Affairs so that course trainees can get job at garment factories in Sittway. There'll be more training courses. After this course is concluded, another motorcycle repair course, including the repair of motorcycle engine will be conducted for men.

Daw Ei Sabei, Sewing trainer, Myinlut Village, Maungtau Township

In the past, I lived in Myinlut, Maungtau Township and



Daw Ei Sabei.

have a sewing shop. I fled from the village and came to live in Buthidaung because I'm afraid of ARSA extremist terrorists. I have to rent a house in Buthidaung. Living in a rented house without work is difficult. I applied for a job on hearing of this course and become a sewing teacher. For some women, there is a bit of language difficulty but some were easy to teach. They follow the instruction. In this course, sewing of pillow case, women clothing, child clothing and men clothing were conducted. The aim is for the trainees to go back and work (sew clothing) in their village after the course is completed.



Ma Zin Mar Oo.

Ma Zin Mar Oo, trainee, Kanpyin village, Buthidaung Township

On hearing from the village administrative head about a sewing course to be conducted in Buthidaung Rural Development Department, I enrolled to attend it. Lunch was provided at the course and dinner was on own arrangement. I'm staying with relatives in Buthidaung. Once I complete the course, I intend to return to my village and start a sewing work. A friend from the village is also attending this course.

Ma Nu Aye Khaing, trainee, Sintawpyan village, Buthidaung Township



Ma Nu Aye Khaing.

I come from Sintawpyan village to attend this course. I'm a Daingnet and 18 years old. I became interested and attend the course after hearing about it from the village administrative head. From the (my) village, there are two attending the course.

There are only a few who can sew in the village and job is scarce for women. I plan to return to (my) village and start a sewing work. Department of Rural Development conducting such course for woman is beneficial for rural women like me. I expect to see more courses for women in border area like me. ■

Friendship between brethren...

FROM PAGE 8

The President Duterte, in his speech, pointed out that the diplomatic relation between the Philippines and Myanmar had seen the 60th anniversary the previous year. This year a new page in our diplomatic relation will be opened. That new page of the relation will definitely become deepened and firmer. Six decades of our relation has developed perpetually. Almost the same historical experience and common objectives existed in both countries will tie our diplomatic relation stronger than before. The common objectives of our two countries which are to let the people stay in peace, to bring

the people to the development and to make them affluent will surely convey the two countries to a stage of close friends like blood related people.

Then he added "We, both countries were implementing together the agricultural sector, labour sector and trade and investment sector and both countries attained the remarkable development. We will make further development." The President Duterte donated US\$ 300,000 to be used in humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State.

Arrival

During the visit of the President Duterte two MOUs had been signed, one was for "Securing Enough Food" and

"Cooperation in Agricultural Sector" Now, The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has arrived in Philippines to attend ASEAN Summit Meeting and Related meetings. The visit of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to Philippines will certainly make the already-firm relation between the two countries more strengthened.

We believed though the two countries are apart more than 1000 miles, the hand in hand cooperation between the two countries will bring the two countries into firmer and firmer relation with the advancing time.

Translated by Khin Maung Oo and Khin Maung Win

More than 1.3 million acres of summer paddy to be grown in Ayeyawady Region

MORE THAN 1.3 million acres of summer paddy will be cultivated in Ayeyawady Region in 2017-2018 fiscal year under the supervision of the region department of agriculture, the Myawady Daily reported on Monday.

Efforts have been made to meet the department's target of about 1.340 million acres of summer paddy under schedule, an official of the aforementioned department said. The target 1.340 million acres are increased by 10,000 acres matched against the last year.

According to the schedule, farmers are expected to grow 283,965 acres of summer paddy

in Patheingyi District, 28,378 acres in Hinthada District, 292,201 acres in Myaungmya District, 198,562 acres in Maubin District, 379,764 acres in Pyapon District and 155,790 in Labutta District.

To increase rice production next FY, educative talks will be conducted prior to plantations, with plans to share knowledge and experiences on nurturing the saplings, cultivation techniques, fertilizer utilizing methods and irrigation to farmers.

Last financial year, farmers developed 1.328 million acres of plantations in the region.—GNLM ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Buddha image consecration and libation ceremony held in Thiri Mingala Gaba Aye Pagoda

CONSECRATION and libation ceremony of Bhawa Thukha Ahbhayya Laba Muni Buddha image enshrined inside the compound of Thiri Mingala Gaba Aye Pagoda was held yesterday morning.

Firstly, Sayadaws including member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Aggha Maha Pannhi Badhanta Thilar Sara Bhiwuntha consecrated a Buddha's image by reciting to relevant religious verses.

Then attended public received five precepts and listened to religious sermon from Sayadaw Sangadaws.

After that, Dr. Than Naing and his wife Daw Wai Wai from Success Purifying Drinking Water family, donated offertories to Sayadaws and listened to sermon from Sayadaw Aggha Maha Pannhi Badhanta Thilar Sara Bhiwuntha and made libation with praying their wishes and shared their meritorious deed to other beings.—MNA ■



Troops did not commit sexual violence nor killed civilians: Investigation Team

Tatmadaw released a statement yesterday on the findings of its Investigation Team in connection with the performances of the security troops during the terrorist attacks in Maungtau region, Rakhine State

According to the answers of 2,817 villagers from 54 Bengali villages in interviews and confessions of 362 villagers from 105 Muslim villages, security forces did not commit shooting at innocent villagers and sexual violence and rape cases against women, said the statement released by the investigation team.

"They did not arrest, beat and kill the villagers. They did not totally destroy, rob and take property, gold and silver wares, vehicles and animals of villagers from the villages and displaced villages. They did not set fire to the mosques in Muslim villages. They allow the Muslim villagers to perform their faiths in freedom without banning them to attend the mosques and join prayers. They did not threaten, bully and drive out the villagers not to be able to live in the villages and they did not set fire to the houses," said the statement.

They are joining hands with relevant administrative bodies in systematically supervising the tasks to protect the remaining houses in villages against destruction and stealing of unscrupulous persons, said the statement.

The Investigation Team has been assigned with the task of conducting ground inspection to know the true situation in connection with terrorist attacks of the ARSA terrorists on 30 police outposts and an army battalion headquarters in Buthidaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State on

25 August 2017.

The Team led by Lt-Gen Aye Win toured Maungtau, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships for 26 days from 13 October to 7 November 2017, and interviewed 195 ethnic people of two ethnic villages, 205 Hindus of two Hindu villages, and 2,817 Bengalis of 54 Bengali villages totalling 3,217 villagers. The team also collected the accounts of 804 witnesses.

The findings of the investigation have proved that all security members up from the leaders to the privates were aware of and strictly abided by the orders and directives of superior bodies, especially the rules of engagement-ROE in connection with the rights of self-defence and in discharging duties during the armed conflicts and anti-terrorist operations.

It is found that during the terrorist attack ARSA Bengali terrorists in the form of combined village-wise gangs attacked police outposts, an army battalion HQ and Tatmadaw columns conducting area combing operations with the use of small/heavy weapons, remote controlled home-made mines, sticks, knives, jingalees and directional mines as from 1 am on 25 August using superior manpower. In accord with the rights of self-defence and ROE, the security troops including Tatmadaw columns which were accompanied by members of Border Guard Police Force first gave warning shouts to the mob to halt the advance, if the mob did not stop they fired warning shots and only when the mob reached the striking distance, the security troops started firing single shots in intervals aiming only at the legs between the foot and knee of the leader. Because of the use of such tactics, the security troops could disperse the terrorist mobs

and there was no death of innocent people. Although the Bengali villages where the engagements took place were burning and women and children were fleeing their homes, not a single shot was fired on them. The security forces were only fighting against the ARSA Bengali terrorists. They never shot at the innocent Bengalis.

Troops were aware of and strictly abided by the orders and directives of superior bodies, especially the rules of engagement-ROE in connection with the rights of self-defence.

While fleeing there, terrorists set fire to the village. Members of security forces did not commit persecution against those persons in arresting. It was found that those Muslims were exposed and arrested under provisions of the Geneva Convention and the law of wars.

From 25 August 2017 to 5 September, there were 94 engagements, 27 times of arresting Bengali terrorists and 11 times of seizures, totalling 132 events. In the incidents, a total of 376 bodies of ARSA terrorists, 15 assorted arms, 97 rounds of ammunition, 30 packages of gunpowder and 67 home-made mines were seized and 78 ARSA terrorists arrested. A total of 13 members of security forces were posthumous and 15

members injured and one missing. The security forces lost 11 assorted small arms, 1,676 rounds of ammunition, four magazines and one walkie-talkie.

According to accounts of witnesses, terrorist leaders at different levels instructed to launch synchronized terrorist attacks, and core ARSA Bengali terrorists and many villagers and children joined the attacks. As the attacks failed, ARSA Bengali terrorists torched houses and fled to Bangladesh, and were reported to have threatened villagers,

According to accounts of witnesses, terrorists abducted 52 Hindus from Ye Baw Kya Village and 53 from Kha Maung Seik (South) Village on 25 August morning, 2017. They took gold and silver wares and destroyed altars, Buddha images, and set fire to citizenship scrutiny cards from houses of Hindus. They inhumanely tortured 45 Hindu villagers of Ye Baw Kya in front of a Hindu female villager of Ye Baw Kya and eight Hindu female villagers of Kha Maung Seik (South) Village. They made the villagers lie on their back beside the pit already dug by them, and then slit their throats. Of 105 Hindu abductees, 60 remain missing till today. Since the 9 October attacks, ARSA Bengali terrorists had been brutally killing non-supporters, departmental personnel, those dealing well with security forces, Bengalis unwilling to attend terrorism courses and local ethnics. Moreover, they radicalized others with the spirit of crushing people of different races or faiths. Although they carried out killings and committed atrocities against minorities, they, while staying in a refugee camp of the other country, made up news about Myanmar's Tatmadaw committing genocide and ethnic

cleansing when international diplomats and media arrived there.

According to accounts of witnesses, after the 9 October incidents, ARSA Bengali terrorist leader Artar Ula appointed terrorist leaders in respective village-tracts and villages. Rector of Arabi University in Myinlut Mawlawi Musetar Armad was appointed as in-charge of southern part of Maungtau Township, Mawlawi Adu Rahman as in-charge of Ngakhuya in northern part of Maungtau, Mawlawi Jama and Mawlawi Mawshita Mauk from Nanthataung Village as in-charges of Taungpyoletwe region and Mawlawi Kumoro from Michaungzay Village as in-charge of Buthidaung Township. With the help of those leaders, the terrorist group was extended based on Mawlawis and village administrators. They killed those close to government, non-supporters and those unwilling to do terrorism courses by slashing their throats. Millagers were forced to take oaths holding the Koran and made terrorists. Villagers from the most of the Bengali villages were persuaded to become terrorists. Despite the extended terrorist group, the issue including atrocities committed by the terrorists could not be exposed as officials in the concerned region were weak in acquiring information. Consequently, the ARSA Bengali terrorist group was able to carry out extensive attacks on 25 August.

As such weaknesses in doing management and acquiring security information were found, action will be taken against those responsible and arrests of the remaining ARSA terrorists will continue. — (Full text of the Statement is available at www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) Myanmar News Agency ■

Mro ethnic people to benefit from new Khonhtaing village

KHONHTAING (Mro) village near Dewanali village, Nanchaung group, northern Maungtaw region and 2 miles from the base of Mayyu Mountain was burnt and destroyed by more than 400 ARSA extremist terrorists on the afternoon of 28 August killing 7 and wounding 5 ethnic Mro nationals. Remaining villagers had to flee to safe areas.

Now, the government and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation is jointly building a new Khonhtaing village beside Kyeinchaung-Bandoola road and Padaka creek, about a mile away from the old village site and will become developed soon.

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Committee Chairperson, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi together with officials on November 2

came to the site where the new Khonhtaing village will be built and cordially met with Mro villagers. The State Counsellor coordinated with officials about matters raised by local ethnic national spoke emphatically to arrange for child to attend school without disruption.

On the morning of 13 November Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials went to new Khonhtaing village and made additional arrangement for the village to have full requisite of a village.

The Union Minister provided Ks 50,000 for each of the 38 households totaling Ks 1.9 million and Ks 100,000 for traditional culture group while State Chief Minister provided Ks 200,000 for traditional culture group and then viewed the construction of the new village. New Khonhtaing village



Local people get jobs as infrastructure are under construction in Khonhtaing Village. PHOTO:MNA

beside Kyeinchaung-Bandoola road and Padaka creek will be on 35 acres of land. 96 single story buildings each worth Ks 7 million will be built on a 40x60 ft. plot of

land and will include a traditional Mro house, 3 multiple use hall, a clinic, a school and a monastery as well.

Ethnic Mro nationals lived

peacefully with agriculture and new Khonhtaing (Mro) village will soon be developed with the full requisite of a village.—News

Team ■



Mro ethnic people perform traditional dance at Khonhtaing village, Nanchaung group, Maungtaw Township. PHOTO:MNA



Clarification regarding harvested rice in N-Rakhine

It has been noticed that there had been some confusion among the people and certain international organizations about what is going to happen to the paddy once it has been harvested by the government personnel in collaboration with the private sector companies under the auspices of the UEHRD – Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine.

In this regard it has been

learnt from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, that the paddy that has been harvested will be returned to the original owners either in cash or in the form of paddy. This has been made possible because the harvested rice has been systematically recorded with the following data: Owner's name, plot number, quantity and moisture level (13 per cent). After recording thus, the rice is bagged and stored in designated

storage areas. The government personnel who are performing this task are from the AMD – Agriculture Mechanization Department. AMD personnel from Mandalay and Sagaing Regions have been brought in to support the local AMD personnel.- UEHRD Information and Communications Office.

UEHRD – Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine.—GNLM



Workers work with harvesters at a field in Maungtaw. PHOTO:MNA

Dr Pe Myint and Rakhine State Chief Minister visit Maungtaw

As part of efforts for speeding up media coverage on Rakhine issue, a delegation led by Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information visited northern Maungtaw region, together with U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State.

Firstly, the Union Minister, the Chief Minister and members arrived at Ngan Chaung village of Muslim community, on Kyigan-pyin-Kyeinchaung Road.

In meeting with Ngan Chaung villagers, the Union Minister inquired concerning situations of their socio economy and regional security, clarifying programs of supporting necessities of education and health and arrangement of issuing National Verification cards. The village did not get involved in the events of extremist terrorist attacks in Maungtaw region, remaining intact.

Then, the Union Minister and party arrived at the site of building 8-mile-long

road linking Kyeinchaung village in Maungtaw and Guppi village in Buthidaung, where in-charge of Road Department, road special team 17 explained situation of building road and further plans.

Following that, the Union Minister and party arrived Khonhtaing (Mro) new village on Kyeinchaung-Bandoola where the Mro villagers welcomed the party with traditional troupe and dances.

Union Minister, Chief Minister and party were explained at the meeting hall of the village construction, concerning construction of the new village and the programs for implementation to be well-equipped with standards of a village by the Maungtaw district border area development department.

On the land of 35 acres on the side of Padakar creek on Kyeinchaung-Bandoola road, 96 pucca-buildings, a school building, a dispen-



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu provides cash to villagers from Khonhtaing village in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

sary and religious edifices are being built in cooperation between the Ministry of Border Affairs and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

Afterward, Union Minister provided K50,000 each to 38 households—K1.9 million and K100,000 to the traditional cultural troupe, with Chief Minister providing K200,000 to the traditional cultural troupe, followed by inspection of construction of the new

village.

In the afternoon, Union Minister, Chief Minister and party inspected round situations on the construction of border fence and the bridge crossing Myanmar-Bangladesh and the site in which returnees will be temporarily accommodated for examination near the no 1 border area guardian guards the Taungpyywei camp. Then, the party arrived at

Thinbawhla village where Daingnet people live, giving words of encouragement to the villagers and providing subventions to 5 100-year old men and women.

In the evening, the Union Minister and party inspected round the camp for examination of returnees at Ngakhura camp, and the boats' place.

Later, at the administrator office of Ngakhura village, the party met with

those of different beliefs—Buddhists, Hindus and Islamists, enquiring situations of security in the area, living condition, whereas villagers submitted the requirements concerning timely harvest, transport and other necessities.

Union Minister and Chief Minister replied to the necessities of the villages on health and education.—Myanmar News Agency ■

97th National Day event held in NLD Headquarters

97th National Day event was held yesterday afternoon in National League for Democracy (NLD) Headquarters in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The event was started by saluting the national flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and martyrs including Bogyoke Aung San and observing of 8 seconds of silence for monks, students and people who lost their lives for democracy.

Next, NLD central executive member Dr. Myo Nyunt who preside the event delivered an opening speech. He said “Now is the time when we are marching toward a united and peaceful nation that is based on high standard and honorable politic. Political, economic, social and all round difficulties and challenges that are usually faced during the democracy transition period are being overcome

and resolved together with the people. Cessation of internal armed conflicts and achieving permanent peace is the most important and primary task while northern Rakhine State affair that is in the danger zone need to be resolved.”

We are striving to defend our country's national identity, national prestige, national security, stability and sovereignty. Northern Rakhine State affair is the affair of the entire Myanmar country. We will live and work in truth, remove the lies and urge to march resolutely toward the aim of establishing a democracy federal union based on national reconciliation said Dr. Myo Nyunt.

Afterwards, NLD central information committee secretary U Aung Shin read the NLD declaration for 97th National Day and put on record the messages sent by veteran politicians.

Yangon Region Hlut-

law representative U Yan Aung said “National Day is a valuable day. I came to honor the heroes who had made this day come about and those who contributed (and sacrificed) toward successive holding of it throughout the whole country. Only by holding these events can youths know about National Day, historical value and acquire new thoughts and ideas.”

The event organized by NLD was attended by NLD central committee secretariat member U Han Thar Myint, central committee members, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and government ministers, Yangon Region Hluttaw representatives, veteran politicians, NLD members and invited guests. Writer Maung Sein Win (Padikone) and writer San San Nwe (Thayawaddy) then held a literary talk commemorating the 97th National Day.—MNA ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The IDA No. of the credit agreement is No. 5889-MM. The Department of Highways (DOH) of the Ministry of Construction, in its role as implementing agency of the FLERP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contracts C4-MOC-G07, C1-MOC-G01 and C4-MOC-G02 for the supply of Double Cab Project Inspection Vehicles, Laboratory Equipment and office Equipment. DOH now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: C4-MOC-G07 – Double Cab Project Inspection Vehicles
Reference Number: C1-MOC-G01 – Laboratory Equipment
Reference Number: C4-MOC-G02 – Office Equipment

Reference No.	Lot No	Description	Quantity
C4-MOC-G07	1	Double Cab Project Inspection Vehicles	4 vehicles
C1-MOC-G01	1-10	Laboratory Equipment	11 sets
C4-MOC-G02	1-4	Office Equipment	25 items
Supply to		Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Office No.(11),NayPyiTaw	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ).

Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Thursday 7 December 2017 at 10:00 am (vehicles), at 11:00 am (laboratory equipment) and at 12:00pm (Office Equipment) Myanmar time** after which no Quotations will be accepted. The vehicles will be contracted in 1 (one) contract. The contract(s) for the laboratory equipment and the office equipment will be awarded on a lot by lot basis.

The Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Hla Tun Oo, Project Director, Department of Highways of the Ministry of Construction, Office No. (11), Nay Pyi Taw. Office phone and fax (+95-67)407583 Email: flerp.moc@gmail.com. Please clearly indicate the reference number above of interest to your Company as well as your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send.

Xi calls for advancing of China-Viet Nam ties

HANOI— Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping here on Sunday called for advancing the China-Viet Nam comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership while attending a welcoming banquet.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang held a banquet for Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee,

at the International Convention Centre.

Xi stressed that his state visit to Viet Nam aims to consolidate traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation and chart out future for bilateral ties.

The fact that China and Viet Nam both follow the leadership of Communist parties and socialist road, jointly strengthen solidarity and cooperation, as well as seek prosperity, is in line with the fundamental interests of both peoples and conducive to the peace,

stability and development of the region and the world, said Xi. Xi urged the two countries continue to be good neighbours, good friends, good comrades and good partners. Trong, on behalf of the Vietnamese party, government and people, extended warm welcome to Xi, saying that Viet Nam and China are neighbors with traditional friendship. Viet Nam attaches great importance to Viet Nam-China ties and is willing to work together with China to enhance tra-

ditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation and ensure sustainable, healthy and stable development of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Trong said.

Trong believed that Xi's visit will inject new impetus to the bilateral ties.

Xi arrived in Hanoi on Sunday for a state visit to the Southeast Asian country. It is his second visit to Viet Nam as China's head of state and top CPC leader. His previous state visit was in 2015. —Xinhua ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attends a grand welcome ceremony hosted by Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee, ahead of their talks in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 12 November, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Strong earthquake hits Iraq and Iran, killing more than 300

BAGHDAD/ANKARA — More than 300 people were killed in Iran when a magnitude 7.3 earthquake jolted the country on Sunday, state media said, and rescuers were searching for dozens trapped under rubble in the mountainous area. At least six have died in Iraq as well.



Collapsed building is seen in the town of Darbandikhan, near the city of Sulaimaniyah, in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, Iraq on 13 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

State television said more than 336 people were killed in Iran and at least 3,950 were injured. Local officials said the death toll would rise as search and rescue teams reached remote areas of Iran.

The earthquake was felt in several western provinces of Iran, but the hardest hit province was Kermanshah, which announced three days of mourning. More than 236 of the victims were in Sarpol-e Zahab county in Kermanshah province, about 15 km (10 miles) from the Iraq border.

Iranian state television said the quake had caused heavy damage in some villages where houses were made of earthen bricks. Rescuers were labouring to find survivors trapped under collapsed buildings.

The quake also triggered landslides that hindered rescue efforts, officials told state television. At least 14 provinces in Iran had been affected, Iranian media reported.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences on Monday, urging all government agencies to do all they could to help those affected.

The US Geological Survey said the quake measured magnitude 7.3. An Iraqi meteorology official put its magnitude at 6.5 with the epicentre in Penjwin in Sulaimaniyah province in the Kurdistan region, close to the main border crossing with Iran.

Kurdish health officials said at least six people were killed in Iraq and at least 68 injured. Iraq's health and local officials said the worst-hit area was Darbandikhan district, near the border with Iran, where at least 10 houses had collapsed and the district's only hospital was severely damaged.

The quake was felt as far south as Baghdad,

where many residents rushed from their houses and tall buildings when tremors shook the Iraqi capital.

"I was sitting with my kids having dinner and suddenly the building was just dancing in the air," said Majida Ameer, who ran out of her building in the capital's Salihiya district with her three children. "I thought at first that it was a huge bomb. But then I heard everyone around me screaming: 'Earthquake!'"

Similar scenes unfolded in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region, and across other cities in northern Iraq, close to the quake's epicentre. Electricity was cut off in several Iranian and Iraqi cities, and fears of aftershocks sent thousands of people in both countries out onto the streets and parks in cold weather.

The Iranian seismo-

logical centre registered around 118 aftershocks and said more were expected. The head of Iranian Red Crescent said more than 70,000 people were in need of emergency shelter.

Hojjat Gharibian was one of hundreds of homeless Iranian survivors, who was huddled against the cold with his family in Qasr-e Shirin.

"My two children were sleeping when the house started to collapse because of the quake. I took them and ran to the street. We spent hours in the street until aid workers moved us into a school building," Gharibian told Reuters by telephone.

Iran's police, the elite Revolutionary Guards and its affiliated Basij militia forces were dispatched to the quake-hit areas overnight, state TV reported.

Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said some roads were blocked and authorities were worried about casualties in remote villages. An Iranian oil official said pipelines and refineries in the area remained intact.

Iran sits astride major fault lines and is prone to frequent tremors. A magnitude 6.6 quake on 26 December, 2003, devastated the historic city of Bam, 1,000 km southeast of Tehran, killing about 31,000 people.—Reuters ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Assignment Title:

Preparation of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the New Ywama Power Plant in Yangon

Reference No. EPGE-G02/2017

The Government of Myanmar is processing to apply financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the New Ywama Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The World Bank is also now No Objection for the selection of this consultant service during loan application process.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the new Ywama Power Plant in Yangon, the planned commencement of the assignment is March 2018. The assignment period is 6 months.

The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- The interested consulting firms should have at least 10 years of experience in the area of environmental and social advisory services to the power sector, relevant references for gas fired power stations are advantageous;
- A strong record in environmental and social impact assessments; environmental due diligence audits; development and supporting accreditation of environmental, health and safety management systems;
- At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 8 years; and
- Experience of working in the Clients country or similar country environment.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants \[under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants\] by World Bank Borrowers](#) revise version January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on Consultants' Qualifications set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by December 14, 2017.

Attn:

U Khin Maung Win, Managing Director
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Building-27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: +95-67-8104282
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Marko Topchii of Ukraine reacts after he won the first prize in the second Budapest International Guitar Competition at the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy in Budapest, Hungary, on 11 November 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Marko Topchii from Ukraine won 2nd Budapest International Guitar Competition

BUDAPEST — Marko Topchii from Ukraine won the first prize in the second Budapest International Guitar Competition on Saturday, before Damiano Pisanello from Switzerland and Gian Marco Ciampa from Italy.

The second Budapest International Guitar Competition was held between 6 and 11 November. The com-

petition was open to guitarists of all nationalities who were born on or after 1 January, 1985.

Topchii's first prize not only included 5,000 euros (5,800 US dollars), but also a Sakurai special guitar worth 5,000 euros, and he was offered engagements for concerts to 16 international music festivals and concerts.

He will also be invited as a jury member to the third Budapest International Guitar Competition in 2020.

Hungary's Lotti Szalai became the best female competitor, and won the audience's prize. She was awarded by a concert invitation to Rotenburg 2018 in Germany and received 1,000 euros. —Xinhua ■

I often get mistaken for Matt Damon: Mark Wahlberg

LONDON — Actor Mark Wahlberg said he is often mistaken for “Jason Bourne” star Matt Damon.

The 46-year-old actor said he never corrected people and felt embarrassed by it, reported Femalefirst.

“Yeah, he gets recognised for me and I get recognised as him but I never tell people. I

never correct anybody. Somebody comes up to me and says, ‘I loved you in ‘Bourne Identity’, I say ‘Thank you, I got another coming out soon’ and I just keep going,” said Wahlberg.

“I don’t want to have to apologise then start explaining.

Don’t want to think I’m offended, I’m not offended at all,” he added.—PTI ■

‘Wonder’ a superhero movie: Julia Roberts

LONDON — Actor Julia Roberts called her new film “Wonder” a superhero movie.

The film also stars “Room” actor Jacob Tremblay, who plays Auggie Pullman, a young boy born with a rare genetic disorder named Treacher Collins, reported Contactmusic.

The 50-year-old actor plays the role of Tremblay’s mother in the movie.

“To me, ‘Wonder’ is a superhero movie because Auggie is a superhero. It stopped me in my tracks. I read it with my

kids, I loved it, they loved it. I hurled myself on the mercy of the producers and said, ‘Please, let me be in this movie. I want to be the mom’,” said Roberts.

“I couldn’t put the book down. It is such a powerful way of telling people how they should behave to others. It reminded me to find moments in every day to choose the nice approach with other people,” she added.

Directed by Stephen Chbosky, the movie also stars Own Wilson.—PTI ■

Hollywood puts scandal aside for a night at the honorary Oscars

LOS ANGELES — Putting aside the sexual harassment scandal for a night, the stars of Hollywood came out on Saturday to celebrate the work of actor Donald Sutherland and four other filmmakers awarded honorary Oscars.

Sutherland, 82, has appeared in more than 140 films including “The Dirty Dozen”, “MASH” and “Don’t Look Now” and is familiar to a younger generation for the “Hunger Games” franchise, but had never won an Oscar.

“This is very important to me, to my family,” Sutherland said at the annual Governors Awards, where Oscar statuettes are awarded to celebrate a person’s body of work over a career.

“I wish I could say thank you to the characters I’ve played, thank them for informing my life,” he added.

“Hunger Games” star Jennifer Lawrence, said Suther-

land’s work “is movie magic at its best”.

Angelina Jolie introduced Belgian-born director Agnes Varda, 89, awarded an honorary Oscar for a career that began in the New Wave of the 1950s and 60s and whose films include “La Pointe Courte”, “Cleo from 5 to 7” and “Vagabond”. The two women had an impromptu dance on stage. “I got many awards,” Varda said. “Here in the Mecca of cinema, Hollywood, I’ve received the best one.”

This event was attended by stars including Dustin Hoffman, Jake Gyllenhaal, Emma Stone, Colin Farrell, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. African-American director Charles Burnett, whose films include “To Sleep With Anger” starring Danny Glover, and “The Glass Shield” featuring Ice Cube, used his acceptance speech to talk of the challenges he faced to tell stories about his



(L-R) Agnes Varda, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, Owen Roizman, Charles Burnett and Donald Sutherland pose with their Governors Awards on 11 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

community. “It was incumbent on us to tell our story, our humanity in our way ... using film as a means for social change,” he said.

Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Inarritu, who won Oscars for “Birdman” and “The Revenant” was awarded for his virtual reality film “Carne y Arena” which puts the viewer in the shoes of migrants as they try to cross the US border.

He dedicated his honorary Oscar to immigrants “whose reality has been ignored and held hostage by ideologies and definitions, denying them the possibility of being understood and loved.”

Hoffman introduced cinematographer Owen Roizman, with whom he worked on “Tootsie” and “Straight Time”, saying: “It’s his combination of insight and versatility and craft that make Owen Roizman special.”

— Reuters ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with outgoing Singaporean Ambassador Mr. Robert Chua in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Outgoing Singaporean Ambassador calls on Union Attorney-General

AMBASSADOR of Singapore to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua, who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, called on Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting at the office of the Union Attorney-General, the outgoing ambassador and U Tun Tun Oo discussed several issues including promoting bilat-

eral friendship between the two countries, keeping on cooperation in promoting legal sector, further cooperating in conducting human resource development and legal training courses under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Singapore's Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Union Attorney-General Office. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Shakespeare in front seat in new drive to attract overseas tourists to England's heartland

LONDON — Britain's most famous playwright William Shakespeare is being used to help spearhead a new drive to attract overseas tourists to the Midlands area of England.

The tourism agency Shakespeare's England has joined a three-year joint partnership with three other agencies to market Britain's second biggest city, Birmingham, and the surrounding areas to a global audience.

VisitBritain said Birmingham Airport, the West Midlands Growth Company and Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire, have also joined the partnership.

Together, the organisations will market Birmingham and the surrounding areas to a global audience and convert inspiration to visit into bookings, and promote direct flights to the area.

VisitBritain Commercial Director Carol Dray said: "Increasing regional connectivity not only makes it easier for vis-

itors to see more of Britain, the West Midlands and the Peak District, it boosts economic growth, and helps keep us an attractive destination in this fiercely competitive global market."

Helen Peters, CEO of Shakespeare's England, told Xinhua how the famous bard is crucial to tourism to the area where one of the world's most famous writers was born and lived.

"The name of William Shakespeare is known around the world, so much so that when Birmingham was promoting its airport in China, it was labelled as 'Shakespeare's Airport'".

"Stratford-on-Avon where he was born and lived is a small market town with a population of just 27,000, yet the town attracts over 10 million visitors every year.

There are few towns of that size that attract so many visitors from home and overseas, particularly as the town centre only covers one square mile."

"But within that square mile are some of the most important sites linked to Shakespeare."

Asked how Shakespeare would react to the knowledge that his birthplace was so important on the global stage, Peters told Xinhua: "Most artists would wish to leave some kind of legacy and Shakespeare's name lives on after 400 years. I am sure he would be delighted.

"Although he wrote his famous plays centuries ago, his story lines, covering love, loss, marriage, combats between families, are as relevant today. His work reemerges as modern day stories, such as in the musical *Guys and Dolls*, which is essentially the story of *Romeo and Juliet*."

West Midlands Growth Company Director of Marketing and Communications Emma Gray said: "Birmingham and its surrounding areas have become increasingly popular tourist destinations, attracting some 1.5 million international visitors in 2015." —Xinhua ■

Breakfast at Tiffany's — At long last, Fifth Avenue store opens a cafe

NEW YORK — A half-century after Audrey Hepburn starred in "Breakfast at Tiffany's," the landmark New York jewellery

store is making the title of the 1961 romantic comedy film a reality by opening a cafe where shoppers can enjoy a morning

meal.

The new eatery, which opened on Friday, is an opportunity for customers at Tiffany &

Co's Fifth Avenue flagship store, including foreign tourists who account for a big chunk of sales, to get a taste of the glamour epitomized by Hepburn's Holly Golightly character.

Dressed in a black Givenchy dress and pearls, Hepburn made a fashion statement that Tiffany believes still resonates with shoppers.

Like many traditional retailers, Tiffany has struggled to appeal to younger shoppers, many of whom have shunned the type of traditional jewellery, such as solitaire engagement rings, that is the brand's mainstay.

As part of its strategy to attract millennials, the company introduced the more contemporary Tiffany HardWear collection in an agreement with pop star Lady Gaga earlier this year.

After a sharp drop from their 2014 high, Tiffany shares have risen about 6 per cent since the company struck a turnaround

deal with activist investor Jana Partners in February.

The new Blue Box Cafe on the fourth floor of the Fifth Avenue store may help the brand recapture its buzz, too. It is designed for "customers who have always dreamed of having Breakfast at Tiffany's," the company said in a statement.

The eatery, decorated in Tiffany's signature robin-egg blue motif, offers breakfast at \$29, excluding tax and tip. The menu is based on "American classics made with the highest quality, regionally sourced ingredients."

Social media on Friday buzzed with the choices, which include truffle eggs, buttermilk waffles and vegan avocado toast.

And for those new millennial customers who may be later sleepers and less familiar than their mothers with "Breakfast at Tiffany's," the cafe offers a \$39 pre-fixe lunch and \$49 high tea. — Reuters ■



The outside of Tiffany & Co's flagship store on Fifth Avenue is seen in New York City, New York, US on 10 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar secures first in Yunnan Asian National Badminton Championship 2017



Myanmar Badminton Team seen with gold medals at Yangon International Airport. **Photo: Sports & Physical Education Department**

MYANMAR Badminton team stood first with earning four gold medals in Yunnan Asian National Badminton Championship 2017 hosted in Kunming City in Yunnan Province, China from 11 to 12 November.

Over 100 badminton players from five nations, host China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos participated in the Championship.

The Championship was comprised of four events, Men's Single, Women's Single, Men's Double, Women's Double and Mix Double and Myanmar won golds in four events.

In Men's Single Competition, Aung Myo Htoo won a gold medal while in Women's Single Competition, Thet Htar Thu Zar won a gold.

In Men's Double Competi-

tion, Ar Kar Phone Myat and Hein Si Thu Toe together collected a gold medal while in Mix Double Competition, Chan Win Oo and Thet Htar Thuzar also attained one more goal.

As Myanmar gained gold medals in four events among five, Myanmar secured first place with following China in second place and Thailand in third. — Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myanmar to play India tonight in 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualifier



Myanmar national footballers singing their national anthem at an international friendly match against Cambodia on 9 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR national football team will play a qualifying match for 2019 AFC Asian Cup against India tonight at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa city in India.

The match is very important for Myanmar as Myanmar has not already qualified for the next step and standing the same

marks together with Kyrgyzstan in the Group A.

Myanmar stands third place in the Group A with India leading in the top place and Kyrgyzstan in second place.

"India was a very good defensive. We lost India in the first round of the qualifying match by a late goal. I believe the match can

give us full marks for advancing to next step" said Myanmar Head Coach Gerd Zeise at a media conference in India yesterday.

Tonight's match is a decision making game for Myanmar for advancing to 2019 AFC Asian cup Championship that will be hosted in United Arab Emirates (UAE). — Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Tunisia qualified for the World Cup in Russia 2018

TUNIS — Tunisia has officially taken a ticket to the World Cup Russia 2018 after its 0-0 draw against Libya on Saturday night on the last day of the African qualifying. Tunisia is one point ahead of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in group A by 14 points against 13 points.

The national coach Nabil Maaloul told Xinhua after the

match that "we are qualified and we will be in Russia". He thanked his players for "having done their best".

The Eagles of Carthage will play their fifth World Cup since 1978, during the first participation in Mexico, then in 1998 in France, in 2002 in South Korea-Japan and in 2006 in Germany.— Xinhua ■

Federer opens ATP Finals bid with victory over Sock

LONDON — Aiming to end a sensational year as he began it, Swiss master Roger Federer opened his bid for a seventh ATP Finals title with 6-4, 7-6(4) victory over American debutant Jack Sock on Sunday.

The 36-year-old was given a thorough workout by Sock although had he been a little more clinical the scoreline would have been more heavily-weighted in his favour. Sock, who gate-crashed the end-of-season party when he burst from the pack to qualify by winning the Paris Masters, made the worst possible start when the second of two superb backhand winners gave Federer a break in the first game. It was the only break of serve in the match, although Federer was always a step ahead of his 25-year-old opponent, who possesses one of the hardest forehands in the game.

Federer, the oldest player to qualify for the ATP Finals since 1970, looked aghast as two break points went begging at 3-3 and another two at 4-4 in the second set. More stoic resistance by Sock saw him fend off more danger at 5-5 but Federer re-

mained untouchable on serve and won 29 of 32 points on his delivery in the second set.

Federer jumped into a 4-2 lead in the tiebreak and although Sock finally took a point off the six-time champion's serve to level at 4-4, Federer reeled off the next three points to claim victory. "It's always a struggle in the first match of any tournament," Federer, who took his grand slam title haul to 19 by winning the Australian Open and Wimbledon this year after missing the last six months of 2016 through injury, said.

"I got off to a great start, my big hope was I was going to be able to play a bit more freely after that. "The second set was tight, I missed some opportunities, the breaker could have gone either way and in the end he helped me with some double faults and some mistakes."

Shortly afterwards Rafael Nadal was presented with the award for the year-end number one ranking — with the Spaniard scheduled to open his campaign for the only big prize to elude him on Monday against Belgium's David Goffin.—Reuters ■



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates after winning his group stage match against USA's Jack Sock at The O2 Arena in London, Britain on 12 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**