

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Tachilek checkpoint receives more than 9,000 tourists so far

NUMBER of tourists entering Myanmar through Tachilek land point of entry reached 9,007 between 1 April and 10 August in current FY, including same day return visit and overnight trip, according to the news released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

From 4 July to 10 August, 378 tourists visited Myanmar through Tachilek gate.

Tourists enter Myanmar through both international airports and border gates. Foreigners want to explore the country's natural scenic views along the mountain ranges, archeological and historical sites and diversity of culture, lifestyles and tradition of ethnic people.

To enhance tourism industry, Hotels and Tourism Ministry is cooperating with the related ministries, Hotels and Tourism Associations, NGOs and INGOs. In addition, the ministry is creating



Tourists visit the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

new tourism plans- community-based tourism, eco-tourism, marine based tourism, etc. The ministry is also promoting cross-border trip plans as a popular trend worldwide.

Tourists flocked to Myan-

mar mostly via these border land points of entry: Tamu, Muse, Tachilek, Myawady and Keng Tung.

Same day return visitors went to Tar Lot market, Bayintnaung stature, Mahar Muni

pagoda, Shwedagon pagoda, the national ethnic village, Arr Khar market in Tachilek town.

Meanwhile, the overnight trippers went to the famous pagodas in Mong Phyat town and Keng Tung town.—GNLM ■

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Singapore National Day was held



UNION MINISTER for Construction U Win Khaing and wife Daw Hla Hla Mu were welcomed by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Robert Chua and wife Mrs. Hisayo Chua at a ceremony to mark the 52nd Singapore National Day which was held in Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 11 August.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Over 4,000 stimulant tablets seized

POLICE discovered 47,500 stimulant pills on a boat in Maungtau on Friday, but those who were on board managed to escape.

The security forces, while patrolling with watercraft along

the Naf River in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, intercepted the suspected boat and seized the drugs. The seized drug are worth Ks 95 million.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Khakaborazi National Park planned for ski resort

SKI resort is being planned in Khakaborazi National Park, in Naungmung Township of Kachin State, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Australian investor came to discuss building of a ski resort in Khakaborazi National Park. However, this is a long-term plan that needs further observations .

According to policies of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the ministry is implementing eco-tourism in current fiscal year. And Khakaborazi area is also aimed at eco-tourism site.

Mount Khakaborazi is officially recorded 19,296 feet above sea level and it is also recorded as the highest mountain in South East Asia. Visitors can climb the mountain to about 4,000 feet height.

If this place is promoted as tourism site, investors from Japan and Europe are likely to enter market, said an official from the aforementioned ministry.

There are 40 forest reserves among 49 million acres of forest across the country. Eco resort in the name of Bago Yoma was opened in Bago Yoma Mountain ranges in early 2017.—GNLM ■

## Man arrested on suspicion of aiding armed attackers in Buthidaung, Rakhine State

SECURITY forces detained on Friday a villager known as Mawlawi Muhamadali residing in Tinmay village, who was said to have helped violent attackers

Mawlawi Mammad Mein and Habat Annawa.

He was sent to a local police station for further investigation.—Myanmar News Agency ■

# Minister of State for Foreign Affairs participates in the 15<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin participated in the 15th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 10 to 11 August 2017. The Ministerial Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and attended by Ministers/Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the BIMSTEC Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In the evening of 10 August, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended the inaugural session of the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. In his inaugural speech, H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, highlighted that the BIMSTEC Member States should further enhance the cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, energy, environmental conservation, counter-terrorism and connectivity. Then, the Minister of State together with the other



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin poses for a documentary photo with participants in the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

heads of delegation paid a joint courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal. After the joint courtesy call, he also attended the Welcome Dinner hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal in honour of the participants of the Meeting.

On 11 August, the Minister of State participated in the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and addressed the meeting on Myanmar's participation in the BIMSTEC cooperation activities. He said that among the 14 priority areas of BIMSTEC cooperation,

Myanmar is serving as a lead country of Agriculture and Energy sectors. He stressed that providing the energy access could create job opportunities and contribute to the efforts in alleviating poverty. He also highlighted the need to promote cooperation for the development of Energy and Tourism sectors.

In order to promote the trade and investment among BIMSTEC Member States, he stated that Myanmar put in place Myanmar Investment Law and rules and regulations which create the conducive environment for for-

eign investors. He stressed that terrorism has become the most significant threat to peace and stability in the Bay of Bengal region as well as the Southeast Asia region, and called for strengthening cooperation among Member States in the fight against terrorism. He emphasized that a peaceful and stable environment is essential for the success of regional cooperation activities.

At the Ministerial Meeting, the other heads of delegation exchanged views on the progress of the outcome of the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat held in Goa,

India in October last year and discussed the activities and commemorative events undertaken by the Member States to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the BIMSTEC. The Meeting also urged the Member States for early signing of MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection. The Meeting endorsed the appointment of Mr. M Shahidul Islam from Bangladesh as new Secretary General of BIMSTEC for the replacement of the current Secretary General who has completed his tenure of (3) years.. The nomination was made by the Government of Bangladesh in accordance with the alphabetical order. The Minister of State was also accompanied by U Lwin Oo, Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal at the Ministerial Meeting. The Joint Statement of the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was issued at the conclusion of the Meeting.

In the morning of 12th August 2017, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs visited the Myanmar Embassy in Kathmandu and met with the Ambassador and staff of the Embassy.—MOFA■

## Support from Philippines on Rakhine issue

By Mark Angeles  
Expatriate Consultant  
Editor of GNLM

When it comes to how to handle the controversial issues involving the Muslim communities in Rakhine State, the Philippines has our back, the country's foreign minister said at the recently concluded ASEAN summit in Manila.

The Philippines and Myanmar have challenges involving the Muslim communities in Marawi and Rakhine State, respectively, and there could be a common solution, or at least a shared, supported process, in tackling the issues. "The key is dealing with the problem without politicization of the issue", said Alan Peter Cayetano, the Philippines' foreign minister. "The other thing is how to support the Myanmar government in solving problems based on their perspective and their needs".

Last year, Muslim armed men attacked border police outposts in northern Rakhine State, resulting in the deaths of



Alan Peter Cayetano, the foreign minister for the Philippines, answers journalists' questions at the inaugural ASEAN Media Forum, held prior to the recently completed 50th ASEAN summit of foreign ministers in Manila. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

nine police officers. The attacks prompted months of clearance operations by military troops, sparking accusations of human rights abuses.

Similarly, Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi, Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, have been fighting military troops for over two months, resulting in a declaration of martial law in Mindanao and allegations

of human rights abuses.

Cayetano's remarks came at the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Media Forum on Saturday, preceding the ASEAN summit of foreign ministers.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said his country needed to be able to deal with its problems that have cost Filipino lives without external criticism.

"Policemen and soldiers

have died on me", Duterte said. "The war now in Marawi, what caused it but drugs? So human rights, don't go there."

The ministers of the members of ASEAN yesterday renewed their commitment to fight terrorism and prevent the so-called Islamic State from establishing a foothold in the region.

"In line with this, we reaffirmed our commitment to fight ISIS and other violent extremist groups to effectively curb their spread, as well as preventing them from gaining a foothold in the region," the communiqué of the group read.

The effort seems to be gaining some support from western countries, as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who was in attendance at the ASEAN summit in Manila, pledged support in the Philippines' fight against Islamic insurgency by providing surveillance capabilities, training, information and aircraft to help it fight the months-long siege of Marawi City by pro-ISIS militants, the top US diplomat said

Monday as he prepared to meet Duterte. "We think they are beginning to get that situation under control," Tillerson told reporters. "But the real challenge is going to come with once they have the fighting brought to an end how to deal with the conditions on the ground to ensure it does not re-emerge." Human rights groups have questioned US President Donald Trump's willingness to engage with Duterte, who has been criticised for a bloody war on illegal drugs that has killed thousands of suspects. But Tillerson argued there's no contradiction presented by the US decision to help his country fight the militants, whose insurgency in the Philippines has stoked global fears about the Islamic State group exporting violence into Southeast Asia and beyond.

"I see no conflict — no conflict at all in our helping them with that situation and our views of the human rights concerns we have with respect to how they carry out their counter narcotics activities," Tillerson said. ■