

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin hosts dinner for Malaysian FM in Nay Pyi Taw

A delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Mr. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah arrived in Nay Pyi Taw via Yangon yesterday.

The Malaysian delegation was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials of the Embassy of Malaysia. Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin hosted a dinner for Mr. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah and party at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin hosts dinner for Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Mr. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance attends 23rd AFMM in Thailand

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung attended the 23rd ASEAN Finance Minister's Meeting-23rd AFMM and the 5th ASEAN Finance Minister's and Central Bank Governors' Meeting-5th AFMM in Chiang Rai, Thailand from 4 to 6 April.

The deputy minister and party also attended the ASEAN Finance Deputy Meeting – AFDM, ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputy Meeting – AFCDM, ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputy Meeting – AFCDM+3 and related meetings on 2 and 3 April.

During the meetings, the participants reviewed and analyzed the matters related to global and local economic development, and implementing economic and financial cooperation of ASEAN member nations.



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win attends the 23rd ASEAN Finance Minister's Meeting in Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

After analyzing the ASEAN Economic Community in sector-wise implementation, the processes of keys to challenges, widely use of electronic-based digital communication technologies, easing trade restrictions, and integrating the countries in the region into sustainable all-inclusive ASEAN region by narrowing development gaps were also discussed at the meetings.

ASEAN Business Council, ASEAN EU Business Council and ASEAN US Business Council meetings were also held.

Myanmar is working together with other member countries on the processes of ASEAN capital market development, financial and free industrial services, and insurance and tax industries cooperation.—MNA ■ / (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend twelfth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw to be held at Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 29 April 2019 (Monday).

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw Hall (I-11) not earlier than 27 April 2019 (Saturday) and not later than 28 April 2019 (Sunday) along with their identity cards.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend twelfth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to be held at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 29 April 2019 (Monday).

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (I-19) not earlier than 27 April 2019 (Saturday) and not later than 28 April 2019 (Sunday) along with their identity cards.—MNA

Union Minister reviews state of air pollution in Tachilek

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In addition, the Union Minister stressed the need to step up efforts to educate farmers about pollution caused by burning of straw and stalks left over from the previous harvest to prepare for the next planting season.

Air quality in Tachilek had worsened from 15 March due to burning of agricultural waste in the border areas, according to the Environmental Conservation Department.

The air pollution index crossed the hazardous level on 16 and 17 March, but eased later.

The situation worsened again on 31 March, with the air pollution index reaching 502, which is much higher than the hazardous level of 300. The air pollution spiralled downwards in the first week of April.

According to the Environmental Conservation Department, the level of toxic chemicals in the air is very low.

Following the meeting with local authorities, Union Minister U Ohn Win visited the area where the air pollution level was being measured with the use of a machine and a shelter on the Shan Yoma Grounds.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Illegal Bangladesh immigrant, ARSA member captured in Maungtaw

AUTHORITIES have captured an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh identified as Shahel on 29 March and an ARSA member identified as Osman Gawni in Maungtaw on 30 March.

Security forces captured Shahel near the village of Aung Tha Pyay in northern Maungtaw Township on 29 March. Upon questioning they discovered he had crossed from Noha Ali village, Rangamati Township, Bangladesh, into Myanmar with five villagers from Lainmaw Cherry village in Maungtaw

Township on 28 March to rustle cattle. He got separated from the others after losing his way and was subsequently arrested.

In a separate case, security officers patrolling Area 2 of northern Maungtaw Township arrested Osman Gawni (a) Osama for suspicious behaviour from a ravine located on Border Post 40. Upon interrogation, they discovered this man from Yinmakyaung Taung village, Buthidaung Township, was involved in the attack on South Bazar Police Outpost on 25 August 2017.

He is reportedly an absconder from the Counter-Terrorism Law 50 (a) case and was in hiding in Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh.

Authorities say Osman Gawni was recruited into ARSA after attending terrorism training for two months in 2018. The trainings were conducted with 50 ARSA recruits in temporary huts in the forest near Kutupalong, Balukhali, and Muthusaram refugee camps from 10pm to 1am. The recruits reportedly receive 5,000 Bangladesh taka per month



ARSA member Shahel.



ARSA member Osman Gawni.

during the training period. After their training, the recruits are tasked with surveying border

guard posts and police outposts and ambushing them.

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Illegal Bangladesh immigrant, ARSA member captured in Maungtaw

FROM PAGE-2

Authorities say the ARSA ambush on a vehicle carrying border police on 16 January near a bridge in Watkyein Village in Maungtaw Township was committed by a 12-men group led by Zubai (verification pending) from Thetkeyyin village, Maungtaw Tsp. These

men were reportedly rewarded 5,000 Bangladesh taka each upon returning from such attacks.

Osman Gawni is reported to have destroyed the border fence near Border Post 31 and entered Myanmar as part of three 50-men groups on 29 March. He was hiding in the forest to attack three police

outposts, including Ngayant Chaung Police Outpost but was captured by security forces while out scouting.

According to the Myanmar Police Force, ARSA intends to seize Maungtaw District in Rakhine through terrorism and establish an independent state. They persuade people in refugee camps in Bangladesh not

to return to Myanmar by telling them they will not receive citizenship.

Security forces have deployed numerous personnel to scour the vicinity of ARSA's temporary bases but have yet to discover anything.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Islands near Kawthoung crowded with visitors ahead of Thingyan festival

THE Kawthoung Myoma jetty has seen more local and foreign visitors in the one week leading to the Myanmar New Year festival, than any other period, said tour operators.

Local travelers across Myanmar and tourists entering through the border with Thailand are flocking to Kawthoung, a town in the Taninthayi Region of southernmost Myanmar, to travel to the islands near the township before the Thingyan Water Festival on 7 April.

The five-day holiday of the Thingyan, or New Year, water festival begins on 13 April.

With the gradual development of its marine tourism, Kawthoung has become a tourist spot. The township traffic police have made arrangements to curb accidents. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is working to ensure smooth transportation and making other necessary arrangements with the cooperation of tour agencies.



The Kawthoung Myoma Jetty packed with local and foreign visitors before the Thingyan holidays.

PHOTO : KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

The Myanmar marine police is laying down safety protocols for emergencies, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

According to tour opera-

tors, the arrival of visitors from home and abroad is spiralling upward.

Most visitors are coming to the area for eco-tourism ac-

tivities, such as fishing, diving, snorkelling near coral reefs, and bird-watching, they added.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Innovative products, handicrafts exhibited at Maker Fest Myanmar 2019



Visitors show their interest over the innovative products exhibited at the Maker Fest Myanmar 2019 in Mandalay. **PHOTO : AUNG PHYO KYAW**

THE Maker Fest Myanmar 2019 took place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. last Saturday at the Jefferson Centre in Mandalay, and featured innovative products and handicrafts made by young makers.

The aim of the event was to encourage young makers' creative ideas, share their innovative ideas and creations in one place, and to motivate them. "Last February, we held Maker Fest Myanmar 2018 at the American Centre (Yangon), and this time, this event was for young makers in upper Myanmar. There is a little technology gap between Yangon and Mandalay makers. Mandalay makers are more creative than Yangon's, while Yangon makers have better access

to IT. An invention featuring a car with a motorcycle engine, and remote lock installation on a motorcycle were shown at the event. Some students also exhibited their creations. The event is aimed at observing and sharing of innovative ideas between inventors and visitors," said Ko Kyaw Khine, Library Director, American Centre (Yangon). At the event, more than 30 groups of youngsters showcased their innovative projects, handicrafts, biological products, DIY recycle products, and electronic appliances. The TALK, Workshop, and Robot Game programs were included in the 2019 edition of Maker Fest Myanmar.—Aung Phyo Kyaw ■ (Translated by La Wonn)