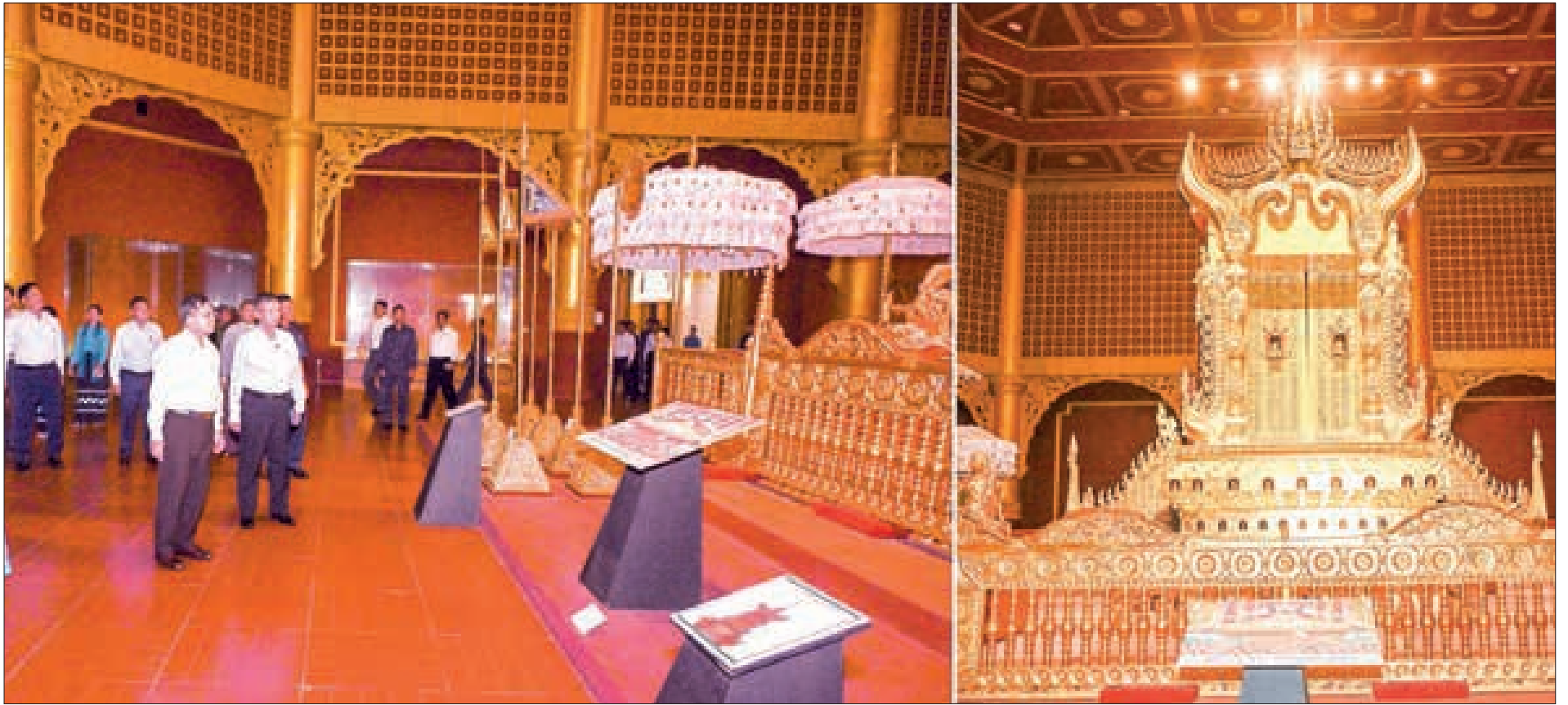


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the National Museum of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the locomotive factory and national museum

1. Service personnel need to successfully build DEMU carriages at home with a plan to operate electric trains in the future.
2. Priority must be given to upgrading the Yangon-Pyay railway section and Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay railway section.
3. Efforts must be made to run prescribed speed limits for relevant trains and carry out maintenance of railways to ensure good conditions and meet standards.
4. Necessary information and evidence must be compiled in the original works for the reconstruction of the Sishay Bridge at Mandalay Royal Palace.

Reforms needed for Myanmar Railways in new era

Priority must be given to upgrading the Yangon-Pyay railway section and Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay railway section.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to consider the necessary preparations for railway stations and overpasses to upgrade railways to electric railways.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday

morning inspected the New Locomotive Assembling Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Section of Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the National Museum of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw) in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

At the New Locomotive Assembling Factory (Nay Pyi Taw), the Senior General inspected DEMU carriages imported from Japan to run them on the Yangon-Mandalay railway section and DEMU carriages built by Myanmar.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo and Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing reported on the implementation of the tasks in accord with the guidance of the Prime Minister on his inspection tour of the factory on 10 September 2021, the building of DEMU carriages at Myitnge Factory, finishing of building the carriages at Nay Pyi Taw Factory, and supply of bogies for DMU carriages.

SEE PAGE 3

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 45/2024

14th Waning of Waso 1386 ME

3 August 2024

Return to military duties granted

THE State Administration Council has granted Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung, who was appointed as Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and concurrently assigned him to the duties of Chief of the Myanmar Police Force, to return to the original military responsibilities under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Chief of Myanmar Police Force

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Police Chief (1) of the Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Win Zaw Moe from the Ministry of Home Affairs as Chief of the Myanmar Police Force under Section 419 of the Constitution.

More trees planted for birds at Mt Popa

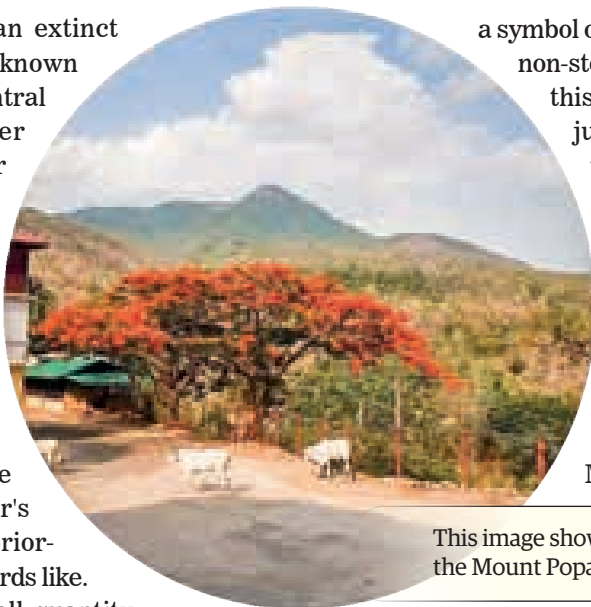
AT Mount Popa, an extinct volcano and well-known oasis in Anya (central Myanmar), further trees are planted for birds, according to the Yenatha Dinga Brothers Parahita group.

The philanthropic group has been growing shade trees at Mount Popa since 2019, and this year's planting project prioritizes trees which birds like.

Despite being small quantity, trees were planted in a systematic plan.

Of trees, *Muntingia calabura*, which re-grows itself after birds pooped, is included.

"We just planted 250 perennials yesterday. This time, trees such as Gangaw, champac, Nyaung-che-daunk and *Muntingia calabura* (Matakut in Myanmar) are included, aiming to provide food for birds in particular. Champac is



This image shows a general view of the Mount Popa seen from afar.

a symbol of Popa. It is raining here non-stop. Trees that we planted this time are not very big, just medium-sized," said the group's founder, Ko Dinga.

Now, birds have become scarce at Mount Popa, and the sounds of birds can no longer be heard like before.

"Birds like fruits of Matakut very much. The

bird population becomes scarce at Mount Popa, and we don't hear their sounds much like before," he said.

So far, Yenatha Dinga Brothers has grown more than 30,000 shade trees and built lakes, zayat (shelter for travellers) and roadside drinking water pots (Yechansin in Myanmar) in Anya. — Thit Taw/ZS

Kyaikkhami's popular dried Ngasinyine now exported to Thailand

SMALL and dried striped dwarf catfish (Ngasinyine) from Mon State's Kyaikkhami, which are now being sold well, are also being exported to Thailand.

In Kyaikkhami Township's dried fish market, these types of dried fish have received many orders.

"Small Ngasinyine is

mainly exported to Thailand. This dried fish is also supplied domestically. We also supply it to Yangon. It is lightly salted and dried. Not very light. In the local market, it is supplied mostly to Yangon," said a dried fish trader in the Kyaikkhami.

Its export route to Thailand is via the Kawthoung-Ra-

nong route, and it is one of the top-selling dried fish.

"We send them to Thailand from the Kawthoung-Ranong route. Because there are many Myanmar people in Thailand, they like it, and it is sold well. We sell about 400-500 tonnes a week. It is worth consuming at its price," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

Authorities confirm sufficient domestic fuel supply

THE Supervisory Committee on the Import, Storage, and Distribution of Fuel Oil is working to ensure adequate fuel stock at the storage tanks at Thilawa Port until the end of the second week of August to maintain a sufficient supply of fuel oil within the country.

In addition, the committee is ensuring the continuous arrival of oil tankers from abroad. The committee has issued a statement advising the public not to trust misinformation spread by online media, not to purchase fuel excessively or unnecessarily, and not to sell it at inflated prices. The committee is also systematically monitoring filling stations to ensure they do not refuse to sell oil despite having stock.

Continuous rainfall has caused flooding in some regions, leading to delays in fuel importation, distribution processes, and transport. Therefore, officials are regularly dis-

tributing fuel daily to 98 petrol stations in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, 196 stations in Yangon Region, and 692 stations in Mandalay Region, as well as over 3,000 filling stations across the country. If necessary, authorities are distributing an additional three million gallons of petrol and diesel per day through urgent or special programmes.

Investigations have reported that vehicles are queuing at only five stations in Nay Pyi Taw out of 100, 24 petrol stations in Yangon out of 146, and 19 stations in Mandalay Region out of 163. That indicates that no or few purchases are occurring at the remaining fuel stations, even though they have stock.

Accordingly, the committee urges the public to buy fuel at their nearest petrol stations to prevent unnecessarily long queues and traffic congestion on the roads. — MNA/TMT



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NATIONAL



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the construction of Myanmar Railway tracks for railway detour at the New Locomotive Assembling Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

In his response, the Senior General stressed the need to steadfastly maintain railways, locomotives and carriages.

He pointed out that it is necessary to carry out research and development tasks on the building of trains, systematic measures of railway stations, good landscapes along environments of railways, efficient use of railway yards and research and development of technologies for carriages and railways.

The Senior General encouraged all to conduct reforms of Myanmar Railways as a new era, adding service personnel needed to successfully build DEMU carriages at home with a future plan to operate electric trains.

He continued that it is necessary to consider preparations for railway stations and overpasses to upgrade railways to electric railways.

He pointed out that priori-

Reforms needed for Myanmar Railways in new era

ty must be given to upgrading the Yangon-Pyay railway section and the Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay railway section.

The Senior General underlined that efforts must be made to run prescribed speed limits for relevant trains and carry out maintenance of railways to ensure they are in good condition and adhere to standards.

He highlighted that as rail transportation can cut fuel consumption and travel time, trains must be operated to transport commodities along the vital railways of the State.

He called for the convenience of train passengers along the circular railways, and the plans must be implemented so that passengers can experi-

ence fair fares on trains.

The Senior General gave guidance on maintaining carriages and building new carriages. Yards of railways must be utilized efficiently. Research must be done to keep abreast of other countries in the rail transport sector.

The Senior General presented cash awards to factory employees through officials.

At the National Museum of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw), the Senior General heard reports by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin on maintenance of city walls and buildings, construction of Mandalay royal palace walls, water moat and bridges, damage of these structures

in the second World War, and maintenance of the Sishay Bridge.

The Senior General viewed a video clip on the history of the museum.

Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo reported on plans for the construction of a detour railway of Toungoo.

In his speech, the Senior General underscored that it is necessary to maintain significant royal palaces as much as possible.

He stressed that necessary ministerial buildings must be moved to other places for the renovation of the Toungoo Royal Palace and Ketumai walls.

He continued to say that

necessary information and evidence must be compiled for the reconstruction of the Sishay Bridge at Mandalay royal palace in original works.

He highlighted that farmlands must be reclaimed in advance for the land plot earmarked for building the Toungoo railway station.

A new extended urban area must be established after the creation of a systematic layout plan, whereas the construction of a detour railway of Toungoo must be considered in the long run.

After viewing round the museum, the Senior General gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA/TTA



The 2024 Foreign Investment Policy Briefing in progress on 31 July in Chongqing, China.

2024 foreign investment policy briefing held in Chongqing

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Consul-General U Kyaw Zeyar Lin of Myanmar Consulate-General in Chongqing attended the 2024 Foreign Investment Policy Briefing hosted by the Chongqing Municipal Government Economic Commission on 31 July.

During the meeting, the Chongqing Municipal Economic Commission presented its foreign investment policies and plans for 2024.

The consuls-general, deputy consuls-general from consulates based in Chongqing, and representatives from foreign economic offices and associations attended the event. —ASH/TMT

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister joins MWA Conference and literary awards



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and winners of the Mekong Literacy Award and those of Myanmar Writers' Association pose for the documentary group photo in Yangon at yesterday's event.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the central leading committee meeting of the third conference of the Myanmar Writers' Association and literary award ceremony in Yangon yesterday.

In his speech, the Union min-

ister highlighted the first three conferences of the association held in 2012, 2016 and on 22 May 2022, stipulation of set up of the association that lasts four years for a conference and holding of the meeting of the central leading committee every two years.

He then said two literacy awards will be presented. The Mekong Literacy Award started in 2014, and the writers' associations of six Mekong countries selected the awards.

The ceremony was held in six countries, and it reached the

12th ceremony. The 10th ceremony was held in Myanmar in 2019, the 11th in Cambodia in 2020 and the 12th in Laos in 2021. However, the 11th and 12th ceremonies were not held due to COVID-19, and the four winners were awarded at this ceremony.

The literacy award ceremony of the Myanmar Writers' Association was first held in 2013, and the second was held this year. Eighteen winners will be awarded in three categories.

The Union minister then appreciated the winners of the Mekong Literacy Award and the Myanmar Writers' Association.

Then, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein donated K3.5 million to prize winners.

The Union minister presented prizes to four winners of the Mekong Literacy Awards.

Then, the region's chief minister and relevant officials presented awards to the winners of the Myanmar Writers' Association's second manuscript competition.

After the ceremony, the Union minister took a documentary photo and observed the photo records.

At noon, the Union minister met the members of the Organizing Committee on Formation of Myanmar Digital Media Association in Bahan.

First, he mentioned the role of digital and media, efforts to emerge Myanmar Digital Media Association to protect and uplift the interests of those who run digital media, to solve disputes, the participation of experts from IT, media and digital technology fields, the needs to draft rules and regulations for association.

He finally instructed officials to prevent the people from using malicious digital platforms that spread misinformation and disinformation. Then, Organizing Committee on Formation of Myanmar Digital Media Association Chairman U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) and committee members discussed various matters. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Motion Pictures Museum reopens on 3 August

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Museum reopened on 3 August after being temporarily closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Director A-1 Than Htut, Central Executive member of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (Central).

At the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Myanmar Film in 1995, the museum traced its origins to when individuals donated their collections of old film advertisements to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. The museum was officially established on 4 November 1998. "We tried to reopen the museum twice and decided to do it a third time. The repairs inside the museum have been completed. The

public can now observe the outfits of artistes from different eras. Students, diplomats, and foreigners visit and study at the museum. We invite all film lovers to come and visit," Director A-1 Than Htut said.

The museum features four galleries representing the Jubilees of Gold, Silver, Diamond, and Century. It also showcases a range of cameras, from hand-crank to modern. Additionally, it displays photos of winners of the Film Outstanding Awards, which started in 1952. The museum has a total of six galleries. The Myanmar Motion Pictures Museum welcomes visitors daily from 9 am to 3 pm with an admission fee of K1,000 per person. — ASH/TRKM



This photo shows the Myanmar Motion Pictures Museum.

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

MIFER families donate foodstuffs to security forces

FAMILY members of the staff at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations are arranging to provide cash and food to the security forces who are making sacrifices for the State's defence and security duties on the frontline.

The Union minister and officials inspected staff members who were enthusiastically preparing food for the security forces. They provided 11 types of food, including 228 sacks of fried fish paste, 222 sacks of fried dried fish, 210 packages of coffee, 210 packages of Shwe Phee Oo tea mix, 2,000 cheroots, 210 packs of instant noodles, 210 packs of instant tea leaves, 200 packs of cookies, 200 packs of wafers, and 200 packs of Royal-D rehydrated salt. They also included a note with the best wishes: "Be Healthy, Be Safe, and May Victory be with the Righteous".

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations families donated K1,800,000 for food and K5,200,000 in cash, totalling K7 million. — MNA/TRKM



Officials look round the preparatory work for the ministry's contributions to security forces who are making sacrifices for the State's defence and security duties on the frontline yesterday.



Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn views round the preparation for the ministry's donations yesterday.

MoC honours Tatmadaw and frontline security forces with supplies

VOLUNTEERS from the Ministry of Commerce visited the Nay Pyi Taw Command headquarters on 3 August and handed over K10 million worth of food and K10 million in cash, totalling K20 million, to the security forces who are making sacrifices for the State's defence and security duties on the frontline.

The ceremony for handing over the donated items was held at Paunglaung Avenue in Nay Pyi Taw Command and was attended by Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, and officials. Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min received the donation, presented a certificate

of honour, and expressed his gratitude.

They provided foodstuffs, such as fried sauce, canned fish, packets of instant noodles, coffee, tea, biscuits, and wafers. Additionally, they sent messages of encouragement to the frontline security forces, wishing them safety and victory in their battles. — MNA/TKO

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council inspects arrangements to provide frontline security forces

NAY Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and the Vice Mayor of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee inspected and encouraged the staff and their family members on 2 August as they prepared fried foodstuffs for the security forces who are making sacrifices for the State's defence and security duties on the frontline.

Staff and their family members from the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, and other departments, including the Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Federation and the Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, prepared various

foodstuffs such as fries, coffee, and dried noodles in 20 different kinds, attaching their messages of encouragement to the frontline security forces.

On the morning of 3 July, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman visited the Nay Pyi Taw Command headquarters. He handed over K10,000,000 in cash and K15,000,000 worth of foodstuffs donated by the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, and other departments for the security forces. Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min accepted the donation, returned a certificate of honour, and expressed his gratitude. — Tun Tun Win (IPRD)/TKO



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and Nay Pyi Taw Council members oversee the preparation for donations yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Organizations condemn MNDAA's attack

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. They forcibly abducted some local people. Moreover, some locals temporarily left other regions.

MNDAA committed war crimes, and Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central), Myanmar

Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), Deliverance Church (Yangon), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Sports Media Federation, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar Music Association

(Central), Myanmar Artists Organization (Central), Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians' Association, Myanmar Writers' Association, Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque and Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association issued statement strongly condemned the MNDAA's attacks which caused residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital deaths and injuries. — MNA/KTZH



Statement of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. Some patients were abducted. Remaining people flee to safer places.
2. In its statement, the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) objected to and condemned deaths and injuries of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Executive Committee
Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)



Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State using rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and injured. Some patients were abducted.
2. Moreover, the attacks of MNDAA resulted in casualties, and other locals fled to different places, facing losses in the socioeconomic sector.
3. In its statement, the Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central) objected to and condemned deaths and injuries of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)

Statement of Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. Some patients were abducted.

In its statement, the Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) objected to and condemned deaths and injuries of local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)



Statement of Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some patients were abducted.

In its statement, the Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) objected to and condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

Statement of Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and injured. Some patients were abducted.
2. In its statement, the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance objected to and condemned deaths and injuries of locals, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

Statement of Deliverance Church (Yangon)

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some patients were abducted. Civilians are fleeing to safer areas amid escalating tensions and rising casualties, exacerbating humanitarian concerns.

In its statement, the Deliverance Church (Yangon) objected to and condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Deliverance Church (Yangon)

NATIONAL



Statement of Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and injured.
2. It is sorrowful to hear that civilians are fleeing to safer areas, suffering from the loss of their socioeconomic lives.
3. In its statement, the Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) objected to and condemned deaths and injuries of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists attacked the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio of Shan State (North) with rockets, heavy weapons and drones. They attacked there with excessive strength, killing and injuring residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were abducted. It was heard that terrorists fire at residential wards in Lashio with rockets, heavy weapons and drones. So, residents were killed and wounded in the incidents, and some left their residences.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) is totally unacceptable and strongly condemns their terror acts.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

Statement of Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted.
2. In its statement, the Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque objected to and condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in intentional rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque



Statement of Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted.
2. In its statement, the Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association objected to and strongly condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings committing war crime.

Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association



Statement of Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted.

In its statement, the Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar objected to and strongly condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

Statement of Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some were forcefully abducted. Due to attacks of terrorists, residents lose lives and social life in leaving their residences.

In its statement, the Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association objected to and strongly condemned casualties of local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association



Statement of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and wounded. Some were abducted.
2. In its statement, the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council objected to and strongly condemned deaths and injuries of locals, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council



Statement of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted. The remaining residents flee to safer places, suffering from the loss of their socioeconomic lives.
2. Thus, the All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) objected to and strongly condemned these terrorist attacks by MNDAA.

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Earn foreign currency from the export of value-added bamboo products

MYANMAR, a country rich in natural resources, is home to extensive forests that cover about 42 per cent of its land area. Among these forests are vast bamboo groves, which provide a wealth of resources like bamboo poles, shoots, leaves, and other medicinal parts to the local population. Globally, over 600 million people rely on bamboo for their livelihoods, earning it the nickname “green gold” due to its diverse applications and economic potential. Bamboo is highly valued not only for its construction materials and timber substitutes but also for personal goods, making it an essential resource for sustainable development.

In Myanmar, bamboo shoots are a popular commodity, with local markets offering a variety of products, such as pickled, boiled, fresh, and tender bamboo shoots. These products are in high demand, fetching good prices domestically. Despite being a member of the grass family, bamboo is remarkable for its rapid growth and its ability to absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. A single hectare of bamboo can absorb up to 62 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually while also preventing soil degradation. That makes bamboo cultivation a vital tool in environmental conservation efforts, as well as a reliable source of income for farmers who can regularly harvest bamboo poles and shoots.

Currently, as timber extraction is under control, bamboo is substituted in some parts of timber products. Hence, businesspersons have to establish bamboo groves on a commercial scale and produce value-added bamboo products to catch the interests of customers as export items for earning foreign currencies while conserving the natural environment.

As a developing nation, Myanmar benefits significantly from its bamboo resources, which provide food and livelihoods for many of its people. According to the Forest Department, Myanmar is home to 102 varieties of bamboo, 18 of which are commercially viable. These bamboo groves are particularly abundant in the Bago and Rakhine mountain ranges, as well as the Taninthayi Region. Although bamboo has many potential uses, including in paper production and household utensils, its products are not yet fully exploited in the domestic market.

Myanmar boasts more than 1.7 million hectares of bamboo groves across the country. Some enterprising Myanmar businesspeople have already tapped into the international market, earning millions of US dollars annually from the export of value-added bamboo products. With appropriate support from authorities in the form of better extraction methods and cultivation practices, the bamboo industry in Myanmar has the potential to expand significantly.

Currently, as timber extraction is under control, bamboo is substituted in some parts of timber products. Hence, businesspersons have to establish bamboo groves on a commercial scale and produce value-added bamboo products to catch the interests of customers as export items for earning foreign currencies while conserving the natural environment.



Book Title - Ahkyat Ahtai Seepwayay Ahkyat Ahtai Naingnganyay Kuhtone
 Writer - Than Soe (Economics)
 Publishing House - SMART
 Publication Date - June 2024 (1st Edition)
 Price - K7,500

Ahkyat Ahtai Seepwayay Ahkyat Ahtai Naingnganyay Kuhtone

THIS book was written by Than Soe (Economics), an economist. He is a highly prolific author of theses and/or term papers. As you may all know, the economy matters to everybody's most important affairs. From the household and firm level to the national level, economic activities play a cardinal role in the effectuation of economic growth and development at both microeconomic and macroeconomic levels.

Nowadays, people from all strata are facing both economic and political crises. This being so, the production of such a book is strongly believed to be contributing towards the settlement of crises. This book provides the economic policies and practices adopted by countries pursuing the market economy. There is no

doubt that the economic policies and principles of the market economies will be basically the same. However, the proposed economic strategies will not work if the market economy is not correctly employed and implemented. The market economic tools presented in this book cannot be said to be outdated or old-fashioned because they are based on modern economic principles and practices. If something goes wrong, the blame is to be placed only upon the implementers. As with all cases, the whys and the whats are always okay, while the whos and the hows are always problematic. What counts is who implements a plan and how. If we fail in our effort to implement a plan, program or project, the blame is to be heaped on the implementers

who do things in the wrong way.

In our case, Myanmar started to introduce a market-oriented economy soon after the attainment of independence. Despite early introduction, Myanmar has failed to achieve economic growth and development. Upon careful and interrogative examination, we have nothing but to blame the economic structure.

The book is opened with an article titled, “Ngwe Godown, Thugaungpyukhan Ahyinshin Hnint Kyaung Htaing Sayadaw”, which can be literally translated as “Money Godown, the Entrepreneurs Who Have Good Access to the Men in Power and the Abbot”. This article deals with the economic woes and personal sorrows during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was

no prevailing law and order, and chaos was dominating the communities. People did not dare to go out shopping or receive medical care for fear of being infected with the lethal virus as well as of being attacked and/or robbed. People lost their jobs as a result of economic stringencies.

Another article is titled “Dat Ngwe Lawka 97 Hnint Lu Lai Gyi Thar Thamee Myar”. This article has disclosed the dirty tricks of foreign investors. The writer points out that the foreign investors have withdrawn their businesses, giving a lame excuse. They would say they have to retreat merely because of the economic sanctions imposed by the Western community. Matter-of-factly, the imposition of economic sanctions is not a new problem because such sanctions have been imposed since 1997. As known to all, Myanmar has had astronomical figures of sanctions imposed for alleged violations of human rights or political repressions for many decades. Amidst such and such sanctions, foreign investors were not found to have retreated in those days. Obviously, they are simply giving weak excuses for the withdrawal of the FDI from our soil. The truth is that the responsible investors would not behave like that.



Book Title - Kobaing Seebwaryay Loke Mai Hso Yin
 Writer - Aung Ko Oo (UMK)
 Publishing House - Kaung Hsu Thar
 Publication Date - March 2024 (4th Edition)
 Price - K15,000

Kobaing Seebwaryay Loke Mai Hso Yin

THIS book is a collection of 52 articles dealing with starting a business of one's own. The writer said that he was encouraged to write articles on business and economics and that he wrote these articles to share his experiences as well as the theories he had learnt.

In those days, young people would join the government service or work for privately owned companies instead of doing one's own business. However, with our country opening the door and introducing the market-oriented economy, the younger generations have turned to doing their own businesses. They would establish their own businesses or work

as freelance translators/interpreters, private teachers, freelance accountants and/or auditors. If they are from a medical career, they would run their own private clinics. During the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, people were all homebound, thereby having to do their business online. People work from home. When they do their own businesses, they have difficulty because of a lack of knowledge of business and economics. Some make profits while some suffer dramatically. Seeing this situation, the writer had an idea to share his knowledge. With this thought, he started to contribute articles on businesses and economics to an

economic magazine. They were written in a series. The writer said that when he submitted his first article on Facebook, a publisher came to see him and encouraged him to contribute to his magazine. Since then, he has become a regular contributor to that magazine, and this book has come into existence.

Among his recommendations, I have found four important points - types of business, market area, investment types, and break-even point. He said these four points must be appropriately known before starting a business. I am strongly confident that his strategies and/or tips will be dramatically beneficial to the younger gen-

erations who would venture to set up their own business, big or small.

As his articles were written during the COVID-19 pandemic, some facts and figures, as well as data and statistics, may be outdated, but the assumptions and principles, as well as the practices, will remain the same. This being so, these articles can be referred to in a reliable manner.

One thing that can be viewed as a nuisance to some readers is the mentioning of English words. For this, the writer explains that translation of the business and economic jargon into Myanmar can be too confusing sometimes. In that case, direct use of the original words can be better. However, he sometimes uses the English word with the Myanmar equivalent mentioned within a bracket. Mixed coding is really awkward, and so the writer has made his earnest apology to the readers for mixed coding as well as for the direct use of English words.

As for me, who writes the book reviews, this book is strongly recommended without any reservation whatsoever.

ဇာတ်သိမ်းခန်း

❖ ခြိမ်းလိုက်တာ ဝန်းခန်း ချန်းလိုက်တာ ဒိုင်းခန်း မှိုင်းလိုက်တာ မည်းမည်းမည်း သည်းလိုက်တာ ဖျော့ဖျော့ ဝေါဝေါဝေါ မိုးသံဟိန်း။

❖ မာန်ဟုန်ဆောင် ဌာန်ကုန်အောင် ရွာလိုက်ပါ ဖြာဝိုက်ကာ ငွေရည်လျှိုလို့ ဆောင်းတမန် နှင်းမှုန်ပျိုးတော့ မိုးရဲ့ဇာတ်သိမ်း။

သူရဇော်

THE FINALE

❖ Thunder rumbles, Boom ... Boom! Thunderclap sounds Bang ... Bang! An overcast sky is painted and blackened more! Torrential rains pour Roar ... Roar! It's raining buckets down!

❖ With a mighty strength, The rain pours down in torrents Though there's a sea of silvery rains, When the herald of winter comes again, Reach the finale of rains!

Translated by Maung Swe Ngae

သစ်ရွက်ဆွေးများ ရင်မှာသိမ်းထား ပတ္တမြားလို စကားလက်ဆုံပြောမကုန်ဘူး

မောင်ပန်းမွှေး

dry leaves stored in the chest like rubies the talks together [seem] endless

Maung Pan Hmay (original in Myanmar) Translation by Myint Zan

Teacher of Virtue

By Chit Ko Pe

Filled with compassion, hobby and sacrifice a teacher is the pupils' mentor and guide having a gardener's heart and foresight. Despite the lack of a fulfilled and cosy life, present on the face is a smiling shade. Paying respect, the teacher is held high.

မြတ်ဆရာ

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

စေတနာ ဝါသနာ အနစ်နာ ရင်မှာတည် ဖြိုးပြည့်လို့ တပည့်ရေး လမ်းပြကူ သွန်သင်ပြသသူ။ ဥယျာဉ်မှူးနဲ့လုံးမူ ဖေးကူ ဂရုစိုက်။ ဘဝအနေ ငယ်နပ်လည်း ပြုံးရုပ်ဆောင် မနှမ်းသူ လက်ကမ်းကူ ဆရာမြတ်အား ဝတ်တူးဦးတိုက်။ ။

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NATIONAL Entertainment



Two iconic singers bring vibrancy to Yangon

THE show of two great singers, Chit Kaung and Connie, was successfully organized at The Heart of Rangoon (THOR) in Yangon on 1 August.

The Odyssey Band participated in the show that started at 6:30 pm on that day. Chit Kaung once said, "Chit Kaung emerged due to Win Min Htwe. Composer Win Min Htwe is a person like my father, mentor and brother." He sang most of the songs written by Win Min Htwe. — ASH/KTZH



Nu Nu Yi (Inwa)

Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House released a famous novel by author Nu Nu Yi (Inwa), 'Ani Lar Awah Lar Asein Lar' (Red or Yellow or Green). The story conveys the life connection between poor parents and children. The author will sign for book lovers at book fairs of SKCC Headquarters in Tamway Township from 10 am to 4 pm on 3 and 4 August.

Tin Maung San Min Win

The first session of 'Marlarmyaing Theatrical Show' will feature unique programmes. It will be broadcast via MRTV4, Pyone Play and Marlarmying Group Facebook page at 8 pm on 4 August. Dancer Tin Maung San Min will make a duel dance with great female dancers Shwe Mann Thu Myint Myint Than, Si Si Sein and Bae Lay Seinn. Dancers San Min Aung and Boon will also participate in the show. 'Mingala Pwekhinn 2', which was slated to be organized at Sedona Hotel on 4 August 2024, was rescheduled for 11 August (Sunday), and those who bought tickets can enjoy the show.

Ngwe Zin Hlaine

Vocalist Ngwe Zin Hlaine notified her fans on 2 August that her new MV song titled 'Kyay Nat Par Tal' composed by Nyi Min Khine, will be released soon on YouTube Channel. She became famous for Myanmar Idol Season 3 and released the album 'Tha Chin The!'.
Composer: Nyi Min Khine

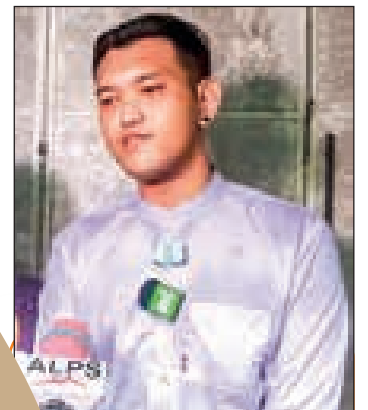


Celebrity Brief



May Kabyar

Actress May Kabyar, who runs three KB Fashion shops in Yangon and Mandalay, resumes her acting career after a long break. She urged her fans to subscribe to her YouTube channel, saying she would post her new story, including Phyto Ngwe Soe and U Kyaw Htoo, as well as movies and MTV songs.



Metta Myint Myat Hein

The date 2 August marked the third anniversary of the demise of comedian U Myitta. His family donated food for 300 people. The son of U Myitta mentioned his feelings to his late father.

Amera Hpone

New vocalist Amera Hpone highlighted her efforts in making a dance performance video of her latest song 'Arkar Tha Aeik Met'. She also thanked those who helped make this song and video. She takes Nway Nway's character in the musical drama series titled 'Tay Thasay'. —Htun Htun/KTZH

NATIONAL



Statement of Sports Media Federation

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted. The remaining residents are fleeing to safer areas amid escalating tensions and rising casualties, exacerbating humanitarian concerns.

In its statement, the Sports Media Federation objected to and strongly condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Sports Media Federation

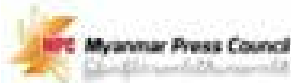


Statement of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted.
2. In its statement, the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization objected to and strongly condemned casualties of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization



Statement of Myanmar Press Council

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones.
2. Inhumane terrorist attack causes deaths and injuries to local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some locals were also forcefully abducted.
3. It is sorrowful to hear that civilians are fleeing to safer areas amid escalating tensions and rising casualties, exacerbating humanitarian concerns due to the fact that terrorists, with no reason, are committing attacks on non-military targets, including houses, wards and religious buildings. Thus, the Myanmar Press Council objected to and condemned this deliberate perpetration of attacks by terrorists.

Myanmar Press Council



Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. Some patients were forcefully abducted. Civilians are fleeing to safer areas amid escalating tensions and rising casualties, exacerbating humanitarian concerns.

In its statement, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) objected to and strongly condemned terror acts.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Writers' Association

3 August 2024

1. MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and injured.
2. In its statement, the Myanmar Writers' Association objected to and condemned deaths and injuries of residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Myanmar Writers' Association



Statement of Myanmar Comedians' Association

3 August 2024

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some patients were forcefully abducted. Civilians are fleeing to safer areas amid escalating tensions and rising casualties, exacerbating humanitarian concerns.

In its statement, the Myanmar Comedians' Association objected to and strongly condemned casualties of local people, departmental personnel and families of security forces who were receiving medical treatments at the hospital in rockets, heavy weapons and drone attacks of MNDAA on non-military target hospital buildings.

Myanmar Comedians' Association

ME in Singapore to renew passports for around 200 people in 4 days

THE Myanmar Embassy to Singapore announced that within four days, around 200 Myanmar people will be provided with passport extension services.

The list covers the people who can extend their passports from 5 to 8 August 2024, among those who had difficulty obtaining an online appointment for the

extension or whose residence permit was less than 14 months.

From 5 to 8 August, services will be provided to 48 persons per day. Those who want to renew their passports must come to the embassy by 10 am and bring original/copies of passports, CSC cards and completed forms with a photo on the appointment date.

The service won't be available beyond the deadline, necessitating a separate application.

Fake documents or submissions through agents won't be considered for extension, and the embassy warned that any private service companies or agents are not permitted to provide this service and make a waiting list

for submitting documents to the embassy's WhatsApp.

For submitting to the embassy's WhatsApp, two submissions at most can be made per day, but the embassy reminds of no more submissions in the next few days. If a person sends it again, they will be re-positioned at the back of the current waiting list. Appli-

cants should wait to see whether they are included in the list to be announced on the embassy's website in a week. Myanmar nationals aged 65 years and above in Singapore are not required to seek reservation on the embassy's website or WhatsApp. Still, the embassy will provide them with a passport extension service as a privilege, and they can come in person in the mornings. — MT/ZN

ECONOMY WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Economists predict Malaysia's manufacturing recovery

DESPITE poor manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) reading in July, economists still expect the recovery in Malaysia's manufacturing sector.

Kenanga Research said in a note on Friday that it still expects the recovery in Malaysia's manufacturing sector especially the export-oriented industries, to gain momentum in the second half of the year.

According to the research house, this optimism is driven by the anticipated technology upcycle, fuelled by higher demand for artificial intelligence (AI) and various stimulus measures in China.

However, downside risks persist, particularly from external factors like renewed global trade tensions, the escalating Middle East crisis and the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war, which continue to weigh on the global supply chains and demand, it said. — Xinhua

IMF says Sri Lanka's economy recovery continues

SRI Lanka's economic recovery continues with real gross domestic product (GDP) posting three consecutive quarters of expansion, and growth accelerating to 5.3 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2024, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday.

An IMF mission team led by senior mission chief Peter Breuer visited Sri Lanka from 25 July to 2 August to discuss recent macro-economic development and progress in implementing economic and financial policies under an economic reform supported by the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement, according to the statement.

Breuer, in his statement, said the economic reform programme implemented by the Sri Lankan authorities is yielding commendable outcomes. — Xinhua

US debt tops \$35 trillion

THE US federal government's public debt has surged beyond US\$35 trillion for the first time, a threshold that an expert has described as a sign of problematic borrowing.

Sant Manukyan, an analyst at Is Yatirim, the investment banking division of Isbank Group in Istanbul, told Xinhua that this borrowing does not benefit the economy and is far from healthy.

"If this debt was invested in areas that could make the economy more efficient and spur faster growth, the economy should have outpaced the debt costs over time, leading to a reduced debt ratio," Ma-

nukyan said.

"We are not seeing this outcome. In other words, this is not healthy borrowing or borrowing that benefits the economy," he said.

Manukyan anticipated that the Fed would likely lower interest rates in the short term amid an expected general economic slowdown.

However, he believes that the trend of high borrowing will continue. "Based on their performances, former President Donald Trump and Vice-President Kamala Harris appear likely to continue this trend," the expert said. — Xinhua

India lifted 800 million people out of poverty "simply by smartphone"

During a lecture at the FAO, Francis highlighted India's high internet penetration as a key factor in this success.



Rural farmers in India who never had a relationship with the banking system, are now able to transact all their businesses on their smartphone. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / FREEPIK**

STRESSING the use of digitisation for rapid development, the President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, lavished praise on India for its work in this direction, which has lifted 800 million out of poverty in the last 5-6 years.

He highlighted how people in rural areas of India, are able to

make payments and pay bills just on the touch of a smartphone.

"Providing the basis to rapid development, such as through digitalization. Take, for example, the case of India... India has been able to lift 800 million people out of poverty over the last five-six years simply by the use of smartphones," Francis said during his lecture at the Food

and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN on the topic of 'Accelerating progress towards Zero Hunger for the current and future generations'.

Francis emphasized the high internet penetration in India as a major factor why India has been able to benefit but not many other countries of the Global South. — ANI

Japan govt instructs Amazon, Apple to improve business practices

THE Japanese industry ministry on Friday advised Amazon.com Inc's Japan unit to improve the transparency of fees charged to item sellers and Apple Inc to enhance the availability of Japanese translations of business contracts.

The move was based on a Japanese law that aims to improve the transparency and fairness of digital platforms and obliges designated IT giants such as Amazon Japan G.K. and Apple to notify their clients of business terms and any changes to these terms in advance.

Amazon Japan was found not in compliance with the law, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said, noting that the e-commerce operator had



Packages from online shopping site Amazon Japan pictured in Yokohama in March 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

not clearly explained to service users the system associated with selling fees, which

are charged for each item sold and vary by product category. — Kyodo

Google pulls AI ad that irked some Olympics viewers

Users on social media expressed concerns that the ad hinted at a future where human creativity diminishes due to reliance on AI.

GOOGLE confirmed Friday that it had pulled an ad for its Gemini artificial intelligence after it landed flat with some Olympics viewers.

The “Dear Sydney” ad, intended to tout capabilities of Gemini AI, featured a dad warmly describing how the tool wrote his daughter a fan letter from her to US hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone.

However, some viewers bashed the ad as promoting the notion that parents should coax their children to rely on AI rather than learn to express

themselves.

“While the ad tested well before airing, given the feedback, we have decided to phase the ad out of our Olympics rotation,” a Google spokesperson told AFP.

Social media posts fired off on an array of platforms questioned whether the ad signalled a dystopian future in which human creativity atrophies due to AI.

Syracuse University media professor Shelly Palmer said the commercial suggested that a poorly worded prompt to a generative AI tool can express a



Gemini AI is an artificial intelligence developed by Google. PHOTO: GOOGLE

person’s feeling better than they could themselves.

“This commercial showing somebody having

a child use AI to write a fan letter to her hero sucks,”

author Linda Holmes wrote in a post on BlueSky.

“Who wants an AI-written fan letter?”

Tech evangelists have touted the promised benefits of AI, but teachers, musicians, artists and others have accused its creators of training advanced computers to replace them. Early this year, Apple had an ad stumble of its own with a commercial showing musical instruments, paint cans and other creative gear crushed and replaced by an iPad to the tune of a song titled “All I Ever Need Is You.” — AFP

US oil giant Chevron to move California headquarters to Texas



Photo taken on 2 August 2024 shows a Chevron gas station in El Monte, Los Angeles County, California, the United States. PHOTO: ZENG HUI/XINHUA

OIL giant Chevron on Friday announced the relocation of its headquarters from San Ramon, California, to Houston, Texas, becoming the latest company to exit California, the largest economy and most populous state in the United States.

Chevron Chairman and CEO Mike Wirth and Vice-Chairman Mark Nelson will move to Houston before the end of 2024 to co-locate with other senior leaders and enable better collaboration and engage-

ment with executives, employees, and business partners, said the company in a news release.

Chevron, one of the world’s leading integrated energy companies, currently has roughly 7,000 employees in the Houston area and approximately 2,000 employees in San Ramon. The company said it operates crude oil fields, technical facilities, and two refineries and supplies more than 1,800 retail stations in California. — Xinhua

Farming resumes 24 days after dike breach sealed in central China

TWENTY-FOUR days after a dike breach was sealed at the embankment of China’s second-largest freshwater lake of Dongting, rice transplanters began shuttling into once flood-submerged fields on Thursday to catch up with agricultural production. On 5 July, the dike breach at the lake levee in Tuanzhou Township in central China’s Hunan Province flooded an area of 47 square kilometres.

Rescuers managed to fix the breach on 8 July.

Xie Bin, captain of a rescue team from the provincial flood control and drought relief force, said more than 200 million cubic meters of water needed to be drained after the flooding. His team of 35 people came to help, bringing 13 water-draining trucks and 300 water pumps from the provincial capital of Changsha. — Xinhua

Nintendo net profit falls 55.3% in April-June as Switch appeal wanes

NINTENDO Co said Friday that its net profit for the three months to June dropped 55.3 per cent from a year earlier to 80.95 billion yen (\$543 million), weighed down by lower sales of Switch game consoles and software due to the waning appeal of the seven-year-old hardware.

Sales tumbled 46.5 per cent to 246.64 billion yen while operating profit plunged 70.6 per cent to 54.51 billion yen, the company said.

The dismal figures came as Switch has entered its eighth year on the market since its launch in March 2017. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (183N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (183N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-8-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (232N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (232N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-8-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Oil reserves in Venezuela are the largest in the world and the state-owned PDVSA provides the government of Venezuela with substantial funding resources. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Venezuela eyes BRICS investments

3 AUGUST

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced the country's eagerness to collaborate with BRICS nations on investments in oil, gas, and metals.

Maduro emphasized that BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is now the primary source of significant investments in Venezuela's hydrocarbon sector, surpassing those from the US.

He urged Venezuelan exporters to focus on BRICS opportunities and warned that any negative actions from the US could benefit BRICS allies.

Venezuela is also pursuing membership in BRICS, with support from Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa, and Maduro has been invited to the upcoming BRICS summit in October. — SPUTNIK

2 AUGUST

Harris secures Democratic nomination

US Vice-President Kamala Harris effectively secured the Democratic party's presidential nomination Friday, confirming her remarkable rise to party standard bearer in November's showdown against Republican Donald Trump.

Kamala Harris, 59, was the sole nominee in a five-day electronic vote by nearly 4,000 delegates, making her the first Black and South Asian woman to secure a major party's nomination. She will be officially crowned at the Chicago convention later this month. Harris expressed honour and determination to win the election, emphasizing unity and progress.

Following Joe Biden's withdrawal, Harris has gained party control, set fundraising records, and closed gaps in polls. She is set to campaign across key states next week. The convention begins with a roll call on 19 August. — AFP

1 AUGUST

Starmer calls emergency meeting

A night of troubles in three British cities which saw dozens of arrests forced Prime Minister Keir Starmer to convene an emergency meeting with police leaders on Thursday.

Far-right protests erupted following a tragic stabbing in Southport that killed three young girls. Demonstrations, marked by violence and disorder, occurred in London, Hartlepool, and Manchester.

Protesters, angered by the government's response, clashed with police, threw objects, and set police cars on fire. Over 100 arrests were made in London for offenses including violent disorder and assault.

In Hartlepool, eight arrests were reported amid aggressive confrontations. The stabbing, which took place at a Taylor Swift-themed event, has deeply shocked the nation, exacerbating tensions and leading to further unrest and violence in affected areas. — AFP

31 JULY

Activists celebrate LGBTQ Olympians

ON the shores of the River Seine, a fan zone dotted with rainbow-themed paraphernalia hopes to draw in the crowds to celebrate a record number of openly LGBTQ athletes at this year's Olympics. Jeremy Goupille, an organizer for the Summer Games, emphasized the event's goal to foster inclusivity.

This year, the Games feature 193 openly LGBTQ athletes, a rise from previous years, including notable figures like British diver Tom Daley and US basketball star Brittney Griner, who won gold in the last two Olympics.

Brazilian judoka Rafaela Silva, a gold medallist from Rio 2016, is also competing. Pride House, a tradition since Vancouver (except Sochi 2014), aims to offer a supportive space amidst increasing global violence and harassment against LGBTQ individuals.

Paris, described as the city of love by deputy mayor Jean-Luc Romero-Michel, is seen as a symbol of acceptance. — AFP

30 JULY

India landslides kill 108

LANDSLIDES in India triggered by pounding monsoon rains struck tea plantations and killed at least 108 people Tuesday, with at least 250 others rescued from mud and debris.

Kerala's southern coastal region has been devastated by heavy rains, leading to significant challenges in relief efforts.

Wayanad district, known for its tea estates and reliant on casual labourers, has suffered extensive damage from two landslides that occurred overnight. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan reported 108 deaths and 128 hospitalizations, calling it one of Kerala's worst natural disasters.

Rescue operations are ongoing, with the National Disaster Response Force and over 200 soldiers involved. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences and announced \$2,400 compensation for victims' families.

More than 3,000 people are in emergency shelters, and further rainfall is expected, prompting Vijayan to advise caution and adherence to safety warnings. — AFP

29 JULY

ANC expels Zuma over rivalry

SOUTH Africa's ruling ANC on Monday expelled its former leader ex-president Jacob Zuma for leading a rival party into elections following disciplinary proceedings.

The African National Congress (ANC) expelled former President Jacob Zuma, citing his actions as incompatible with the party's constitution. Zuma, who had campaigned against the ANC and endorsed the uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party, contributed to the ANC's reduced parliamentary majority in May.

The ANC, now reliant on a coalition with nine parties after achieving its lowest vote share in decades, accused Zuma of undermining its integrity. MK, which secured 14.5 per cent of the vote and now leads the opposition, criticized the expulsion process as flawed. Zuma, barred from being an MP due to a 2021 contempt conviction, has 21 days to appeal the expulsion decision. — AFP

28 JULY

Latino voters shift support

LINDA Fornos, a Nicaraguan-born naturalized US citizen, plans to vote for Donald Trump in the upcoming election, despite voting Democrat in 2020.

Fornos believes uncontrolled immigration is exacerbating her family's financial struggles, citing the "Biden economy" as a burden.

With Latinos being the fastest-growing voter group, some are shifting their support to Republicans, challenging Democrats.

Trump's hard-line border policies and economic promises resonate with these voters, including Fornos and others who feel Biden's policies have left them struggling.

This shift highlights a growing trend where economic frustrations and cultural values sway Latino voters towards Republicans. — AFP

SPORTS

2024 Women's Futsal Championship sees 8 contender teams

THE 2024 Women's Futsal Championship is set to feature eight participating teams, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee of the Myanmar Football Federation.

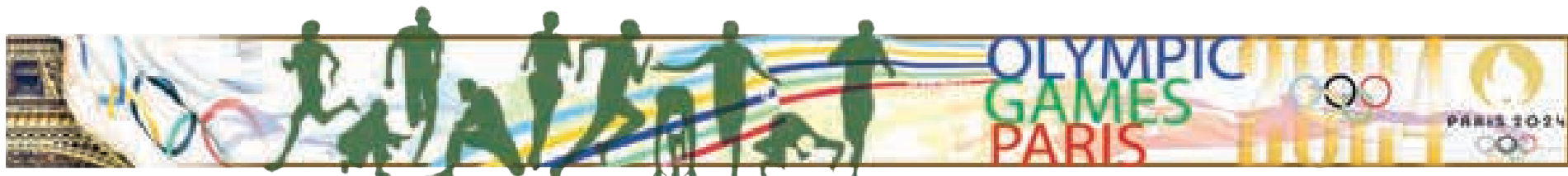
The championship will start in September, and the list of participating teams has not yet been announced.

The Myanmar Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee will oversee the organization of several key futsal tournaments, including the Women's Futsal Championship, Futsal League I, Futsal League II, AYA Pay Futsal Championship, and the Royal-D U19 Championship.

Futsal League I and League II will be held simultaneously for

four months from December to March this year, featuring ten teams for League I and 12 teams for League II. — TWA/KZL

The file photo shows a previous version of the AFC Women's Futsal Championship.



Swimming: Marchand wins fourth gold as Australia adds to medal haul



Gold medallist Cameron McEvoy of Australia celebrates after the victory ceremony for the men's 50-metre freestyle of swimming at Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, on 2 August 2024. PHOTO: WANG PENG/XINHUA

LOCAL hero Leon Marchand capped a stunning run at the Paris Olympics as Australia extended its gold medal haul on Friday's seventh night of swimming at the Paris Olympics.

The 22-year-old Frenchman appeared to feed off the energy of around 17,000 fans at La Defence Arena, clinching his fourth gold medal of the Games by winning the men's 200-metre individual medley final. Marchand set a new Olympic record of one minute, 54.06 to finish more than a second ahead of Britain's Duncan Scott, who took silver. Wang

Shun of China claimed bronze, almost two seconds off the winning pace.

Marchand is the first Frenchman to collect four individual gold medals at a single summer or winter Olympic Games, having also triumphed in the 200m butterfly, 200m breaststroke and 400m individual medley here.

And he is just the fourth swimmer in history to achieve the feat, joining Michael Phelps (2004, 2008), Mark Spitz (1972) and Kristin Otto (1988).

"Winning four [gold] medals

in five days, I don't know what to say," Marchand said. "After the semifinals on Thursday night I was really tired, but it was a great race. I'm so happy".

His time in Friday's final eclipsed the previous Olympic record of 1:54.23 set by Phelps at Beijing 2008.

"You never forget a moment like that," Marchand said. "It was incredible, it was magical."

Earlier, Australian veteran Cameron McEvoy secured his first Olympic gold medal by winning the men's 50m freestyle final. — Xinhua

Yang Ji-in of South Korea wins women's 25m pistol gold at Paris Olympics



Gold medalist Yang Jiin of South Korea celebrates during the awarding ceremony after the 25m pistol women's final of shooting at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Chateauroux, France, 3 August 2024. PHOTO: ZHANG FAN/XINHUA

YANG Ji-in of South Korea grabbed a gold medal in women's 25-metre pistol at the Olympics here on Saturday, which is the third shooting gold for the country in Paris so far.

The 21-year-old World Cup winner had stable performance in the final, making 37 hits before entering a shoot-off with French shooter Camille Jedrzejewski, where she managed to hold her nerve till the end.

The bronze medal was snatched by Veronika Major

from Hungary. China's Zhao Nan finished fifth.

"I think I am satisfied with the entire process, and I have no regrets or remorse about the ranking. Throughout the process, I discovered many of my own shining points, and I will summarize and prepare for the next time.

I feel that the Olympics have been very rewarding for me, and I am very happy and pleased with how this Olympics concluded," said Zhao. — Xinhua

Britain win Olympics rowing thriller as Dutch top table

BRITAIN'S men's eight confirmed the nation's return as an Olympic rowing superpower by winning the regatta's blue riband event on Saturday but the Netherlands topped the medals table.

The Dutch ended with four golds, one clear of traditional powerhouse Britain, who came back strongly after failing to win a single event at the Tokyo Games. The final of the men's eight was a tight battle between two-time reigning world champions Britain and the Netherlands.

The teams swapped the lead in the early stages and the boats were neck-and-neck at the

1,000m half-way stage.

But the British crew, who won bronze in Tokyo, stepped up a gear over the next 500m, stamping their authority on the race.

Britain crossed the line in 5min 22.88sec, with the Dutch just over a second behind, taking back the gold they last won at Rio in 2016. The USA took bronze.

"I sat in the same seat in the eight in Tokyo," said gold medallist Charles Elwes. "It was bitter-sweet coming out of that regatta. There were a lot of demons that were expelled during that race." — AFP



Horse riders attend a game of Buzkashi or "goat grabbing," in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, 27 February 2022. **PHOTO: SAIFURAHMAN SAFI/**

Afghans preserve buzkashi tradition through horse-keeping industry

AS a symbol of pride and a means to compete in the national game buzkashi, or goat grabbing, many people in Afghanistan keep horses to vie for the traditional championship and earn renown for themselves and their horses. Although some describe buzkashi as a "wild game", the centuries-old traditional sport has a significant number of fans among the war-weary Afghans. Sayed Karim Hashimi, a horse keeper and head of Yama Petroleum Group in Afghanistan's Balkh province, passionately supports and maintains horses, vital for the national sport of buzkashi.

For 20 years, he has upheld this tradition, owning 57 horses from Afghanistan and Central Asia. Buzkashi, an essential Afghan game and transport method, requires significant investment and expertise for horse training. The annual buzkashi championship in Kabul rewards top teams generously, underscoring the sport's cultural importance. Hashimi, a businessman and buzkashi enthusiast, and Mukhi, his experienced trainer, reflect the deep-rooted significance and commitment involved in preparing horses for this traditional game. — Xinhua

Dolphin cruises help Istanbul treasure its Bosphorus bottlenoses

Dolphins and porpoises thrive in the bustling strait, reflecting the city's commitment to preserving their habitat.

AS the first dolphin fin surfaced from the Bosphorus, a ripple of excitement went round passengers on a free boat ride to see one of Istanbul's most graceful sights. Whether they live there or are just passing through, dolphins and porpoises feel very much at home in the busy strait that bisects the Turkish megapolis of some 16 million people. Istanbul city council organizes free summer dolphin spotting trips with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to raise awareness of the dangers facing the sea mammals.

Ahmet Yasar Yildiz, head of a wildlife project, highlighted the city council's commitment to preserving the Bosphorus Strait as a habitat for dolphins, emphasizing that their presence indicates a "perfect eco-

system". The strait, linking the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, is noted for its cleanliness and

abundant fish, attracting dolphins despite heavy maritime traffic. — AFP



ILLUSTRATION: VISIT TURKEY

World's largest guitar production hub strikes the right chord

Today, Zheng'an hosts over 130 guitar-related companies, supported by local initiatives for returning workers.

IF you own a guitar, there's a good chance it was crafted in Zheng'an, a small county tucked away in the mountains of southwest China.

Located in Guizhou Province, Zheng'an is the world's largest guitar producer, creating over 2.25 million instruments annually. One out of every seven guitars worldwide is made here.

But this was not the case over a decade ago. At one point, a third of all locals had left home to seek employment opportunities elsewhere as they struggled with poor transportation infrastructure and barren land.

In 1997, Zheng Chuanjiu from Zheng'an began working at a guitar factory in Guangzhou, China. By 2007, Zheng had saved



People learn to play guitar at a showroom of Natasha Musical Instrument Manufacturing Co, Ltd in Zheng'an County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, 13 May 2022. **PHOTO: YANG WENBIN/XINHUA**

enough to establish his own guitar company in Guangzhou.

In 2012, China's State Council encouraged the development

of industrial sectors in Guizhou Province, leading Zheng'an to tap into the experience of its 54,000 residents already employed in the guitar industry elsewhere. Zheng was the first to return to Zheng'an, setting up his factory in a newly established guitar cultural industrial park. The park now hosts over 130 guitar-related companies, benefiting from local government support packages for returning artisans.

The county chief, Huang Dong, credits the artisans' hard work for the sector's success and its role in boosting local economic competitiveness.

This model of leveraging local expertise to foster industry growth is being mirrored in other Chinese towns. For example, Shuijiang in Jiangxi Province boasts 93 wig enterprises exporting globally, while Zixi County has a thriving baking industry with over 60 brands serving over 1,000 cities across China. These industries demonstrate how small towns can thrive by focusing on niche markets. — Xinhua