

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Haji Hasan, Representative of the ASEAN Chair for Myanmar, and Foreign Affairs Minister of Thailand Mr Maris Sangiampongsa at Tatmadaw Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ASEAN approves mobile medical support for Myanmar

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Haji Hasan, the representative of the ASEAN Chair for Myanmar, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Maris Sangiampongsa at Tatmadaw Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Dr Soe Win and officials. The Malaysian

Quake-affected areas in Myanmar need food and personal hygienic materials for the people.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Representative of the ASEAN Chair for Myanmar and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand were accompanied by their relevant delegation members, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

At the meeting, they cordially talked about initiatives of ASEAN member

states in sending rescue teams and rescue and relief supplies to Myanmar which suffered severe loss and damage in the incident of a powerful earthquake, efforts of foreign rescue teams together with Myanmar's rescue teams and volunteers in carrying out rescue operations, plans of ASEAN member states

to arrange mobile hospitals which can perform minor surgical operations on the affected people in the quake-affected areas, needs of foods and personal hygienic materials of the people in the affected areas and requirements of modern machinery to be used in clearing debris. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Cooperative System: Key to Economic Development in Myanmar

- The cooperative system is the most suitable approach for Myanmar to develop its economic sector under current conditions.
- This system fosters collaboration among entrepreneurs and farmers who share common goals and ideas.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 6/2024 on 29 July 2024)

Yangon-Mandalay Railway and Mandalay Airport reopen for operations

THE strong earthquake that struck on 28 March damaged 60 embankments and 11 railway bridges along the Yangon-Mandalay railway line, and caused the tracks to bend in some places. Myanma Railways has announced that it is urgently repairing the damage using manpower, machinery, and effective logistics.

Myanma Railways tested the track's strength with freight trains on 3 April and the speed of passenger trains on 4 April. After confirming the trains were safe to run, passenger train operations resumed on the morning of 5 April.

Regarding the re-routing, the first trains departing from Yangon are the No 11 Up Express to Mandalay at 5 am and the No 7 Up DEMU Express to Nay Pyi Taw at 6 am. Likewise, the first express trains departing from Mandalay are the

No 12 Down Express to Yangon at 5 am and the No 28 Down Express to Nay Pyi Taw at 6 am. Additionally, the No 8 Down DEMU Express departs for Yangon at 12:30 pm, and the No 27 Up Airbag Express departs for Mandalay at 1:30 pm. The Yangon-Pyay and Yangon-Mawlamyine routes are also operated regularly every day.

The aviation sector has been permitted to operate domestic flights to Mandalay International Airport since 4 April. As of 5 April, four domestic airlines have conducted a total of 13 flights, transporting 399 inbound passengers and 573 outbound passengers, totalling 972 passengers.

Ministry of Transport and Communications



Passengers ready to board as aviation sector resumes operations.

MPT restores free communication services in earthquake-hit areas

MYANMA Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) offers free data, local calls, and MPT-to-MPT Short Message Service (SMS) for the second time, starting yesterday, to people in earthquake-affected areas, according to the MPT Yangon office.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, MPT is offering free data (1GB), 100 minutes of local calls, 700 minutes of MPT-to-MPT calls, and 700 SMS messages from 5 to 11 April to help residents in earthquake-affected regions stay



Ongoing relief items distributions among quake victims.

connected with their families and friends, while also making donations and working to restore telephone service as quickly as possible. — Aung Than Oo/TH

All Providers Keep Free SMS Until 10 April

TO assist communication in earthquake-affected areas, operators initially announced a free Short Message Service (SMS) until 5 April. However, all operators, including MPT, ATOM, Mytel, and Ooredoo, will now extend the free text messaging service until 10 April, according to Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

Untimely Rainfall Warning 11 Issued at 7 pm MST on 5 April 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and cold air from the China high-pressure system and the eastern disturbances, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states and fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states during tonight to 13 April 2025.

Advisory

People should be aware of untimely rainfall accompanied by strong wind, thunder, lightning and hail. — DMH

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NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Union government meeting at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 April 2025.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that emphasis must be placed on rehabilitation measures and necessary buildings must be built before monsoon with the assistance of the government.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the Union government meeting at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Before the meeting, they observed a one-minute silence to pay respect and honour the victims in memory of the lives lost and the damages caused by the extremely strong earthquake on 28 March.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the deaths were caused by the destruction of buildings, and upon further review, it is clear that the lesson learned from the recent earthquake is one that cost many lives. With regard to earthquakes, it is essential to systematically design and construct buildings that can withstand earthquake damage, incorporating engineering aspects.

The Senior General noted that he is coordinating with foreign countries to ensure the necessary materials for food, personal hygiene items, necessary equipment for temporary shelters and temporary hospitals for the quake-affected people.

Govt Relief: K1 million for each life lost in earthquake

It will also be necessary to distribute the relief materials sent from international sources to those in need as quickly as possible.

He added that the collapsed Sagaing Bridge is currently being repaired to allow trains to resume operation. Assistance will be provided by a foreign country. This bridge is crucial for the railway leading to Upper Myanmar, so it is necessary to make the necessary repairs for train operation.

Due to the damage caused by the earthquake, he highlighted that many buildings have been damaged, and most people are living outside these buildings. He said that he has directed the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement to provide all temporary shelters for use. Moreover, to prevent the spread of diseases, it is necessary to construct clean and healthy temporary latrines. Furthermore, essential medicines for disease prevention and treatment must be supplied.

The Senior General emphasized that it is necessary to take action to ease the emotional trauma of the people resulting from these events. As they lose parents, children, and relatives, officials need to comfort them to overcome the psychological impacts they have faced.

With regard to loss and damage, he noted that emphasis must be placed on rehabilitation measures and necessary buildings must be built before monsoon with the assistance of the government.

He spotted that the actions that have been prepared at this time will be able to save many lives in the future. Therefore, everyone is urged to prioritize and work towards the strong construction of buildings.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Union government meeting

1. Repairing roads and bridges must meet the criteria set in engineering science.
2. Everyone should observe the Thingyan period nationwide calmly and peacefully.
3. It is necessary to take action to ease the emotional trauma of the people resulting from these events.
4. Construction entrepreneurs are urged to ensure no price hikes or unethical sales practices, and the regional and state governments are expected to enforce this fairly and justly.

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NATIONAL

Govt Relief: K1 million for each life lost in earthquake



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects damaged parts of the National Museum.

FROM PAGE 3

The Senior General unveiled that financial aid of K1 million per person will be provided for those who have lost their lives due to the earthquake. Regarding the damages to buildings, the government will offer assistance based on the extent of the destruction. Construction entrepreneurs are urged to ensure that there are no price hikes or unethical sales practices, and the regional and state governments are expected to enforce this in a fair and just manner.

Regarding the upcoming Thingyan festival, he noted that as it would not be appropriate to celebrate with the same excitement

and noise as in previous years, everyone should observe the Thingyan period in a calm and peaceful manner nationwide.

Union Ministers, union-level dignitaries and chief ministers of regions and states reported on respective sectors. They discussed repairing communication channels as quickly as possible, the arrival of relief supplies and rescue teams from foreign countries, accommodation for staff from the damaged offices, arrangements for providing modular houses for those victims before monsoon, needs to reconstruct the damaged buildings, roads and bridges under the in-

structions of the committee, issuance of insurance compensation for damaged buildings, needs to compile an assessment report over the earthquake, broadcasting of information about rescue and relief measures in the affected areas through State-owned media, supply of electricity as usual, emergency healthcare services, supply of safe water for the people, checking damaged buildings with the use of modern equipment for identifying repairing and heavy construction for necessary buildings, quick distribution of relief supplies from foreign countries to relevant regions, and fulfilling basic needs of quake victims.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win said that rescue teams from 26 countries are working together with the rescue teams from Myanmar, and in carrying out these operations, the rescue teams must request prior authorization and cannot independently act without approval from the relevant authorities. They must collaborate with those responsible and work together according to a set policy. Moreover, regional and state chief ministers must ensure that the rescue teams arriving in their respective regions work in cooperation with the authorities in charge.

He continued that the act of providing and donating supplies without informing the relevant regional government authorities may lead to undesirable administrative issues, as it is carried out according to one's own plan. Therefore, it is necessary to coordinate and collaborate with the responsible individuals in the relevant government bodies.

In his additional guidance, the Senior General stressed that it is necessary to quickly reopen all communication channels. Just as there are organizations that wish to provide real assistance to the affected regions with international aid, it is also possible that there could be incoming uncooperative activities under the pretext of the earthquake. Therefore, it will be essential to thoroughly check and accept these in an orderly manner. It will also be necessary to distribute the relief materials sent from international sources to those in need as quickly as possible.

He guided that the primary schools should be promptly prepared and reopened as soon as possible before the school opening season. If preparation is not possible in time, temporary school buildings should be constructed. It is essential to ensure that students can attend school, and preparations should be made in advance for this.

He emphasized that repairing roads and bridges must meet the criteria set in engineering science. Damaged staff housings will be rebuilt as new ones. In this regard, it is necessary to construct the building according to the specified standards.

Also present at the meeting were Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union-level dignitaries and Union ministers.

After the meeting, the Senior General inspected damaged parts of the National Museum. — MNA/TTA

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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.

As the Thai rescue team has completed its mission of conducting rescue operations in Myanmar, a ceremony to honour the Thai emergency rescue team took place at Zabuthiri Hall in Nay Pyi Taw Council Office yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

They observe a minute of silence showing deepest sympathy and collective sorrow in remembrance of the lives lost and the damages caused by the severe earthquake.

At the ceremony, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win spoke words of appreciation for the emergency rescue team of Thailand.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General revealed that due to the earthquake, significant damage occurred in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Nay Pyi Taw. As of the present time, the records indicate that 3,455 people have died, 4,840 have been injured, and 214 are still missing.

He continued that the Thai search and rescue team comprising 55 members, five officials from the Thai Embassy and totalling 60 led by a Maj-Gen from the Office of the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces along with 4,990 kilogrammes of supporting equipment arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport within 36 hours after the earthquake. Moreover, two planes carrying 4,372 kilogrammes of foods and general materials arrived in Myanmar on 30 March, two more planes bringing foods and general materials weighing 22,400 kilogrammes on 1 April and 4,700 kilogrammes of foods and general materials on 3 April, totalling 36,462 kilogrammes of foods and general materials. Among 26 countries which provide aid to Myanmar, Thailand is a good neighbour which provided emergency aid for Myanmar within 36 hours after the incident. So, Myanmar was proud of the efforts of Thailand in the special record. The Vice-Senior General expressed his thanks to the Thai rescue team for rescuing the individuals trapped under the dangerous buildings with the use of modern machinery from 3 pm on 30 March to 4 am on 31 March in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, he emphasized the Thai Maj-Gen and party comforted patients at Zabuthiri General Hospital and tried hard to conduct rescue operations at the collapsed buildings on 31 March. On the same day, they provided healthcare to 36 staff and families at buildings No 2386 and 2387. Their mobile clinic also gave treatment to 175 people at the Dhammayon in Yanaung Ward 1 of Pyinmana on 1 April and in Ward 6 of Lewe on 2 April.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win conveys gratitude to the emergency rescue team from Thailand at the Office of Nay Pyi Taw Council yesterday.

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win acknowledges Thai rescue team's work in Nay Pyi Taw

Moreover, they donated foods and cash to Paukmyaing Monastery and Jamay Mosque in Lewe and Buddha Rekkhita Monastery in Ward 3.

The Vice-Senior General recounted that they also provided food for families of Daw Nyo who died from Ward 6 of Lewe, healthcare to 84 villagers from Myaukmyaik Village in Tatkon Township, medical treatment to 156 people in Kyitaung Village and food to Muntegwin and Sibinhaya villages.

While rescue operations are being carried out in Myanmar at this time, he revealed that it is also reported that in Thailand, at 1:25 pm on 28 March, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 struck, causing the collapse of a construction site at the township audit office in the Bang Sue Township of Bangkok. In this incident, 11 workers have died, nine have been injured, and about 76 are still missing. Rescue operations are ongoing. The building collapse has also been reported as a shocking and alarming incident online.

He noted that although such events are occurring within Thailand at this time, Myanmar is deeply grateful for the assistance and rescue efforts of Thailand with compassion by the King of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn, Queen Suthida, Prime Minister of Thailand Mrs Paetongtarn

Shinawatra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen Songwit Noonpackdee, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army Gen Pana Klaewblaudtuk, and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mongkol Visitstump. In particular, Myanmar extends special gratitude to the Thai government delegation, led by Prime Minister Mrs Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who sent emergency rescue assistance to Myanmar. Myanmar also wishes to express additional thanks to the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army for their invaluable support.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung presented the commemorative medal to a representative of the Thai rescue team. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win also gave commemorative gifts to the Thai rescue team.

Next, the Vice-Senior General served the Thai rescuers with food and cordially greeted them.

Search and Rescue Operations Standards (Assessment, Search & Rescue Level - ASR Level) comprises assessing the condition, location, and the potential for further hazards in the affected area

(Wide Area Assessment), determining whether additional risks may occur at the level 1, measuring the information obtained from the Wide Area Assessment, identifying and assigning areas for search and rescue operations while ensuring safety measures for disaster risk management are followed at the level 2, prioritizing and rescuing injured individuals based on their condition, searching for and saving trapped patients, and performing life-saving operations at the level 3, ensuring all trapped individuals in collapsed or damaged buildings are accounted for by conducting a thorough search of the entire area using modern technology and equipment at the level 4 and prioritizing the final phase of search and rescue operations, which involves clearing debris, searching for survivors, and using vehicles/equipment to facilitate the removal and clearing of wreckage at the level 5.

The emergency rescue team of Thailand has completed their mission of search and rescue operations up to the search and rescue standard level 4 in the buildings they were assigned to. A new rescue team from Thailand will be arriving, which marks the transfer of responsibility. It has been reported that their duties have now concluded, and they are returning to Thailand. —MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Global leaders, religious heads send messages of condolences to Myanmar's PM

PRESIDENTS, Prime Ministers and Heads of Government as well as religious organizations from foreign countries continuously send messages of condolences to Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing for widespread damages, loss of lives, and injuries in the powerful earthquake which struck on 28 March 2025.

Suprabal Janasewashree General Ashoke Raj Sigdel of Nepali Army, Shanghai Cooperation Organization-SCO Secretary General Mr Nurlan Yermekbayev, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini Russell Mmiso Dlamini, Venerable Tibbatuwawe Sri Siddharatha Sumangala Mahanayaka Maha Thero, Supreme Patriarch of the Malwatta Chapter of Siamese Fraternity, Kandy, Sri Lanka, and Venerable Warakagoda Dhammasiddhi Sri Gnanarathana Mahanayaka Maha

Thero, Supreme Patriarch of the Asgiriya Chapter of Siamese Fraternity, Kandy, Sri Lanka, sent condolence letters to Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, expressing their deep sympathy.

The messages expressed condolences and sympathy due to the loss of life and destruction caused by the recent earthquake. It conveys deep sorrow on their behalf, stating that they are with all those who have been affected by the earthquake, including the monastic communities and the victims across Myanmar. The message reflects empathy for the suffering of the people of Myanmar and wishes for their strength to overcome this difficult time. It prays for unity, peace, and resilience for the survivors, hoping they can rebuild their lives. The letter also asks for comfort

and healing through the compassion and love of the Buddha and prays for a speedy recovery. It reminds everyone of the fundamental truth that everything is impermanent, as taught by the Buddha. Myanmar, where Theravada Buddhism has flourished, has been providing significant support for the long-term establishment of Buddhism, and the world expresses eternal gratitude and recognition for this. Due to the loss of lives and extensive damage and destruction, there is deep sorrow and sympathy. They expressed condolences to the affected families and prayed for the quick recovery and rebuilding of all those affected. They also wish strength and resilience to all relevant authorities and those involved in rescue efforts, so they may overcome and avert the consequences of the natural disaster. — MNA/TTA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Chairman of the State Administration Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Your Excellency,

IT is with great sorrow that I write to express my deepest condolences to the people of Myanmar in the wake of the devastating earthquake that has recently struck Myanmar.

I offer my heartfelt sympathy to the families who have lost their loved ones and to all those whose lives have been disrupted by this natural disaster. The strength and resilience of the people of Myanmar during such a challenging time is truly admirable.

Please know that our prayers are with you as you navigate this difficult time. We stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and hope that you find the strength, comfort, and support you need in the days ahead.

In solidarity,

Suprabal Janasewashree General Ashoke Raj Sigdel
Army Headquarters
Kathmandu, Nepal
2 April 2025

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,

I have the honour, on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, the Government, and the People of the Kingdom of Eswatini to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the People of Myanmar following a powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on Friday killing at least 1,700 lives, with many others injured.

In this time of profound sorrow, the People of the Kingdom of Eswatini stand in solidarity with the People of Myanmar. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones, the Government, and the People of Myanmar as they navigate this immense loss. We also pray for the swift recovery of those injured in this calamity.

Russell Mmiso Dlamini
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini
31 March 2025

HE Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dear Excellency,

ALLOW me to express our deep condolences over the loss of life due to the earthquake in Myanmar. We convey our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the victims and wish everyone a speedy recovery.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.
Sincerely

Nurlan Yermekbayev
Secretary-General of the SCO

The Most Venerable Bhaddanta Candimābhivamsa Mahanayake Thero,
Chairman of the State Sangha Mahanayaka Committee,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
And
His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

WE as the Maha Sangha of the Malwatta and Asgiriya chapters of Siamopali Maha Nikāya Kandy, Sri Lanka, are deeply saddened to learn about the devastating earthquake that destroyed Myanmar. The tragic result was the loss of many lives and the destabilization of Mandalay.

Hereby we extend our profound sadness on behalf of the entire Buddhist communities on the current difficult situation that Myanmar is facing.

As a foremost country that flourished with Theravada Buddhism Myanmar has made a huge contribution towards the perpetuation of Buddhism and its relevant values for which the entire world is eternally grateful and commended.

Buddhist monastic and religious ties between our two countries go back to the 4th century. Both countries shared close bilateral relations in establishing Buddhism in their respective lands at a time when it was both weak. Also, the immense contribution has been made by Myanmar Maha Sangha and devotees to the temple of tooth relic and the people of Sri Lanka when the country at stake is also recalled with gratitude.

As Disciples of the Buddha, we understand the fundamental truth of impermanence – that all things are transient and subject to change. This understanding encourages us to cherish each moment and find strength amidst adversity. We also acknowledge the cycles of renewal and destruction inherent in life. Cultivating strength and resilience is the best way to move forward.

Therefore, in the spirit of deep-rooted monastic kinship, we stand in solidarity with the Maha Sangha and the people of Myanmar. During this sorrowful time, we as the Malwatta and Asgiriya chapters are committed to offering our support and assistance for those who are affected.

May all deceased as a result of this catastrophe attain the supreme bliss of Nibbāna. Many people are lost loved ones and wounded find the strength and resilience to get over their sorrow and be well soon.

With deepest sympathies and unwavering support,

The Most Venerable Tibbatuwawe Sri Siddharatha
Sumangala Mahanayaka Maha Thero,
Supreme Patriarch of the Malwatta Chapter of Siamese Fraternity, Kandy,
Sri Lanka
The Most Venerable Warakagoda Dhammasiddhi Sri
Gnanarathana Mahanayaka Maha Thero,
Supreme Patriarch of the Asgiriya Chapter of Siamese Fraternity, Kandy,
Sri Lanka

NATIONAL

Singaporean Speaker sends message of condolences to Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw

Esteemed Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw,

I am deeply saddened to learn from media reports that the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on Friday, 28 March 2025, had an impact on the people, forcing families to relocate and causing the loss of lives, homes, and buildings.

My condolences to the families and their loved ones who have lost their lives, and I send my prayers and best wishes for Myanmar's recovery from the disaster.

Mr Seah Kian Peng
Speaker
Parliament of Singapore

MoFA Union Minister, receive MDMC Members and AHA Centre Executive Director



Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe meets the AHA Centre Executive Director and members of the Myanmar Disaster Management Committee.

THE Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, together with the Foreign Ministers of Malaysia and Thailand, met the Members of the Myanmar Disaster Management Committee and the Executive Director of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) at the Jasmine Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The Executive Director of the AHA Centre, the Director-General of the Ministry of Health, and the Director-General of the Department of Disaster Management briefed the Foreign Ministers on the needs and current status of the relief

phase, search and rescue operations up to the ninth day of the earthquake, healthcare, water, electricity and other basic infrastructural needs at recovery and rehabilitation phase following ongoing relief efforts.

Based on the discussions, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Malaysia and Thailand coordinated procuring medicines and medical equipment, mobile clinics and mobile operation theatres, basic infrastructure including water and electricity, temporary shelters and mosquito nets as priority needs. The ministers also agreed to continue cooperation for a smooth transition to the rehabilitation and recovery phase. — MNA

Malaysian and Thai FMs visit Myanmar in solidarity after earthquake



The documentary group photo of the Malaysian and Thai Foreign Ministers during their observation tours in Nay Pyi Taw.

IN a show of solidarity with the people of Myanmar affected by the recent earthquake, Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Seri Mohamad Hasan, Representative of the 2025 ASEAN Chair for Myanmar, and Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on a joint visit.

During the visit, the two ministers attended a joint meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Union Minister and Deputy Prime Minister U Than Swe expressed deep gratitude for their timely support and compassionate response. He acknowledged their presence

as a powerful symbol of ASEAN unity and support for the people of Myanmar, who have endured severe losses in lives and property due to the earthquake.

The Deputy Prime Minister also praised ASEAN member states for their swift humanitarian efforts, including the immediate deployment of search and rescue teams and aid to affected regions. He further called for continued support in the post-emergency phase, highlighting urgent needs such as mobile clinics, medical supplies, water distribution systems, and rescue equipment for long-term rehabilitation efforts.

In response, both the Malaysian and Thai foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to standing together with Myanmar as members of the ASEAN family. They pledged ongoing assistance to address the evolving needs in earthquake-hit areas and emphasized the importance of effective coordination. They also discussed enhanced collaboration through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to ensure timely humanitarian response and to prioritize recovery efforts for the affected communities. — MNA/KZL

Race against time: Quake search and rescue efforts continue

THE powerful earthquake left 3,471 people dead, 4,671 people injured and 214 people missing in six regions and states up to 6 April.

Members of the Myanmar Police Force and internal and external rescue teams are

conducting search and rescue operations on time in relevant areas. So far, they have rescued 653 people alive and searched 682 dead bodies till today.

Well-wishers donate cash and materials to the affected people. On 5 April, two planes from two countries carrying 19.96 tonnes of relief supplies landed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. Arrangements are being made to distribute the relief supplies donated by well-wishers to affected people as quickly as possible. — MNA/TTA



Arrival of rescue and relief items ongoing.

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Don't forget to express gratitude to foreign rescuers and technicians

THE powerful earthquake that struck central Myanmar on 28 March 2025 is an unprecedented disaster in the nation's history. Although Myanmar experienced powerful earthquakes in the 20th century, some generations have never faced such a dreadful event in their lifetime.

During the 20th century, a total of 18 recordable earthquakes occurred in Myanmar. The most powerful on record was the 8.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Maymyo (now Pyin Oo Lwin) on 13 May 1912. Apart from that, the earthquake that shook central Myanmar on 28 March 2025 was the most devastating. This is due to the great fault running from north to south through the middle of Myanmar, which may generate future earthquakes.

According to international media, the energy released by the 28-March earthquake in Myanmar was equivalent to the explosion of

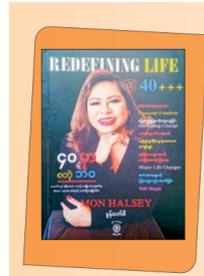
334 atomic bombs. This devastating event caused significant loss and damage across the country, particularly affecting Myanmar's irreplaceable cultural heritage in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Inwa.

As soon as they became aware, international countries dispatched their rescue teams and humanitarian aid to Myanmar to carry out rescue and relief operations as quickly as possible to save earthquake victims. However, time constraints and the unprecedented destruction of buildings posed significant challenges for the rescue teams. Nevertheless, they managed to save lives one after another using modern equipment. Meanwhile, the humanitarian aid they provided became a crucial resource for the quake-affected victims, helping to address their basic needs.

Everyone knows that rescuing victims from damaged buildings is highly dangerous. Therefore, rescuers take precautions to ensure their actions are safe, not only for themselves but also for the victims. Thanks to rescue operations, Myanmar volunteers and rescuers have the chance to learn the techniques of foreign rescuers. Regardless, these rescuers and technicians from foreign countries are neither relatives nor siblings of the Myanmar people. Yet, they carry out rescue and relief operations in Myanmar's affected areas purely on humanitarian grounds and with great sympathy.

Hence, the people of Myanmar will never forget the remarkable efforts of foreign rescuers and technicians and will remain grateful to the Heads of State and Governments of the respective countries that deployed their rescue teams with deep compassion for Myanmar. As such, the people of Myanmar take pride in the unforgettable contributions of these foreign rescuers and technicians in saving lives during the devastating earthquake. Moreover, Myanmar people will never forget the gratitude of those rescuers and technicians for their lifetime.

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Book Title - Redefining Life@40
Author - Mon Halsey
Publishing House - Zwe Thiha
Publication Date - February 2025 (1st Edition)
Price - K13,000

Redefining Life@40

THIS week, we would like to introduce a book that claims turning 40 is a life transition and the right time to start the next level.

In the preface, it states that if a woman over 40 feels like she is losing herself in life, it is a natural process. Despite having financial and material abundance, she may still experience emotional turmoil and face marital issues that leave her feeling unsettled and fragmented. During this time, a woman may struggle with inner conflict and face numerous life changes. She might feel lost, unsure of whom to proceed to, who to talk to, or whom to confide in or may not know to find relief or

how to decide in choosing what kind of books to read.

The author also insists that Redefining Life@40 is not a book that gives instructions on what to do. Instead, it is just a sharing of experiences I have been through, I have faced them and I have felt them. This book is intended for middle-aged women, particularly those between the ages of 38 and 65, experiencing a midlife crisis. It contains articles that resonate deeply with the emotions and struggles of women in this stage of life. For middle-aged women seeking a more meaningful pathway in their lives, this book can be the best companion, standing by their side.

I truly believe that."

In Part I Embracing Change, the readers can read (1) The Beauty of a Woman, (2) Habits That Steal Your Happiness, (3) Milestones to Be Proud Of, and (4) Living Life Comfortably and Peacefully.

Part II Rebuilding Relationships contains (1) Problems Arising from Love and Affection, (2) The Age When You Are Ready to Soar, (3) The Love for Warmth, (4) He is Himself, and I Am Myself, (5) Freedom... Liberation, (6) Reasons Behind Betrayal in Men Over 40, (7) When the Third Person Appears, (8) Starting a New Relationship, (9) Choose the Good Things and Reflect, (10) Setting Boundaries

with Ungrateful People, (11) Sibling Relationships: Brothers and Sisters, and (12) The Path You Will Walk.

While Part III Financial Wellness highlights (1) Work and Life Perspective, (2) What is Your Plan B?, (3) Unsure, But Tightening,

Part IV The Power of Self-Care contains (1) I Am Important to Myself, (2) Home, (3) Things I Have Consumed Over 40 Years, (4) At Over 40, Menopause and Sexual Feelings, (5) Sometimes, Be Selfish.

Part V Who Am I Now? reads (1) What is Identity?, (2) The Roads I've Walked, (3) The Single, (4) Having a Child at 40, (5) Women Who Don't Need a Partner, (6) I Need to Be Sure I Won't Regret the Path I Choose, (7) Different Footprints, (8) Change, (9) I Can't Cook.

Part VI Living Life Fully offers to read (1) A Birthday Memoir, (2) When Facing the Toughest Times, (3) The Aspects of Life, (4) The Matured Ones, (5) Plastic Flowers, (6) Keep Facing and Overcoming, (7) A Brilliant Woman, (8) Humans Like Threads, (9) Lives in Photographs, (10) The One Living Near Sagaing Bridge, (11) How Life Will Be at 60.



Book Title - A Woman's Resilience Amid Life's Trials
Author - Asher
Publishing House - Saroak Ywa
Publication Date - January 2025 (1st Edition)
Price - K7,000

A Woman's Resilience Amid Life's Trials

THIS week's pick is an inspirational book entitled "A Woman's Resilience Amid Life's Trials" written by Asher, highlighting from external factors in life and don't let negative opinions of other people influence you. Strengthen your grip and strive your best to keep your thumb up. Exert continued efforts to achieve recognition and success. Try hard until it is your turn".

The book includes 34 chapters. The book starts with some sentences extracted from a book entitled "Mother's Veteran Sayings" written by the well-known and respected journalist and writer Ludu Daw Amar; there is an old saying that a woman must know how to cook. It is not just

because she is a woman so she must do it for her husband and children. Yet, it is just for herself to survive and stand alone. A woman must value herself and not get married to a good husband only. She must stand proudly herself and create her future and course with her ambitions, attitude and self-esteem. A woman must pursue a vocational education as well, not for her husband or anyone else. Don't feel over-sentimental by relying on others. A woman can manage a household and do chores for her best, not just as her parents-in-law and husbands asked her to do. If she cannot keep her house clean and neat, she is not capable of changing the surroundings and community for development.

The title of the book "A Woman's Resilience Amid Life's Trials" is meant to explain life's suffering. Whoever fears when they face hardships in life. The author wanted to remind women in life without being affected by the opinions of others, with this title "A Woman's Resilience Amid Life's Trials".

Asher sought to inspire others to uncover their hidden talents and awaken their dormant skills with this powerful phrase. Although she referred this to women, men can also engage in thoughtful consideration, she delivered the message.

"Don't care what others think of you. Those who are easily intimidated are vulnerable

to manipulation and bullying. They will feel more threatened. Fear can lower self-balance. Self-sabotaging behaviours obstruct personal growth, turning us into our own worst enemies. Exceptionally, women are traditionally considered fragile individuals. Their biggest fear is their surroundings and their destructive criticism and judgment. The majority of them are scared not to be acknowledged. They are feared of being judged and neglected. The fear emerges from caring excessively about what others think, the author noted.

The chapter "Me, Others, Man, and Woman" emphasized whether the man is noble or the woman is noble. Women might not do what men can perform. Men have physical strength compared with women. Quality of being noble and high moral standards and excellence is not related to strength or weakness, man or woman and capability or incapability anyhow. It depends on their attitude and their perception. You do not need to limit yourself because you are a woman. Insecurities and low self-confidence can lead to feelings of fear, anxiety and phobia, limiting one's daily activities, morals, potential, capabilities and personal development, the author mentioned in the preface.

A Ruined Clock

By Chit Ko Pe

The hands of a ruined clock cease with a complete stop. Likewise, let the sins look like a midday turning into a night, come to an end, no more sight!

နာရီပျက်

ပိန်ချိုင့်တွန့်လိမ်နေတဲ့ နာရီပျက်ရဲ့ လက်တန်းလေးတွေ မလှုပ်ယွန်းတော့... နေ့မှန်းတည့်မှာ ညဉ့်နက်ခိုတဲ့ ဘဝဝင်ကြေးတွေလည်း ရပ်ပါစေ။



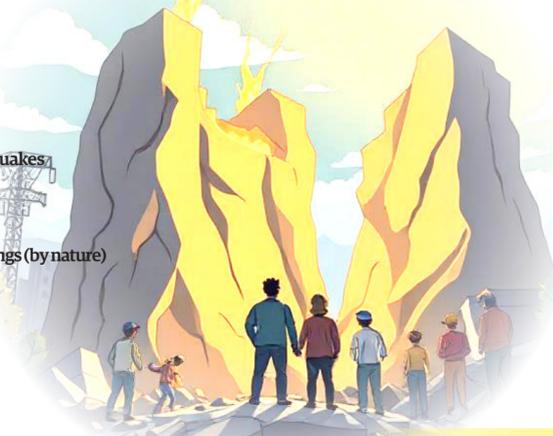
Resilience

By Aung K Moe, Translated by Myint Zan

we are humans after the lashes of storms (we) stand up again: that's human life

after the ravages of earthquakes, we stand tall again: that's the human story

notwithstanding any beatings (by nature) we rise up again we help ourselves and others help us: that's the human spirit



လူတွေပဲ။ မုန်တိုင်းဒဏ်ခံ နှလုံးပြန်ထ အဲဒါက လူသားဘဝ။ လျှင်ဒဏ်ခံ နှလုံးပြန်ထ အဲဒါက လူသားဘဝ။ ဘယ်ဒဏ်ခံ နှလုံးထပ် ကိုယ်တိုင်ထူကြ အများကြဲကြ အဲဒါလူသားဘဝ။

အောင်ကေမိုး

Composed on 29 March 2025
Translated on 29 March 2025

What Shook Our Souls

By Min Zan

The earth groaned low, a restless sigh, Beneath our feet, the tremors grew, Homes crumbled soft as dust flew high, A fleeting world we thought we knew.

The night split wide with jagged cries, The ground, a beast, unleashed its might, Our fragile dreams drowned in surprise, As shadows danced in fading light.

We clung to hope, to walls, to kin, The air grew thick with fear's cold breath, Each crack a tale of where we'd been, Each shudder whispering of death.

And there, amidst the ruin's sprawl, The steadfast earth, so firm, so grand, Proved even it could break and fall, Nothing stands sure in this vast land.



(Referring to the week of nationwide mourning and grief)

NATIONAL Entertainment

May Myint Mo

ACTRESS Academy May Myint Mo shared on her social media page: "I will donate K11 million to support the relief and rehabilitation of the earthquake-affected areas and will work directly with relief organizations. May families be reunited as soon as possible, and may everyone be free from all dangers."



Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee

ACTRESS Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee and her husband made generous donations to support earthquake victims. Their NPK Motors Family contributed K1 billion to the affected areas. Additionally, on 1 April, they donated K30 million to earthquake survivors through the 18-mile Tawya Sayadaw. On 4 April, the actress personally visited villages in the Inlay region, providing clean drinking water, and household items, and offering words of encouragement to the people.



Htet Htet Tun

HTET HTET TUN, who gained fame through her TV series, has announced that she will donate ten oxygen concentrators to charities and relief organizations in urgent need, as well as those effectively distributing aid on the ground. Additionally, on 4 April, she and several other actors personally visited affected areas, donating money and essential items to the survivors of the deceased and providing supplies to 200 other households.



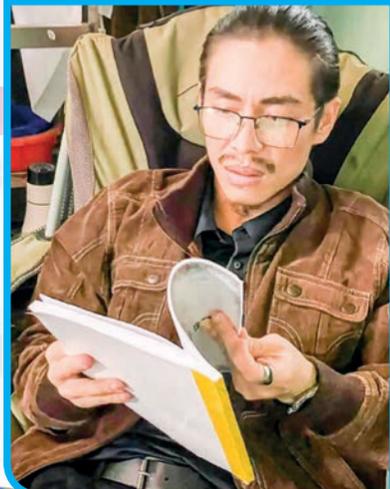
Soe Pyae Thazin

ACTRESS Academy Soe Pyae Thazin, who was in Mandalay during the earthquake and personally experienced it, shared, "I feel deeply for what happened and for everyone affected. Being in Mandalay and experiencing the earthquake felt like a dream, and even thinking about recounting it makes me feel sad". She is reportedly preparing to donate K50 million to areas in need, distribute rice boxes, and allocate any remaining funds to other affected regions.



Tun Tun

REPORTS have surfaced of individuals stealing from those affected by the earthquake while posing as relief workers or pretending to be victims themselves, amid widespread suffering from the natural disaster. In response, actor and singer Tun Tun expressed his frustration on social media, saying, "Please don't steal from those already suffering from the earthquake and fire. It's unethical. What kind of people are you?"



Nay Htoo Naing

NAY HTOO NAING, a renowned action actor, has announced that he will allow individuals affected by the recent earthquake to stay at his family's Khittaya Yenantha movie farm in Yenangyoung Township until their homes are rebuilt. He will personally arrange transportation for those staying there. He emphasized that those seeking accommodation must present a letter of support from the Ward Administrator's Office, verifying their status as earthquake victims in need of shelter.



CELEBRITY BRIEF



Veteran vocalist J Nyi Nyi's funeral held

THE funeral for veteran singer J Nyi Nyi, who passed away at his home at 4:30 am on 31 March due to kidney disease and left a lasting impression on fans with his song 'Swelnaypyi' (Addicted), was held at the Yeway Cemetery at 3 pm on 2 April, according to his bereaved family. The passing of pop singer J Nyi Nyi deeply saddens the artiste community.

"I never thought I would finally meet my brother. I couldn't decide to eat the "Swelnaypyi" that my brother gave me," said vocalist May Khalar, referring to the "Swelnaypyi" ready-to-eat Mohinga snack made and sold by the J Nyi Nyi family. At the time of his death at age 72, singer J Nyi Nyi, also known as U Wunna Htay Khaing, is survived by his wife, Daw Sandy, and a son. — Htun Htun/TH

NATIONAL

Search, rescue, and recovery efforts underway in earthquake-hit townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area



Staff families are being relocated to safe places and temporary residences with the assistance by military vehicles and military personnel.

THE earthquake that struck the Nay Pyi Taw Council area on 28 March and its aftershocks caused damage to roads, bridges and buildings. This resulted in the leaving deaths and injuries. International relief teams and local teams are currently carrying out search and rescue, health care and rehabilitation works in the relevant townships.

Starting yesterday morning, international relief teams, doctors and nurses, foreign firefighters, Tatmadaw members, staff and personnel from the Ministry of Health and the Directorate of Military Medical Services and social organizations have been divided into teams to conduct search and rescue work in the earthquake-hit townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area.

The international search and rescue teams visit townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area to educate and demonstrate emergency procedures to the public in the case of a natural disaster. Doctors and nurses use search and rescue dogs, assistance vehicles, and search and rescue equipment to search and rescue homes of earthquake-hit residents in the townships and wards, transferring the bodies to the relevant township hospitals, providing health care to the victims and helping them to strengthen their mental and physical health. In addition, local search and rescue teams, social organizations, medical personnel, and joint teams made tours to the earthquake-stricken townships and wards in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to search and rescue people by using search and rescue equipment, providing necessary health care to the injured and transporting them to nearby hospitals and clinics as soon as possible. They are also assisting in relocating the elderly

to safe places.

Similarly, in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area, the staff housings in the townships were damaged by the earthquake. The staff families living in these houses are being quickly relocated to safe places and temporary residences with the plans of their respective Ministries by the help of military vehicles and military personnel. Arrangements are also being made to ensure that the staff can eat, and sleep, having purified drinking water and water for use in these places.

Since the earthquake also damaged the roads and bridges in the townships, officials are urgently conducting repairs using machinery to ensure that people can travel smoothly on the roads. The townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, lamp-posts and cables in various neighbourhoods were also damaged by the earthquake, causing power outages. The staff of the Ministry of Electric and Power launched day and night to restore power in time and most townships have now had power restored.

Similarly, donors, artists and regional/state-based organizations have also visited the temporary shelters of earthquake-affected staff and families in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area by donating food, water, emergency supplies, clothing, and medicines. In addition, the Government has also provided temporary shelters, mobile water vehicles, and temporary water tanks to the victims.

International relief teams, doctors and nurses are arriving in Myanmar daily to carry out relief work in the earthquake-affected areas as carrying humanitarian aid and medicine. They are conducting in teams with local search and rescue teams to search, rescue and provide health care to victims. — MNA/MKKS

Owners to reclaim Sky Villa belongings after checks

IN the aftermath of the earthquake that struck on 28 March, local and foreign rescue teams are working together to recover the remaining persons and valuable things from the Sky Villa Condominium on 60th street between 23rd and 24th Streets, Aungmyaythazan Township,

Mandalay.

The search and rescue and operations have been carried out with manpower and machinery after the earthquake. On 2 April, officials founded a search and recovery team to examine and hand over the cash, items and important documents re-

covered from the building to the relevant persons.

Owners will fill in details to be able to retrieve the things. The items found in the building will be systematically recorded and then handed over to the owner. — U Zarni Ko Ko (Pathingyi IPRD)/MKKS



Recovery of the remaining persons and personal belongings ongoing at Sky Villa.

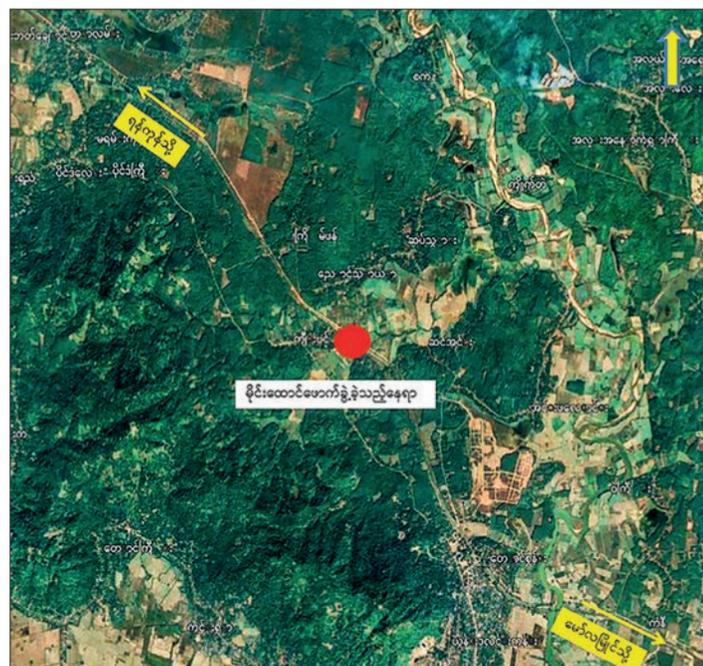
KNLA, PDF terrorists blow up Mawlamyine-Yangon railway bridge

KNLA members and PDF terrorists affiliated with NUG and CRPH carried out a landmine attack on the Mawlamyine-Yangon railway route, targeting

Bridge No 59 located between mileposts 107/9 and 107/10, around 11,000 metres north-west of Bilin in Mon State at around 7 am yesterday.

The group used locally-made landmines to destroy a 40-foot-long steel bridge on the railway line, reportedly causing a crack about two and a half feet wide at the base of the bridge. Although the explosion damaged part of the structure, train services were not disrupted and trains continued to pass over the section safely, according to reports.

Despite the Tatmadaw's announcement of a temporary ceasefire to facilitate rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of the recent earthquake, groups aligned with KNLA, as well as PDF elements under NUG and CRPH continued to commit acts of sabotage. Their targets included government offices, schools, civilian residences, roads and bridges, aimed at destabilizing the country and disrupting the rule of law. — MNA/KZL



The location map of the mine blast.

NATIONAL

Well-wishers, artistes donate relief supplies to quake-affected staff families

A team comprising artistes from the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization donated instant noodles and energy drinks to quake-affected staff and their families at the staff housings of the Information and Public Relations Department in Danatheikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township yesterday.

They also donated packs of instant noodles and energy drinks for affected staff families from Nay Pyi Taw Council at Zabuthiri Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Council Office where the Chair of Nay Pyi Taw Council and members accepted the donations.

Mr Duan, Chair of Myanmar SWAT International Security Group, and party

also donated packs of meals, foodstuff and tissue papers to staff families in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. They also donated 10 tents, purified drinking water, mosquito nets, soft drinks, foodstuffs and personal goods to the affected staff.

On 4 April, Patron of Ayeyawady Region Women's Affairs Federation Daw Kyi

Kyi Tun and party donated packs of meals, eggs and fried dried fish to staff from Nay Pyi Taw Council Office and staff housings, Sasanapala Myeik Monastery. They also donated rice and purified drinking water to staff from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Home Affairs. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar quake relief: Indian naval ship arrives with critical supplies

INDIAN naval ship INS Gharial (L-23) arrived at MITT Terminal in Thilawa Port, Yangon yesterday morning carrying further humanitarian aid for the people affected by the recent earthquake in Myanmar.

The vessel transported a consignment of essential relief supplies and foodstuffs, intended to support both immediate rescue efforts and long-term rehabilitation. Upon arrival, senior officers from the Myanmar Navy, the Indian Defence Attaché and other officials warmly welcomed the ship. The Indian ambassador formally handed over the relief supplies to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, who expressed gratitude on behalf of the Myanmar people. As a gesture of appreciation, the chief minister also presented a commemorative gift to the Indian delegation.

The ship brought in approximately 442 tonnes of aid including 405 tonnes of rice, 30 tonnes of cooking oil, five tonnes of biscuits, and two metric tonnes of instant noodles, along



Relief items from the Indian Navy vessel are loaded onto the lorry to transport them to quake-hit areas with other essential food items and medicines.

Personnel from the Myanmar Navy, the Indian naval crew, local administrative officials from Kyauktan Township, as well as members of the Fire Services Department and auxiliary forces, coordinated the unloading and repackaging of supplies onto designated vehicles. The aid will now be distributed to earthquake-affected regions under the supervision of the Yangon Region government. — MNA/KZL

Global rescue teams and supplies reach Nay Pyi Taw for quake response



Images display the arrival of rescue and relief materials from Thailand (L) and Malaysia (R).



INTERNATIONAL rescue and medical teams arrive daily at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport, according to their scheduled flights, as the government continues its rescue and relief operations in earthquake-impacted areas.

Yesterday saw the arrival of doctors and medical person-

nel from Thailand along with humanitarian relief supplies from Malaysia. In addition, 26 members of medical personnel from Sri Lanka arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon and they left with five tonnes of aid for Nay Pyi Taw.

Officials from the Ministry

of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the arriving teams at the airport. These teams are expected to promptly deploy to the earthquake-battered regions to provide rescue and medical assistance. — MNA/MKKS

More international aid lands at Yangon airport for earthquake relief

INTERNATIONAL humanitarian aid continues to arrive at Yangon International Airport for those affected by the recent earthquake in Myanmar. On 5 April 2023, a flight from the Singaporean Ministry of Health arrived, delivering 5,737 kilogrammes of medical supplies and hospital equipment for the affected regions.

On the same day, a flight from the Samaritans Purse International Relief, USA, brought 22,634 kilogrammes of medical supplies and equipment for setting up surgical rooms, along with 25 medical personnel, including surgeons and nurses.

At noon, an Air China Cargo flight carrying 87,390 kilogrammes of relief supplies

including medicine chests, tarpaulins, tents and purified water bottles arrived from the People's Republic of China.

Later, at around 5:50 pm, a Sri Lankan government-chartered flight arrived with medical supplies, water purification equipment and personal use items. The shipment also included 26 medical personnel, led by Brig-Gen Karunatilake Hewakattuge Punyasiri of the Sri Lankan Army.

These relief materials were transported by Tatmadaw members Yangon City Development Committee staff and local cargo workers, under the guidance of the Yangon Regional government, to be further distributed to the affected areas in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZL



Rescue and relief materials from Sri Lanka being discharged.

Multiple Chinese chambers of commerce resolutely oppose US “reciprocal tariffs”

The chambers have expressed support for the Chinese government in taking countermeasures to protect national and business interests.

MULTIPLE Chinese chambers of commerce on Saturday stated their firm opposition to the unilateral imposition of “reciprocal tariffs” by the United States. They also expressed strong support for the Chinese government in taking all necessary countermeasures, according to statements from the chambers of commerce for import and export in various sectors, including those related to textiles, foodstuffs, machinery and electronics,

light industrial goods, medicines and health products, as well as metals, minerals and chemicals.

Denouncing the latest tariff escalation as a severe violation of world trade rules, the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products warned that such unilateral protectionist actions would disrupt global trade order, harm corporate and consumer interests, and destabilize industrial supply chains. — Xinhua



A consumer shops at a supermarket in Tengzhou, east China's Shandong Province, 11 April 2024. PHOTO: SUN YANG/XINHUA

Vital European defence startups still facing hurdles

OPPORTUNITIES and investment have surged for European defence startups since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, industry players say, with shifts by governments and investors shaking up a sector long a byword for ponderous development.

Research published in February by the NATO Innovation Fund (NIF) and market analytics firm Dealroom found that venture capital going into European “defence, security and resilience” startups leapt 30 per cent in the two years to 2024, reaching \$5.2 billion. — AFP

Credit card spending hits 7-month low, average spend per card down to Rs15,295: Report

CREDIT card spending hit a seven-month low amid persistent decline, according to a report by ACMIIL, a stock market firm.

According to the

report, total credit card spending stood at Rs1,672 billion in February, compared to Rs1,841 billion in January. This marks a nine per cent decline on a

month-on-month (MoM) basis.

The report said, “Monthly Impact Coupled with Industry Slowdown Led to Spending Low of seven Months”. Despite the monthly dip, credit card spending still showed a 12 per cent increase compared to February 2024. However, this is much lower than the average year-on-year (YoY) growth of around 30 per cent seen until January 2024, suggesting a slowdown in consumer activity. — ANI



Total credit card spending stood at Rs1,672 billion in February. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

France urges ‘patriotism’ from firms after Macron call to suspend US investment

FRENCH firms should show “patriotism” by not giving an advantage to the United States in an escalating trade conflict, the economy minister said on Friday, after President Emmanuel Macron urged

companies to suspend American investments in response to Donald Trump's tariffs.

Macron on Thursday argued it would send the wrong message if French companies pressed ahead with investments

in the United States until further clarifications come from Washington over Trump's so-called “Liberation Day” tariffs.

“We are appealing to patriotism,” Eric Lombard told the BFMTV channel. — AFP

US trade gap narrows in Feb ahead of bulk of Trump tariffs

THE US trade deficit narrowed in February, according to government data released Thursday that was collected before President Donald Trump launched his most recent salvo of punishing worldwide tariffs.

The overall trade gap of the world's biggest economy shrank 6.1 per cent to \$122.7 billion, said

the Commerce Department, slightly more than analysts expected.

In February, Trump unveiled — then halted — sharp tariffs on Canada and Mexico, while imposing added duties on China.

In the weeks since then, he has rolled out painful levies on sectors including steel, alumin-

ium and autos, with a global 10 per cent tariff to hit US trading partners in early April. Some countries and blocs will face even higher rates down the line.

All of this is set to weigh on US trade, as retailers and manufacturers scramble to adjust their supply chains and avoid cost increases. — AFP

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V WISDOM VOY. NO. (010N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-4-2025 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.

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Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

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WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

5 April

Rutte says NATO's Cold War-level spending still falls short

Rutte stated that NATO countries produce as much ammunition in a year as Russia does in three months.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte stated that European countries have increased their military spending, comparing this growth to the Cold War era.

"It is staggering the amount of billions coming in. It – you have to compare this to the days of the Cold War, when you look at the overall defence spending now being ramped up in Europe," Rutte told CBS.

At the same time he highlighted that the alliance's countries produce as much ammunition in a year as Russia produces

in three months.

"We are producing in a full year in ammunition what Russia is producing in three months," Rutte said.

He added that with a defense spending threshold of two per cent of GDP, the alliance will not be able to defend itself in the next three to five years. Meanwhile, in 2024 alone, NATO's military budget was about \$485 billion, several times higher than Russia's military budget for the same year, which is estimated to be around \$71 billion. – SPUTNIK



In 2024, NATO's military budget was approximately \$485 billion, significantly higher than Russia's estimated military budget of around \$71 billion for the same year.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

4 April

BIMSTEC serves as vital bridge between South and Southeast Asia

AT the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an impactful speech emphasizing enhanced cooperation among member states to foster a prosperous, secure, and inclusive Bay of Bengal region.

He expressed gratitude to PM Shinawatra for Thailand's leadership in BIMSTEC over the past three years.

Modi highlighted BIMSTEC as a crucial

link between South and Southeast Asia, facilitating regional connectivity and shared prosperity. He noted the operational commencement of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru and proposed sharing India's expertise in Digital Public Infrastructure.

Modi suggested integrating India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with BIMSTEC payment systems to boost trade and tourism. – ANI

3 April

Nepal capital chokes as wildfires rage

NEPAL'S capital was blanketed in acrid smog Thursday as wildfires across the country pushed air pollution levels to among the worst in the world.

Experts say that widespread wildfires, fuelled by an exceptionally dry winter and stagnant atmospheric conditions, have caused the thick and throat-burning smog to cover the Kathmandu valley.

Levels of PM2.5 pollutants – cancer-causing microparticles that enter the

bloodstream through the lungs – registered above 178 microgrammes per cubic metre on Thursday, according to Swiss monitoring firm IQAir.

A reading above 15 in a 24-hour period is considered unhealthy by the World Health Organization (WHO), and IQAir ranked Kathmandu the world's most polluted city. The Himalayan nation sees a spate of wildfires annually, usually beginning in March. – AFP

2 April

Indonesia's high-speed train sees record ridership

THE Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway (Whoosh) service has transported more than 210,000 passengers during the 2025 Eid al-Fitr holiday period, PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China (KCIC), a joint venture consortium between Indonesian and Chinese firms that constructs and runs the HSR, said on Wednesday.

KCIC General Manager Corporate Secretary Eva Chairunisa highlighted the company's commitment to providing inte-

grated transport solutions for passengers travelling to and from Whoosh stations.

"We have observed a significant rise in passenger numbers, and intermodal transport has played an important role in facilitating their mobility from and to Whoosh Station," Eva said in a statement on Wednesday. She noted that despite the heavy crowds at stations, passenger flow remained smooth thanks to efficient intermodal connections. – Xinhua

1 April

Greek tourist islands hit by floods

THE Greek islands of Paros and Mykonos were hit by flash floods late on Monday with heavy rainfall set to continue on Tuesday, officials said.

There were no reports of injuries on islands, which are popular tourist destinations.

Paros mayor Costas Bizas said a creek had overflowed in the fishing village of Naoussa, flooding businesses and homes and carrying off nearly 40 vehicles.

"We will need state machinery to clean up the area," Bizas told state TV ERT, adding that local roads were full of debris.

"We should cross ourselves that no one was lost," the mayor said.

The civil protection agency on Monday had warned Paros and Mykonos residents to stay indoors. On Tuesday, it said the storm front was moving to the islands of Chios, Samos and Ikaria. – AFP

31 March

BBC faces 'unprecedented' funding challenge

THE BBC said Monday its real income has fallen by £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) a year compared to 2010 as it warned of "unprecedented" challenges to funding its content.

"Without intervention, it will be difficult to maintain the current ambition and

volume of UK content," the BBC said in its strategic plan for the year ahead.

BBC Group says it expects income of £6.1 billion in 2025/26, which represents a £1 billion annual drop since 2010 once inflation is taken into account. – AFP

30 March

Gavi: Vaccine alliance facing US funding cuts

THE Gavi vaccine alliance, which vaccinates over half of the world's children against serious diseases, faces potential funding cuts from the United States as part of President Donald Trump's foreign aid reductions. Gavi, founded in 2000 to provide vaccines to developing countries, relies on the US for approximately 15 per

cent of its budget. This public-private partnership collaborates with organizations like WHO, UNICEF, and the Gates Foundation to enhance global vaccination efforts. Gavi's CEO, Sania Nishtar, warns that US funding cuts could have a "disastrous impact" on global health, potentially leading to over a million preventable deaths. – AFP

SPORTS



Bayern Munich legend Thomas Müller will leave the club at the end of the season. PHOTO: AFP

Germany's Müller to leave Bayern Munich after 25 years

BAYERN Munich legend Thomas Müller confirmed on Saturday the club will not offer him a new contract bringing an end to his 25-year career with the Bundesliga giants at the end of the campaign.

The 35-year-old, whose contract was set to expire in the summer, said in a post on social media the decision was made by the club and "not what I would have wished".

Müller said he did not like how the contract saga played out "back and forth in public" in recent months but he "felt the appreciation from everyone involved after my long time with Bayern".

"The special connection to the club and our fantastic fans will always remain," he said.

Müller came through the Bayern junior system and has

won two Champions Leagues along with 12 Bundesliga titles.

His focus was now on "bringing the league title back to Munich" as well as reaching this season's Champions League final, which will be held in Bayern's Allianz Arena home.

Bayern issued a statement saying Müller would be honoured with a testimonial match and that the midfielder would play at the Club World Cup in July.

"Thomas Müller had the definition of a Bavarian fairytale career," club president Herbert Hainer said.

On Instagram on Saturday, his Bayern teammate Harry Kane said Müller was "the definition of a legend", adding "it's been a pleasure to share these two years together — let's make it a perfect ending". — AFP

Arsenal draw at Everton to edge Liverpool closer to Premier League title

ARSENAL'S small remaining hope of a first Premier League title for 21 years was further diminished after a 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday.

Leandro Trossard's opener for the Gunners was cancelled out by Iliman Ndiaye's penalty to leave Arsenal still 11 points behind Liverpool, who have a game in hand. The Reds now need just 11 points from their

remaining eight games to secure a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title. Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta had said the best preparation for his side's Champions League quarter-final, first leg against Real Madrid would be to win on Merseyside.

But the Spaniard showed he had one eye on the visit of the European champions with his team selection. — AFP

Musiala hamstring tear compounds Bayern's injury crisis

BAYERN Munich on Saturday confirmed midfielder Jamal Musiala was set for a stint on the sidelines after tearing his hamstring, as the injury-hit side's troubles deepen.

Musiala, 22, was helped from the pitch in the second half of Bayern's 3-1 win at Augsburg on Friday, having motioned to the bench while grabbing at the back of his left thigh.

Bayern on Saturday issued a statement saying the club would "be without Jamal Musiala for the time being" following an "examination from the club's medical department".

The German giants did not provide a time-frame for Musiala's recovery, but domestic media reported he was set to miss six to eight weeks given

the serious nature of the tear.

The upcoming period is crucial for Bayern in the Champions League and the Bundesliga. Bayern host Inter Milan in

the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday, before the return match in Italy the following Wednesday. — AFP



Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala is helped from the field with a hamstring injury. PHOTO: AFP

Top seed Pegula rallies to oust defending champ Collins in Charleston

WORLD number four Jessica Pegula rallied from a set and a break down to beat defending champion Danielle Collins 1-6, 6-3, 6-0 on Friday and reach the semifinals of the WTA clay court tournament in Charleston, South Carolina.

"That was tough," said Pegula, who trailed 6-1, 2-0 but won

10 of the last 13 games — including the last nine to close out the contest.

"Obviously she can play well here," Pegula said. "She's defending champion and she came out firing. I was not ready for that at all."

"Luckily I was able to dig my heels into that second set

and play some good tennis."

Pegula said the key to turning things around was mixing up her shots and "smart serving". "She was returning unbelievable, just hitting winner, winner, winner off my serve and I had to figure out a way to get my placement a little bit better," Pegula said. — AFP



American Jessica Pegula rallies to beat defending champion Danielle Collins of the United States in the quarterfinals of the WTA tournament in Charleston, South Carolina.



Univ of Tokyo to open new department in 2027, classes all in English

The University of Tokyo said Friday that it will open its first new undergraduate department in about 70 years in September 2027, with all classes taught in English to empower students to take on complex global challenges.

The department, “UTokyo College of Design”, will adopt fall enrollment, the mainstream in Europe and the United States, offering topics that students can explore in line with their interests, such as climate change and biodiversity, re-

University of Tokyo”.

All freshman students will reside in a university dormitory to promote cross-cultural exchange through daily interaction. The programme comprises four years of bachelor’s and one year of master’s study.

The college is set to be headed by a foreign professor at the university, with teaching staff to include other instructors at the institution and top-class researchers from both Japan and abroad, it said.

The admission method is scheduled to be announced as early as July. The university, which will mark the 150th anniversary of its founding in 2027, is expected to forgo written examinations and instead assess applicants based on their documents and interviews. — Kyodo

University President Teruo Fujii emphasized creating a learning environment for students to realize their visions.

The new combined five-year bachelor’s and master’s degree programme will reserve half of its 100-student capacity for international enrollees, aiming to strengthen the global competitiveness of Japan’s most prestigious university.

ardless of field of study.

Teruo Fujii, the public university’s president, said at a press conference, “We will create a new place of learning where students can realize their respective visions by fully utilizing the potential of the

Smartphones shed light on depression detection

This technology is particularly relevant for modern individuals experiencing high stress.

SMARTPHONES have the potential to aid depression detection through digital phenotyping and feature extraction by utilizing the massive data they collect, according to Chinese scientists at Lanzhou University.

This has particular significance and potential for modern people suffering from high stress as smartphones can timely sense people’s mental and physical conditions, according to their study newly published in the journal Proceedings of the IEEE. — Xinhua



Smartphones can continuously monitor users’ mental states using the vast data they collect. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

London mayor gets new powers to revive capital’s ailing nightlife

LONDON mayor Sadiq Khan will get more powers to cut red tape that is “stifling” pubs, clubs and restaurants and holding back the UK capital’s flagging night-time economy, the government announced on Friday.

Khan will be granted new “call in” powers to review decisions of local councils that block late-drinking licences in nightlife hotspots. If successful, other mayors across England could receive similar powers in a bid to revive the country’s £62 billion hospitality sector, which was struggling even before the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Businesses have complained that the current licensing system creates barriers to growth and investment, making it difficult to obtain extended licensing hours for late-night drinking



Recently published figures show a 32.7 per cent decline in nightclubs across the UK since 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

and overcome objections from other firms.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan expressed his approval of the government’s decision to grant

greater licensing powers to the city, aimed at revitalizing its struggling nightlife. This initiative will support pubs, clubs, and music venues, which have

faced significant challenges, including a 32.7 per cent decline in nightclubs since 2020. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner emphasized the importance of

This includes extending opening hours for pubs, clubs, and restaurants, as well as encouraging outdoor dining in designated areas.

the nighttime economy, stating that it has been neglected and must be prioritized for growth. The government plans to launch a pilot program to encourage outdoor dining, addressing issues like rising rents, staffing shortages, and changing consumer preferences that have impacted the hospitality sector. — AFP