



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the cleaning works in Maha Muni Buddha Image, in Mandalay yesterday.

# SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing commends India, China, Russia, and Belarus rescue teams for Mandalay relief efforts

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the SAC Joint Secretary and his wife, council members, Union ministers, the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, yesterday afternoon met rescue teams from India, China, Russia and Belarus which are conducting rescue and relief operations in Mandalay and spoke words of appreciation.

At the 60 Parachute Field Hospital of the Indian Armed Forces in the old airport of Chanmyathazi Township, team leader Lt-Col Jagneet Gill and officials

conducted the Senior General round the hospital and explained how to provide medical treatment. The Senior General, his wife and party comforted patients and presented foodstuffs.

The Senior General spoke words of thanks to the rescuers for their rescue and relief operations and medical treatments. The Senior General and his wife presented gifts and a fruit basket to the medical teams of the Indian Armed Forces. The leader of the team accepted them and presented gifts.

The Senior General signed the guest book of the 60 Parachute Field Hospital.

In the meeting with China's Search and Rescue team which opened its camp in front of Mingala Mandalay Hotel, the

Senior General heard the clarification on rescue and relief operations by team leader Mr Kyauk Me.

In his response, the Senior General expressed his thanks to the Chinese squad for its efforts in Myanmar. China and Myanmar are inseparable neighbouring and friendly countries, and they will continue to cooperate closely. The Chinese team is expected to share the disaster relief experience gained in Myanmar, and Myanmar will take lessons from the current events to continue conducting research and preparedness measures for future natural disasters. The Senior General then cordially greeted members of the Chinese Search and Rescue team.

The Senior General and his wife

presented gifts and a fruit basket to the leader of the Chinese team. The leader said he believes and prays Myanmar will be able to overcome the losses caused by the current earthquake in the best possible way, and return to normalcy as soon as possible under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

At Mandalathiri Stadium, the Senior General cordially greeted members of the rescue, relief and medical team of the Russian Federation led by Major General Sergey Voroutsov. The team is carrying out rescue, relief and medical treatment. The Senior General presented gifts and a fruit basket to the team leader.

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## Article

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By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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Singapore Civil Defence Force donates rescue equipment to Myanmar



# 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)*

## Myanmar urges UN to support and strengthen its solidarity with the People of Myanmar

THE 58<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), held from 24 February to 4 April 2025, has concluded with two undesirable interactive dialogues on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the report of the so-called Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, which took place on 3 and 20 March 2025 respectively. During the session on 3 April, a resolution on Myanmar, tabled by the European Union was adopted without consensus, undermined the principle of meaningful dialogue and excluded the participation of the country concerned.

On 28 March 2025, Myanmar was

struck by a powerful earthquake, claiming over 3,000 lives and damaging infrastructure severely. The Chairman of the State Administration Council declared a state of emergency in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, and northeastern Shan State and publicly called for aid and assistance from all willing parties on the same day.

A 43-member National Disaster Management Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, is tasked to lead and coordinate emergency response and recovery efforts.

Following the recent devastating earthquake, the government has mobilized immediate relief operations,

including the provision of food, medical assistance, and essential services to the affected regions. Myanmar welcomes the constructive engagement and support of the international community, including that of the United Nations and humanitarian organizations in its efforts to respond the disaster.

In this time of national emergency, Myanmar expresses its sincere appreciation to all countries and organizations including UN agencies that have extended condolence messages and shown solidarity with Myanmar people. Such gestures of support are a testament to the spirit of humanitarian cooperation and friendship.

It is deeply regrettable that, amid

such tragedy, Myanmar continues to face with repeated condemnations from some corner of the world. What Myanmar people need is a helping hand, assistance, constructive engagement and solidarity, not politically driven resolution that further burden them.

Myanmar urges the United Nations to end ineffective mandates, such as the Special Rapporteur, which has shown no practical value over the past three decades.

Myanmar also urges the United Nations to support its disaster response efforts through balanced and practical approach and strengthen its solidarity with the people of Myanmar in this difficult time. — MNA

## Alternate daily newspaper publishing planned for New Year holiday

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in alternate circulation during the holidays of the Myanmar New Year.

The Kyemon Daily will be published from 13 to 16 April, whereas the Myanma Alinn and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays. The Myanma Alinn and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 17 to 21 April, while the Kyemon daily will take a break.

The Ethnic Sector in the Shan Language by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi), published every Thursday, will take a holiday on 17 April; the Ethnic Sector in Mon, Sakaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will take holidays on 20 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly. However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays. — MNA

## Untimely Rainfall Warning

Issued at 7 pm MST on 6 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, development of convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states and likelihood of isolated in Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and Chin states during tonight to 11 April 2025. Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states during 12 to 14 April 2025.

### Advisory

People should be aware untimely rainfall accompanied with Strong wind, thunder, lightning, hails and landslide. — DMH

## Gold Market Rate as of 6 April 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,610,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

## Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 6 April 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, a low pressure area may form over South Bay of Bengal during next 48 hrs. — 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)



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the damaged parts of the Thakyadita nunnery yesterday.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects loss and damage in quake-affected Sagaing, ongoing rehabilitation measures

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, SAC Joint Secretary and his wife, council members, Union ministers, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, yesterday morning, inspected loss and damage in the incident of the powerful earthquake in Sagaing and ongoing rehabilitation process.

At Myat Private High School damaged by the earthquake, the Senior General viewed the clearing of debris and gave guidance to the rescue teams and officials.

At No 1 Basic Education High School, the Senior General inspected the damage to the school building and

instructed officials to systematically verify loss and damage and repair them as much as possible. If not, dangerous buildings must be demolished. Officials need to supervise and repair appropriate buildings to be ready to use before the school opening period.

On arrival at Sagaing General Hospital, the Senior General inspected healthcare services provided to the injured people, a teacher who was trapped in the collapsed building for six days and other patients and comforted them. He also presented cash assistance to those injured and cash awards to health staff.

At Athinkgaya Avenue of Sagaing Region government, the Senior General heard reports by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw on fatalities and injuries in the earthquake, loss and dam-

age of religious, education and health buildings, roads and bridges, efforts of Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, Red Cross members and foreign rescue teams in rescue and relief operations, and clearing of debris.

In his response, the Senior General said that cash assistance would be provided for all loss and damage in the earthquake, and it is necessary to share the cash assistance with the deserved areas. The Senior General stressed the need to repair damaged roads and bridges in relevant sections. The government will provide necessary construction materials for the reconstruction of private buildings as much as possible. Hence, all have to expedite efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction projects with

might and main to shape Sagaing as a better city.

The Senior General assessed the destruction at the Moza water supply station on Strand Road in Minlan Ward and examined the damage to the main road axis.

At the Sakuhmaw relief camp, the Senior General looked into relief measures and healthcare services for the earthquake victims and fulfilled the needs of officials. He cordially greeted volunteers from Sagaing and gave words of appreciation. From the precinct of Sakuhmaw Monastery, he viewed the collapse of the Sagaing Bridge (Inwa) and gave instructions to officials to repair the bridge as quickly as possible.

SEE PAGE 4



# NATIONAL

## SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing commends India, China, Russia, and ...



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing encourages a patient being treated by Indian medical team at the 60 Parachute Field Hospital of the Indian Armed Forces in the old airport of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, yesterday.

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General also spoke words of gratitude to the Belarus rescue team led by Col Eagle for their rescue and relief operations. The Senior General presented gifts and a fruit basket to the Belarusian team.

On arrival at Maha Muni Buddha Image, the Senior General inspected the falls of jewellery items and the diamond orb and the damage to ancient mural paintings in the incident of the powerful earthquake and gave necessary guidance to officials.

He viewed round keeping of ancient Pitakat treatises in the Maha Muni Pitakat chamber and ancient bronze statues in the bronze statue museum. He

instructed officials to soonest repair the damaged parts and preserve them.

The Senior General looked into the damage to the Maha Muni Buddha Image and religious buildings. After hearing the reports of officials, the Senior General instructed officials to systematically repair the damaged works in their original states, carefully demolish dangerous buildings and repair them in sections.

The Senior General viewed the clearing of debris by Tatmadaw members and volunteers and presented cash awards to them.

The Senior General flew over Mandalay and Kyaukse to view round loss and damage in the earthquake. — MNA/TTA

## SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects loss and ...

### FROM PAGE 3

In the meeting with members of the Malaysian rescue team which is conducting rescue and relief operations in Sagaing, the Senior General spoke words of appreciation for team leader Mr Hasizul who clarified rescue and relief measures. The Senior General cordially greeted Malaysian rescuers individually and presented gifts and a fruit basket to them.

The Senior General viewed round clearing of debris at Laykyunmyay Okkyaung monastery, Thakyadita nunnery, SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda and Yadana Theingi nunnery and instructed officials to rebuild religious edi-

fices in their original states. He then presented cash awards to rescuers.

At Sitagu Meditation Monastery, the Senior General paid homage to State Ovadacariya 16<sup>th</sup> Shwegyin Sangharaja Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and donated K50 million and alms to be spent on renovation of damaged pagodas where sacred relics of the Lord Buddha are kept. He shared merits dedicated to monks, nuns and people who lost life in the earthquake.

After inspecting the dam-



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts a patient receiving medical treatments in Sagaing General Hospital.

aged Sitagu Sangha Sannipata monastery, the Senior General instructed officials to reconstruct the building as quickly as possible. He also inspected the change in the primary axis of the earthquake-affected road in

Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, and gave instructions.

In Yaingtang Ward of Sagaing, the Senior General reviewed the renovation work of Mahazedi Pagoda and instructed officials to conduct renovation meeting the

criteria to ensure the long-term existence of the structure.

The Senior General and his entourage crossed the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) by car to oversee its maintenance. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

MoTC Union Minister inspects quake relief camps for staff families in Nay Pyi Taw

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo inspected the temporary accommodation camps for the quake-affected families of employees under the ministry in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

The Union Minister visited the Myanmar Post Office in Zabuthiri Township where he inspected the temporary accommodation of 92 staff family members affected by the earthquake on the office premises. The Managing Director and officials provided an overview of the accommodation situation, as well as the food and healthcare being provided to the staff families, and discussed the continuity of office operations. The Union Minister addressed the staff families' needs and delivered an encouraging speech.

At Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station in Pobbathiri Township, the Union Minister inspected



Member of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo visits temporary accommodation camps for the quake-affected families of employees under the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

No 7-up DEMU train running Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw railway as it arrived at platform 3, and the No 27-Up Airbag Express train, which was ready to depart for Mandalay from platform 2. He instructed officials to ensure that the trains depart

and arrive on time, operate at the specified speed, and widely disseminate train travel information.

The Union Minister then inspected the accommodation of 800 earthquake-affected staff and their families in the Nay Pyi

Taw Railway Station area, as well as the medical treatment provided by the medical team of Myanmar Railways to the staff, their families, and residents. He also ordered the continuation of health services, as a total of 771 patients had been treated

since the temporary camp was established.

Next, he inspected the kitchen areas and instructed that they be arranged systematically, with roofs and shelters provided for each family. He also instructed the preparation of land for building a more comfortable long-term camp for the families.

The Union minister visited the temporary camp for 434 employee families on the premises of the Myanmar Railways Head Office, inspected their accommodation and food arrangements, and expressed his encouragement to the staff families.

Afterward, the Union Minister arrived at the Road Transport Administration Department Office (Ywataw) in Pobbathiri Township, where he inspected the temporary living conditions of 108 families of departmental staff and offered words of encouragement. — Ministry of Transport and Communications /TH

SAC member presents food supplies to earthquake-affected staff

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung visited earthquake-affected staff and families from the SAC office yesterday.

During his visit, the SAC member comforted those staff and gave relief items including rice, soft drinks, purified drinking water, instant noodles, dried fish and other food supplies.

He also inquired about their working conditions and daily challenges, offering coordination and support as needed.

A total of 500 bags of rice, 200 cartons of drinking water, 300 packages of soft drinks,



State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung gives foodstuff to a staff from the SAC office yesterday.

five cartons of instant noodles and other food items were donated to the staff and their families. — MNA/KZL

Race against time: Quake search and rescue efforts continue

THE powerful earthquake left 3,514 people dead, 4,809 people injured and 210 people missing in six regions and states up to 6 April.

Members of the Fire Services Department 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 686 dead bodies till

today. Well-wishers donate cash and materials to the affected people. On 6 April, two planes from two countries carrying 38.128 tonnes of relief supplies landed at Yangon International Airport. Arrangements are being made to distribute the relief supplies donated by well-wishers to affected people as quickly as possible. — MNA/TTA



This photo reveals relief aid arriving from China at Yangon International Airport.

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# NATIONAL

## Union Chief Justice inspects courtrooms for temporary relocation after earthquake damage

DUE to the damage sustained by the Union Supreme Court courtrooms following the earthquake on 28 March 2025, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay and party visited the Zeyathiri District Court on the morning of 6 April to inspect potential temporary hearing locations.

The purpose was to ensure continued access to legal rights for the public and maintain regular judicial proceedings. During the inspection, the Union Chief Justice looked into the proposed sites for the Union

Supreme Court's Full Bench Court, Special Appellate Bench, Special Bench, and single-judge civil and criminal benches.

He also examined the site behind the district court, where four temporary courtrooms are planned to be constructed. They also inspected minor damage caused by the earthquake at the Zeyathiri District Court and Pobbathiri Township Court and stressed the need for carrying out necessary repairs. He also looked into staff relocation. — MNA/KZL



Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay inspects temporary locations for courtrooms at Zeyathiri District Court yesterday.



Union SWRR Minister Dr Soe Win receives UN Under-Secretary General Mr Tom Fletcher for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator yesterday.

## MoSWRR Union Minister receives UN Under Secretary General

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Mr Tom Fletcher, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and his delegation yesterday morning at the ministry's Disaster Management Centre (DMC), with relevant officials present.

During the meeting, the Union minister discussed the damage caused by the magnitude 7.7 earthquake, the presence of international rescue organizations in the affected areas for search and rescue, the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistic System for international earthquake response and relief supplies, and cooperation with UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

In exchanging views with the Union Minister, Mr Tom Fletcher stated that the United Nations has ample specialized staff ready to assist Myanmar, explaining that his visit aimed to know the situation firsthand and discuss the provision of necessary humanitarian assistance, which is currently being provided and will continue to be guided by humanitarian principles. — MNA/TH

## Myanmar football family makes donations in Mandalay, Pyawbwe

THE Myanmar football family comprising the President of Myanmar Football Federation, executives, coaches, former players, referees and staff of MFF and MNL made donations at the earthquake-affected areas in Mandalay and Pyawbwe.

On the morning of 6 April,

they donated K5 million to Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital and K50,000 each to 49 patients.

They paid tribute to former Myanmar selected footballer U Sein Win Gyi who lost life in the earthquake at his home. MFF President U Zaw Zaw and football family donated K5.5 million

to the bereaved family.

In Pyawbwe, they contributed K10 million to rescue and relief operation at KanU Monastery.

The Myanmar football family decided to continue donations at the affected areas. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

## MoSWRR Union Minister honours rescue teams from ASEAN countries



Union SWRR Minister Dr Soe Win poses for documentary photo together with rescue teams of ASEAN countries yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win attended a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to present certificates of appreciation and gifts to search and rescue teams from ASEAN countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam — for their collaborative efforts in searching for and rescuing individuals trapped in collapsed buildings in the powerful earthquake on 28 March.

Expressing his gratitude for the immediate arrival and collaborative efforts of search and rescue teams in the earthquake-affected areas of Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Sagaing, the Union minister revealed that their tireless work resulted in the rescue of eight people alive and the recovery of 172 bodies. Emphasizing that cooperation is a key to effectively responding

to natural disasters, the Union minister stated that such collaboration has enabled the effective execution of search and rescue efforts and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the search and rescue teams and the people of friendly countries who have shown concern and compassion for the victims. Following this, certificates of appreciation and gifts were presented to the participating search and rescue teams.

Also present at the ceremony were Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Tun Oo, the Deputy Minister and Directors-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leaders and members of the search and rescue teams from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam, and officials from the AHA Centre. — MNA/TH



# Yangon Region Chief Minister signs condolence for late former Lao President

ON behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein signed the condolence book for the demise of General Khamtay Siphandone, former President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and former Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, who was a leading revolutionary figure in the country.

General Khamtay Siphandone passed away on 2 April 2025 in Vientiane. In tribute to his legacy, the condolence book was opened at the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Myanmar, located at A-1, Tawwin Road, Dagon Township, Yangon.

Chief Minister U Soe

Thein, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived at the Lao Embassy at 2 pm yesterday. He was welcomed by Lao Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bounphieng Chanthavong, Lao Military Attaché Colonel Viphaxay Chathamath and other embassy officials.

The Chief Minister met cordially with the Ambassador, the Military Attaché and responsible officials in the embassy's reception hall. During the meeting, he expressed heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Government of Myanmar for the demise of General Khamtay Siphandone — a distinguished former President, former Party Chairman and a key revolutionary leader of



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein signs the book of condolence on the demise of the former President of Laos in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)

the Lao People's Democratic Republic. He then signed the condolence book to formally convey Myanmar's sympathy and solidarity. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL



Backhoe excavator cleaning debris of Masoeyein Monastery in Mandalay. PHOTO: KO MOE

## Ayeyawady Foundation clears debris of Masoeyein Monastery

THE Ayeyawady Foundation, which has been actively involved in humanitarian mission in earthquake-affected regions, is clearing debris of the Masoeyein Taikthit Monastery in Mandalay, which was severely damaged by the earthquake.

Working alongside local authorities, the Foundation has deployed heavy machinery from Max Myanmar Construction to clear debris.

Besides, the Foundation donated K75 million for the medical treatment of 49 in-

jured monks, K15 million for the 500 student monks, K35 million for 10 days of meals, and 250 bags of rice. A total of K140 million in donations has been made to support those affected by the disaster. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

## CFPD, CMECDPA donate foods and utensils to earthquake victims in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay

CHINA Foundation of Peace and Development (CFPD) and China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association (CMECDPA) donated foodstuffs and necessary utensils to the people from the quake-affected Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay on 4 April.

In this regard, those associations provided purified drinking water, instant noodle, biscuit, solar-powered lighting, disposal towels, germicide, hand sanitizer, masks and antibiotic medicines and others to the people.

Such a donation aims to enable students and disaster affected people to overcome crises. These supplies were transported by China FAW Jiefang Group International Automobile Co, Ltd free of charge. — ASH/TTA



China Foundation of Peace and Development (CFPD) and China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association (CMECDPA) seen with donations.



OPINION

Initiate development and peace for motherland

THE International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is celebrated annually on 6 April to recognize the power of sport in fostering positive change, bridging barriers, and transcending boundaries, according to the United Nations. Leading up to the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025, IDSDP 2025 will centre on the theme of “Social Inclusion”, emphasizing marginalized groups and issues of age, gender, and race. The initiative seeks to challenge stereotypes, promote equal opportunities, and ensure inclusive sports for all. It underscores sport’s role as a unifying force that fosters equity, breaks down prejudices, and drives positive change worldwide.

Currently, countries around the world utilize sports as a means to promote development and peace for all. This goal is among the most noble. Through social activities and participation, sports can help shape the world into a more peaceful and developed place. Although some may see it as a magical solution, the current global situation reflects the effectiveness of sports in fostering positive change. Everybody is inspired to the restoration of peace in their countries. Fraternity based on sports activities can shape the nation with fruits of peace for all. Consequently, it is not difficult to implement development projects if the country can restore durable peace.

As various ethnicities have been facing internal conflict for many years, Myanmar has to choose an option to enhance the influence of its esteemed athletes to support the peace process. In this regard, the nation’s renowned sports figures should actively engage in peacemaking initiatives to help restore lasting peace as a valuable gift for future generations. All stakeholders, including athletes, must work together to pave the way for reconciliation and sustainable peace. Through collaborative efforts and the exchange of best practices, the domestic sporting community should play a significant role in fostering peace and national development.

Be Aware of Post-Earthquake Conditions

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

AFTER an earthquake, it’s important to stay alert and follow safety precautions to avoid further risks. The following conditions should be aware;

Immediate Actions:

- i. Check for Injuries: Administer first aid if necessary and seek medical help for serious injuries.
- ii. Be Aware of Aftershocks: Aftershocks can follow the main quake, so be prepared to take cover again.
- iii. Avoid Damaged Buildings: Stay away from structures that appear weakened, as they may collapse.
- iv. Watch for Falling Objects: Broken glass, debris, and

- unstable furniture can pose dangers.
- v. Turn Off Utilities if Needed: Shut off the gas if you smell a leak and avoid using electrical switches if there are sparks or damaged wiring.

Safety Measures:

- i. Stay Away from Beaches and Riverbanks: If near coastal areas, be aware of possible tsunamis and move to higher ground.
- ii. Use Battery-Powered Devices: Listen to emergency broadcasts for updates.
- iii. Avoid Driving Unless Necessary: Roads may be damaged or blocked.
- iv. Check on Neighbors and

Vulnerable Individuals: Help those in need, especially the elderly and children.

v. Prepare for Possible Evacuation: Have an emergency bag ready with essentials.

In addition, after an earthquake, the area may experience structural damage, injured individuals, disrupted utilities (electricity, water, gas), and possible aftershocks. Buildings may be unsafe to enter, and there is a risk of fires, landslides, or tsunamis in coastal regions. Emergency services may be limited, and communication networks can be affected. People should stay alert, help others, and follow official instructions for safety and recovery.



After an earthquake, it is crucial to use battery-powered devices to listen to emergency broadcasts for important updates and safety information. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

Nations divided ahead of decisive week for shipping emissions

MEMBERS of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are divided over whether to approve a carbon tax on international shipping, ahead of a meeting starting on Monday to finalise emissions-reduction measures.

The carbon tax, the most ambitious measure on the table, would make it more expensive for shipping companies to emit greenhouse gases, encouraging them to curtail emissions.

But some member states, including China and Brazil, are proposing other measures, arguing the carbon levy would increase the cost of goods and contribute to food insecurity.

The IMO expects to come to an initial agreement by Friday next week on which mechanism to adopt to help reach carbon neutrality in shipping by 2050.

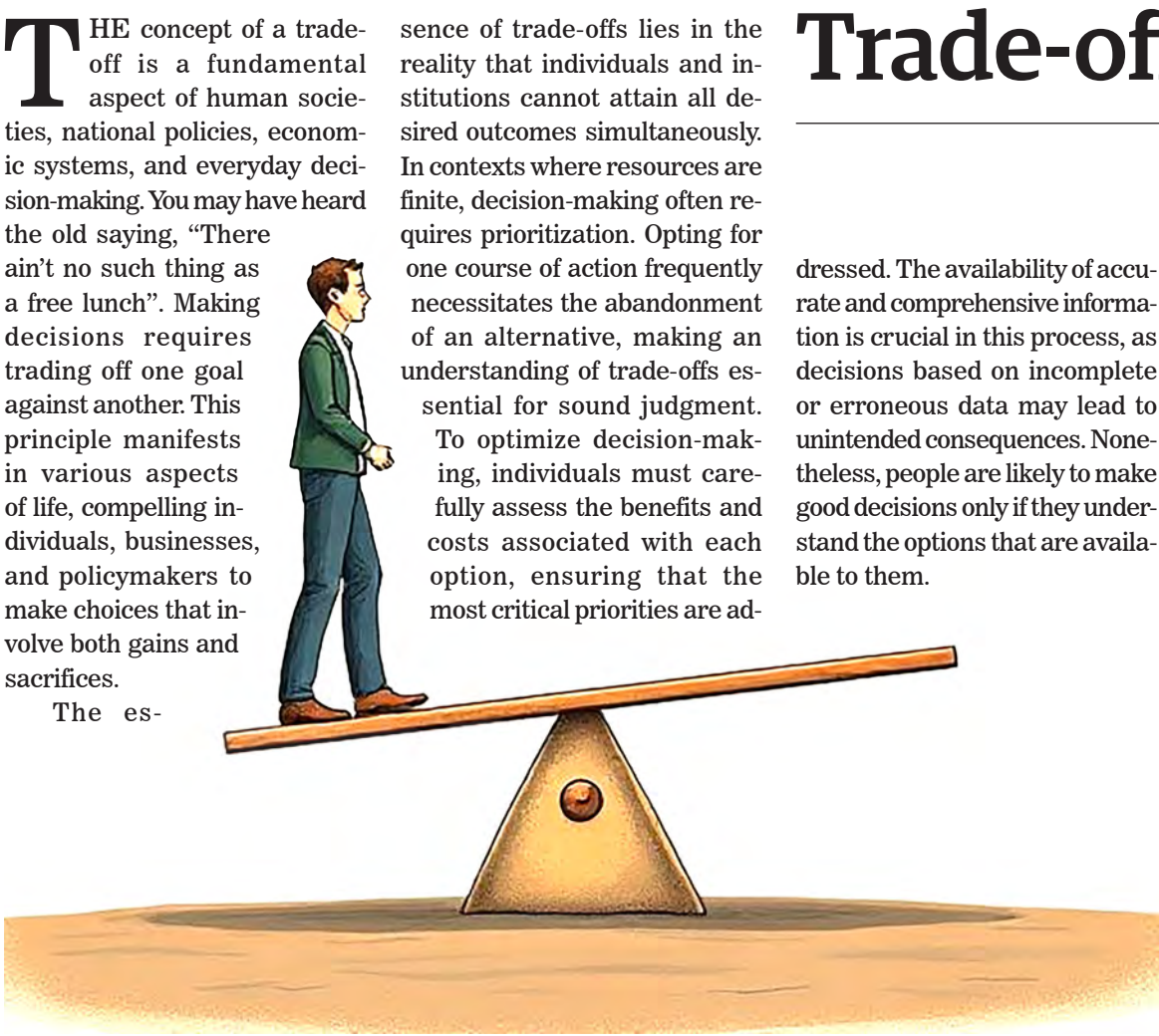
The stakes are high as shipping accounts for nearly three percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the IMO.

“(It is) difficult to say what will happen next week,” Fanny Pointet, sustainable shipping manager at European advocacy group, Transport and Environment, told AFP.

The United States has been notably quiet about the issue, having not commented since President Donald Trump returned to the White House.

The Pacific and Caribbean island states are leading the group pushing for a carbon tax, with support from other countries including the UK.

SOURCE: AFP



Trade-offs: A Fundamental Principle

Dr Zeyar Win

Trade-offs in Daily Life

Trade-offs are inherent in daily decision-making, as individuals continually balance competing demands and priorities. A closer examination of routine choices reveals the necessity of sacrificing one benefit in pursuit of another. For instance, professionals seeking career advancement may dedicate extended hours to work, often at the expense of time spent with family. Similarly, students striving for academic excellence may need to limit recreational activities such as gaming or socializing. Athletes preparing for elite competitions must adhere to strict training regimens and dietary restrictions, foregoing personal indulgences in pursuit of peak performance. Entrepreneurs

striving for business success frequently sacrifice sleep and personal time to achieve their goals, while individuals saving for major financial investments may forgo discretionary expenditures such as travel or dining out. These examples illustrate how strategic sacrifices in the present can yield long-term benefits. While trade-offs are inevitable, recognizing and managing them effectively enhances personal and professional outcomes.

Trade-offs in Politics and Economics

In the realm of politics, trade-offs constitute a foundational principle of governance and policy formulation. Political leaders, policymakers, and citizens routinely confront choices

where benefits in one domain necessitate sacrifices in another. For instance, a government may authorize the construction of a new industrial facility to stimulate economic growth and generate employment opportunities, yet this decision may also result in environmental degradation. In such cases, economic development is pursued at the potential expense of ecological sustainability. Similarly, policies aimed at enhancing national security may necessitate increased surveillance measures, thereby raising concerns regarding individual privacy – a trade-off between collective safety and personal freedoms.

Budgetary decisions further exemplify trade-offs in governance. Allocating greater funding

to healthcare initiatives may require reductions in infrastructure investments, compelling policymakers to weigh competing societal needs. On a global scale, international trade agreements often facilitate economic expansion but may involve political or strategic concessions.

In economic theory, trade-offs are central to the allocation of scarce resources. The tension between efficiency and equality, for example, often necessitates prioritizing one over the other. Businesses must similarly navigate resource allocation dilemmas – enhancing productivity may yield increased output and profitability but could also lead to employee dissatisfaction or burnout. Such examples underscore the profound influence of trade-offs on economic policies, business strategies, and governance frameworks.

**The Value of Trade-offs**

Success, fulfilment, and long-term achievement frequently necessitate calculated sacrifices. The maxim “no pain, no gain” encapsulates the notion that meaningful progress often requires the relinquishment of certain comforts or conveniences. When approached strategically, trade-offs serve to sharpen focus, accelerate progress, and cultivate resilience. The process of sacrificing for a greater objective enhances one’s appreciation of its value. Moreover, a refined understanding of trade-offs contributes to improved time management, financial planning, and personal development, thereby serving as an indispensable tool for navigating life’s complexities.

**Making Strategic Sacrifices**

The assertion that “success without sacrifice is empty success” highlights the fundamental role of trade-offs in achieving significant milestones. Major accomplishments often necessitate substantial sacrifices, yet these difficult choices lay the groundwork for future rewards.

SEE PAGE 12



NATIONAL

Humanitarian aid from China and Pakistan arrive in Yangon



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein accepts humanitarian aids from Pakistan at Yangon International Airport yesterday.



Arriving humanitarian aids from China at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

A plane carrying humanitarian aid comprising medicines and breathing apparatuses from China landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning. Officials of the Yangon Region Disaster Management Department accepted the aid. These humanitarian aids were transported to Nay Pyi Taw by car under the supervision of Yangon Region government. Likewise, another plane carrying tent, personal goods, tarpaulin sheets, medicines and instant foods weighing 31,301 kilogrammes from Pakistan in the second batch arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Imran Haider and officials coordinated necessary measures before sending these supplies to Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/TTA

Thai-Myanmar Association donates backhoe, foodstuffs, and relief items to Mandalay

ON 6 April 2025, Mr Mongkol Visittump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, represented the President of the Thai-Myanmar Association for Friendship, in handing over a backhoe, valued at THB1 million, to the Mandalay Region. The handover took place in front of Sky Villa Condominium in Mandalay, with U Aung Kyaw Moe, Minister of Social Affairs of the Mandalay Region government, receiving the donation. The aim of donating the backhoe is to support Mandalay in returning to normality as swiftly as possible by using it for rescue operations and recovery of bodies trapped beneath collapsed buildings following the earthquake on 28 March 2025, as well as for debris removal at Sky Villa and other affected sites in Mandalay. On the same occasion, the ambassador also witnessed the donation of relief supplies from CP Motor Myanmar, which donated two canvas tents, and MK Distribution, which donated 45,000 packets of MAMA instant noodles to aid those affected by the disaster in Mandalay. The donations were handed over to representatives of the Mandalay Regional government. The Royal Thai government, the Thai private sector and the people of Thailand stand ready to assist and support the people of Myanmar during this difficult time. — GNLM



Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visittump hands over the donated backhoe to the cabinet minister of the Mandalay Region government.

Singapore Civil Defence Force donates rescue equipment to Myanmar

AS a powerful earthquake caused widespread on 28 March in Nay Pyi Taw, search and rescue operations were carried out at affected locations promptly. International rescue teams including Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), contributed significantly to these efforts by providing specialized equipment, technology and rescue dogs, collaborating with local search and rescue teams to enhance the response. The SCDF's Operation Lionheart Contingent, led by Colonel Tay Zhi Wei, arrived at Yangon International Airport on 29 March with a team of 80 personnel, including one commander, two medical doctors, four paramedics, two structural engineers, 69 rescuers, two liaison officers and four rescue dogs. After arriving, they worked closely with Myanmar fire brigade in continuing the search and rescue operations. Starting from the evening of 29 March, the SCDF team carried out life sign assessments and rescue operations in Nay Pyi Taw and Pynmana. Further, the SCDF donated 11



Singapore Civil Defence Force donates rescue equipment to Fire Services Department. types of rescue equipment to Fire Services Department to assist in their efforts, with the handover taking place at the Fire Brigade Headquarters.— MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Myanmar detains 15 more foreign illegal entrants

A total of 15 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar were further detained yesterday, while trilateral cooperation between Myanmar, China, and Thailand continues to investigate and combat individuals involved in online scams, online gambling, and foreign masterminds.

These individuals, who entered Myanmar via border routes through some neighbouring countries, including Thailand, were found to be involved in online gambling, telecom fraud, and other criminal activities in Kyaukkhat area in Myawady, Kayin State.

Officials collected the personal information and records of those detained in a single day to facilitate their swift repatriation to their respective countries.

Between 30 January and 6 April, a

total of 8,739 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar were apprehended, with 7,142 systematically repatriated to their countries through Thailand in accordance with legal procedures. The remaining 1,597 individuals are prepared for transfer and are currently being securely detained.

The government continues to tackle telecom fraud operations by coordinating with international organizations from neighbouring countries to prevent online gambling and telecom fraud operations at Myanmar's borders. — MNA/KZL

Official collects the personal information and records of an illegal entrance.



Bank of China (Yangon Branch) donates supplies in first batch to people in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Bank of China (Yangon Branch) cooperates with China Rural Development Foundation donated relief supplies to the earthquake victims in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March.

In the first batch donation, they donated 1,620 cartons of instant noodle, 540 pieces of bread, purified drinking water, 270 mosquito nets, mosquito coils, and necessary utensils to some 1,600 people from 270 households.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the Bank of China (Yangon Branch) launched the corporate online banking services on a daily basis. It opens the Chinese-English-Myanmar emergency phone line in order to provide counseling and assistance to the users from the affected areas with utmost efforts to ensure smooth running of basic financial services.

The Bank of China decided to provide assistance for reconstruction of houses of the people in the affected areas so as to overcome challenges together with Myanmar people. — GNLM



Photo shows children after receiving the relief supplies from Bank of China in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March.

Actress provides K50 million worth relief supplies to earthquake victims in Kyaukse Township

ACTRESS Phyu Phyu Htwe's family went to Kyaukse Township on 4 April to donate food and supplies valued at K50 million to local people impacted by the recent earthquake, according to the actress.

This marks the second donation of food, supplies, and cash, with K500,000 being donated this time to each of 50 families whose children died in the collapse of a pre-primary school.

"Seeing the mothers of the children who died in the pre-primary school collapse made me cry because I couldn't personally feel their loss," said actress Phyu Phyu Htwe.

Actress Phyu Phyu Htwe allocated K10 million of her acting fees to earthquake victims, and other donors joined her charity efforts. Her first trip was to Mandalay Region, followed by a second to Sagaing Region, where she donated items worth over K50 million, including toothbrushes, instant noodles, cold coffee, canned fish, various types of noodles, crackers, fried potatoes, and clean water. — ASH/TH



Actress Phyu Phyu Htwe is seen along with relief supplies before distributing them to the people impacted by the recent earthquake.

Actor Nay Min, singer Phyo Myat Aung donate to earthquake victims

ACTOR Nay Min and singer Phyo Myat Aung visited earthquake-affected communities in TadaU and Inwa in Mandalay Region on 5 April to provide humanitarian donations.

"We felt deeply saddened and emotionally affected to witness the hardship faced by people suffering from the earthquake. At the same time, we are grateful to have the chance to personally get involved and help. We are continuing our donations to township hospitals and vil-



Actor Nay Min and singer Phyo Myat Aung seen donating to people affected by the natural disaster earthquake.

lages across Mandalay Region where assistance is still limited," said actor Nay Min.

In TadaU, they donated

K5 million to 10 people seriously injured by the earthquake, including one with a spinal injury, giving K500,000

to each individual. They also gave K2.7 million to 27 patients receiving treatment at TadaU hospital, providing K100,000 each.

In Inwa, they contributed K4.5 million to 15 families whose homes were destroyed, giving K300,000 per family. Also, K900,000 was donated to three severely injured victims at K300,000 each, K1.5 million to three survivors with serious injuries and K3 million to support medical treatment and funeral expenses. — ASH/KZL



SCI/ENVIRON/ARTICLE

# Japan to make vehicle gas pedal safety devices mandatory in 2028

This regulation aims to reduce accidents caused by elderly drivers mistakenly accelerating instead of braking.



Photo taken in December 2018 in Nagakute, Aichi Prefecture, shows a Toyota Motor Corp device designed to prevent crashes caused by the misapplication of gas pedals. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Japanese government will require new models of vehicles to be fitted with devices that prevent pedal misapplication from September 2028, following cases of elderly drivers causing accidents by mistakenly accelerating instead of braking.

The move, however, is unlikely to have a major impact on automakers as most vehicles produced in Japan in recent years already have such devices installed. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will revise the min-

isterial ordinance based on the Road Transport Vehicle Act and oblige all automatic vehicles to be fitted with them. The changes will not apply to manual transmission vehicles. The new regulation requires the device to prevent a vehicle from suddenly accelerating when there is an obstacle 1.0 to 1.5 metres ahead and to keep the speed below eight kilometres per hour, even when the driver fully depresses the accelerator pedal. The driver will be informed by in-vehicle notifications that the system is in operation or their foot should be taken off the pedal. According to a ministry survey, 93.8 per cent of domestically produced automobiles in 2023 were equipped with the devices, capable of controlling both forward and reverse movement. — Kyodo

# Artificial glaciers boost water supply in northern Pakistan

AT the foot of Pakistan's impossibly high mountains whitened by frost all year round, farmers grappling with a lack of wa-



The ice forms in the shape of cones that resemble Buddhist stupas, and act as a storage system — steadily melting throughout spring when temperatures rise. **PHOTO: AFP**

ter have created their own ice towers. Warmer winters as a result of climate change has reduced the snow fall and subsequent seasonal snowmelt that feeds the valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, a remote region home to K2, the world's second-highest peak. Farmers in the Skardu valley, at an altitude of up to 2,600 metres (8,200 feet) in the shadow of the Karakoram mountain range, searched online for help in how to irrigate their apple and apricot orchards. "We discovered artificial glaciers on YouTube," Ghulam Haider Hashmi told AFP. — AFP

# Trade-offs: A Fundamental Principle

**FROM PAGE 9**

To navigate trade-offs effectively, individuals must first identify their overarching priorities, distinguishing between immediate gratifications and enduring benefits. By assessing short-term sacrifices in relation to long-term objectives, individuals can make informed decisions that align with their ultimate aspirations. Additionally, managing stress, seeking balance, and periodically reevaluating priorities are essential for maintaining well-being amidst competing demands. Given that trade-offs evolve over time, flexibility and analytical foresight are critical. Thoughtful decision-making transforms trade-offs from obstacles into strategic stepping-

stones towards personal and professional growth.

**Conclusion**

Just as a seed must break through the soil to grow into a resilient tree, meaningful achievements often emerge from a foundation of well-considered sacrifices. Trade-offs should not be viewed merely as compromises but rather as deliberate choices that shape individual trajectories and collective progress. By approaching trade-offs with wisdom and strategic foresight, individuals and institutions can align their actions with long-term aspirations, ensuring that each sacrifice serves as an investment in a more fulfilling future.

# Cambodia records 6<sup>th</sup> newborn rare Mekong dolphin in 2025



Mekong Irrawaddy dolphins swim in the Mekong River in Kratie province, Cambodia, on 8 March 2025. **PHOTO: SOVANNARA/XINHUA/FILE**

ANOTHER newborn Mekong Irrawaddy dolphin has been sighted, raising the number of newborn dolphin calves in Cambodia to six so far this year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) said in a press release on Saturday. The new calf, about four days old, was spotted on Friday at the Kampi dolphin pool in Kratie province's Chetr Borei district by a team of researchers from the Fisheries Administration and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

"This newborn dolphin was seen swimming alongside a pod of five adult dolphins," the press release said. "It is the sixth dolphin calf born in 2025." The Mekong River Irrawaddy dolphins have been listed since 2004 as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species. In 2024, the Southeast Asian country recorded a total of nine newborn dolphin calves, with four deaths, according to the news release. — Xinhua



# Solar power can save up to 10% for Indian steel sector companies

*Solar power can help steel sector companies reduce production costs by up to 10 per cent.*

SOLAR power offers a massive opportunity for steel sector companies to reduce their production costs, with potential savings reaching up to 10 per cent for certain operations, said energy think tank Ember in a recent report.

The report highlighted that the greatest benefits are seen in standalone electric arc furnace (EAF) steelmaking, where solar energy can significantly cut operational expenses.

The report added that savings range between two and five per cent for direct reduced iron arc furnace (DRI-EAF) steel production.

“For direct reduced iron-arc furnace (DRI-EAF) based steelmaking, savings range between 2-5 per cent, while for cement manufacturing, the potential is lower,” the report added.

The steel sector alone contributes 9.4 GW to this opportunity, driven by the high cost of grid power, which can be cost-effectively offset by solar. In some setups, like standalone arc furnaces used in secondary steelmaking, solar could reduce production costs by up to 10 per cent, the report added. — ANI



For direct reduced iron arc furnace (DRI-EAF) steel production, the report indicates potential savings of 2 to 5 per cent. **PHOTO: ANI**

## Automatic expressway tollgates knocked out by system failure



Electronic toll collection lanes are closed at a toll gate of the Chuo Expressway's interchange in Fuchu, Tokyo, on 6 April 2025, due to a system problem. **PHOTO: KYODO**

AUTOMATIC lanes at more than 90 expressway tollgates in Tokyo and six other prefectures were shut down Sunday due to a system outage.

Central Nippon Expressway Co said it opened the affected lanes to traffic, allowing tolls to be paid online later, as it investigates the cause and works to restore the system following a failure in the electronic toll collection control system early Sunday.

Five people, including two children, were taken to the hospital after a four-vehicle crash near the Toyokawa interchange on the Tomei Expressway in Aichi Prefecture, which was experiencing a traffic jam due to the system failure, police said. No fatalities were reported. As of 2 pm, the toll collection system was down on 16 of the 23 expressway sectors operated by the Nagoya-based company. — Kyodo

## Ethiopia generates US\$70 mln in carbon trading revenue

ETHIOPIA has signed carbon trading agreements worth US\$70 million with various countries and international institutions, local media reported.

Ethiopia has increased its forest cover to 23.6 per cent through its Green Legacy Initiative, which has helped the country sign multiple memoranda of understanding with various

bilateral and multilateral partners, including the World Bank, the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported Friday, quoting Kebede Yimam, director general of Ethiopian Forestry Development.

These agreements have enabled the country to generate \$70 million dollars through carbon trading, the report said. — Xinhua

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 4 VOY. NO. (14N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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.

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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:  
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHI VOY. NO. (2505N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-4-2025** 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.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD



ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

# Lula admits ‘still a lot to do’ for Indigenous Brazilians

*Lula resumed designating Amazon land as protected Indigenous territory after taking office in 2023.*

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva admitted Friday that his government “still has a lot to do” for Indigenous communities battling for survival in the Amazon rainforest.

Lula, who will host this year’s UN climate change conference in the Amazon city of Belem in November, made the remarks during a visit to the village of the Amazon’s most famous resident and campaigner, Chief Raoni Metuktire.

Brazil’s left-wing leader,

who has made Amazon protection a key plank of his presidency, praised the “important role” played by Indigenous communities in the fight against climate change during his visit to the Capoto-Jarina Indigenous Territory in Mato Grosso state.

The meeting with Raoni, who has travelled the world to highlight the plight of the Amazon rainforest, comes days before thousands of Indigenous Brazilians gather in the capital Brasilia for a rally.

On returning to power in 2023, Lula resumed designating chunks of Amazon land as protected Indigenous territory, a process that had been halted by his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.

Indigenous leaders complain that the process has been too slow, however. Official data shows that demarcated Indigenous territories, where deforestation is a crime, are far less susceptible to land clearance for agriculture and illegal mining. — AFP



Brazil’s best-known Indigenous leader Chief Raoni Metuktire wants President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to designate more Amazon land as protected Indigenous territory to help prevent deforestation. **PHOTO: BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

## Mass protests against Trump administration staged in US, Europe

HUNDREDS of thousands of protesters gathered in dozens of cities across the United States and Europe on Saturday to protest the controversial policies of US President Donald Trump’s administration, including the imposition of so-called “reciprocal tariffs”, the shutdown of federal agencies and the deportation of immigrants.

In the United States,

around 600,000 people joined over 1,400 protests across all 50 states under the theme of “Hands Off”, according to the organizers.

Organized by a coalition of more than 150 groups, including civil rights organizations, labour unions and veterans’ associations, demonstrators gathered at state capitols, federal buildings, congressional offices, So-

cial Security Administration headquarters, city halls and public parks. “This peaceful movement is powered by everyday people — nurses, teachers, students, parents — who are rising up to protect what matters most. We are united, we are relentless, and we are just getting started,” said Rahna Epting, executive director of the activist group MoveOn. — Xinhua



Demonstrators dressed as characters from ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ gather on the National Mall for the nationwide “Hands Off” protest against US President Donald Trump and his advisor, Tesla CEO Elon Musk. **PHOTO: AFP**

### BRIEF: WORLD

#### US Army considers cutting 90,000 troops amid strategic shift

“A move that underscores mounting fiscal pressures at the Pentagon and a broader shift in military strategy away from Europe and counterterrorism,” an American portal reported, citing unnamed military officials.

It’s unclear whether the reforms will affect Reserve or National Guard personnel; however, discussions of reducing the US Army from its current 450,000 troops are still underway.

As the portal explains, military strategists intend to turn the US ground forces into a “more agile, specialized instrument better suited for future conflicts”.

Earlier, US media reported that the Pentagon was exploring significant cuts at the top level of the US military command, as well as merging US European Command with Africa Command and combining US Northern Command and US Southern Command into one entity. — SPUTNIK

#### France’s far-right, leftwingers rally supporters after Le Pen conviction

FRANCE’S far right planned to rally supporters on Sunday after their leader Marine Le Pen was convicted of embezzlement and banned from public office, a move that set the country’s political scene alight ahead of 2027 presidential elections.

The bombshell judgement stunned France’s political establishment, and some leftwing forces and the centrist camp also planned to stage counter-rallies on Sunday.

“People of France, let us mobilize to defend freedom, save democracy and support Marine!” Le Pen’s National Rally (RN) party said on X ahead of the protest in Paris.

The far right is on the rise in France. Polls indicate Le Pen, 56, would easily top the first round of the two-round presidential vote if she ran. — AFP



SPORTS

Foreigners run in N Korea's first Pyongyang Marathon for six years

NORTH Korea held its first Pyongyang International Marathon in six years on Sunday, with hundreds of runners taking to the streets of the capital and citizens cheering them on.

Foreign athletes had arrived in the city ahead of the running contest, held to celebrate the birth of its founding leader Kim Il Sung in 1912.

AFP photos showed foreign runners crossing the starting line at Kim Il Sung Stadium, some taking photos on their phones, as North Korean spectators cheered them on.

Another image showed elite North Korean and foreign runners competing on the streets of Pyongyang, with citizens lining

the route appearing to cheer.

Another photo shows North Korean spectators in the stands, cheering with sticks.

The marathon is the largest international sporting event in the reclusive country. The race offers a rare opportunity for visitors to run through the streets of the tightly controlled capital.

Images posted on the Instagram account of Simon Cockerell, general manager of Koryo Tours which organises trips for foreign amateur runners to participate, showed Pyongyang citizens gathering to watch.

"A few pics of today's Pyongyang Marathon in North Korea. Amazing event and a race like no other," Cockerell wrote. — AFP



Participants take part in the 31st Pyongyang International Marathon at Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang on 6 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Brooksby upsets Paul to reach Houston final

TOP seed Tommy Paul was upset by qualifier Jenson Brooksby in the semi-final of the US Men's Clay Court Championship in Houston on Saturday.

The 24-year-old staved off match point as he produced a 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 7-6 (8/6) win over fellow American Paul, ranked 13th in the world.

Brooksby has made a habit of saving match point in this tournament, he did so in the first round of qualifying and then fought off three match points in the second round of the main draw.

The match was blighted by several lengthy rain delays and concluded seven and a half hours after it began when Brooksby's backhand return winner secured the tie-break win in the third.

"I've been able to recall a lot of those (match point) moments this tournament and I think I've gotten stronger as each of those have gone on," said Brooksby who is ranked 50th in the world.

"I'm just really pleased with how I've kept my mental composure here the whole week so far," he said. — AFP



Jenson Brooksby reached the final of the US Men's Clay Court Championship beating Tommy Paul in three sets. PHOTO: AFP

Boxing: Inoue vows to put on show in Las Vegas fight in May

UNDISPUTED super bantamweight boxing champion Naoya Inoue said Saturday he is looking to impress the crowd in Las Vegas when he takes on Ramon Cardenas of the United States on 4 May. "I'm excited," the Japanese star, nicknamed "Monster," told a press conference in Yokohama. "Since I fight in the United States, I want to think about a knockout. But even if it's a win by decision, I want to put on a show."

Inoue will fight in the United States for the first time since June 2021, when he knocked out Michael Dasmarinas of the Philippines in the third round of their bantamweight title match.

On Cardenas, ranked first by the World Boxing Association, Inoue said, "He is an all-around fighter. He throws excellent lead punches and is very tough." On 4 May, ESPN plans to broadcast Inoue's match, the main event of the day at



Undisputed super bantamweight boxing champion Naoya Inoue speaks at a press conference in Yokohama on 5 April 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

T-Mobile Arena, after a baseball game between Shohei Ohtani's Los Angeles Dodgers and the Atlanta Braves. — Kyodo

PSG win 13th French title ahead of Aston Villa Champions League clash

Paris Saint-Germain clinched the Ligue 1 title on Saturday with a 1-0 win at home against Angers as they prepare for a Champions League quarter-final showdown with Aston Villa.

PSG needed just a draw in front of their own fans to be confirmed as champions again, having started the day a huge 21 points clear of nearest challengers Monaco with seven matches left. Desire

Doue's strike early in the second half decided the game in PSG's favour, allowing Luis Enrique's team to take the title with six matches still to play.

It is a fourth consecutive Ligue 1 title for the club from the French capital and their 11th in the last 13 seasons, highlighting the extent to which they have dominated domestically since being taken over by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011. — AFP





# PM Modi inaugurates India-assisted rail infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake inaugurated two railway projects in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, with Indian assistance.

These landmark railway modernization projects implemented under the India-Sri Lanka development partnership represent a significant milestone in strengthening north-south rail connectivity in Sri Lanka. They would facilitate fast and efficient movement of both passenger and freight traffic across the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Sunday jointly inaugurated the track upgradation of the existing Maho-Omanthai railway line. PM Modi said that India is proud to assist Sri Lanka in various aspects of their development, and this activity boosted their friendship and connectivity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday departed for Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram after concluding his three-day visit State visit to Sri Lanka. — ANI

These initiatives aim to enhance north-south rail connectivity in Sri Lanka, facilitating efficient movement of passenger and freight traffic.  
PHOTO: X.COM @NARENDRAMODI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, accompanied by the President of Sri Lanka, Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, on Sunday participated in a ceremony to inaugurate and launch two railway

projects built with Indian assistance in Anuradhapura. The leaders inaugurated the 128 kilometres Maho-Omanthai railway line refurbished with Indian assistance of

US\$91.27 million, followed by the launch of construction of an advanced signalling system from Maho to Anuradhapura, being built with Indian grant assistance of US\$ 14.89 million, as per the statement.

## CONTRADICTIONARY POSITIONS

### Iran top diplomat rejects direct negotiations with US

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Sunday rejected direct negotiations with the United States as "meaningless", after US President Donald Trump said he would prefer direct talks with the Islamic republic. Trump had called last month on Tehran to hold negotiations on its nuclear programme with Washington, but threatened to bomb Iran if diplomacy fails. On Thursday, the US president said he would prefer to hold "direct talks" with Iran. "I think it goes faster and you understand the other side a lot better than if you go through intermediaries," he argued. But on Sunday, Araghchi said "direct negotiations would be meaningless with a party that constantly threatens to resort to force in violation of the UN Charter and that expresses contradictory positions from its various officials". "We remain committed to diplomacy and are ready to try the path of indirect negotiations," he added, according to a foreign ministry statement.— AFP

## Snappy birthday: Germany's Leica camera turns 100

GERMAN camera brand Leica is marking 100 years since the launch of its first commercial model, celebrating a legacy that spans iconic photojournalism and modern digital innovation. Photographer Franziska Stuenkel likes to take spontaneous urban shots, so she needs a nimble camera that is ready to go when inspiration strikes: her German-made Leica M11. "I have to be very quick and discreet," said the Berlin-based artist who captures reflections of people walking past windows, their contours merging with the shapes behind the glass. Stuenkel's compact Leica is the perfect camera for the job, the 51-year-old told AFP. Famous for its pocket-sized and retro-style devices, the Leica brand is celebrating a milestone as it marks 100 years since its first commercial camera was presented to the public. The Leica company was founded in 1869 by the entrepreneur Ernst Leitz in the city of Wetzlar in western Germany, originally manufacturing optical lenses and microscopes. But it was not until 1925 that the Leica



Leica cameras have been favored by renowned photographers. PHOTO: AFP

1 camera was introduced at the Leipzig Spring Fair. Leica cameras went on to become the tool of choice for prominent photographers for years to come, including legendary photojournalists Robert Capa and Henri Cartier-Bresson. — AFP