

Sports complex repairs prioritize strength and safety

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the loss and damage at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex caused by the Mandalay earthquake.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects damaged sections of Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and officials, yesterday afternoon inspected the loss and damage at sports buildings of Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex caused by the Mandalay earthquake in Nay Pyi Taw.

On arrival at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex established on 31 January

2013, the Senior General viewed round the damage at the stadium and tracks, stands and gates. Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung and officials conducted the Senior General round the complex.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to repair the damaged parts of Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex with the systematic examination of technicians and experts from

relevant organizations. Emphasis must be placed on strengthening the buildings as spectators and athletes will arrive at the time of competitions. He underscored that systematic repair must be done at 400-metre tracks and seats from the stands.

The Senior General also inspected Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A and B established on 31 May 2013 and Wunna Theikdi Swimming Pool built on 30 May

2013 and heard reports on loss and damage of the buildings by officials.

In his response, the Senior General said that although these gymnasiums have some parts of damage, technicians and experts need to systematically examine the strengthening of buildings where indoor games take place. Priority must be given to strengthening and safety of buildings in repair and maintenance. — MNA/TTA

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China's SPIC donates relief supplies for Myanmar quake victims

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CB-KMA Foundation donates over K318M aid to quake-hit Sagaing

NATIONAL

Literature: A Source of Knowledge to Enrich Lives and Guide Society

THE knowledge gained from individuals' reading of literature will be able to provide significant support to improve their lives. They can provide guidance and clear direction to their families and society in their workplaces.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with tutors, teachers and trainees at Mandalay Education Degree College on 26 August 2024.)

Application for political party establishment ongoing

RAKHINE Nationalities Party applied to the Union Election Commission for the right to establish as a political party under Section 3 of the Registration of Political Parties Law in order to compete in the multi-party democratic general elec-

tion yesterday.

To date, 21 parties have applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, and 50 parties have applied for the right to continue as political parties and registration under Section 25 of the

Political Parties Registration Law, bringing the total to 71 parties.

The Union Election Commission continues to verify the group that applied to establish a party. — MNA/KTZH

COVID-19 report, 7 APRIL 2025

NEW TESTS
2,931
NEW CASES
Nil
CASUALTIES
Nil

Malaysia and Belarus ship humanitarian aid to Myanmar

INTERNATIONAL humanitarian aid continues to arrive in Myanmar for earthquake victims.

A plane carrying 13 Malaysian rescue members led by Wan Zainal Abidan Bin Wan Yaacob, relief supplies, items, blankets and foodstuffs weighing 10,888 kilogrammes arrived at Nay Pyi

Taw Tatmadaw Airport from Kuala Lumpur Subang Airport yesterday morning.

Similarly, another plane from Malaysia carrying 13 rescue members led by Mohd Hafifi Hafidz Bin Abd Razak, relief supplies, items, blankets, foodstuffs, and kitchen utensils

weighing 8,212 kilogrammes arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport on the same morning.

Furthermore, the MAI flight carrying 15,250 kilogrammes of relief items from Kuala Lumpur International Airport arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport in the afternoon, and Vice-Pres-

ident of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay received the items.

Similarly, the flight carrying humanitarian aid such as 194,000 kilogrammes of medicines and tents, and the Belarusian team led by Deputy Minister of Ministry of Emergency

Situation of Belarus Aleksandr Khudoleyev arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport on the same evening, and the relevant officials on behalf of National Disaster Management Committee welcomed them. — MNA/KTZH



Arrival of relief items from Malaysia.



Relief supplies from Belarus.

Weather

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 7 April 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, a low pressure area over South Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards over Southwest Bay of Bengal till 8 April 2025 and thereafter likely to move nearly northwards over westcentral Bay of Bengal on 10 April 2025. — DMH

Untimely Rainfall Warning No (13)

Issued at 7 pm MST on 7 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, Man-

dalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States and likelihood of isolated in Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin States during tonight to 11-4-2025. Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States during 12 April to 14 April 2025. — DMH

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)

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win tours earthquake-affected areas in Bago Region



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects the damaged parts of the Swa Creek Bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Bago Region.

CHAIRMAN of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the loss and damage in the recent earthquake, repairing process and healthcare services for the injured people in the earthquake in Bago Region yesterday morning.

At the historic NandawU Lawkamarazein Pagoda in Toungoo, the Vice-Senior General viewed collapsed parts including the diamond orb and the pennant-shaped vane and gave instructions to officials to systematically repair the damaged parts of the pagoda in its original state.

NandawU Lawkamarazein Pagoda was built by King Badon

in 1161 Myanmar Era with the title of NandawU Yanaungnaing. In 1280 ME, Sayadaws U Obhasa and U Acara developed the pagoda and its construction was completed in 1290 ME. The pagoda was christened NandawU Lawkamarazein with the hoisting of a new umbrella.

On arrival at Toungoo Central Prison being built in Ketumati, the Vice-Senior General heard reports on construction sections for the prison by officials. He visited the construction site and instructed officials to build the prison with a design to endure the impacts of earthquakes. He ordered officials and quality control experts to check the construction process once every two weeks or once a week. He urged all to use quality construction materials and seek necessary

technological assistance from the Ministry of Construction.

At Toungoo Technological University, the Vice-Senior General heard reports on the loss and damage of the university in the recent earthquake and identified dangerous buildings presented by the pro-rector. The Vice-Senior General inspected damaged buildings and lecture halls and instructed officials to inspect the strengthening of buildings with the technical assistance of experts from the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Science and Technology and repair ones to be completed before the rainy season.

Toungoo Technological University possessing ISO 9001:2025 is an advanced technological university. The institution taught Civil, EC, EP and mechanical

subjects till the 2018-19 academic year but it extended teaching with IT and MC majors from 2019-2020 AY.

At Toungoo Hospital, the Vice-Senior General asked earthquake-affected patients about conditions of injuries, healthcare services and current health conditions and presented foodstuffs and cash to patients and cash awards to hospital staff.

Due to the impacts of the Mandalay earthquake, a total of 67 inpatient people received medical treatment. So far, there remain eight patients under treatment, and 59 patients have been discharged from the hospital.

On arrival at Shwehsandaw Pagoda, the Vice-Senior General looked into collapsed parts of the umbrella, some degree of

tilting of the umbrella and some cracked parts. He instructed officials to repair the necessary parts as quickly as possible to ensure the safety of pilgrims. He supplicated repairing of the pagoda in its original state with the necessary technology to Shwelinyon Sayadaw Aggama Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Aravinda Bhivamsa of Yadanagonmyint Monastery at Gandawin Koekhan Ordination Hall. State Ovadacariya Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Suriya of Kyanikan Monastery gave advise to the Vice-Senior General who also supplicated plans of the best rehabilitation measures against the impacts of the recent earthquake.

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NATIONAL

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win tours earthquake-affected areas in Bago Region

FROM PAGE 3

The Vice-Senior General also oversaw loss and damage at the three-storey Yamanya Lecture Building of Toungoo University, Government Technical Institute (Toungoo), student hostels and staff housings. He gave instructions on the formation of a team

comprising relevant experts to inspect the strengthening of buildings and reconstruct necessary buildings as quickly as possible. He also urged officials to demolish dangerous buildings with the safety of electricity. He presented cash awards to firefighters, faculty members and staff participat-

ing in rehabilitation processes.

The Vice-Senior General looked into damage to the Swa Creek Bridge at milepost 165 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, maintenance of a road section, and construction of a Bailey bridge.

Bridge Task Force 10 of the Department of Bridges

under the Ministry of Construction is building the Swa Creek Bridge. At present, the bridge can allow the rolling of under five-tonne vehicles. As of 9 April, it can admit 20-tonne vehicles for driving.

Initial statistics stated loss and damage as well as dead and injured people in the Man-

dalay earthquake. It destroyed 71 pagodas, 186 monasteries, 92 schools, 15 religious schools, 200 departmental buildings, 289 other buildings, 1,736 residential buildings and some roads and bridges. In the incident, a total of 44 people were dead and 234 people injured. — MNA/TTA

New Thanlwin Bridge unites southern and eastern Shan State

STATE Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe attended the opening ceremony of Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) at milepost 284/0 on the Meiktila-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway in Kunhing Township of Shan State (South) yesterday.

On arrival at the event, the relevant officials and locals warmly welcomed General Aung Lin Dwe and the party.

After the ceremonial procedures, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant presented the gift to the General marking the opening ceremony of the bridge.

Then, the General posed for documentary photos together with the attendees and inspected the newly constructed bridge.

The old Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) was built in 1965 and opened in 1974. It is now over 54 years old. As the capacity of the bridge declined, the Bridge Construction Task Force 12 of the Bridges Department built a new bridge about 70 feet upstream of the old bridge in April 2018.

The new Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) is constructed with Steel Box Girder and RCC Slab for the

upper structure and the bridge approach is a kind of PC Girder, RC Girder and RCC Slab.

The bridge is 1,151 feet long, two-lane bridge, with a load ca-

capacity of 60 tonnes. The waterway clearance of the bridge is 360 feet in width and 35 feet and nine inches in height.

The new Thanlwin (Takaw)

is constructed on Asia Highway 2 (AH 2) Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road, which is vital to access to China, Laos and Thailand. Moreover, the

completion can bring development to the border trade sector and promote the socioeconomic status of local ethnic people. — MNA/KTZH



The new Thanlwin Bridge inaugurated on the Meiktila-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway yesterday, attended by SAC Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe.

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NATIONAL

SAC Member Deputy PM receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Admiral Tin Aung San received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, at the SAC Office yesterday afternoon.

They cordially exchanged views on the loss and damage in the powerful earthquake which centred 20 kilometres northeast of Mandalay on 28 March, ongoing search and rescue operations by foreign countries and international organizations, humanitarian aid of India to the earthquake-af-

ected people and the potential for providing technological assistance in the rehabilitation period.

The meeting was also attended by officials from the Union Minister’s Office. — MNA/TTA

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San holds talks with the Indian Ambassador yesterday.



NSA & Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar



National Security Advisor and Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung meets Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur yesterday.

NATIONAL Security Adviser and Union Minister for the State Administration Council Chairman’s Office 1 Admiral Moe Aung received Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister

expressed deep gratitude to India’s help in response to the powerful earthquake, and they cordially exchanged views on security measures and bilateral cooperation in different sectors. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw meets the Indian Ambassador yesterday.

DR Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the courtesy call, they discussed the matters of despatching the Indian Technical Team for Demolition to Nay Pyi Taw, providing prefabricated offices and requesting assistance

from The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) for the earthquake disaster relief and recovery efforts for the affected people in Myanmar on 28 March 2025.

The Deputy Minister, senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives from the Embassy of India were also present at the meeting. — MNA

Announcement of the Supreme Court of the Union

Date: 7 April 2025

DUE to structural damage caused by the major earthquake that struck Mandalay at 12:51 pm on 28 March 2025, the building of the Supreme Court of the Union requires renovation. As a result, the criminal and civil cases that were previously scheduled for hearings on 29 March, 31 March, and 1 April 2025, and for which prior summons had already been issued, will now be

heard on 23, 24, and 25 April 2025 at the Zeyathiri District Court (067-4510242), located on Chindwin Road, Mingaladipa Ward, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Territory.

Cases submitted to the Union Supreme Court will continue to be accepted as usual at the court’s case registration counter. Information regarding the

updated hearing schedules, in-office proceedings, and court sittings may be viewed on the bulletin boards of the Supreme Court of the Union and the relevant High Courts of regions and states.

Supreme Court of the Union

NATIONAL

DMC holds coord meeting on repairs of staff housing

THE National Disaster Management Committee's Vice-Chairs presided over the third coordination meeting of the Disaster Management Centre yesterday.

Union Minister for Home

Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung who is also Vice-Chair 1 of the National Disaster Management Committee, said the international rescue teams have now departed as they completed their

operations while only the medical teams for treatment remain. Efforts should be made to ensure the opening and operations of offices by the end of this month. In rebuilding and repairing the

damaged buildings, priority should be given to the restoration of office buildings.

During the maintenance period, temporary offices will be opened, and the destroyed buildings will be divided into three groups such as red, orange and blue-level buildings. The skilled engineers examined the destroyed staff housings in groups.

The livable blue-level employee housing will be repaired to withstand earthquake damage, and efforts will be made to relocate employee families back to their designated places.

The temporary shelters will be rapidly constructed for employees and their families from red and orange-level staff housing, which need to be demolished or extensively repaired. Moreover, arrangements will be made to ensure access to water, electricity, and sanitation.

He continued that living in temporary shelters with tarpaulins is not easy. Therefore, before the rains begin, efforts will continue to construct secure temporary buildings according to each ministry's requirements to ensure that employees and their families can be relocated to these safer places.

Vice-Chair 2 of the committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win then discussed the systematic allocation of international aid and donations and appreciated the work committees for their efforts.

The work committees' members coordinated the discussion.

The vice-chairs inspected the construction of temporary tents, bathrooms and toilets and access to water and electricity in Wunna Theikdi and Dhana Theikdi wards. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Union Minister Dr Soe Win inspect the construction of tents in Nay Pyi Taw.

Bangladeshi Ambassador, Representatives of UNHCR to Myanmar, Humedica and International Medical Corps, INGOs call on Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar expressed his appreciation to Bangladesh for providing humanitarian assistance and sending medical teams to Myanmar in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Both sides discussed working closely in the rescue and relief efforts of the victims of the earthquake. They exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral ties, including fostering closer



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe meets INGO representatives.

economic cooperation, and on potential initiatives to promote trade and investment between

the two countries.

Moreover, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Ms Noriko Takagi, Representa-

tive of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed matters related to supporting the people affected by the earthquake in Myanmar.

In addition, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received representatives from Humedica and International Medical Corps, INGOs, yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed matters related to supporting the people affected by the earthquake in Myanmar, particularly in the area of medical services. Also present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

NATIONAL

China's SPIC donates relief supplies for Myanmar quake victims

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received the first batch of relief supplies donated by the State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) of China through the Myanmar Consulate General in Kunming for the earthquake-affected people yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, the Union minister appreciated the donation and explained the damage after the earthquake, rescue operations, measures to ensure access to electricity and drinking water, arrangements to resume the office operations and rehabilitation processes.

Then, an official from SPIC clarified the donation and committed further assistance.

Then, they presented the relief supplies to the Union minister.

Similarly, the officials of SPIC donated the relief supplies for the Ministry of Electric Power.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn accepts the donated relief items.

The first batch of supplies includes 400,000-yuan worth of ration, commodities and insecticide. Plans are underway to donate 500,000-yuan worth of supplies as the second batch while one million yuan worth of items will be in the third batch. — MNA/KTZH

ADVERTORIAL

Shinhan Bank Yangon Branch contributes K150M to earthquake recovery efforts

THE Shinhan Bank Yangon Branch has announced a significant donation of K150 million to the earthquake recovery fund to the Myanmar Red Cross Society to aid earthquake victims in severely impacted regions.

During the ceremony held in Botataung on 3 April 2025, Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, expressed gratitude for the support highlighting contributions from Shinhan Bank and other Korean organizations during this emergency time. Shinhan Bank Yangon Branch representative expressed hope that the funds would help recovery efforts and provide relief to those affected.

Beyond its support for earthquake recovery, Shinhan Bank Yangon Branch remains dedicated to social responsibility, exemplified by its donation of K100 million to the Myanmar Red Cross Society for flood relief efforts last September and will continue working closely with local organizations to provide aid to communities in need.



MRCS President Dr Myo Nyunt receives the donation from the Shinhan Bank Yangon Branch on 3 April 2025.

Statement of Central Bank of Myanmar

THE Governor and Deputy Governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar inspected the damage to the Central Bank of Myanmar, office buildings in Nay Pyi Taw, construction of temporary tents, including accommodation, commodities and food donations for staff and systematic donations.

The operations of the Central Bank of Myanmar run in proper momentum and also operate the banking system with the financial institutions through the Electronic Payment System and FX Platform for foreign currency. — Central Bank of Myanmar

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Indian Ambassador

U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister expressed his appreciation to India for providing humanitarian assistance and sending medical teams to Myanmar in the aftermath of



the devastating earthquake. Both sides discussed working closely in the rescue and relief efforts of the victims of the earthquake. They exchange views on ways to further strengthen bilateral ties, including fostering closer economic cooperation and promoting trade and investment between the two countries. — MNA

OPINION

Work together with member countries to shape a sustainable future

CONNECTIVITY is of great importance as a crucial cooperation arena in building a prosperous BIMSTEC. By enhancing and strengthening connectivity, it will be possible to promote regional trade, investment, and tourism development. Therefore, efforts must be accelerated in implementing the Transport Master Plan of BIMSTEC in order to enhance regional connectivity.

In the BIMSTEC transport plan, the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway project will significantly enhance regional connectivity. Progress was made through the signing of an agreement on maritime transportation, trade, and investment in port infrastructure. Energy cooperation is another key pillar for regional prosperity. Prioritizing the implementation of the BIMSTEC power

Leaders from BIMSTEC member countries exchanged views and held discussions on enhancing collaboration and cooperation among the member states. The Bangkok Declaration, which established the BIMSTEC group, clearly outlines its visions and objectives. In line with these goals and objectives, annual meetings are being held to implement and realize these aims. BIMSTEC member countries initiate cooperation plans in trade, investment, industry, technology, human resource development, tourism, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and transportation for rapid development.

The BIMSTEC region continues to face climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, and other unforeseen challenges. This summit presents an opportunity to implement plans for crisis management, disaster preparedness, and long-term environmental sustainability. All countries are seeing growing interest from both regional and international organizations to collaborate with BIMSTEC. In order to successfully implement BIMSTEC's initiatives, it is important to maintain strong relationships with existing partners and to engage with new and promising partnerships to access the necessary expertise and resources.

Leaders from BIMSTEC member countries exchanged views and held discussions on enhancing collaboration and cooperation among the member states. The Bangkok Declaration, which established the BIMSTEC group, clearly outlines its visions and objectives. In line with these goals and objectives, annual meetings are being held to implement and realize these aims. BIMSTEC member countries initiate cooperation plans in trade, investment, industry, technology, human resource development, tourism, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and transportation for rapid development.

Accordingly, at the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, cooperation among member countries was further strengthened. Myanmar reaffirmed its strong commitment to working closely with member countries in order to build a future that is not only peaceful, resilient, and inclusive for all, but also just, equitable, and sustainably enduring.

grid interconnection master plan will help ensure the efficient sharing and utilization of energy resources, as well as reduce overall costs. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization composed of seven member countries: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and Thailand. At the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, discussions focused on promoting multi-sectoral cooperation in economic and technological fields. Although Myanmar participated in the summit, the Myanmar delegation also prioritized meetings with Heads of government attending the event to discuss the country's current situation caused by recent earthquakes. They emphasized the importance of effective international

Earthquake or A Possibly Unpredictable Natural Disaster

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

HUMAN beings and nature can never be separated from each other so they always go together all through human history. Humans must have relied on the natural environment for their chances of survival — food, clothing, and shelter — since the turn of human existence. Thus, we humans have to encounter natural phenomena, whether they have good or bad consequences, often occurring in the world. Among these phenomena, natural disasters are the worst that can threaten human life and property at the very least as well as mostly cause death. The most common natural disasters happening around the earth include storms, tornadoes, landslides, mudslides, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Out of those disasters, an earthquake is a totally unexpected catastrophe which can lead to mass death and destruction even within a split second.

So, what in the world creates earthquakes? As we all know, our earth is formed of layers and the earth's surface, about 100 kilometres thick, is made of large pieces. When the pieces of the surface layer move against each other, an earthquake takes place. A large movement of the layer's

pieces makes a violent earthquake and their small movement a mild one, respectively. Usually, it takes an earthquake only a few seconds to come about and the rolling movements are called seismic waves. Seismic waves begin in an earthquake focus directly below the epicentre of an earthquake and spread outwards, lasting about twenty minutes to travel around the earth. Furthermore, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions often go hand in hand, to wit, earthquakes are responsible for volcanic eruptions or vice versa from the point of view of geography.

By the year 1935, scientists started using the Richter Scale to measure the magnitude of an earthquake. In general, the strength of a seriously destructive earthquake puts a figure of 6.5 and above on the Richter Scale. Quite scientifically, people have no feeling or destruction about an earthquake which measures below 2.0 in the annually estimated range of 1.3 million vibrations. Similarly, minor earthquakes which quantify 2.9 and 3.0, shaking 130,000 and 13,000 times per year respectively, cause little or no destruction to humans. Like the earthquake with 3.0, a moderate earthquake with 4.0 does so, but people will

noticeably feel things shaking when it occurs. Much destruction will arise in densely populated areas during a strong earthquake with 5.9, hitting 1,300 times a year. But severe earthquakes with the strength of 6.9, 7.0 and above, striking the times of 10-20 yearly, will give rise to mass destruction.

Unlike other natural disasters, no one, including scientists, can predict an earthquake at all, especially a few days before the earthquake really happens, except several years ahead of the earthquake outbreak. Accordingly, people tend to lead their normal lives without becoming aware of the unexpectedly coming natural disaster. However, earthquake zones are not scattered anywhere apart from certain places where the surface pieces of the earth meet. This makes earthquakes shake the same places again and again, for instance, on the west coasts of North and South America, around the Mediterranean Sea and along the Pacific coast of Asia. What is more, such changes on the earth's surface as a sudden drop in water level in the ground may be seen before earthquakes. And the way animals do strange like chickens sitting in trees, fish jumping out of the water, or snakes leaving their holes would be found just before earthquakes break out.

By the time an earthquake starts to occur, most earthquake victims usually do not know in



This photo taken on 29 March 2025 shows a damaged building after an earthquake in Mandalay, Myanmar. PHOTO: MYO KYAW SOE/XINHUA

a while that the earthquake is moving. They will feel dizzy to a greater or lesser degree as soon as the earthquake happens. Due to this dizziness, most of them like to sit still only in the site where they are during the movement of the earthquake, not knowing whether they get protected over there, except that some go out and run from their buildings to open ground, as far as I am aware. Try to think. As Sayagyi Shwe Ou Daung stated, since the ground on which we are standing safely is rolling and rocking violently

beneath our feet, no wonder that we are terrified of the earthquake out of our wits. Of course, any roofed building, high-rise or low-rise buildings included, except for earthquake-proof or earthquake-resistant buildings, is insecure during and even following an earthquake. Hence, it would be best if we stay as far from high buildings and tall trees as possible shortly after an earthquake.

Of course, earthquakes can be categorized into three types: foreshocks, mainshocks and aftershocks. To my certain knowl-

edge, people mainly suffer from the second type. Following an earthquake, earthquake survivors can die from not only a lack of food, water and medical supplies but also tsunamis, fires and snake bites. The amount of destruction caused by an earthquake depends on where it happens, what time it happens, how strong it is, types of buildings, soil conditions and population. I know that of the 6,000 earthquakes in the world each year, only about fifteen cause great damage and many deaths. After a devastating earthquake,

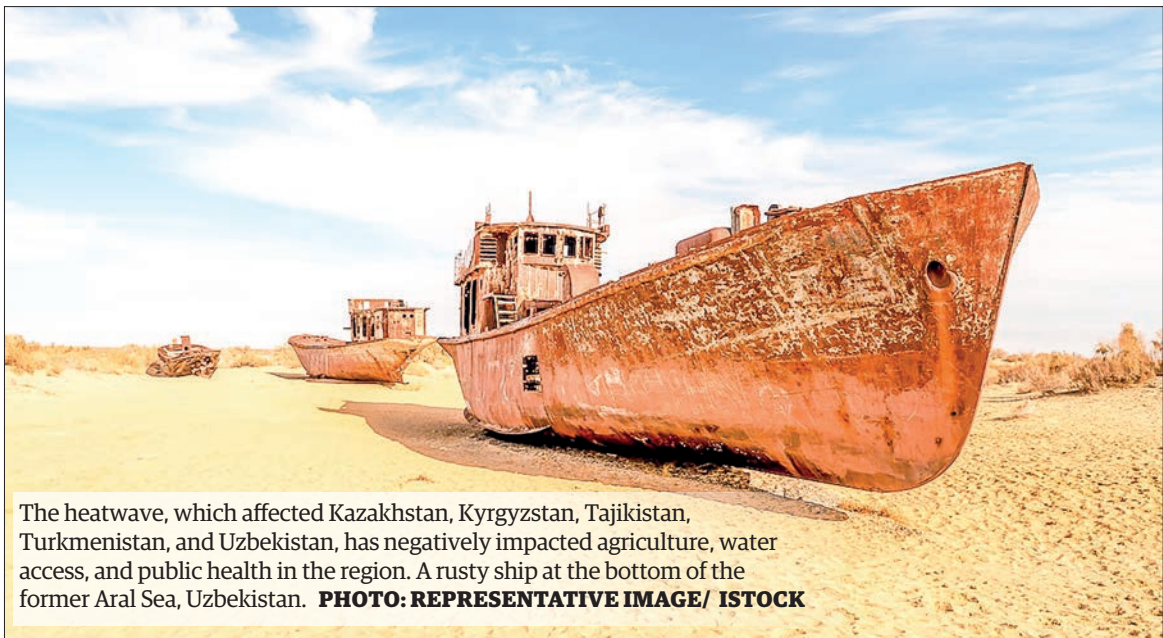
the death toll from the earthquake commonly continues to rise as always and collapsed or tilted buildings in earthquake-hit regions are many. As usual, an earthquake is strong enough to cause damage only near its epicentre, yet it is highly dangerous for people living in an earthquake zone or earthquake-prone region. To crown it all, an earthquake destroys human life and ancient buildings that can by no means be saved and gained once again.

Unfortunately for us, our country Myanmar is located along the Sagaing fault, which is long from north to south. That is why Myanmar deadly faces earthquakes in Yangon, Bago, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. On 28 March 2025, an earthquake which measured 7.7 on the Richter scale occurred at 12:51 pm at a depth of 10 kilometres with an epicentre near Saye village, Sagaing Township, Myanmar. For the second time, another earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 happened near Mandalay Airport at 1:02 pm. Thousands of people were killed in this Sagaing earthquake, I suppose. Also owing to the earthquake, the very religious infrastructures were broken down, sad to say. These infrastructures included Mya Thein Tan Pagoda, Shwe Sa Yan Pagoda, Sone Ou Ponya Shin Pagoda and Menu Brick Monastery as far as I can see. So were other priceless buildings such as Sagaing (before

Inwwa) Bridge, the Clock Tower, Mandalay University, old-age mosques and churches. It will be said that the Sagaing Earthquake is the worst in Myanmar earthquake history.

Following earthquakes, rescue teams and relief supplies are the life of earthquake sufferers. Rather than do's and don'ts before, during and after an earthquake, people should not live in probable earthquake sites despite that these places are of natural beauty, productive soil and large existing centres of population. If they have to live there, they should always expect earthquakes, be prepared to protect their lives and property or build safer buildings and roads ahead of time. Hospitals and electric power stations need to be away from possible earthquake zones. When an earthquake starts, people will have to protect their heads from any damage and stay safe in such places as doorways or bathtubs at first if they live in a building and are unable to run away from there very quickly. In actual fact, even seismologists cannot still predict earthquakes. Humans can control many things about nature, but unfortunately for them, these things do not include earthquakes. Earthquakes are given to reach different parts of the world out of the blue, also bringing massive loss of life and the natural environment.

Crops under threat as surprise March heatwave hit Central Asia: study



The heatwave, which affected Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, has negatively impacted agriculture, water access, and public health in the region. A rusty ship at the bottom of the former Aral Sea, Uzbekistan. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ISTOCK

Climate change intensified the heatwave by approximately four degrees Celsius, according to a study by World Weather Attribution, although this figure may be an underestimate.

A surprise heatwave hit Central Asia in March, a new study published Friday showed, putting in danger crops and water supply in a largely rural region already heavily affected by the impacts of climate change.

Temperatures across the month were up to 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter in the region than the pre-industrial average, according to World Weather Attribution, a coalition of scientists that studies the impact of climate change on extreme weather events, which conducted the research.

Climate change intensified the heatwave by about four degrees Celsius, the

group said, though cautioned that figure "is likely an underestimate."

"This is a heatwave that didn't make headlines — it happened in spring and in a region that isn't exactly known for blistering heatwaves," said Maja Vahlberg, a technical adviser at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre who took part in the study.

The research was conducted across the five Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

"Our heatwave studies often detect changes of two to four degrees Celsius (35-39 degrees Fahrenheit), so 10 degree Celsius

is quite frankly bonkers," said Ben Clarke from Imperial College London.

"Hotter March temperatures are impacting agriculture harvests and access to water in Central Asia, as well as people's health," said Friederike Otto, co-head of World Weather Attribution.

The melting of thousands of glaciers is a major threat to people in the landlocked region, which already suffers from water shortages.

Between 14 and 30 per cent of glaciers in the Tian-Shan and Pamir — the two main mountain ranges in Central Asia — have melted over the last 60 years, according to a

report by the Eurasian Development Bank.

The heatwave coincides with a crucial agricultural season, when almonds, apricots and cherries bloom and wheat is sowed.

Around half of all workers in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are employed in agriculture, which makes up one-fifth of the region's economy.

In particularly hot spots, temperatures hit 30 degrees Celsius — highly unusual for March.

Central Asia is typically characterised by exceptionally hot summers and harsh, cold winters.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Plans ensure smooth travel in quake-hit areas

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has been working to ensure smooth and accessible travel for people affected by the natural disaster and facing difficulties due to the earthquake. Both the aviation and maritime transport sectors have been operating in a timely manner, with daily updates issued to inform the public.

In the maritime sector, to ensure regular transport of passengers and goods between Mandalay and Sagaing, from 31 March to 6 April 2025, a total of 902 cargo vehicles and 551 small passenger vehicles were transported free of charge by private-owned vessels and barges between the Shwe Kye-tyet Jetty in Mandalay and the Sagaing Jetty. From 7 April onwards, cargo vehicles carrying relief supplies continue to be transported free of charge,



Efforts underway to ensure smooth freight lorry travel in quake-hit regions.

while the remaining private cargo vehicles will be transported according to the established rates. This helped alleviate travel difficulties caused by the Yadanabon and Inwa bridges.

In the aviation sector, international aircraft bringing relief supplies, provisions, medicines, and rescue teams began arriving daily on 29 March 2025 at Yangon International Airport,

Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, and Mandalay International Airport. As of today, a total of 92 planes have landed, carrying 1,518.289 tonnes of relief supplies. Ground services for

these international flights are being provided free of charge by Myanmar National Airlines at Yangon International Airport, by the Shaysaung Airport Service Company at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, and by MC-Jalux Airport Services at Mandalay International Airport.

Moreover, necessary repairs and upgrades have been made to the Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw airports. Domestic flights resumed on 4 April 2025 at Mandalay International Airport and on 5 April 2025 at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. As a result, Myanmar National Airlines, Mann Yadanbon Airlines, Mingalar Airlines, and Air Thanlwin Airlines are operating regular flights. Within four days, 50 flights were successfully operated. — Ministry of Transport and Communications/MKKS

Rescue and relief operations ongoing for earthquake victims in affected areas

ON 28 March 2025, Myanmar was struck by a powerful earthquake, which severely affected six regions and states. As of 7 April 2025, the death toll has reached 3,550, with 4,814 injured and 160 still missing.

The Myanmar Fire Brigade and search and rescue teams from both domestic and international sources have been carrying out timely rescue operations in the affected areas. Rescue teams have successfully located and saved 653 survivors trapped inside buildings, and have also recovered the bodies of 700 victims.

In addition, local and international donors have been providing financial aid and relief supplies to the affected population. On 7 April 2025, a total of 47.41 tonnes of relief materials arrived at Yangon International Airport and Nay Pyi Taw International Airport via five aircraft from China and Malaysia.

Efforts are ongoing to ensure that these supplies reach the affected people as quickly as possible, and relief operations continue to be coordinated to provide timely assistance to those in need. — MNA/MKKS

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Thai Embassy, business group deliver K162M aid to Myanmar quake victims



President Dr Myo Nyunt of the Myanmar Red Cross Society receives donations from the Thai Embassy, TBAM, and the Thai private sector.

ON 7 April 2025, Mr Yodying Supasri, Minister Counsellor at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, together with Ms Yuwadee Thaengngam, President of the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM), and representatives from the Thai private sector in Myanmar, handed over monetary and in-kind donations – collected from Thai businesses and citizens – to Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The donation was made under the “Here

with You #3” initiative, which ran from 1 to 4 April 2025, to support people affected by the recent earthquake in Myanmar.

This round’s total donation amounted to more than K161,685,526 (approximately THB1,278,146.45). It included cash donations (K40,850,526) and THB333,234.14, collected from the Thai private sector, including Myanmar Sutech Company, TCCC Myanmar Limited, Bumrungrad Clinic Yangon, Tunn Star, Kasikorn

Bank (Yangon Rep Office), Siam Commercial Bank Myanmar, Krungthai Bank (Yangon Representative Office), Bavi-ta Co Ltd, APC Inter Trade, Chemico Myanmar, and the Thai public.

In-kind donations from TBAM member companies included sleeping materials and supplies worth K60,000,000 from SCG Myanmar, outdoor living and sleeping supplies worth K22,075,000 from ARO Commercial (Makro Myanmar), K20,000,000 from RMA Services Myanmar, K10,000,000 from Myanmar Information Highway, 100Plus beverages worth K7,440,000 from F&N Service (Myanmar), and 50 rolls of sun/rain protection tarpaulins from Myanmar Polysack.

The donation campaign has now entered Phase II, running from 5-10 April 2025. Donations of funds and relief supplies to assist earthquake victims in Myanmar can be coordinated through TBAM at: manager@tbam1997.com. — GNLM

NATIONAL

CB-KMA Foundation donates over K318M aid to quake-hit Sagaing

THE CB-KMA Foundation has donated relief items and cash worth over K318 million to earthquake-affected areas in Sagaing, Sagaing Region.

Chairman of the CB-KMA Foundation, U Khin Maung Aye, along with other members of the organization, made donations at various locations in Sagaing, including Thakyadita Nunnery, Sakkumaw Monastery, Myaaya Yeiktha (Eimme Gyi), Yadanatheingi Philanthropic Nunnery School, Maha Su Bodhayon Monastery, IBEC Monastery, Thiri Shwe Wah

Nunnery, Kyantine Aung Monastery, Aung May Oo Monastic School, Shwe Hinthu New Monastery, the Myoma Mosque, the Myodaw Mosque, the Moekya Mosque, the Jamei Mosque, No 1 Basic Education High School, the 700th Anniversary Sports Ground, Maha Shwezigon Pagoda, Basic Education High School (Branch) (Yannaing), and the Sports Ground of the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Donations, which began on 2 April, included rice, cooking oil, cash, and food supplies.



CB-KMA Foundation Chairman U Khin Maung Aye and members are pictured during their donations.

These were offered to those who lost their lives in the disaster, as well as to the injured currently receiving medical treatment. The donations comprised offerings of rice and green gram to Buddhist monks and nuns – eight Pyi of rice, one 50-tical bottle of cooking oil, and a dona-

tion of K50,000 per monk or nun. Laypeople received the same quantities of rice and oil, along with K50,000 each. Soft drinks and purified drinking water were also distributed.

The CB-KMA Foundation is also supporting ongoing search and rescue operations

at religious buildings, monastic schools, mosques, and homes that collapsed in Sagaing, by deploying heavy machinery and skilled workers. Additionally, the Foundation continues to donate food supplies and cash to monks, nuns, and people affected by the earthquake. — ASH/KNN



Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization hands over food to relevant officials to donate to earthquake victims.

MMPO donates earthquake relief supplies in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) donated food supplies to those affected by the recent earthquake on 6 April, through the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Disaster Management Committee and the Pyinmana Township Administration Body, according to an official statement from the MMPO.

The donation was led by MMPO Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay, along with Executive Committee members, members of the Yangon Region Video cluster, and well-known film actors including Academy Aung Khaing, Moe Yan Zun, and Han Thi. The group provided food items to victims in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area who were impacted by the disaster.

“Our film association has donated Royal D drink and instant noodles to Ministry of Information staff in Nay Pyi Taw who were affected by the earthquake, as well as to others in need,” said U Aye Kyu Lay. “We also made donations to the Pyinmana area through the relevant authorities. It is heartbreaking to see the extent of the damage caused by the earthquake. We are planning to provide further support to areas in real need.”

The MMPO is continuing efforts to gather and distribute food, essential consumer goods, and clothing to earthquake victims across Mandalay Region, Bago Region, Sagaing Region, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The initiative is supported by contributions from actors, donors, and volunteers. — ASH/MKKS

Statement of Deepest Condolences and Sympathy

THE Monewun Bamar Ethnic Culture Association expresses its deepest sorrow and heartfelt condolences for the loss of lives and extensive damage caused by the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025. The quake’s epicentre was located approximately 21 kilometres northeast of Mandalay.

We share in the grief and pain of all those affected by this natural disaster and extend our sincere sympathy and support to the victims and their families.

The Monewun Bamar Ethnic Culture Association also wishes to announce its commitment to contribute, to the best of its ability, to the relief and recovery efforts for communities affected by the earthquake.

Monewun Bamar Ethnic Culture Association
7 April 2025

Japanese medical teams bring 11+ tonnes of aid to Myanmar via JICA

DOCTORS, medical teams, and humanitarian aid supplies and medicines from Japan’s JICA have arrived in Myanmar, according to reports.

The emergency relief supplies delivered by the JICA team include medicines, consumer goods, rainproof tents, and hospital equipment, with a total weight of 11,229 kilogrammes.

Upon their arrival at Yangon International Airport, officials from the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Yangon Command worked together to receive the donations and coordinate efforts to swiftly transport them to the earthquake-affected areas.

The Government of Myanmar continues to promptly assess the damage and losses in the earthquake-hit regions and is carrying out rescue and relief operations without delay. It has also opened channels for international hu-

manitarian aid. The arrival of the JICA plane, carrying doctors, nurses, and humanitarian supplies and medicines, is part of the support being provided to those affected by the disaster.

As of 6 April, a total of 88 aircraft and six ships from 20 countries have arrived in Myanmar, bringing with 1,728 international rescue personnel, 1,197 tonnes of aid supplies, and 844 tonnes of rescue equipment. — ASH/MKKS

2.48M tonnes of rice and broken rice export generate \$1.12B+ income

MYANMAR generated income of over US\$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March), according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes were 111,862 tonnes worth \$55 million in April 2024, 71,279.5 tonnes worth \$36 million in May, 162,325.75 tonnes worth \$84 million in June, 165,444 tonnes worth \$81 million in July, 207,369 tonnes worth \$97 million in August, over 219,560 tonnes worth \$104 million in September, 424,784.27 tonnes of rice worth \$189 million in October, over 334,530 tonnes worth \$156 million in November, 337,490 tonnes worth \$145 million in December, 209,599 tonnes worth \$87 million in January 2025, 129,452 tonnes worth \$52 million in February and 113,684 tonnes worth \$42 million in March respectively.

Most exports went from maritime trade, while border



Workers diligently stacking export rice bags at the warehouse.

trade saw only a small volume of exports.

The federation aimed to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with de-

partments and institutions concerned to achieve monthly export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is

working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, My-

anmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The federation is projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of \$1 billion. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

MoC processing import licence for relief and resettlement supplies



Containers are seen at the container yard and port terminals.

FOLLOWING the negative consequences of the powerful earthquake, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has been granting import licences for essential goods required, including pharmaceuticals, steel bars, zinc sheets, cement, construction materials, electrical devices and water supplies, industrial machinery and spare parts, promptly on the same day

based on the type of foreign currencies used.

A massive earthquake hit Myanmar on 28 March 2025, causing many fatalities and damage to houses and infrastructure. The State is exerting concerted efforts to carry out rescue activities and reconstruction for those affected.

The Ministry of Commerce also issued import licences for medicines and medical equip-

ment worth US\$7.403 million in recent days. It will proceed to process pharmaceutical imports to ensure adequate domestic supply and meet the needs.

Furthermore, licences worth \$19.039 million were also urgently granted to import steel bars, zinc sheets, iron and steel, cement, construction materials, electrical and water equipment, industrial machinery and spare parts for reconstruction efforts. The department is prioritizing the essential goods in issuing licences within 24 hours during the post-earthquake recovery period.

The ministries concerned are joining hands with organizations and donors for rescue and resettlement activities. The ministry has been offering licences through a one-stop service team to ensure timely imports of essential medicine and construction materials. — KK

Yangon palm oil rate shows slight drop

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market dipped to K6,770 per viss for a week ending 13 April from K6,795 per viss last week (31 March to 6 April), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies



A vendor arranging cooking oil for sale at the market.

to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Asian stocks tumble amid US tariff concerns

STOCK markets across the Asia-Pacific traded sharply lower on Monday as financial turmoil sparked by the US “reciprocal tariffs” escalated recession fears worldwide.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index dropped 2,445.19 points, or 10.7 per cent, to end at 20,404.62 points in Monday’s morning session. The retreat widened from 9.28 per cent at opening.

This came on top of losses in Japan, where the benchmark Nikkei stock index shed 2,843.48 points, or 8.42 per cent, in the first 15 minutes of trading, the lowest intra-day level since October 2023.

“Japanese stocks are



A pedestrian (R) stands in front of an electronic board showing the numbers of the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 7 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

unlikely to stop declining unless US stocks cease falling further,” said Yutaka Miura, senior technical analyst at Mizuho Securities Co.

The circuit breaker was triggered for Nikkei stock futures, temporarily halting trading due to the sharp fall.

South Korea’s bench-

mark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) lost 103.57 points, or 4.2 per cent, to 2,361.85 as of 11:20 am.

Due to the sharp decline, the bourse operator placed a sidecar order at 9:12 am, pausing programme buying for five minutes, after the KOSPI 200 index fell more than five per cent for over one minute.

It was the first sidecar order for programme buying since August 2024, according to local reports.

The KOSPI plummeted as investors sold off stocks in response to increasing concerns about a recession after the US government revealed “reciprocal tariffs” last week, said analysts here.

Stocks in Singapore dipped over seven per cent at the start of Monday due to concerns about a global trade conflict following several countries mulling to respond to US tariffs.

The Straits Times Index plunged 7.37 per cent, or 281.84 points, to 3,544.02 as Asian markets fell sharply.

Meanwhile, Indian shares declined at the beginning of trading on Monday, with the key Nifty index dropping over three per cent.

The Nifty 50, representing the biggest Indian firms on the national stock exchange, was down 3.55 per cent. — Xinhua

EU split on targeting US tech over Trump tariffs

SHOULD the European Union target US Big Tech and services in response to President Donald Trump’s tariff onslaught? Differences on the key issue were on display on Monday as the EU sought a show of unity on the pushback.

The EU’s trade commissioner, Maros Sefcovic, said the 27-country bloc was weighing its response to a “paradigm shift of the global trading system” as Trump’s sweeping tariffs sent world markets crashing.

Heading into their first talks since Trump ordered 20 per cent tariffs on the bloc’s imports, EU trade ministers all agreed: Brussels must negotiate with Washington to avoid a damaging trade war.

But the bloc has already vowed strong countermeasures should negotiations with Trump’s team fall short — and ministers hoped on Monday to nar-

row their differences over what that response could entail.

France came out swinging before the talks in Luxembourg, urging the EU not to rule out an “extremely aggressive” trade response to Trump.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen signalled last week that Brussels had different options to respond to the United States, noting the bloc “holds a lot of cards”. Backed by Germany and Austria, Paris has been pushing for the EU to consider targeting US services, including digital — drawing fire from Ireland which relies heavily on US investment, particularly in the pharmaceutical and tech sectors.

Targeting services “would be an extraordinary escalation at a time when we must be working for de-escalation”, Irish Trade Minister Simon Harris told reporters. — AFP

US tariff shock sends Singapore’s benchmark index to biggest drop since 2008

MARKET turmoil triggered by new US tariff measures continued to ripple through global equities on Monday, sending Singapore’s Straits Times Index (STI) plunging 8.7 per cent at the open to 3,494.39 points.

The sharp drop marked the STI’s steepest single-day decline since an 8.9 per cent plunge during the 2008 global financial crisis, and exceeded the 8.4 per cent fall seen in March 2020 amid COVID-19.

“According to experts, if tariffs are sustained, they could contribute to higher inflation and slower global growth, which may in turn trigger further volatility and potential sell-offs in markets globally, including Singapore,” said David Gerald, president of the Securities Investors

Association (Singapore), as quoted by The Straits Times.

The association noted in a report on Monday that while Singapore’s stock market had remained relatively resilient in recent weeks despite looming tariff concerns, it “ultimately caved in” when broad-based selling took hold on Friday. This followed worse-than-expected tar-

iff announcements by the Trump administration, a move many fear could tip the global economy into recession.

On Wednesday, Trump signed an executive order imposing a 10-per-cent “minimum baseline tariff” on all imports, including those from Singapore, with higher rates targeting specific trading partners. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V H CYGNUS VOY.NO. (0UVCQS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V H CYGNUS VOY.NO. (0UVCQS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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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:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Second US child dies of measles, almost 650 ill: officials

A measles outbreak has killed a second child in the southwestern United States, authorities said Sunday, with almost 650 people now infected as the highly contagious disease spreads.

“We are deeply saddened to report that a school-aged child who was recently diagnosed with measles has passed away,” Aaron Davis, vice president of UMC Health System, a medical centre in Texas, told AFP.

The child had been receiving treatment for “complications of measles” in hospital, he said, adding they were “not vaccinated against measles and had no known underlying health conditions”.

As the US grapples with its worst measles outbreak in years, President Donald Trump’s health secretary, Robert F Kennedy Jr, has alarmed health experts with his past rhetoric downplaying the importance of vaccines.

Kennedy, however, posted on X Sunday that “the most effective way to prevent the spread of measles is the MMR vaccine.”

He added that his Health and Human Services (HHS) department and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were supporting distribution of the shots in Texas.

Kennedy, who said he had travelled to Texas to comfort the child’s family, also tallied “642 confirmed cases of measles across 22 states, 499 of those in Texas” as of Sunday.

Questioned by journalists aboard Air Force One, Trump appeared to downplay the outbreak as “so far a fairly small number of people relative to what we’re talking about”.

But he added that if it “progresses, we’ll have to take action very strongly,” without giving further details.

‘Importance of vaccination’



(FILES) Signs point the way to measles testing in the parking lot of the Seminole Hospital District across from Wigwam Stadium on 27 February 2025 in Seminole, Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

The CDC has recorded cases stretching from Alaska to Florida, as well as in New York City.

Texas had reported its first measles death, also of a child, in late February — marking the first US fatality from the disease in nearly a decade.

The death of a New Mexico adult last month was also classified by the CDC as a measles-related fatality.

The vast majority of measles cases tallied by the CDC — 97 per cent — are patients not vaccinated against the measles, it

said on 3 April.

Some 196 of them were under five years old, 240 were aged 5-19, and an additional 159 were aged 20 years or older, with a few others of unknown age, the health agency said. The CDC, which defines an “outbreak” as three or more related cases, has recorded six outbreaks so far in 2025. Some 93 per cent of the confirmed cases are related to those outbreaks.

“For comparison, 16 outbreaks were reported during 2024 and 69 per cent of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated,” it said on its website.

“This unfortunate event underscores the importance of vaccination,” Davis, of UMC Health System in Texas, said in an email regarding the latest death.

“We encourage all individuals to stay current with their vaccinations to protect themselves and the broader community.” — AFP

SPIEF main theme in 2025 to be issue values as basis for growth in world – Roscongress

THE main theme of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in 2025 will be “Common Values — the Basis for Growth in a Multipolar World”, the Roscongress Foundation said on Monday.

“The main theme of the forum in 2025 will be ‘Common Values — the Basis for Growth in a Multipolar World,’” the foundation said in a statement.

The western Russian city of St. Petersburg will host the annual economic forum from 18-21 June.

SPIEF 2024 brought together 1,800 guests from 139 countries and territories and saw the signing of more than 1,000 agreements worth a total of 6.4 trillion rubles (\$74 billion). — SPUTNIK



SPIEF-2024. Forum participants at the ExpoForum Congress and Exhibition Centre. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

South Korea presidential election tentatively set for 3 June: report

SOUTH Korea’s next presidential election has been tentatively set for 3 June following the removal of former President Yoon Suk Yeol last week over his declaration of martial law, Yonhap News Agency reported Monday.

The official campaigning is likely to begin on 12 May, with candidates required to register by the previous day, the news agency quoted a government official as saying.

South Korea’s Constitutional Court ousted Yoon from office on Friday, with all eight sitting justices ruling that his imposition of martial law in early December constituted a denial of democracy.

The election date is expected to be approved during a Cabinet meeting later this week, according to the news agency. An election to choose Yoon’s successor must be held within 60 days.

The new president will take office immediately after the election outcome is announced, without a transitional period. — Kyodo

US renews airstrikes on N Yemen: Houthi TV

THE US military conducted six airstrikes on Yemen’s northern provinces of Saada and Hajjah on Monday before dawn, with no casualties reported so far, the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV said.

The strikes, targeting locations in the Safra district in Saada and the Abs district in Hajjah, came a few hours after a separate wave of intensive airstrikes that targeted the western and eastern parts of the capital Sanaa.

For the airstrikes on the eastern part of Sanaa that hit a house in the Shu’ub area on Sunday night, the Houthi-run Health Ministry issued an updated statement early Monday over the death toll, saying the number of the injured has increased to 25, including 11 women and children.

Most of the injuries were in critical conditions, raising fears that the death toll, now standing at four, would rise further, al-Masirah TV said.

Residents said the targeted home belonged to a local tribal sheikh and his family. All four people killed and several of the injured were the sheikh’s family. The other wounded are neighbours whose houses were damaged in the airstrikes.

In western Sanaa, the strikes hit a mountain in the Bani Matar district. No casualties were reported.

Tensions between the Houthis and the US military have escalated since Washington resumed airstrikes on 15 March by authorizing a “decisive and powerful military action” against Houthi forces. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Liverpool loses away to Fulham while Manchester derby ends in bore draw in Premierships



Fulham's Italian-born Nigerian defender (3) Calvin Bassey (R) vies with Liverpool's Egyptian striker (11) Mohamed Salah (L) during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Liverpool at Craven Cottage in London on 6 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

LIVERPOOL stumbled in the Premier League on Sunday with a 3-2 defeat away to Fulham, putting the brakes on Arne Slot's side's efforts to take another step towards securing this season's title.

Liverpool went into the game knowing Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Everton meant 11 points from the last eight games of the season would be enough to win the league. Things appeared to be going to plan when Alexis Mac Allister put Liverpool ahead after 14 minutes.

However, Fulham reacted brilliant-

ly, with Marco Silva's team producing its best 45 minutes of football this season. Ryan Sessegnon, Alex Iwobi, and Rodrigo Muniz scored three goals in 14 minutes to give Fulham a 3-1 lead at halftime.

Liverpool responded in the second half, and Luis Diaz pulled a goal back with 13 minutes left to play, but Fulham held on for a well-deserved win.

The Manchester derby between Manchester United and Manchester City was a disappointing 0-0 draw, with neither side showing enough to win the

game and suggesting their respective crises are close to ending.

Chelsea also drew 0-0 away to Brentford in a game where Brentford was the more vibrant team in the first 45 minutes. Chelsea improved after half-time, but despite creating chances, they failed to convert any, with Cole Palmer's late effort going just over the bar.

Southampton became the first team relegated from the Premier League this season after a 3-1 defeat away to Tottenham left the team 22 points from safety with just seven matches remaining and 21 points available.

Brennan Johnson twice exploited poor defending from Southampton to put Tottenham 2-0 up at halftime. Although Mateus Fernandes scored in the 90th minute for Southampton, it was too little, too late to prevent relegation. Mathys Tel's 96th-minute penalty, giving Spurs a third goal, only added to Southampton's woes.

On Saturday, Arsenal was held to a 1-1 draw at Everton. Leandro Trossard scored after an assist from Raheem Sterling to put Mikel Arteta's side ahead, but in the second half, Myles Lewis-Skelly's clumsy challenge on Jack Harrison allowed Iliman Ndiaye to equalize from the penalty spot. Quick-fire goals from Morgan Rogers and Donyell Malen saw Aston Villa to a 2-1 win at home against Nottingham Forest. — Xinhua

Messi scores but Inter Miami held by Toronto



Inter Miami CF's Argentine forward (10) Lionel Messi reacts during the Major League Soccer (MLS) match between Inter Miami CF and Toronto FC at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on 6 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP

LIONEL Messi scored a first-half goal but could not prevent Inter Miami from stumbling to a 1-1 home draw against Toronto in their MLS clash on Sunday.

Italian midfielder Federico Bernardeschi gave the Canadian side the lead with a deft finish in Fort Lauderdale after combining with compatriot Lorenzo Insigne.

Messi put his side on level terms when he took a touch after Telasco Segovia's pass before swivelling and smashing a low drive past goalkeeper Sean Johnson.

Inter Miami controlled more than two thirds of possession but was repeatedly denied in the second half by Johnson, who made nine saves during the match.

The result leaves Inter Miami second in the 15-team Eastern Conference standings with 14 points from six outings, a point behind Columbus but with a game in hand. Toronto is 14th with just three points so far. — Xinhua

Real Madrid needs to switch mindset ahead of Champions League return

REAL Madrid needs to switch back into Champions League mode ahead of Tuesday's quarterfinal first leg away to Arsenal after Saturday's shock 2-1 defeat at home to Valencia.

Carlo Ancelotti's side was fortunate that Saturday's defeat wasn't more costly in terms of its La Liga ambitions, thanks to Barcelona only drawing at home to Betis, but the game did highlight a few worrying issues.

For a start, Real Madrid looked tired against Valencia, thanks to an intense return to action after the international break, including 120 minutes in the Copa del Rey against Real Sociedad five days earlier.

Players such as Antonio Rudiger and Fede Valverde are almost ever-present in Ancelotti's side, and

both were off the pace on Saturday, while Vinicius Jr also struggled and was even booed by a section of fans in the Bernabeu after seeing an early penalty saved by Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili.

Ancelotti will also be worried at how Valencia scored their first goal from a corner, with Mouctar Diakhaby storming in to play a free header past debutant Fran Gonzalez in goal.

Even though Arsenal has defensive injuries for Tuesday as well as long-term absentees Kai Havertz and Gabriel Jesus, Mikel Arteta's men are set-piece experts and will have marked that as a way to hurt Real Madrid, although Thibaut Courtois should be back in goal after shaking off a knee problem. — Xinhua



Real Madrid's English midfielder (5) Jude Bellingham (C) and teammate Valencia's Spanish defender (21) Jesus Vazquez go for a header with Valencia's Spanish midfielder #08 Javi Guerra go for a header during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Valencia CF at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 5 April 2025. PHOTO: AFP



UK opens
enquiry
into child
stabblings that
sparked riots

A two-phase British public enquiry began work on Monday into the killing of three young girls in northwest England last year that sparked the country's worst riots in decades.

Bebe King, aged six, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and nine-year-old Alice da Silva Aguiar died in the stabbing spree at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class.

Axel Rudakubana, now 18, also attempted to kill eight other children and two adults.

He was jailed in January for a minimum of 52 years.

Formally launching the probe, interior minister Yvette Cooper said the first phase would "thoroughly investigate" the circumstances surrounding the 29 July attack in the north-western seaside resort of Southport, including his multiple interactions with public authorities.

Rudakubana had repeated contact with the police, courts and welfare services as well as the government's counter-terrorism programme Prevent, but all failed to spot the risk he posed.

— AFP

China's maternal, infant mortality
rates continue to drop

IN 2024, China recorded a maternal mortality rate of 14.3 per 100,000 live births, an infant mortality rate of 4 per 1,000, and a mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000 for children under the age of five, according to health authorities.

In recent years, China has seen consistent improvements in maternal and child health. The maternal mortality rate has declined at an average annual rate of around four per cent, while both the infant mortality rate and the under-five mortality rate have seen average annual decreases of approximately five per cent.

Notable progress has also been made in the prevention and treatment of major diseases affecting women and children. Over the past five years, mortality rates among infants and children under five caused by birth defects have each dropped by more than 30 per cent.

In addition, the incidence of severe and disabling birth defects, such as neural tube defects and Down syndrome, has declined by 21 per cent. The rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV has also fallen, currently standing at



A nurse works at a maternal and child health care hospital in Huai'an City, east China's Jiangsu Province, 12 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

1.3 per cent.

These advances are largely attributable to the ongoing improvements in China's maternal and child healthcare system.

According to data from the National Health Commission, China now has 3,491 treatment centres for critically ill pregnant women, 3,221 centres for critically ill newborns, and 3,081 maternal and child health institutions. The number of obstetricians and gynecologists across the country has reached 373,000.

By the end of 2023, the number of pediatricians had risen to 234,000. The number of hospital beds per 1,000 children increased to 2.55, up by 0.62 compared to 2015. More than 90 per cent of primary-level healthcare institutions are now equipped to provide paediatric services.

China has also extended its expertise overseas. Chinese medical teams dispatched for foreign aid have provided maternal and child healthcare services in 44 countries and regions, including Morocco and Ethiopia. In 2024 alone, these teams helped deliver 63,800 babies.

— Xinhua

Canada launches WTO complaint over US auto tariffs

CANADA has launched a complaint with the World Trade Organization over the steep tariff imposed on car imports by US President Donald Trump, the global trade body said Monday.

"Canada has requested WTO dispute consultations with the United States concerning US measures imposing a 25 per cent duty on automobiles and automobile parts from Canada," the organization said.

The request was filed last Thursday — the day the additional levy came into effect for all cars and car parts not manufactured in the United States, but it was only circulated to WTO members on Monday.

In the request, the Canadian government charged that the tariffs were "inconsistent with United States' obligations" under international trade laws.

Canada immediately hit back on the levies, saying Thursday it would impose a 25 per cent tariff on tens of thousands of vehicles imported from the United States.

Since coming to power last January, Trump has unleashed a barrage of tariffs, and last week hit countries and goods around the world, sending markets crashing.

Canada was largely spared from the sweeping global tariffs Trump announced last Wednesday,



The Canadian and US flags fly near the Canada-US border in Blackpool, Quebec, Canada, on 2 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP

day, as Washington granted an exemption to goods compliant with the US-Canada-Mexico free trade agreement, which covers most products.

But Canada, which is one of

America's largest trading partners, is still facing tariffs on steel, aluminium and other products, in addition to the levies on automobiles.

The tariffs on automobiles and auto parts are expected to be particularly painful in North America, where those markets are heavily integrated.

WTO consultations give the parties an opportunity to discuss the matter and to find a satisfactory solution without proceeding further with litigation.

After 60 days, if consultations have failed to resolve the dispute, the complainant may request adjudication by a panel.

— AFP