Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds telephone call with Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Haji Anwar bin Ibrahim yesterday.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discusses Myanmar earthquake impact with ASEAN Chair, Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim in phone call

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing contacted ASEAN Alternate Chair Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Haji Anwar bin Ibrahim yesterday afternoon to seek aid for loss and damage in Myanmar triggered by a powerful earthquake on 28 March.

Firstly, the ASEAN Alternate Chair Prime Minister of Malaysia said his deep sorrow over the damage and losses in Myanmar, both on behalf of Malaysia and as the ASEAN Chair. He stated that this morning, Malaysia had already dispatched a rescue and relief team via aircraft. Similarly, the Malaysian Foreign Minister held a virtual meeting with the foreign ministers of other ASEAN member states to discuss how ASEAN member nations, as a family, could extend their cooperation and assistance, including support for the affected people.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the phone discussions regarding the situation in Myanmar, both in his capacity as the Alternate Chair of ASEAN and as the Prime Minister of Malaysia. He also conveyed appreciation for the assistance provided by Malaysia. Furthermore, he acknowledged the support from the AHA Centre, noting that rescue teams from Singapore arrived yesterday and are already carrying out their duties. He stated that search and rescue operations were ongoing. As of now, approximately 1,700 people have died, around 3,400 have been injured, and nearly 300 people are missing. The death toll may continue to rise, and the situation remains subject to change. He emphasized appreciation for the support and cooperation of ASEAN countries, including Malaysia, in this time of hardship and extended gratitude to the ASEAN community.

The Alternate Chair of the ASEAN Malaysian Prime Minister continued that Myanmar is a country that maintains friendly and cordial relations with Malaysia. Therefore, Malaysia will make every effort to provide the best possible assistance. Moreover, the Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs will be sent to Myanmar to assess the on-ground situation and explore the possible support to be extended to Myanmar.

The Senior General responded that Malaysia is a country that maintains a strong and friendly relationship with Myanmar. So, Myanmar also welcomes the visit of the Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Myanmar. Myanmar continues to cooperate with a correct and fair mindset within the ASEAN community. Furthermore, Malaysia's engagement in this matter, both in its capacity as a nation and as the Alternate ASEAN Chair, has provided significant support to Myanmar. So, the people of Myanmar and himself deeply appreciate these efforts. – MNA/TTA

Article

Let's Check the Auditing to Improve the Country's Interests

By Wun Kha Yan

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Malaysia, Thailand, Russia send humanitarian aid and rescue teams

NATIONAL PAGE 11



KBZ bank delivers emergency aid to quake-hit southern Shan State

NATIONAL

Boosting GDP: The Interconnected Growth of Agriculture, Industry, and Services

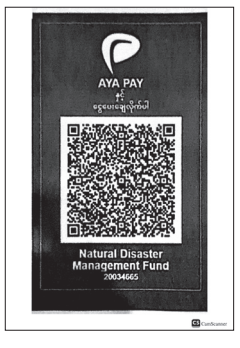
Agriculture, industry, and service sectors all support the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
The agricultural sector, which includes agriculture, livestock, and forest products, is interrelated with the other industries and must be developed.
Successfully advancing the agriculture and livestock sectors will help develop the industrial and service sectors, thereby increasing the State's GDP.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 5/2024 on 5 July 2024)

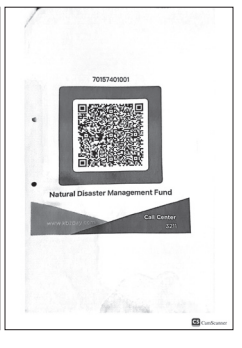
Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to earthquake victims

1. An announcement has been issued that well-wishers at home and abroad can donate cash and kind to victim people affected by a powerful earthquake which centred near Mandalay on 28 March 2025.
2. If will-wishers wish to donate cash through mobile payment, they can scan QR codes of KBZ Pay, CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK$ and Wave Money or contact QR Code number of KBZ Pay 70157401001. If they wish to donate cash through Wave Money, they can pay cash to telephone numbers 09-255001542 and 09-255001543 directly.
3. If they donate cash through banking services, they pay cash in Myanmar kyat to the Account Number OA-011834 of Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw through the following ways: -
   (a) They can donate cash at Nay Pyi Taw Branch of MEB or other MEB branches or all private bank branches.
   (b) They can donate cash through the account transfer opened at State-owned or private-owned banks.
4. If they donate foreign currency, they can pay cash to Account Number 0111284000000063 of the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank in Yangon through the following ways: -
   (a) They can donate US dollar, euro and Singapore dollar in cash to the MFTB directly.
   (b) Well-wishers at home and abroad wishing to make donations can donate foreign currencies to
   - SWIFT CODE/BIC - MFTBMMMY
   - Beneficiary Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
   - Beneficiary A/C No - 0111284000000063
5. Moreover, those wishing to donate foreign currencies can pay cash to Foreign Account Number EDN-600018 opened at MEB in Nay Pyi Taw through the following ways: -
   (a) They can donate dollar, euro and Singapore dollar in cash to the MEB directly.









(b) They can make donations through the Account Transfer from their foreign accounts.
(c) Well-wishers at home and abroad wishing to donate foreign currencies to
- SWIFT CODE/BIC - MFTBMMMY
- Beneficiary Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
- Beneficiary A/C No - EDN-600018

6. Well-wishers can inquire about and donate cash and kind to following persons: -

Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Disaster Management Department 067-3404050, 09-2021491	U Than Soe Director Disaster Management Department Yangon Region Office 09-250123885	U Aye Min Thu Director Disaster Management Department Mandalay Region Office 09-420708827
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Disaster Management Department 067-3404048, 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Disaster Management Department Yangon Region Office 09-420740160	Daw Thet Thet Aye Deputy Director Disaster Management Department Mandalay Region Office 09-400502056
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Disaster Management Department 067-3404316, 09-43054844		

7. Donated objects can be sent to the following addresses: -
   (a) Relevant Region or State Governments
   (b) Office No 23, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw
   (c) Central Store Depot (Yangon), Disaster Management Department, Ward 3, Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road, Yangon
   (d) Central Store Depot (Mandalay), Disaster Management Department, 65th Street between 34th and 35th streets, Pyigyi Myetshin Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay

National Disaster Management Committee

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

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)

Urgent call for Construction Ministry and military engineers to restore roads and bridges to pristine condition

Damaged airport runways must undergo immediate repairs and be swiftly reopened to ensure the seamless efficiency of rescue operations and the timely delivery of critical aid.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that railway tracks damaged by the earthquake should be repaired as soon as possible to resume train operations.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave necessary guidance at the special meeting to promptly conduct rescue, relief and rehabilitation in the earthquake-affected areas, at the parlour of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services yesterday early morning.

Meeting attendees reported on ongoing rescue and relief operations in the affected areas, and offers of foreign countries to send their relief aid, rescue squads and medical teams to Myanmar.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that the reconstruction efforts following the earthquake must be carried out in three main phases such as clearing and removing debris from collapsed buildings and damaged structures, systematically dismantling and removing partially collapsed buildings to prevent further hazards and rebuilding and reconstruction. Efforts must be made to restore roads, bridges, and government-owned buildings damaged by the earthquake. Significant financial resources, manpower, and machinery must be utilized to ensure the success of these reconstruction projects. It is necessary to provide support for private construction projects. Therefore, when seeking international assistance, it is important to include requests for the necessary construction materials required for reconstruction. In the field of building insurance, systematic verification of existing insurance coverage should be conducted to ensure the acquisition of insurance compensation.

It is necessary to arrange suitable accommodation and food for international rescue teams. Efforts must also be made to restore communication routes to their original state as quickly as possible. Urgent restoration work is required for the collapsed Inwa rail-cum-bridge on the old Sagaing-Mandalay road, and waterway transport must be reopened promptly. Other railway tracks damaged by the earthquake should be repaired as soon as possible to resume train operations. Damaged airport runways must be repaired and reopened quickly to enhance the efficiency of rescue operations. The Ministry of Construction and the Directorate of Military Engineers have to make collaborative efforts to restore damaged roads and bridges to their original state as quickly as possible. Furthermore, heavy trucks unable to transport large quantities of essential supplies should be quickly deployed to earthquake-affected areas.

It is necessary to carry out restoration projects in a systematic and well-planned manner to ensure the long-term sustainability and stability of ancient cultural heritage structures that

SEE PAGE 5



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the special meeting for the earthquake-affected areas, at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the special meeting of rescue, relief and rehabilitation

1. Urgent restoration work is required for the collapsed Inwa rail-cum-bridge on the old Sagaing-Mandalay Road, and waterway transport must be reopened promptly.
2. All officials must meticulously compile records on the supply of relief aid to prevent duplication and to ensure fairness so that no one is left out.
3. It is necessary to take lessons from the recent earthquake damage and ensure that bridges and buildings are constructed systematically to meet disaster-resilient standards.

NATIONAL





Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the removal of debris and rescue measures at the collapsed Dhammayon of Khemathiwun Monastery in Pyinmana yesterday.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations at the quake-affected areas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and gave necessary guidance.

He viewed round damage of roads and bridges caused by the earthquake in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and the repairing process by car.

At Ottarathiri General Hospital, the Senior General inspected the damage to the hospital whereas the medical superintendent and officials reported on damaged parts of the hospital. The Senior General coordinated with officials to rescue those who were trapped in the collapsed parts of the hospital and clear of debris quickly.

On his inspection tour, the Senior General cordially greeted and spoke words of appreciation to members of the rescue crew from Yunnan Province of China who early arrived in Myanmar within 18 hours and are carrying out rescue and relief operations together with Myanmar's rescue teams. The Yunnan's rescue team consists of 37 medical professionals together with 112 sets of emergency rescue equipment. They arrived at Yangon International Airport at 7 am on 29 March. Since arrival, these crew members of the Yunnan rescue team have been carrying out rescue and relief measures. Working together with Myanmar rescue teams, they rescued an old woman alive, who was trapped in Ottarathiri General Hospital at about 4 pm yesterday, 36 hours after the quake.

The Senior General viewed the removal of debris and rescue measures at the collapsed Dhammayon of Khemathiwun Monastery in Pyinmana, gave necessary guidance to officials and encouraged the rescue teams.

He paid homage to Monastery Presiding Patron Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Tejaniya, aged 92, vasa 72, asked after health conditions and donated alms.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the debris of the Ottarathiri General Hospital.

The Senior General looked into clearing debris at collapsed and damaged buildings in Pyinmana and instructed officials to promptly remove piles of damaged parts and bricks and prioritize smooth transportation. He cordially conversed with Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members and firefighters.

Currently, officials of the government, Tatmadaw members, MPF members, firefighters, volunteers and residents are vigorously carrying out rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the earthquake-affected areas. — MNA/TTA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Urgent call for Construction Ministry and military engineers to restore roads and bridges to pristine condition

FROM PAGE 3

have been damaged. Approximately 40 per cent of the Mandalay Royal Palace's walls have suffered damage. During restoration efforts, it is important to preserve the original design and use high-quality, standard bricks to repair the walls, ensuring that the work is completed before the rainy season. Appropriate arrangements should be made to ensure that all monks in Mandalay have sufficient provisions, including food and other necessary supplies.

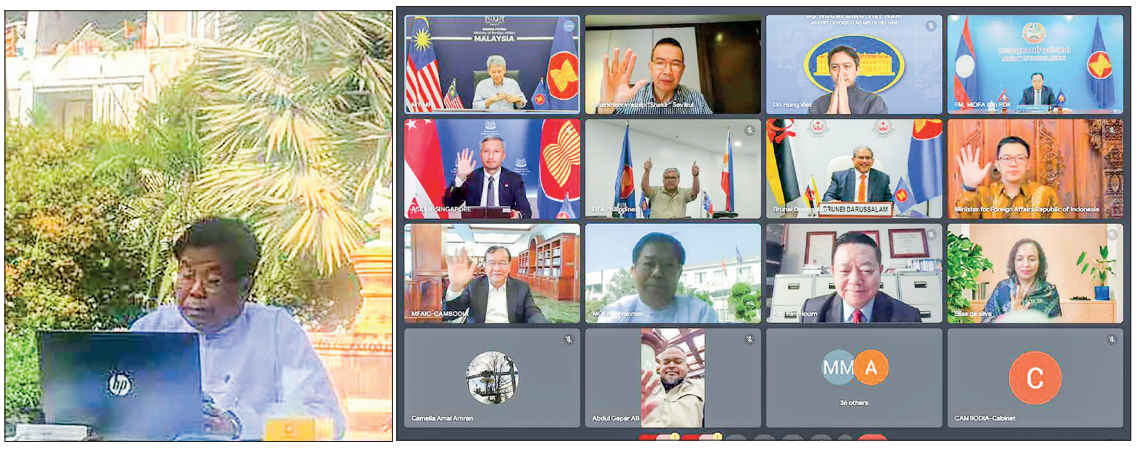
It is necessary to take lessons from the recent earthquake damage and ensure that bridges and buildings are constructed systematically to meet disaster-resilient standards. Moreover, earthquake-related data and incidents should be systematically recorded and released.

The Senior General instructed that in distributing relief and support supplies, a systematic record must be maintained to ensure that all earthquake victims and those who are rightfully entitled receive the necessary aid for the convenience of victims. All officials must meticulously compile records on the supply of relief aid to prevent duplication and to ensure fairness so that no one is left out. Furthermore, extensive efforts will be required for rehabilitation, and priority tasks should be carried out as quickly as possible.

The meeting was also attended by National Disaster Management Committee Chairman SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Council Secretary, the Joint Secretary, and the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. – MNA/TTA

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister virtually attends ASEAN FMs' Special Emergency Meeting in wake of earthquake in Myanmar

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe attended the Special Emergency Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in the aftermath of the earthquake in Myanmar held via videoconference yesterday. The meeting was convened to coordinate the humanitarian assistance, and relief and recovery operations in the affected areas in Myanmar and Thailand in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.



The Special Emergency Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in the aftermath of the earthquake in Myanmar held via videoconference in progress yesterday.

At the Meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister expressed appreciation to those who have provided support to the earthquake relief and rehabilitation efforts. He continued to brief the meeting on the State Administration Council's efforts for earthquake relief and rehabilitation of affected victims as soon as after the State of Emergency declared on 28 March 2025 to ease the impact of the earthquake. At present, the Government has been providing humanitarian aid, including food and non-food items, water and temporary shelters to the affected areas and prioritized the restoration of the transport system and electricity.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Union Minister stated that urgent supports are needed in areas of search and rescue, temporary shelters and emergency health services following the major earthquake and related tremors that occurred more than 17 times. Further assistance may be needed for security assessments of standing structures and reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure.

He also expressed readiness to facilitate the transport of the relief items to the affected people and called for further assistance.

The ASEAN Member States expressed condolences to the earthquake victims in Myanmar and Thailand, highlighted the importance of strengthening ASEAN solidarity in times of emergency, and expressed readiness to coordinate humanitarian assistance, support and facilitate the relief and recovery operations. — MNA

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Public announcement on outage of electricity supply

30 March 2025

1. The severe earthquake on 28 March 2025 and subsequent aftershocks caused extensive damage to power transmission lines, substations, transformers and related infrastructure, leading to widespread electricity outages.
2. In Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, repairs are underway on damaged power transmission lines and main stations with 134 skilled technicians from the Department of Electric Power Transmission and System Control. For the repair of distribution lines and substations in the area, a total of 560 technicians including 426 from Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Magway regions are also actively engaged in restoring power supply as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, in Mandalay Region, efforts are made to repair damage with local technicians reinforced by 545 skilled workers from Ayeyawady Region, Kayin State and Mon State, ensuring that power is restored as efficiently as possible.
3. Restoration work is being carried out with urgency. In Nay Pyi Taw, operations are led by the Union Minister while in Mandalay Region, the Deputy Minister oversees the repair efforts. Thus, the public is requested to understand the ongoing situation as authorities work tirelessly to restore power as quickly as possible.

Ministry of Electric Power

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister inspects staff housing damaged by powerful earthquake

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, together with Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and officials, looked into damaged staff housings and comforted staff families in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister inspected the debris of Buildings Nos 132, 133, and 134 in Khayay housing and Buildings Nos 1322 and 1327 in the 1,000-acre staff housing and encouraged the staff there.

During the meeting employees, and the Union minister stated that the recent powerful earthquake was the first of its kind in over 100 years. The quake destroyed offices, houses, roads and bridges.

The government is planning to distribute tents and temporary toilets to the victims. Although the employees are currently taking shelter near their belongings, they will be relocated to temporary tents in larger areas, such as playgrounds. Additionally, medicine and food supplies will also be provided soon. The Union minister urged all to face natural disasters, which cannot be prevented, with courage and without fear.

He also noted that the relief efforts were underway in severely hit places than theirs and that current staff housing units are not suitable for habitation.

He fulfilled water supply requirements, temporary toilets, and telephone charging for the staff.

The Union minister viewed round severely collapsed building No 1307 and comforted the employees from the building. — MNA/KZL



This photo shows the severely collapsed building No 1307 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Coordination meeting held to boost earthquake search and rescue operations



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung and officials encourage Chinese and Myanmar rescue teams who carry out to rescue at the earthquake-damaged Sky Villa.



Members of Chinese and Russian rescue teams are working at the site of the collapsed Great Wall Hotel in Mandalay on 30 March 2025.

A coordination meeting to further enhance search and rescue operations in the earthquake-affected areas of Mandalay Region and to continue rehabilitation work as soon as possible was held at the Central Command Conference Hall yesterday, with the attendence of Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of the Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htike, the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, regional government ministers and departmental officials.

First, the Region's Chief Minister delivered an opening speech on enhancing and effectively implementing search and rescue and clean-up operations. Following this, the Commander and various departmental officials detailed the swift and effective execution of search and rescue operations based on priority levels in the earthquake-affected areas.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung emphasized that departmental officials must be aware of the actual situation on the ground and carry out relief and rescue operations swiftly and effectively, provide prompt medical treatment and necessary healthcare to the injured, and offer full support to international relief teams to ensure their effective and successful operations.

Then, Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung and the Commander inspected the earthquake-damaged Great Wall Hotel, U Hla Thein Dhamma Beikman, Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay), Nadi Myanmar Hotel Mandalay, Mandalay University, and a location at the 385 mile and five-furlong mark on the expressway to assess relief and rescue operations and presented cash awards to the relief teams. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Announcement for well-wishers to donate cash to severely earthquake victims

AN announcement has been issued that a donation ceremony will be held in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on 1 April 2025 for people who fell victims to a powerful earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter Scale struck with its epicentre about 21 kilometres northeast of the Mandalay Seismological Observatory at approximately 12:51 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 28 March 2025. Well-wishers who wish to donate can contact the following individuals: -

Nay Pyi Taw
Daw Lei Lei Aye
Director-General
Department of Disaster Management
067 3404701, 09 2021491

U Win Shwe
Deputy Director-General
Department of Disaster Management
067 3404702, 09 254170011

Daw Phyu Phyu Win
Director
Department of Disaster Management
067 3404703, 09 43054844

Ayeyawady Foundation steps up for earthquake relief



A crane from Ayeyawady Foundation prepares to remove debris in a recent earthquake struck area. **PHOTO: AYEYAWADY FOUNDATION**

THE Ayeyawady Foundation is actively involved in relief operations following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar on 28 March.

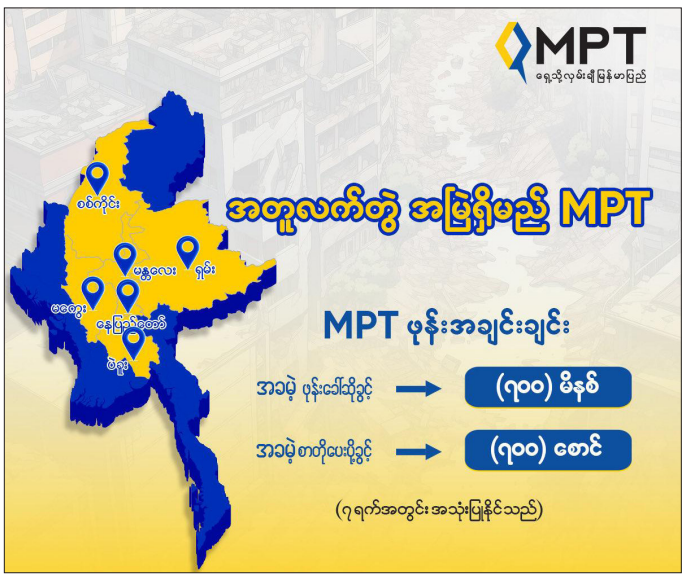
The foundation has deployed 30 heavy machinery units, including 100-tonne and 35-tonne mobile cranes, excavators, wheel loaders, dump trucks, mini excavators and water bowsers to assist in rescue and relief operations in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Aungban and other areas.

In turn, Max Energy stations in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi and Heho are providing free fuel for rescue vehicles and ambulances. The Ayeyawady Foundation, in collaboration with Max Myanmar Group and AYA Financial Group, will continue supporting relief and rescue efforts for those affected by the earthquake. – Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

MPT provides free calls and SMS to support earthquake victims

FOLLOWING the earthquake on 28 March, MPT is providing 700 free call minutes and 700 free SMS messages to affected residents in impacted regions.

The service will be available for one week, from 29 March to 4 April, to help people stay connected. MPT is also making efforts to restore telecommunication services as soon as possible. — Aung Than Oo/KZL



China pledges 100M yuan in humanitarian aid to Myanmar

CHINA plans to donate emergency humanitarian aid worth 100 million yuan to be spent on conducting rescue and relief for earthquake victims, according to a rescue official.

The Chinese government decided to donate 100 million yuan worth of emergency humanitarian aid such as tents, blankets, emergency medication packages, food and tanks for drinking water to Myanmar. The first batch of the rescue squad arrived in Yangon on 29 March, and the squad brought a total of 112 emergency rescue items including life detectors, earthquake early warning systems, portable satellites and drones.

Another rescue team from Yunnan Province arrived in Yangon earliest, and they will send relief supplies of the Chinese government in the first batch on 31 March. Currently, the Yunnan rescue and medical team is working together with Myanmar's rescue teams in Nay Pyi Taw. At around 4 am yesterday, approximately 36 hours after the earthquake, they successfully rescued an elderly woman trapped inside the Ottarathiri General Hospital. Moreover, China will continuously dispatch more aid to Myanmar. — ASH/TTA



A rescue team from Yunnan Province of China evacuate a survivor trapped under the collapsed floor at Ottarathiri Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw on the night of 29 March.

OPINION

Efficiently distribute aid for quake victims nationwide

IN the 2025-2026 fiscal year's budget of the State, provisions have been made to support the overall development of the nation by allocating funds for education. This includes stipends for students pursuing knowledge and technical skills, as well as providing allowances for teachers based on their attained degrees. Such stipends and allowances show the recognition of the government for the efforts of those students and teachers in their respective fields.

The expenses required for the expansion and establishment of agricultural and livestock universities to enhance the development of the agriculture and livestock sector. Moreover, it is also found that the expenses include the costs for the construction of roads and bridges to improve transportation and infrastructure development, including electrification.

> Now is the best time for all. So, the budget allocation of the government will flow into the relevant sectors while international donor countries and organizations will provide aid for the quake victims to improve their lives thanks to the government's approval. Efforts of both sides are expected to leverage up the rehabilitation operations for the victims in the affected areas while this assistance needs to be granted to the people from the areas of the state of emergency indirectly. It is because not only real victims but people all over the country are suffering the impacts of the terrible earthquake.

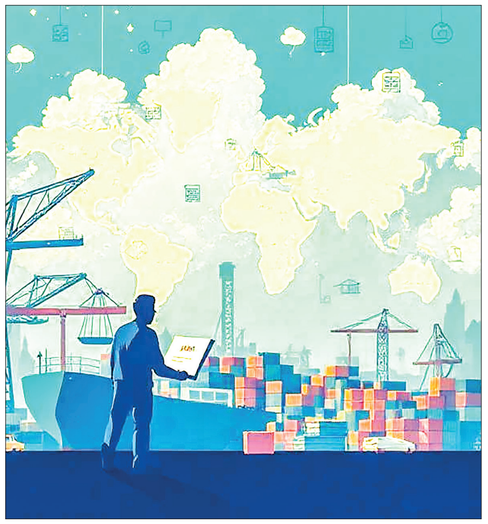
An emergency fund of K200 billion has been allocated at the Union level for disaster prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts, as well as livelihood and administrative matters for displaced persons. Moreover, K15 billion has been allocated for regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Hence, priority must be given to conducting operations of rescue, relief and rehabilitation for earthquake victims in quake-affected areas where the Government has declared a state of emergency to provide necessary aid for the victims in time. In his speech, the Head of State said that the government has opened all possible channels to receive international assistance. Moreover, the public has been urged to provide aid as much support as possible for the ongoing rescue efforts needed due to the impact of this earthquake.

International organizations now provide relief supplies for quake victims. Search and rescue operations are being conducted in the affected areas. Efficient use of the fund must be beneficial for the victims to curb waste. If so, the lives of those victims will improve soon and they will be able to escape from the lives of victims to stand tall in society.

Now is the best time for all. So, the budget allocation of the government will flow into the relevant sectors while international donor countries and organizations will provide aid for the quake victims to improve their lives thanks to the government's approval. Efforts of both sides are expected to leverage up the rehabilitation operations for the victims in the affected areas while this assistance needs to be granted to the people from the areas of the state of emergency indirectly. It is because not only real victims but people all over the country are suffering the impacts of the terrible earthquake.

ARTICLE



The Post-Clearance Audit procedures, announced by the Ministry of Planning and Finance, involve a systematic examination of records and trade processes related to international trade to ensure the accuracy of goods declarations. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ CONCEPT ART**

Let's Check the Auditing to Improve the Country's Interests

By Wun Kha Yan

THE procedures of Post-Clearance Audit have been announced by the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Planning and Finance with Notification 10/2017 dated 17 January 2017.

The terms used in the Procedure have the same meaning as mentioned in the Sea Customs Act. The Post-Clearance Audit is a process of systematic customs controlling in which the records and trade processes maintained in any system of the auditees, directly or indirectly involved in international trade, are examined to the satisfaction of the auditors as to the accuracy of the declarations of goods.

The trade process is a process that involves the sale, purchase, exchange, payment, and receipt of trade information, services, and goods. The audit team is a team led by not lower than the rank of staff officer assigned by the Director-General to inspect post-clearance audit. The auditee is any person that imports, exporters, transits the goods by any means, exporter or recipient of goods, owners of goods, representatives of customs services and stores of goods, transporters of goods and any person or company which involves directly or indirectly in the trading of goods.

A regional customs office is a customs office designated by the Director-General under the Land Customs Act with Notification. Third parties do not include persons from overseas, companies, importers and exporters, but include the customs service agents, local representatives of individuals and companies exporting goods, intermediaries involved in the import and export of goods, and other agents.

The duties and rights of the auditee are to retain books, records and documents related to finance and records relating to the trade process in any form, for seven years and to notify the Customs Department three months in advance if the company is dissolved before that period to be subject to inspection. To facilitate the audit process, the auditee shall appoint a responsible representative to cooperate with the audit team. The audit team shall be allowed to enter the premises. If any records are asked by the audit team, it should be allowed and a copy if asked. The audit team shall be allowed to open, seal, and take samples of any goods or places on the premises and shall assist in any necessary inspection matters. The decisions made by the Director-General based on the audit report shall be complied with.

The action of the Post-Clearance Audit shall be conducted without any interference or obstruction. The findings of the Post-Clearance Audit shall be accepted and confirmed or clarified. If the auditee agrees with or objects to the audit findings of the audit team, he shall respond within seven days, stating the reasons for his decision.

The rights of the auditee shall request a letter of assignment to the audit team. When the audit team visits the company, they can ask for their ID cards. They can ask for any unclear points regarding the auditing findings. If the findings cannot be accepted or resolved within the specified period, they can request an extension of time from the audit team.

Therefore, the businessmen of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), companies conducting export/ import activities throughout Myanmar that are engaged in domestic and foreign trade are to understand the definition of post-clearance audit procedures, the duties and rights of the auditee, and the rights of the auditee, they must refrain the illegal trade activities. It is to urge that the conducting of legal trade activities will not only develop the interests of the country but also increase the tax revenue that the state deserves.

Daily Routines We Should Never Forget

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

DEPENDING upon what kind of person someone is, he or she must do various daily routines. For instance, a housewife has to get up early and do the cleaning and cooking within the space of a day. Similarly, a husband needs to work from home or go out and earn a living. Also, a student ought to go to school regularly, study without fail and help with household chores as much as he or she can. Any labour has dignity, as the Myanmar saying goes. Hence, people like to do daily routines, even if they have the pros and cons, I should think. In this article will be seen daily routines we should do from my point of view.

Needless to say, health is the most valuable gift of nature. Only good health enables everyone to do whatever they wish. As all of us are aware, the person who has in good heart tends to do anything better than those who have poor health. If possible, taking physical exercise is the best for health. But some cannot set aside any spaced time to do physical exercise. If so, at least they can walk in that they go to the market, go around the house or climb up all the stairs at home. Walking is supposed to be the best exercise, yet jogging can be done with no cost and not using too much effort instead of walking. We should take any physical exercise at the very least for health and well-being every day at all costs.

All world religions are usually the great healers to those suffering from mental and emotional fatigue, as I see it. The origin of all human beings or living things has been shown by different religions all over the world. As a Buddhist, I believe that `Awaitja´ and `Sana´, which means not knowing the truth and lusting after suffering respectively from the point of view of Dhamma, give rise to the very origin of human beings, even though scientists from every corner of the globe have been discovering the satisfactory solution to that origin. Thus, most people all around the world are often firm believers in their respective religions. All human beings should worship a religion only for their intrapersonal peace rather than for another reason. We had better see not only mindfulness but also critical and logical thoughts from performing an everyday act of worship together with praying and meditation.



While structured physical exercise is beneficial, simple activities like walking—whether to the market, around the house, or using stairs—can also contribute significantly to health and well-being, making exercise accessible to those with limited time. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CONCEPT ART**

I do not know how on earth others view the task of reading. As for me, reading is not a hobby but a must for doing. Of course, anyone is unable to do all things at the same time simply because a doctor is incompetent to do an engineer's work or vice versa. However, we will probably get lied in the world unless we have known anything to some extent. Here, reading may make anybody partly know anything, even though not to the letter. So, we should read one newspaper at least every day, which always shows what is happening at home and in the world. To my knowledge, a person who did not read the newspaper one day in the Mandalay Age governed by King Mindon was out of date. As Saya Zeya said, reading is as important as daily food and drinks.

It is boring to do the same thing every day, of course. Some people, especially introverts, like to stay at home and do not enjoy going out at all as always. But I think that anyone who only stays home a lot will feel bored sometimes. For example, if a part-time teacher must teach almost every day, he could be browned off with his job. Therefore, a GP I know is given to going away by bike for a week or so, even leaving his regular patients. Someone who is fed up with his daily activities had best do something different from the things he normally does every day. This can change his mind about everyday activities so that he will never have had enough of these activities as well and this will refresh him for the coming days.

As the proverb states, man is a social animal, that is, when a person comes to the human world, he or she will find it difficult to live alone. Even if a person wants to lead his life all by himself, he must not abstain from making contact with his close relatives and nearby environment. Whatever is said, as a person must belong to his community in the aspects of his growth, development and change, he will need to lend people within the community a helping hand physically, financially or both. Some people are happy beyond measure to help others around them as much as they can afford; they have their hearts in the right place. To think deeply, helping others always makes a person who does it at first. Then, how much in the world will those offered help be happy? We owe our survival chances much to our family members and the environment. Consequently, a person should help others before he dies small or large measures as per money and energy every day.

Some are living in this world as if today were the last day of their survival. Accordingly, they never like to try to cope with the perplexities of life whatever happens in the current situation. In other words, if today was truly the last day of their life, they think that a day would not be worth living. Others strangely suppose that except for them, everybody could die tomorrow. Just before death, all people will be on good terms with each other like biological brothers and sisters if they live together with this assumption. Honest to say, the above-mentioned perceptions can give someone's life a big change – they have positive attitudes towards human life, too. Instilling such attitudes into oneself every day is a secret lifestyle for longevity.

NATIONAL

Recent earthquake leaves pagodas and stupas in Bagan unaffected

DESPITE causing damage in Sagaing, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Shan State (South) on 28 March, the earthquake that struck Myanmar left the pagodas and stupas in the Bagan region, home to Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage, unaffected, a fact that brought happiness to people across the country.

Myanmar has experienced its second largest earthquake in history, after the Bago earthquake in 1930 (magnitude 7.3-7.5), the Sagaing earthquake in 1946 (magnitude 8.0), the Sagaing earthquake in 1956 (magnitude 7.1), the Bagan earthquake in 1975 (magnitude 6.5), and the Shwebo earthquake in 2012 (magnitude 6.8).

"At 12:50 pm on 28 March, an earthquake struck, causing the Htilominlo Pagoda to shake, though it sustained no structural damage, only some internal wall damage," stated U Tin Hla Oo, secretary of the Htilo Minlo Pagoda board of trustees.

"It is remarkable and gratifying that no other pagodas or structures in the Bagan region were damaged in this earthquake. While I feel sad for those in the affected areas, it is especially fortunate that the famous pagodas, irreplaceable ancient heritages were spared. This is a great joy not only for Myanmar but also for Asia," he added.

In the ancient cultural area of Bagan, the most popular pagodas among both domestic and foreign tourists were undamaged by the 28 March earthquake.

"Having experienced earthquakes in Bagan before, we immediately take necessary actions when one strikes, primarily by observing the Holy Umbrella of the pagoda, which was affected in a past earthquake. This time, only the diamond orb shook slightly, and it is a blessing that none of the famous pagodas in Bagan sustained any damage," stated U Thein Aung, Chairman of the Shwezigon Pagoda board of trustees.

The earthquake was followed by several smaller aftershocks on the same day. While no pagodas in the Bagan cultural area were damaged, a small crack occurred in the wall of the Pyathetgyi Pagoda. — Thitsa (MNA)/TH



Htilominlo Pagoda.

Photo shows falling some plaster of the wall of Htilominlo Pagoda. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**

Malaysia, Thailand, Russia send humanitarian aid and rescue teams

THE government is expediting damage assessments and providing immediate assistance to earthquake-affected areas as part of ongoing relief efforts.

Myanmar has also opened channels for international humanitarian aid, and rescue teams, medical personnel, and aid supplies from Malaysia, Thailand, and Russia have arrived to support those in need.

Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport admitted search and rescue teams including humanitarian aid supplies and medical equipment along with doctors and nurses from Malaysia and Thai rescue teams. Russia also sent search and rescue teams, medical personnel, four rescue dogs and relief supplies.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement welcomed the arriving teams. These teams will now be deployed to affected areas to carry out search and rescue missions and provide medical care.

Humanitarian aid and medical supplies from China and Belarus were also expected to arrive in Myanmar in the evening. — MNA/KZL





Rescue teams from Russia (L) and Malaysia (R) including humanitarian aid supplies and medical equipment along with doctors and nurses arrive at the Tatmadaw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL



KBZ Bank Patron U Aung Ko Win and KBZ Bank team members visiting earthquake-affected areas.

KBZ bank delivers emergency aid to quake-hit southern Shan State

KBZ Bank Limited has been actively carrying out emergency relief efforts in the earthquake-affected areas of Taunggyi, Shwenyaung, Aungban, and Inlay in southern Shan State. Staff from various KBZ Bank branches have been providing immediate relief assistance in response to urgent needs.

A team from KBZ Bank, led by Patron U Aung Ko Win, visited the affected areas immediately after the earthquake. They assessed the damage in Taunggyi, particularly in the mini-bus station in Thittaw Ward, where large rocks had fallen, destroying residential and commercial buildings. The team provided financial assistance of K500,000 to each injured individual.

Additionally, the KBZ team visited Shwenyaung Station Hospital, where they donated aid to doctors, medical staff, and pregnant women. In Aungban, they contributed K10,000,000, along with meal packs and essential emergency supplies, to the rescue team at Hotel Aungban.

Similarly, the team also travelled to the Inlay region in Shan State (South), where they provided necessary relief and assistance promptly. — ASH/KNN

International aids arrive for Myanmar's earthquake-affected areas

AS the Myanmar government continues rescue and relief efforts in earthquake-affected regions by welcoming the International humanitarian aids, more aids are coming in.

A Malaysian Airlines aircraft carrying personal hygiene items and tarpaulin sheets donated by the Malaysian government landed at Yangon International Airport at around 10:20 am yesterday. The Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement accepted the supplies.

Later, at around 3:05 pm, two Bangladeshi military aircraft delivered aid including rice and beans on behalf of the Bangladeshi government. Bangladesh's Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain formally handed over the donations, which Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein received it.

At 5:44 pm, a Vietnam Airlines flight from Hanoi arrived at Yangon International Airport carrying a 106-member Vietnamese rescue team, including eight search-and-rescue dogs, and 11,639 kilogrammes of relief supplies. Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, along with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and regional ministers welcomed the team at the airport.

The relief supplies were promptly loaded onto designated vehicles by Tatmadaw men, Yangon City Development Committee staff and local logistics workers and then sent to affected areas under the supervision of the Yangon Region government. — MNA/KZL

Foundation secures K400M funding for disaster relief efforts

GENEROUS donors, including film actors and actresses, initially donated about K400 million to the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation to help people affected by natural disasters, according to actress Khaing Hnin Wai.

The foundation, which has earmarked K100 million to assist people affected by natural disasters, invited other organizations to collaborate on donation efforts starting 28 March.

Actress Khaing Hnin Wai stated: "To help those in need due to natural disasters, the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation has allocated a fund of K100 million. Additionally, actress Wut Hmone Shwe Yi donated K30 million; actor Nay Toe and actress Ei Chaw Po, and actress Naw Phaw Eh Htar donated K10 million each. Furthermore, actor and singer May La Than Zin contributed K6 million, singer Hlwan Paing K5 million, singer Ye Lay K3 million, and actress Yu Thandar Tin K5 million. Other singers and actors have also made donations, bringing the total to approximately K80 million. Around K400 million has been donated by other generous individuals".

The donation of approximately K400 million will be used to provide food, essential supplies, and financial assistance in Sagaing and Mandalay.

Last year, the foundation donated food and cash worth over K3.6 billion to people affected by floods nationwide. — ASH/TH



The Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation donates a 200 kVA generator, valued at over K100 million, to the Mandalay General Hospital.

Daily newspapers available online

For those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



ECONOMY
WORLD

Valid invention patents in China's strategic emerging industries exceed 1.3 mln

The transformation and application of patents are crucial for integrating scientific and technological innovation with industrial innovation, thereby driving high-quality development in China.



Relevant departments and local governments in China are taking fiscal, financial and financing-related measures to promote investment in strategic emerging industries. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE number of valid invention patents in China's strategic emerging industries had exceeded 1.3 million by the end of 2024, with a year-on-year growth of 15.7 per cent, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) said Friday. During a press conference in Beijing, Wang Peizhang, a senior official at the CNIPA, said that invention patents now account for 70.4 per cent of new patent applications filed by colleges and research institutions.

Strengthening the transformation and application of patents has played a vital role in promoting the deep integration of scientific and technological innovation with industrial innovation, and in driving high-quality development, Wang added. — Xinhua

Orban's food price cap takes aim at foreign retailers in Hungary

SEEKING to tame public anger over soaring inflation, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has imposed price controls on basic food items sold in supermarkets, renewing his fight against multinational companies.

Economists say the measure may bring short-term relief to consumers, but it provides little help to many in rural areas who live far from bigger towns where large retailers are located.

"Small stores are not affected, only big multinationals, and we don't go there," said retiree Erzsebet Risztics, 68, who lives in Tiszaroff, a village in one of the Central European country's poorest regions.

Risztics, who has diabetes, can also no longer afford low-sugar food items she needs "because they've gotten terribly expensive", and sparse bus services keep her from shopping in surrounding towns.

Another retiree, 80-year-old Erzsebet Forgo, said: "It hurts that the village is left out" of the price controls.

Inflation has roared back in Hungary, reaching 5.7 per cent in February, the highest level in the 27-nation European Union. By comparison, consumer prices rose by 2.7 per cent on average across the EU. — AFP



Hungary has the highest inflation in the European Union. **PHOTO: AFP**

Osaka Expo to boost consumption by 1 trillion yen: think tank

THE World Exposition opening next month in Osaka could boost Japan's consumption by 1 trillion yen ($6.7 billion), with spending by foreign tourists outside the event venue accounting for about 30 per cent, according to an estimate by a private think tank.

Of 28.2 million visitors expected by the organizers during the event from 13 April to 13 October 3.5 million visitors from abroad will likely spend some 293 billion yen outside the expo site on transportation, hotels and other expenses, the Resona Research Institute said.

While the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition estimates that around 3.5 million visitors from overseas will attend — just over 10 per cent of the total projected turnout — their per-person spending is expected to exceed that of Japanese attendees, bringing economic benefits to Osaka's shopping, dining and nightlife districts, as well as to nearby tourist destinations such as Kyoto and Nara prefectures, according to the institute's chief researcher, Hideyuki Araki. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 12 March shows the venue of the World Exposition in Osaka under construction. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ghana to set up gold trading regulator to boost foreign exchange earnings

GHANA'S parliament passed a bill on Saturday to set up a new regulatory body for gold trade as part of efforts to boost foreign exchange earnings.

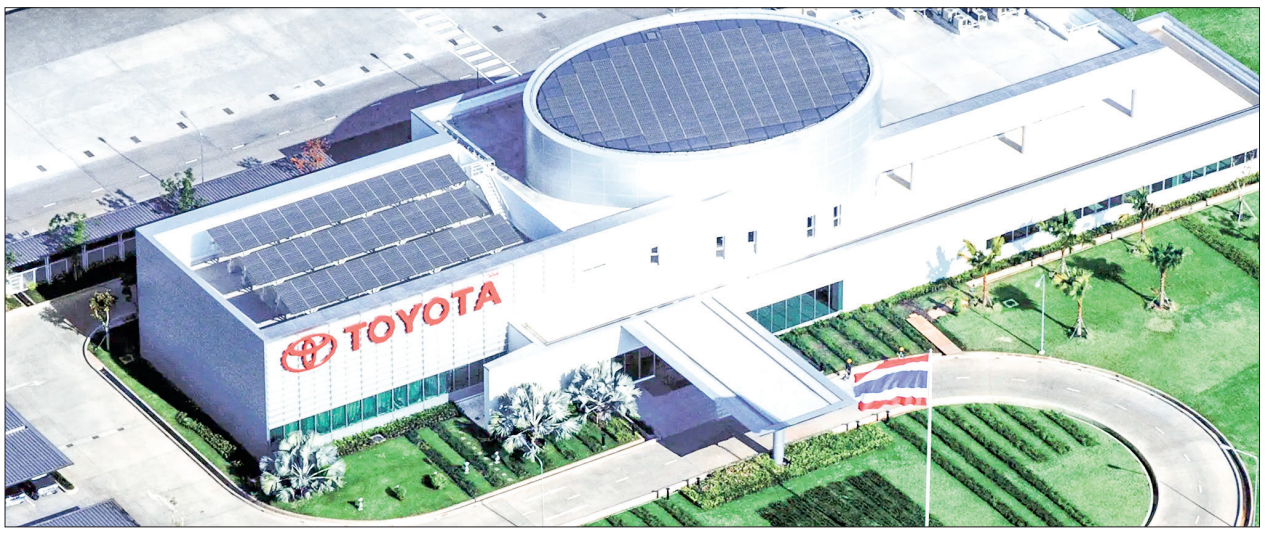
Key provisions of the Gold Board (GoldBod) Bill 2025 include mandating the GoldBod to sanitize transactions in the industry, overseeing the purchase, sale, and export of gold, and generating revenue to stabilize the local currency.

Once the president assents to the law, the GoldBod will act as the sole buyer of gold from legal small-scale miners, reducing smuggling and enhancing traceability.

"The GoldBod will ensure that Ghana harnesses the entire gold value chain, from extraction to refining, value addition, and marketing, both locally and internationally," Finance Minister Cassiel Ato Forson told the press. Forson said the initiative would also create jobs, increase revenue, and formalize small-scale mining operations.

The initiative is part of the broad agenda of the Ghanaian government to position the country to earn more from its natural resources, create wealth, and boost foreign exchange earnings to stabilize the foreign exchange market. – Xinhua

Toyota resumes Thai factory operations after quake hits Myanmar



Toyota Motor Corp said Saturday it had resumed operations of its factories in Thailand after halting some of them in the wake of a devastating earthquake the previous day in neighboring Myanmar. **PHOTO: TOYOTA**

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Saturday it had resumed operations of its factories in Thailand after halting some of them in the wake of a devastating earthquake the previous day in neighboring Myanmar.

There have been no reports that employees of the Thai factories were affected by the magnitude 7.7 quake, the Japanese automaker said. All factories in Thailand and Myanmar are currently running, it added. "We continue to confirm carefully the conditions of our employees, their families and clients, and make decisions while putting safety first," Toyota said in a statement. — Kyodo

Protesters target 277 Tesla locations in US over Elon Musk's government role, demand resignation

PROTESTERS across the United States and Europe have gathered outside Tesla dealerships to express their opposition to billionaire Elon Musk's involvement in the US government, Al Jazeera reported.

Musk, the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has faced criticism for his efforts to cut government spending and access sensitive data.

The protests, organized by a group including disgruntled Tesla owners, celebrities, and a Democratic lawmaker, aim to pressure Musk to resign from his government position. Saturday's demonstrations marked the first coordinated effort to target all 277 Tesla locations in the US, as per Al Jazeera.

In New York City, hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Manhattan Tesla store, demanding Musk's resignation. These demonstrations coincide with a decline in Tesla sales, which the organizers hope to exacerbate further. – ANI

'Something is rotten': Apple's AI strategy faces doubts



Apple CEO Tim Cook in June 2024 announces plans to incorporate AI into Apple software and hardware. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

HAS Apple, the biggest company in the world, bungled its generative artificial intelligence strategy?

Doubts blew out into the open when one of the company's closest observers, tech analyst John Gruber, earlier this month gave a blistering critique in a blog post titled "Something Is Rotten in the State of Cupertino", which is home to Apple's headquarters.

The respected analyst and Apple enthusiast said he was furious for not being more sceptical when the company announced last June that its Siri chatbot would be getting a major generative AI (genAI) upgrade.

The technology, to be released as part of the Apple Intelligence suite of iPhone software, was to catapult the much-derided voice assistant's capabilities beyond just giving the weather or setting a timer.

Investors hoped the upgrade would launch the iPhone on a much-needed super-cycle, in which a new feature on the smartphone proves so tantalizing that users rush to snap up the latest and most expensive models. — AFP

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC WENDE VOY.NO. (2505N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC WENDE VOY.NO. (2505N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by **Qingdao Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd** is changing from **RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD** to **AVENTINE LIMITED**, a member of **Capital Diamond Star Group**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Toxinil 720 SC	Chlorothalonil 72% SC	P2024-6547

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
09456060160, 09441170170

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by **Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd** is changing from **RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD** to **AVENTINE LIMITED**, a member of **Capital Diamond Star Group**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Armo Super Tenchant 40 WG	Emamectin Benzoate 20% + Thiamethoxam 20% WG	P2024-6489

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
09456060160, 09441170170

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

US vaccine chief jumps ship citing RFK 'lies': media



Dr. Peter Marks has indeed been a key figure at the FDA since 2012. **PHOTO: TING SHEN/XINHUA/FILE**

Marks expressed concern that the new administration prioritizes misinformation over transparency and scientific integrity, highlighting a troubling shift in the US approach to public health and vaccination efforts.

THE top US vaccine official resigned on Friday, citing the "misinformation and lies" he said were being peddled by the incoming health secretary, reports said.

According to both the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, Dr Peter Marks was forced out of the Food and Drug Administration's vaccine division, as Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr takes charge.

Kennedy is a noted vaccine sceptic, while Marks has worked at the FDA since 2012 and was part of the US effort to roll out inoculations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a resignation letter cited by the newspapers, Marks complained of an "unprecedented assault on scientific truth" being pushed by Kennedy and his supporters.

"It has become clear that truth and transparency are not desired by the Secretary, but rather he wishes subservient confirmation of his misinformation and lies," he said. — AFP

Opposition, ruling party lawmakers squabble in Nepal's lower house following Friday's violent protests

LAWMAKERS from the Opposition and the ruling parties in Nepal's lower house, the House of Representatives, squabbled on Sunday over the issue of monarchy and the deposition of the electricity authority chief.

A parliamentary meeting that started two hours late from the scheduled time of 11 am (local time) was disrupted by lawmakers debating over the two issues.

House Speaker Devraj Ghimire requested that the lawmakers take their seats to continue the session, which the opposition lawmakers did not heed.

Later, lawmakers from the ruling parties rose from their seats, alleging that the opposition lawmakers were hindering the session, fearing that incidents of violence on Friday might be raised in the Parliament.

In a pool video released by the Parliament secretariat, which was partially muted, ruling party lawmakers demanded punishment for those who used the word "monarchy" in the meeting.

Opposition lawmaker and Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RPP) Rajendra Lingden is seen in the video gesturing to come and arrest him. RPP has been at the forefront of the pro-monarchy protest, organizing multiple shows of power, at times demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy. — ANI



Nepal police fire tear gas to disperse pro-monarchy demonstrators in Kathmandu. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian PM on track to win re-election: poll

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his governing Labour Party are on track to win a second term in power in May's general election, according to a new poll on Sunday.

The Labour Party is likely to win 75 out of the 150 seats in the lower house of parliament at the 3 May election, just short of the 76 required to form a majority government, showed the poll released by the Australian branch of the UK-based market research firm YouGov.

If neither Labournor the opposition coalition — led by Peter Dutton — win at least 76 seats it the election, both Albanese and Dutton will enter negotiations with minor parties and independents for their support to form a minority government.

The poll of 38,629 voters, which was published on the second day of the election campaign, suggested that the opposition coalition is most likely to win 60 seats, with minor parties and independents — known as the crossbench — on track to win 15. — Xinhua

China, Russia cooperate on rescuing grounded Chinese cargo ship near Sakhalin Island

CHINESE and Russian authorities are actively advancing rescue efforts for the Chinese cargo ship Anyang-2, which ran aground near Nevelsk, on Russia's Sakhalin Island, the Chinese Consulate-General in Vladivostok said on Sunday.

A Chinese task force recently arrived in Russia's Sakhalin Oblast to consult with local Russian government officials and rescue agencies to coordinate the ship's salvage operation, according to the consulate.

Both sides have signed a letter of intent regarding oil removal, with further efforts underway to draft the next phase of the rescue plan.

Staff from the Chinese consulate boarded the vessel after it ran aground to visit the crew. As of now, all 20 crew members are in good health, maintaining smooth communication with the outside world and having sufficient supplies of food and drinking water. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Messi returns – and scores inside two minutes

LIONEL Messi returned to action for Inter Miami after his injury layoff and scored just two minutes after entering as a second-half substitute in his team's 2-1 win over the Philadelphia Union on Saturday.

Messi had missed Argentina's World Cup qualifiers in South America during the recent international window after picking up an adductor strain in Miami's most recent Major League Soccer game, a 2-1 win at Atlanta on 16 March.

Finnish winger Robert Taylor had put Miami ahead in the 23rd minute, slotting home a low pass from Benjamin Cremaschi after Jordi Alba had broken down the left flank.

Messi was brought on by coach Javier Mascherano in the 55th minute and within two minutes was on target. Messi's former Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez picked him out on the right and he jinked to make space and fired a low, right-foot effort into the far corner.

Philadelphia pulled a goal back in the 80th minute when Quinn Sullivan whipped in a cross from the right and Hungarian midfielder Daniel Gazdag brought the ball down before firing home a crisp shot.

Unbeaten Miami are top of the Eastern Conference with four wins from their opening five games of the season.

Inter face a busy spell with a trip to Los Angeles to play LAFC in a CONCACAF Champions Cup quarter-final, first leg on Wednesday. They have a home game against Toronto the following Sunday with the return against LAFC three days later.

Mascherano said it had been a cautious move to start with Messi on the bench. — AFP



Lionel Messi scored for Inter Miami within two minutes of entering as a substitute in the 2-1 win over the Philadelphia Union. **PHOTO: AFP**

Arsenal appoint Berta as sporting director

ARSENAL confirmed the appointment of Andrea Berta as the club's new sporting director on Sunday.

The 53-year-old Italian, who spent 12 years with Atletico Madrid before leaving in January, succeeds the Gunners' former midfielder Edu in the role.

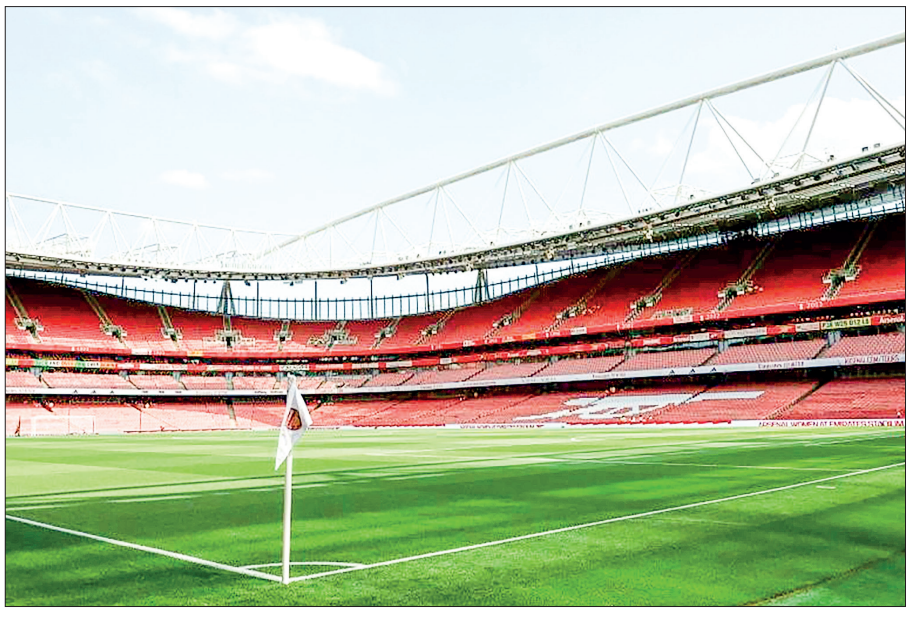
Edu left Arsenal in November to join Greek businessman Evangelos Marinakis' stable of clubs which include Nottingham Forest, Olympiakos and Rio Ave.

Berta, who has a background in banking, held roles with Italian sides Parma and Genoa before joining Spanish giants Atletico, initially as technical director, in 2013.

During his time with the club, Atletico won two La Liga titles, the Copa del Rey and Europa League, as well as the UEFA Super Cup.

Berta said: "I am delighted to be joining Arsenal in what is a hugely exciting period for the club.

"I have watched with great interest the way Arsenal has evolved in recent years and I have admired the hard work that has gone in to re-establishing the club as a major force in European football with a passionate following around the world. — AFP



Arsenal have appointed Andrea Berta as the club's new sporting director. **PHOTO: AFP**

US dominates figure skating worlds

AMERICAN star Ilia Malinin continued the dominance of the United States by winning the men's singles title at the 2025 ISU World Figure Skating Championships which concluded on Saturday in Boston.

Malinin claimed the gold with 318.56 points, followed by Kazakhstan's Mikhail Shaidorov and Japan's Yuma Kagiyama. Dai Dawei finished 18th with 221.20 to secure an Olympic berth for China in the men's singles.

Team USA stood out at this tournament, also a qualifier for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, with Malinin and returning women's champion Alysa Liu taking the singles titles and ice dancers Madison Chock/Evan Bates securing a historic third straight Worlds win. Japan's Riku Miura/Ryuichi Kihara topped the pairs' event. — Xinhua



Bayern Munich's Japanese defender Hiroki Ito has added to the Bundesliga leaders injury problems in defence. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ito injury adds to Bayern's defensive woes

BAYERN Munich's defensive injury crisis deepened on Sunday as the Bundesliga leaders announced Hiroki Ito had fractured his metatarsal for a second time this season.

The 25-year-old Japanese international broke the metatarsal in his right foot in Saturday's 3-2 win over St Pauli.

Bayern on Sunday said Ito had "suffered a recurrence of a fracture in his right metatarsal".

Ito, who joined from Stuttgart last summer, missed the first half of the season with the same injury, which required two operations.

Ito joins centre-back Dayot Upamecano and wing-back Alphonso Davies on the injured list, with the trio all expected to miss the remainder of the season.

Davies tore his ACL while on international duty with Canada while Upamecano is expected back in May at the earliest with a knee injury.

Bayern are also awaiting the return of captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who injured his calf in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 clash with Bayer Leverkusen. Neuer was set to return in March but his comeback has been delayed after a setback in his recovery. — AFP

US vaccine chief jumps ship citing RFK 'lies': media

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

WORLD



India's textile industry is poised for significant growth in 2025, driven by government support, modernization efforts, and rising global demand. The sector is expected to see a boost in exports, with projections indicating a market value of $350 billion by 2030.
PHOTO: A REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/SWARAJYA

India, US hold trade talks; to work towards negotiating first tranche of FTA

The talks focused on promoting growth that ensures fairness, national security, and job creation, with both sides agreeing on next steps for the BTA.

INDIA and the United States held trade talks in New Delhi as part of efforts to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025.

Representatives of India's Department of Commerce and the Office of the US Trade Representative held meeting in the national capital for four days beginning 26 March as a follow up to the two countries agreeing to expand bilateral trade to reach USD$ 500 billion by 2030, including through the conclusion of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

A Commerce and Industry Ministry release said that in order to realize the shared objective of promoting growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation, both sides have through four-days of discussions in New Delhi broadly come to an understanding on the next steps towards a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), with the goal to finalize its first tranche by fall 2025.

Sectoral expert level engagements under the BTA will start virtually in the coming weeks and pave the path for an early negotiating round in person.

"During these discussions the two sides also had a productive exchange of views on deepening bilateral cooperation in priority areas including increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers and deepening supply chain integration in a mutually beneficial manner," the release said. — ANI

Acceptance of Proposal

Hamas agrees to Egyptian proposal for hostage release, ceasefire

HAMAS has accepted a new proposal put forward by Egypt to release five hostages, including American-Israeli Edan Alexander, in exchange for a renewed ceasefire, CNN reported, citing a Hamas source statement.

The Egyptian proposal is similar to one presented earlier by US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff. However, it is unclear whether this new proposal also includes the release of additional bodies of deceased hostages.

In exchange for the release of the five hostages, Hamas expects a return to phase 1 ceasefire conditions, including the entry of humanitarian aid, as well as an agreement to negotiate the second phase of the ceasefire, the source said.

Israel responded to the Egyptian offer with a counter-proposal, according to a statement from the Israeli Prime Minister's office.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conducted a series of consultations yesterday, following a proposal received from the mediators. In recent hours, Israel transferred its counter proposal to the mediators, in full coordination with the United States," the office said.

According to Israeli media reports, the initiative would allow for a truce in Gaza in exchange for releasing five Israeli captives. – ANI

Zelensky cornered by US resource deal

A new US agreement on resource extraction revenues in Ukraine has put Volodymyr Zelensky in a tough spot, offering a choice of becoming a vassal state or risking losing US support, a French newspaper writes.

According to the publication, initially the US demanded $500 billion, but the latest proposal leaves the total sum to be calculated later. The deal also covers all infrastructure projects and offers no security guarantees.

The agreement grants US control over half of Ukraine's oil, gas, metals, and infrastructure through a joint investment fund, with three members appointed by Washington. The US would receive all profits until Ukraine repays $100 billion with four per cent interest, after which Ukraine gets 50 per cent of the profits. The fund will be registered in Delaware, but operate under New York jurisdiction, with the US gaining veto power over resource sales and the ability to inspect Ukrainian agency accounts. — SPUTNIK



Ukraine is rich in natural resources, including significant deposits of coal, natural gas, and various minerals. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**