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

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SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 6th BIMSTEC Summit

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing reaffirmed Myanmar's longstanding position, asserting that the term 'Rohingya' does not correspond to any officially recognized ethnic group in the country's historical records.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand at the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing participated in the BIMSTEC Summit at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok of Thailand yesterday morning.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Admiral Moe Aung and senior officials.

Rotating Chair of BIMSTEC Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Paetongtarm Shinawatra welcomed Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Heads of government from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka individually and had documentary photos taken with them.

The BIMSTEC Rotating Chair Thai Prime Minister delivered an opening address. During the speech, they all observed a one-minute moment of silence for the victims of the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28 March.

Next, Heads of Government from BIMSTEC Member States delivered speeches.

In his speech, the Senior General said that he recognized the leadership of the BIMSTEC Rotating Chair Thailand for drafting the BIMSTEC's Bangkok Vision 2030 to be approved by the summit.

It is important to promote trade and investment development in building a prosperous BIMSTEC. Although they all signed the Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2004, the establishment of the FTA is still a long way off. Establishing the FTA would help reduce trade barriers and facilitate smoother trade in goods and services, which would significantly contribute to the economic development of member countries. Therefore, to fully benefit from the FTA, we must accelerate the negotiations and conclusion of its related agreements.

Furthermore, to facilitate trade transactions and reduce dependency on foreign currencies, it is necessary to explore and

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Post-Exam Review of the 2025 Myanmar Grade 12 English Paper

By Min Zan

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MoI buildings in Nay Pyi Taw inspected for structural damage

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Myanmar residents thank Vietnamese rescue team

NATIONAL

Youth Success: Discipline and Lawfulness as Foundations for Nation-Building

- Youths must adhere to discipline and laws to achieve success in their lives.
- By following the laws and regulations set by the government, they can become valuable, law-abiding citizens dedicated to serving the nation.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing returns from 6th BIMSTEC Summit

THE Myanmar high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Wing 6 of Don Mueang Airport by a special plane at 9 pm Thai Standard Time after attending the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit held in Thailand. They were seen off at the airport by Thai Minister of Labour Mr Phiphat Ratchakitprakan, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Zaw Zaw Soe and officials.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport at 10 pm yesterday. The Senior General was welcomed back by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Council Secretary, council members, Union ministers, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump and officials.

Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Admiral Moe Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, and military and civilian officials who accompanied the Senior General also arrived back on the same flight.

During the trip, the Senior General attended the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit, holding meetings with Heads of Government from the BIMSTEC Member States and talking about the situations based on the impacts of the powerful earthquake Myanmar faces, and the potential for cooperation with the international community in effectively carrying out rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures, and friendly relations. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump during his arrival back from Thailand yesterday.

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Sai Tun Nyo, Director-General of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs as Director-General of the Minister's Office of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

ERRATUM

PLEASE read "... Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump ..." in place of "... Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Suphtra Srimaitreephithak ..." in the first-page news of The Global New Light of Myanmar dated 4 April 2025. Errors are deeply regretted. — Editor.

Young artists' Yangon Exhibit supports earthquake relief efforts

A painting exhibition featuring the artwork of primary and middle school students from Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, opened yesterday at the Myanmar Traditional Artists Association (Central) Gallery in Bogyoke Market, Yangon.

The opening ceremony began with U Thit Lwin Soe, Chairman of the association, and U Htay Aung, the Secretary, cutting the ribbon to officially launch the gallery and the exhibition. They then viewed the displayed paintings.

The exhibition showcases 93 Myanmar cultural paintings created with watercolours and acrylics by nine young artists from Mawlamyinegyun Township. The artworks are priced between K100,000 and K300,000 each. Notably, the students will donate all earnings from the sale of their paintings to earthquake relief efforts. The exhibition will remain open to the public until 6 April. — ASH/MKKS

Attentive visitors engage with the displayed artworks at the exhibition.

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)

Myanmar's PM reaffirms holding election in coming December

Myanmar and Indian Prime Ministers will promote cooperation in peace and stability in the border region.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Indian Prime Minister Mr Shri Narendra Modi meet while attending the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in Thailand to attend the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit held a meeting with Prime Minister of India Mr Shri Narendra Modi at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Indian Prime Minister said that he, along with the people of India, is deeply saddened by the losses and damage caused by the severe earthquake in Myanmar. India too has experienced the impact of such a devastating earthquake in the State of Gujarat in the past. India will continue to provide the necessary assistance to Myanmar. At this BIMSTEC Summit, he will also be discussing matters related to natural disasters in depth. He is also pleased to have the opportunity to meet with Your Excellency once again.

In his response, the Senior General said that he expressed his deep gratitude to Your Excellency and the people of India for the assistance extended in response to the severe earthquake that recently struck his country, causing significant damage and losses. He would also like to seek experiences from India related to the destruction caused by the earthquake and the efforts towards reconstruction. Furthermore, he is pleased to learn that Your Excellency will be broadly discussing matters related to natural disasters at the BIMSTEC Summit.

They frankly exchanged views on the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, emphasis placed on peace and stability as well as the prosperity of Myanmar and sovereignty of Myanmar, potential for cooperation in peace and stability of border region, and eradication of trafficking in person and armed struggling, ongoing process of Myanmar on the path of multiparty democracy, and preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democracy general election in coming December.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Admiral Moe Aung, and senior officers. The Indian Prime Minister was accompanied by officials of the Indian Government.

After the meeting, they cordially greeted the attendees. — MNA/TTA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds meeting with BIMSTEC Secretary-General

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Thailand held a meeting with Secretary-General of BIMSTEC Mr Indra Mani Pandey at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on the efforts of Myanmar in successfully holding the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, the active participation of Myanmar in BMISTEC, the successful hosting of the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit and the accomplishment in the agriculture and food security sector of BIMSTEC led by Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and senior officials. The BIMSTEC Secretary-General was accompanied by officials.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the BIMSTEC Secretary-General exchanged gifts. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the gift to the BIMSTEC Secretary-General.

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 6th BIMSTEC Summit

FROM PAGE 1

develop digital cross-border payment systems and regional currencies that can be used for trade. Currently, to enhance the speed and efficiency of payment processes in border trade operations, Myanmar has implemented direct payments using the Baht-Kyat for trade with Thailand, and Rupee-Kyat direct payments for trade with India.

The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project will greatly enhance regional connectivity. Myanmar welcomes the signing of the maritime transport cooperation agreement, which is expected to promote regional maritime connectivity, trade, and investment in port infrastructure.

Energy cooperation is another important pillar for regional prosperity. By prioritizing the BIMSTEC power grid interconnection project, energy resources can be shared and utilized efficiently, which in turn can help reduce costs.

As the leading country in the BIMSTEC agriculture and food security sector, Myanmar has taken the initiative to draft both the BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation Action Plan (2023-2027) and the BIMSTEC Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation Action Plan. Myanmar urges all member states to effectively implement these action plans in order to address regional food security challenges.

Therefore, the BIMSTEC member countries would like to invite investments in agriculture- and livestock-based industries within their own countries. They also wish to express their gratitude to India for providing BIMSTEC agricultural scholarships to member countries at appropriate opportunities.

Due to a recent powerful earthquake centred in Myanmar, some neighbouring countries were also affected. As a result of the earthquake, up to the present time, there have been 3,301 deaths, 4,792 injuries, and 221 people reported missing. In facing and addressing the challenges posed by natural disasters, it is necessary to enhance regional cooperation.

It is necessary to cooperate in combatting the growing telecom frauds, especially at both the regional and international levels. Myanmar is actively cooperating with neighbouring countries in efforts to eliminate online fraud. Concerning online scam operations, victims of human trafficking are being repatriated to their respective countries. Since such scams can seriously harm the interests of the public, our member countries must maintain continuous and long-term collaboration in fighting online fraud. Myanmar is pleased to share that it successfully hosted the 4th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Meeting from 24 to 26 July 2024.

To portray a transparent and clear image of BIMSTEC, all member states must enhance people-to-people engagement based on our shared history, culture, social, and economic connections. However, it is also essential to have a clear understanding of the historical background of Myanmar's Rakhine region. There has never been an ethnic group known as "Rohingya" in the history of Myanmar. During the British colonial period, people from the Bengal region were brought in by the British colonialists to work in the agricultural sector. Therefore, those who migrated from the Bengal region are referred to as Bengalis. This is supported by solid historical evidence.

The tourism industry plays a vital role in promoting mutual understanding among the people and in building bridges of relationships. By promoting a sustainable tourism sector, all can leverage their region's rich cultural heritage while also creating new economic opportunities for local communities. In doing so, it is important to recognize that countries like Nepal and Bhutan, being landlocked, may face transportation-related challenges, and thus, greater collaboration and cooperation are needed to address these opportunities effectively.

The BIMSTEC Secretary-General presented a report on the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit. Then, the summit approved the joint declaration of the 19th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the minutes of the 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting, conducted a review and approval for the BIMSTEC's Bangkok Vision 2030 and approved the report of Eminent Persons' Group and the 6th BIMSTEC Declaration.

The Rotating Chair of BIMSTEC Thai Prime Minister handed over the chairmanship duties to the Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh who gave a speech. The summit concluded with the concluding remarks of the Thai Prime Minister. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, Thailand to strengthen ties in economy, agriculture, defence, and more

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in Thailand to attend the 6th BIMSTEC Summit met Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Paetongtarm Shinawatra at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the BIMSTEC Rotating Chair Prime Minister of Thailand said that due to the severe earthquake that struck Myanmar, she and her people are deeply saddened by the damage and losses suffered. Thailand will continue to assist in rehabilitation efforts and the provision of medical aid. To better understand the needs on the ground, the Foreign Minister of her country, together with the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, will be visiting Myanmar shortly. Her country remains committed to continuing its support and assistance to Myanmar as needed.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Thai Prime Minister Ms Paetongtarm Shinawatra yesterday.

The Senior General said that he is pleased with Thailand and expresses deep gratitude and appreciation to Her Excellency and the people of Thailand who have extended their condolences and provided necessary assistance regarding the damage caused by the recent severe earthquake in the country. It has been confirmed that Bangkok, Thailand, was also affected by the disaster. He is saddened to learn that Myanmar nationals were among those injured in the incident. He also welcomes and is thankful for the intention of the Foreign Ministers of Thailand and Malaysia to visit and assess the necessary support that can be provided.

Afterwards, they cordially exchanged views on the promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand, the potential for cooperation in ensuring peace and stability in the border region, eradicating illegal trade, narcotic drugs and arms smuggling, cooperation in combatting activities of telecom fraud and online gambling, raising public awareness to minimize transboundary haze pollution and dissemination of agricultural techniques, and further promotion of cooperation in economic, agriculture and livestock, defence and other sectors.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Admiral Moe Aung, and senior officers. The BIMSTEC Rotating Chair Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by officials of the Thai government.

After the meeting, they exchanged commemorative gifts. — MNA/TTA

Electricity maintenance in Nay Pyi Taw reaches 75% completion

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the maintenance work on quake-affected power grids and substations in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 3 April.

The Admiral and Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun proceeded to 33/11 kV sub-power station No 8 in Ottarathiri Township and observed the maintenance works on transformers, power grids and power plants, and arrangements to supply electricity as quickly as possible.

SAC Member Deputy PM Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San views round the maintenance work on earthquake-stricken power grids and substations.

The Admiral and party then inspected the quake-affected power distribution lines and instructed the officials to complete the repairs in time.

After the completion of maintenance on these sub-power stations and power grids, electricity can be distributed to the Ministry of Defence, Office of the Union Attorney-General, Union Election Commission Office, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Orthopaedic Hospital, Eye Hospital and Maternity Hospital.

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, Bhutan further enhance friendly relations

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Thailand held talks with Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr Tshering Tobgay at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok this afternoon.

At the talks, the Prime Minister of Bhutan said that regarding the losses and damages caused by the severe earthquake in Myanmar, His Majesty the King is deeply saddened. His country has already dispatched rescue and relief teams to Myanmar and is currently assisting. Bhutan will continue to provide the necessary support for Myanmar.

SAC Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Bhutanese Premier Mr Tshering Tobgay yesterday.

The Senior General responded that he was deeply grateful to learn of the goodwill and kind intentions held by His Majesty and the people of Bhutan towards Myanmar. Although it has now been six days since the powerful earthquake struck Myanmar, there are still successful rescues of survivors as of yesterday. He also sincerely thanks the Kingdom of Bhutan for its assistance and involvement in Myanmar's rescue and relief efforts.

They also cordially discussed cooperation in the health and education sectors between the two countries, the exchange of cultures, the promotion of cooperation in other potential sectors, and further enhancements of friendly relations between the two countries.

Also, present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Admiral Moe Aung and senior officials. The Bhutanese Prime Minister was accompanied by officials from the Bhutanese government.

After the meeting, they exchanged commemorative gifts. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talks with Sri Lankan PM

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Thailand held talks with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok yesterday afternoon.

At the talks, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister conveyed the message of the President of Sri Lanka, saying that the President expressed his deep sorrow over the significant damage and losses caused by the recent powerful earthquake in Myanmar. On behalf of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister said Sri Lanka is extending its support in various ways to assist Myanmar in its rescue and recovery efforts.

The Senior General said that the two countries have a strong and friendly relationship with good cooperation. He is grateful for the assistance Sri Lanka provided during this time, when a severe earthquake caused damage in Myanmar, particularly for the support extended in the rescue and relief operations.

They cordially discussed the promotion of cooperation in economic, defence, education and science and technology sectors, and efforts to enhance friendship between the two countries.

Also, present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe and Admiral Moe Aung and senior officials. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister was accompanied by officials from the Sri Lankan government.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya yesterday.

After the talks, the Senior General and the Sri Lankan Prime Minister exchanged commemorative gifts. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

State leaders, religious heads send messages of condolences to SAC Chair PM

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

Due to the powerful earthquake, which caused extensive damage, loss of life, and numerous injuries, Samdach Preah Abhisiri Sugandhāmahāsangharājāh Dhipati Kitti Uddessa Pandita Bour Kry, the Great Supreme Patriarch of Dhammayuttikanikaya of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Governor of Saint-Petersburg Mr Alexander Beglov of the Russian Federation have each sent condolence letters to Chairman of the National Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, expressing their deep sympathy.

These messages stated that due to the recent earthquake, which caused fatalities and extensive damage, they expressed their condolences. Members of the Sangha in Cambodia stand together with the surviving families, government officials involved in the rescue efforts, the monastic communities across Myanmar, and all those affected by the earthquake. They understand the suffering of the people of Myanmar and wish for them to overcome this difficult time with resilience. They pray that the survivors may rebuild their lives with unity and peace. May the victims find comfort through the compassion and love of the Buddha, and may they recover swiftly. They are deeply saddened by the loss of lives and extensive destruction. They extend their condolences to the affected families and pray for the swift recovery of those in need. They wish that all involved in the rescue efforts have the strength and determination to overcome the consequences of the natural disaster. — MNA/TTA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Chairman of the State Administration Council
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dear Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

It is with profound sadness that I, Samdach Preah Abhisiri Sugandhāmahāsangharājāh Dhipati Kitti Uddessa Pandita Bour Kry, the Great Supreme Patriarch of Dhammayuttikanikaya of the Kingdom of Cambodia, extend my deepest condolences for the devastating loss of life and widespread destruction caused by the recent earthquake.

During this period of profound suffering, our hearts, and the hearts of the Sangha in Cambodia, extend to the families who have lost loved ones, the governments involved in the relief efforts, the monastic community throughout Myanmar, and all those impacted by this devastating event. We share in your grief and offer our earnest prayers for the strength and resilience of the Myanmar people. We pray that the souls of those lost in this disaster find peace and that those who remain may find the resilience to rebuild their lives and communities in a peaceful and harmonious manner.

May the teachings of compassion and loving-kindness provide solace and guide the recovery efforts. We earnestly hope that the spirit of unity and cooperation will prevail, enabling the swift restoration of the affected communities.

May all beings find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

With Metta,

Samdach Preah Abhisiri Sugandhāmahāsangharājāh
Dhipati Kitti Uddessa Pandita Bour Kry
The Great Supreme Patriarch
of Dhammayuttikanikaya of
the Kingdom of Cambodia
31 March 2025

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Chairman of the State Administration Council
Prime Minister
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of Saint Petersburg and the residents of our city, allow me to express my condolences to you and the entire Myanmar people for the human lives lost in the powerful earthquake.

We are deeply saddened by the news of casualties and significant destruction.

Saint Petersburg mourns together with the residents of Mandalay and other regions who have lost their loved ones.

Please convey words of sincere sympathy to the families of the victims.

I wish a swift recovery to all victims.

I wish strength and courage to the authorities and rescuers who are working to eliminate the consequences of the disaster.

Mr Alexander Beglov
Governor of Saint Petersburg
The Russian Federation

DMC holds earthquake disaster coordination meeting

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and officials inspect water, fire safety and other services in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Disaster Management Centre (DMC) held its 2/2025 meeting, chaired by the National Disaster Management Committee's Vice-Chairs. The meeting covered the aftermath of the 28 March earthquake, which led to 78 aftershocks. A total of 653 people were reportedly rescued, with 640 bodies recovered. Search and rescue operations continue under a Level 5 status.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung who is also Vice-Chair of the National Disaster Management Committee emphasized the urgency of quickly relocating affected individuals to temporary shelters before the rain and outlined plans for evaluating building damages in three levels. Temporary shelters like Assembled Board Houses (ABH) will be used. He stressed the need for immediate inspections of government offices, hospitals, and staff housing and efficient distribution of international aid.

Following the meeting, officials visited temporary shelters and conducted checks on water, fire safety and other essential services at five sports grounds in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZL

Electricity maintenance in Nay Pyi Taw reaches 75% completion

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After the powerful earthquake, the maintenance works on the power grid and main power plants that supply electricity to Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing regions were conducted by 134 skilled staff starting on 29 March, and the electricity was transmitted to National Grid on 30 March.

The power distribution lines and main power plants in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were repaired by 560 skilled staff from Yangon, Bago and Magway regions in addition to Nay Pyi Taw. The maintenance works in Mandalay Region were done by 690 skilled staff from Ayeyawady Region, Kayin State and Mon State in addition to Mandalay Region, while the maintenance in Sagaing by 80 skilled staff, totalling 1,330.

The maintenance work was completed 75 per cent in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 58.38 per cent in Mandalay Region and 20 per cent in Sagaing Region. — MNA/KTZH

OPINION

Monitor climate change in untimely conditions

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology recently issued a weather warning that since April and May are summer months, daytime temperatures will gradually rise, potentially leading to cloud formation. As these clouds move, strong winds may occur, accompanied by sudden downpours, thunderstorms, lightning strikes, hails, and scattered heavy rainfall.

According to forecasts on 3 April, it is expected the meeting of warm winds from the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea with cool winds moving down from the high-pressure area over China. Hence, scattered to widespread rain is likely in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states from tonight until 5 April 5 2025, isolated to scattered rain is expected in various regions and states from 6 to 11 April 2025, and Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states may experience widespread rain during this period.

As such, if scattered or widespread rains occur, people may experience untimely rains, so it is necessary to keep humans, cattle and harvested crops under shelter. Therefore, the department advised the public to pay special attention to the untimely rainfall accompanied with Strong wind, thunder, lightning and hails that occur during the summer and to take precautions in advance for domestic air travel and maritime journeys.

> Moreover, during untimely rainfall and strong winds, if ageing trees and buildings collapse or become damaged, necessary precautions must be taken in advance to prevent casualties. Therefore, to stay safe in emergencies, it is essential to strictly follow the guidelines issued by the relevant authorities and organizations. Relevant departments must closely monitor the situation and provide timely and accurate updates to the public. Only through the responsible actions of both authorities and citizens can the risks and dangers that threaten lives and property be minimized.

Moreover, if there is intermittent rainfall between areas, the public needs to be aware of health precautions to cope with temperature imbalances caused by climate change. Due to unexpected rainfall, sudden heatwaves, diarrhoea, and dengue fever may occur, so preventive measures should be taken in advance. So, people need to follow tips on health activities for daily life as part of preparations to prevent the potential of natural disasters.

Moreover, during untimely rainfall and strong winds, if ageing trees and buildings collapse or become damaged, necessary precautions must be taken in advance to prevent casualties. Therefore, to stay safe in emergencies, it is essential to strictly follow the guidelines issued by the relevant authorities and organizations. Relevant departments must closely monitor the situation and provide timely and accurate updates to the public. Only through the responsible actions of both authorities and citizens can the risks and dangers that threaten lives and property be minimized.

Myanmar has suffered severe impacts from a powerful earthquake. Therefore, people should follow relevant health guidelines and safety measures issued by the appropriate ministries and organizations to protect lives and property in future disasters. It is crucial to learn from past incidents to overcome challenges through unity and collective strength.

ARTICLE

Post-Exam Review of the 2025 Myanmar Grade 12 English Paper

By Min Zan

THE recent Myanmar Grade 12 English examination has sparked widespread discussion among students, teachers, and educators alike. Many students found certain questions particularly challenging, leading to frustration and concern. This review aims to analyze the structure and content of the exam, evaluate its alignment with the current curriculum, and discuss the implications of its difficulty level on students and teachers.

Challenges Faced by Students

One of the most pressing concerns raised by students was the complexity of the questions, which required not only a thorough understanding of the English language but also the ability to apply critical and creative thinking skills. While the newly introduced curriculum emphasizes these cognitive abilities, many students struggled due to the traditional rote-learning methods still prevalent in classrooms.

Moreover, the integration of all four language skills – reading, writing, listening, and speaking – posed an additional challenge. The examination required students to demonstrate comprehensive linguistic proficiency, which is difficult for those who have been trained mainly in memorization-based learning rather than practical language use.

Difficulties in Question 1 and 2 and Possible Solutions

Question 1: The first question required students to engage in detailed reading comprehension, analyzing a passage critically and answering inference-based questions. Many students struggled due to the complexity of the text and the necessity of drawing conclusions rather than finding direct answers from the passage. The reliance on memorization made it difficult for students to think beyond surface-level understanding.

Solution: To improve performance in similar questions, students should practise reading diverse texts, including newspapers, journals, and literary works. Teachers should emphasize active reading strategies such as summarizing, questioning, and predicting outcomes to develop deeper comprehension skills.

Question 2: This section involved grammar and vocabulary usage in context. The challenge lay in applying grammatical rules flexibly rather than recalling them in isolated exercises. Many students were unfamiliar with contextual usage and word families, making it difficult to answer accurately.

Solution: A strong foundation in grammar through real-world application is necessary. Instead of relying solely on grammar drills, students should engage in writing exercises that incorporate grammatical structures naturally. Teachers can also integrate interactive learning methods like role-playing and sentence construction activities to enhance practical grammar usage.

Challenges in Question 3 and Recommendations

Question 3: It requires students to change the sentence *"Zaw Zaw asked Mya Mya why she had not come to their Soon-kyway the day before."* into direct speech. The observation that this year's students struggled with this question suggests potential gaps in preparation or understanding. Below is an analysis of how teachers and students can address this issue.

From the teachers' perspective, the difficulty may stem from insufficient focus on transforming reported speech into direct speech in the classroom. To improve, teachers should incorporate more explicit instruction on this grammatical structure, emphasizing the shift in tense, pronouns, and time expressions (e.g., "the day before" becoming "yesterday" in the direct speech). Practical exercises, such as converting a variety of reported speech sentences into direct speech, could reinforce this skill. Additionally, teachers could use role-playing activities where students practise asking and answering questions directly, making the concept more relatable and engaging. Regular feedback on practice tests would also help identify and correct recurring mistakes early.

From the students' side, the challenge might reflect a lack of familiarity with the rules or inadequate practice. Students should actively review the differences between reported and direct speech, paying attention to examples like the expected answer here: Zaw Zaw said to Mya Mya, "*Why didn't you come to our Soon-kyway yesterday?*" They can prepare by working through past exam papers or creating their own sentences to convert, self-checking against grammar resources. Group study sessions could also be beneficial, allowing peers to quiz each other on similar transformations. Finally, students should seek clarification from teachers whenever they encounter difficulties, ensuring they build confidence in this area.

In addition, teachers need to enhance instructional strategies with targeted lessons and practice, while students should take responsibility for reviewing and applying the rules consistently. Collaborative efforts between both sides can ensure better performance on such questions in the future.

Challenges in Question 4 and Memorization-Based Learning

Question 4: This question primarily assessed students' ability to recall and apply memorized information, making it relatively easier for those who relied on rote learning techniques. Unlike other sections that did not demand critical thinking, this question rewarded students who had committed textbook content to memory.

File photo shows matric students undergoing examinations in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: GNLM/FILE**

While this might have been beneficial to some students, it also raises concerns about whether the examination truly evaluates language proficiency. The ability to memorize information does not necessarily equate to effective communication skills. A balanced assessment should integrate both knowledge recall and practical application.

Solution: In future assessments, questions should be designed to ensure that memorization alone is not sufficient for success. Educators should shift towards teaching methodologies that encourage comprehension, discussion, and practical language use. Students should also be encouraged to engage with diverse materials beyond their textbooks to enhance their overall language proficiency.

Reading Comprehension: Seen versus Unseen Texts

Question 5: This reading comprehension section was based on a seen passage, meaning students had previously studied it. However, despite their familiarity with the text, many struggled with the detailed comprehension questions, which required deeper analysis and interpretation. This suggests that the rote memorization of texts is not an effective approach to understanding and answering comprehension-based questions.

Solution: Teachers should emphasize analytical reading strategies, encouraging students to understand the meaning of passages rather than just memorizing them. Incorporating discussion-based lessons, where students analyze themes, ideas, and authorial intent, would improve their comprehension skills.

Question 6: Unlike Question 5, this section involved an unseen passage, making it significantly harder for students unfamiliar with reading unfamiliar texts. Many students found it difficult to process new vocabulary and grasp the meaning of the passage within the given time.

Solution: To better prepare for unseen passages, students should engage in regular reading practice using a variety of texts, including **articles, essays, and stories**. Teachers should provide comprehension exercises that simulate real exam conditions, training students to extract key information efficiently. Encouraging students to read independently outside of school will also strengthen their ability to handle unfamiliar texts.

Challenges in Question 7: Dialogue-Based Section

Question 7: This section focused on dialogue writing, which required students to demonstrate speaking and listening skills. However, most Grade 12 students struggled with this because they had little to no exposure to speaking practice in school. The lack of proper speaking and listening facilities in many schools meant that students were unprepared for this type of question.

Another major issue was that students were unfamiliar with constructing natural dialogues. Without regular speaking practice, they found it difficult to create realistic conversations with appropriate tone, grammar, and flow. Additionally, students who lacked confidence in spoken English were hesitant to attempt the question, leading to incomplete or ineffective responses.

Solution: To bridge this gap, schools should prioritize speaking and listening activities in the curriculum. Teachers should conduct role-playing exercises, debates, and conversational practice sessions to help students build confidence in their spoken English. Additionally, schools should invest in audio-visual tools that provide interactive listening exercises to improve comprehension and response skills.

Moreover, teachers should introduce students to different conversational structures through guided practice. Incorporating real-life scenarios into classroom activities, such as ordering food, making phone calls, or discussing current events, can help students develop practical dialogue skills. Regular peer discussions and group activities will also improve their ability to construct meaningful dialogues.

Challenges in Questions No 8 & 9: Letter Writing and Essay Writing Difficulties

Another major difficulty students encountered was in the letter writing and essay writing sections. These tasks required them to engage with real-world scenarios and express their thoughts in a structured and coherent manner. Unlike previous examinations that often followed predictable patterns, this year's test presented topics that required contextual understanding and up-to-date knowledge.

For instance, essay titles reflected contemporary issues, which favoured students with broader exposure to general knowledge and global affairs. Students who relied solely on school textbooks without additional reading materials or practice found these sections particularly difficult.

For the above difficulties, here's an expanded evaluation and suggestions:

Suitability for Students: The questions should be designed to reflect everyday scenarios and topics that students encounter in their lives. For instance, letter-writing topics could include composing an email to a customer service team about a delivery issue or writing to a friend about a recent community event. These practical applications of English will prepare students better for real-life situations.

Teaching Approach: Teachers need to adapt their methods to make writing exercises engaging and relatable. This could involve:

- Conducting interactive sessions where students write letters or essays collaboratively.
- Assigning activities like writing diary entries, opinion pieces on current events, or crafting fictional stories.
- Organizing peer review sessions, where students can evaluate and provide constructive feedback to one

Assessment and Scoring: The assessment criteria should reward creativity, originality, and the effective use of language alongside grammar and structure. Offering clear rubrics can ensure transparency and fairness in scoring, making students more confident in their abilities.

Future-Oriented Questions: To reduce stress, question options should cater to varying levels of difficulty. For essay writing, topics should include a mix of current global issues, such as climate change or the use of AI in education, and universally relatable themes, like the importance of kindness or cultural traditions.

Encouraging Broader Participation: Schools can host workshops and competitions that train students to tackle such questions more effectively. Exposure to a diverse range of topics and writing styles can broaden their perspectives and improve their skills.

Implications for Teachers and Future Examinations

Given the challenges observed in this year's exam, educators may need to reconsider their teaching approaches. A shift towards interactive and discussion-based learning methods could better equip students for exams that require higher-order thinking skills.

Furthermore, teachers should encourage students to read widely beyond their textbooks, engage in critical discussions, and practise writing responses to diverse topics. Schools should also incorporate more listening and speaking activities to develop well-rounded language skills.

The 2025 Myanmar Grade 12 English examination has highlighted significant gaps between the educational system's aspirations and actual classroom practices. While the intention behind the exam aligns with global educational standards, students have struggled due to the persistence of outdated teaching methodologies. To bridge this gap, educators must adopt more student-centred teaching strategies, and students should be encouraged to develop independent learning habits. Only through these efforts can future exams become a fair and effective measure of English proficiency in Myanmar.

■

NATIONAL

MoTC restores quake-hit roads, communications

DUE to a powerful earthquake that occurred on 28 March, two major airports -Nay Pyi Taw International Airport and Mandalay International Airport, roads, and railway sections, suffered collapse and damage, and the transportation and communication services were affected to a certain extent. The Ministry of Transport and Communications conducted maintenance with proper manpower, reserve materials and effective supplies.

In the rail transport sector, the Myanma Railways repaired 60 rail tracks and 11 railway bridges on the Yangon-Mandalay railway. On 3 April, the trail section using one mail train coach and four cargo coaches was conducted on the Bago-Toungoo section and Nay Pyi Taw-Thazi section. On 4 April, three coaches of down train operated to Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw and Toungoo railway stations, the uptrain from Toungoo, Nay Pyi Taw and Tatkon stations to Mandalay for trial.

Starting from 5 April, No 7 uptrain DEMU will leave from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm, while the No 8 down DEMU train will from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon at 12:30 pm, No 28 down express train from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw at 6 am, No 27 up express train from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay at 1:30 pm, No 11 up train from Yangon to Mandalay at 5 am, and No 12 down train from Mandalay to Yangon at 5 pm. The tickets are sold at the railway stations and ticket counters in advance.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo is pictured during his inspection tours in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the aviation sector, the runway of Mandalay International Airport was repaired, and the rescue flights were allowed to resume operations starting on 2 April while the domestic flights were on 4 April. Therefore, the domestic airlines operated 12 flights yesterday. Similarly, the control tower and aviation communication system infrastructure of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport were repaired, and they were reopened for rescue flights starting on 29 March. The Union minister, deputy ministers and relevant officials inspected the facilities at the airport on 4 April, and the domestic flights will resume operations starting from 5 April.

In the waterway transport sector, the arch beams of Sagaing Bridge (Inwa) on the old Mandalay-Sagaing Road collapsed and transport was suspended temporarily. Meanwhile, the Inland Water Transport-owned ferries and private vessels transport the trucks and rescue machinery free between Mandalay (Shwekyatyet) jetty and Sagaing jetty. From 31 March to 3 April, they transported 869 passengers, 461 trucks and machinery, 222 vehicles and 12 motorcycles.

In the communication sector, 6,730 mobile communication stations in quake-affected areas were destroyed and the communication failed. Due to the timely maintenance, 4,500 stations are now in good condition. Moreover, the temporary mobile communication poles were arranged in key places in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Mandalay Region. Free on-net mobile calls and SMS services were provided from 29 March to 10 April.

Therefore, the Ministry of Transport and Communications exerts efforts to restore the road, waterway, aviation and communication services to normal operations as soon as possible. — Ministry of Transport and Communications

MoI buildings in Nay Pyi Taw inspected for structural damage

A team of construction experts, led by U Kyaw Myo Han, the Structure Design Engineer of the KMH Generation Structural Design Group, conducted inspections of Ministry buildings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to assess damage and structural integrity.

The team thoroughly examined the main hall on the ground floor of the Ministry of Information buildings. This included the offices of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Accounts Department, the Ministry's library, and the Union Minister's meeting room and office on the third floor. They also inspected the offices of the Deputy Minister, Secretary, and Deputy Secretary, among others, evaluating each room to determine the extent of any damage.

Construction experts conduct structural accessments of the Ministry of Information buildings following recent damage.

Since 1 April, two teams of experts from the KMH Generation Structural Design Group have inspected over 30 buildings within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. These inspections have covered a range of structures, including hotels, Ministry offices, and residences. The teams have been assessing the condition of each building, noting whether they are in good condition or require renovation. Inspections of the remaining buildings are ongoing. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar Earthquake: Rescue operations intensify as death toll reaches 3,354

THE powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March severely affected six regions and states. As of 4 April, the disaster has claimed the lives of 3,354 people, with 4,850 injured and 220 still missing.

Rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade and both local and international organizations have been carrying out search and rescue operations in the hardest-hit areas. So far, they have successfully rescued 653 survivors trapped under debris and recovered the bodies of 656 deceased victims.

Local and international donors are also providing monetary assistance and relief supplies to those affected. On 4 April, five aircraft from five countries arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport delivering a total of 128.589 tonnes of aid materials.

Efforts are underway to ensure that these supplies reach victims as quickly as possible. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Chinese rescue team donates essentials to Myanmar quake victims

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn receives the donation from the CITIC Myanmar.

A Chinese rescue team from Yunnan Province donated blankets and mosquito net to the Ministry of Information's earthquake-affected staff.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received the donation, expressing gratitude for the support. The donation was made in response to the 28 March earthquake, which caused significant damage in six regions of Myanmar.

The CITIC Myanmar also donated five temporary shelters for six families, handed over to Deputy Minister U Ye Tint. In the afternoon, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Deputy Minister U Ye Tint visited the affected staff and distributed essential items, including solar-powered lamps for fire safety.

Channel 8 Myanmar Holding Co Ltd and other donors also provided 15 types of goods, including mattresses, clean water and food supplies. — MNA/KZL

GEA Turkiye and GAF aid 120 quake-hit families in Nay Pyi Taw

Aid from the GEA Search and Rescue Turkiye and the GAF reconnaissance team being distributed to quake victims.

GEA Search and Rescue Turkiye and the GAF reconnaissance team visited No 9 Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to assist government staff displaced by the recent earthquake. They provided family kits to 120 households taking temporary shelter at the school.

Across Nay Pyi Taw, donors and charity groups are also supporting affected communities by delivering tarpaulin tents, food items, drinking water, emergency cash, clothing, electrolyte beverages, mosquito repellent, mosquito nets, candles, matches, medicine and essential supplies to temporary shelters. — MNA/KZL

Nay Pyi Taw roads, bridges undergoing repairs

DUE to the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March, several roads and bridges in various townships within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were damaged.

To ensure smooth transportation for the public, the Asia World Foundation is currently carrying out repair works using heavy machinery.

Regarding the repair activities, an official from Asia World Foundation said, "We are now repairing roads in Nay Pyi Taw that were damaged by the earthquake. One of the ongoing works is the road between the MICC II and the Thukha Tawwin housing complex. The road, which is 720 feet long and 48 feet wide had collapsed, so we are now removing the concrete debris and refilling it with soil. We have been working on this road for four days now and expect to complete the repairs today. In addition to this road, we are also repairing the road in front of the National Museum, the road beside the high-end market and the road near Gate 3 of the Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground".

Repair works are carried out with dump trucks, excavators, dozers, graders, road rollers, and water bowsers, as well as manpower and machinery. The Ministry of Construction is also providing the necessary technical support for the efforts. — MNA/KZL

EU triggers emergency aid corridor for Myanmar

THE German Embassy in Myanmar has announced the launch of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) to establish a humanitarian connection between Europe and Myanmar.

The embassy statement said that Germany is actively working with experienced international partners to provide the necessary assistance to the victims on the ground following the earthquake in Myanmar on 28 March, and will continue to provide additional assistance as the situation evolves.

The European Union provided an initial €2.5 million in emergency aid and activated the Copernicus EU Earth Observation tool to assess the damage and monitor the ongoing crisis.

Germany, the largest contributor to the European Union's humanitarian system, supports international humanitarian organizations such as the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF), the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), and UNOCHA.

Through these contributions, Germany will ensure that essential relief supplies, such as medical care, shelters, food and clean water, reach those most in need of relief following the earthquake. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Global rescue teams reach Nay Pyi Taw for quake response

Photos capture global rescue teams arriving in Myanmar with critical relief supplies to earthquake-stricken areas and survivors.

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

Yesterday saw the arrival of doctors and medical personnel from Singapore and Bhutan, along with humanitarian relief supplies from Laos, China, and Indonesia.

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

Rescue, healthcare efforts underway in Nay Pyi Taw earthquake areas

FOLLOWING the strong earthquake and aftershocks on 28 March, various infrastructures including roads and buildings collapsed, leading to casualties and injuries.

Search and rescue efforts are ongoing in the earthquake-affected townships of Nay Pyi Taw, with international and local teams aiding the victims.

Rescue teams from Vietnam and the UAE are working together with Myanmar's special search and rescue teams at the Ottarathiri Private Specialist Hospital in Ottarathiri Township. Likewise, teams from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Singapore are assisting local teams at Jade City Hotel in Zabuthiri Township. They are helping recover bodies for transfer to relevant hospitals and providing medical care for the injured.

Humanitarian support is also flowing in from the public and charitable organizations, providing food, clean water, emergency funds, clothing and medical supplies. The government is organizing temporary shelters, emergency water vehicles and other relief efforts to support the victims. International rescue teams are continuing to coordinate with local teams to provide aid and medical services to the affected communities. — MNA/KZL

Rescue workers struggling in the S&R mission.

Singapore delivers aid to Myanmar's earthquake victims

HUMANITARIAN aid supplies from Singapore have arrived in Yangon to support victims affected by the recent powerful earthquake in Myanmar. Cargo planes carrying relief supplies landed at Yangon yesterday morning in three separate arrivals.

The aid included tarpaulin tents, medical supplies, and general household items, weighing 46,374 kilogrammes. Upon arrival at Yangon International Airport, Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Chan Yuen Ying Vanessa Elisabeth, along with relevant officials and President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, Professor Dr Myo Nyunt welcomed the shipment.

Troops, staff from the Yangon City Development Committee and freight workers coordinated the unloading and transfer of the supplies onto designated vehicles. These materials are now arranged for further transportation to the regions hit hardest by the earthquake. — MNA/KZL

The Vietnamese search and rescue team pushes through extreme conditions in life-saving operations.

Myanmar residents thank Vietnamese rescue team

LOCALS praise and thank the efforts of the Vietnamese rescue team in helping Myanmar quake victims.

A very strong earthquake on 28 March and subsequent aftershocks in Myanmar caused damage to roads, bridges, buildings and some casualties.

In response to this disaster, local and international search and rescue teams have been working in real-time. The Vietnamese team, along with doctors, nurses, search and rescue dogs, support vehicles and equipment, began activities in houses in Zabuthiri Township on 31 March.

"Their team seemed to be doing their job with dedication and determination beyond being just dutiful. It may also be due to the ability of their media personnel. They are well-organized and have a full sense of team spirit," praised a local.

"To find trapped persons, the dog and its master ran first and planted red flags in the places indicated by the dog. The next team checked more carefully with handheld radars. If it was certain that there was someone in that area, the next team started to dig and breakthrough. They carefully recorded the valuables found returned them to their owners, and encouraged the grieving families of the deceased. Seeing these scenes, we can't help praising them, " he added.

The Vietnamese rescue team from the Ministry of National Defence and Public Security consisting of 106 members arrived in Myanmar on 30 March. — Htun Htun/ZN

Pacific nations perplexed, worried by Trump tariffs

PACIFIC island nations hit hardest by US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs are querying the "unfair" impost, and they are fearful of the impact.

The United States has punished Fiji, Vanuatu and tiny Nauru for running trade surpluses with the economic superpower, slapping them with duties far above its new 10-percent baseline.

Besides squeezing their finances, analysts say the US levies are making Pacific countries wary of their historic ally, which has already cut humanitarian aid programmes.

"It's just another reason to have less trust in the US, stacked on top of the US aid freeze," said Blake Johnson, senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute think tank.

It also creates opportunities for China to expand its ties from aid to trade, he said, as Beijing vies with the United States and its allies for influence in the geographically strategic region.

Among the Pacific countries' biggest sellers in the United States are the traditional narcotic kava drink, and spring water under the brand Fiji Water — owned by Los Angeles-based The Wonderful Company. — AFP

The 22 per cent tariffs on Vanuatu are expected to impact exports and hurt kava farmers. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Nissan drops US output cut plan to avoid Trump tariffs

Nissan Motor Co has scrapped its plan to scale back production at a US plant, maintaining output for the time being in response to President Donald Trump's higher tariffs on car imports, a company official said Friday.

The Japanese automaker had planned to reduce output from April at its Smyrna plant in Tennessee, which produces the Rogue crossover utility vehicle.

Trump, who has unleashed a series of aggressive tariff measures since returning to the White House on 20 January began imposing an additional levy on all automobiles produced outside the United States on Thursday.

As part of the struggling automaker's streamlining efforts, Nissan has moved pickup truck production outsourced to French automaker Renault SA's plant in Argentina to its own factory in Mexico to reduce costs, the official said. – Kyodo

HMEL crosses landmark milestone of 2 million tonne Polymer sales during FY25

The company completed a $3 billion expansion in petrochemicals, increasing polypropylene capacity to 1 million tonnes per annum and polyethylene capacity to 1.2 million tonnes per annum.

OIL refining and petrochemical company HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL) said in a statement on Friday that it achieved a two million tonne polymer sale during the just-concluded financial year 2024-25, surpassing its own expectations.

HMEL had undertaken a massive US$3billion expansion in the field of petrochemicals, increasing its polypropylene capacity to 1.0 million tonnes per annum and adding a polyethylene capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per annum, catering to the major application segments. This was the first full year of operations of the new plant featuring pioneering technologies from world-class licensors.

HMEL had undertaken a massive US$3billion expansion in the field of petrochemicals. **PHOTO: ANI**

"Reaching this milestone underscores our commitment to understanding and meeting our customers' unique needs", said Prabh Das, MD and CEO, HMEL. "This achievement reflects our ability to innovate and deliver value to our esteemed customers, while advancing safe, sustainable, and economical polymer solutions that reduce India's import dependency and support the Make in India initiative," Das added. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (185N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (185N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (564N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (564N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA RESTU VOY.NO. (KRSU0289E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RESTU VOY.NO. (KRSU0289E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (510W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (510W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE. LTD.

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
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Photo shows a courtroom at South Korea's Constitutional Court in Seoul on 4 April 2025, before a ruling that upheld parliament's impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol over his 3 December 2024, martial law declaration. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Yoon ousted as S Korea president by Constitutional Court

SOUTH Korea's Constitutional Court on Friday ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol, upholding a parliamentary motion to impeach him over his 3 December martial law declaration, which the judges deemed a denial of democracy in their unanimous ruling.

Yoon became the second South Korean president to be removed from office through impeachment, after Park Geun-hye in 2017. The judgment, delivered amid tight security around the courthouse in Seoul, had been closely awaited by both his opponents and supporters following the court's final hearing in February.

Yoon is the second South Korean president impeached, following Park Geun-hye in 2017.

An election to choose a new president must be held within 60 days. Yoon's five-year term was set to end in May 2027 and local media reported the election is expected to be held on 3 June.

The court currently has eight judges, with one seat vacant. The support of at least six was required to uphold the impeachment motion. In the ruling, which was broadcast live, the court's acting chief Moon Hyung Bae said, "The martial law (declaration) violated the substantive requirements" for an emergency decree.

"The situation at the parliament then cannot justify the exercise of power for an emergency," Moon said. — Kyodo

Rat earns world record for sniffing landmines in Cambodia

A landmine-hunting rat in Cambodia has set a new world record by sniffing out more than 100 mines and pieces of unexploded ordnance, a charity said Friday.

Ronin, a giant African pouched rat, has tracked down 109 landmines and 15 other potentially deadly war remnants since his deployment to northern Preah Vihear province in August 2021, the Belgian charity APOPO said in a statement.

Five-year-old Ronin has been named the most successful Mine Detection Rat (MDR) in the organization's history.

"His exceptional accomplishments have earned him the Guinness World Records title for most landmines detected by a rat, highlighting the critical role of HeroRats in humanitarian demining," APOPO said.

Ronin beat the previous record, held by hero rodent Magawa who found 71 landmines and 38 UXOs during his five-year service before retirement in 2021. — AFP

What the world said about Trump's tariffs

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced sweeping new tariffs on imports to the United States from countries right across the globe.

Here are international reactions so far from the world's major economies:

China

Beijing said it "firmly opposes" the new tariffs on its exports, and vowed "countermeasures to safeguard its own rights and interests".

Trump unveiled particularly stinging tariffs of 34 per cent on China, one of its largest trading partners, while a 10 per cent base tariff on all countries also applies. That comes on top of a 20 per cent rate imposed last month.

The tariffs "do not comply with international trade rules", China's Commerce Ministry said.

It urged Washington to "immediately cancel" them, warning they "endanger global economic development".

Japan

Trade minister Yoji Muto said the 24 per cent tariffs on Japanese exports to the United States were "extremely regrettable, and I have again strongly urged (Washington) not to apply them to Japan".

Japan's chief cabinet secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters the tariffs may contravene World Trade Organization rules and the pair's trade treaty.

India

Ajay Sahai, chief executive of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations told AFP the tariffs will "hurt demand" for its exports.

"The tariffs slapped on India are definitely both high and higher than expected," he said.

But he said competitor nations like China and Vietnam had been hit harder, which opened up space for India to gain a market share. — AFP

Economists say levies of between 10 per cent and 50 per cent have dramatically added to the risk of a worldwide downturn. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CONCEPT ART**

SPORTS

Kevin De Bruyne (right) is one of the greatest players in Premier League history, according to Pep Guardiola (left). **PHOTO: AFP**

'Unique' De Bruyne one of the greats, says Guardiola

PEP Guardiola said Kevin De Bruyne will be remembered as one of the greatest ever players in the Premier League after the Belgian announced he will leave Manchester City at the end of the season.

De Bruyne, 33, has been instrumental to City's rise as the dominant force in English football since joining from Wolfsburg for £55 million ($72 million) in 2015.

He has won 14 major trophies at the Etihad, including six Premier League titles and the Champions League in 2023.

De Bruyne has scored 106 goals and provided 174 assists in 413 appearances for City.

"He is one of the greatest midfielders ever to play in this country and for this club — there is no doubt," Guardiola said on Friday.

"We've won a lot of trophies and he's been involved in every single one." The City captain's influence has diminished in recent seasons due to injury problems. He missed five months last season due to a hamstring tear and has started just 21 of City's 47 matches in all competitions this season despite the struggles of Guardiola's side to match the standards they have set over the past decade.

But Guardiola hailed De Bruyne's consistency and durability during his peak years that allowed City to hoover up silverware. "For his consistency, except the last year, year-and-a-half, due to injury problems. The consistency in important games and not important games, every three days being there all the time," added Guardiola. — AFP

De Bruyne says he will leave Man City at end of season

MANCHESTER City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne confirmed on Friday that he will leave the club at the end of the season.

De Bruyne, 33, has won 14 major trophies since joining City from Wolfsburg in 2015, including six Premier League titles and the Champions League in 2023.

"Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes. That day is here - and you deserve to hear it from me first," De Bruyne said in a post on social media.

"Football led me to all of you - and to this city. Chasing my dream, not knowing this period would change my life. This City. This club. These people... gave me EVERYTHING. I had no choice but to give EVERYTHING back! And guess what - we won everything."

The Belgian international has been instrumental in City's rise to the dominant force in English football. — AFP

Kevin De Bruyne will leave Manchester City at the end of the season. **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool march towards title as Man City face Man Utd

LIVERPOOL can move closer to the Premier League title when the leaders face Fulham on Sunday.

Manchester City will look to bolster their bid to qualify for the Champions League against arch rivals Manchester United, while Southampton bid to stave off relegation.

Liverpool are moving closer to the Premier League title. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of the weekend's action:

Van Dijk issues Liverpool challenge

Virgil van Dijk has challenged Liverpool to out-work the teams that stand between the Reds and a record-equalling 20th English title.

Arne Slot's side had to dig deep to beat Everton 1-0 in a tetchy Merseyside derby at Anfield on Wednesday. — AFP

Trump hopeful of 'great' PGA-LIV golf merger

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Thursday he is optimistic of an eventual merger between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf following a new report of a stalemate in negotiations to reunify the game.

Speaking on Air Force One as he traveled to Florida ahead of this weekend's LIV Golf Miami event at Trump National Doral, the US leader said he believed a merger was inevitable.

"Ultimately, hopefully the two tours are going to merge," Trump told reporters. "That'll be good. I'm involved in that, too, but hopefully we're going to get the two tours to merge.

"You've got the PGA Tour, you've got the LIV tour. And I think having them merge would be a great thing."

Trump, a keen golfer, has hosted two rounds of recent talks at the White House between leaders of the PGA Tour and the Saudi Arabia-financed LIV as the sport attempts to move on from the enmity which erupted after LIV's entry in 2021.

PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said earlier this month that Trump's intervention in ongoing negotiations had "significantly bolstered" hopes of reunifying the sport. — AFP

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PM Modi reaffirms India's commitment to boosting cooperation in BIMSTEC region

Leaders observed a minute of silence for victims of the 28 March earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to boosting cooperation across diverse sectors in the BIMSTEC region on Friday.

Prime Minister Modi hoped that the efforts would make a positive difference in the member states of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).

In a post on X, he said, "With fellow BIMSTEC leaders at the Summit being held in Bangkok, Thailand. We reaffirm our commitment to boosting cooperation across diverse sectors. May our efforts bring a positive difference in people's lives."

Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh, also attended the 6th BIMSTEC summit.

The leaders also observed a minute of silence for the victims of the 28 March earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi held a meeting with the Senior General of Myanmar, Min Aung Hlaing, where they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed his condolences on the loss of lives and property in the wake of the earthquake on 28 March.

Prime Minister Modi and his Thailand counterpart Paetongtarn Shinawatra held bilateral talks on Thursday and discussed ways to strengthen further political exchanges, defence and security partnerships and strategic engagement between the two countries. — ANI

The theme of the Summit was - "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open". It reflected the priorities of the leaders and the aspirations of the peoples of the BIMSTEC region, as well as the efforts of BIMSTEC in ensuring shared growth in times of global uncertainties. **PHOTO: ANI**

THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD CITY

EU announces 'new era' in relations with Central Asia

THE EU announced a "new era" in ties with Central Asia on Friday at a major summit in Uzbekistan, as Brussels presses its influence in the region in the face of Russian and Chinese competition.

The presidents of the five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – are holding a summit with the EU's top leaders.

The meeting is in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand, for centuries a key hub in East-West connections, trade and commerce. Central Asia is rich in natural resources, on the front lines of climate change and a key security player trying to contain extremism, sharing borders with Afghanistan, Iran, China and Russia.

"This is the start of a new era in our ancient friendship," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told Central Asian leaders. – AFP

3-day test run for Osaka Expo kicks off ahead of 13 Apr opening

A test run for the 2025 world exposition in Osaka kicked off Friday, with stakeholders and selected local residents given the opportunity to experience some of the pavilions over three days.

Around 90,000 people are expected to participate in the soft opening through Sunday, as organizers aim to check operations and iron out any issues a week before the event officially opens to public on 13 April.

Due to delays in pavilion construction, only 19 of the 42 Type A pavilions being self-built by participating countries are set to be open during the test run, according to organizers. As of Thursday, 22 of such pavilions, considered a highlight of the expo, were certified by the organizers as completed. But Jun Takashina, deputy secretary general of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, told reporters Friday that no country has currently indicated it will be unable to open its pavilion in time for the official launch next week.

"Just because a country is not participating in the test run does not mean they are not preparing. Many countries are conducting their own independent training," Takashina said.

"(Through this test run) we want to identify any remaining issues and ensure everything is fully prepared for the real event," he added. — Kyodo

A three-day test run for the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka starts 4 April 2025 to assess venue operations. **PHOTO: KYODO**