

Second Quake Hits as Philippines Hunts for Survivors



Damaged St. Catherine church is seen following a 6.1 magnitude earthquake that also caused the collapse of a commercial building in Porac township, Pampanga province, north of Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

PORAC, Philippines (AP) - A new powerful earthquake hit the central Philippines on Tuesday, a day after a magnitude 6.1 quake rattled the country's north and left at least 16 people dead, including in a collapsed supermarket, where rescuers scrambled to find survivors.

The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude of Tuesday's quake at 6.4, while the local seismology agency said it was 6.5. The quake was centered near San Julian town in Eastern Samar province and prompted residents to dash out of houses and office workers to scamper to safety.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage from the

new quake.

Classes and office work were suspended in San Julian, where cracks on roads and small buildings and a church were reported. Power was deliberately cut as a precaution in the quake's aftermath, officials said.

Meanwhile, rescuers worked overnight to recover bodies in the rubble of a supermarket that crashed down in Monday's quake, which damaged other buildings and an airport in the northern Philippines.

The bodies of five victims were pulled from Chuzon Supermarket and seven other villagers died due to collapsed house walls in hard-hit Porac town in Pampanga province, north of Manila,

said Ricardo Jalad, who heads the government's disaster-response agency.

An Associated Press photographer saw seven people, including at least one dead, being pulled out by rescuers from the pile of concrete, twisted metal and wood overnight. Red Cross volunteers, army troops, police and villagers used four cranes, crow bars and sniffer dogs to look for the missing, some of whom were still yelling for help Monday night.

Authorities inserted a large orange tube into the rubble to blow in oxygen in the hope of helping people still pinned there to breathe. On Tuesday morning, rescuers pulled out a man alive, sparking cheers and applause.

"We're all very happy, many clapped their hands in relief because we're still finding survivors after several hours," Porac Councilor Maynard Lapid said by phone from the scene, adding that another victim was expected to be pulled out alive soon.

Jalad said at least 15 people died in Pampanga province, including those who perished in Porac town. The quake damaged houses, roads, bridges, Roman Catholic churches and an international airport terminal at Clark Freeport, a former American air base, in Pampanga. A state of calamity was declared in Porac to allow contingency funds to be released faster.

A child died in a landslide in nearby Zambales province, officials said.

At least 14 people remained missing in the rice-growing agricultural region, most of them in the rubble of the collapsed supermarket in Porac, while 81 others were injured, according to the government's disaster-response agency.

North Korea's Kim, Putin to Meet in Far East



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, will meet with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, right, in Vladivostok on April 24, 2019.

MOSCOW (AFP) - Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin will meet in Russia's Far East on Thursday, the Kremlin said, as the North Korean leader looks to rebuild ties with an old ally amid a standoff with the United States.

Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said the meeting -- the first between the two men -- would take place in the Pacific coast city of Vladivostok, before Putin heads to Beijing for another summit.

"The focus will be on a political and diplomatic solution to the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula," Ushakov told a briefing on Tuesday.

"Russia intends to help consolidate positive trends in every way," he said.

Anticipation for the summit had been building since the Kremlin announced last week the two men would meet by the end of April.

Russian and North Korean flags were already flying on lamp posts Tuesday on Vladivostok's Russky island, where the summit is expected to take place at a university campus.

Ushakov said the talks would begin one-on-one and then move into an "expanded format," without providing further details. He said no joint statement or signing of agreements was planned.

Russia's Ria Novosti news agency quoted sources in the country's rail service as saying a train carrying Kim was expected to arrive at Vladivostok

station at 6:00 pm local time (0800 GMT) on Wednesday.

Kim, who travels to international meetings on an armored train, was expected to cross into Russia at the border town of Khasan, news agency Interfax reported.

The talks follow repeated invitations from Putin since Kim last year embarked on a series of diplomatic overtures.

Since March 2018 the North Korean leader has held four meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, three with the South's Moon Jae-in, two with U.S. President Donald Trump and one with Vietnam's president.

Analysts say he is now looking for wider international support in his standoff with Washington.

At Kim's last summit with Trump in Hanoi in February, Pyongyang demanded immediate relief from sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

But the talks broke down over what North Korea was prepared to give up in return.

Last week Pyongyang launched a blistering attack on U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, demanding he be removed from the negotiations just hours after announcing it had carried out a new weapons test.

Moscow has called for the sanctions to be eased, while the U.S. has accused it of trying to help Pyongyang evade some of the measures -- accusations Russia denies.

China Unveils New Destroyer During Major Parade



Chinese President Xi Jinping reviews the honor guards of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy before boarding the destroyer Xining for the naval parade celebrating the 70th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy in Qingdao, Shandong province, China April 23, 2019.

QINGDAO, China (Reuters) - China showed off the first of its new generation of guided missile destroyers on Tuesday as President Xi Jinping reviewed a major naval parade through mist and rain to mark 70 years since the founding of China's navy.

Xi is overseeing a sweeping plan to refurbish the People's Liberation Army (PLA) by developing everything from stealth jets to aircraft carriers as China ramps up its presence in the disputed South China Sea and around self-ruled Taiwan, which has rattled nerves around the region and in Washington.

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After boarding the destroyer the Xining, which was only commissioned two years ago, Xi watched as a flotilla of Chinese and foreign ships sailed past, in waters off the eastern port city of Qingdao.

"Salute to you, comrades. Comrades, thanks for your hard work," Xi called out to the officers standing on deck as the ships sailed past, in images carried on state television.

"Hail to you, chairman," they replied. "Serve the people."

China's first domestically produced aircraft carrier, which is still unnamed and undergoing sea trials, was not present, though the carrier the Liaoning was, the report said.

The Liaoning, the country's first carrier, was bought second-hand from Ukraine in 1998 and refitted in China.

State television also showed pictures of the Nanchang at the review, the first of a new fleet of 10,000-tonne destroyers, though details of that and other ships were hard to determine from the footage, due to the intermittent thick mist and rain.

China had said it would also show new nuclear submarines, and state television did show submarines taking part in the display.

Singapore-based regional security expert Collin Koh said that based on the available evidence, the larger submarine on show was a modified version of China's existing Jin-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines -- a key part of its nuclear deterrent.

The navy has four Jin-class submarines, which are based in Hainan island in the south, and the Pentagon says it believes construction on a new generation of ballistic missile submarines will start in the 2020s.

China's last major naval parade was last year in the South China Sea, also overseen by Xi.

Tuesday's parade featured 32 Chinese vessels and 39 aircraft, as well as warships from 13 foreign countries including India, Japan, Vietnam and Australia.

A total of 61 countries have sent delegations to the event, which includes a naval symposium on Wednesday and Thursday.

Indians Vote in Largest Phase of General Election



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shows his ink-marked finger after casting his vote outside a polling station during the third phase of general election in Ahmedabad, India, April 23, 2019.

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Millions of Indians voted in the third and largest phase of a staggered general election on Tuesday, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi who cast his ballot in his home state of Gujarat and again underlined his focus on combating terrorism.

In all, 188 million Indians are eligible to vote in 117 constituencies on Tuesday, across 15 states and federally controlled territories. Voting in 303 parliament seats out of a total of 545 have been completed so far.

About 66 percent of those eligible had voted by the end of the day's voting, according to the interim figures from the election commission.

In Gujarat, Modi met his mother early in the morning and then rode in an open jeep past hundreds of onlookers to cast his vote shortly after 8 a.m. (0230 GMT)

"IED is a weapon of terrorism, and voter ID is a weapon of democracy," he told reporters after voting, referring to improvised explosive devices and voter identification cards.

"I believe the voter ID is much more powerful than an IED."

The general election, which has seven phases, began on April 11 and will end on May 19. Votes will be counted on May 23.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has aggressively pushed Modi's national security record as it seeks to deflect opposition accusations of economic mismanagement, inadequate job creation and widespread farm distress.

Violence flared in the eastern state of West Bengal and one Congress worker was killed and at least three people were injured, a state deputy chief election officer, Sanjay Bose, said.

A Congress spokesman said the worker had been killed in a clash with supporters of a regional party called the Trinamool Congress, which denied that assertion. The election commission said it was investigating.

In Kerala, leaders of three political parties complained about electronic voting machine (EVM) malfunctions, but an election commission official said glitches were not widespread and there were enough replacement machines.

On Monday, Modi addressed a rally in western Maharashtra state and mentioned the attacks on Sri Lankan hotels and churches on Easter Sunday that killed 321 people and wounded about 500. He said India's security had been enhanced after his government came to power in 2014.



LONDON (AP) - U.S. President Donald Trump will pay a three-day state visit to Britain as a guest of Queen Elizabeth II in June, Buckingham Palace announced Tuesday -- more than two years after Britain extended him an invitation for a pomp-filled ceremonial stay. The palace said Trump and his wife, Melania, had accepted an invitation from the queen for a visit that will take place June 3-5. Though many other American presidents have visited the monarch, only two -- George W. Bush and Barack Obama -- were honored with a state visit, which typically features ceremonial greetings, a horse-drawn carriage ride and banquet with the queen at Buckingham Palace. It's rare for a state visit to be announced just a few weeks before it takes place, but this one has been contentious ever since Prime Minister Theresa May invited Trump soon after his inauguration in January 2017. The trip has been deferred amid concerns about the president's reception in the UK and Britain's extended crisis over Brexit, which has consumed most of the government's political energy.

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) - Full preliminary results show TV comedian Volodymyr Zelensky won Ukraine's presidential election with 73% of the vote. The Ukrainian Central Election Commission on Tuesday published the full and final count of votes in Sunday's election which also showed incumbent Petro Poroshenko with only 24%. Zelensky, 41, is a political novice who is promising to build a "new country," free of graft and the old, corrupt political establishment. Zelensky's campaign was extremely vague, leaving pundits wondering how he is going to tackle thorny issues like the separatist movement in eastern Ukraine and relations with Russia which annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014.

TRIPOLI (Reuters) - Migrants in a detention facility in the Libyan capital Tripoli have reportedly been seriously wounded in a random shooting, the U.N. migration agency IOM said on Tuesday. IOM gave no more details of the incident which it said took place in a facility in Qasr Ben Ghashir, a southern suburb fought over by forces loyal to Libya's rival governments. IOM has been moving some migrants out of detention centers in Tripoli, which forces loyal to eastern commander Khalifa Haftar have been trying to take in a three-week offensive. But more than 3,000 migrants are still in detention centers there, among them women and children, IOM said in a tweet. Libya hosts more than 700,000 people who have fled their homelands, often trekking through desert in pursuit of their dream of crossing the sea to a better life in Europe.

LONDON (AFP) - Dissident republican group the New IRA on Tuesday took responsibility for killing Northern Irish journalist Lyra McKee last week as police said they had arrested a 57-year-old woman in connection with the shooting. The New IRA "offer our full and sincere apologies to the partner, family and friends of Lyra McKee for her death," it said in a statement to The Irish News. The newspaper said the paramilitary group used a recognized codeword -- an established method of communication during the decades of sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland known as "The Troubles". McKee, 29, was shot in the head on Thursday as dissident republicans clashed with police in the Creggan housing estate in Northern Ireland's second city Londonderry, also known as Derry. Police in Northern Ireland said on Tuesday that a 57-year-old woman had been arrested under the Terrorism Act in connection with the killing. Two men aged 18 and 19 who were arrested earlier in the investigation have been released without charge.

ALGIERS (Reuters) - Algeria's army chief said on Tuesday he welcomed an anti-graft drive against figures close to former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, state TV reported, a day after the authorities announced the arrest of five business tycoons. Bouteflika quit on April 2 after mass protests against his two-decade rule, in which protesters accused him of allowing widespread corruption in the Algerian political elite. Army Chief Ahmed Gaid Salah played a role in Bouteflika's resignation by calling for him to be removed from office, and has since called for a crackdown on corruption. On Monday state television reported the arrest of billionaire Issad Rebrab, chairman of the family-owned Cevital diversified conglomerate with big interests in sugar refining, ranked by Forbes as Algeria's richest man. Four brothers from the wealthy Kouninef family were also arrested.

NAYPYITAW (AFP) - Myanmar's Supreme Court rejected the latest appeal Tuesday by two Pulitzer-prize winning Reuters journalists who were jailed for seven years on charges linked to their reporting on the Rohingya crisis, as hopes now turn to a presidential pardon. Reporters Wa Lone, 33, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 29, have been behind bars since their arrest in December 2017 under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act. They were convicted of possessing classified documents relating to security operations in Rakhine during a brutal military crackdown against Rohingya Muslims that forced some 740,000 to flee over the border into Bangladesh. The initial ruling in September was upheld by the Yangon High Court in January. On Tuesday, the reporters were not at the Supreme Court in the capital Naypyitaw to hear the ruling that once again went against them.

Protest Leader: Sudan Seeks Removal of Whole Regime

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - A Sudanese woman who has come to symbolize for many the protests that have forced out former president Omar al-Bashir said her country's revolution was far from over and sought to remove what she called a regime of "murder and tyranny" in its entirety.

Alaa Salah rose to prominence after a video of her addressing protesters from a car roof at the beginning of April went viral. Women have played a prominent role in protests that began on Dec. 19, often forming a majority among demonstrators.

Sudan's military ousted Bashir on April 11 and formed a transitional military council to run the country

for up to two years before elections. Bashir and some other former senior officials have been jailed, and the military council has announced a series of anti-corruption measures, but protesters are pushing for faster, deeper change.

"Our demands are related to the removal of a corrupt regime from its roots... It destroyed Sudan. Corruption has spread (everywhere). A regime of murder and tyranny," Salah told Reuters in an interview.

"We are currently in the squares because Bashir is part of the regime, and our idea and goal is the fall of the regime as a whole," she said.

"We want a better Sudan, a democratic state, one that judges all in accordance with the law, without

favoritism."

"Our revolution is continuing until our demands are met."

Salah said that when she climbed on the car she was reciting a poem by Sudanese poet Azhari Mohamed Ali, entitled "The bullet doesn't kill. What kills is the silence of people."

"It is an inspirational poem," said Salah. "Its words are a very accurate description of the Sudanese street."

Salah has become known as a "kendaka", a name historically given to Nubian queens in ancient Sudan.

"The Nubian queen was brave, strong and wise," said Salah, who said her nickname should apply to all female protesters.

"All of those struggling in the street and all the squares are kendakas."