

“Ring of Fire” volcanoes remind Asia of seismic peril

By The Associated Press

The horseshoe-shaped string of active volcanoes bounding the Pacific Ocean has lived up to its “Ring of Fire” name in the past month, sparking mass evacuations in Indonesia and Vanuatu and now setting parts of southwestern Japan on edge. The 450 or so volcanoes that make up the “Ring of Fire” are an outline of where the massive Pacific Plate is grinding against other plates that form the Earth’s crust, creating a 25,000-mile-long zone prone to frequent earthquakes and eruptions.

Japan

The Shinmoedake volcano in southwestern Japan started erupting this month for the first time in about six years. According to Japanese broadcaster TBS, an ash plume rose 5,580 feet from the crater and ash fell on cities and towns in Miyazaki prefecture. Videos showed students wearing helmets and masks on their way to an elementary school at the foot of Shinmoedake.

The Japan Meteorological Agency is warning that hot ash and gas clouds known as pyroclastic flows could reach one mile from the crater. It raised the volcanic alert level from 2 to 3 on a scale of 5. Level 3 warns people to not approach the volcano.

Bali

More than 140,000 people fled Mount Agung on the Indonesian island of Bali after its alert status was raised to the highest level on September 22. Hundreds of tremors daily from the mountain indicate magma is rising inside it, prompting authorities to warn that a powerful eruption is possible.

The volcano spewed lava and deadly fast-moving clouds of boiling hot ash, gas,



and rocks when it last erupted in 1963, killing more than 1,100 people.

A new eruption is likely to kill fewer people because officials have imposed a large no-go zone around the crater, but it could paralyze tourism, which many

Balinese rely on for their livelihoods. Indonesia has more than one-tenth of the world’s active volcanoes and another two are currently erupting. Sinabung in northern Sumatra is shooting plumes of ash high into the atmosphere nearly daily

INCREASED ACTIVITY. Volcanic smoke rises from Shinmoedake volcano after an eruption on the border of Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures in southwestern Japan. The volcano erupted for the first time in six years and spread ash in nearby cities and towns. (Tomoaki Ito/Kyodo News via AP)

and Dukono in the Maluku island chain is also periodically erupting.

Vanuatu

The entire population of a Pacific island was evacuated in the space of a few days in late September and early October to escape the belching Manaro volcano.

The 11,000 residents of Ambae island were moved by every boat available to other islands in Vanuatu, a Pacific archipelago nation, where they’re living in schools, churches, and tents. Officials have since downgraded the volcano’s danger level but say the population must wait at least two more weeks to return.

The island’s water supply and crops have been affected by volcanic ash and acid rain, but most villages were spared major damage. Previous eruptions of the volcano have lasted a month to six weeks.

Wang, Khan among New York bridal week highlights

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sleeves and Chantilly appliqué.

“I feel it was a fashion statement for this season. The silhouettes and detailing of the dresses inferred a certain sense of scale and modern romance. Our clients create all sorts of weddings, but this collection was intended to create a sense of importance and celebration.”

Sometimes, Wang’s skill comes in the tiniest details. She put a fishnet pattern of lace over a floral lace for a little extra oomph on one gown.

Duterte losing favor amid drug killings, wealth allegations

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enforcers.

The drug killings recently came under renewed criticism after police shot to death a teenage student they said was a drug dealer who drew a gun while being arrested. Witnesses, however, said the student was shot to death in a dark alley while pleading for his life.

Duterte has also denied stashing

undeclared funds in joint bank accounts with family members, saying he would resign if the allegations were proven. He has refused, however, to heed a demand by opposition senator Antonio Trillanes IV for him to sign a waiver to allow investigators to examine the bank accounts.

SWS polled 1,500 adults nationwide in face-to-face interviews for the survey, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.



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