

Trump says the U.S. will help in Asia quake. A former official says the system is now in “shambles.”

By Ellen Knickmeyer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump last month said the U.S. would help with the response to Southeast Asia’s deadly earthquake.

But the effects of his administration’s deep cuts in foreign assistance through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the State Department are being tested in any response to the first big natural disaster of his second term.

Sarah Charles, a former senior USAID official who oversaw disaster-response teams and overall humanitarian work under the Biden administration, said the system was now “in shambles,” without the people or resources to move quickly to pull out survivors from collapsed buildings and otherwise save lives.

A powerful quake shook Myanmar and neighboring Thailand on March 28, killing at least 3,000 people and burying others under the rubble of high-rises.

Asked last month about the quake by reporters in Washington, Trump said: “We’re going to be helping. We’ve already alerted the people. Yeah, it’s terrible what happened.”

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Kabaddi World Cup held outside of Asia for the first time

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AP) — With acrobatics, skill, and guise, raiders chanting “kabaddi, kabaddi, kabaddi” were trying to elude defenders at the first Kabaddi World Cup held outside of Asia.

Men’s and women’s teams from nine countries took part in the tournament in central England.

Kabaddi has likely been played in one form or another for some 4,000 years. Two teams of seven players line up opposite each other on a small court. One team attacks and the other defends. While attacking, one player — the raider — enters the other team’s half and attempts to touch as many of the opposition players as possible, or cross a bonus line in the opposition half, before returning to his or her half, all the while chanting the word “kabaddi.”

The defending team tries to stop them by tackling the raider or pushing the raider out of the court after one of its players has been touched.

A raider can score points by successfully touching opposition players or crossing the bonus line and returning to their own team’s half. Defenders can also score points, but any who are tagged or touched must exit the court. They can be revived by teammates if their team subsequently pulls off a successful raid over the course of



KABADDI, KABADDI, KABADDI. Gurinder Singh, also known by his nickname “Judge,” of the USA, is tackled while making a raid into Scotland’s half during a quarterfinal match at the Kabaddi World Cup in Walsall, England. For the first time, the Kabaddi World Cup was held outside of Asia this year. Men’s and women’s teams from nine countries took part in the tournament in central England. (AP Photo/Jon Super)

the match. The team with the most points at the end of the match wins.

All the matches on March 28 took place in Walsall, where the University of Wolverhampton has a campus. Birmingham and Coventry also hosted matches, while the finals were staged in Wolverhampton.

Host nation England faced India in the men’s and women’s sold-out title deciders, with India taking home bragging rights in both competitions.

A mix of science and tradition helps restore relics in China’s Forbidden City

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entry was forbidden to most outsiders. It’s formally known as the Palace Museum.



Many of its treasures were hurriedly taken away during World War II to keep them from falling into the hands of the invading Japanese army. During a civil war that brought the Communist Party to power in 1949, the defeated Nationalists took many of the most prized pieces to

Taiwan, where they are now housed in the National Palace Museum.

Beijing’s Palace Museum has since rebuilt its collection.

Restoration techniques have also evolved, said Qu Feng, head of the museum’s Conservation Department, though the old ways remain the foundation of the work.

When we preserve an antique piece, we “protect the cultural values it carries,” Qu said. “And that is our ultimate goal.”

Associated Press video producer Olivia Zhang contributed to this report.



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