

# Indonesia tops Myanmar's rice import chart for FY2024-25

Indonesia dominates Myanmar's rice exports with over 605,000 tonnes, outpacing China and other major importers in the financial year 2024-2025.



Export rice bags being loaded onto an international merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

**I**NDONESIA is the leading importer of Myanmar's rice with over 605,000 tonnes in the previous financial year 2024-2025 (from 1 April to 31 March), according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). China is the second largest importer of Myanmar rice with over 516,000 tonnes, followed by 355,000 tonnes to Belgium, over 134,000 to the Philippines, 105,000 to Bangladesh, over 96,600 to Senegal, over 60,800 to Cote D'Ivoire, 57,200 to Poland, over 48,600 to Spain, over 44,200 to Mozambique, over 27,100 to Cameroon, 22,800 to the UK, 20,000 to the Netherlands, over 17,000 to Togo

and over 16,100 to Italy. Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports hit over 2.48 million tonnes in the last FY 2024-2025, with an estimated value of \$1.129 billion, statistics of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) showed. The federation aimed to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in FY 2024-2025. The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve monthly export targets and beyond, depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries

from the respective companies. The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. It was projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-

2024 and to generate earnings of one billion dollars. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million. The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed. Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

**NATIONAL** **PAGE 5**



Zaycho Market, Mann Myanmar Plaza cleared safe and reopen post-quake inspections

**NATIONAL** **PAGE 7**



Weather cuts Mon's salt production this year

# KBZ Foundation launches K45B earthquake relief centre in Mandalay

SEE PAGE 6



A general view of the KBZ Centre Mandalay, which is under construction.



NATIONAL

Empowering Youth: Nurturing Future Leaders for National Integrity and Prestige

- The youth who will serve the State are its future leaders.
- It is essential to systematically nurture young people to instil good morale and a strong national spirit, enhancing the State's prestige and preserving national integrity.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title offered to Presiding Nun Daw Sudhammavati (Thameechit) from Nepal

THE State Administration Council offered religious titles to relevant recipients under Notification 1/2025 on 4 January.

On behalf of the government, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Myo Myint Maung offered the Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title to Presiding Nun of Dham Kirti Vihar, Nun Daw Sudhammavati (Thameechit) in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

The Myanmar ambassador explained the purpose of offering the title, while the Member of the Parliament of Nepal gave remarks.

The ambassador, on behalf of the Myanmar government, offered the Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title to Nun Daw Sudhammavati.

The Presiding Nun delivered a commemorative Dhamma discourse and donated NPR2.5 million and US\$1,000 to Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara for the rehabilitation of quake-affected Sitagu International Buddhist Acad-



Myanmar Ambassador U Myo Myint Maung offers the title to Daw Sudhumavati yesterday.

emy in Sagaing and other religious buildings through the Ambassador. All congregations led by the Presiding Nun prayed for the people of Myanmar who lost their lives in the Mandalay Earthquake. Well-wishers and families from the

Myanmar Embassy donated alms to the Presiding Nun.

The ceremony was attended by MPs of Nepal, embassy staff and families, members of the Vihara Board of Trustees, town elders and Buddhists from Nepal, totalling some 200.

The Presiding Nun is 92 now. The Myanmar government conferred the Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title on the Presiding Nun in 1992, the Nepali government, the Jnanmala Ratnavata Sirpaa title in 1995 and the Lumbini Buddhist University from Nepal, a D Litt (Honoris Causa) in 2024. This year, the government of the State Administration Council conferred Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja on the Nun.

The Presiding Nun is actively participating in the missionary work of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar, Thailand, India, Japan, China, Cambodia, the United States of America and Sri Lanka. — MNA/TTA

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Office of the State Administration Council <a href="https://sacoffice.gov.mm">https://sacoffice.gov.mm</a>	
2. Ministry of Defence <a href="https://www.mod.gov.mm">https://www.mod.gov.mm</a>	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs <a href="https://www.mlis.gov.mm">https://www.mlis.gov.mm</a>
4. Ministry of Information <a href="https://www.moi.gov.mm">https://www.moi.gov.mm</a>	5. Myawady Webportal <a href="https://myawady.net.mm">https://myawady.net.mm</a>
6. Myanmar National Portal <a href="https://myanmar.gov.mm">https://myanmar.gov.mm</a>	

Visitor flow uninterrupted in PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi, and Kalaw



This photo reveals people visiting PyinOoLwin during Thingyan.

IN PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi and Kalaw, visitor arrival was large during the Thingyan holidays and hasn't stopped until now, according to tour operators.

Those who want to take a break avoided travelling in the Thingyan period, but they have just started their vacation after Thingyan, said a travel planner.

"These destinations were packed with many visitors during the Thingyan period. But some don't like travelling among

the crowd, so they start their vacation after Thingyan. That is why the visitor arrival hasn't stopped until now," he said.

A visitor who travelled to PyinOoLwin from Yangon during Thingyan said he thought the visitor arrival would decrease due to the earthquake. Still, the town was thronged with visitors as usual.

Visitor arrivals to beaches such as Ngwehsaung and Saleaintan, which are located within a short distance of Yangon and nearby resorts, also increased during Thingyan. As overseas trips, local visitors went to Thailand, Vietnam and Bodh Gaya. — MT/ZS

COVID-19 report, 21 April 2025

NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
1,059	NIL	NIL
Myanmar National Centre for Diseases Control Department of Public Health		



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)

DPM Union Minister at Prime Minister's Office visits temporary camps for staff families

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Electricity and Energy Development Commission Chairman Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday inspected repair work of the office of State Administration Council, and temporary settlement of staff and families from the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Prime Minister's Office damaged by the recent earthquake.

Officials reported the damage to the buildings in the earthquake and the ongoing process of repairing these buildings. The Admiral instructed officials to

emphasize worksite safety in repairing operations and to repair the buildings under the SOP.

At Thabyay-1 hostels, Admiral Tin Aung San and Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun inspected repairs of buildings and accommodation for staff families. They also viewed the installation of a transformer to electrify the temporary camp for staff families at Danatheikdi sports ground in Zabuthiri Township, the construction of the temporary camp by (uab) Foundation and the supply of food and water.

The Ministry of Electric Power has arranged electrification for nine temporary camps for staff families in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.



SAC Member, Deputy Prime Minister, Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects repair work in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A total of 560 electricians from Yangon, Bago and Magway regions have repaired power lines and power stations in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. So far, 99.7 per cent of the electricity supply resumes in Nay Pyi Taw, 99.98 per cent in Mandalay and

97 per cent in Sagaing.

The Admiral and Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin viewed round the temporary camp for staff families of the Ministry of Energy at Gems Emporium Hall in Dekkhinathiri Township and presented food-

stuffs to staff families.

The Admiral also looked into accommodation for staff families of the Ministry of the Prime Minister's Office in Dekkhinathiri Township, comforted them and presented relief supplies. — MNA/TTA

3,000+ tonnes of Thai cement land at Shweme Port

OVER 3,000 tonnes of cement from Thailand have reached Shweme Port in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region. The ship loaded with cement will dock at the Port every week.

Those cements are imported from the Ranong border, Thailand, to Myanmar by sea, with 1,500 tonnes each on 9 and 18 April. Then, they are distributed into the domestic market.

For resettlement activities in the Mandalay Earthquake-affected regions and construction business operations across the country in summer, ships loaded



Cement bags are seen being unloaded at the Shweme Port, Shwepyitha Township.

with cement will keep calling at the port to meet the domestic

demand of the construction businesses. — ASH/KK

Rescue and relief operations ongoing for earthquake-affected communities

UP until 21 April, a total of 3,757 people have been confirmed dead, 5,107 injured, and 116 reported missing across six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake which struck on 28 March.

Members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international search and rescue teams, have been working swiftly to carry out emergency response operations in the affected areas. To date, they have successfully rescued 653 survivors trapped under collapsed buildings and recovered the bodies of 765 deceased individuals.

Efforts are in progress to ensure that all relief supplies – both domestic and international – are promptly distributed to those in need. — MNA/MKKS



# NATIONAL

## Quake-hit areas receive rapid international aid, medical supplies

**T**HE earthquake that struck Mandalay on 28 March caused widespread damage across the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State, and Bago Region. In response, the government initiated urgent measures to assess the impact, conduct rescue and relief operations, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid from abroad.

Since the night of 29 March, international humanitarian assistance and medical supplies have been arriving at Yangon International Airport, Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, Mandalay International Airport, and the Yangon Thilawa Port.

Between 30 March and 20 April, aid from the AHA Centre, China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, Belarus, Laos, the Singapore Red Cross Society, Nepal, the UAE, Brunei, and Malaysia has been distributed promptly to the affected areas. These supplies include tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, generators, sleeping bags, food, essential goods, household items, electrical appliances, medicines, medical supplies,



From Thailand.

and surgical equipment.

Aid designated for the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was distributed according to the Council's relief plan. Supplies for civil servant families in Nay Pyi Taw were delivered under the relevant ministries' arrangements.

Fifty-two vehicles transported aid to Mandalay Region via Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, with additional items arriving directly at Mandalay (TadaU) International Airport and distributed under the Mandalay Region Government's plan.



Quake survivors receive international aid and medicines.

In Sagaing Region, 23 vehicles delivered aid, which is being distributed by the regional government, while seven vehicles transported supplies to southern Shan State, overseen by the Shan State Government. Medical and surgical supplies, including hospital equipment, have been transferred to the Ministry of Health for the treat-

ment of the injured.

The attached tables detail the distribution of foreign-donated aid to victims in Shan State (South), Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, and Nay Pyi Taw. Weekly updates will continue to report on the arrival of further international relief and its distribution to those affected by the earthquake. — MNA/MKKS



Relief items from Vietnam.



From the UAE.



From Laos.



From India.



From Belarus.



From the AHA Centre.



From China.



From the Russian Federation.



NATIONAL

Zaycho Market, Mann Myanmar Plaza cleared safe and reopen post-quake inspections

FOLLOWING structural inspections of the Mandalay Zaycho Market and Mann Myanmar Plaza after the recent earthquake, both buildings were found to be structurally sound, and shops have now reopened as usual, according to the responsible personnel of the Market Association.

“Starting from 21 April, the market will operate during its regular hours. The main building and the underground section were designed to be earthquake-resistant from the outset, so the structures remain strong and safe. Therefore, I would like to inform everyone that shops may now reopen,” said Chair-

man U Min Min of the Market Association.

The buildings of Mandalay Zaycho Market and Mann Myanmar Plaza were inspected by both local and international structural assessment teams on 4 and 7 April. The inspections confirmed the buildings’ integrity, which led to the decision to allow shops to reopen between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

“Experts have examined the structures and deemed them safe. As a result, we are permitting the market to reopen from 21 April. The Mandalay City Development Committee has also reviewed the buildings and



Officials, shopkeepers, and shoppers rejuvenate at Zaycho Market yesterday.

confirmed their safety, allowing operations to resume,” said U Soe Lin, Chairman of the Mann Myanmar (Zaycho Market) Plaza Association.

In response to the damage caused by the earthquake in Mandalay, the Mandalay City Development Committee – under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Government – has established a command office to coordinate recovery efforts. The committee is providing personnel and equipment to remove damaged structures while engineering teams continue to conduct safety inspections of affected buildings.

— Maung Aye Chan/MKKS

Tachilek seizure nets K1.18B+ in drugs, weapons, and ammo



Offenders are seen alongside confiscated items and vehicles.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, a combined task force consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force arrested four individuals — Nyikat (aka) Lawna, Aik Pleik, Sam Chin, and Seng Kham – at around 3:30 pm on 19 April. The

arrests took place on Bogyoke Road, in Weinkyauk Ward, Tachilek Township, as the suspects arrived to conduct a drug transaction. Authorities seized a total of 602,000 stimulant tablets, along with three vehicles: a Vigo, a Lexus, and a Crown.

Based on information obtained from the initial arrests, a further operation was carried out the same night at 11 pm at the residence of Hwayhti, a drug dealer in Yanaungmyay Ward, Tachilek. During the raid, authorities seized 2.45 kilogrammes of morphine blocks, 6 kilogrammes of “Ice” (methamphetamine), 28,000 stimulant tablets, 28.5 kilogrammes of raw opium, 100 kilogrammes of ketamine, and 18 sets of mould used in WY pill production. Additionally, three pistols, 728 rounds of various ammunition, and three more vehicles were confiscated.

In total, narcotics, firearms, and related equipment worth approximately K1.18 billion in local market value were seized. Legal action has been taken against the suspects under the relevant laws, and efforts are ongoing to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in the drug trafficking network. Authorities are also pursuing further legal measures under the Anti-Money Laundering Law to confiscate all assets and financial gains obtained through the illegal drug trade and transfer them to the public treasury. — MNA/MKKS

Illegal timbers, personal goods, vehicle seized

ACCORDING to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, combined teams seized 7.613 tonnes of illegal teak timbers, 9.139 tonnes of other timber and 6.05 tonnes of charcoal in Lewe, Pyinmana and Ottara districts in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 18 April.

Under the management of the Customs Department, combined squads impounded consumer goods approximate-

ly worth K7.344 million without any documents from a Higer Bus worth K60 million at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint on 21 April.

Action was taken against offenders for their illegal and smuggled goods under the Forest Law and Customs procedures. On 18 and 21 April, combined teams seized illegal goods approximately valued at K71.46 million in 11 cases. — MNA/TTA



Confiscated illegal commodities.

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

Inlay PhaungdawOo restoration set for completion ahead of festival



This photo reveals the damage to the Inlay PhaungdawOo Pagoda in the Mandalay earthquake.

THE square and main temple of the Inlay PhaungdawOo Pagoda, which was affected by the recent Mandalay earthquake, will be repaired before the upcoming Pagoda Festival, according to the Inlay Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The earthquake damaged several key structures, including the main temple, the pagoda square, the Kara-weik-shaped barge, and the buildings where it is docked.



As a result, pilgrimages to the site have been temporarily suspended.

Restoration efforts are underway, with experts and workers carrying out repairs using donations collected from across the country, intending to finish it in time for this year's PhaungdawOo Pagoda Festival. – ASH/MKKS

Myanmar film 'Crazy Love' to premiere in cinemas in early Mar

THE Myanmar romantic comedy “Crazy Love” is set to be screened in cinemas in early March. The story was written by Nya Latt Taw, with the screenplay adapted by Min Ko Soe (Natthankwin). The film is directed by Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo), who has dedicated significant effort to bringing the project to life under Power King Film Production.

The cast features several Academy Award-winning performers, including Kyaw Ye Aung, Soe Myat Thuzar, Shwe Htoo, and Chuu Lay, alongside Hngat Pyaw Kyaw, Cynthia, Daw Myat Myat San, and many other actors and actresses. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases the poster for the film 'Crazy Love'.

Seintalone mango prices surge locally

ACCORDING to fruit wholesale trading centres, Seintalone mango price has been better in the local market than that of the overseas market.

Due to the delay plus more transport charges along the route from Mandalay to Mong-la and the journey to Kun-ming-Mangshi-Ruili taking a day, mangos can't receive a good price, said the Khwanyo fruits wholesale trading centre.

And the price usually falls when two or three mango trucks arrive at the same time, they said.

“A mango basket price is between K50,000 and K60,000 in the local market, equivalent to 130-140 yuan in China (Tarlots), but it is not easy to get this price there. So, the domestic market has the advantage,” said the fruit wholesale centre.

Farmers have now hoped for the Wanton market if the production increases. Due to the long journey, two nights and three days, mangos are not durable, and the production has declined this year; and the local and foreign demand has also fallen. – MT/ZS



Seintalone mangoes are popular in the local market.

KBZ Foundation launches K45B earthquake relief centre in Mandalay

THE KBZ Foundation is currently constructing a long-term support centre called KBZ Centre Mandalay to assist people affected by the recent earthquake. The centre is designed to provide rescue and support services for a period ranging from at least one year to up to five years. According to reports, the foundation's chairman, U Aung Ko Win, has initially allocated K45 billion for the development of the centre.

KBZ Centre Mandalay will be equipped with a 24-hour call centre, an information and administration centre, medical and first aid points, doctor consultation rooms, meeting rooms, rest areas for doctors and nurses, ECG and ultrasound facilities, a blood collection room, a medication distribution room, and health education rooms. The centre aims to ensure uninterrupted access to clean water, electricity, food, and essential medicines for the public.

Additionally, the centre will include a minor surgery room, a



The Centre is under construction.

mental health treatment room, four specialist clinics, and seven general treatment rooms, enabling it to provide free medical care to around 700 patients per day. For daily needs, two free dining halls capable of serving meals to about 140 people at a time will be available, along with public bathrooms for up to 24 users simultaneously, free toilet facilities, and temporary gas cooking stations.

The site will also feature parking spaces for 80 vehicles,

designated areas for VIPs, emergency ambulances and motorbike parking. Construction is being carried out rapidly with the use of machinery and a large workforce to ensure swift completion.

It is worth noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the KBZ Foundation's Inya Centre became a trusted facility for patients and played a vital role in saving nearly 6,000 lives through treatment and care. — ASH/KNN



# Light rain boosts squid fishing as closed season ends

LIGHT rain made squid more active in the sea territory of Taninthayi Region, prompting Salon people to go hunt the squid even at night with their Kaban boats. Consequently, the squid fishing businesses thrive at the end of the closed season.

Salon people rely on squid fishing, collecting sea urchins underwater and harvesting barnacle/sea oysters for a living.

Squid catch is quite low in the hot season, yet light rain in post-Thingyan made them active in the seawater. So, the catch has increased.

Salon people mostly hunt squid seawater near Magyogayat village and Lampi Island with the use of Kaban boats. The residents use fake feed as bait to entice them into the bow net installed underwater. Up to two-kilogramme-size squid are even caught. Squid prefers cool weather, so the fishing goes



Photos depict Salon people venturing to sea for squid fishing – they rely on it for their living. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

well at that time.

Offshore squid fishing is normally run in the dry season. The trawlers with lights start leaving two days after the full moon. They return to the shore over three weeks later. Most of the squids are exported to China and Thailand after pro-

cessing with ice.

“The weather transitions from hot to cold have occurred in recent days. Light rain makes the fishing business beneficial. The squid fishing is normally from Thadingyut to Thingyan, and the closed season is during May for those

who come and fish from further areas. However, Salon people are mostly in the sea for living except for extreme weather conditions,” said U Tin Aung Moe, the administrator of Magyongalat village.

Offshore squid fishing runs from October to the first

week of May. During the late waning days before the new moon, the sea is crowded with the trawlers with light decorations like floating candles during the Thadingyut Festival. Salon people sell squid inshore for a living. — Thitsa (MNA)/KK

## Weather cuts Mon’s salt production this year

ALTHOUGH Mon State’s salt output has dropped this year due to weather conditions, salt producers said that the market and the price of salt are good.

Due to continuous rainfall since the pre-Thingyan period, salt fields will have to be harvested earlier than in previous years.

“The salt industry has to close early because of continuous rains since before Thingyan. Last year, the weather was good after one month of rain in April, but now it has been raining continuously. This is the season for salt production, but this year, the production and the close-down happen at the same time,” said a salt farmer.

Due to the weather conditions, the salt fields have to be closed early. Mon State produces around 30,000 tonnes of salt annually, but this year it can only produce about 15,000 tonnes, which is about half the production.

With decreased salt pro-



Salt stored due to heavy rain is seen in a warehouse.

duction and higher demand, the price of raw salt went up to K 500 per viss.

“This year’s salt production has decreased, so the price is good, and the market is good. People from Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi, and Myeik are buy-

ing. Since there is a shortage of supplies, sales are brisk, and the price is good,” he added.

Already high salt prices can be better than now during the period from this supply storage to next year’s new salt season, he said. — MT/ZN

## YSX stock trading hits K1.234B in Q1

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) hit over K1.234 billion in the first quarter (Jan-Mar), according to YSX’s notification.

The stock trading values were estimated at K247.3 million in March, 473.29 million in February and K513.6 million in January, respectively.

At present, shares of eight listed companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) — are traded in the securities market.

MTSH topped the Q1 trading on equity with K362.66 million, followed by FMI with stocks worth K344.78 million, FPB with K246.3 million, AMATA with K80.88 million, EFR with K79.125 million, MAEX with K75.133 million, TMX with K26.9 million and MCB with K18.47 million. — NN/KK

## Gold Market Rate as of 21 April 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,630,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



OPINION

Mother Earth: A call for gratitude and action

MOTHER Earth is the foundation of life for all living and non-living beings. Since time immemorial, humans have relied on the Earth for support, stability, and sustenance. Yet, few pause to express gratitude or consider how their actions impact the planet. While individuals benefit from Earth’s resources, their behaviours — whether intentional or not — often reflect ingratitude, particularly in how they treat the environment.

One of the most visible signs of this neglect is the careless disposal of waste. Pollution, especially plastic waste, continues to choke all oceans and poison ecosystems. Nature is clearly signalling distress — rising temperatures, frequent wildfires, destructive floods, and acidifying seas are all symptoms of human-induced climate change. These issues are further compounded by deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, land misuse, and illegal wildlife trade, all of which speed up environmental destruction.

The responsibility to protect Mother Earth lies with all of us. Through disciplined, environmentally conscious behaviour and participation in global restoration efforts, everybody can ensure the Earth’s durability for future generations. Now is the time to shift from reliance to responsibility, from consumption to conservation. Let’s stand together to heal and preserve the planet all living beings inhabit. They need to consider how to do a good deed in return for Mother Earth.

This International Mother Earth Day, the United Nations urges all global people to embrace a more sustainable way of living — one that benefits both people and the planet. The 2025 theme, “Our Power, Our Planet”, emphasizes the urgency of transitioning to renewable energy and tripling global clean energy production by 2030. It’s a rallying call for everyone to unite and take meaningful action.

The responsibility to protect Mother Earth lies with all of us. Through disciplined, environmentally conscious behaviour and participation in global restoration efforts, everybody can ensure the Earth’s durability for future generations. Now is the time to shift from reliance to responsibility, from consumption to conservation. Let’s stand together to heal and preserve the planet all living beings inhabit. They need to consider how to do a good deed in return for Mother Earth.

Although individuals may believe their personal actions do not contribute to global disasters, the truth is that all actions are interconnected. Every small act of environmental harm contributes to a larger pattern that affects the balance of life on Mother Earth. Natural disasters, which people of all countries have witnessed globally, are often intensified by this web of human influence. However, with collective effort, these challenges are not insurmountable.

Restoring and protecting ecosystems is now more crucial than ever. Healthy ecosystems are vital—they provide clean air, freshwater, and food, and help regulate the climate. They also support biodiversity and act as natural buffers against environmental shocks. By restoring damaged ecosystems, we can help combat climate change, alleviate poverty, and prevent species extinction.



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

Deadly danger of unlimited and undisciplined drinking

WHEN I was young, I learned about liquor’s misdeeds from my parents, elders, and from books I read. I accumulated general knowledge, including the disadvantages of alcohol, through these sources. As I thought more about liquor, a series of thoughts came to my mind, and I ended up writing down everything that came to me.

It’s not necessarily a good thing that young people no longer frequent bars these days. The places where alcohol is served, such as restaurants and hotels, are not just places where anyone can sit and drink; it’s something that even those with decent finances have to think about. It’s the kind of place that only those who have the money to spend go to. So what I want to say is that due to the rising cost of goods, people may start avoiding bars and pubs.

There are some good aspects. Since drinkers can’t sit at a bar or have become unable to, they have controlled the cost of meals. However, they do not taste meals while drinking liquor. Although they do not sit at the bars to drink, bars are now popping up everywhere like mushrooms, so people still drink at home. However, it’s undeniable that the cost of meals to be eaten in the sapping bar has reduced significantly. While I’m not referring to every drinker, in general, the

cost reduction for drinking has led many people to spend even more on alcohol. A good thing about the rising prices is that, when sitting at a bar, people tend to pay attention to their behaviour and become more careful not to cause trouble. So, they miss chances to commit quarrels. Bars are also less populated now, and it’s rare to find someone taking up a whole space along the route to their homes by themselves. People can only make noise at home, and they’re allowed to make only limited disturbances in the surrounding area.

Everybody knows alcohol is not good. No matter what people say, whether they quote any scriptures or say this or that, if you ask why alcohol is being produced, how would you answer? If someone asks why bars are being opened, questions will arise. If you talk about the beginning of things, like the first chicken egg or the hen, it won’t hurt anyone. But thinking about how alcohol, bars, liquor stores, and alcohol consumers could be discussed in a way that might affect or harm others, well... let’s just leave it at that.

From the beginning, I want to refer to the fact that young people drink alcohol, just like how it has been discussed before. I’ve encountered many alcohol users, but if we’re talking about my friend, there are those who drink while embracing life. Such

situations are common. However, because they are just similar experiences, I don’t feel like talking about them. Nevertheless, I can’t stay silent anymore, and I want to speak up. This is not a created story, but a heartfelt experience. I want to talk about a dear friend I had the pleasure of knowing and share this with you.

Once upon a time, there were three friends, including me. Although we met and became close when we were over 30, we built a fraternity among us deeply, with mutual understanding and affection. It was unbelievable for all that to the extent that, when one of us started to speak, we all knew what would be said and how it would end. When one person looked at another, we could understand why they were looking, and what they wanted to say, without needing any explanation. We were so close that we understood each other without words.

When the time came, everyone went to their separate places, but they still kept in touch with each other, either through phone or letters. Two of them were in Yangon, and a Yangonite was in Mandalay. Back then, whenever someone arrived in Mandalay, they would greet each other just like before, with a warm welcome. Likewise, whenever someone from Mandalay came to Yangon, the remaining two would always arrange to meet up.

Out of these three, the char-



PHOTO: FREEPIK

acter I’m about to talk about doesn’t even seem like someone who would drink alcohol, let alone be a heavy drinker. I think they would even walk down to the river and get called for it. They don’t seem to get drunk either. They can drink without even knowing how much they’ve had. Whether you call them a liquor lover, a drinker, an alcoholic, a heavy drinker, or even something more colourful, no matter how you ad-

dress them, they would still act the same. That’s why I almost want to call them the king of alcohol.

In Mandalay, one person drinks when they encounter it. If they don’t encounter it, they search for it to drink. If they can live, they just live. Drinking when they encounter it means they never bear the full cost with their own money. They drink with others’ money. Drinking with

NATURAL disasters, such as earthquakes, strike without warning, leaving behind devastation, loss, and trauma. Homes are destroyed, families are displaced, and lives are changed forever. In such difficult times, it becomes our moral respon-

sibility to stand together in compassion, unity, and action. Supporting earthquake-affected communities is not just an act of kindness, it is a duty of humanity.

When an earthquake occurs, the immediate needs are

clear: food, water, shelter, and medical care. But beyond the initial rescue and relief, long-term support is essential. Rebuilding homes, schools, hospitals, and communities takes time and resources. Survivors also need emotional healing and mental health support as they cope with the trauma and loss.

We may not all be able to go to the affected areas, but

we can help in many ways. Donating to trusted organizations, volunteering, spreading awareness, and advocating for disaster preparedness can all make a difference. Even small contributions, when multiplied by the efforts of many, can bring real hope and change.

Let us remember that those affected are not just statistics, they are people with dreams,

families, and futures. By extending our care and support, we show them that they are not alone. In their darkest hour, our compassion can be a light.

Together, we can help rebuild not just houses but lives. Let’s care, let’s support, and let’s stand in solidarity with all communities affected by earthquakes. A stronger, kinder world begins with us.

By Aung Kyaw Thant

others’ money has never been a burden, but his talk of boasting may be mounted like Mandalay Hill. Those who have fought with him over alcohol or beer have not only suffered but also had to pay the debts of their lifetime. At that time, his salary was at the scale of a deputy staff officer. Despite that, he still drank with others’ money.”

The other person is from Yangon. Until the age of thirty, he had never drunk alcohol, smoked cigarettes, chewed betel nuts, or had a romantic partner. He lived in a very disciplined way, but this kind of person tends to become an idiot in some way. This writer is someone who has written in their mind alone and thinks that no one else can match them. I am a civilian who has not yet married and works as a gazette officer, but his salary was not so low that you wouldn’t expect him to be able enough of himself. At that time, with the price of goods and the books he used, he was struggling to get by. He contributed his salary to his home and then asked for it back.

Among those three, the one with the best income is the alcohol king. He is a government employee and is also working a second job at a private business in the evenings, so he’s the busiest. However, when you look at him, he always seems to be in a dishevelled state. He’s constantly draining his money on alcohol. But no matter where you look,

he never lets go of his cigarette.

Since the time the three friends first met, it’s been about fifteen years. During this period, the “alcohol king” has risen to one rank in his job. He has become quite skilled in his work and is very good at speaking to the point where others can be overwhelmed by his words. His ability to judge people is also quite impressive. Although he doesn’t have a degree and is a heavy drinker, his superiors promoted him to a higher position, so he was content with his job. He no longer expected further promotions. His income was steady, and as long as he could drink properly, he was satisfied.

What I mean is that the king of alcohol’s friend passed away in 2019. It is known to be from a liver disease. Before he passed, he had completely deteriorated. It’s quite sad. Unfortunately, I couldn’t attend the funeral due to various reasons. Before he passed, I heard news about him from his colleagues. He was constantly drunk and no longer thought about anything. Alcohol took over him, and the king of alcohol no longer had control over his life, ultimately leading to a drastic change in his life.

The big friend passed away with age and alcohol, and while reflecting on that, I thought about how in the old days, people used to write at the bottom of letters, like legal texts, that they didn’t

want to publish. The wife of the big friend had already passed away for many years before the friend even passed. Now that she’s gone, only their little daughter remains in this world with a lack of chance to rely on her parents. The end of a family member is always saddening. But the friend just went where he needed to go. It’s nothing unusual. Just as he left in his own way, isn’t it true that those left behind will leave in their own ways too?

Currently, the two remaining friends have earned the positions they deserve in their respective professions and have reached their expected goals. However, it can be seen that the big friend with the nickname “the king of alcohol” may still be wandering in the circle of life dubbed the Samsara in Pali aimlessly. Since the big friend would be alone, feeling bored, he might tell the remaining two friends to quickly follow him, perhaps to places with many people. In the past, he was luckier than the other two, so he might be holding a cigarette in his hand, still enjoying the alcohol he likes, without caring about anything.

Whatever it may be, alcohol has been killing most of the drinkers since its emergence. My friend lost his life at a workable age. It is believable that alcohol will continue to separate the bonds and affection between friends.

■

ARTICLE



# SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

## Vietnam ups wind, solar targets as energy demand soars

*The country aims for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, as outlined in its Power Development Plan 8 (PDP8).*



Vietnam has revised its national power plan to significantly increase wind and solar energy targets by 2030 to meet rising energy demand. **PHOTO: AFP**

VIETNAM has dramatically increased its wind and solar targets as it looks to up its energy production by 2030 to meet soaring demand, according to a revised version of its national power plan.

The Southeast Asian country has committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the latest edition of its Power Development Plan 8 (PDP8), as it is known, maps out how it will reach those goals.

The manufacturing powerhouse has been heavily reliant on coal to meet its rapidly expanding energy needs. But now it wants to “strongly develop renewable energy sources”, according to the plan, which was published Wednesday on the government’s news portal.

With targets set at 73 gigawatts (GW) for solar and 38 GW for onshore wind energy by 2030 — and a significant increase to 296 GW and 230 GW

by 2050 — the plan looks “really ambitious”, said Andri Prasetyo, senior researcher at Senik Centre Asia. The 2023 version of the PDP8 aimed for 12.8 GW for solar and 21 GW for wind by the end of the decade.

“I think this sends a clear message, Vietnam is positioning itself to maintain leadership in Southeast Asia’s clean energy transition, (even) taking a more prominent role in the region,” he told AFP. — AFP

## Six drowning deaths as huge waves hit Australian coast

A fisherman died after being swept off rocks near Sydney on Sunday, stretching the Easter weekend death toll of drownings to six as huge waves battered Australia’s east coast.

Emergency services winched two people from the surf at Wattamolla Beach, but one of them couldn’t be revived, New South Wales Police said in a statement.

The pair had been fishing when swept off rocks on the outskirts of southern Sydney.

The second person, a 14-year-old boy, was in a stable condition in hospital.

It continued a run of fatalities over the holiday weekend, with

the search ongoing for two other people still missing in the surf since Friday — one off Sydney and one off Melbourne.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) issued a warning on Thursday that strong swells would create hazardous surf conditions along the coasts of New South Wales and Victoria. Three people drowned on Friday in New South Wales, while a woman died and a man went missing after they were swept into the sea near Melbourne. On Saturday, when swells were as high as 3.5 metres (11.5 feet) in some places, a fisherman was swept to his death off rocks in southern New South Wales. — AFP

## Russian spacecraft Soyuz MS-26 returns to Earth with crew

THE crew of the Soyuz MS-26 spacecraft safely returned to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS) Sunday morning, the Russian state space corporation Roscosmos said on its website.

The descent module carrying Roscosmos cosmonauts Alexei Ovchinin, Ivan Wagner and NASA astronaut Donald Pettit landed at 04:20 Moscow time (0120 GMT) near the city of Jezkazgan in central Kazakhstan.

The Soyuz MS-26 undocked from the Russian segment’s Rassvet module of the ISS be-

fore its return, Roscosmos said, adding that the deorbit and descent operations proceeded as planned.

Since their arrival on the ISS in September 2024, the crew conducted 43 applied science experiments, performed a spacewalk, and participated in the docking of one crewed and two cargo spacecraft.

This mission marked the third spaceflight for Alexei Ovchinin, the second for Ivan Wagner, and the fourth for veteran NASA astronaut Donald Pettit. — Xinhua

## India’s elephant warning system tackles deadly conflict

IN central India’s dry forests, community trackers hunt for signs of elephants to feed into an alert system that is helping prevent some of the hundreds of fatal tramplings each year.

Boots crunch on brittle leaves as Bhuvan Yadav, proudly wearing a T-shirt with his team’s title of “friends of the elephant”, looks for indicators ranging from tracks or dung, to sightings or simply the deep warning rumbles of a herd.

“As soon as we get the exact

location of the herd, we update it in the application,” Yadav said, as he and three other trackers trailed a herd deep in forests in Chhattisgarh state, preparing to enter the information into their mobile phone.

The app, developed by Indian firm Kalpvaig, crunches the data and then triggers warnings to nearby villagers.

There are fewer than 50,000 Asian elephants in the wild, according to the World Wildlife Fund. The majority are in India,



Asian elephants cool off in a pond during a hot summer day at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai on 30 May 2024. **PHOTO: R.SATISHBABU/AFP**

with others in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

The usually shy animals are coming into increasing contact with humans because of rapidly expanding settlements and growing forest disturbance, including mining operations for coal, iron ore, and bauxite.

Mine operations in particular have been blamed for pushing elephants into areas of Chhattisgarh where they had not been seen for decades. — AFP



Giant Evangelion  
appears in  
Hamamatsu city hall  
through early 2026

A roughly six-metre-tall Evangelion Unit 01 statue made its appearance in Hamamatsu, central Japan, on Sunday as part of a local government tourism campaign through next February in the hope of cashing in on the city’s connection to the popular anime film.

The purple giant humanoid robot from the film “Evangelion: 3.0+1.0 Thrice Upon a Time” will tower over the lobby of Hamamatsu city hall in Shizuoka Prefecture until late January next year, including on weekends and public holidays.

About 170 people lined up in front of the municipal headquarters to see the stat-



Visitors take a look at the roughly six-metre-tall Evangelion Unit 01 statue at the Hamamatsu city hall in Shizuoka Prefecture on 20 April 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ue ahead of the public opening at 10:30 am. During the opening ceremony, the city firefighters’ band played the popular theme song of the anime.

The local initiative, which celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original TV series, follows Evangelion-themed campaigns launched in recent years by Tenryu Hamanako Railroad Co and Enshu Railway Co centred around the city’s Tenryu Futamata Station — a model for Village-3 in the 2021 movie.

The station has since been inundated with “anime pilgrims” eager to see a 3.6-metre-tall “Spear of Longinus”, a giant extraterrestrial weapon central to the story, installed in 2023 at its train depot. Evangelion-themed trains also run at certain times through the station.

As part of Hamamatsu’s new campaign, the two local railway operators began sales of one-day unlimited ride passes featuring images of the main character Shinji Ikari and fellow pilot Kaworu Nagisa. — Kyodo



An aerial drone photo taken on 21 April 2025 shows the Kampot International Tourism Port in Kampot province, Cambodia. Cambodia on Monday inaugurated a 10-million-US-dollar tourism port in the seaside southwestern province of Kampot here, aiming to promote the kingdom’s maritime transportation sector. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Cambodia launches tourism port in  
SW Kampot coastal province

CAMBODIA on Monday inaugurated a 10-million-US-dollar tourism port in the seaside southwestern province of Kampot here, aiming to promote the kingdom’s maritime transportation sector.

Located in Teuk Chhou district, the 4.2-hectare Kampot International Tourism Port has a water depth of three metres and can accommodate vessels carrying up to 300 passengers or tourists.

Speaking at the event, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said the port would play an important role in attracting more tourists to coastal areas and islands.

“The port will boost the tourism sector in the province, contributing to

improving local economy and people’s livelihoods,” he said.

The prime minister added that the port has connected seaborne tourists from Thailand and Vietnam.

Peng Ponea, minister of Public Works and Transport, said the port’s construction started in August 2018 and was completed in June 2022 under the credit of 10 million dollars from the Asian Development Bank.

He said that to date, the Southeast Asian country has a total of 119 ports including 31 sea ports and 88 river ports.

Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting Cambodia’s economy. The country is expected to attract up to 7.5

million international tourists in 2025 from 6.7 million in 2024, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

Cambodia has a pristine coastline stretching in the length of about 450 kilometres in four southwestern provinces of Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, Kep, and Koh Kong.

The kingdom is renowned for four UNESCO-listed world heritage sites, namely the Angkor Archaeological Park in northwestern Siem Reap province, the Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk in central Kampong Thom province, and the Temple of Preah Vihear and the Koh Ker archaeological site in northwestern Preah Vihear province. — Xinhua

Govt panel backs evidence disclosure reform in  
retrial system review



A subcommittee of the Justice Ministry’s Legislative Council meets for the first time in Tokyo on 21 April 2025 to review Japan’s criminal retrial system. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN’S Justice Ministry said Monday that its advisory body has mostly agreed on the need to reform provisions on evidence disclosure, as part of efforts to revise the country’s controversial retrial system.

The broad consensus was reached during the first meeting of a subcommittee of the Legislative Council tasked with reviewing Japan’s criminal retrial system, amid criticism that the process of overturning wrongful convictions is excessively prolonged due largely to inadequate legal provisions.

The retrial framework has been left untouched since the criminal procedure law was enacted in 1948. But the highly publicized acquittal last year of 89-year-old Iwao Hakamata, who spent nearly half a century on death row following a quadruple murder conviction, shed light on the legal shortcomings in the system. — Kyodo



# DHL to stop global shipments worth over \$800 to US consumers

GLOBAL shipping giant DHL will “temporarily” suspend the shipping of parcels worth more than \$800 from businesses to individuals in the United States as of Monday, the company said, citing delays in US customs clearances.

“As a result of recent US Customs regulatory updates, we are experiencing multi-day transit delays to the US from any origin for shipments with a declared customs value exceeding US\$800,” DHL said in a statement.

President Donald Trump has launched a wide-ranging trade war since coming to office, threatening friend and foe alike with steep tariffs to address US trade deficits with individual countries.

As part of those changes, the

government has also lowered the threshold at which parcels to individuals require formal entry processing by US Customs — down to \$800 from \$2,500 as of 5 April.

“This change has caused a surge in formal customs clearances, which we are handling around the clock,” said DHL.

The company added that business-to-business shipments would not be affected by the suspension, “though they may also face delays”.

Trump’s government has taken particular aim at China, and earlier this month Washington closed a duty-free exemption for small parcels from that country, a move that appeared to be designed to target low-cost online retailers like Temu and Shein. — AFP



This photo taken on 6 March 2024 shows the logo of DHL Group at the DHL headquarters in Bonn, Germany. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

# Indonesia reports trade surplus of US\$4.33 bln in Mar

INDONESIA recorded a trade surplus of US\$4.33 billion in March, up by \$1.23 billion from the previous month, according to government data released on Monday.

This marks the 59<sup>th</sup> straight month of trade surplus since May 2020, as announced by Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti, head of the Central Statistics Agency, during a press conference.

The agency reported that Indonesia’s exports rose by 5.59 per cent month-on-month

to \$23.25 billion in March.

“The growth in export value was primarily driven by non-oil and gas shipments, particularly metal ores, slag and ash, iron and steel, as well as electrical machinery and equipment parts,” she said.

Meanwhile, imports edged up by 0.38 per cent to \$18.92 billion compared to February.

Despite the overall surplus, the oil and gas sector posted a deficit of \$1.67 billion, largely due to crude oil and oil product imports. — Xinhua



Farmers harvest wheat at a field in Multan, Pakistan on 20 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

# Pakistan’s food exports grow 1.62% in first 9 months of FY 2024-25

PAKISTAN’S food exports increased by 1.62 per cent in the first nine months of the fiscal year 2024-25 (July 2024 to June 2025), according to data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Food exports during the July-March period were recorded at \$5.75 billion, up from \$5.66 billion in the same period a year ago, according to data on the PBS website on Sunday.

Basmati rice exports grew by 8.78 per cent in value, reaching \$676.96 million, supported by a 21.78 per cent rise in volume to 663,980 tonnes.

In contrast, non-basmati rice exports declined by 9.87 per cent in value to \$2.08 billion, despite a marginal 0.14 per cent increase in quantity to 4.02 million tons. Overall rice exports fell by 5.91 per cent in value, totalling \$2.76 billion.

The report also showed that fish and fish product exports rose by 8.15 per cent during the July-March period, while meat exports posted a marginal growth of 0.99 per cent.

Meanwhile, vegetable exports, including onions, potatoes, and tomatoes, dropped by 17.09 per cent, and fruit exports declined by 5.04 per cent, according to the PBS. — Xinhua

# Indonesia’s state-owned coal, gas firms to launch clean energy project

PT Bukit Asam (PTBA), one of Indonesia’s largest state-owned coal producers, and PT Perusahaan Gas Negara (PT PGN), a government-controlled gas firm, will jointly establish a coal gasification project to produce clean energy, an official announced on Monday.

The project will convert coal into synthetic natural gas to reduce carbon emissions.

Rosa Permata Sari, director of strategy and busi-

ness development at PT PGN, said that the project will utilize PTBA’s low-rank coal reserves in Tanjung Enim, South Sumatra, which have not been fully monetized.

“The reserves are located near PT PGN’s pipeline network, making infrastructure development more efficient,” she said in a press release, adding that the initiative aligns with the government’s priority to strengthen downstream industries.

Regarding product distribution, Rosa noted that the synthetic natural gas is expected to be supplied to industries in western Java, where there are supply shortages.

This year, the two companies will focus on feasibility studies to assess the potential for constructing synthetic natural gas production facilities, pipelines, and viable business models. — Xinhua



# China’s wholesale, retail sectors log strong momentum in Q1



Customers apply for subsidies under the trade-in programme for consumer goods in Hangzhou City, east China’s Zhejiang Province, 31 October 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA’S wholesale and retail sectors have logged strong momentum in the first three months of 2025, providing solid support for expanding domestic demand in the country, the commerce ministry said on Monday.

From January to March, the added value of China’s wholesale and retail trade grew by 5.8 per cent from a year earlier to reach 3.3 trillion yuan (about US\$457.98 billion), or 10.4 per cent of the country’s gross domestic

product, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

During the period, the transaction volume of key commodity markets in the wholesale industry reached 1.3 trillion yuan, while the transaction volume of industrial consumer goods markets increased by 0.8 per cent year on year, the ministry said.

For the retail industry, the retail sales of goods reached 11 trillion yuan in the first three months, increasing by 4.6 per cent year on year.

China has seen about 100.35 million new home appliances sold under its consumer goods trade-in programme, with over 40 million appliances sold in 2025, according to the ministry. — Xinhua

# Dollar at 7-month low in 140 yen on speculation over US-Japan talks

THE US dollar hit a seven-month low in the upper 140 yen range Monday on speculation the US administration will urge Japan to address the yen’s weakness against the dollar when their finance ministers meet this week.

Tokyo stocks dropped, snapping a two-day winning streak, as selling of exporters was fuelled by the stronger yen, which reduces their overseas profits when repatriated. Falling US futures also dampened sentiment.

The dollar was sold ahead of expected talks on currency between US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Japanese Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato in Washington this week, part of ongoing bilateral tariff negotiations.

Speculation about their meeting intensified after US President Donald Trump posted a list on social media Monday morning of “non-tariff cheating” that began with “currency manipulation”.

“That post gave more fuel to the view that exchange rates could form part of talks,” said Yuzo

Sakai, chief manager of business planning at Ueda Totan Forex Ltd. Trump has accused Japan of reducing the value of its currency, which the country’s authorities deny.

The dollar was also under pressure after Trump wrote last week that Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell’s “termination cannot come fast enough”, urging the central bank to further cut interest rates.

At 4 pm, the dollar fetched 140.76-77 yen, compared with 142.16-26 yen in New York and 142.39-40 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1515-1516 and 162.09-11 yen against \$1.1385-1395 and 162.00-10 yen in New York and \$1.1369-1373 and 161.90-94 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

On the stock market, energy-related shares also fell after a decline in the key US oil futures contract. Many market players also sat on the sidelines before earnings season begins later this week in the United States and Japan, analysts said. — Kyodo

# S Korea’s export falls 5.2% in 20 days of April

SOUTH Korea’s export fell 5.2 per cent year-on-year in the first 20 days of April on the back of lower demand for locally made cars and oil products, customs office data showed Monday.

The revenue of outbound shipment stood

at US\$33.87 billion in the cited period, according to Korea Customs Service.

Semiconductor export grew 10.7 per cent to \$6.47 billion in the cited period, but automotive shipment shrank 6.5 per cent to \$3.67 billion.

Oil products ship-

ment plunged 22.0 per cent to \$2.21 billion, and those for steel products, auto parts, mobile devices, ship and precision machinery declined in single digits.

Import diminished 11.8 per cent to \$34.01 billion in the 20-day period,

sending the trade deficit to \$137 million.

Import for crude oil, natural gas, oil products, cars, coal and mobile devices dropped in double digits, but those for semiconductor equipment and precision machinery rose in single digits. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 15 VOY.NO. (06N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 15 VOY. NO. (06N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-4-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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 MAWLAMYING CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2505N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-4-2025** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PRIME VOY.NO. (5504S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOL PRIME VOY.NO. (5504S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-4-2025** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**



ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Davos meet founder Klaus Schwab steps down from WEF board



(FILES) World Economic Forum founder and chairman Klaus Schwab attends a session during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on 21 January 2025. PHOTO: AFP

THE World Economic Forum said on Monday that its founder Klaus Schwab has stepped down from the board, turning a page in the history of the organization that hosts the annual meeting of wealthy, famous and influential global elites at the luxury Swiss ski resort of Davos.

Schwab informed the WEF's board that "as I enter my 88<sup>th</sup> year, I have decided to step down from the position of Chair and as a member of

the Board of Trustees, with immediate effect".

Schwab stepped down as executive chairman last year, with former Norwegian foreign minister Borge Brende taking over daily management.

The WEF said Vice Chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe was appointed board chairman in the interim and that a search committee for replacement had been appointed.

WEF's board hailed

Schwab's "outstanding achievements" in his 55 years as the leader of the organization.

"At a time when the world is undergoing rapid transformation, the need for inclusive dialogue to navigate complexity and shape the future has never been more critical," it said in a statement.

"Building on its trusted role, the Forum will continue to bring together leaders from all sectors and regions to exchange insights and foster collaboration," it added.

**Networking showcase**

Schwab was born in Ravensburg, Germany, on 30 March 1938. He studied at Swiss universities and at Harvard in the United States, and holds doctorates in engineering and economics, along with more than a dozen honorary doctorates.

He was a little-known business professor at the University of Geneva when in 1971 he founded the WEF's precursor, the European Management Forum. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mpox death toll rises to 40 in Uganda as cases surpass 5,400

THE cumulative number of confirmed Mpox cases in Uganda has hit 5,431, with 40 deaths reported since the outbreak was declared in the East African country nine months ago, the Ministry of Health said Monday.

A total of 44 new infections were recorded in the previous 24 hours, the ministry said in a situation report, noting an increased severity among patients admitted to hospital with Mpox.

"The cities and fishing communities exhibit the highest attack rates especially," it said, citing Mbarara City and Kampala, and fishing districts in Buvuma, Kalangala and Nakasongola.

The report said individuals aged 25-29 are the most affected demographic group in the country.

Last month, the World Health Organization warned that Uganda has the highest number of community-transmitted Mpox cases globally. — Xinhua

3 killed in flooding in west Indonesia's Lampung

FLOODING triggered by heavy rains has killed three people in Indonesia's western province of Lampung, according to the province's disaster mitigation agency on Monday.

Wahyu Hidayat, spokesman for the agency, told local media that a joint rescue team evacuated the three victims and transported them to nearby hospitals for further identification.

Torrential rains have reportedly been lashing the provincial capital, Bandar Lampung, since early Monday, submerging houses and public facilities in some areas.

He said that the extent of damage to houses and public facilities remains unknown, and rescuers are currently prioritizing evacuation and aid efforts for affected residents.

"We urge the public to remain vigilant. The rainfall is still affecting the city with moderate intensity," he said. —Xinhua

US VP Vance meets Indian PM Modi for tough talks on trade

US Vice-President JD Vance met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi after a red carpet welcome in New Delhi on Monday, as India bids for an early trade deal to stave off punishing tariffs.

The two countries are negotiating the first tranche of a trade deal, which New Delhi hopes to secure within the 90-day pause on tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump this month.

Vance's four-day visit comes two months after Modi held talks at the White House with Trump, who unveiled 26 per cent tariffs on India.

A red carpet welcome with an honour guard and



US Vice-President JD Vance (2R) and his wife Usha Vance (2L), along with their children Ewan (C), Vivek (R) and Mirabel, pose for a photo in front of the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi on 21 April 2025. PHOTO: KENNY HOLSTON / POOL / AFP

troupes of folk dancers greeted Vance after he stepped out into the sweltering sunshine of New Delhi on Monday morning, the start of a four-day tour that will include trips to the historic fort city of Jaipur and the Taj Mahal.

"Ad-Vance-ing" US-India ties, broadcaster NDTV headlined its stories.

Modi welcomed Vance to his residence on Monday evening, giving his US visitor a bear hug, photographs released by the Indian government showed.

A spokesperson for Vance said they would first hold talks, before a family dinner hosted by Modi.

Vance's visit comes during an escalating trade war between the United States and China. India's neighbour and rival faces US levies of up to 145 per cent on many products.

Beijing has responded with duties of 125 per cent on US goods. New Delhi has reacted cautiously so far.

India's Department of Commerce said after the tariffs were announced it was "carefully examining the implications", adding it was "also studying the opportunities that may arise".

Vance and Modi were expected to "review the progress" in relations, according to India's foreign ministry. — AFP



SPORTS

Rune stuns Alcaraz to become first Dane to win Barcelona Open

DENMARK'S Holger Rune won the Barcelona Open tennis tournament on Sunday after a 7-6(6), 6-2 win over local favourite and top-seed Carlos Alcaraz in the final that lasted for an hour and 40 minutes.

Rune's win makes him the first Danish player to win the tournament in its 72-year history.

The first set lasted almost an hour, with both players effective on their first serve and

giving very little away.

With Alcaraz and Rune on the top of their respective games, it was no surprise to see it decided by a tie-break, where Rune held his nerve to take the first set 7-6(6) after Alcaraz had saved four set points.

Sixth-seeded Rune had things much easier in the second set as Alcaraz suffered physical problems in his right leg, needing attention both on court and in the dressing room. — Xinhua

Serie A postpones matches due to Pope's death

THE four Serie A matches scheduled to take place on Monday have been postponed to a later date following the death of Pope Francis, the Italian top flight said in a statement.

Udinese's game at Torino, Fiorentina's visit to Cagliari, Genoa's match against Lazio and Juventus' trip to Parma will be rescheduled to an unspecified date.

The games will have to fit into a congested finish to the season, potentially clashing with the Champions League semifinals.

Serie A also postponed matches in its youth league.

The Italian football federation (FIGC) announced that all games across professional and amateur football on Monday would be rescheduled to a later date.

The FIGC hailed the Pope as "an example of Christian charity and dignity in suffering, always close to the world of football".

The Vatican said Pope Francis, a keen football fan, died aged 88 on Monday. — AFP



Players of the ISPE and Thitsa Arman women's football clubs are seen in a tune-up match. PHOTO:MWL

Myanmar Women's League to kick off match 1 on 22 April

THE Myanmar Women's League for the 2025-26 season will commence on 22 April. The league matches were arranged to start on 1 April under the earlier schedule, but it was postponed due to the Mandalay earthquake, which struck on 28 March.

The league will comprise nine women's football clubs, with newcomer Yangon Royal. So, Defending Cham-

pion ISPE, Yangon United, Ayeyawady, Myawady, Shan United, YREO, Thitsa Arman, Young Lionesses and Yangon Royal will participate.

The first leg of the league will be held from 22 April to 30 September, and the second leg from 4 October to 30 January. During the last six championships, Myawady and ISPE secured the championship three times each.

In Match 1 on 22 April, Yangon United will face ISPE at Yangon United Sports Complex, while Shan United will take on Ayeyawady at Padonma Stadium. On 23 April, Thuwunna Youth Training Centre will host the match between Myawady and YREO, whereas Thitsa Arman will play against Young Lionesses at Padonma Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

LIVERPOOL will have to wait a little longer to confirm this season's Premier League title following Sunday's action.

Although Liverpool fulfilled its part of the bargain with a 1-0 win away to Leicester City, which condemns the Foxes to a swift return to the Championship, Arsenal's win away to Ipswich means Arne Slot's side has to wait until at least Arsenal's midweek game at home to Crystal Palace.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's late finish after Leicester had failed to clear a corner was enough to decide a match where both sides hit the woodwork in the first half, and edge the team closer to the title.

Arsenal may have had some tired legs after Wednesday's Champions League heroics against Real Madrid, but gave an assured performance to win 4-0 away to an Ipswich Town side that needs to win all of its games and hope that West Ham loses



Liverpool's Diogo Jota (L) challenges Leicester City's goalkeeper Mads Hermansen during the English Premier League match between Leicester City FC and Liverpool FC in Leicester, Britain, on 20 April 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

its remaining fixtures in order to stay up.

Leandro Trossard slid Arsenal ahead after 14 minutes, and with Arsenal controlling possession, Gabriel Martinelli doubled the lead in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute after a lovely passing move.

Things got worse for Ipswich when Leif Davis was sent off for a crude lunge on Bukayo Saka, and Trossard's second goal and a late strike from Ethan Nwaneri completed the win for Arsenal.

Tyrique George and Pedro Neto scored late goals to see

Chelsea overturn Alex Iwobi's first-half opener for Fulham and give their side three vital points in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Fulham was good value for the halftime lead, but Chelsea improved after the break, with

George equalizing with his first Premier League goal in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute and Neto powered in the winner in the 93<sup>rd</sup> minute.

Aston Villa got right back into the race for a place in next season's Champions League on Saturday with a thumping 4-1 win at home to Newcastle United.

Ollie Watkins opened the scoring after just 30 seconds, and although Fabian Schar equalized after 18 minutes, second-half goals from Ian Maatsen and Amadou Onana and a Dan Burn own goal gave Villa a brilliant win.

Manchester City was disappointing away to Everton before late goals from Nico O'Reilly and Mateo Kovacic gave Pep Guardiola's side a huge win in their efforts to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Wolverhampton Wanderers are now safe from relegation after a 1-0 win away to Manchester United, who came back to earth after Thursday's Europa League heroics. — Xinhua



Davos meet founder  
Klaus Schwab steps  
down from WEF board

PAGE 14



# WORLD

**S**NOWFALL in Asia's Hindu Kush-Himalayan mountain range has reached a 23-year low, threatening nearly two billion people dependent on snowmelt for water, scientists warned in a report on Monday.

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan range, which stretches from Afghanistan to Myanmar, holds the largest reserves of ice and snow outside the Arctic and Antarctica and is a vital source of fresh water for about two billion people.

Researchers found "a significant decline in seasonal snow across the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, with snow persistence (the time snow remains on the ground) 23.6 per cent below normal — the lowest in 23 years," the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) said.

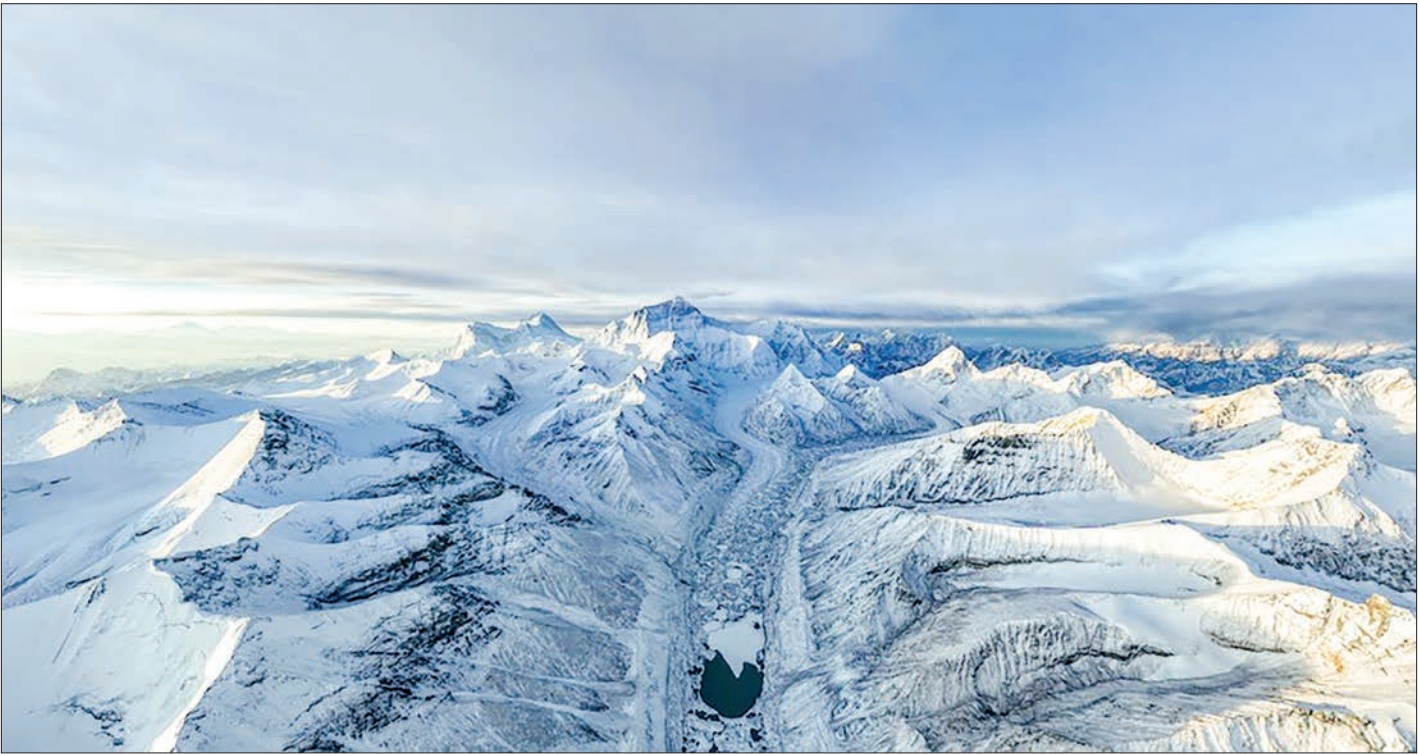
"This trend, now in its third consecutive year, threatens water security for nearly two billion people," it said in its Snow Update Report.

The study also warned of "potential lower river flows, increased groundwater reliance, and heightened drought risk".

Sher Muhammad, the lead author of the ICIMOD report, told AFP that "this year the snowfall started late in January and remained low in the winter season on average".

Several countries in the region have already issued drought warnings, with upcoming harvests and access to water at risk for populations already facing longer, hotter, and more frequent heatwaves.

The inter-governmental ICIMOD organization is made up of member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan,



This aerial photo taken on 23 May 2023 shows a view of Mount Qomolangma and Himalaya mountains seen at an altitude of 8,400 metres in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Himalayan snow at 23-year low, threatening 2 billion people: report

China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

It urged countries that rely on the 12 major river basins in the region to develop "improved water management, stronger drought preparedness, better early warning systems, and greater regional cooperation".

The Mekong and Salween basins —

the two longest rivers in Southeast Asia supplying water to China and Myanmar — had lost around half of their snow cover, it noted.

Pema Gyamtsho, ICIMOD's director general, called for changes in policy to address the low snow levels in the long term.

"Carbon emissions have already

locked in an irreversible course of recurrent snow anomalies in the HKH (Hindu Kush-Himalayas)," Gyamtsho said.

Asia is the region most affected by climate-related disasters, according to the UN's World Meteorological Organization, which reported last month that five of the past six years have seen the most rapid glacier retreat on record. — AFP

## World leaders pay tribute to Pope Francis, dead at 88

WORLD leaders remembered Pope Francis as "a beacon of compassion", as the death on Monday of the leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics prompted a global outpouring of grief.

Here are some of the first reactions to the death of the 88-year-old pontiff:

**'Rest in Peace': Trump**

"Rest in Peace Pope Francis! May God Bless him and all who loved him!," US President Donald Trump, who clashed with the Argentine pontiff on a number of issues, wrote on his Truth Social platform.

**'Prayed for peace in Ukraine': Zelensky**

Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky said Francis "prayed for peace in Ukraine and for Ukrainians".

"We grieve together with Catholics and all Christians," Zelensky wrote on social media.

**'Defender of justice': Putin**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Francis was a "wise" religious leader, a "statesman" and a "consistent defender of the high values of humanism and justice," who "actively promoted dialogue between the Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches".

**'Consequential leader': Biden**



Pope Francis waves to the crowd from the main balcony of St Peter's basilica during the Urbi et Orbi message and blessing to the city and the world as part of Easter celebrations, at St Peter's square in the Vatican on 20 April 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former US president Joe Biden said Francis was "unlike any who came before him", hailing his record of fighting for peace and equity.

"Pope Francis will be remembered as one of the most consequential leaders of our time and I am better for having known him," Biden, a staunch Catholic,

wrote on X alongside a picture of him and the Pope.

**'Courageous': Britain**

"His leadership in a complex and challenging time for the world and the church was courageous, yet always came from a place of deep humility," UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

King Charles, who is also the head of the Church of England, said he was "deeply saddened" by Francis's death, adding: "Through his work and care for both people and planet, he profoundly touched the lives of so many".

**'Wise despite differences': Argentina's leader**

"In spite of differenc-

es that today seem minor, to have known him in his goodness and wisdom was a true honor for me," Argentine President Javier Milei posted on X of his countryman Francis.

**'Dialogue between faiths': Turkey -**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan praised Francis as a "respected statesman". The leader of the Muslim-majority nation also called Francis "a spiritual leader who placed great importance on dialogue between different faith groups", who took "initiative in the face of humanitarian tragedies, especially the Palestinian issue". — AFP