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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Plan underway to manufacture value-added products from rice husk, rice bran

A PLAN is underway to manufacture value-added products from the byproducts (rice husk and rice bran) of the rice processing mills, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Rice husk power plant as the renewable energy and rice bran oil factories will be developed. Those interested individuals, millers, affiliated associations and member companies can put investments in the construction project through Myanmar Rice Federation's Research and Development Committee (MRF – R&D Committee), according to the statement released by MRF.

Those value-added projects can contribute to the green electricity generation, edible oil sector and feedstuff processing industries. Furthermore, it can bring about job opportunities, do-



Rice husk power plant as the renewable energy and rice bran oil factories will be developed. Those value-added projects can contribute to the green electricity generation, edible oil sector and feedstuff processing industries.

Health Benefits of Rice Bran Oil

Helps reduce irritating menopause symptoms

Provides nutrition

Promotes healthy heart

Good taste

Prevents cancer

Contains good fats

Keeps skin soft

Boosts immunity



mestic manufacturing, technology improvement and economic benefits. MRF will connect those investors to the development partner organizations and international institutions to get access to medium- and long-term project financing and receive technical assistance.

Rice and rice products exports are identified in the National Export Strategy (NES). To

diversify the exports according to the action plans of NES, MRF is working together with the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and the Consumer Affairs Department.

MRF is implementing the research and development activities to effectuate the sustainable rice value chains, increase the number of parboiled rice mills

beyond the development of rice milling, promote the use of rice dryers, production of high-grade rice and fortified rice and value-adding process of rice and by-products rice husks from paddy, rice powder and rice vermicelli, in coordination with the Myanmar Rice Millers Association and the domestic and international development partners.

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Objectives of 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. THE Tatmadaw to participate in the leading role of national politics for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism while safeguarding the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
2. The Tatmadaw to take responsibility for substantial contribution to measures of peace and prosperity of the country and food sufficiency as a national task the government primarily emphasizes
3. The Tatmadaw to join hands with all ethnic national people in the national reconciliation and peace processes
4. The Tatmadaw to provide necessary assistance for convening a free and fair multiparty democracy general election for ensuring the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism upon completion of endeavours in accord with the provisions of the State of Emergency
5. To build a powerful, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to protect the national interest of the State

Judgement passed on 5 special civil appeal cases; 2 special criminal appeal cases, 3 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of Supreme Court of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, U Myo Tint, U Kyi Thein and U Khin Maung Gyi convened yesterday morning at the room No. 1 of the Supreme Court of the Union

and passed the judgements on five special civil appeal cases, special civil appeal case No. 29/2020 (Sagaing), 31/2020 (Rakhine), 36/2020 (Mandalay), 39/2020 (Sagaing) and 44/2020 (Yangon). In addition, a total of two special criminal appeal cases, special criminal appeal case No.

8/2021 (Bago) and No. 9/2021 (Mandalay) and three special civil appeal cases, special appeal case No. 6/2021 (Yangon), 14/2021 (Mandalay) and 29/2021 (Yangon) were heard keeping in line with the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

1,173 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 March, total figure rises to 599,619

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 599,619 after 1,173 new cases were reported on 7 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 549,153 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,391 after 2 died. —MNA

Termination of Citizenship

1. As 11 individuals who violated the existing law of the State and left the country illegally were found to be committing acts that could harm the interests of Myanmar, an announcement was made on 4-3-2022 that their citizenship was terminated under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law. The citizenship of the following persons who were further found guilty of similar acts was terminated under Section 16 of the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, according to the authority of the Central Body under Section 67 of the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law.
 - (a) Saung Oo Hlaing (son of U Swe Lin Aye)
 - (b) Maung Maung Aye (son of U Yin Hwa)
 - (c) Khin Ma Ma Myo (daughter of U Myo Thant)
 - (d) Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung (son of U Nyunt Wai)
 - (e) Phyu Phyu Thin (daughter of U Hla Tun)
2. It is reported that similar action will be taken against those found further.

Yangon International Airport provides services to over 700,000 passengers, 20,000 flights in 2021

THE Yangon Aerodrome Company (YACL) offered the services of the Yangon International Airport in collaboration with the Department of Civil Aviation, and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and provided services to 723,540 passengers and 20,991 flights in 2021, according to YACL.

The YACL cooperated with the partner organizations to resume the international flights as quickly as possible and provided the information regarding the restrictions on arrival/departure on a country basis at the airport.

The Yangon International Airport provided services to 6,504,845 passengers in 2019



PHOTO : KANU

and 1,828,082 passengers in 2020. The world tourism industry faced COVID-19 impacts for two years and the airport suspended the international flights temporarily starting March 2020.

Despite the international flight suspensions, the Yangon International Airport operated relief flights and cargo flights. The airport staff and aviation organizations promoted the image of the airport by serving as a bridge for the COVID-19 vaccine-related matters. Moreover, it launched a health check centre where passengers can take COVID-19 tests within one hour and undergo 150 PCRT Tests. It followed the standards and instructions of local/foreign health organizations. The Yangon International Airport provided services to 723,540 passengers and 20,991 flights in 2021. —Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

Situation on Peacemaking Process

THE National Unity and Peace Restoration Coordination Committee, the Work Committee and the Negotiation Committee were formed to carry out the tasks to ensure national unity and perpetual peace. Our coordination committee has met NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations 16 times, non-NCA signatory EAOs nine times, political parties seven times and the religious leaders and peace negotiators two times, totalling 34.

Tatmadaw issued 20 statements for a ceasefire from 21 December 2018 to 28 February 2022. A joint declaration after the meeting with the Cambodian Prime Minister in early 2022 mentioned that the ceasefire will last for the end of this year.

(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on one-year State responsibilities discharged by the State Administration Council on 1-2-2022)

Union Defence Minister meets Sagaing Region cabinet, district, township-level officials, town elders, officers, other ranks, their families from local station

STATE Administration Council member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo met with officers, other ranks and their families of Monywa Station of Sagaing Region and provided food aids yesterday.

The Union minister and party then went to the guest house of Katha District Police Station in Katha Township to meet the town elders.

He then met township-level departmental officials at Katha City Hall.

Then, Katha District Administration Body Chairman U Tun Kyaw Kyaw reported on the situation of the region and the Union minister provided the food aids to the respective district and township administrative teams chairmen.

The Union minister also



MoD Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo meets town elders in Katha Township yesterday.



met officers, other ranks and their families of the Local Station in Katha and provided food assistance after he instructed the necessary things.

He met with the town elders and departmental personnel of Shwebo Township at noon.

Shwebo District Adminis-

tration Body Chairman U Myo Oo explained the situation of their regions and the Union minister coordinated the discussion. The Union minister

provided food aids for the district and township-level departments to the respective district and township administration bodies' chairpersons. — MNA



The MoD Union Minister meets officers, other ranks and their families of Monywa Station.



The MoD Union Minister provides food assistance for families of Katha Station.

Plan underway to manufacture value-added products ...

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Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) formed by the federation has been carrying out pilot projects such as Boiler Turbine

based Rice Husk fired Power Generation Plants in Kyaiklat and Myaungmya townships and rice bran oil manufacturing with Solvent Extraction and Physical Refining Technology.

MRF President U Ye Min Aung stated that the annual production value amounted to K7,000 billion from the rice industry. MRF is striving to increase in Gross Domestic Product and efforts are being

made to boost the trade and promote the investments by leading the businesspersons. In the difficult times of the pandemic, the federation is endeavouring to increase the rice productivity per acre and

add value to the byproducts from the rice mills as import substitution. The efforts of domestic manufacturing and job creation will contribute to the country's GDP to a great extent. — Taryar/GNLM

MoEE Union Minister inspects operation of Nyaungdon/Maubin oilfield in Ayeyawady region



UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo, along with Minister for

Natural Resources of the Ayeyawady Region Government, inspected the operation of the

Nyaungdon/Maubin oilfield in Ayeyawady Region on 6 March. During the inspection, the

acting manager of the oilfield explained the location of the oilfield, production and distribution of oil and natural gas, drilling of new wells to increase the production, education, health, and socio-economic development activities for villages and communities around oil and gas fields, the repair and construction of fuel tank and pipelines.

The Union minister said to carry out digging new wells for more oil and gas production, to make the living conditions of the employees comfortable, to develop new dunes, to complete the construction of 10 inches (55) miles Nyaungdon-Thaboung pipeline in time, to save the state budget, to efficiently use the electricity, and to coordinate with relevant

departments in construction of pipelines.

The Nyaungdon /Maubin oil and gas field produces 70 barrels of condensate and 22.5 million cubic feet natural gas per day and transports the oil to the Petrochemical Factory Group (Thamparakan) refinery to produce the necessary motor oil for the country.

In addition, natural gas from the area is distributed to the fertilizer plant (Myaungtagar, Kangyidaunt, liquefied natural gas plant (Nyaungdon), factories and workshops in Yangon Region, and CNG vehicles in the public transport sector.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party inspected the production of the LPG plant (Nyaungdon) and gave necessary orders. — MNA

Myanmar attends 40th ASEANAPOL Conference held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

A Myanmar delegation consisting of Senior Police Officers led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Than Hlaing attended the 40th ASEANAPOL Conference held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 1 to 4 March.

The conference was also joined by Chief and Senior Officers of the Police Force from 10 ASEAN member countries, Executive Director and Senior Police Officers of the ASEAN Police Secretariat, Police Chiefs and Senior Police Officers from partner organizations/nation: INTERPOL, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, New Zealand, Turkey, Great Britain, Australia; study partner countries/organizations: International Association of Chiefs of Police-IACP, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) based in the US, Canada and France.

The conference held the

meeting of 11th Executive Committee on 1 March. On 2 March, the opening ceremony of the 40th ASEAN Police Conference, First Plenary Meeting, Meeting of Leaders of Delegation of ASEAN Police Member States, Meeting of Leaders of Delegations from ASEAN Police Member States and Dialogue Parties, Commission A, B, C meetings were held.

On 3 March, a golf tournament between the leaders of the ASEAN Police and a golf tournament between golf teams was held. On 4 March, the Second Plenary Session and the Closing Ceremony of the 40th ASEAN Police Conference were held.

The Commission A, B, C meetings discussed mutual assistance in criminal matters such as drug trafficking, violence, arms smuggling, human trafficking, wildlife crimes, maritime frauds, business fraud, cyber-crime, forgery of travel documents, and matters related to ASEAN Police Capacity Building Programme and forensic science linkages.



On 3 March, Police Colonel Zaw Lin Tun of the Myanmar Police Force took over as Executive

Director of the ASEAN Police Secretariat from Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Singapore Jim Wee at the handover ceremony held at Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel. Myanmar Police Force will be the Executive Director

of the ASEAN Police Secretariat from 2022 to 2023.

The Myanmar delegation left Phnom Penh on 5 March and arrived back in Yangon on the evening of 6 March, it is reported. — MNA

Sufficient water needed for getting successful summer paddy

WITH the onset of hot and dry season, not only unexpected strong winds and heavy rains, natural disasters such as fire and water shortage, it is needed to implement preventive measures but also it is important to ensure water availability for summer paddy to succeed with the onset of the summer paddy planting season, said Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win.

The chief minister of the Region continued to say that it is necessary to search alluvial land and croplands to plant sunflower, an edible oil crop.

In addition, it is prepared in advance to provide inputs such as natural fertilizers, pedigree seeds and planting methods for sunflower growers. He also called for security awareness.

Then, the chairpersons of district and township administration bodies reported on the administration, education, health, agriculture, livestock and regional development activities. The region ministers and officials made additional suggestions and the region chief minister gave necessary instructions. —MNA



Lacquerware business using horsetails on the verge of extinction



LACQUERWARE business with the use of horsetails for some delicate pieces are on the brink of extinction in Bagan area, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, said U Win Min Tun, a lacquerware maker.

Lacquerware business has been passing from old generations in Bagan-NyaungU areas. Those lacquerware businesses with the use of bamboo have no concern but, only one or two crafters survived in the lacquer-

ware business using horsetails. They are experiencing hardships due to the high price of horsetails, lack of demand for lacquerware, and different steps in processing.

In old days, lacquerware

businesses boomed in the Bagan area. Now, only one survives in West Phwasaw village. There are three types of raw materials used in lacquerware – bamboo, horsetails, and wood.

The process of making lacquerware takes around one and a half hours for a single lacquerware bowl. Those lacquerwares

used horsetails are of high quality. A viss of horsetails is worth K70,000.

Daw San San Aye, a lacquerware artist from West Phwasaw village stressed her concerns that high input cost and different steps in making lacquerware might lead to extinction gradually. — Ko Htein/KPD/GNLM



Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
Mobile phone - 09 404339969
Fax - 067 409 886
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
Mobile phone - 09 699611116
Fax - 067 409 887
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Illegal timber, foodstuffs, cat food, vehicles, auto parts, motorcycles seized



Confiscated illegal goods.

THE Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee focuses on strict control of illegal trade by the law.

On 4 March, the combined inspection team led by the secretary of Yangon Region anti-illegal task force conducted a surprise check at the Minlwingon checkpoint of Hlegu Township of Yangon North District. They seized 10 unregistered motorcycles worth K26,300,000 and one vehicle worth K15,000,000 that carried these motorcycles. They also confiscated undocumented K15,285,600 worth of foodstuffs and two vehicles worth K18,000,000 that carried the foodstuffs. The officials took action under the Customs Law.

On 6 March, the Customs Department of Mayanchaung checkpoint of Mon State seized K2,094,000 worth of illegal foodstuffs from the vehicles from Myawady to Yangon. They took action in line with the Customs Law.

Similarly, the Bago Region Customs Department conducted surprise checks

along the Myawady-Yangon Road section and seized K41,138,000 worth of undocumented cat food and tires and K105,000,000 worth of three vehicles that carried these products at about milepost (63) between Waw and Shwethanlwin Tollgate. They took action under the Customs Law.

Moreover, the Customs Department of the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint of Mandalay Region also confiscated illegal China-made e-cigarette worth K4,960,000 at 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint yesterday and took action under the Customs Law.

The Sagaing Region inspection team seized 0.4248 tonne of illegal timbers worth K127,440 at Indaw Township of Katha District and took action under the Forest Law.

Thus, a total of 15 arrests (estimated value of K227,635,040) were made on 4, 6, and 7 March, according to the committee. — MNA

K1.3 bln worth of illegal drugs seized in Mingaladon, Dagon Myothit (North)

ILLEGAL drugs worth over K1.3 billion were seized in Mingaladon Township and Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon Region on 3 March, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team of Anti-Illegal Drug Police Force seized 20,000 stimulant tablets during a search to the motorcycle driven by Thet Naing, in Chitteenkon

ward, Mingaladon Township. According to the investigation, the police arrested Kyaw Lwin who asked him to sell the drugs, along with the Beijing motorcar on Butar road, Chitteenkon ward (2/Kha), Mingaladon, in the afternoon.

At around 3 pm on the same day, the police also seized 420,000 stimulant tablets, 76 heroin

blocks (25.3 kilogrammes) from the apartment of Kyaw Lwin, on Shwesin (1) road, No. (44) ward, Dagon Myothit (North) Township. The confiscated illegal drugs (worth over K1.3 billion in total) were reportedly transported from Shan State (South) to the Maungtau border in Rakhine State through Yangon Region. It is also reported that action is



Two arrestees are seen along with seized drugs and a saloon.

taken against the arrested suspects and the related perpetrators are still being investigated, according to the MPF. — MNA

Stimulant tablets seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted a patrol at 4 pm on 6 March in Myitkyina and 4,500 stimulant pills were seized during a search of Ma Jamila in Shweaik Ward.

At 2 am that morning, a combined team consisting of members of the Taninthayi Region Police Force arrived in Kawthoung. Police raided Kaung Set Han's house in Shwepyithar ward and seized 132,600 tablets of ecstasy. According to the report, a total of 9,955 tablets of ecstasy were confiscated during a search of Nitoe's home in Ayeyeknyeik.

Similarly, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police

Force made an inspection in Konphauk Village, Myeik (South) Village-tract, Myeik Township at 6 pm on 5 March.

A search of Ye Khaing (alias) Htee Seng in the village turned up 6,000 ecstasy pills.

At 3:30 pm that day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted a patrol in I Ward, North Okkalapa Township.

Tin Ko Win (alias) Rashin, who was unloading undocumented items with a Toyota Probox at the bus stop inside Thiriyadana Wholesale Market and his wife Ma Thuza Lwin (alias) Ma Soe (alias) Shavan Mi and daughter Tin Moe



Kaung Set Han.



Nitoe.

Khaing (alias) Sait Thar Ba Nue were found suspicious and 0.396 kilogramme of heroin were seized from them.

According to the investigation, Nay Kyaw Thura (alias) Nur Mohammed was arrested at his home at No. (477 / B), No. (1) Anawmar Ward, Thakayta Township.

At 11:50 pm on 5 March, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force con-

ducted an inspection near Nayminyaung Tollgate on the Loilem-Taunggyi Road, Loilem Township.

An X-Trail vehicle driven by Ma Nang Khoun was stopped and searched near the tollgate and 400,000 tablets of ecstasy were confiscated.

They are being prosecuted under the Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Police Force. — MNA

Women convicted of trafficking girl to China sentenced to 10 years

THOSE who trafficked a girl to China were sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to officials.

Ma San San Mu from Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, Ma Htet Htet (alias) Nyo Pyar Aye and Ma Thida Aye (alias) Thae Thae (alias) Aye Si Toe from Chanmyathazi Township and Naing Lin Ko from Padamya Ward, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region persuaded 14-year-old Ma ..., a niece of Ma San San Mu from Kinn Village, Mingun Station, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region to work as a maid or a salesgirl in a clothes shop in China to earn K120,000 a month.

But Ma ... was taken to Dongguan, China, and sold to a Chinese man.

The case was filed in Mandalay District Court on 4 March and Ma Htet Htet (alias) Nyo Pyar Aye, Ma Thida Aye (alias) Thae Thae (alias) Aye Si Toe and Naing Lin Ko were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment each under Section 24 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

China-Myanmar border post Kyinsankyawt resumes trade, yet over 200 fruit trucks stuck in Wamding

CHINA-MYANMAR cross-border Kyinsankyawt post, after a temporary closure following the detection of the coronavirus, resumed its trade however over 200 fruit trucks have been stuck in Wamding area, U Sai Khin Maung from the Khwanyo fruit warehouse stated.

“The cross-border trade via China’s Wamding port is pretty complex. Additionally, China’s Customs regulations cause the delay. Moreover, the health inspection team seems to wait for guidance. At present, almost all the buyers of watermelon and muskmelons are quarantined for seven days at the hostels in Changhaw yard. If the melon trucks pass the coronavirus test, they can enter the market on 10 March. Over 200 trucks are still



Melon trucks are seen still getting stuck on the China-Myanmar border.

stuck in the Wamding restricted zone,” U Sai Khin Maung quoted in his sayings.

If the trucks remain stranded in the Wamding area, we cannot expect to resume the trade

for now. Despite the closure of the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint, the goods are not given nod to enter the market as the customs clearance process and the COVID tests are being undertaken,

he continued.

At present, China’s inspection and quarantine mechanism is still processing for the imports of fruits, beans and pulses, corns, and rice, Khwanyo fruit warehouse stated.

Moreover, China’s short-haul trucking cost remains the upward trend, U Sai Khin Maung added.

“It pointed out greed and grievance in the difficult times. truck-loaded goods worth 40,000 Yuan (estimated at nearly K12 million) will cost over K10 million for general expenses. There is uncertainty for the resumption of trade in cross-border trade. Traders are concerned over the general expenses instead of foreign currency earnings,” he continued.

Following the detection of the

COVID-19 cases in recent days, the short-haul drivers were isolated for two days and the disinfecting activities were carried out. China-Myanmar cross-border Kyinsankyawt post was shut down on 2 and 3 March 2022.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon, and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt and construction materials, electrical appliances, household goods, and industrial raw materials are imported into the country. — NN/GNLM

Guava growers happy after getting good price

GUAVA growers from NyaungU township, Mandalay are happy to get a good price for guava this year. They are selling them for K1,200 per viss, said U Htay Myint, a guava grower from Latpanchaypaw village.

This is the main season of guava production. Farmers are selling their products by bringing them to the market.

The guavas are growing mainly in Auknyat village, Ahhtetnyat village, Thitdaungtaung village, Thitdauntkyau village and Taungphatwun village. The guava from those villages is conveyed to the Pakokku market, NyaungU market, and the Myingyan market. Some of the guava traders are come and buy the fruit on the farmland. The growers are earning their expected price which is not less than K1,000 per viss this year.

Also, one of the guavas is named six-month guava. It is blossomed after over one year. The trees of guava are grown at least five feet away from each other so that the tree can have fresh air and will be having beautiful fruit. The guavas are grown used of underground water.

To make the fruits beautiful and prevent the germs from penetrating, each fruit is wrapped in paper and covered with plastic bags. Then, it can start to pick up after two months of covering with plastic bags. Guava cultivation requires fewer labourers and input costs. The growers from NyaungU township are growing the guavas using underground water, and the farmland is successfully yielded. The growers are selling them for K1,200 per viss, said U Paik, a guavas grower. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



The growers from NyaungU township are growing the guavas using underground water, and the farmland is successfully yielded.

Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral trade down by \$18 mln this mini-budget period



Between 1 October and 25 February of this mini-budget period, the Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border checkpoints has touched \$18.002 million, with exports worth \$17.92 million and imports amounting to \$0.080 million.

TRADE between Myanmar and Bangladesh as of 25 February since October this mini-budget year has exceeded US\$ 18 million, down \$2.49 million from the same period last year, according to the monthly data issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 25 February of this mini-budget period, the Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border checkpoints has touched \$18.002 million, with exports

worth \$17.92 million and imports amounting to \$0.080 million.

Compared with the same period last year, the value of exports between the two countries increased by \$10.965 million, while imports declined by 13.462 million. For the same period last year, the total trade between the two countries was valued at \$20.498 million, with \$6.957 million in exports in \$13.541 million in imports.

Myanmar exports goods

to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sittway and Maungtaung points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanut, salt-water prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages. — ZYA/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Fulfil basic needs of the people with lesser poverty

THE basic needs of the people are titles to identify the lowest required sources for physical sufficiency in the long run. Generally, the use and consumption of commodities such as foodstuffs, clothes and accommodation are defined as the basic needs of the people.

Current basic needs are food, clothing and shelter. In the modern era, social experts define that the list of basic needs should be added with sanitation, education and healthcare services for the people. Fulfilling the basic needs reflect the easy procedures for poverty alleviation.

Every country is responsible for mitigating the poverty of society without fail. As such, those countries need to depend on the long term sufficiency of the people in their basic needs under the relevant policies. The governments need to seek better and better ways and means to fulfil the needs of people in continuity.

and most vulnerable people may cause many differences in their lives. As such, those governments need to analyze their efforts in addressing the problems of basic needs without bias.

Every country is responsible for mitigating the poverty of society without fail. As such, those countries need to depend on the long term sufficiency of the people in their basic needs under the relevant policies. The governments need to seek better and better ways and means to fulfil the needs of people in continuity. In fact, it is the primary duty of those governments in shaping their countries peaceful and prosperous with a lesser percentage of poverty for the people.

■ ■ ■

The fulfilment of basic needs depends on a type of measurement over poverty. Emphasis must be placed on fulfilling the basic needs of the people to have efficient consumption above the line of poverty. As such, all things and events under the line of poverty can be identified as unfulfilled needs. Instead, emphasis is being placed on the human society to be kept above the poverty line with sufficient consumption.

Gradually, the global countries prioritize sustainability, rather than fairness in the implementation of fulfilling the basic needs. Hence, all global countries should try their best to the improvement of ways and means to measure poverty and adopt State policies for addressing poverty at an opportune time they set. It is because only when the countries can overcome the challenges of poverty will they have the capacity to fulfil the basic needs of the people.

In the last decade, politics and governmental institutions of the global countries introduced results from studies on the ways how to overcome the challenges of poverty. Such results prove that tactics of relevant governments to handle the problems of basic needs based on the poverty of the poorest

Attacks and Sabotages against National Education Sector by NUG and PDF Groups Breaching the International Law

BY MIN KHANT



Kamyawkin Basic Education High School in Dawei township on fire in the arson attack of PDF terrorists.

I'D now like to present a sorrowful news report spreading on social media that inspired me to write this article after I stopped writing a while. I reckon most Facebook users might have already known the report.

It was about the PDF terrorists' brutal killing of Daw Lei Lei, headmistress of the Basic Education-High School Branch of Tamakaw village, Seikpyu township of Magway region. I'm grievously sorrowful for the conscientious teacher who was killed on the pretext of teaching the children without joining CDM and closing

the school. Following a week after PDF sent a threatening letter to the headmistress warning her to stop going to school, she was brutally slain without any grudge on her way back from school together with her father. Although the headmistress and her father were begging for sparing their lives, PDF terrorists tied up her father and cruelly killed the headmistress slicing her throat. Such a brutal crime committed by PDFs is the heinous and obnoxious act of terrorism which is not totally acceptable to any society. It is grievous to see the loss-

es of innocent good civil servants like Daw Lei Lei at the hands of so-called PDF terrorists who are believing in a blindfold and following the incitements of political extremists based on the dogma of 'everyone who differs from my attitude is my enemy' on the course of utter devastation and the uneven view - 'nobody can rule the country except the party we support'.

The NUG/ PDF terrorists are destroying the education sector, the future of the country to achieve their political aim. There is plenty of undeniable evidence showing that they have made various kinds of obstruction not to open the schools, and threats against children not to go to school and teachers and education staff to join CDM.

From 1 February 2021 to 28 February 2022, regarding the attacks against the national education sector by NUG/PDFs and NLD political extremists, they committed 123 arson attacks and 367 bombing attacks to schools, shootings in the vicinity of the schools 12 times, and 49 threats not to open schools.

Moreover, on the pretext for not joining CDM, the terrorists brutally abducted and killed the teachers and education staff claiming the lives of 17 teachers and six education staff and leaving 23 teachers and five education

staff severely injured totalling 23 deaths and 28 injured. Apart from releasing a statement of incidents in detail from the State-run media, I have seen that the incidents aroused widespread condemnation from different perspectives on social media.

I literally want to ask the following questions to the perpetrators:

Is it rational to kill teachers on the pretext for not joining CDM, for opening schools and teaching the children?

Are the acts of devilish people killing a civilian without bearing any grudge just or unjust?

Could you all put yourself in the shoes of the friends and family members of the victims for their bereavements?

We all possess unforgettable memories of school lives because the schools resemble the havens and gardens that teach and train the youths who will carve the future as well as where we expand the boundaries of our knowledge. I feel as though my heart is punctured by thousands of arrows to hear and see the ugly incidents in which the gardens are burnt down and the gardeners are being killed. Teachers are one of the 'Five Infinite Venerables' sacred to people in Myanmar culture as well as the ones who make the flowers of the new generation in full bloom.

There might be diverse political perceptions in any country and society. However, destroy-

the teachers and setting fire to the school buildings, and they are even using the schools as their fortified bases and training grounds. It was witnessed in the Marathin school in Htigyaing township.

Through the lens of norms of international law, the acts of terrorizing the schools and teachers are totally unacceptable. Two additional Protocols to Geneva Conventions in 1977 prescribes that 'The two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions outline further protections for children, schools and education, including recognizing

It apparently leads to a conclusion that some countries and international organizations pretending as if they know nothing about the reports on the violent acts of CRPH, NUG, and PDF with the accounts of witnesses, strong evidence, and video records are accepting and supporting terrorism.

that receiving an education is a fundamental guarantee for children, even in situations of non-international armed conflict.' In this regard, in 2009, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child-OHCHR also made an exhortation to protect schools from attacks and raids for the

armed conflict. According to the guidelines, the buildings relating to education cannot be used for military purposes, and moreover, any attempt to threaten the education staff to leave the schools and persuade them with incentives is not even allowed.

Resolution 2427 adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2008 strongly condemns the attacks as well as threats against schools and/or hospitals and reiterates its deep concern at the closure of schools and hospitals in situations of armed conflict as a result of attacks and threats of attacks. Moreover, the resolution urges all parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education and health services. Furthermore, it also urges parties to armed conflict to refrain from military use of schools and the governments of Member States to prevent the armed groups from using the schools for military purposes and disturbing the children's rights to education.

SEE PAGE-10



Headmistress Daw Lei Lei was brutally killed by PDF terrorists.

ing the future of the country by themselves after being infected with the extremism evolved from political emotions is unduly dreadful. They are not just killing

rights of children to education.

Moreover, there are an inter-agency coalition of organizations called Global Coalition to Protect Education from At-

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Duty-Assignment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has concurrently assigned U Than Naing Oo, Managing Director of the Electric Power Generation Enterprise of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, to the duties of Permanent Secretary of the same ministry.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 7 March 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and East central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8 March 2022: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions. Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi region and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 March 2022:Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 March 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 March 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Attacks and Sabotages against National...

FROM PAGE-9

Today, the nefarious actions of NUG/PDF terrorists are absolutely against the international norms and values and also totally unacceptable from the perspective of Myanmar's national laws and culture. Chapter 3 of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) that was inked among the State Government, the Tatmadaw and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) in 2015 includes specific terms and conditions: to avoid using any schools as military outposts or encampments; to avoid restrictions on the right to education under the law; and destruction of schools and educational buildings.

NUG/PDF terrorists and some EAOs that do not follow



PDF terrorists use the Marathein school in Htigyaing township as their fortified base and training ground.

against the education sector that intentionally destroy the future of a State. Information of their actions with concrete

destruction of State-owned and private-owned buildings by setting fire and planting mines.

It apparently leads to a conclusion that some countries and international organizations pretending as if they know nothing about the reports on the violent acts of CRPH, NUG, and PDF with the accounts of witnesses, strong evidence, and video records are accepting and supporting terrorism.

Particularly, some Western countries, with an intent to mount pressure on the Tatmadaw which is now assuming the State's responsibilities in accord with law in a state of emergency, showing their attitude of supporting the NUG and PDFs behave as though they support terrorism and

clearly do not contribute to the peace and stability of Myanmar.

Some great powers that purport to value democracy and human rights bury their heads in the sand about the undeniable acts of terrorism committed by NUG and PDFs and even shape up against them as democracy activists. I reckon such phenomena are totally prejudiced and unjust for the innocent slain victims like headmistress Daw Lei Lei.

The political extremists have chosen to take up arms in order to regain their power turning a blind eye to the State's development and public peace and stability. Hence, scarifying many lives of youths who are the future of the State is a great

loss for the country. It is actually a grave tragedy to witness the plights of many families following the deterioration of community peace and stability on their course of utter devastation. We witness, hear, and know needless to question who are doing such obnoxious acts and who are manipulators. The abundance of concrete evidence and records have been accumulated and also already sent to relevant bodies.

To draw a conclusion, if we all actually want Myanmar to be peaceful and stable, I hereby urge the international communities to rationally review the current incidents of violent killings and oppose the external and internal terrorists who are on the course of violent means to achieve their political aims.

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- Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict, GCPEA, 2014.
- UN Security Council Resolution 2427 (Children and Armed Conflict), 9 July 2018.

Some great powers that purport to value democracy and human rights bury their heads in the sand about the undeniable acts of terrorism committed by NUG and PDFs and even shape up against them as democracy activists. I reckon such phenomena are totally prejudiced and unjust for the innocent slain victims like headmistress Daw Lei Lei.

the provisions of the NCA are attacking schools, threatening and killing teachers. Such callous actions of NUG/PDF terrorist groups killing innocent teachers are the reckless and imprudent behaviours that destroy the country and the future of the children and also the acts of terrorism which cannot be tolerant or accepted by Myanmar society as well as any other societies and countries around the world.

Accordingly, international communities should not encourage the terrorist acts of CRPH, NUG, PDF, and NLD extremists and are also required to condemn and prevent such attacks

evidence has reportedly been informed to UNCTED, INTERPOL, Counter-Terrorism of ASEANPOL, neighbouring countries, foreign embassies based in Myanmar, international organizations, and international authorized bodies which signed MoU on cooperation in counter-terrorism with Myanmar. The information informed is not only about the attacks of NUG/PDF groups against the national education sector, but also include about their terrorist acts in various forms shaped up across the country on the course of utter devastation such as brutal killings of innocent civilians, making explosions, and

Particularly, some Western countries, with an intent to mount pressure on the Tatmadaw which is now assuming the State's responsibilities in accord with law in a state of emergency, showing their attitude of supporting the NUG and PDFs behave as though they support terrorism and clearly do not contribute to the peace and stability of Myanmar.

Moderna announces first African vaccine facility in Kenya

US vaccine maker Moderna announced Monday that it would build its first mRNA jab-manufacturing facility in Africa after signing an agreement with Kenya's government to produce up to 500 million doses a year.

The company said it expected to invest \$500 million (460

million euros) in the new facility, which will produce vaccines for the continent of 1.3 billion people whose population has been largely shut out of access to Covid jabs.

"Battling the Covid-19 pandemic over the last two years has provided a reminder of the work that must be done to ensure

global health equity. Moderna is committed to being a part of the solution," the company's CEO Stephane Bancel said in a statement.

Moderna said it hopes to use the facility to supply doses of its Covid-19 jab to African nations as early as next year, in a bid to boost

vaccine coverage on the world's least immunized continent.

"Moderna's investment in Kenya will help advance equitable global vaccine access and is emblematic of the structural developments that will enable Africa to become an engine of sustainable global growth," Ken-

ya's President Uhuru Kenyatta said. More than a year after the world's first Covid-19 shot was administered and two years into the pandemic itself, just 12.7 per cent of Africans have been fully immunized, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).—AFP ■

China stimulates smart tourism by improving 5G signal coverage in scenic areas

By You Yi, People's Daily

THE construction of a 5G base station at Xixi'nan scenic area, east China's Anhui province, is in full swing. The foundations of the telecommunications tower have already been finished and are now going through the 28-day curing period. After the concrete is fully cured, the cell tower will be erected.

Although the continuous rain and snow lately, the construction progress has remained unaffected, as the rainy and snowy days happened to overlap the curing period of the concrete foundations of the 5G base station, said Yu Falin, an executive with China Tower, constructor of the cell tower. The scenic area would be covered by 5G signals in about half a month, Yu added.

Poor network signal and slow Internet speed has been quite a headache for business owners and tourists at Xixi'nan scenic area in Huizhou district, Huangshan city, Anhui.

"Sometimes tourists can't use QR code to pay due to poor network signal," said Xu Ruoxia, who runs a cafe at the tourist attraction.

In response to the scenic area's needs for faster Internet speed and better network signal, China Tower, Chinese telecom operators and the government of Xixi'nan township carried out close consultation and then kicked off the construction of the 5G base station last year.

Yu has fully involved himself in every link of the preparations for the project, from the siting to investigation, blueprint prepara-

tion to on-site lineation.

To achieve 5G coverage in key parts of the scenic area and at the same time minimize the environmental impact, Yu and his colleagues decided to build a bionic tree base station in the maple and poplar forest next to the parking lot of the scenic spot.

Last year, Xixi'nan scenic area received a total of 500,000 tourists, according to Wang Weizhi, member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) committee of Xixi'nan township. After the 5G base station is completed, the township will develop smart tourism and establish a digital tour guide system for integrated tourism, Wang said.

With the digital tour guide system, tourists will be able to scan QR code with their mobile phones to access a hand-drawn map and travel routes of the scenic area, and various attractions, business forms, activities, etc. will be marked on the map, Wang said.

"When tourists come to the marked points, they will trigger audio tour guide and can check the introduction to and comments on the place," Wang explained.

The official believes that 5G network can not only improve visitors' experience, but ensure their accurate, fast, and direct access to information about the scenic area and create various application scenarios.

So far, Anhui has built over 50,000 5G base stations, and covered 16 prefecture-level cities and Mount Huangshan, Mount Jiuhua, and other major scenic



Tourists take selfies at the Haichang whale shark ocean park in Yantai city, east China's Shandong province, 4 Feb 2022. (Photo by Tang Ke/People's Daily Online)



Photo taken on 10 Dec 2021 shows a light show held during the Hainan Island Carnival. (Photo by Shi Zhonghua/People's Daily Online)

spots in the province with 5G network.

This year, it launched a campaign aimed at building more than 25,000 5G base stations throughout the year to achieve full coverage of 5G networks in industrial parks above the provincial level.

With the application of new technologies, including the Internet, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI), in the tourism sector, smart tourism with digital, networked and intelligent scenarios has become a new driving force for the high-quality development of the industry.

China will promote mass tourism and smart tourism, and promote the construction of smart tourism destinations, according to the country's economic and social development blueprint, the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

Data from China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) suggested that during the week-long Spring Festival holiday last month, up to 60 percent of the tourists who visited tourist at-

tractions across the country made reservations online beforehand; and the proportion stood at 40 per cent to 50 per cent in ordinary days.

China's online tourism consumption has reached the one trillion yuan (\$158 billion) level, according to the MCT.

While the tourism sector picks up speed in digital transformation and development, the integration of the Internet into tourism is becoming an important driving force for the transformation, upgrading and high-quality development of the industry, as well as the source of new scenarios of mass tourism and a new engine of smart tourism.

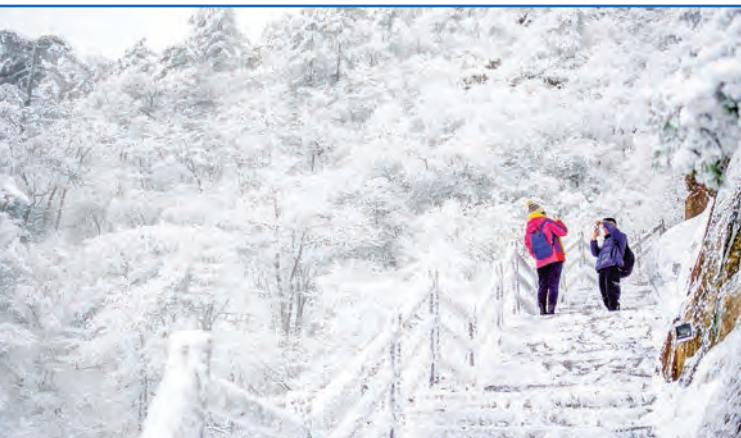
In China, the construction of smart scenic spots and smart rural tourism is gaining momentum as 5G, big data, cloud computing, AI, virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and other new-generation information technologies are being increasingly employed in the tourism sector.

An increasing number of tourists make reservations online before visiting tourist attractions. Meanwhile, various regions are actively exploring smart tourism-related public service platforms, providing tourists with diversified experiences and services by enabling them to better enjoy scenic areas with the help of mobile phones and by scanning QR codes.

Besides, many scenic spots and museums have developed online digital experience products to present tourism resources with the help of digital technologies. They have also cultivated new business forms such as virtual tour, online performance, live streaming show, and online exhibition, creating new scenarios of immersive travel experience.



Visitors sit in a 5G-driven autonomous vehicle at the tourist service area of the Longmen Grottoes, a world cultural heritage site in Luoyang, central China's Henan province, 4 Oct 2021. (Photo by Huang Zhengwei/People's Daily Online)



Tourists enjoy magnificent snow scenery at the Mount Huangshan scenic area, east China's Anhui province, 18 Feb 2022. (Photo by Song Wei/People's Daily Online)

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan president declares open largest cement factory

SRI Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday declared open the largest cement factory in the country, located in Hambantota's Mirijjawila Export Processing Zone.

The facility, located on a 63-acre plot, can produce 4 million metric tons of cement a year. Lanwa Sanstha Cement Corporation (Pvt) Ltd. which owns the plant, said that the "facility features a fully automated stacker reclaimer yard and two bridge type ship unloaders for efficient, waste-free and sustainable handling of cargo."

The company believes that this would be a great boon to the country's construction industry that had been facing chronic shortages of cement. — Xinhua ■

Flydubai back in the black

THE Emirati budget carrier flydubai on Monday announced it is back in the black, posting \$229 million in profits in 2021, after heavy losses suffered by the world's Covid-hit airline industry.

Flydubai, which is owned by Dubai like the giant airline Emirates, carried 5.6 million passengers last year, a 76-per cent leap from 2020 when it lost \$186 million at the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

Dubai, a tourism and trading hub, has since October been hosting the delayed Expo 2020 world fair, which ends on 31 March. — AFP ■

Aluminium, copper prices hit records on Ukraine fallout

ALUMINIUM and copper prices struck record highs Monday on supply fears linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Aluminium reached \$4,026.50, the first time the lightweight metal had breached \$4,000 per tonne. Copper's new record stood at \$10,845 per tonne.

Commodities have been red hot since Russia's assault on its neighbour, with gold on Monday back above \$2,000 an ounce thanks to the metal's status as a haven investment. — AFP ■

Unemployment, pay gap, instability the pandemic legacy for Peru's women



Professional Aymara embroiderer and costume designer, Yolanda Chambi, 45, shows potatoes she grows on her field in Puno, Peru, on 22 February 2022. Women have specially been hit by the worsening of the unemployment rate due to the pandemic in Latin America. **PHOTO: CARLOS MAMANI / AFP**

WHEN the pandemic struck Peru and forced the economy to shut down in an attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus, women were some of the hardest hit.

Silvia Munoz lost her job as a domestic worker, while Yolanda Chambi was forced to close her shop selling traditional Peruvian

clothes.

Both were among millions of Peruvian women to lose their income during the pandemic, which exacerbated gender inequality.

Theirs is a story seen throughout Latin America on the eve of International Women's Day, where four million women remain unemployed even after regional economies have reopened.

When Covid struck, many women were forced to give up work to look after sick family members and children as schools and creches were closed as part of government restrictions.

And while most have since returned to work, many have had to accept lower salaries or even make do with working in the informal sector.

Once the virus reached Peru in March 2020, "there was no work, there was nothing," said

Munoz, 65, speaking from her home in the working class Lima neighborhood of Villa Maria del Triunfo.

One thousand kilometres (620 miles) away in Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca, Chambi tells a similar story.

"We lost all our earnings," she said.

She used to sell clothes to locals for the Virgen de la Candelaria festival that takes place on 2 February and involves traditional Andean music and dancing.

It has been cancelled for the last two years due to Covid.

Unable to sell her wares, Chambi could no longer afford the rent on her home-cum-workshop.

She was forced to move with her four children to the family home in the countryside, where they grow potatoes, broad beans and other vegetables. — AFP ■

China exports up 16.3% as trade with Russia surged

CHINESE exports in January and February rose a combined 16.3 per cent on surging global demand and a spike in trade with Russia in the run-up to the war in Ukraine, according to customs data released on Monday.

The growth rate exceeded economists' expectations of a 15.7 per cent gain from a year earlier.

Shipments from the world's second-largest economy were valued at \$544.7 billion in the first two months, the data from the General Administration of Customs showed.

Exports to Russia rose 41 per cent compared to the same period in the previous year.

Trade data for January and February is usually combined



This aerial photo taken on 7 March 2022 shows containers stacked at a port in Lianyungang, in China's eastern Jiangsu province. **PHOTO: STR / AFP**

to even out the impact of the extended Chinese new year holiday, which usually begins in one of those two months.

Imports rose 15.5 per cent to

\$428.75 billion in the first two months of the year, leaving a Chinese trade surplus of \$115.95 billion. Exports remain a bright spot for a Chinese economy that

has slowed sharply in recent months due to virus outbreaks, a property market slump and regulatory crackdowns on key sectors. — AFP ■

Uniqlo defends decision to stay open in Russia

THE parent company of Japanese casualwear giant Uniqlo on Monday defended a decision to keep Russian stores open even as rivals Zara and H&M suspend operations in the country following its invasion of Ukraine.

Tadashi Yanai, president of Uniqlo operator Fast Retailing, said the conflict should not deprive people in Russia of clothing, a basic human need.

"There should never be war. Every country should oppose it.

This time all of Europe clearly opposes the war and has shown its support for Ukraine. Any attempt to divide the world will, on the contrary, strengthen unity," he said in a statement.

"Clothing is a necessity of life. The people of Russia have the same right to live as we do," Yanai added.

There are 49 Uniqlo stores in Russia. A Fast Retailing spokesman said the company would "continue to monitor the

situation" but there were "no plans as of now to suspend our operations".

Fast Retailing said on Friday it would donate \$10 million and 200,000 items of clothing to the UN refugee agency to support people forced to flee in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

An increasing number of major companies are suspending business activities in Russia while Western governments

impose sanctions to pressure President Vladimir Putin over the war in Ukraine.

Spanish clothing giant Inditex, which owns Zara, said Saturday it would temporarily close hundreds of shops in Russia as well as the group's online store.

"Given the current circumstances, Inditex cannot guarantee the continuity of operations and business conditions in the Russian Federation," it said. — AFP ■

India’s agri-products exports see significant rise despite pandemic

INDIA’S exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by more than 23 per cent year on year during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year (starting April 2021), said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

This is despite logistical challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, said the ministry in a statement.

The exports of products under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) ambit increased from 15.9 billion US dollars in April-January 2020-21 to 19.7 billion

US dollars during the period.

For the current financial year, the ministry has fixed the exports target under APEDA basket products at 23.7 billion US dollars.

Exports of rice were the top foreign exchange earner at 7.69 billion US dollars during April-January 2021-22, growing 13 per cent over the corresponding period in 2020-21.

Exports of wheat recorded a huge surge at 1.7 billion US dollars during April-January 2021-22, growing 387 per cent over the corresponding period in 2020-21, while other cereals registered a growth of



Farmers harvest a crop of brinjal from a field on the outskirts of Bangalore on 2 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

66 per cent by fetching 869 million US dollars during April-January 2021-22 over the corresponding period

in 2020-21.

Similarly, exports of meat, dairy and poultry products exports grew over

13 per cent at 3.4 billion US dollars in April-January 2021-22 over the corresponding period in 2020-21.

According to official data, fruits and vegetables exports were up by 16 per cent to touch 1.2 billion US dollars during April-January 2021-22, against 1 billion US dollars in April-January 2020-21, while processed fruits and vegetables exports were up by 11 per cent to reach 1.2 billion US dollars.

The significant rise in India’s agri-exports is seen as a testimony of the government’s commitment to increasing farmers’ income through giving thrust on boosting exports of agricultural and processed food products of the country, said the statement.— Xinhua ■

Bali eases quarantine, visa rules in re-opening push

BALI on Monday scrapped quarantine for vaccinated tourists from more than 20 countries and reintroduced visas on arrival as

the Indonesian holiday island pushes ahead with re-opening after two years of Covid curbs.

The loosening comes



Travellers walk through the international arrivals hall at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Tuban near Denpasar on Indonesia’s resort island of Bali on 16 February 2022, after a Singapore Airlines flight arrived following a nearly two-year break due to Covid-19. PHOTO: AFP

as a wave of Omicron infections wanes across the Southeast Asian archipelago and after some international airlines resumed direct flights in recent weeks.

“President Joko Widodo has agreed to trial a no-quarantine policy for overseas travellers to Bali starting on 7 March,” maritime affairs and investment minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan said in a briefing. Visitors will be exempt from isolation if double-jabbed and holding a negative PCR test and will have to show proof of a four-day hotel booking.— AFP ■

Stocks plunge, oil and metals rocket on Russia supply fears

WORLD stock markets tumbled, metals prices struck record highs and oil neared an all-time peak on widespread financial fallout from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Frankfurt and Paris led the losses in Europe with drops of more than three per cent in midday deals after Hong Kong closed down almost four per cent, extending last week’s sharp drops for global equities.

Monday also saw benchmark Brent North Sea crude oil soar to a near 14-year high close to \$140 per barrel. Brent reached \$139.13

before cooling to \$125.57. The record high stands at \$147.50, achieved in 2008 during the global financial crisis.

Elsewhere Monday, European gas prices struck record peaks on energy supply fears after the United States proposed an embargo on Russian crude.

Russia is one of the world’s biggest crude producers and is also a leading supplier of natural gas.

Commodities have been red hot since Russia’s assault on its neighbour, with gold on Monday back above \$2,000

an ounce thanks to the metal’s status as a haven investment.

Aluminium, copper and palladium prices kicked off the week with record highs and nickel rocketed by more than 25 per cent in value.

“Commodity and energy prices have inevitably been under upward pressure, with escalating sanctions against Russia and the shuttering of some Ukrainian ports driving the search for replacement supplies of crops, metals and energy,” noted Richard Hunter, head of markets at Interactive Investor.— AFP ■

German industrial orders rise but conflict clouds outlook

INCOMING orders to German industry increased again in January, official figures published Monday showed, as the government warned of economic disruption from the war in Ukraine.

Orders rose 1.8 per cent on the previous month, having climbed three per cent in December, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the federal statistics agency Destatis.

The indicator, which can give a foretaste of in-

dustrial production, was 7.3 per cent higher in January than in the same month last year.

The war in Ukraine, however, heralded “extremely high uncertainties for the future development of demand”, the German economy ministry said in a statement.

Industrial bottlenecks, aggravated by the conflict, meant it was “uncertain” producers would be able to make up the backlog of orders which built up

over the course of 2021, the ministry said. Shortages of raw materials and components, which grew as the year wore on, hampered production in Europe’s largest economy last year. In January, domestic orders fell significantly by 8.3 per cent, while demand from within the euro area fell by 2.6 per cent.

Order growth instead came from outside the eurozone, with the incoming volume increasing by 17 per cent.

Following the invasion of Ukraine, many companies have decided to suspend their activities in Russia, including German auto manufacturers Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

The auto sector suffered in 2021 as a result of supply chain issues, with domestic car sales down 10.1 per cent, having already fallen significantly in the first year of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.— AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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NEWS
IN BRIEFBomb kills two UN
peacekeepers in
Mali

A roadside bomb killed two UN peacekeeping troops in central Mali on Monday, the UN's mission to the troubled Sahel country said.

"This morning, a supply convoy... struck an improvised explosive device north of Mopti," MINUSMA spokesman Olivier Salgado said on Twitter, adding that four other peacekeepers were wounded.

MINUSMA did not immediately give the nationalities of the casualties, but a security source said they were members of the force's Egyptian contingent.

The mission's chief, El-Ghassim Wane, vigorously condemned the attack and called on the Malian authorities "to spare no effort" in identifying those behind it.

The incident comes as the United Nations is assessing the impact on MINUSMA from France's decision to withdraw from Mali following a rift with its ruling junta. — AFP ■

Iraq's National
Museum reopens
after three-year
closure

IRAQ'S National Museum reopened Monday to visitors after a three-year closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic and political unrest.

Treasures dating back 2,500 years to the neo-Assyrian empire alongside 9th century Islamic antiquities went back on display, including two winged bulls from the Nimrud site in the palace of Assurnasirpal II (883-859 BC).

"We've waited a long time to come here," said Tijen Kayralci, 65, part of a tour group from Turkey.

"It's beyond my expectations, these are priceless, very valuable pieces," she said. "It reflects the depth of Iraq's history."

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi said Sunday at the official inauguration that the museum, founded in 1923 to display five millennia of history in Mesopotamia, or modern-day Iraq, has undergone extensive renovation. — AFP ■

Iran seeks "creative ways" to accelerate
nuke talks: top official

People work at the construction site of the second phase of Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Bushehr, southern Iran, on 10 November 2019. PHOTO: PHOTO BY AHMAD HALABISAZ/XINHUA

SECRETARY of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani on Monday

said that Iran is considering "creative ways" in Vienna talks to accelerate the conclusion.

"Vienna participants act and react based on interests and it's understandable. Our

interactions with P4+1 are also solely driven by our people's interests," Shamkhani tweeted.

"Thus, we're assessing new elements that bear on the negotiations and will accordingly seek creative ways to expedite a solution," he said.

Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), are currently involved in negotiations in the Austrian capital of Vienna seeking ways to settle disputes about the revival of the JCPOA.

Reports from Vienna suggest that the negotiators are "close" to an agreement with a few key remaining issues which require "political decisions" of the parties. — Xinhua ■

Death toll of victims from Osaka
mental clinic arson rises to 26

THE death toll of victims from a suspected arson attack on a mental health clinic in Osaka in December rose to 26, police said Monday.

A woman in her 30s, who had been unconscious since the incident on 17 December, died early Monday, taking the total death toll to 27, including Morio Tanimoto who is suspected of murder and arson.

Out of the 26 victims, 24 died on the day of the incident and another was confirmed dead on 21 December.

The victims included regular visitors to the clinic and its director, Kotaro Nishizawa, 49.

Tanimoto was a patient at the clinic since 2017. He died on 30 December, of encephalopathy caused by carbon

monoxide poisoning from the fire.

Footage from security cameras installed at the clinic appear to show Tanimoto, 61, placing a paper bag in front of the reception area after which fire was seen quickly rising to the ceiling, investigative sources have said.

Police aims to refer the case to prosecutors later this month. Notes about the comings and goings at the clinic were found on Tanimoto's smartphone dating back to June, suggesting he had been planning the attack beforehand. — Kyodo ■

Photo taken on 7 March 2022, shows a building in Osaka that was hit by a deadly fire in December 2021. PHOTO: KYODO



Australia to build nuclear submarine base on east coast

AUSTRALIA will build a new submarine base on its east coast to support a future nuclear submarine fleet being acquired under a security partnership with the United States and Britain, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Monday.

"Establishing a second submarine base on our east coast will enhance our strategic deterrent capability with significant advantages in operational, training, personnel and industrial terms," Morrison said in a speech to Australian think tank the Lowy

Institute.

An estimated A\$10 billion (\$7.4 billion) will be spent on building the new base, as well as the facilities and infrastructure needed to transition from Australia's existing conventional submarines to nuclear-powered vessels, according to the Department of Defence. This will include upgrades to the existing Fleet Base West on Australia's west coast, which will enable regular visits from US and British nuclear-powered submarines on top of supporting Australia's future fleet, Morrison

said in a statement on Monday.

Brisbane in Queensland and Newcastle and Port Kembla in New South Wales are being considered as possible locations for the new east coast port, he said.

The potential sites were chosen for their proximity to industrial infrastructure, large population centres, deep water, maritime training, and weapons storage and loading facilities, said Morrison. The new facility will serve as additional national capacity to Fleet Base West, home to Australia's Collins-class submarines,

which will continue operating as a base for current conventional and future submarines, given its strategic importance in the Indian Ocean.

The current fleet of conventional submarines will also be able to operate out of the new east coast base, according to the statement. "With the ability to operate from both coasts, this will make our nuclear-powered submarines more responsive and resilient to meet the strategic environment," Defence Minister Peter Dutton said in the statement. — Kyodo ■

Russian forces announce ceasefire from 0700 GMT, Ukraine ready to discuss “non-NATO models”

THE Russian armed forces announced a ceasefire and the opening of humanitarian corridors in four Ukrainian cities starting 10 am Moscow time (0700 GMT) on Monday, according to the Russian Defence Ministry.

Taking into account the “catastrophic humanitarian situation and its sharp aggravation in Kyiv, Kharkov, Sumy and Mariupol,” the decision was made at the personal request of French President Emmanuel Macron to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the ministry said in a statement.

Russia has published evacuation routes from the four Ukrainian cities, and reported the information to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to the ministry.

Moscow demands that the Ukrainian side establish all the conditions for the creation of humanitarian corridors and ensure an organized withdrawal of civilians and



Xinhua file photos of Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron. PHOTO: XINHUA

foreign citizens, it said.

Since Russia announced a special military operation against Ukraine 12 days ago, the two sides have had two rounds of negotiations in neighbouring Belarus in search of a solution to the crisis, with no clear breakthrough in the first one and an agreement to open a humanitarian corridor to evacuate civilians during the second one on Thursday.

On Sunday, Ukraine said it was ready to discuss “some non-NATO models.”

“We are ready to discuss some non-NATO models ... We are open to

discuss such things in a broader circle, not only in bilateral discussions with Russia, but also with other partners,” David Arakhamia, member of the Ukrainian delegation for talks with Russia, told Fox News.

Arakhamia said NATO countries are not ready to discuss having Ukraine in the organization.

“The response that we are getting from the NATO countries is that they are not ready to even discuss having us in NATO, not for the closest period of five or 10 years. We would not fight for the NATO applications, we would fight for

the result, but not for the process,” said Arakhamia.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that his country is ready for dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities and foreign partners to resolve the conflict. Putin made the remarks in a phone conversation with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during which the Russian president also expressed the hope that the representatives of Ukraine will take a more constructive approach during the planned next round of negotiations. — Xinhua ■

China says most of its citizens evacuated from Ukraine

BEIJING'S embassy in Ukraine announced Monday that most of the approximately 6,000 Chinese nationals previously in the country had been evacuated, as Russia stepped up the shelling of multiple cities.

In the weeks leading up to the conflict, Chinese state media dismissed US warnings of an imminent Russian invasion. Unlike many Western nations, Beijing waited until after war broke out on 24 February to tell its citizens to evacuate.

“At present, most Chinese compatriots in Ukraine have already been evacuated,” the embassy said in a social media statement. “At present, the tense situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate... the Chinese Embassy in Ukraine solemnly reminds remaining Chinese compatriots to leave the country as soon as possible.” — AFP ■

Poland opens doors as refugee count hits a million

FACED with the influx of a million refugees fleeing Russian troops in Ukraine, Poles like Nicolas Kusiak, a 27-year-old manager, have rallied in an ever expanding humanitarian response. They have taken in refugees, offered food and transport and above all a little human kindness to the distraught and traumatised women and children who have had to leave their men folk behind to fight.

“It's beginning to get organized,” Kusiak told AFP near the Medyka border post — a frequently clogged crossing point near the Ukrainian city of Lviv.

Kusiak, a Pole born in France who speaks several languages, has been helping as a translator ever since he arrived at the border four days ago. — AFP ■

Russian, Ukrainian, Turkish ministers to meet Thursday

THE foreign ministers of Ukraine, Russia and Turkey will meet in southern Turkey on Thursday, Ankara has announced as the war in Ukraine intensified. Turkey has sought to mediate between Russia and Ukraine and offered on several occasions to host talks.

“God willing, we will hold this meeting at a trilateral format in Antalya on Thursday” on the sidelines of a diplomatic forum in Turkey, Cavusoglu said Monday in comments published in the official Anadolu news agency.

The announcement of the meeting comes after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held phone talks with his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts.

“Upon President Erdogan's initiatives and our intensive diplomatic efforts, Foreign Ministers Sergei Lavrov of Russia & Dmytro Kuleba of Ukraine have decided to meet with my participation on the margins of @AntalyaDF,” Cavusoglu tweeted. — AFP ■

Ukraine says nuclear plants operating stably

UKRAINE'S existing nuclear power plants (NPPs) continue to operate stably, the country's state-run nuclear energy operator Energoatom said in a statement on Monday.

“Radiation, fire and environmental conditions at NPPs and adjacent territories have not changed and are within current standards,” Energoatom said on Facebook.

The Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, the largest one in Europe, was captured by the Russian military on 5 February.

The Zaporizhzhya plant is currently under Russia's control, and Ukrainian employees of the plant are trying to ensure the safe operation of nuclear facilities, Energoatom said. — Xinhua ■

Ukraine-born woman in Japan awaits reunion with family



Photo taken on 3 March 2022 shows Nika Koriyama's husband Yuki (L) looking up information in Kagoshima, southwestern Japan, on procedures for their relatives to evacuate to Japan from Ukraine. PHOTO: KYODO

A woman from Ukraine now living in southwestern Japan is awaiting a reunion with members of her family who plan to evacuate to the country following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

“My mother and other relatives will likely be able to come to Japan,” said Nika Koriyama, 25, who lives in Kagoshima with her husband and a one-

year-old son. “In any case, I want them to be safe.”

Born in Dnipro, eastern Ukraine, Koriyama came to Japan in 2016 to study at a vocational school. She met her husband, Yuki, 32, and got married in 2020. Their son, Sachio, was born the following year. On 24 February, she received a message from her 48-year-old

mother who lives in Dnipro with Koriyama's 13-year-old sister, saying she had sent a birthday present for Sachio. But several hours later, Koriyama got another message saying her mother had heard “the sound of an explosion”.

Her mother and sister have since evacuated to a suburb that is so far unscathed.

After the Japanese government announced its plan last Wednesday to accept Ukrainian evacuees, Koriyama immediately informed her relatives of the news.

Her husband Yuki then contacted the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the Embassy of Ukraine to ask how their relatives can evacuate to Japan.

The following day, Koriyama found out that her mother, sister and aunt

would likely be able to depart Ukraine via Poland if they have the correct papers and passports. But they have to travel around 810 kilometres by car to reach the Ukrainian border.

“I will not settle until they arrive in Poland, as they could be attacked,” Koriyama said, adding she felt her family's pain of leaving behind acquaintances. Worried about the frequently changing situation, Koriyama said she has not slept well in the past week as she monitors the news, though she refrains from watching images of airstrikes as they make her feel depressed.

As a mother of a young son, Koriyama was particularly saddened by the news that a baby was born in a subway station in Kyiv during an airstrike. — Kyodo ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Two Myanmar players compete in World Snooker Championship in Qatar

TWO Myanmar players are competing in the 2022 World Snooker Championships in Qatar, according to the sports authorities.

Two Myanmar snooker players are competing in the senior snooker events of the

World Snooker Championships and played group matches on 6 and 7 March.

A total of 62 players are competing in the tournament, which is divided into 14 groups of four and three groups of three.

Among the Myanmar play-

ers, Aung Phyو is in Group E with Iran, United States, and Qatar players while Win Ko is in Group P with Qatar, Iran, and Indian players.

Aung Phyو defeated El Salvador (USA) by 4-3 and has also won the last two games in a

row with a four-match unbeaten streak against Alo Beidi (Qatar).

Win Ko lost to Murawat (India) 3-4 in a match and has also lost two games in a row to Ali (Qatar) by 1-4.

Aung Phyو defeated Sako-sha (Iran) in the last match of

the group. Win Ko will face Ali (Iran) on 8 March.

The tournament will run until 11 March, followed by the Asian Billiards and Snooker Championships and the World Snooker Championships. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Maguire demands Man Utd response after demolition derby

HARRY Maguire says Manchester United must respond to their chastening loss at Manchester City by going on a relentless winning run if they are to have any chance of qualifying for next season's Champions League.

After finishing second last term and losing the Europa League final on penalties, the acquisitions of Raphael Varane, Jadon Sancho and Cristiano Ronaldo brought renewed hope that

United could end their trophy drought.

But the season is turning into a nightmare, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer exiting in November and Sunday's 4-1 loss at City leaving Ralf Rangnick's Red Devils 22 points behind the Premier League leaders.

United have dropped to fifth in the table and while they are just a point behind fourth-placed Arsenal, Mikel Arteta's men have

three games in hand.

Captain Maguire, who said the players were "devastated" following their humiliating loss at the Etihad Stadium, is under no illusions about United's uphill battle,

"We know it's an important end to the season that we've got and a run of games where we've got to know that we've got to go on a run, and we've got to go and pick up win after win after win," the centre-back told MUTV.

"We're more than capable of doing it but we've got to show it on the pitch."

Next weekend's clash with fellow top-four rivals Spurs is followed by the Champions League last-16 second leg against Atletico Madrid – matches that could see things unravel further for United.

Kevin De Bruyne goals either side of a Jadon Sancho leveller put Pep Guardiola's side ahead at half-time on Sunday, before the hosts cruised in the second half, with Riyad Mahrez scoring twice.

"It's a disappointing result for the players, for the club, for the fans, for everyone involved," said Maguire. — AFP ■

Klopp says Inter Milan not coming to Liverpool as 'tourists'

JURGEN Klopp said Inter Milan were not coming to Liverpool as tourists this week even though they are trailing 2-0 after the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie.

Liverpool are well-placed to qualify for the quarter-finals ahead of Tuesday's second leg at Anfield after Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah scored in Italy last month.

But Klopp is taking nothing for granted as his side seek to stay on track for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies after beating Chelsea on penalties to win the League Cup last week.

"The danger everybody knows about—it's 2-0," Klopp said in his pre-match press conference on Monday. "I think it's the lead which got turned over most often in the history of football."

"If you get to half-time 2-0 up and you have a team who thinks we are halfway through then you are already on the wrong path."

"It's a much better result than I would have ex-



Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp. PHOTO: LINDSEY PARNABY / AFP

pected before we played there. The game didn't look like we would win it 2-0 for most of the time. It was a really tough tie and a really difficult game to play."

Klopp said Inter, second in Serie A, had real quality, shown in their 5-0 victory over bottom side Salernitana last week.

"It's a really good, really experienced team and they don't come here as tourists," said the German.

"I know that they want to chase the game and that's what we want to do because we are not a team who defends results or tries to get through somehow. We want to attack the game again." — AFP ■



Manchester United's English defender Harry Maguire (L) and Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes (R) react to their defeat on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 6 March 2022. Manchester City won the game 4-1. PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP