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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 22 MAY, 2021

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'Tanzania must rejoin key protocol of African peoples court'

By Getrude Mbago and Alima Nkwong,

HMC

THE African Court on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR) is in the process to seek out cooperation from member states including Tanzania to review various decisions and start implementing Article 34 (6) of the declaration setting up the court. Justice Sylvian Ore, the court's president said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he visited IPP Media outlets in a tour to mark 15 years since the court was set up.

A few years ago, some African countries who are members of the court withdrew from the declaration, thus denying individuals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the right to directly submit applications against their governments at AfCHPR. They include Ivory Coast, Benin, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The court president expects to meet with the concerned national leaders and seek out an understanding on the importance of the declaration in observing their duties in promoting and protecting human rights. "It happens sometimes that some of the member states are not fully satisfied with the filing and rulings of cases, making them consider withdrawing from certain articles. But they have to understand that the court has been fulfilling its obligations on the basis of prescribed rules and regulations, trying cases to help bring peace on the basis of justice for the people and the nations," he affirmed. The court leadership is working to convince the withdrawing countries to retain their membership of the declaration, he stated, expressing the hope that the leaders are going to understand the matter sufficiently well.

"With the new leadership, we are optimistic that Tanzania will consider coming back and allow individuals and NGOs to access justice in the African court. Tanzania is the host country of the

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TRA reopens tax default accounts



The Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam and retired president Dr Jakaya Kikwete inaugurates the 40th anniversary conference of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) at the Nkrumah Hall of UDSM - Main Campus yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Those shifted to the BoT will not yield cash when accessed

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

ALL bank accounts owned by individual businessmen that were closed by state agencies over tax arrears have been opened, a senior official with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) disclosed here yesterday.

TRA Director for Taxpayer Services and Education, Richard Kayombo made this affirmation during a presentation at the 10th editors' conference and professional workshop organized by the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

Kayombo stated that TRA is now entering into a special agreement with businessmen on how they can pay their tax debts, noting that the law allows TRA to seize bank accounts of individual businessmen as a way of

MPs querying RCs, DCs military picks

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

THE tradition by Tanzanian presidents to appoint serving or retiring military personnel to civilian roles with political clout such as Regional Commissioners (RCs) and District Commissioner (DCs) yesterday caused a hot debate in Parliament with some questioning its rationale.

The matter arose as MPs debated the 2021/22 budget estimates of the Ministry of Defence and National Service tabled by the minister, Elias Kwandikwa.

It was raised by Esther Matiko (Special Seats-Chadema) who argued that appointing serving members of the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) was not well thought-out because such roles are partially political.

It is not proper to appoint serving military people in such positions be

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Minister of Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (2nd L) shares a light moment with CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela shortly after arriving to attend the seminar on financial and investment education organised by the bank for its shareholders and the rest of the public in Arusha yesterday. Looking on are CRDB board chairman Dr Ally Laay (R) and his deputy, Prof Neema Mori. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

We want them to pay taxes voluntarily and settle their tax arrears through a special arrangement. We are no longer going to close their bank accounts

recovering money in defaulted taxes.

"Closing someone's bank account is normally the last option after all the other means prove to have failed. We usually discuss the matter with businessmen before we resolve to close their bank accounts," the veteran TRA administrator surmised.

"We want them to pay taxes voluntarily and settle their tax arrears through a special arrangement. We are no longer going to close their bank accounts."

Bank accounts of private businesses shifted to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) will not be accessible to recover their monies after access to their accounts is restored, he stated.

Last month when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam, Kayombo asserted that more traders were now paying taxes voluntarily compared to earlier period where some of them closed shops after clashing with TRA.

The 'door to door' campaign conducted by TRA in different regions has seen many traders paying taxes

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Minister: Aim higher in port hinterland countries

By Finnigan wa Simbeye, Arusha

FINANCE and Economic Planning minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has challenged CRDB Bank Plc to energetically extend its services to landlocked countries which use Dar es Salaam port as major gateway for their imports and exports.

Addressing CRDB shareholders when opening a seminar on the basics of financial management and stock market investment, the

Last year, we paid dividend of 17/- per share but for this year, if shareholders endorse the proposed dividend for this year during the annual general meeting tomorrow, then it will be more

minister said it was possible for the bank to go past Burundi by establishing subsidiaries or opening branches in other hinterland countries. One objective is easing payment for cargo transiting through Dar es Salaam Port, among other user needs.

"CRDB Bank is a market leader that should now go regional because we have seen other countries' bank opening subsidiaries or branches in Tanzania," Dr Nchem-

ba asserted, noting that the country's Tier 1 capital bank should extend to DR Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"As you are stock exchange listed bank with government interest, you can open branches even at our embassies so that you can facilitate payment for cargo move

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'Tanzania must rejoin key protocol of African court'

FROM PAGE 1

court, so this can also help to bring Tanzania to review its earlier decision," he said. Tanzania withdrew from article 34 (6) in November 2019, a move effectively blocking individuals and NGOs from directly going to the court to file cases that seek redress for presumed human rights violations. Justice Ore said that the court was implementing plans to strengthen sensitization programmes and educating African states on the importance of the court, especially in relation to the protection of the girl child and children's rights as a whole. The girl child is the most vulnerable at times compared to other categories of the population so they need extra protection of their rights as they tend to be more intensely violated, he said, reminding media practitioners on the mission of the court, to protect human rights in Africa. "All the people of Africa deserve to have their rights being protected so that nobody suffers by another person's arbitrary actions, and no one should be left aside," he emphasised. The court president said that this judicial organ of the African Union has

membership of 55 states countries, is staffed by 70 officials coming from various nationalities in all direction of AU membership. About 31 countries out of the 55 have ratified the protocol, he specified. "Tanzania, Rwanda and Ivory coast have withdrawn from the court declaration even though they are still part of the protocol," he elaborated. About 80 percent of cases filed at the court come from the host country, Tanzania not because it has the highest incidence of violations but just that the citizens of the country are aware of the services provided by the court and are seeking to make good use of them, he stated. "We are encouraging other member states to sensitize their citizens on the existence and mandate of the court." He commended IPP Media outlets for maintaining professionalism and being accurate in delivering news and various programmes to the public. "The African court will continue working closely and forging relations with the media in the country and among the member states. Media houses should continue to be innovative, adopting technology so as to be competitive," he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan in conversation with special envoy from the President of the Republic of Burundi Evariste Ndayishimiye, ambassador Ezechiel Nibigira who is the minister for East African Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture of Burundi, shortly after arriving at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

TRA reopens tax default accounts

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voluntarily, aware that TRA was under instructions to take a more positive attitude to business entities. TRA officials had already toured businesses in Geita, Kinondoni, Arusha, Dodoma, Singida, Coast,

Mtwara, Mbeya and Mwanza tax regions and were pursuing the campaign in Kilimanjaro, Ilala and Tembeke tax regions. Kayombo said the campaign will be sustainable as it is targeting to increase the number of taxpayers and promote voluntary payment of taxes

across the country.

At a State House address in the capital in March, President Samia Suluhu Hassan ordered tax authorities to stop frustrating businesses and harassing taxpayers, and instead devise strategies to expand the tax base to meet collection targets.

The president said tax collectors have been employing enforcement tactics that pushed traders to close shop. Vicious tax collectors take away tools of work from business people and diminish the tax base, the president underlined.



CCBRT hospital CEO Brenda Msangi (2nd L) the hospital Fistula surgeon Dr. Peter Majinge (L), Royal Danish embassy official Lena Hothos (2nd R) and fistula patient from Katoro Geita Leah Lucas, cutting a cake to commemorate the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula at the hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Minister: Aim higher in port hinterland countries

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ment for clients in the landlocked countries," Dr Nchemba, an economist by profession, suggested.

He said the Treasury and the Bank of Tanzania will offer all necessary support to ensure that major banks in which the government has a stake are assisted to go regional.

The minister will in the next few days meet with leaders of banks, starting with publicly listed banks in which the government has shares to discuss what policy and regulatory changes are needed to boost growth and lower interest rates charged on loans, he declared.

He praised the leadership of CRDB Managing Director Adulmajid Nsekela and board chairman, Dr Ally Laay for sustaining growth of the local market's largest bank by net asset value and network, saying the Treasury is happy to learn that this year's dividend will dwarf that of last year.

He paid tribute to CRDB Bank's veteran CEO and founding managing director who is now Vunjo MP, Dr Charles Kimei for having championed the growth of the bank from its privatization in 1996 to his merited retirement in 2018.

He said Dr Kimei, who was also present at the seminar, and Nsekela have proved that Tanzania has talent for managing large corporate entities. "CRDB's good performance over the years is clear testimony that we have Tanzanians who are capable of run-

ning successfully such big banks," he declared.

In their welcoming remarks, Nsekela and Laay said CRDB has been making a profit and paying dividend to shareholders including the Treasury more recently, with the change in government policy on large corporations.

"Last year, we paid dividend of 17/- per share but for this year, if shareholders endorse the proposed dividend for this year during the annual general meeting tomorrow, then it will be more," Nsekela said. The management and the board are proposing a 22/- per share dividend this year, with the bank having made 236bn/- gross profit last year compared to 176bn/- in 2018, he stated.

Nsekela urged Tanzanians to invest in stocks saying CRDB's shares have been appreciating since being listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. "Our shares are currently selling at 290/- each which is a lot more compared to the same period last year," he pointed out.

Seconding Nsekela, Dr Laay said Tanzanians are not investing much in listed companies and other government securities compared to their peers in East Africa, notably Kenya. "The public should now starting considering investing in listed companies seriously, especially in CRDB Bank which is money minting," he affirmed.

CRDB shareholders will be holding their 26th annual general meeting today with online participation apart from those present at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC)

MPs querying RCs, DCs military picks

FROM PAGE 1

cause duties of Regional Commissioner and District Commissioner include political functions," she stated.

"By virtue of their positions, they automatically become members of CCM political committees in their respective regions or districts."

This prompted reaction from Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), asking for

the Speaker's guidance on the matter as it touches on the powers of the appointing authority.

"Standing Orders number 71 prohibits us from deliberating on powers of the president," she said.

"Our constitution does not tie the hands of the president on who to appoint; this is the appointing authority's prerogative."

Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson who was presiding chipped in, counter-arguing that in her argument, the lawmaker looked at one aspect—politics—while leaving out wider issues taken into account in

considering whom to appoint to such offices..

"Don't look at the political side only. RCs and DCs are also chairs of security committee," she said.

"Presidents appoint soldiers when there is a need to do so. The party has an election manifesto to be delivered and sometimes soldiers are the right people for the job," the presiding legislator intoned.

"I appeal to Tanzanians not to worry when they see RCs or DCs in military uniform."

Stella Manyanya (Nyasa) said ap-

pointing soldiers in civilian roles gives them a window in politics so that they understand and use the skills acquired in conflict resolution rather that escalation.

"It is healthy to give soldiers civilian roles so that they know politics because most conflicts are caused by politics," she further noted.

In her initial argument, Matiko said as a civilian, she gets irritated and fearful when she is served by a man or woman in uniform in a traditionally civilian position.

Other contributions recommended better ways of utilizing TPDF and

the National Service to enhance their roles as outreach and vocational training centres respectively.

Asia Halanga (Special Seats) said TPDF stands a better chance of solving endemic youth unemployment by introducing vocational training courses as an addition to national service drillings.

"Instead of National Service graduates looking for job at TPDF, they should be able to feature in other sectors or use their acquired skills for own initiatives," she said.

Manyanya said it is time to enable TPDF engage in scientific research

in collaboration with other institutions inside and outside the country.

She also brought up the human rights issue of employment of people with disabilities in the armed forces.

"Previously the military did not accept short people like me but that has now changed," she said.

"I am not saying that they go to war. All I am saying is that there are people with disabilities who have leadership and administrative talents capable of serving Tanzanians though the military," she added.

Suma JKT making plans to expand its operations

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

THE Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF)'s security company SUMAJKT Guard Limited is set to expand in manpower, equipment and revenue in the next financial year but it stands accused of benefiting from special treatment.

Although a member of private security service providers in the country, the company receives tenders from the government and its agencies without being subjected to competition like other firms, the Houset heard yesterday.

Tabling the 2021/22 budget estimates, Defence and National Service minister Elias Kwandikwa said that from July 2020 to April 2021, the firm added 96 more clients to its portfolio, bought new vehicles, arms and introduced a new dog unit.

"In the financial year 2020/21, the company expects to collect 34,770,375,312.25/- in revenues," said the minister.

But Almas Maige-Tabora North (CCM) was not happy with the growth and expansion plans of SUMAJKT Guard Limited as articulated by the minister.

"SUMAJKT Guard now takes all the security tenders. It is awarded

tenders without competition. This is a threat to the private security sector," he said.

"I am informed that police and the prisons are also setting up their private security units.," he said.

"I suggest that they compete in tendering just like other companies."

In his speech, Kwandikwa said that between July 2020 and April 2021 SUMAJKT Guard Ltd increased its clientele from 455 to 551.

"Also, as of April 2021, the company had employed 13,119 youth from all over the country," he said.

"The company has continued to improve its services by purchasing new equipment including cash transit vehicles, patrol cars and motorcycles, weapons and setting up a dog unit," he said.

Maige who is a stakeholder in the private security sector expressed fears that special treatment of SUMAJKT Guard Limited is a real threat to the sector's growth in the country.

He said he has no problem with the firms and others likely to be established by ministries and departments. The problem is awarded tenders which he said must be transparent and competitive hence a level playing field.



Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces (TPDF) and National Service officers arriving at the Parliament grounds in Dodoma yesterday to attend the ministry of Defence and National Service 2021/2022 budget estimates presentation. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt to streamline rules, procedures aimed at simplifying the issuance of work permits

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has embarked on the process to align and streamline rules and procedures aimed at simplifying the issuance of work permits to expatriates to facilitate businesses and investments.

Minister for Trade and Investment Godfrey Mwambe revealed this yesterday during a breakfast meeting with the European Union Business Group (EUBG) in Dar es Salaam.

According to the minister the process is part of initiatives towards full implementation of the Tanzania business blue print which pro-

poses to improve the business environment in Tanzania through reduction of regulatory burdens and risks faced by businesses complying with regulations.

"We are in the final stages of fully implementing the document. It may be as soon as this financial year but let me assure you that the political will is there," he said.

In the reforms, the minister said the private sector will be able to significantly reduce the compliance cost and in turn increase productivity.

The minister Mwambe said though there are various challenges facing trade between

the two sides, the EU is the leading trading bloc with Tanzania saying it is very important to trade.

He mentioned some of the challenges as the disagreement on how to implement the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EAC and the EU.

"Tanzania had submitted reasons why it was not ok with the signatories of the agreement as the EU wanted its commissioner to represent them instead of individual countries, this has been an issue up to now," he said In his remarks, EU ambassador to Tanzania Manfredo Fanti said the

bloc is committed to support Tanzania's endeavours to develop, saying what is needed is trusted and stable public regulatory system based on mutual trust.

Tanzania Business Council (TNBC) executive secretary Dr Goodwill Wanga requested the government to come up with a stimulus package to rescue businesses that had been hit by COVID-19.

"We are currently carrying out various initiatives via dialogues as part of a move to support businesses that have been hit by the pandemic," he said.

Speaking when he explained to the

investors the opportunities available in the country, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel said despite being the second country in Africa with the largest population of livestock, Tanzania has not benefited enough from the sector due to poor investments.

"We are not working on how we can improve the animal feed sector because we believe customers do not buy the product but they go for the value in it, therefore animals which are well fed produce valuable products," he said.

Fund calls on stakeholders to access communication in their rural areas

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Universal Communications Access Fund (UCSAF) has called on communication stakeholders in the country to tap opportunities from the fund to increase communication access in their areas and the country at large.

The appeal was made by Eng Richard Sotery from UCSAF during a one-day meeting between the fund and communication stakeholders in central regions held in Tabora. The meeting brought together participants from Tabora, Kigoma and Singida.

He said media owners, especially community radio stations, televisions and cable television networks have a lot to benefit from UCSAF. "It is important for communication service providers to know the existing opportu-

nities like funding prospects" he said.

According to Eng Sotery, UCSAF was purposely established to help communication service providers to increase connectivity throughout the country, specifically in the rural and marginalised areas.

"Radio and mobile phone connectivity is still a big challenge in many parts of the country and at UCSAF, we call upon communication service providers to cooperate with us in efforts to ensure every Tanzanian is connected" he added.

While presenting a paper at the meeting, Eng Shirikisho Mpunji from UCSAF noted that the aim of the meeting was also to inform the participants the rights and obligations of the fund as well as strengthening relations in efforts to enable UCSAF work closely with service providers.

On his part, Joseph Kavise, a legal officer at the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)'s central zone office, also urged the

stakeholders to take opportunities availed by UCSAF and also stick to laws and regulations set by the government.

"It is very important to adhere to the laws and regulations set by the government as you work hard to ensure all Tanzanians are connected with communication networks" he said.

UCSAF was established by the government to facilitate and coordinate communication services access to rural and urban underdeveloped areas through partnership with sector players so as to achieve social economic development in line with Tanzania development Vision 2025 goals.

It is implementing a project to provide ICT equipment to public schools and assist in connecting the schools with the internet to facilitate the process of learning ICT subjects.




Advertisement
BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-05-03	GENERAL COATING SPECIFICATION, PROTECTIVE COATINGS - PASTE PLANT, AGGREGATE PLANT & PROCESS PLANT AREA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialised in painting / coating application with minimum Class 4 CRB registration Experience working with similar works in last 2 years Competence in Working at Heights and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members (Mainly – Supervisors / Safety officer / QA officer / Blasters / Painters / Scaffold erectors / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. QA / QC officer should be NACE certified or equivalent List of equipment's - Resource list – specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment). Scaffolding materials – quantity and type

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead if your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA – Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 18:00 on the 27th May 2021. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**



VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR) AT IPP MEDIA



African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) President Judge Sylvain Ore (R) signs a guests visiting book shortly after arriving at The Guardian Ltd (TGL) the publishers of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers at Miko-cheni Light Industrial Area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is IPP Senior Human Resources Manager Ayoub Semva. Photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Nipashe newspaper Managing Editor Beatrice Bandawe (2nd L) explains a point to President Judge Sylvain Ore (2nd R) and his delegation when they visited the TGL newsroom. Others are The Guardian newspaper Chief Sub Editor Richard Mngazija (R) and TGL Director Joyce Luhanga (C).



TGL printing manager Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam briefs the guest on the printing facility.



East African Television (EATV) coordinator, Sophia Mnganya (L) briefs the guests on their operations.



Radio One sports editor Amri Massare (L), explains to the delegation on the studio operations



ITV channel director Pius Paul briefs President Judge Sylvain Ore on operations in one of the station's studios.



ITV news department head Steven Chuwa (R) explains to the delegation how the newsroom operates.



President Judge Sylvain Ore is seated in the ITV news bulletin studio during a briefing by channel director Pius Paul.



Tanzania building works Ltd director Eng Mohamed Noray (C) receives information from the Tanzania Police force official (R) sewing factory weaver in charge Musa Chitande (R) during the launching ceremony at Kurasini in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Jane Goodall wins this year's Templeton Prize for life's work

By Special Correspondent

THE naturalist Jane Goodall has been announced as the 2021 winner of the Templeton prize in recognition of her life's work on animal intelligence and humanity.

Goodall (pictured), 87, built her global reputation on her groundbreaking studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1960s. Her foundation, the Jane Goodall Institute, works with local communities as well as providing safe habitats for chimpanzees and gorillas, and its educational branch, Roots and Shoots, operates in 67 countries.

The \$1.5m (£1.1m) prize money "will make a huge difference to our programmes around the world", Goodall told The Guardian. She said she was "humbled and overawed" to be awarded the Templeton prize, whose previous recipients have included the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The prize celebrates individuals who harness the power of science to questions about the universe and humanity's purpose. Heather Templeton Dill, president of the John Templeton Foundation, said Goodall's work exemplified "humility, spiritual curiosity and discovery".

Jane Goodall: 'Change is happening. There are many ways to start moving in the right way'

She added: "Her achievements go beyond the traditional parameters of scientific research to define our perception of what it means to be human. Her discoveries have profoundly altered the world's view of animal intel-



ligence and enriched our understanding of humanity in a way that is both humbling and exalting."

Despite being grounded for the past 15 months due to the pandemic, Goodall said "I was busier than I've been in my entire life".

"Virtual Jane" had attended conferences, delivered lectures, launched a podcast and answered countless emails. "It's way more exhausting than travelling. But on the bright side I've reached millions more people in many more countries than I could in person," she said.

Her message focused on "three very major problems in our lives today. We have to reduce the unsustainable lifestyles of so many of us. We have so much more than what we actually need, and we have this crazy notion that we can have unlimited economic development on a planet with finite natural resources and a growing population of humans and their livestock.

"We have to overcome poverty. If you're really poor, you're going to cut down the last tree in the forest because you're desperate to get the farmer to grow food for your family, and land is getting

scarcer, over-farmed, infertile.

"And we have to work out some kind of sustainable population, especially of livestock. Commercial agriculture is destroying immense areas of habitat to grow the grain to feed all these billions of animals - and a lot of fossil fuels are used in the process."

Although states had a huge responsibility to tackle the climate crisis, individual actions also made a difference, she said.

"If you feel that you're alone in picking up pieces of plastic trash, or eating less meat, or walking or cycling instead of driving a car, then you might feel it doesn't make any difference. But there's a growing awareness, partly elevated by this pandemic, of the fact that we really need a new relationship with the natural world."

Goodall prefers to call herself an advocate rather than an activist who "has a ring of aggressiveness". She said: "I believe people will only change from within. So to change people, you have to reach their hearts." She grew up in a Christian family, but identifies as spiritual rather than religious. "When I'm out in nature, especially when I'm alone, I feel a really strong spiritual connection with the natural world on which we depend."

Although now in her 88th year, she has no plans to slow down. "I can't, can I? If what I'm doing made no difference, I'd give it up. But I get so many messages saying, 'You've changed the way I think, I promise you I'll do my bit.' So I'll keep going for as long as I can."

Help comes to Missenyi floods victims

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

THE Disaster Management Department (DMD) in the Prime Minister's Office has provided various items to Missenyi residents in Kagera Region who were recently afflicted by floods, thus forced to vacate their homes.

Following the floods, more than 1,300 individuals in Kyaka and Bunazi towns have been given temporary shelters at Bunazi and Kasambya primary schools.

Some of the victims have been accommodated at buildings owned by Bunazi primary cooperative union and Ngando sub-parish.

The provided materials were handled over to Nkenge Member of Parliament, Florent Kyombo and Missenyi district disaster committee chairperson, Innocent Mukandala during a function held in Doda city recently.

The items include 100 mattresses, three bales of blankets, 50 mats, 100 cooking utensils, 60 buckets and 100 folding garbage cans.

Kyombo thanked the Prime Minister's office for the assistance which he said will help flood victims because most of them had their home appliances swept away by floods.

He commended efforts by Missenyi District Commissioner, Denice Mwila who worked tirelessly to ensure the flood victims are provided with temporary shelters as well as supervising rehabilitation of damaged infrastructures.

So far, the flood victims have received assistance from different stakeholders including the World Vision Tanzania, Red Cross, NMB bank, Roman Catholic Church in Kagera region and Our Holy Father's church.

The list also includes Nkenge legislator, Florent Kyombo, Kasambya ward councilor Yusufu Mzumb

and the office of the district commissioner. One of the floods victims, Magreth John said: "We are thankful to all those who have intervened to help us. Our children were sleeping outside in the cold, and we had no mosquito bed nets."

She suggested for the district authority to ensure regular checking of the sewage system to avoid such disasters.

On February this year, 300 households in the municipality of Bukoba, Kagera region were made homeless after their houses were submerged by flash floods caused by ongoing rains.

Richard Gasper, a ward councilor for Miembeni ward in the municipality, said people were made homeless following the flooding.

"The floods have not only submerged the houses, but they have also damaged infrastructure, including roads and bridges within the Bukoba municipality," said the ward councilor.

New partnership set to promote Africa's emerging common market

By Guardian Reporter

TWO recently-created regional organizations, Focus Africa and Kory Africa, SA, have agreed to work together to contribute to the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Led by their respective Chief Executive Officers, Sucex Bright and Eric Chinje, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Yaounde today to promote the Science, Innovation and Commodity Expo to be held from August 2 to 07 in Abuja-Nigeria.

"This partnership will ensure the success of the event in Abuja which will highlight critical sectors of economic growth in Africa and what exactly countries in the region will bring to our Common Market," Focus Africa head Sucex Bright said in a statement. He added: "It is important, for the overall success of the AfCFTA, that we inform people on the continent and beyond of existing innovations and Made in Africa product brands."

The Abuja Expo is the first in a series that will seek to reverse the chronic dependence of African countries on the exportation overseas of raw materials and the importation back into the continent of processed products from the same raw materials.

"This agreement is evidence of our collective commitment and determination to make sure the AfCFTA is not just another grand AU project that ultimately decorates government shelves in the region," said Kory Africa CEO, Eric Chinje.

According to him, through working with media across Africa, they will inform and educate citizens everywhere on the promise and challenges of an African Common Market. "The Focus Africa exposition is a chance to jumpstart that process," he added.

Kory Africa SA is a strategic communications firm with representation in over a dozen African countries working to enrich development conversations in Africa and support the continent's drivers of change.

JOB ADVERT – PROJECT MANAGER (01)

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

North Mara Gold Mine Limited is seeking to recruit one (01) Project Manager for North Mara team. The successful candidates for this role reports to Engineering Manager and the role holder will be involved in initiation, planning, execution, monitoring/control and closure of capital and maintenance-based projects, to meet company business targets in accordance with Barrick – North Gold Mine, Capex and Opex plans while adhering to environmental, health and safety policies.

Reporting to: Engineering Manager.

Contract Duration: 2 years

RESPONSIBILITIES:

• Health, Safety & Environmental Compliance:

- o Ensure the compliance to all regulatory and Barrick health, safety and environmental policies and procedures.
- o Ensure all incidents are reported and investigated according to procedure and on time.
- o Participate in the Management of Change process and implementation of technical initiatives.
- o Ensure compliance to all Rules, Regulations/ Standards and Policies while executing tasks.
- o Ensure the Maintenance team and associated contractors have all the necessary, procedures, system, work practices and equipment to work safely.

• Core functions:

- o Assessment of current and future project structures
- o Assessment of current contract management structures and processes,
- o Compilation of a project execution plans detailing current and future requirements with proposed timelines
- o To develop solutions to engineering problems which meet or exceed project requirements
- o Manage consultants and specialists
- o Managing projects in multi-disciplinary environment
- o Provide technical interface with equipment suppliers and contractors
- o Activity and Resource planning
- o Preparation of project scopes of works for multidisciplinary project tasks.
- o Work with department manager or his designate in developing projects plan, budget and schedules.
- o Manage cost, schedule and quality control functions.
- o Participate in the projects risks analysis and assist in the development of risk management plans.
- o Provide technical assistance to team members
- o Work with projects team in planning and executing assigned technical projects.
- o Project reports preparations and writing.
- o Co-ordinate and supervise project installations, commissioning and testing.
- o Develop Job records database and ensure data integrity in the system.
- o Ensure purchase requisitions raised accurately and on time.
- o Ensure the Technical Integrity and consistency of design output
- o Manage the QA/ QC functions
- o Ensure proper change management and operational readiness

ROLE REQUIREMENTS

Qualification Requirements:

- A minimum of a B degree, advanced Diploma or equivalent
- Bachelor of Science Degree/Diploma in Electrical/Mechanical/Civil Engineering will be advantageous
- Project Management Certification will be advantageous
- Highly numerate, with strong financial management

Experience Requirements:

- Minimum 10 years' experience with at least 5 years in a Project Management Role
- Highly proficient in Project Management principles, methods, techniques and tools
- Work experience in large scale multidisciplinary projects in excess of USD 10, 000, 000
- Working knowledge of electrical, mechanical, civil and instrumentation systems
- Experience in developing project schedules and plans by using MS Project or equivalent.
- Ability to work in a team and remain professional at all times.
- Experience in the Mining Industry will be an added advantage.
- Experience in process plant, paste backfill plant, pump stations and other fixed plant construction

Skills / Knowledge Requirements:

- Extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office packages
- Engineering codes, standards, legislation and regulations
- Financial and quality management.
- Tender, adjudication and awarding processes for technical and commercial
- Broad Knowledge of All Engineering Design & Principles
- Ability to adopt and work under tight schedules.
- Verbal and written Communication skills
- Understand technical drawings and manuals.
- Driving skills and a valid driver's license.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU:

- A comprehensive compensation package including bonuses, benefits, and where applicable.
- Ability to make a difference and lasting impact.
- Work in a dynamic, collaborative, progressive, and high-performing team.
- Opportunities to grow and learn with the industry colleagues are endless.

Applicants are invited to submit their CV's/Resume's (indicating the role title in the subject) via e-mail to: nmrecruitment@barrick.com

If you are not contacted by Barrick - North Mara Gold Mine LTD within thirty (30) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful. Short listed candidates may be subjected to any of the following: security clearance; competency assessment; physical capability assessment, reference checking.

Please forward applications before 02 June, 2021.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! NMGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Compliance Hotline, by calling +1-877-246-5399 or through www.barrickgold.ethispoint.com

Govt urged to improve education curricula for better skills

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has been urged to ensure that improvement in education curricula also cope with the development of science and technology so as to produce graduates with required skills and knowledge.

Speaking during the just ended three-day International Quality Education Conference (IQEC) in Dar es Salaam this week, education stakeholders underscored the need for the government to ensure that it improves education curriculums so as to produce competent graduates who will be able to deliver well in the country's development.

Dr Daniel Baheta, head of education unit, UNICEF Tanzania said that the world is changing so fast and digital technologies are no longer optional, so players have to think on the matter seriously in improving the country's development.

He advised the government that when changing the curriculums, teachers should regularly retrain to cope with the new changes, books and learning materials.

Dr Baheta also called for all education players to collectively contribute to the development of the sector. According to him, by continue using outmoded curriculums that do not incorporate changes in the science and technology, will greatly contribute to the production of incompetent graduates who will not be able to compete in the employment market.

Dr Baheta said the transformation of the country's education system and curriculums is a matter of paramount and should start from primary to college level so as to strengthen production of competent human resources to meet the country's current needs.

He said that training programmes, cur-

riculum, technical and vocational education should be designed to meet current needs and the development of science and technology.

Lucian Ngezi, lecturer and researcher at the University of Dodoma (Udom) said they had been challenged to improve collaborations, work closely with the government to provide quality education in the country.

He said that the education sector is still facing various challenges, which calls for support from various stakeholders to address.

Edson Nyingi, resource mobilisation consultant said Tanzania has done a lot of improvement in the education sector but few things still need to be addressed so as to achieve the intended goals. He urged the government to work closely with the private sector and enable more investments and supports so as to further improve provision of education in the country.

Organised by the Tanzania Education Network (TENMET), the forum brought participants from inside and outside the country including key leaders and officials from public, private sector, and Civil Society Organisations from inside and outside the country.

TENMET national coordinator Ochola Wayoga said that the conference will also discuss the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in learning and teaching, contribution of the government in strengthening education during disasters and the role of stakeholders in supporting the improvement of education in the country.

He said for the last eleven years TENMET has been organising, at national level, the quality education conference and its deliberations have immensely contributed towards improving the education sector in the country.



WaterAid director for technical service Gloria Kafuria (R) explains a point on the five village's water project during the launch and handing over of the project at Olkokola village in Arusha council, Arumeru District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Govt, rice stakeholders working to strengthen food security in EA

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government in collaboration with rice stakeholders is working to strengthen food security in the East African region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through implementation of the Second National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS).

This was said by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Prof Siza Tumbo who was represented by Maregesi Geoffrey, the ministry's agricultural engineer at the opening of a three-day East Africa Rice Conference (EARC) involving

various stakeholders in the value chain of the rice crop held in Dar es Salaam this week.

Held from May 18 to 20, the EARC was conducted with in-country workshops across six East African countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

In Tanzania, the conference was organised by the Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) project of which the Sokoine University of Agriculture is a member.

"In collaboration with various stakeholders, the Ministry of Agriculture is committed to ensuring that we increase the area of rice

production from 1.1 million hectares in 2018 to 2.2 million hectares by 2030 and thus increase production from 2.2 tonnes per current hectare to tonnes 4.4 by 2030," the deputy PS said.

He said that other measures that will be implemented are to strengthen marketing and trade systems, increase access to fertilizer and distribution, strengthen irrigated agriculture and promote its technologies while reducing post-harvest crop losses from 30 percent to 10 percent by 2030.

He added that rice is one of the most important food crops produced in almost all

regions in the country in more than 26 districts which for the 2018 survey produces 2,219,628 million tonnes.

Earlier, the lead researcher and head of the APRA project on the Tanzanian side, Prof Aida Isinika from SUA called on all rice crop stakeholders in the country to organize themselves to ensure Tanzania become self-sufficient in the crop and continue to be a leading rice producer for East African countries.

"We all know that Tanzania is a leader in the production of rice in this region of East Africa but we must realize that there are various countries now coming fast in increasing produc-

tivity so all stakeholders must plan for our country to become a world market leader in rice crop," Prof Isinika said.

She noted that the world's largest rice producers have reached their potential productivity and are now looking at the African continent as it still has great production opportunities and so Tanzania must be more prepared to take advantage of the many opportunities available to produce and export instead of relying on imports from outside the country.

The APRA project leader thanked all the stakeholders in the value chain who agreed to participate in this important meeting which will look at all

the key areas in particular and come up with resolutions on best practices that will help achieve those national goals together. Agricultural Projects Officer of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Ridda Dally said for many years they have been working with various stakeholders as well as the government in supporting the development of rice crops in the country and will continue to participate to achieve the goals.

She said that rice is one of the crops that contribute to the development of the people and the nation that is why JICA decided to fund the task force that was preparing the first and sec-

ond National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) whose goal was to increase production of the crop so the conference will help come up with better strategies to implement the plan.

The EARC aimed to identify policy reforms to transform Africa's rice sector through scientific innovations.

Reports show that Africa has become a major consumer of rice with an estimated annual import cost of US\$5-6 billion. Between 2010 and 2035, an additional 116 million tonnes of milled rice will be needed worldwide to meet this increasing demand, of which 30 million tonnes will be needed for Africa.



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud (2nd L) consoles the family of Konde Constituency MP the late Kharib Said Haji shortly after the burial in Pemba on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CEGODETA commends President Samia's move to drop baseless cases

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Centre for Good Governance and Development in Tanzania (CEGODETA) has commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for dropping 147 corruption cases which were baseless.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, the center's chairman, Thomas Ngawaiya described President Samia as a leader who oversees the rule of law.

He added that the decision by President Samia to direct the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to drop the 147 baseless cases is clear indication that she observes the rule of law and good governance.

"With good governance, people are not

judged without being given time to defend themselves. Individuals should be punished after they are found guilty," said Ngawaiya, noting the president realised the shortcomings and that they were against good governance," said Ngawaiya.

Ngawaiya said the institution backs the president's efforts and that it is ready to advise on matters of governance whenever necessary.

"We have heard the President saying that a total of 147 cases filed by PCCB lacked evidence and have been dropped. This is a good move, but there are still public complaints on police misconduct alleging some of them use narcotic drugs," he added.

On Covid-19 vaccine, Ngawaiya said that Tanzania is not an island, hence the need to work

on recommendations by health professionals. He said implementing the professional would improve the well-being of Tanzanians. "People should be left to choose for themselves on whether to go for the vaccine or not. Covid-19 vaccination should be voluntary because we cannot isolate ourselves from other countries," said Ngawaiya.

In early April, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced the formation of an expert committee to evaluate the nation's Covid-19 response, following a year of denial, misinformation, and a lack of transparency from the government led by then-President John Magufuli. He died in March, with suspicions that he succumbed to the coronavirus.

Maintain confidentiality, personal secretaries told

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THERE seems to be a thin line between 'secrets' and 'secretaries' and according to concerns raised at the Tanzania Personal Secretaries Association Conference here, some confidential state matters have been filtering out to the public through personal secretaries.

In the wake of that, personal secretaries have been reminded to maintain integrity and place their respective offices' sensitive and confidential information on priority especially now that information leakages through social media platforms are rife.

That is among the issues that came up during the ongoing Eighth Tanzania Personal Secretaries Association (TAPSEA) academic meeting taking place here in the Nyasa Hall of Arusha International Conference Center (AICC), an event which has broken attendance records in attracting over 3000 participants at single sitting. The Minister of State, President's Office in-charge of Civil Servants' Management and Good Governance, Mohammed Mchengerwa opened the 8th TAPSEA meeting, insisting on confidentiality among participants.

"In realizing their importance, the government shall always ensure that Personal Secretaries are well taken care of, but on the other hand they also need to be more diligent and maintain their office confidentiality," stated the minister.

Previously, the Chairperson of TAPSEA, Zuhra Songambe pointed out that the meetings have been fruitful,

citing the case of the previous 2017 gathering in which it was proposed that there should be a special degree for personal secretaries' higher training.

"The government has responded to the request and now many of our TAPSEA members have started undergoing higher education at the Public Service Training Institution of Dar-es-salaam," stated Zuhra Songambe.

On her part, the General Secretary for the association, Anneth Mapima stated that this year's meeting targets to further groom members on improving their performances at work in addition to self-realisation and being smart.

"At the end of the meeting we envisage that participants will be more focused at work, creative, maintain professionalism, to be improvising in awareness of the ongoing economic transformation in Tanzania," added Mapima.

It also came to light during the meeting that while Personal Secretaries happen to be important components of any institution, organization or ministry, their significance have always been downplayed, belittled to an extent of them losing morale.

Participants called for recognition, respect and that Personal Secretaries were entitled to regular salary increment and improved remunerations. The conference is also providing a forum for the secretaries to review the Secretarial etiquettes and ethics; and to exchange ideas on various challenges that they face in their day to day work.



Tabora municipal council director Bosco Ndunguru (3rd L) hands over a motorcycle to Solelansabo cooperative society chairperson Mary James during the training organised by the NBC Bank for the cooperatives unions leaders in Tabora Region earlier this week aimed at educating them on the importance of insurance services, the use of foreign currency as well as keeping of financial records and the proper use of their incomes so that they can easily borrow. Others are the bank's head of small and medium enterprises Raymond Urassa (2nd L), the regional Registrar of Cooperatives Unions Absalom Cheliga (L) and the society's leaders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA to suspend MV Mbeya II services for major repairs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) yesterday announced to suspend the MV Mbeya II services in order to do major repairs.

In a statement, TPA said that the services have been suspended due to an incident that occurred on April 3, where 87 passengers and 25 crew members of the MV Mbeya II survived after the ship was hit by waves on Lake Nyasa in the process getting stranded in the sand near Matema Port.

"But even after the incident, the ship managed to return to Kyela Port safely without affecting passengers and their cargo."

The statement adds: To ensure safety of passengers, cargo and that of the vessel, TPA inspected it and decided that it should go for repairs to avoid incidences of that nature while the vessel is carrying passengers in the future.

The statement however did not mention the exact date when the vessel is expected to resume services.

MV Mbeya II vessel was launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on January 05, 2020 and has a capacity to carry 200 passengers, 200 tonnes of cargo at cost of 9.1 bn/-.



But even after the incident, the ship managed to return to Kyela Port safely without affecting passengers and their

Tanzania helpline calls to fight child marriage and abuse

By Special Correspondent

CHILD marriage continues to affect many young girls across Tanzania, in East Africa, but now a series of interventions supported by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) are allowing children to get the support they need to avoid unwanted and potentially damaging relationships.

It was 3 o'clock on a Friday afternoon when Grace*, a counsellor at the National Child Helpline in Tanzania, received a call from a concerned teacher in Msalala, a small town in the remote Shinyanga region in the

north-west of the East African country.

One of her brightest students Eliza*, aged 13, had not gone to school that day following worrying rumours that her parents intended to marry her off. She learned that they had accepted a payment in the form of a bride dowry from the family of the intended groom. The man chosen for Eliza was at 35-years-old, more than 22 years her senior.

On a recent two-day visit to Tanzania, UNFPA's Executive Director, Dr Natalia Kanem, met with counsellors at the National Child Helpline, in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam. The

helpline is run by C-Sema, a national NGO, in collaboration with the government.

The #116 toll-free service, available across all mobile networks in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, responds to around 3,500 calls a day from women and children who are at risk of violence, and from family and community members who report abuses.

The helpline has reported an increase in calls during the Covid pandemic as school closures made children more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Trained volunteer counsellors like Grace give women and

young people support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The counsellors also liaise with support networks and protection systems in the callers' locality to provide further assistance.

Eliza's story has a happy ending. As a result of Grace's coordination with local government authorities and district social welfare officers in Msalala, officers from the Police Gender and Children's Desk visited Eliza's parents and the marriage did not take place.

Dr Kanem expressed gratitude to C-Sema and counsellors for their dedication to advancing gender equality and the

health, rights and well-being of women and young people, including through the use of digital platforms and new technologies.

Despite progress and the commitment by the government to tackle gender inequalities and discrimination, as articulated in the Five-year National Plans of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children, violence remains a daily reality for many women and adolescent girls.

UNFPA Tanzania is supporting efforts to eradicate gender-based violence and to strengthen protection systems

across the country. In addition to supporting the National Child Helpline, it is also working with police officers who staff specialized gender and children's investigation units which meet the needs of women and girls, and other one-stop support services that provide holistic care all in one place to ensure that victims of abuse do not have to go from one place to another to get medical care, psychosocial support or legal assistance.

Community centres, where women support each other and take the lead in ending violence in their communities, have also been set up.

Efforts to end violence are not only focused on empowering women and girls. Men and boys, and traditional and community leaders, are also included in conversations in recognition of their role and contribution to gender equality. Through extensive community outreach, UNFPA's partners are encouraging discussions around harmful stereotypes of masculinity and positive ways to support the rights of women and girls.

Engaging men in holding other men accountable is critical to creating the basis for greater equality and they must not be left out or left behind, stressed

'Use new programme to access foreign markets'

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

BUSINESS community and other stakeholders in export industry have been urged to use effectively the existence of market access programme (MAP) that would enable to do their business more efficiently and profitably for benefit of the both parties.

The advice was delivered in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Miriam Kikoti who is a Business Information officer at the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade) during a training on Market access programme that was organised by local organisation called B-AI GEE Finance limited.

She said that the MAP which is available on the International Trade Center (ITC) Website was launched to support stakeholders particularly exporters to conduct their foreign business more easily.

"This programme launched by ITC is free of charge for exporters in developing countries like Tanzania while others in developed nations have to pay" she said.

She said that the programme has crucial information regarding the criteria of various goods that are to be exported.

"Exporters and other stakeholders must make use of the program before they start so

that they understand what is needed by the foreign companies," she explained.

According to her, other stakeholders who can access the MAP include policy makers, researchers, trade negotiators, and importers.

Speaking, a participant identified as Melkido January, said more efforts were needed to make most of our products meet criteria to access foreign markets.

"We have to make sure that SMEs understand better the business language and culture of foreign markets so as to lure them into buying our goods," he emphasized.

January thanked Tantrade for the training urging for more cooperation with small and medium entrepreneurs (SMES).

Another participant identified as Ulrich Mwinyiechi urged fellow participants to make use of the opportunity during the training and help more people at the grass root level.

"We will be ambassadors to inform others who were not be able to attend this training so as to help our country reach its development target," he said. The one day training attracted a number of participants mostly accountants and cashiers.



Arusha City council director Dr John Pima (L) cuts a ribbon to launch the children under five years old registration exercise on Thursday. Others are the City chief medical officer Dr Kheri Kagya (C) and Levulosi Ward councillor Agustino Matemu. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Eutelsat in partnership with Facebook expands use of express Wi-Fi to extend link in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

EUTELSAT Communications is expanding its use of the Express Wi-Fi platform in partnership with Facebook to provide broadband services via satellite across several regions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

With Express Wi-Fi, Eutelsat aims to connect thousands of people in rural and

underserved communities spanning Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana and Zimbabwe.

Express Wi-Fi is a platform developed by Facebook Connectivity that enables partners to build, grow and monetize their Wi-Fi

businesses in a scalable way, while providing their customers with fast, affordable, and reliable internet access. Express Wi-Fi is used in more than 30 countries, including in multiple Asian, South American and African markets, helping millions of people connect over Wi-Fi.

Eutelsat and Facebook have previously conducted successful pilots in rural

and underserved areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) enabling local businesses to offer affordable internet access to customers on a pre-paid basis. To date, Eutelsat's use of the Express Wi-Fi platform has enabled access to affordable broadband for thousands of individuals across the DRC.

Philippe Baudrier, General Manager of Konnect Africa

commented: "We are delighted to partner with Facebook in this ambitious scheme, aimed at getting more people online in the most underserved areas of sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative is the perfect example of the power of satellite connectivity to bridge the digital divide, with unmatched economic and social benefits. We are proud once again to leverage the

unparalleled coverage of EUTELSAT KONNECT to satisfy this growing demand."

"At Facebook, we're committed to working with partners to help expand connectivity in Sub-Saharan Africa, which continues to be the region with the highest coverage gap," said Fargani Tambeayuk, Head of Connectivity Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa, Facebook.

"Connectivity is essential to ensuring access to jobs, education, healthcare and more. We're proud to partner with Eutelsat to combine the power of the Express Wi-Fi platform and EUTELSAT KONNECT, with the goal of increasing satellite broadband coverage across rural and underserved areas of Sub-Saharan Africa."

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 22 MAY 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Turtle Day: We should encourage human action to rescue tortoises survive and thrive

THE purpose of World Turtle Day, May 23, sponsored yearly since 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue, is to bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them survive and thrive. World Turtle Day is among the most effective of species awareness days in increasing the search for information on turtles online.

Once home to slave traders, Zanzibar's Changuu island is among few pockets where giant tortoises live. Also known as prison island, Tanzania's Changuu island not only attracts tourists' attention for its beautiful scenery but also for its giant Aldabra tortoises. Just five kilometers (3 miles) away from Zanzibar, the exotic Changuu island is among the few habitats in the world where the giant tortoises live.

They are roughly 122 centimeters (48 inches) in length with an average weight of 250 kg (550 pounds). They are known to be among the world's longest-lived animals, with some thought to be over 200 years of age. On Changuu island, their ages are written on their shells.

In 2018, Tanzanian held an Egyptian national in connection with an attempt to smuggle 47 live tortoises out of the country. The authorities said the Egyptian was arrested at the Zanzibar International Airport where he was in transit abroad. Also in same year police announced the seizure of 114 tortoises that were about to be smuggled to European countries and the United States through South Africa.

The once uninhabited island was sold in the 1860s to slave traders by the first sultan of

Zanzibar, Majid bin Zaid. In 1893, it was sold to a British general who planned to build a prison on the island. However, it was never been used as prison, instead to be used as a hospital and quarantine area.

In 1919, the British governor of Seychelles sent four Aldabra giant tortoises to Changuu as a gift. By the 1950s, the tortoise population on Changuu rose over 200. Now, tourists flock to Changuu to see the giant Aldabra tortoises first hand.

World Turtle Day is celebrated around the globe in a variety of ways, from dressing up as turtles or wearing green summer dresses, to saving turtles caught on highways, to research activities. Turtle Day lesson plans and craft projects encourage teaching about turtles in classrooms.

Founded in 1990, American Tortoise Rescue is the founding sponsor of World Turtle Day. The term "world turtle day" is trademarked by Susan Tellem of Malibu, California. Featured in Chase's Book of Annual Events, the day was created as an annual observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world. Turtles are reptiles of the order Chelonia.

Turtles have appeared in myths and folktales around the world. Some terrestrial and freshwater species are widely kept as pets. Turtles have been hunted for their meat, for use in traditional medicine, and for their carapaces. Marine turtles are often killed accidentally as by catch in fishing nets. Turtle habitats around the world are being destroyed. As a result of these pressures, many species are threatened with extinction by 2100.

Why should biodiversity be Africa's top priority?

THE International Day for Biological Diversity or World Biodiversity Day is a United Nations sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is currently held on May 22. The International Day for Biological Diversity falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

Biodiversity loss is a global challenge; the world's natural capital is under serious threat through a range of anthropogenic actions. Africa is host to remarkable biodiversity, with many endemic and endangered mammals and plants. Africa is also immensely rich with tropical forests, savannahs, montane grasslands, mangroves, deserts, wetlands.

It is estimated that the over exploitation and degradation of the biodiversity ecosystems will result in the loss of 50 per cent of Africa's bird and mammal species, and 20-30 per cent of lake productivity by the end of the century, as well as decline of wildlife and fisheries.

It is estimated that 70 per cent of Africa's protected areas were touched by war between 1946 and 2010, with elephants, hippos, giraffes and other large mammals perishing as militants and hungry citizens hunted animals for meat and for marketable commodities such as ivory. Biodiversity loss also combines with many other environmental problems

such as sea and land pollution by toxic waste, plastics and heavy metals which affect the quality of life.

Climate change is one of the major threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Africa. The loss of biodiversity in Africa alters the structures and functions of ecological systems, compromising efforts to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15 which aims to "sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss".

The decline of biodiversity in Africa is expected to continue and to affect Africa's development progress and continent's ability to grow sustainably. It is important to recognize the efforts made recently by many African countries to protect their natural assets by increasing awareness of their populations and communities on the values of biodiversity and its importance for socioeconomic development, building capacity, improving knowledge, creating protecting areas, conserving biodiversity hotspots and promoting nature-based solutions. However, given the amplitude of the challenges, African countries need to enhance and step up their efforts to reverse the current trends of biodiversity loss. To do so, they need to ensure that biodiversity becomes a top priority in their development goals.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

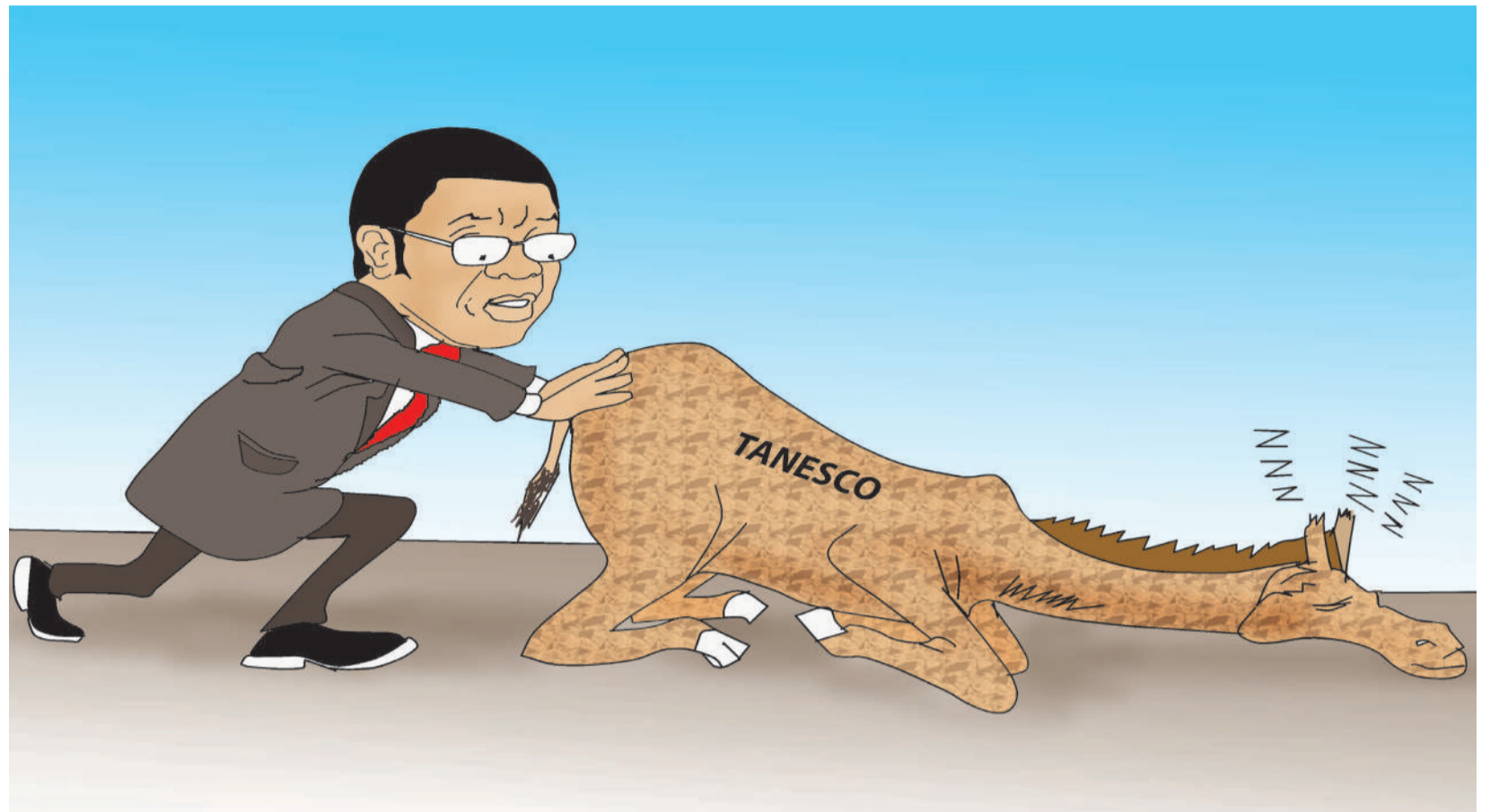
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Anti-graft war: The way forward

By Iliyasu Gashinbaki

Iliyasu Gashinbaki canvasses the need to pass into law the bill for the establishment of chartered institute of forensics and certified fraud examiners. The Bill for the Establishment of Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria scaled second reading at the House of Representatives on Thursday, March 29, 2021. The significance of this in the fight against corruption, fraud and criminality in Nigeria is far reaching. Promoted by Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), it is a multi-disciplinary bill crafted to fire from all cylinders the hydra-headed monster that corruption has become in the country. Promoters of the bill have noted with concern the rising state of failure of cases in court and determined to reverse the trend. They believe 100% conviction of fraudsters is possible in courts if the cases are diligently prosecuted backed by hard core evidence using scientific methods of forensics and fraud examination.

The general public usually thinks that accountants are either fraud examiners or forensic experts. That is not true. As accountants, we are mandated to keep and maintain records in true and fair manner that is reliable. The fraud examiner or forensic accountant on the other hand, looks for the minute details of fraud not just accounts but the diverse ramification of fraud with the aim to ultimately find the evidence that will stand the test of time and nail the suspect.

Both the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) train accountants. These are two major bodies and the extent of their scope of work is to maintain records of account that ensure reliability and accuracy for all the stakeholders. But maintaining accurate records is not enough in detecting fraud as criminals are always ahead of regulators or any system put in place. That is why you need the special skill of a forensic expert to unravel fraud

and corruption. Being an accountant gives one an advantage in investigating fraud but other disciplines like law, economics, sociology, psychology and so on are also incorporated into the fraud examination exercise. Forensics is also diverse. While Forensic accounting is deployed to dig out evidence that will stand the test of trial, forensic science is also used to get evidence that is used in convicting criminals. Undoubtedly, the Chartered Institute of Forensics and Fraud Examiners of Nigeria which combines the two broad areas of scientific investigation will significantly reduce the quantum of fraud both in the public and private sector in Nigeria.

Regulators and even the people in the forefront of the fight against corruption have not been able to understand that we need to build capacity. For instance, if you notice, by legislation, we have the EFCC, ICPC, and even the police with the prosecuting powers associated with anything that has to do with corruption but we do not have a single professional body in Nigeria that is chartered and, dedicated for the purposes of fraud examination and forensic accounting. What we have on the other hand is so much money going into prosecution but what about the training and capacity building of professionals that is independent to service both the public and private sector in ensuring that we root out fraud and criminality? That is where the Institute comes in.

The Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria will uniquely put on the table something different. It is different from any other law ever passed in this country because there is no law

passed to build capacity of law enforcement agencies in the area of forensics and fraud examination.

Secondly, ANAN has the Nigerian College of Accountancy and that college has been upgraded into a university. The next necessary step will be to create the Nigerian Forensic Academy and once the bill becomes law, the Academy will be affiliated to the university to build capacity of the tertiary institutions. The idea is to upgrade it to a regional university in Africa in forensics and fraud examination. The multidisciplinary nature of the institute makes it a platform for diverse professionals in forensic architecture, criminology, law, sociology, medicine and so on to deal with various ramifications of fraud. This way, the institute will have the scope and competence to deal with the broad diversity of our economy and growing complexities of fraud. The bill, when passed into law, will deal with banking, insurance, capital market, judiciary and even legislative fraud. Let it be clear: EFCC and ICPC are investigations and prosecuting agencies. They have prosecuting powers. The Chartered Institute is not a government agency and it is not going to be funded by government's money. It is going to be funded by subscriptions and activities it will generate from its members.

Interestingly, with Nigeria joining the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the implication is that money laundering, tax evasion, trade malpractices and all sorts of inter-jurisdictional fraud and organised crime will double because of the huge market and so many things being liberalised. So if there is anytime Nigeria should take leadership so that it will

become the epicenter that will incubate professionals in forensics and fraud examination not only for the country, but export them as intellectual capital, this is the time. And Nigeria can do that through this Institute. This is because Nigeria is one of the biggest victims of fraud. So this institute is uniquely different from any other body you have currently or any legislation that is being contemplated in the National Assembly.

Another aspect where the institute will play a key role is the area of recovered loot. The institute will ensure that recovered loot will be properly accounted for. And not just accounted for, but will not be re-looted and re-applied. Working with this institute, Nigeria can also ensure the speedy recovery of stolen money still trapped abroad with so many technicalities to delay their return to African countries. The institute will ensure speedy action for the return of looted money with the commitment that the money will be directed towards the SDGs.

The importance of the institute to the three arms and tiers of government is so germane that we believe passage of the bill into law will perhaps be the greatest gift the ninth assembly will give to this country.

Dr. Gashinbaki is President and Chairman of Council, Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria



China lauded for championing global efforts in helping Africa

NAIROBI

CHINA'S willingness to support Africa in dealing with the twin challenges of conflict and COVID-19 pandemic as expressed at the recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting is a sign of great brotherhood, African political and international relations experts have noted.

This came after Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, which holds the Presidency of the Council for May, on Wednesday called on all capable countries to urgently provide COVID-19 vaccines to Africa that is facing a severe challenge in vaccine access.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the occasion said of the 1.4 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered to date globally, only 24 million have reached Africa.

As the world faces the possibility of an uneven recovery from COVID-19, Guterres warned that it is clear the crisis is feeding many drivers of conflict and instability in the region.

"The international community should give more help on anti-pandemic supplies, medicines, technology and funding, especially through ways including non-reimbursable assistance, preferential procurement, technology transfer, and cooperative production, so as to ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in Africa," Wang said.

In the face of the once-in-a-century pandemic, China and Africa are willing to jointly launch a partnership initiative to support Africa's development, Wang said.

He called on the international community to beef up support for Africa in such areas as fighting the pandemic, post-pandemic reconstruction, trade and investment, debt relief, food security, poverty reduction and alleviation, coping with climate change, as well as industrialization.

UNSC MEETING COMES AT OPPORTUNE MOMENT

Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan international relations researcher with a focus on China-Africa relations, noted that the high-level meeting by the UNSC came at an opportune moment.

"Africa remains the most economically afflicted region by the global health crisis. The pandemic has wiped out millions of jobs, created social vulnerabilities, and pushed an estimated 114 million people back into absolute poverty," Adhere told Xinhua.

Due to the pandemic, real GDP in Africa is projected to grow by 3.4 percent in 2021, after contracting by 2.1 percent in 2020, according to the African Economic Outlook 2021 report released by the African Development Bank Group. "While the rest of the world is increasingly leveraging vaccination as a rational and sustainable way of the pandemic, African countries can hardly access vaccines," Adhere observed.

Only 1.48 percent of the continent's population has so far been vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mulenga Lwansa, Quality Assurance Director at Medical for Quality Healthcare in Zambia, said it is an uphill battle to secure vaccines in Africa. "The rich countries are able to respond. For poor countries, we are at the mercy of those rich countries."

"It's very important that we have to have global vaccine equity. In fact, the South African President has called it Vaccine Apartheid because countries are hoarding the vaccine. It's a shame of the developed world who are being very protective of supplying vaccines to Africa and the rest of the third world," said Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.



SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS

Sherrif Ghali, a professor in politics and director of the Institute for Legislative Studies at the University of Abuja, Nigeria, told Xinhua that the good relations between China and Africa express the spirit of oneness and togetherness.

Ghali said Africa and China represent each other and support each other at the United Nations, noting that China is doing what a responsible global power should do. Ghali observed that no country in the world can deal with global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic on its own, and Africa in particular needs support from the international community.

During the meeting, Wang Yi said China has been a staunch supporter of Africa in the COVID-19 fight.

Forty-six Chinese medical teams based in Africa stood up to the challenge instantly to support local response efforts; China has sent 15 ad hoc medical expert teams to Africa and swiftly set up a cooperation mechanism for Chinese hospitals to pair up with 43 African hospitals; China has been, and is, providing vaccines to over 30 African countries on the basis of their urgent need, said Wang.

China has fully implemented the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, signed or reached agreement with 16 African countries on debt service suspension, and canceled the debts of 15 African countries

in the form of interest-free government loans that were due to mature by the end of 2020 within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, said Wang.

"We expect the initiative to facilitate actual collaboration among international partners, to assist Africa in containing the pandemic, boost economic recovery, and deal with development and security challenges," said Ghali.

Xinhua

Wanted: Transparency and accountability in pandemic-related spending

WASHINGTON DC

GOVERNMENTS around the world are playing a crucial role in providing lifelines to people and firms to help combat the pandemic and its economic fallout. To support the effectiveness of these efforts, it is important that such spending be subject to adequate transparency and accountability.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) presses for better governance through greater transparency, and has sought specific governance measures for countries receiving IMF financing during the crisis.

These include commitments to publish pandemic-related procurement contracts and the beneficial ownership of companies awarded these contracts, as well as COVID-19 spending reports and audit results.

The measures are tailored to country circumstances and the severity of corruption risks. In addition, all recipient countries commit to undertake a Safeguards Assessment—a due diligence exercise that is aimed at ensuring that a country's central bank is able to provide reliable information and transparently manage the funds that it receives from the IMF.

Addressing corruption is a long game. These emergency spending measures are not silver bullets and will only go so far in addressing deeper challenges. Longer-term governance and corruption vulnerabilities will continue to be addressed under the IMF's broader 2018 Framework for Enhanced Fund Engagement on Governance, with a focus on multi-year IMF lending arrangements, annual health checks of IMF member countries, and capacity development.

Are the receipts coming in?

A year into the emergency response, information is becoming available on the progress in implementing these governance measures in pandemic-related spending.

- On publication of contract information, most of the commitments have or are in the process of being met, including, for example, in the Dominican Republic, Guinea, Nepal, and Ukraine. In some countries, capacity constraints contribute to limited progress. In these cases, the IMF is providing capacity development to support implementation.

- Collecting and publishing the beneficial ownership of contracting companies is a measure that aims to deter corruption, including by facilitating the detection of potential conflicts-of-interest involving public officials. It requires bidding companies to provide the names of the people with effective control over a company, that is the "beneficial owners". This information is provided to the procurement agency, which must publish it.



Under the UN-backed COVAX initiative, UNICEF ships COVID-19 vaccine syringes from a warehouse in Dubai Logistics City, United Arab Emirates. And as the world continues to grapple with the health and economic crisis sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN and Islamic Development Bank have teamed up to help the most vulnerable. May 2021.

Implementation of this innovative practice has proven challenging in some cases, with only half of the countries (including Benin, Ecuador, Jordan, Malawi, and Moldova) having implemented this commitment or made substantial progress toward it.

However, such commitments made in the context of IMF financing during the pandemic have helped spur some countries, such as Kenya and the Kyrgyz Republic, to adopt this reform on a permanent basis. That is, beyond just pandemic-related spending.

- On audits of emergency spending, the deadline for conducting ex-post audits is typically set at 3-12 months after the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, it is too early to assess implementation—most audits are in preparation based on existing systems.

However, some countries, such as Jamaica, Honduras, Maldives, and Sierra Leone have already taken early action by conducting risk-based, real-time audits. Where needed, the IMF is also stepping up its capacity development to help

supreme audit institutions fulfill their responsibility, while also supporting efforts to ensure that such information is easily retrievable.

- On reporting of pandemic-related spending, most countries are, or will shortly begin, publicly reporting on execution of this spending.

- Safeguard assessments are being undertaken rapidly, with the pace of these assessments doubling after the pandemic's onset.

Tackling deeper challenges

Beyond these measures focused on accountability and transparency in the crisis response, broader governance and anti-corruption reforms are also progressing in the context of multi-year IMF financing arrangements.

Such reforms cover multiple areas, including fiscal governance in countries such as Ecuador, The Gambia, Jordan, Liberia, Rwanda, and Senegal; anti-corruption and anti-money laundering frameworks in Angola, Armenia, Republic of

Congo, Kenya, and Tunisia; and financial sector oversight and central bank governance in Liberia and Ukraine, among others.

Beyond IMF financing

Transparency and accountability in the crisis response are important for all countries, regardless of their income level, and such measures are of course commonplace in many countries beyond those receiving IMF financing.

These efforts vary. For example, some countries publish comprehensive spending information on dedicated transparency portals as in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, and Peru. Others, such as South Korea, conduct frequent external audits to verify pandemic-related spending.

Some develop clear guidelines for emergency procurement, as in Spain, and/or detect conflicts-of-interest by analyzing beneficial ownership data and financial disclosures of senior public officials, as in Romania.

Through the IMF's regular "Article IV"

health check of the economies of its members, and through regular policy dialogue, IMF staff continue to discuss transparency and accountability in pandemic-related spending, such as in Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and, more generally, in fiscal, monetary, and financial sector measures.

Building on progress

Sustained country engagement on governance and anti-corruption will be necessary to support effective implementation of reforms undertaken during the pandemic and beyond. A key component is implementing the IMF's 2018 Framework—which remains a priority for the IMF and goes beyond anti-corruption to address fiscal governance, financial sector oversight, central bank governance, market regulation, rule of law, and anti-money laundering frameworks.

As the critical capacity to implement governance measures varies across countries and by type of measure, IMF staff will also continue to provide tailored capacity development on these issues through channels such as technical assistance, training, and webinars.

The IMF will take stock of progress in implementing the 2018 framework in mid-2022, with a view to assessing how it can continue to support member countries in strengthening governance. Efforts to enhance governance will depend even more crucially on high-level political ownership of reforms, international cooperation, and a joint effort with civil society and the private sector, among other stakeholders.

Progress also requires sustained implementation of reforms over an extended period. Such progress is not easy, but it is nonetheless achievable—and it is essential for fostering stronger and more inclusive economic growth. **IPS**

Women leading Somalia's health system

NEW DELHI

SOMALIA is one of the most complex regions of the world, with threats and political instability, extreme weather conditions, movement of internally displaced people (IDPs), decades of conflict, poverty-related deprivation, poor health and communicable diseases that are killing people.

There is a constant risk of gender violence making women, children and members of minority groups particularly vulnerable, and more so during displacement or while seeking work.

Three decades of civil war and instability have weakened Somalia's health system and contributed to it having some of the lowest health indicators in the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has added yet another strain on its tremendously fragile infrastructure presenting unexpected challenges and dilemmas.

This report by Oxfam states that, "the multitude of crises and rates of inflation have left the majority of families food insecure and without income, halted education and health services, and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and the incidence of violence. Needs far exceeds the current available resources and capacity."

One of the doctors leading healthcare and currently involved in the fight against COVID-19 in Somalia is Dr. Deqo Aden Mohamed, an obstetrician-gynecologist, founder of 'The Hagarla Institute' and co-founder of 'The Somali Cancer Society'.

Dr. Deqo has been working full time on the ground in Somalia, and leads multiple projects on maternal health and the National Call Center for COVID-19, and is part of the Somali National Taskforce for COVID-19, 2020.

In an interview given to me, Dr. Deqo says, "the pandemic has been exhaustive, we created a national call centre last year, which helped reduce the effect of COVID-19 to some extent.

We have a very young population in Somalia who are all below 40 and they were able to recover from COVID-19 with very mild symptoms. A few elderly with comorbidity needed beds, but we were not ready when COVID-19 hit last year. We barely had 19 beds, and we didn't even have ventilators.

"The good thing in Somalia is that because we have been through several famine and natural disasters, people or the government or the non-profit organizations/ international ones, are set in their mechanisms, where they are able to quickly react in emergency situations. They were able to set up one hospital last year very quickly, which also was just not enough," Dr. Deqo said.

Last year amongst many, Somalia also lost one of its fearless and most compassionate humanitarian whose life's work gave hope to tens of thousands in her native Somalia, while inspiring countless others worldwide. Also known as "Mama Hawa" and "the Mother Teresa of Somalia", Dr. Hawa Abdi, gave refuge to 90,000 displaced Somali's in a refugee camp close to the Adbi hospital, which was dubbed as Hawa Village.

It is estimated that two million were served by her foundation over a period of 35 years. It was in these camps, Dr. Deqo grew up feeding the refugees her mother was harboring and shaping her destiny of becoming a doctor herself.

"My mother, (Dr. Abdi) started the Hawa Abdi Foundation, it was started with the goal to help mothers have access to maternal healthcare. But once the civil war began, it transitioned from rural healthcare to an organization that did everything.

It was very inspiring to watch her, the way she stood up as a woman, the way she negotiated with the elderly, the way she taught that your femininity should not hold you back, because in a society as a woman you are undermined. She was a strong woman," Dr. Deqo added.

What began as a one-room clinic, changed the course of healthcare in Somalia, and helped in alleviating poverty and suffering in the country. However, the health care system in Somalia still remains one of the weakest, poorly resourced and inequitably distributed in the world and



in the absence of functioning public sector facilities, the country's healthcare system has been "vertically privatised."

While private health services and the pharmaceutical sectors largely remain unregulated, they are the backbone of healthcare in the country. Most funding for the health sector comes from international donors and is 'off-budget'.

"The government runs only three hospitals here, so imagine in Mogadishu we have 4 million people and just three hospitals. The second wave of COVID-19 was much harder than last year. What we lost in one year time, we lost in one month in 2021," says Dr. Deqo.

Currently the country is grappling with the triple threat of drought, COVID-19 and insecurity in Mogadishu which is driving severe humanitarian needs in Somalia. Somalia has already seen a 48% increase in deaths from COVID-19, doubling of cases from 6687 to 13,812 cases in just 59 days. The recent conflict in Mogadishu, is adding to the difficulties in deliveries of humanitarian services in several parts of the coun-

try.

In a statement issued by International Rescue Committee, (IRC) Richard Crothers, IRC Somalia Country Director said, "Over 80% of the country is suffering from drought conditions, cattle and crops are dying as the frequency of climate-related hazards increase. We've seen a spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths over the last month, with many cases going undetected and untested. In a country already suffering from severe humanitarian crises, with almost 6 million people in need, the drought will drive even more displacement and food insecurity. Now more than ever we need an increase in support and funding in order to meet the rising humanitarian need."

In this report, co-authored by Dr. Deqo, lack of access to screening services and important information about COVID-19, could put millions of internally displaced people in Somali settlement camps at risk.

"Three million internally displaced people (IDP) live in more than 2,000 settlement camps in Somalia. The large-scale camps are a tinderbox for potential outbreaks of infectious disease. Overcrowded con-

ditions restrict opportunities for physical distancing and the camps often lack reliable access to basic amenities such as running water, soap, and medical treatment. The humanitarian crisis is already acute in Somalia," the report states.

"The government wants to help, they communicate everyday, but the capacity is very limited, they don't have funding, allocation of funding to government healthcare is very limited, basically they cannot run their own hospital, so that's the situation.

"...If we have people in place - those with the right skills, knowledge and moral compass, things will be fine. Right now, as a doctor I am putting my energy and resources to have the best people in place. The country was brain drained, it lost two generations due to civil war and I think that's what we are missing. I cannot solve all the issues from the ground, but I think we have the best opportunities in Somalia right now, and if we can learn from the mistakes, we can have a good healthcare system in the country," says Dr. Deqo.

Somalia is among the first African countries to receive doses of COVID-19 vaccine delivered through the COVAX Facility. According to UNICEF, 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Somalia, but health officials say less than half the doses have been used. One of the major reasons according to this report is "the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab's warning in Somalia that people are used as 'guinea pigs' for AstraZeneca, large sections of Africans are steering clear of vaccines."

Despite mechanisms in place to react quickly, as mentioned earlier by Dr. Deqo, the broader challenge for Somalia to battle through is the combination of a weak healthcare system, raging political and humanitarian crisis and adding to this, vaccine hesitancy must be a priority for the Somali government to overcome. If not, then COVID-19 will not only remain a regional threat, but possibly a global one as well, given the aggressive and uncontrollable mutation of the virus, which Somalia cannot afford to risk.

Prince Harry: Pain of Diana's death pushed me to drink and drugs

LONDON

PRINCE Harry said he abused alcohol to numb the pain of his mother Diana's death in 1997, and accused the British royal family of neglecting him and his wife Meghan as she contemplated suicide.

Harry, now 36, has spoken before about the trauma of losing Diana in a Paris car crash and then having to walk as a 12-year-old behind his mother's coffin in her funeral

cortege under the glare of the world's media.

"I was willing to drink, I was willing to take drugs, I was willing to try and do the things that made me feel less like I was feeling," Harry told Oprah Winfrey in an Apple TV series about mental health.

"I would probably drink a week's worth in one day on a Friday or a Saturday night and I would find myself drinking not because I was enjoy-

ing it but because I was trying to mask something," he said.

Harry said the loss of his mother accentuated fears about his own wife Meghan when she grappled with suicidal thoughts, although he said the British royal family neglected them both.

"The thing that stopped her from seeing it through was how unfair it would be on me after everything that had happened to my mum and to now be put in a position of losing



another woman in my life, with a baby inside of her, our baby," he said.

"I felt completely helpless. I thought my family would help, but every single ask, request, warning, whatever it is, just got met with total silence or total neglect."

Harry's repeated public criticism of the British royal family, led by his 95-year-old grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, and his 72-year-old father, Prince Charles, has cre-

ated another public relations crisis for the monarchy.

The queen has said she was saddened to learn of the experiences of Harry and Meghan.

She said that while recollections might differ, the royal family would also address issues around race that had been raised by the couple, who said one unnamed royal made a racist comment about their son Archie before he was born.

REUTERS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Leveraging block DFIs on financing health infrastructure during Covid-19 pandemic

By Saidi Mkabakuli

AMIDST the world worst pandemic - the COVID - 19, on April 20, 2021, the World Bank announced that it reached USD 2 billion in approved financing for the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines for 17 developing countries.

This financing is part of the USD 12 billion envelope over 24 months for developing countries to acquire and deploy vaccines and strengthen their vaccination systems. For poorer countries financing is on grant or highly concessional terms. The Bank expects to support 50 countries with USD 4 billion financing for COVID-19 vaccines by mid-year.

According to the press release issued by bank, the \$2 billion funding is supporting COVID-19 vaccination in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Honduras, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Tajikistan, and Tunisia.

The financing builds on the broader World Bank Group COVID-19 response, which is helping more than 100 countries strengthen health systems, support the poorest households, and create supportive conditions to maintain livelihoods and jobs for those hit hardest.

The release further recites that as one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries, World Bank is taking broad, fast action to help developing countries respond to the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19. This includes US\$12 billion to help low- and middle-income countries purchase and distribute COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments, and strengthen vaccination systems.

This is World Bank Group's response to COVID-19.

In African, the African Union (AU) launched the continental strategy for COVID-19 response, which was endorsed by Africa health ministers in February 2020 and approved by the African Union Bureau of Heads of State in March to facilitate cooperation, collaboration, coordination and communication in COVID-19 response across the continent.

As results the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund was established in March 2020 to ensure availability of funds to implement the strategy. Efforts are made by several partners, including private and public sector entities, to raise substantial amounts of funds for COVID-19 response in Africa.

In African context, through block DFIs, much has been reported on Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) roles against the pandemic. Categorically, this pandemic outbreak has opened up the vital role, which undeniably DFIs ought to take in order to support national governments in fighting the disease. To be specific DFIs are supposed fill the gaps in institutions and markets in the country's financial sector as the pandemic prevails.

However, one of the block DFIs has been championing filling the gap by supporting needy countries members. The Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB), formerly the PTA Bank was established on 6 November 1985 under Chapter Nine of the Treaty for the Establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, which entered into effect on 2 September 1982 and was subsequently replaced by the Treaty for the Establishment of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa of 1994 that established COMESA. TDB is the financial arm of COMESA.

TDB has demonstrated the exemplary actions on COVID-19 by put in place the Emergency Response Programme (CERP).

Remarkably, the CERP has so far benefited number of programmes and countries; these include the 30 September 2020 donation amounting to USD 500,000 to support COVID-19 response across Africa by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). The donation was made to the African Union through the COVID-19 Response Fund. More recently, on 12 May 2021, the bank donated 28,500 N95 masks to the Republic of Mozambique to support the prevention and spread of COVID-19 in the country.

This was done following the signing of an agreement between TDB



and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the supplies were handed over during a ceremony hosted at the offices of the Ministry of Health to Hon. Armindo Tiago, Minister of Health, by Dr. Isabel Sumar, TDB Non-Executive Director and Director of Public Debt Management at the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Contextually, the block DFIs focus on financing health infrastructure against COVID 19 is more vital during this times. The focus means serving lives ensuring business prospects. As Mr. Admassu Tadesse, the President and Chief Executive of TDB once said: "It is our duty to respond to African Union's call for solidarity to address today's greatest global public health crisis. The pooling of resources and fusion of efforts of global and African institutions is certainly crucial to halting the spread of the virus and mitigating its impact on the health and socio-economic situation of our peoples. We commend the African Union for bringing African countries together to act as one, with more power and greater effectiveness."

Such remarkable statements reassure readiness of block DFIs in supporting developing countries to overcome the pandemic as Mary Kamari, TDB's Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations Executive, said: "In the face of this deadly pandemic, the Bank was quick to set up CERP, which, in addition to this

donation to Africa CDC, is implementing tailored interventions in each of its Member States."

According to Kamari, CERP is boosting and complementing African Union's support to Member States with the donation of locally produced personal protective equipment and interventions that support small and medium enterprises, employment, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Likewise, as part of TDB broader COVID-19 response, a set of financing interventions is also under way with enterprises and financial institutions in the region, via re-prioritized and special operations, in collaboration with the bank's global and regional partners.

Walking the talk, on 17 May 2021, in order to support the Rwandan health system, TDB announced the financing of the expansion of Kigali's King Faisal Hospital (KFH)'s outpatient facilities with over USD 14 million in a 6-year primary forgoing transaction.

The statement released to announce this milestone recount that King Faisal Hospital (KFH) to be a multi-specialty 160-bed quaternary hospital providing a range of specialized health care in Eastern and Central Africa. KFH contributes greatly to the realization of Rwanda's Health Sector Strategic Plan IV priorities and targets, in turn which support the achievement of SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being in particular, as well as other goals

indirectly.

The statement further reveals in addition to the new outpatient clinic and doubling of the hospital's outpatient facilities capacity to 45 consultation rooms, TDB's financing will support the renovation and construction of the outpatient block's education and research centre, day care premium facilities, electric substation, safety ramps, and main entrance and lobby.

"Additionally, patient flow and experience will be quicker and better, and each specialty clinic will now have a dedicated triage and consultation space," the statement states.

Responding to his bank commitment towards health issues, Mr. Admassu Tadesse, the President and Chief Executive of TDB says: "This transaction is an example of TDB's growing financial support to the health sector in this more challenging market environment marked by the Covid-19 pandemic."

"The expansion of King Faisal Hospital will enhance much-needed access in the region to quality healthcare services and support the health and well-being of the Rwandese people," Mr. Tadesse adds.

Moreover, Michael Awori, TDB Deputy CEO and COO added that: "for this transaction, TDB worked with the sponsor of the project, the contractor and Bank of Kigali Plc (BK), delivering liquidity to enable the project to continue its implementation, unlocking additional impact,

especially given the premium placed on liquidity during COVID.

He adds that apart from direct SDG-3 benefits, this project will contribute positively to the country's balance of payments, via new receipts from regional medical tourism in Rwanda, and savings from Rwandan medical tourism abroad."

Prof. Miliard Derbew, King Faisal Hospital Chief Executive Officer says that the contribution of TDB comes at a time when the hospital's primary focus is to improve patient experience and the application of cutting-edge medical technology"

Prof. Derbew complements: "the construction of the education and research block will create an enabling environment for clinicians to develop innovative research projects that address Rwanda and the region's unique clinical conditions and disease burden. This would also promote continuous capacity development for our medical practitioners, train in highest level specialties and have a fully established research center."

Having in place the Africa Health Strategy (AHS) 2016-2030, which based on an assessment of the previous strategy, the relevant AU health policy instruments and integrating research and innovation for health. Among others the key areas of strategic convergence in these policy frameworks emphasize include substantially increasing funding for health. This is well addressed by utilizing the available block DFIs such as TDB.

Block DFIs can assist AHS 2016-2030 to provide strategic direction to Africa's Member States in their efforts in creating better performing health sectors, recognizes existing continental commitments and addresses key challenges facing efforts to reduce the continent's burden of disease mainly by drawing on lessons learned and taking advantage of the existing opportunities. Its strategic directions require multi-sectoral collaboration, adequate resources along with leadership to champion its implementation and to ensure effective accountability for its results.

Moreover, as the primary consolidative document for all African commitments in the health sector, block DFIs can add value of AHS 2016-2030 and its ability to inspire, guide and highlight strategic directions relevant to all Member States. AHS 2016-2030 achieves this by its emphasis on addressing issues that reflect upstream strategic roles best suited for the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through which Member States can derive direct benefits such as economies of scale, collaborative efforts and other advantages.

Based on what has been achieved by TDB, governments and private businesses should leverage local and block DFIs in achieving big milestones in health sector during this hard times of COVID - 19 as opportunity well used by King Faisal Hospital.

Education, health ministers chart to keep schools safe and open during COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

THE UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will co-convene a virtual dialogue with Ministries of Health (MoH) and Ministries of Education (MoE) on COVID-19 and keeping schools safe and open.

For the first time, representatives from the two ministries from over 20 countries across eastern and southern Africa will join to share the latest knowledge and best country practices, as well as put in place action plans that are key for keeping learners and teachers safe, and institutions open.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, 127 million pre-primary, primary and secondary learners were left out of school for months, in some countries for over a year, adding to the 37 million children who were already out of school in the region pre-pandemic. By the beginning of 2021, all countries in the eastern and southern Africa region had reopened their schools either partially or fully, with all cohorts called upon to return to face-to-face learning - even if only on a rotational basis. The emergence of new variants of the coronavirus and new spikes in infection rates heralded the second wave of the pandemic in several countries, leading to yet more country-wide school closures in affected countries, including Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. Currently, there are three countries in the region - Botswana, Uganda and Somalia - that do not have fully open schools.

Lieke van de Wiel, UNICEF dep-

uty regional director for eastern and South Africa, said, "We can see from the trends and lessons learned across the region that school reopening is far from linear. Today's event is an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to keep children learning in the COVID era. It is vital that, together, both the education and health sectors in every country are committed to the best interests of children's holistic development, and to taking a consistent and collaborative approach to keeping schools open and safe. Children are missing out on too much by being at home, by not interacting with their peers, and not learning."

More than a year after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is now a better understanding of the role of children and schools in COVID-19 transmission. Evidence points to children being at low risk of contracting the disease and of transmitting the virus, and to schools not being a place of greater transmission than the community when prevention measures are put in place.

"The impact of school closures and learning disruptions has been felt profoundly by millions of children and their families across the region. We can start chipping away at some of the devasta-

tion by keeping schools safely open through effective COVID-19 prevention," said Dr Abdou Salam Gueye, the regional emergency director at WHO Regional Office for Africa. "The measures to contain the pandemic must not cause deeper harm. All efforts must be made to maintain children's learning while safeguarding their health." Hosting partners and attending countries will share the latest knowledge and promising practices, as well as work together to produce action plans on COVID-19, children and schools, focusing on the following areas;

Coordinating policy and decision-making, with clear roles and responsibilities between MoE and MoH as well as other frontline ministries. For example, in South Africa, systematic partnerships between MoE and MoH, other frontline ministries and civil society at the national and subnational level have led to evidence-based, joint decision-making on COVID-19, children and schools reopening and closing.

Monitoring and managing COVID-19 in schools by putting in place effective and transparent surveillance systems, and information flows, between local and national levels. For



example, in Malawi, the surveillance system starts with data collection at the local school level, with reporting to MoH at the district and national levels, who then share the information with MoE for evidence-based decision-making on school reopening and closing.

School-based transmission prevention and risk mitigation via effective interventions such as Infection Prevention Control measures at the school and community level. For example, in Eswatini, schools are

regularly assessed on their adherence to school reopening procedures.

Consultative and responsive engagement of community stakeholders in the planning, implementation and monitoring of school reopening by building on existing, multisectoral, community coordination platforms. In Namibia, for example, schools have Integrated School Health taskforces that include representatives from the wider community.

Today's event is the first of two joint

Ministry of Education-Ministry of Health continental dialogues, with the next one being planned for the West and Central Africa region later this year. UNICEF's Framework for Reopening Schools, issued jointly with UNESCO, UNHCR, WFP and the World Bank, offers practical advice for national and local authorities. The guidelines focus on policy reform; financing requirements; safe operations; compensatory learning; wellness and protection and reaching the most marginalized children.

US profiting from the China-Australia rift it stirred up

BY DENNIS MENG

THE U.S. will not leave Australia to face “China coercion” by itself. So claimed US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at a press briefing with his Aussie counterpart Marise Payne on May 14. Indeed, the U.S. has always stood by Australia's side in forming their hatred-driven, anti-China alliance. But as Australia gets stuck in the pair's morality play and Cold War mentality at the expense of its economic and diplomatic interests in China, its ally is speculating and profiting from the feud.

Following the Australian government's flagrant meddling in China's internal affairs, aided and abetted by the U.S., its relations with China, which accounts for around 48.8% of its total exports, have sunk to their lowest ebb in decades.

As a member of the “Quad”, which is obsessed with its “boycott culture”, Australia soon felt the self-inflicted economic pain, with Chinese buyers shunning Australia amid its rising anti-China sentiment.

Australia shipped just 12 million Australian dollars (9 million US dollars) of wines to China in the December quarter, plunging 96% compared with the same period in 2019, according to an April report released by Wine Australia, a statutory corporation that regulates Australia's wine industry.

At the same time, the country's exports of coal, natural gas, logs, beef and other products to China have also seen a significant decline.

But guess who is cashing in on the incessant quarrel between Australia and its largest buyer? None other than the U.S.

According to data released by S&P Global Market Intelligence on Feb 23, China imported 1 million tons of coal from the U.S. during the fourth quarter of 2020, a 251.8% increase year on year and a 748.2% surge quarter on quarter.

In a May 19 report, the South China Morning Post also highlighted that in February, the U.S. exported more than 466,000 liters of wine in containers of two liters or less to China, worth about 2.3 million U.S. dollars, compared to just 740,000 dollars in 2020.

As Australia follows the US's lead to smear China on Xinjiang, meddle in the Taiwan and Hong Kong issues, and hype up conspiracy theories surrounding the origin of COVID-19, it allows its farmers and workers to bear the brunt of the subsequent economic fallout, while being totally unaware that American companies are quietly tak-



Photo taken on Nov. 2, 2020 shows the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia. (Xinhua)

ing advantage of it.

By blindly orbiting around the U.S. and following its deluded track of vilifying China, Australia is losing its own focus: the interests of its people.

As Penny Wong, Australia's Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister, put it, the “alarmist rhetoric” used by Scott Morrison and his administration has endangered Australia's relationship with China, and “not only does he [Scott Morrison] not fully comprehend Australia's interests in relation to China, he doesn't even seek to.”

The U.S., on the other hand, is exploiting its geopolitical influence and supremacy to accumulate a fortune.

Through sowing the seeds of instability, it creates the pretext of ganging up against a third country and then profits from the clash, either by selling arms or by stealing orders. The barefaced act of sailing through the Taiwan Strait by U.S.

Navy ships isn't simply a show of military muscle, but an attempt to destabilize the region that will create an excuse for later arms sales and finger-pointing with its allies (e.g. Australia) at China's reasonable response to safeguard its territorial integrity. Its trumped-up accusation against China over Xinjiang based on false accounts and reports is never a result of concerns over human rights, but a patent slander that harbors similar evil agendas.

The U.S. has fed on turmoil and conflicts to gain financially or politically.

Not only does it choose to remain aloof over the tragic deaths of civilians in the Gaza Strip, many of whom are children, it also has vetoed the UN resolution on a ceasefire in the region THREE TIMES, while secretly approving 735 million dollars in weapons sales to Israel.

As the U.S. turns a blind eye to live broadcasts of

the slaughter of Palestinian Muslims, with blood on its hands, it seems to care more about the fictional Uygur “victims”, a lie that it has never become tired of concocting. What a shame.

“For years and generations, wars have been fought over oil. In a short matter of time, they will be fought over water,” said U.S. vice president Kamala Harris during a gathering to promote Biden's infrastructure plan on April 5.

She was accurately describing what the U.S. was, is, and will always be in designing its foreign policies in the Asia-Pacific region, in the Middle East, and other regions. Unfortunately, in pushing forward its wheel of troublemaking, the U.S. won't hesitate to crush even its own allies.

Like it or not, Australia will eventually find out that it's merely collateral damage in America's unwarranted fight, which it is all too eager to join.

People's Daily

JUBA

South Sudan health workers emboldened to learn Chinese language

CHINESE characters like bu (no in English) are repeated aloud by several South Sudanese health workers after Chinese language teacher Li Jinkuan in a wide room at the Juba Teaching Hospital in the capital city of South Sudan.

Mary Angela, a 34-year-old South Sudanese nurse, is among the 50 health workers attending the medical Chinese language course being taught by the eighth batch of the Chinese medical team in South Sudan.

Angela is eager to learn the language to enable her to understand medical instructions given to her by the Chinese doctors.

Angela admitted that prior to enrolling for the language lessons, she has been finding it

hard to communicate instructions from Chinese doctors to local patients.

She now hopes to master the language to make up for her past failures.

“I am interested in learning Chinese for the reason that we have some of the Chinese working with us here, and sometimes when they communicate with us, we end up missing the information we are supposed to get from them. I felt it better to learn the language so that I understand it myself rather than someone translating on my behalf,” Angela told Xinhua in Juba on Wednesday after attending her lesson.

Angela also hopes to improve on her communication skills



Li Jinkuan (L), a Chinese language teacher, and Shida Joseph Yacoub, a psychologist at Juba Teaching Hospital, pose for a photo at the hospital in Juba, capital of South Sudan, May 19, 2021. (Xinhua)

when she gets the chance to travel to China for her medical studies.

“These days a lot of people are

traveling, sometimes you may go to China for studies so it is very important to learn Chinese language so that if you go there

you will be able to communicate with Chinese people,” she added.

Shida Joseph Yacoub, one of the psychologists participating in the medical language course, said some of her South Sudanese colleagues she worked with in the past learned Chinese language and they inspired her to enroll for the ongoing language course.

“Chinese language is a nice language. I used to hear colleagues I worked with speak it and I picked interest in learning the language,” said Yacoub.

Yacoub disclosed that learning the language will ease medical exchange programs between China and South Sudan.

South Sudanese health workers have over the past years been traveling to China for education while Chinese medical teams have been coming to work in the country.

“South Sudanese are sent to China for education and medical treatment. It is very important for us to learn Chinese language because there will be no need for translation,” said Yacoub.

She added that it will also help strengthen collaboration between medical staff in Juba Teaching Hospital and Chinese medical teams in South Sudan.

Maker Isaac, director of Juba Teaching Hospital, said he is pleased to participate in the on-

going medical Chinese language course not only to learn the Chinese language and culture but also to strengthen existing relations between the two countries in the health sector.

“China is a major development partner in South Sudan and the Chinese are working closely with us in Juba Teaching Hospital, I want to be very close to them and understand their culture,” said Isaac.

Meanwhile, Li who is fluent in English said he is already impressed by the progress so far shown by the South Sudanese health workers in grasping Chinese characters.

He also revealed that the good relations between the two countries are making more South Sudanese interested in learning the Chinese language. Xinhua

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MISETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

BUSINESS

TRANSACTION TYPE AND CUSTOMER CHARGES		TP	CHRG	WITHDR
TRANSFER TO M-PESA USERS, POCHI LA BASHARA AND BUSINESS TILL TO CUSTOMER	Free	N/A	N/A	
TRANSFER TO OTHER REGISTERED MOBILE MONEY USERS	Free	N/A	N/A	
	Free	45		
	Free	49		

Vodacom mulls part sale of M-Pesa stake

NAIROBI

SOUTH Africa's telecoms operator Vodacom Group is considering selling part of its stake in mobile money platform M-Pesa to unlock value running into billions of shillings from the fast-growing service.

Chief executive Shameel Joosub disclosed the sale plans at an investor briefing on Tuesday in response to an analyst who asked if the company is likely to spin off M-Pesa and whether the multinational is willing to sell a stake to external parties.

M-Pesa is currently offered by Vodacom majority-owned subsidiaries in Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Vodacom also owns an indirect stake in M-Pesa's business in Kenya through its 35 percent stake in Safaricom.

Joosub said the company will consider selling part of its stake in M-Pesa if investors continued to ignore the value of the platform.

"To be honest, we would like the market to give us more credit for our financial services assets and we are not in a position yet where we think the time is optimal to sell or even monetise a portion of the assets because we believe there is still a lot of growth left in M-Pesa," Joosub said.

"But [it is] certainly something that is in consideration. We have structurally set up in the different markets M-Pesa and financial services into separate entities. So it does give us optionality going forward," he added in reference to the sale of M-Pesa.

Vodacom Group did not give timelines on the potential sale of the mobile money service, signalling it will hold on to M-Pesa in the short term.

Joosub said that should a decision be made to sell part of M-Pesa, the structure of such a sale will have to be defined.

The options include selling a stake in the platform in specific countries or in M-Pesa Global Services - the new joint venture it runs with Safaricom on a 50/50 basis and which aims to take the service international.

The plans to unlock value from M-Pesa comes after rival Airtel Africa signed deals to sell minority stakes in its continental financial service for huge sums through its subsidiary Airtel Mobile Commerce BV.

"In line with our strategy of unlocking value in our mobile money business, we will soon welcome two new minority investors (The Rise Fund and Mastercard) in agreed transactions which value this part of our business at \$2.65 billion (Sh286 billion), as well as bringing \$300 million (Sh32.3 billion) into the group," the multinational said when releasing its annual results last week.

Vodafone Plc, the parent company of Vodacom, signalled that M-Pesa could fetch greater sums should a partial sale of the mobile money platform be implemented.

"We are a clear number one in the African market. We have a base of mobile money of over 60 million in active customers. So we are about three times the size of Airtel," Vodafone's chief executive Nick Read said on Tuesday in response to an analyst who asked if the multinational will make similar deals like Airtel.

Vodacom's financial services, including Kenya, had 57.7 million customers and its total revenue stood at R19.3 billion (Sh148 billion) in the review period, representing a six percent increase

from R18.2 billion (Sh139.4 billion) a year earlier.

This was despite loss of R2 billion (Sh15.3 billion) from zero-rating of certain person-to-person cash transfers in most of the markets including Kenya where free transactions lasted between March and December for values of Sh1,000 and below.

Mr Joosub said the telco would prefer that the market recognise the value of the mobile money platform, adding that if not, Vodacom will consider to "at least monetise a portion of these assets going forward."

Vodacom has a market capitalisation of about Sh1.8 trillion, slightly ahead of Safaricom's Sh1.5 trillion despite being a much larger firm by revenues and earnings among other measures.

The entry of Mastercard and Rise Fund into Airtel Money's business indicates investor enthusiasm for Africa's lucrative and fast-growing financial technology platforms.

Airtel Money generated revenues of \$227 million (Sh24.5 billion) from 14 markets including Kenya and Uganda in the year ended March, a 44.5 percent jump from \$157 million (Sh16.9 billion) the year before.

This was despite removal of charges on certain transactions in several countries last year as governments worked with telcos and banks to offer financial relief to customers and reduce use of physical cash in the course of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Both Airtel and Vodacom plan to invest heavily in their mobile money platforms which are set to replace the traditional voice business as the growth and profit drivers.

"These are less capital-intensive businesses compared to core mobile so that you gives you a better return on capital profile," Joosub said.

Airtel says the low uptake of traditional banking services continues to be the main driver of demand for mobile money services.

Airtel Money offers mobile wallet deposit and withdrawals, merchant and commercial payments, benefits transfers, loans and savings, virtual credit card and international money transfers.

The multinational has sought to expand the subscriber base and use of its mobile money platform through partnerships with multiple financial services firms.

It has, for instance, signed agreements with cash remittance companies MoneyGram, Mukuru and WorldRemit.

The telecoms operator also plans to introduce new banking and remittances services in partnership with London-based lender Standard Chartered Plc which has subsidiaries operating in 16 African markets.

Vodacom has similar plans to expand its financial services and has partnered with Alipay, a Chinese mobile and online payment platform that has more than one billion users, to create a new "super-app."

"Our super-app will offer services ranging from loans and savings, seamless QR and person-to-person payments, to entertainment and personalised shopping experiences, promoting greater financial inclusion," Joosub said.

"We see this super-app as a precursor to M-Pesa's evolution, supporting accelerated growth across our financial services' businesses and assisting us in connecting the next 100 million African customers so that no one is left behind."

WILDLIFE

Experts urge G20 leaders to act on cruel wildlife trade



Tennyson Williams, Regional Director, World Animal Protection (WAP).

By Francis Kajubi

WORLD Animal Protection (WAP) yesterday released a new report that exposes the short fallings in the laws of G20 countries that continue to cruelly exploit wildlife and leave the

world vulnerable to future pandemics.

The NGO is appealing to G20 world leaders to ban the global trade in wild animals, warning that the "current system is failing" and "enables the transmission of zoonotic diseases".

The report uncovers inefficiencies in G20 countries that enable the extraction

of wild animals from their natural habitat, farming them in captivity, and killing and trading them as commodities. This is supported by inadequate international mechanisms to prevent exploitation.

Dubbed as 'Protectig our world from future pandemic' the report describes how the trade poses risks to public health.

It states that there is little or no disease screening of exported wild animals, allowing the undetected movement of pathogens across global boundaries thus facilitating infection risks. On the other hand, the number of people involved in the wildlife trade supply chain provides ample opportunity for infectious disease transmission.

Edith Kabesime, Wildlife Campaigns Manager WAP said that the laws implemented by G20 countries to protect wildlife are inadequate, often doing more harm than good. "Wild animals suffer at every stage of the trade. They are extremely distressed when they are extracted from their habitats, then tightly packaged alive, so it's no surprise many are dead or diseased upon arrival at their destination."

"While the world's focus remains on vaccination roll-out, virus prevention should not be ignored, as it's estimated that over 320,000 mammalian viruses await discovery."

The fate of animals, people, and our global economy rests in the hands of the leaders of the G20, who are presented with the most practical way to address pandemic prevention - ending the global wildlife trade," said Kabesime.

On his part, Tennyson Williams, Regional Director, WAP was of the view that "Every day, thousands of wild animals are poached or farmed and sold into the global multi-billion-dollar trade as food, pets, luxury goods, traditional medicine and entertainment."

There is a huge risk involved here. We can no longer ignore the dangers of the wildlife trade, which is why we're urging the African leaders to call for a ban at the G20 Global Health Summit."

The report comes after The World Health Organisation urged for a suspension of the sale of live wild mammals at food markets, as ongoing studies into the origins of COVID-19 suggest it is most likely that the virus passed from bats to an intermediary animal.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WAP has been lobbying the G20 world leaders to end the global wildlife trade and has received over 1.1 million petition signatures from individuals across the World. The Petitions will be delivered to the G20 leaders' Summit later this year.

MARKETS

Refinitiv to enhance transparency in secondary fixed income market

NAIROBI

Refinitiv partnered with the Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE) to enhance Fixed Income (FI) price discovery and raise market transparency in Kenya.

As part of the partnership, the NSE will roll out Refinitiv Fixed Income Callouts in Kenya, an automated workflow that facilitates negotiations and agreements of secondary Fixed Income (FI) bond trading among banks, brokerage firms, and real-time integration with the Central Securities Depository (CSD).

The primary FI market has been steadily growing in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) as governments ex-

plore better access to financing. According to the 2020 Refinitiv investment banking review, SSA debt issuance totalled US\$19.0 billion in 2020. With the increased accessibility to technology, electronic trading has emerged as a significant channel to the growth of a secondary FI market across the continent.

The deployment of Refinitiv's solution will enable the NSE to benefit from an automated Over the Counter (OTC) FI workflow that is integrated in real time with both, the Securities Exchange and the CSD in Kenya.

Geoffrey Odundo, Chief Executive Officer, Nairobi Securities Exchange, said: "We are excited to

be working with Refinitiv and the fixed income community to drive innovations in our market and adopt global best practices. Refinitiv's trading workflow combined with NSE's post-trade system will help us improve trade life cycle, reduce operational risks and encourage price discovery and transparency in the market."

Nadim Najjar, Managing Director, Middle East and Africa, Refinitiv, said, "We are proud to partner with the NSE and the local regulators to foster transparency, latency and liquidity. Refinitiv Fixed Income Callouts will allow market participants to benefit from real-time price discovery across bonds and bills. The deployment

will also facilitate collaboration among Kenyan banks, brokerage firms, and the CSD."

"The Kenyan financial markets have seen significant growth over the past few years. This partnership reinforces our commitment to enable the local regulators and financial community with advanced technologies and workflows to achieve efficiency and growth. The adoption of Refinitiv Fixed Income Callouts will create an effective market infrastructure, build greater long-term confidence amongst investors, and ensure strong governance processes," he added.

TRANSPORT

Bolt fares up on increased fuel prices

NAIROBI

TAXI hailing firm, Bolt, has increased fare prices in the wake of increasing fuel prices.

Bolt will charge Sh26.50 per kilometre on a trip under the budget ride, Bolt Lite, in Nairobi, up from Sh25 per km.

This follows protests by drivers to the ride-hailing firms over lower fares and commissions despite increased fuel prices.

"We acknowledge the huge financial burden on the customers and drivers with respect to the increased fuel prices in the coun-

try. Our pricing has always been informed by market forces and driver earnings," Bolt East Africa regional manager Micah Kenneth said.

"We trust that our evaluation on fluctuating fuel costs and the action to mitigate the impact, will stabilise the growth and sustainability of driver earnings and cost of doing business."

The drivers have in the past years held regular strikes and protests citing high operating costs making them to take home low earnings, a move that has prompted the operators to make

occasional increases.

Petrol prices jumped to a record a high of Sh126.37 per litre in Nairobi in the recent review for May by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra), increasing by Sh3.56 per litre from the previous month.

Diesel is also at a two-year and three-month high since January 2019 retailing at Sh107.66 per litre in Nairobi, even though it remained constant in three consecutive months to May.

Bolt said the prices will be revised in all ride categories and all towns where it currently operates

including Mombasa, Thika, Kisumu, Kakamega, Nakuru, Naivasha, Eldoret, Kitale, Nyeri, Meru, Embu, Nanyuki, Karatina, Kilifi and Malindi. Prices will vary in line with the Epra fuel prices per town.

The Base category will now attract an addition Sh2.10 per km in Nairobi and Sh1.70 per km in Mombasa, while riders in the economy, Lite category will pay an additional Sh1.50 per km in Nakuru and Kisumu towns.

Tuk Tuk and Boda boda services in Mombasa, will each attract an increment of Sh0.60 per kilometre.

FINANCIAL

WeWork reports quarterly loss of nearly \$2.1 billion ahead of fresh public listing

NEW YORK

SoftBank-backed office-sharing startup WeWork on Thursday reported a first-quarter net loss of \$2.06 billion, as it was hit by restructuring charges while it prepares to go public through a merger with a blank-check firm.

WeWork said its business was recovering as more people returned to offices due to easing of COVID-19 curbs, after work-from-home arrangements last year weighed heavily on the company by reducing occupancy and increasing operating costs.

Total occupancy ticked up to 50% in the first quarter compared to 47% in the fourth quarter, the company said.

WeWork in March agreed to go public through a merger with BowX Acquisition Corp, a special purpose acquisition company, in a deal that valued it at \$9 billion. SoftBank Group Corp said it would retain a



A man walks out of a WeWork space in the Manhattan borough of New York City recently.

majority stake in the company after the merger.

The company, whose attempt at an initial public offering in 2019 spectacularly imploded due to investor concerns over

its business model and co-founder Adam Neumann's management style, said first-quarter revenue nearly halved to \$598 million from a year ago.

WeWork said it had 490,000 members in the first quarter, compared to 693,000 in March 2020.

The company said it incurred restructuring costs of \$494 million, driven by non-cash SoftBank stock purchases and a settlement with Neumann. It posted an impairment charge of \$299 million partly due to an exit out of some real estate.

SoftBank and Neumann, WeWork's former chief executive officer reached a settlement in February ending a legal battle that started in 2019 when SoftBank agreed to buy around \$3 billion in WeWork stock belonging to Neumann and other employees, but later contested its obligation to purchase the shares.

ACQUISITION

How Ford burned \$12 billion in Brazil

BRASILIA

A CENTURY ago Henry Ford came to Brazil and established the town of Fordlandia, hoping to become an Amazonian rubber baron, but retreated deep in the red.

Now the automaker he founded is once again licking its Brazilian wounds, having abandoned production in the challenging market after burning through roughly 61 billion reais (\$11.6 billion) in the past decade.

Ford Motor Co announced the closure of its manufacturing plants in January, dealing a heavy blow to its more than 5,000 workers in the country and almost 300 dealerships.

Previously unreported corporate filings show the scale of the financial woes that led to the decision. Ford had burned through \$7.8 billion, the bulk in accumulated losses but also some cash injections, according to the documents filed in Sao Paulo state, where the automaker is registered in Brazil.

Add to that the \$4.1 billion that Ford will shell out to extricate itself from its commitments, and the price tag for the Brazilian operation rises to almost \$12 billion.

Almost all the losses and cash injections were in the past eight years, when the company has lost about \$2,000 for every car it sold, Reuters calculations based on the filings and sales data indicate.

Ford, which does not separate out Brazil from South America in its financial reports, declined to comment on the losses, cash injections and calculations.

The expensive retreat of the U.S. heavyweight underlines the risks for global automakers in Brazil, a country seen not long ago as one of the most promising growth markets in the world, but where tax, labor and logistics costs are high.

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained finances while Ford's problems also reflect, in part, a strategic misstep that saw it lag rivals in transforming its lineup of unprofitable compact cars into higher-margin SUVs, according to half a dozen sources familiar with the company's Brazilian operation.

Ford had in fact drafted a plan to shift into SUVs, larger cars with higher profit margins, but was too slow to implement it, they said.

"There were no other viable options," Lyle Watters, Ford's head for South America, told Reuters in a statement about the decision to exit the country.

Watters, who will start a new Ford role in China in July, cited an "unfavorable economic environment, lower vehicle demand (and) higher industry idle capacity" for the Brazil retreat.

He declined to comment on the SUV project, saying he would not "speculate on new product plans."

A Ford spokesman in Brazil said the company was implementing "a lean and asset-light business model in the region, with a truly customer-centric mindset".



PESSIMISM

Nigerian women in PR encourage majority of undergraduates to pursue the career

LAGOS

NIGERIAN Women in PR (NGWIPR) over the weekend successfully delivered the fifth edition of its virtual Public Relations Students on Campus Summit which was held exclusively for students of the Lagos State University, Ojo.

An initiative of the social impact organisation, the PR Students on Campus Summit is designed to provide an opportunity for undergraduates to interact and learn from young female public relations professionals, with the aim of providing practical and actionable information to help undergraduates make an informed career decision.

"We have eminent and experienced people in Public Relations. However, if we are not consciously opening up the profession and training people to come into the field, in the end, we will not find very capable hands to hand over the baton to. That is one of the reasons we came up with the PR summit", said Tolulope Olorundero, founder of Nigerian Women in PR.

Speaking further on the significance of the event, Olorundero said, "with the #NGWIPRStudentSummit, we bring female practitioners with 3 to 5 years experience to share with under-

graduates how they transitioned from student to professional, thereby inspiring them and demonstrating how viable a career in public relations can be.

We have so far delivered the virtual Summit at the University of Lagos, University of Ibadan, University of Uyo, and the Nigeria Institute of Journalism. For now, we are self-funding the Summits because we are determined to take the gospel of public relations to all tertiary institutions in Nigeria."

Dr Ganiyat Tijani-Adenle, a gender researcher and lecturer in the School of Communications, LASU represented the Dean, Professor Sunday Alawode expressed her appreciation to the organisers for bringing the Summit to their school.

"We were quite excited to receive notice that Nigerian Women in PR was interested in delivering the Summit in our school. Many female undergraduates focus on PR during their undergraduate programs, but lose interest along the way due to lack of motivation and mentorship. I believe seeing young ladies like them who are thriving in the profession will encourage and motivate them not to give up."

Dr Tijani-Adenle further commended the initiative, saying "We got the approval of the Vice

Chancellor for this program. We definitely look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with the organisation, especially in the area of research for women in public relations."

The PR Summit had in attendance two female public relations professionals: Tolulope Omoyeni, an alumna of the University of Sussex and Communication Officer at the Lagos Business School, and Oluwatoni Sanni, a freelance Public Relations professional and a graduate of the Canadian University, Dubai.

According to Omoyeni, she had wanted to be a broadcast journalist like Femi Oke of Aljazeera. "I had my first degree in journalism and I wanted to be like Femi Oke. After my Masters in the UK, I applied for a job at a radio station and I was offered N15,000 as salary.

I had to review my life goals again because I realised then that nobody cares about your degree but what you are able to deliver. While a radio station offered to pay me N15,000, a PR agency offered me N40,000. This, amongst other factors, made me decide to pursue a career in PR" she said. She encouraged the students to start a blog and write daily, emphasizing that writing is the most important skill for anyone who wants

to pursue a career in public relations.

For Sanni, she had a background in advertising but got job opportunities in PR. Discovering her flair for the profession early, her personable character and skills made her thrive on the job. According to her, "a PR person must have a great personality. Such a person must be open to learning about every sector and topic, and must be up-to-date with the latest trends".

She encouraged the students to take advantage of the holidays and apply for internships regardless of whether it is paid or not, adding that the experience they gather matters for their first role.

As part of the Summit, the Nigerian Women in Public Relations introduced the attendees to its Students Ambassadorship program where five female undergraduates will be selected from the institution and fully integrated into the NGWIPR community.

"The Students Ambassadorship programme is an initiative by Nigerian Women in PR created to enable female undergraduates gain experience in the field of Public relations while still in school.

The programme is aimed at giving them a head start in the profession. The selected students

will act as a liaison between their institution and the organisation, developing public relations programs and delivering them with direct supervision from the organisation.

Our aim is to engage these students as volunteers who learn the ropes of PR by educating their immediate community about the impact public relations can have in building a society we all desire," said Abimbola Fapohunda, Communication Associate at Nigerian Women in Public Relations.

Nigerian Women in PR, established in 2019, is an independent social impact organisation created to build a robust network of practising and aspiring female public relations professionals of Nigerian descent. The aim of the organization is to support, inspire and empower these professionals while improving access to career advancing opportunities. With its robust programs including #PRin30Seconds, PR Students' on Campus Summit, Reverse Mentorship Workshop and #ThrivethruPR, the organisation is determined to support female professionals get and retain a seat at the table where far-reaching decisions are made.

FINANCING

Total's Mozambique LNG project to take centre stage at the next France-Africa economic

MAPUTO

AS French and African leaders gather on May 18 in Paris for the France-Africa Summit, Mozambican leaders and Total have a brilliant opportunity to push for the resumption of LNG projects in Mozambique and get things going.

Even if exploitation of natural resources is not particularly on the Summit's agenda, there will be no better chance for the gas-rich country to showcase its solutions and arrangements to the issues posed to its gas industry. Notably, as one of the delayed projects involves a consortium led by French supermajor Total, who on April 26 issued a force majeure declaration to its LNG project in the Cabo Delgado province due to the security situation at the moment.

Total's force majeure declaration has sent the project into a delay, negatively impacting Mozambique's economic outlook, several international and local companies and

workers who are now uncertain when the project and their operations will resume. Make no mistake this has put a lot of companies and even some workers and even communities in Cabo Delgado's livelihoods at risk.

The African Energy Chamber ("AEC") recognizes Total's and the Mozambican government's effort over the past three weeks to figure out solutions and arrangements to address the security issues in Cabo Delgado. We continue to believe that Total's LNG project should resume sooner than later, with even more decisiveness and resolve, under the leadership of President Filipe Nyusi with whom the AEC has had recent conversations.

The Terror attacks have given President Filipe Nyusi's presidency a clear focus: to protect the Mozambican people and investors and defeat terrorism while expanding and promoting economic growth. The African Energy Chamber is encouraged that



President Nyusi administration's response, which has been a combination of military action and strong defensive measures to protect everyone in Mozambique.

"We are encouraged by the meeting between President Nyusi and the Total Chairman Patrick Pouyanné. The assurance of a return to Mozambique by Mr Pouyanné is

step in the right direction and credit should be given to all parties for the hard work.

We continue to believe that Mozambique deserves the respect and support it needs to stabilize the region and get the Mozambique LNG project back up and running again, the cool-off period of the force majeure should be an opportunity to set up better local content structures, fix what is not working, push for an enabling environment and for a stronger comeback for Mozambique's energy sector". Stated NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber.

"We should not forget that Mozambique will be producing Africa's only Carbon neutral LNG that will be exported and used domestically in a world which is focused on reducing our net carbon footprint from well to wheel. Business gumption and political will is needed at this time but make no mistake Mozambique LNG is going to happen and there are better times ahead." Con-

cluded Ayuk

Hope and certainty is needed now more than ever for local companies and everyday people to be part of the gas projects, that have suffered unimaginable losses at the hands of the terrorists.

The oil and gas industry has a much more significant role to play in making sure that the projects have lasting stability. We have to rethink how we have been operating as an industry regarding the use of domestic gas. The declaration that there is an availability of domestic gas for Mozambique's economic development is not sufficient.

The energy sector should work with government on the right pricing for domestic gas that creates local petrochemical industries that outperform their competition. This would create a much more lasting effect in Mozambique, as it would create countless jobs and bring life to an otherwise stagnant economy and communities.

WORLD

Israel-Hamas truce takes hold after 11 days of fighting

GAZA

AN Egyptian-mediated truce between Israel and Hamas took hold yesterday after the worst violence in years, with US President Joe Biden pledging to salvage the devastated Gaza Strip and the United Nations urging renewed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Israeli aerial bombardment of the densely populated enclave killed 232 Palestinians, damaged thousands of homes and disabled critical infrastructure. Gaza rocket attacks killed 12 people in Israel and wounded hundreds.

Palestinians who had spent 11 days huddled in fear of Israeli shelling poured into Gaza's streets, embracing one another in celebration in front of bombed out buildings and along streets covered in wreckage.

Mosque loud-speakers feted "the victory of the resistance achieved over the Occupation (Israel)." Cars driving around East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah at dawn flew Palestinian flags and honked horns, echoing the scenes in Gaza.

In the countdown to the 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Thursday) cease-fire, Palestinian rocket salvos continued and Israel carried out at least one air strike.

Each side said it stood ready to retaliate for any truce violations by the other. Egypt said it would send two delegations to monitor the ceasefire.

The violence erupted on 10 May, triggered by Palestinians' anger at what they saw as Israeli curbs on their rights

in Jerusalem, including during police confrontations with protesters at Al-Aqsa mosque during the Ramadan fasting month.

The fighting meant many Palestinians in Gaza could not mark the Eid al-Fitr festival at Ramadan's conclusion. On Friday, postponed Eid meals were held throughout Gaza.

In Israel, radio stations that had carried around-the-clock news and commentary switched back to pop music and folk songs.

Death toll, reconstruction

Gaza health officials said 232 Palestinians, including 65 children, had been killed and more than 1,900 wounded in aerial bombardments. Israel said it had killed at least 160 combatants.

Authorities put the death toll in Israel at 12, with hundreds of people treated for injuries in rocket attacks that caused panic and sent people rushing into shelters.

Hamas, the Islamist militant group that rules Gaza, cast the fighting as successful resistance of a militarily and economically stronger foe.

"It is true the battle ends today but Netanyahu and the whole world should know that our hands are on the trigger and we will continue to grow the capabilities of this resistance," said Ezzat El-Reshiq, a senior member of the Hamas political bureau, referring to Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.



Palestinians inspect their destroyed house after Israeli air strikes in Jabaliya refugee camp northern Gaza Strip, on Thursday.

El-Reshiq told Reuters in Doha the movement's demands included protecting the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem and ending the eviction of several Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem.

In Israel, relief was bittersweet

"It's good that the conflict will end, but unfortunately I don't feel like we have much time before the next escalation," Eiv Izyaev, a 30-year-old software engineer, said in Tel Aviv.

Amid growing global alarm, Biden had urged Netanyahu to seek de-escalation, while Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations sought to mediate.

In a televised address on Thursday, Biden extended condolences to bereaved Israelis and Palestinians and said Washington would work with the United Nations "and other international stakeholders to provide rapid humanitarian assistance" for Gaza and its reconstruction.

After days of Israeli air strikes that destroyed residential towers and damaged electricity lines, Gaza officials said some 16,800 homes were damaged and residents were getting three or four hours of power compared with 12 hours before the fighting.

The Israeli military says its air strikes destroyed tunnels used by Hamas, militant commanders' homes, rocket launching sites and weapons production and storage facilities.

Palestinian officials put the cost of

Gaza reconstruction in the tens of millions of dollars, while economists said the fighting could curb Israel's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden said aid to Gaza would be coordinated with the Palestinian Authority - run by Hamas' rival, President Mahmoud Abbas, and based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank - "in a manner that does not permit Hamas to simply restock its military arsenal".

Hamas is deemed a terrorist group in the West and by Israel, which it refuses to recognise.

Power struggle

Analysts say a goal of the Hamas rocket campaign was to marginalise Abbas by presenting itself as the guardian of Palestinians in Jerusalem, whose eastern sector they seek for a future state. Making the link explicit, Hamas named the rocket operation "Sword of Jerusalem".

Abbas, 85, remained a marginal figure during the 11-day conflict. He secured a first telephone call with Biden during the crisis - four months after Biden took office - but his Western-backed Palestinian Authority exerts little influence over Gaza.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, an Abbas appointee, said: "We welcome the success of the international efforts led by Egypt to stop the Israeli aggression against our people in Gaza Strip." **Agencies**

Xiplomacy: China's proposals point direction for anti-pandemic efforts

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has been pledging for concerted global efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and calling for a better global governance in the public health domain.

China has been promoting global cooperation to tackle the common challenge since the beginning of the worldwide health crisis, in the meantime sharing experience, offering medical aids and vaccines to other parts of the world.

Earlier this month, Xi held a phone conversation with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Xi stressed that the most important task for the international community remains fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, saying that the world should strengthen

cooperation and reject political manipulation.

Noting that major countries should set an example by providing more public goods, Xi said that China has provided vaccine assistance for more than 80 developing countries and exported vaccines to more than 50 countries.

China has decided to offer vaccines to the UN peacekeeping operations and the International Olympic Committee, and will continue to actively support COVAX and make continuous efforts to eliminate the "vaccine divide," Xi added.

When addressing the opening of the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) via video link in May 2020, Xi announced concrete measures to boost the global fight against COVID-19.

In his speech, Xi said, "China



will provide 2 billion U.S. dollars over two years to help with COVID-19 response and with economic and social development in affected countries, especially developing countries." China will work with the UN to set up a global humanitarian response depot and hub in China, ensure the operation of anti-epidemic supply chains and foster "green corridors" for fast-track transportation and customs clearance, he said.

"COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good," said the president.

Xi also proposed to strengthen global governance in the area of public health in his WHA speech, saying that "in view of the weaknesses and deficiencies exposed by COVID-19, we need to improve the governance system for public health security."

In a phone conversation with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in March 2020, Xi said China stands ready to work with France to encourage all relevant parties to step up coordination and cooperation within such frameworks as the UN and the Group of 20 (G20), engage in joint prevention and containment, improve global health governance, help

developing countries and other countries in need with capacity-building, and cushion the epidemic's impact on the world economy.

In November 2020, when addressing the G20 Riyadh Summit via video link, Xi said the most pressing task of the moment is to shore up the global public health system and contain COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, highlighting the importance of building up capacities for tackling global challenges.

At the invitation of Mario Draghi, prime minister of Italy that holds the G20 presidency, and Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, Xi will attend the Global Health Summit and deliver a speech via video in Beijing yesterday.

Xinhua

Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes ceasefire between Palestine, Israel

MOSCOW

MOSCOW welcomes the move to declare a ceasefire between Palestine and Israel, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing yesterday.

"It is with great satisfaction that Moscow welcomes a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

launched at 02:00 am on May 21," she pointed out. According to Zakharova, the move is "important but not enough" to prevent tensions from escalating further.

"At this stage, international and regional efforts should focus on creating conditions for reviving political talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians in order to resolve fundamental

final status issues based on the UN resolution and the two-state solution," she emphasized.

According to Zakharova, Moscow particularly commends the mediation efforts on the part of Egypt and the United Nations. "Finding a sustainable and fair solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is crucial for ensuring comprehensive stability in the

entire Middle East," the Russian diplomat added.

The exchange of rocket fire between Israel and the Gaza Strip, which had been raging since May 10, was triggered by riots at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police erupted after an Israeli court had ruled to evict several Palestinian families from Jerusalem's

Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and hand the property over to Israeli Jews.

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, 232 Palestinians were killed in the coastal enclave and 1,900 suffered wounds. In Israel, at least 12 people were killed (nine Israelis and three foreign workers). The ceasefire was brokered by Egypt. **Agencies**

COVID-19 cases in Europe dramatically drop, but progress is fragile, says WHO

COPENHAGEN

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge on Thursday urged caution despite a considerable 60 percent decrease in COVID-19 cases and deaths in recent weeks in the region.

"This progress is fragile. ... Let us not make the same mistakes that were made this time last year, that resulted in a resurgence of COVID-19 and saw our health systems, communities and economies once again bear the full force of this pandemic," said Kluge during an online press conference from Copenhagen.

The warning came as the European region in past weeks has seen cases dramatically drop from 1.7 million in mid-April to just below 685,000 new cases last week, which is a 60 percent decrease in a month, according to Kluge.

He also took the opportunity to briefly address the region's concerns over the B.1.617 variant originally found in India, which he said had now been identified in at least 26 countries out of the 53 in the WHO European Region.

"Most cases have a link to international travel, but onwards transmission is occurring," said Kluge. "We are still learning about the new variant, but it is able to spread rapidly and displace the UK variant, B.1.1.7 lineage that has become the dominant lineage in Europe."

Kluge reiterated that all coronavirus variants that have emerged so far do respond to the available, approved vaccines.

Meanwhile, the WHO official expected more transmission in Europe as mobility, physical interactions and gatherings increasing in the coming months due to the easing of social measures.

To shore up the perceived fragility, Kluge re-emphasized his frequent call for the need of the region to not only redouble its efforts on testing and sequencing, isolation, contact tracing, quarantine and vaccination, but also maintain social measures.

"Neither testing nor receiving vaccines is a substitute for adherence to measures such as physical distancing and mask-wearing in public spaces or healthcare settings," said Kluge.

Xinhua

African policymakers urged to take concrete actions against poor road safety

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN experts attending a high-level meeting on Thursday urged African countries to take concrete actions to reduce accidents resulting from poor road safety across the continent.

The meeting was jointly hosted by the African Union (AU) Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) that validated the African Road Safety Action Plan for the decade from 2021 to 2030.

The experts emphasized the importance of implementing the UN campaign launched as part of the 6th UN Global Road Safety Week, which runs from May 17 to 23, and called for the application of 30 km/h speed limits across cities, towns and villages worldwide.

"While several good practices to improve road safety have been identified across the continent, many African countries should take significant action to implement activities ... to reduce carnage on the streets," the experts said in a statement.

According to figures from the UNECA, road safety remains a major challenge in Africa where the risk of death from road traffic injury is as high as 26.6 per 100,000 compared to 17.0 in South-East Asia and 9.3 in Europe.

Libyan political parties call for holding elections as scheduled

TRIPOLI

DURING a video conference with Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Rashedon Zenenga, a group of representatives of more than 15 political parties called on the relevant Libyan authorities to hold national elections later this year.

"Participants unanimously stressed the need to break the endless cycle of transitions and for all relevant authorities and institutions in Libya to prioritize the holding of elections on 24 December 2021 as scheduled," the UNSMIL said in a statement.

They called on the United-Nations (UN) sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), the House of Representatives, and the High Council of State to clarify the constitutional basis for elections before July.

"They outlined steps needed to create a conducive environment for elections, including providing the necessary space for political parties and movements, ensuring freedom and security for political activities for citizens across all regions, enabling meaningful participation and representation of women and youth, and putting in place a binding charter that will guarantee acceptance of election results by all," the statement said.

US minimises prospect of DPRK initiative at Moon summit

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Moon Jae-in, has been hoping to use his first summit with US President Joe Biden this week to press a legacy policy of engaging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), but Washington has played down the prospect of any quick impetus on the issue.

In their meeting on Friday, Biden is set to prioritize boosting cooperation with Seoul on regional security more broadly, the coronavirus pandemic and advancing policy on climate change.

ROK officials were heartened by

Biden's DPRK policy review, which called for a focus on practical diplomatic steps to reduce tensions while maintaining a final goal of persuading Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons.

But the pandemic, economic and political challenges, and crises elsewhere have shifted the DPRK issue towards a rear burner, complicating Moon's hopes of cementing a peace-maker legacy before leaving office next year.

In a move analysts say appeared a sop to Moon, Biden's Asia policy coordinator Kurt Campbell spoke in an interview with Yonhap news agency this week of building on past agree-

ments with the DPRK, including one reached in Singapore by Biden's predecessor Donald Trump.

That agreement with Kim Jong-un pledged joint efforts to build a peace regime to end seven decades of hostility on the Korean peninsula, something Moon has energetically pursued.

But the White House has declined to offer specifics of incentives it might offer to entice the DPRK back to talks. "At this juncture, it's really not in our interest to preview or comment on specific issues like an end-of-war declaration in hopes of spurring dialogue," a senior administration official told reporters in a Wednesday

evening briefing.

"But you can expect that a significant amount of the upcoming visit will be spent discussing the challenges of the DPRK and how our two countries can move forward together in dialogue." The official said Moon, who arrived in Washington on Wednesday evening, was accompanied by CEOs bringing investments in technology and batteries, high-tech semiconductors, issues associated with 5G and new-age logic chips.

On Thursday, Moon visited Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington and laid a wreath at a memorial to Americans killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. In the

afternoon, he went to Capitol Hill to meet US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democratic ally of Biden, and other congressional leaders.

PRESSURE ON CLIMATE

TARGETS

On Capitol Hill, Moon had "in-depth" consultations on Korean Peninsula issues, COVID-19 vaccines and global supply chains of high-tech industries, a ROK press pool report quoted presidential officials as saying.

According to the Yonhap news agency report, Moon emphasized the importance of resuming dialogue

with DPRK and said that despite the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, Washington and Seoul had demonstrated "genuine spirit of alliance," in helping each other.

Moon also stressed the importance of a stable Washington-Beijing relationship and said apart from trade, China was also an important partner in Korean Peninsula affairs.

Moon, facing dwindling popularity over the pandemic, is under pressure to secure more and faster deliveries of US-made vaccines. He has promised to secure a vaccine partnership at the summit by harnessing ROK's biotech production capacity.

Agencies

Success of CPC lies in closeness to people, says Tanzanian party official

BY maintaining close ties with the Chinese people, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has achieved great success in economic and social development, a senior official of Tanzania's ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) has said.

Congratulating the CPC on the 100th anniversary of its founding, Abdullah Juma Sadala, CCM's deputy secretary general for Zanzibar, said in a recent interview with Xinhua that the leadership of the CPC is key to China's tremendous development.

Decades ago, the CPC led the Chinese people to overthrow imperialist oppression and achieve national liberation; and now, under the leadership of the party, China has scored a complete victory in its fight against absolute poverty, which has greatly improved the people's living standard, said Sadala.

These achievements fully prove that the CPC always maintains close connections with the people, the official said, deeming the CPC a party of the people, and more importantly, a party for the people.

"When a party is close to the people, the people will respond positively to the party," Sadala added.

Recalling his visit to China in 2019, Sadala said he was impressed that the CPC's officials and policy-makers regularly visit communities and explain the party's policies to the grassroots-level party members so that they can better serve the masses.

The Chinese people are warm and tolerant, and greatly respect other countries, which is an important reason for China's growing international influence, said Sadala.

In international affairs, China advocates seeking common ground while shelving differences with other nations, and contributes to maintaining world peace and global environmental governance through global cooperation, Sadala said.

On Tanzania-China relations, Sadala said that the long-standing friendly ties between the two countries were jointly forged by leaders of the older generation and that the two countries are good friends and brothers.

Manifestations of this special friendship range from the China-aided Tanzania-Zambia Railway to the Chinese medical team in the country, he said, adding that China and Tanzania also maintain close economic and trade cooperation as well as party-to-party exchanges.

China is now the second largest economy in the world, and its achievements in development are obvious to all, said Sadala, voicing hope that the two sides will continue to strengthen dialogue in state governance and better align their development strategies, so as to bring more benefits to the two peoples.

Xinhua

Fake news is dangerous weapon being widely used against Russia, says Peskov

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov has described fake news as a dangerous weapon being actively used against Russia.

"Fake news is a weapon. It is a very wrong and dangerous thing. Fake news is being used as a weapon against our country.

We struggle with it. Our professionals struggle with it. Many of them address you these days," Peskov said on Friday while speaking before participants in the marathon New Knowledge.

He added that originally he was going to give some examples of fake news against Russia, but then changed his mind, because he realized that the focus of attention here is knowledge, so he decided to talk to the participants about the truth and lies, "if it is possible to talk about them in brief at all."

"Regrettably, we live in a world where the truth and lies go side by side. It has been this way all along, it is so today and it will be so tomorrow.

There is no getting away from this. It is very important to never stop attempts to distinguish between the truth and a lie, it is very important to prevent lies from overpowering your mind. Only knowledge and professionalism can resist lies," Peskov stressed.

Nigeria military probes reports of Boko Haram leader's death

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S military is investigating reports that the leader of militant Islamist group Boko Haram may have been killed or seriously injured following clashes with rival jihadists, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Abubakar Shekau has been the figurehead of an Islamist insurgency that has since 2009 killed more than 30,000 people, forced around 2 million people to flee their homes and spawned one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

A number of reports published on Thursday in Nigeria media, citing intelligence sources, said Shekau was seriously hurt or killed after his insurgents clashed with members of Islamic State in West Africa province (ISWAP), which broke away from his group in 2016.

Reuters has been unable to independently verify the claims.

A Nigerian Army spokesman, Mohammed Yerima, said the military were investigating.

"It's a rumour. We are investigating it. We can only say something if we confirm it," said the spokesman.

Shekau was said to have been killed on several occasions over the last 12 years, including in announcements by the military, only to later appear in a video post.

ISWAP was previously part of Shekau's militant Islamist group before its split five years ago, pledging allegiance to Islamic State. The schism was due to religious ideological disagreements over the killing of civilians by Boko Haram, to which ISWAP objected.

Shekau's death, if confirmed, could potentially end of fighting between the two groups, enabling either to absorb the others' fighters and consolidate its hold on northeast Nigerian territory.

Political solution only practicable path to Palestine-Israel peace



A Palestinian man holds a child who was rescued from the rubble of destroyed houses following Israeli air strikes in Al-Wahda Street in the middle of Gaza City, on May 16, 2021.

BRUSSELS

CONCERNED about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and mounting hostilities in the Palestine-Israel conflict, the European Union (EU) has urged "the immediate cessation of all violence and implementation of a ceasefire."

"Security for Israel and Palestine requires a true political solution," said the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell at a Tuesday meeting. Representing 26 member states, the EU has made such a clear-cut statement, which highlighted outsiders' concern and lent a new urgency to political dialogues over the Palestine issue.

The worst conflict between Palestine and Israel since 2014 has lasted for over 10 days. More violence within the occupied territory made the Jews feel more threatened while several Arab hospitals, including a main COVID-19 testing center in Gaza, were damaged.

The suffering of both sides sheds light on the appalling years-long political stalemate on the Palestine issue. In recent years, conflicts of different scales between the two sides have never vanished since the Palestine-Israel peace talks reached a deadlock due to the contentious expansion of Jewish settlements.

It is globally recognized that both Palestinians and Is-

raelis are eligible to live in the region around the holy city of Jerusalem, a status quo brought by complex historic and religious factors dated back thousands of years.

Though the two peoples are both keen for a lasting peace, they have felt their respective frustrations – failed nationalist aspirations for Palestinians and shattered absolute security for Israelis, making their common eagerness a long shot.

A Palestinian man holds a child who was rescued from the rubble of destroyed houses following Israeli air strikes in Al-Wahda Street in the middle of Gaza City, on May 16, 2021.

At the moment, it is imperative that the international community once again show resolution and solidarity to strengthen efforts to mediate between the two sides so as to de-escalate the conflict. An immediate ceasefire is the top priority.

And then adequate humanitarian assistance should be delivered to the enclave Gaza Strip, thronged with thousands of the injured and tens of thousands of refugees in want of water and food. Only the hostilities decrease to a certain level can it be possible to relaunch peace talks.

The Middle East Quartet, as well as the United Nations, need to play a bigger and positive role in not only brokering a temporary truce but pushing for a long-term political process.

Unfortunately, the United States, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, repeatedly blocked the UN's efforts to make a unanimous voice on the Palestine-Israel conflict.

Given the great disparity in national strength between Palestine and Israel, it is hardly possible for the two sides to negotiate a fair and equitable deal all by their own.

Therefore the international community needs to lend sufficient support for members of the Middle East Quartet, key Arab and international partners to make every endeavor to bring the Israeli and Palestinian leadership back to meaningful negotiations, making the two-state solution viable.

Realizing lasting peace in the Middle East is probably one of the hardest nut to crack for the international community. Only by accommodating the interests of all parties on the basis of a fair and just standpoint can a solution be accepted by all the parties involved.

Political process will be time-consuming and arduous, but it is the only practicable path to a final resolution to the long-lasting problem.

Xinhua

Moscow, Washington seek cooperation amid tensions



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (left) poses with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (right) before a meeting at the Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland on Wednesday, on the sidelines of the Arctic Council Ministerial summit. (SAUL AP)

HELSINKI

FINLAND Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met for the first time on Wednesday, expressing willingness to cooperate but also admitted "serious differences" amid tense relations between the two countries.

Meeting with his counterpart on the sidelines of the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik, Lavrov said Moscow and Washington have to decide on their further cooperation despite "serious differences" in a series of issues.

"We have serious differences in the assessment of the international situation. We have serious differences in the approaches to the tasks which have to be solved for its normalization," Lavrov said.

"Our position is very simple," the Russian diplomat said. "We are ready to discuss all the issues without exception, but under the per-

ception that the discussion will be honest, with the facts on the table, and of course on the basis of mutual respect."

'Predictable relationship'

For his part, Blinken said the administration of US President Joe Biden seeks "a predictable, stable relationship" with Russia, noting that Washington wants to work with Russia on some areas of mutual interests, including the fight against the pandemic, climate change, as well as nuclear issues related to Iran and the Korean Peninsula.

At the beginning of his speech though, Blinken said it was "no secret that we have our differences" and Washington would respond "if Russia acts aggressively".

Relations between Russia and the United States have been worsening in recent months. The two sides have clashed on issues such as Ukraine, cybersecurity, human rights, and alleged election interference by Russia in the US.

Since taking over the White House in January, Biden has increased pressure on the Kremlin. His labeling of Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "killer" met with fierce criticism in Moscow. Russia recalled its ambassador for consultations and warned ties were on the brink of outright collapse.

Wednesday's meeting, the first high-level, in-person discussion between the Biden administration and a Russian counterpart, lasted one hour and 45 minutes, longer than the expected one hour.

Biden proposed in April holding a summit with Putin in Europe this summer, and in early May expressed the hope that he will meet Putin during his visit to Europe in June.

It is expected the two top diplomats will prepare for the summit and may further compare notes on some specific issues.

China issues white paper on Tibet's peaceful liberation, achievements

BEIJING

CHINA'S State Council Information Office yesterday issued a white paper on the peaceful liberation of Tibet and its development over the past seven decades.

The white paper, titled "Tibet Since 1951: Liberation, Development and Prosperity," reviewed Tibet's history and achievements and presented a true and panoramic picture of the new socialist Tibet.

"This will help to counter the propaganda spread by a number of Western countries and their allies and provide the international community with a balanced account of the enormous transformation that has taken place in Tibet," said the document.

On May 23, 1951, the Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet (17-Article Agreement) was signed, officially proclaiming the peaceful liberation of Tibet. The year 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the historic event.

With the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the people of Tibet broke free from the fetters of invading imperialism for good, embarking on a bright road of unity, progress and development with all the other ethnic groups in China, according to the white paper.

In the new era, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core and with the vigorous support of the whole country, Tibet has made new progress in various fields, including eradicating extreme poverty, said the document, adding that "a brand new socialist Tibet has taken shape."

Enjoying a stable social environment, economic and cultural prosperity and a sound natural environment, people in Tibet now lead better lives and live in contentment, it noted.

In addition to a foreword and a conclusion, the white paper consisted of 10 sections, "Tibet Before the Peaceful Liberation," "Peaceful Liberation," "Historic Changes in Society," "Rapid Development of Various Undertakings," "A Complete Victory over Poverty," "Protection and Development of Traditional Culture," "Remarkable Results in Ethnic and Religious Work," "Solid Environmental Safety Barriers," "Resolutely Safeguarding National Unity and Social Stability," and "Embarking on a New Journey in the New Era."

While hailing seven decades of transformation, the white paper also slammed Western anti-China forces for continuing to interfere in Tibetan affairs as a means of disrupting China, and accused the 14th Dalai Lama and his supporters of trying to promote "Tibetan independence" by provoking incidents to jeopardize peace and stability in Tibet.

"All the people of China, including Tibetans, will resolutely safeguard national unity, protect national sovereignty and fight all separatists and anti-China forces, particularly Western anti-China forces," said the document. After summarizing its successes in leading the people of Tibet to stability and prosperity, the CPC proposed guidelines for governing Tibet in the new era.

Xinhua

Chaneta to host coaching, umpiring course in Arusha

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONAL Netball Association (Chaneta) will next month organize a two-week basic coaching and umpiring course in Arusha.

Devotha Marwa, Chaneta Chairperson, said the course, which will be held in the region from June 8-17, will help improve the skills of local netball coaches and umpires.

"This course is very important as it has taken us years since a similar one was held," she said.

She disclosed: "It's a basic course which will include the beginners and the old ones because we want more coaches and umpires to benefit as it will be conducted by highly qualified trainers."

She, however, could not issue the number of participants of the course,

saying it will be announced soon.

She moreover stopped short of mentioning the sponsor of the course.

Devotha asked those interested to register saying the course is important and long overdue as it will help Chaneta sharpen coaches and umpires' skills.

Meanwhile, Chaneta Chairperson announced that the association will host a Super Cup for clubs in Manyara region from July 18-29.

The country's netball has been inactive for many years and Chaneta leadership said it is putting much emphasis on developing youth and grassroots netball.

She disclosed the aim is to see to it the sport enjoys success and is played in all parts of the world.



Netballers making some of the squads, which competed in the previous season's national netball championship 'Taifa Cup', put their skills to show in one of the games in Manyara.

Football followers win 145m/- from betting firm

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN soccer followers, Dar es Salaam's Juma Makongo and Singida-based Juma Mussa, have laid their hands on a total of 145,957,650/- after accurately predicting a total of 12 matches in a betting game, known as 'Perfect 12'.

A betting company, M-Bet Tanzania, hosts the game. The firm's Marketing Manager Allen Mushi said that the winners have spent only 1000/- to predict the 12 matches of various leagues in the world to be able to share such a huge amount of money.

He said that Makongo and Mussa have become the eighth winners since the beginning of the year.

He noted their company has spent more than 550m/- to reward various winners who were able to accurately predict and emerge winners.

He noted: "We are happy to reward these winners and we believe that they will be able to change their lives through the money they have won. M-Bet will continue to be the home of champions."

Mussa who is an enthusiastic fan of Simba SC said that he did not believe in getting a large amount of money that will meet his parents' needs and start a business.

He stated: "I am an entrepreneur, I did not expect to get this large amount of money and I will start building a house for my parents while improving the business."

Ilala Regional Revenue Authority's Head of Gaming Unit, Shaaban Mwanaga, praised M-Bet for being one of the taxpayers in the country.

Mwanaga said that gaming contributes significantly to Gross Domestic Product.

Hunt: Kaizer Chiefs will hardly underrate Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAIZER Chiefs head coach Gavin Hunt has discussed his plans on how he intends to finish Simba SC's hopes of making a comeback in the second leg of the CAF Champions League quarterfinal at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

A brace from Samir Nurkovic and goal apiece from Erick Mathoho and Leonardo Castro gave the South African club a 4-0 advantage at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg last weekend.

The tactician has further underlined the importance of the clean sheet Chiefs, aka 'Amakhosi', kept in the first leg at home.

"My biggest gripe in the last 10 minutes was that even if it became 4-1, they could get a sniff. So, it was a huge step to go there [with a clean sheet]," Hunt said.

He disclosed: "I think we are going to try, if we can score one there then it's really [one foot in the semi-finals], but I mean that is going to be easier said than done."

Hunt is not new when it comes to playing Tanzanian opponents in East Africa, having played Azam FC in the CAF Confederation Cup in the 2016 edition and eventually lost 7-3 on aggregate.

The tactician by then was the head coach of another South African club, Bidvest Wits Football Club.

It is for this reason the experienced tactician has shed light on what he is expecting from Simba today.

"[Simba] will certainly raise their game. They are a



Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper, Bruce Bvuma (R), seeks to make a save to foil Simba forward, Chris Mugalu, when the clubs locked horns in a CAF Champions League's quarterfinal match, which took place in South Africa last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

big club and they have got a lot of pride to play for, so I'm sure they will come out with a huge, different mentality and everything else that goes with it," the coach noted.

He disclosed: "I have been [in Tanzania] before; we played Azam [in South Africa] and when we came here they were a different side, it looked like they had 12-13 players [on the pitch]."

He stated: "So, it will be a different game; let us put this [4-0 score] to bed; we will be working on the training and trying to improve the things we can, that's all we can do."

However, the Tanzania Premier League leaders hold the record of one of the greatest comebacks in the continental club competition.

In 1979, the Tanzanian giants beat Zambia's Mfulira

Wanderers 5-0 away after losing 4-0 at home in the first round of the then African Club Championship.

Amakhosi stars Samir Nurkovi and Happy Mashiane are not reading too much into Simba's history of comebacks.

The pair believe that playing in front of a crowd could work to their advantage as they aim to silence them early in the game.

Nurkovic said: "We are looking forward to the return leg and we have worked hard to prepare for this match. We will do everything to get to the semifinal stage. We want to continue from where we left off in the previous match."

The Serbian striker said they prefer to focus on themselves and not think too much about Simba's comebacks in the competition.

"We can't think about those things too much. What we have to do is to stay focused. We have to focus on how we are going to play and approach the game tomorrow," he said.

Nurkovi scored a brace in their big win against the Tanzanian giants and hopes to find the back of the net again.

Mashiane said they would not take their foot off the pedal and would finish them off in Tanzania.

He added: "Anything can still happen, it is a game of football. We will not be carried away by our big lead."

He opined: "The coach told us to exercise caution and not to take them for granted. We managed to score four goals at home and they can do the same over there. We have to be focused and double our efforts."

SUA Queens demolish Uluguru Stars in 2021 TCA Moro Women League

By Guardian Reporter

HAWA Mgoha showcased scintillating batting displays to propel Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Queens' cricketers to a 56-run victory over Uluguru Stars in 2021 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Moro Women League tie, which took place in Morogoro early this week.

After getting a chance to take the crease, SUA Queens exhibited their batting virtuosity, posting 113 runs, dropping two wickets in 20 overs.

Experienced all-rounder Hawa was in good form, putting good knocks to show and notching 51 runs which included three boundaries.

Hawa opened the innings with Sheila Shamte

that was equally impressive.

Sheila went on to score 23 runs, clearing the boundary once.

It was an impressive showing Hawa put to show, a feat which saw her successfully do away with an embarrassing moment she experienced when her side locked horns with Morogoro Stars the same weekend.

Uluguru Stars sought to weaken SUA Queens' batting resolve with a dismissal of Hawa after 15.1 overs.

She was caught by the opponents' wicket-keeper, Sara Sanga, from Asha Daud's bowling.

The opener had time to showcase her penchant for executing big shots, blasting three fours in her stint.

Top order batters Zulfa Hussein and Malizia

Salum made their way with the bat in hand, seeing to it SUA Queens record an imposing score.

Malizia ended with unbeaten 23 runs which included four boundaries, Zulfa cracked a few knocks, notching two runs not out.

Asha recorded a wicket during the fielding team's stint.

Chasing 114 runs to come out victorious happened to be a tall order for Uluguru Stars, given the team posted 57 runs for seven wickets in 17.3 overs.

Uluguru Stars were dealt a blow in the first three overs after opening batters, Fatuma Omari and Sara Sanga, were dismissed in quick succession.

Fatuma, an experienced all-rounder, had an unexpected brief spell, exiting the crease

without a run to her name.

Fatuma has of late been a consistent performer at both club and national team level, she was though a pale shadow of herself in the clash.

The skilful all-rounder's efforts to make her presence felt were foiled by SUA Queens' Zulfa Hussein, dismissing the performer in the first ball.

Sara, who had opened the innings with Fatuma, executed a few knocks and notched four runs.

Wicket keeper Malizia's fielding skills came in handy, considering she went for a cat to dismiss Sara from Dorice Helment's bowling.

Salma Faraji deployed as top order batter, registered 10 runs in what was one of significant contribution.

Blandina Michael was ultimately the performer with the most runs, given she scored unbeaten 13 runs.

She cleared the boundary once in her spell, which had the batter making 35 knocks.

Maimuna Fikiri was three runs short two-digit score, as she somehow struggled to ensure Uluguru Stars pile runs.

Low order batter, Mwanahamisi Nduni, had an unbeaten stint, she nevertheless hardly score runs.

The tie's most impressive cricketer, Hawa, put her bowling skills to show, posting two wickets in 0.3 overs.

The four-team tournament, organized by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), gears towards boosting efforts to develop the sport domestically.



Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Queens' cricketers and their Mwanza Queens' counterparts lock horns in a previous season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Regional Women League's game, which took place in Tanga.

Lewandowski poised to make Bundesliga history as Bayern welcome back home fans

BERLIN

ROBERT Lewandowski can break Gerd Mueller's 49-year-old Bundesliga single-season goal record this weekend when champions Bayern Munich play in front of their home fans for the first time since March 2020.

The Poland striker's penalty in Bayern's 2-2 draw at Freiburg last time out saw him equal Mueller's record of 40 goals in a single Bundesliga campaign, set in 1971/72.

With one game left Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's top scorer in six of the last eight years, can set a new record against Augsburg on Saturday.

"I guess he'll score two goals at the weekend and break the record," predicts former Bayer Leverkusen striker Ulf Kirsten, 55, a three-time Bundesliga top scorer in the 1990s.

"Nevertheless, I hope things stay as they are, because Gerd Mueller was my idol."

With a ninth straight league title already confirmed, Bayern will lift the Bundesliga trophy after the final whistle.

There will also be a farewell for last season's treble-winning coach Hansi Flick, hotly tipped to take charge of Germany after Euro 2020.

Likewise, defenders Jerome Boateng and David Alaba, whose contracts have not been renewed, will play their last game after more than a decade with Bayern.

Alaba is expected to join Real Madrid and leaves with a joint-record of 10 Bundesliga titles under his belt, while Boateng, 32, needs a new club.

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic hit Germany 14 months ago, fans will return to the Allianz Arena with just 250 allowed into the 75,000-capacity stadium.

Health workers will get 100 tickets with the rest shared between supporters and staff.

With infection rates dropping across Germany, other Bundesliga clubs can also welcome back small numbers of fans.

Union Berlin, on the verge of qualifying for the new Europa Conference League, will allow 2,000 spectators for Saturday's home game against RB Leipzig, who are already confirmed as runners-up.

The top four places are decided with Bayern, Leipzig, Dortmund and Wolfsburg assured of Champions League football next season.

However, things are tight at the other end of the table with two points separating Cologne, Werder Bremen and Arminia Bielefeld, the three clubs fighting to stay up above Schalke, who are bottom of the league and already relegated.

To stand a chance of avoiding automatic relegation, second-from-bottom Cologne must beat Schalke.

Bremen, who sacked head coach Florian Kohfeldt last Sunday, are 16th, which carries a relegation play-off next week against the club who finish third in the second division.

Bremen played the two-legged play-off for last year, squeezing past second-tier side Heidenheim on away goals.

Bielefeld are 15th, but they must win at Stuttgart to be sure of not getting dragged into the bottom three.

One to watch: Erling Braut Haaland
The towering Norway striker can bag his 40th goal in all competitions this season for Dortmund at home to Bayer Leverkusen.

The hosts are on a roll, winning their previous six league games to qualify for the Champions League as well as thumping Leipzig 4-1 in the German Cup final.

Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho, who has bagged four goals and two assists in three games, will be looking to press his claim for a place in England's Euro 2020 squad.

Key stats
430: Appearances David Alaba has made for Bayern Munich over the last 11 years, having come through the club's academy.

28: Number of Bundesliga games Lewandowski has needed to score 40 goals this season, while Gerd Mueller achieved the same tally over 34 matches.

7: Trophies Flick has won during 18 months at Bayern Munich, losing just eight of his 85 matches in charge, with 69 wins.

Fixtures (all 1330 GMT)
Today
Bayern Munich v Augsburg, Borussia Dortmund v Bayer Leverkusen, Hoffenheim v Hertha Berlin, VfL Wolfsburg v Mainz 05, Eintracht Frankfurt v Freiburg, Union Berlin v RB Leipzig, Cologne v Schalke 04, Werder Bremen v Borussia Moenchengladbach, VfB Stuttgart v Arminia Bielefeld

AFP

Atletico on cusp of La Liga glory but Real Madrid ready to pounce

MADRID

BARELY a week has gone by this season without Diego Simeone pronouncing his mantra of "one game at a time" and now it really rings true, with Atletico Madrid one match away from winning La Liga.

If they beat Real Valladolid on Saturday, they will be crowned champions for the first time since 2014 and few could argue given they will have been top of the table since December.

But Real Madrid are lurking, only two points behind, and ready to dip their neck over the line at the last moment. They have not led La Liga since October 17.

Real Madrid will have to win at home against Villarreal to have any chance but the omens look good for Zinedine Zidane's side, given their opponents may not be at full strength.

Villarreal are in a three-way battle to finish fifth and sixth, with the team that comes seventh dropping out of the Europa League and into the new and less lucrative Europa Conference League.

But Villarreal could do even better and qualify for the Champions League if they defeat Manchester United in the Europa League final, four days after their game at Valdebebas.

"We will have an eye on the Manchester United game," said Villarreal coach Unai Emery on Wednesday.

A draw for Atletico could mean the top two are tied on points but that would see the trophy returned to Real Madrid,



Diego Simeone

who would sneak it on head-to-head. In some ways, Atletico might benefit from the situation being clear. They will almost certainly have win to claim the title and can look for victory from the

start.
- Valladolid scrapping for survival -

Valladolid might have been relegated already had results gone against them last weekend but instead they are still fighting to be the one team out of three that survives.

Huesca and Elche are the others scrapping to finish 17th, with both of them two points ahead of Valladolid, the trio sandwiched between already-relegated Eibar and Getafe, who are safe.

It means only a win will give Valladolid hope, a scenario that could play into Atletico's hands if it encourages their opponents to attack, opening the spaces that were denied by the defensive approach of Osasuna, who so nearly spoiled Atletico's chances last weekend.

Luis Suarez's 88th-minute winner, which completed a stunning turnaround after Renan Lodi equalised only six minutes before, had the feeling of a pivotal moment, a dramatic twist to prove decisive in who harnesses the prize.

Yet Real Madrid's priority on Sunday was survival and they beat Athletic Bilbao at San Mames to take Atletico to the last day, when the tension will be at its highest.

Simeone admitted "anxiety exists" among his players but in 10 years in charge he has tried to expunge the fatalist tendencies that haunted the club for so long.

Real Madrid have benefitted before, when Atletico conceded in the 93rd minute in the 2014 Champions League final in Lisbon and lost in

extra-time. Atletico went close in the 2016 final in Milan too, only to be beaten by Real Madrid on penalties.

Now Simeone's team are within touching distance again, the difference this time that Real Madrid have no control, their own success now depending on what happens at the Jose Zorrilla stadium, 200 kilometres away.

Win or lose, it could be Zidane's final game in charge and there are serious doubts around the future of Ronald Koeman as well, ahead of Barcelona's last match against Eibar.

Barca's disappointing end to the season means they could even surrender third place if they lose while Sevilla will hope for the chance to overcome a two-point gap when they face Alaves on Sunday.

Real Sociedad in fifth are a point ahead of both Real Betis and Villarreal, the tussle for the Europa League still alive. Betis travel to Celta Vigo and Real Sociedad are at Osasuna.

Elche host Athletic Bilbao and to stay up, they will have to better Huesca's result against Valencia at Mestalla. Valladolid must beat Atletico and hope Elche and Huesca both lose.

Fixtures (times GMT)

Today
Celta Vigo v Real Betis, Eibar v Barcelona, Huesca v Valencia, Osasuna v Real Sociedad, Real Madrid v Villarreal, Real Valladolid v Atletico Madrid, Elche v Athletic Bilbao (all 1600)

Tomorrow
Granada v Getafe (1630), Sevilla v Alaves (1900)

AFP

Pirlo's Juve future under microscope in three-team Champions League race

MILAN

ANDREA Pirlo's hopes of convincing Juventus bosses he deserves another season as coach will be under scrutiny on Sunday as his side look to snatch a Champions League spot on the final day of the Serie A season.

Juventus are in a three-team race with AC Milan and Napoli for the final two places behind champions Inter Milan and Atalanta.

AC Milan and Napoli, both on 76 points, are a point clear of Juve, who travel to 11th-placed Bologna hoping to avoid missing out on the Champions League for the first time since 2011-12.

Despite being denied a 10th consecutive Serie A title, the Turin giants have won two trophies in Pirlo's debut season, the Italian Cup and Italian Super Cup, and he wants to continue in the hotseat.

"There is still a crucial game and it will be a battle, then we will take stock," said the 42-year-old.

"The victories do not cancel out the difficulties, but in my first year I have learned a lot.

"Now we head into Sunday, when our future will be decided, even if it's not all in our hands."



Andrea Pirlo

Juve's European hopes depend on beaten cup finalists Atalanta's match against AC Milan in Bergamo, and Napoli's game at home against midtable Hellas Verona.

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta are focused on achieving their first Serie A runners-up finish, four days after losing out in their bid for a first trophy since 1963.

"We are not responsible for the fate of others even if they all try to pull us by the jacket for this match," said Gasperini. "Everyone is responsible for their own destiny."

"We have scored the points and we will play to finish in second place, knowing however that we have already reached our target."

Milan have only managed one win in their last 11 Serie A matches against Atalanta, with the Bergamo side winning their last home

game against Milan 5-0. Atalanta could exceed their best-ever points tally, already equalled with 78. In addition, they could claim a club re-

cord number of league games won in a season, now equalled with 23, and have the top attack in the league for a third straight campaign with 90 goals scored.

Champions Inter Milan will get to celebrate their first league title since 2010 in front of 1,000 supporters in their final game at the San Siro against Udinese on Sunday.

According to reports, they will not be paying fans, but 'Nerazzurri' guests, including employees, staff, families of the players and sponsors.

At the end of the match, Antonio Conte's side will receive the league trophy.

Key stats:
90 goals: Atalanta are

the top scorers in the league for a third consecutive season.

28 goals: Ronaldo is set to finish the season as top scorer.

15: AC Milan's wins away from home this season

1: Point between Juve and Champions League rivals AC Milan and Napoli.

Fixtures (all times GMT):

Today
Cagliari v Genoa, Crotona v Fiorentina, Sampdoria v Parma (all 1845)

Tomorrow
Inter Milan v Udinese (1300), Atalanta v AC Milan, Bologna v Juventus, Napoli v Hellas Verona, Sassuolo v Lazio, Spezia v Roma, Torino v Benevento (all 1845)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Atletico on cusp of La Liga glory but Real Madrid ready to pounce

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

UJENZI

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Sauda, Mtweve set for 2021 Tokyo Paralympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA is expected to send two Paralympic athletes to the coming Tokyo Paralympics slated for August 24 to September 6, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) announced.

Tuma Dandi, TPC chairman, mentioned the two as Sauda Njopeka and Ignas Mtweve and stated they are currently attending training ahead of the Games.

He said TPC is happy that for the first time in its history, the country is sending a female athlete to the Paralympics.

Dandi said Sauda and Mtweve attended qualifying events in Tunisia and Dubai they but did not earn automatic qualification for Tokyo Paralympics.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) nevertheless offered them the opportunity to compete on wildcard because of their exceptional performance at the qualifying events.

"We are delighted that our two athletes, Sauda Njopeka and Ignas Mtweve, will represent the country at the coming Tokyo Paralympics, the two, under the sponsorship of IPC, attended qualifying events in Tunisia and Dubai respectively, the good thing is that for the first time the country will have a female athlete at the Games," he said.

This will be the second time for Mtweve to represent the country at Paralympics. He first competed at the Games, which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

He said TPC is geared to ensure that the country is represented by many athletes at the Tokyo Paralympics and discussions are underway with the government through National Sports Council (NSC) to ensure that weight lifters and Para swimmers are attending qualifying events in Dubai and German respectively.

"We have Para swimmer Amos Boniface Nderwa who is good and he reached international standards, and weight lifters Yohana Mwila, Ernest Nyabalele while female powerlifters are Berdina Nyinyimbe and Bernadeta Kinyero who are ready, we are confident they can earn qualification for Tokyo Paralympics.

"The only problem now is that we don't have money to send them to qualifiers in German and Dubai, so currently we are discussing with the government so that it can help us financially to send the athletes to the qualifying events," he said.

He appealed to the general public to help TPC so that it can send the athletes to the qualifying events.

"Paralympic sports experience a lot of challenges in the country, the biggest one is lack of civic education as many people don't know that the disabled athletes can perform wonders at international events and bring home honours, due to lack of understanding the power of sports among people with disabilities many people are not able to support TPC financially and materially," he said.

Simba SC hosts Kaizer Chiefs in crunch CAF Champions League duel



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for today's CAF Champions League's last eight's duel against Kaizer Chiefs, which will be played in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S representative in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, say they are determined to convert fantasy into reality and reach the last four of the continent's elite football tournament by beating South Africa giants Kaizer Chiefs at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this afternoon.

Simba SC has dubbed the encounter 'Do or Die Season 2'. The club lost 4-0 to Kaizer Chiefs in the first leg game at FNB Stadium and this afternoon faces a tough and difficult moment when they welcome the visitors at Benjamin

Mkapa Stadium.

Speaking ahead of the game, Simba SC's skipper, John Bocco, said they will fight every inch of the way in a quest for a place in the semi-final.

Simba needs to beat the visitors by more than five goals, whilst keeping a clean sheet, progress to the semi-finals, a feat which many consider impossible.

Bocco though said they will play their lungs out and will not lose hope.

"We will give it our best shot for the cause of the

team, the country, and management of the club, we have trust that we will do it and we are ready for it, it's every player's dream to play in the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League, our destiny is in our hands," he said.

He said it will not be an easy match, but they will follow the coaches' instructions and hopefully win the game with the required goals.

He noted: "It won't be easy. We know it will be tough and the key factor

will be our approach. We'll have to remain focused throughout the match."

The forward called upon supporters of the club and all football lovers in the country to remember them in their prayers.

Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes said his charges are determined to win the match, he said the team will go flat out to contain their opponents.

"The players are determined to play the game of their lives. We know our opponents are a tough

side, but we have done our homework on them, the good thing is that we are playing in our backyard," he said.

The French gaffer also said he is not under pressure going into the showdown, saying in football anything can happen, but they are well prepared.

"Of course, it is a decider and there is a lot of expectation from Tanzanians, but I am not losing my sleep, I trust my players and I know they will make the country and the team proud," he said.

Ahead of today's encounter, many soccer analysts advised Simba to improve on attacking and not carry with them the first leg defeat.

Former Simba, Yanga, and national team player Amri Kiemba said Simba should play according to plan and without fear.

He noted: "First Simba should rectify the problems they encounter in the first leg at FNB stadium, they should improve on aerial balls."

"In recent games, Simba has conceded seven goals through headers, if I were Simba coach I would have used defender Kennedy Juma, his height and energy are good for the match."

"I will also take the game to them, I'm sure with the quality of Simba players, they can win the game," he said.

Shree Kutchi Leva defeat Sandy's Super Strikers in DC Gymkhana Cup Division A

By Guardian Reporter

SHREE Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) has boosted the team's quest for lifting the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup's Division A title, notching a three-wicket win over Sandy's Super Strikers early this week.

Sandy's Super Strikers batted first in the clash, which was reduced to 18 overs, ending with 73 runs for nine wickets in their innings.

Opener Abhishek Rathod was the batsman with the most runs in the overall less convincing displays at the crease, notching 15 runs which consisted of two sixes.

Narendra Kumar and skipper, Anand Monani, chipped in with 12 runs and 11 runs respectively.

There was not much several other key performers, including Anil Dobani and opener Mohammed Ali, could do given they could not withstand the SKLPSC's pressure.

Ali and Dobani ended three runs short of two-digit figures, Jitu Ramani recorded six runs.

Ghanshyam Gondaliya posted impressive four wickets for SKLPSC in his three-over stint.

There was as well scintillating showing two other bowlers, Vinesh Gorasiya and Dinesh Rabadiya, put to show as they posted two wickets



Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) cricket outfit.

apiece.

It was not quite an easy task for the SKLPSC when they took the crease, as the cricketers,

in response, had to deploy all skills at their disposal in pursuit of victory.

The SKLPSC went on to amass 74 runs for seven wickets in 16.3 overs of the 18-over tie.

Opening batsman, Dinesh Rabadiya, gave the squad a

needed boost in their quest for getting down to a successful chase, notching 26 runs which included four fours.

Vipul Pindoria, slotted in as top order batsman, notched 11 runs, which consisted of a four in the only other showing with the two-digit figure.

The remaining top order performers were overall below par, facing dismissal in quick succession.

Low order batsmen, Hassan Rahim and Ramesh Dabasiya, were the ones with unbeaten spells and, although Sandy's Super Strikers did all they could to tame the performers, the duo made certain of the victory.

Ramesh posted unbeaten six runs, Rahim posted unbeaten seven runs.

Vinesh Gorasiya, batting at number three, was two runs short of a double-digit figure.

Sandy's Super Strikers Nanda Kumar had the best performance, he ended with three wickets, giving away nine runs in four overs.

Abhishek Rathod had an equally notable contribution, given he notched two wickets in four overs.

Kumar and Rathod's efforts, nevertheless, did not have an impact, as exhibited resilience in their innings.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MEN SHOULD STOP TELLING SO MANY LIES...



...ONLY IF WOMEN SHOULD STOP ASKING SO MANY QUESTIONS!