

## WHO warns Africa not to go easing up on Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent

THE World Health Organisation has warned Africa against easing coronavirus restrictions as the number of infections on the continent has doubled in the past month. WHO Regional Director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti (pictured) said at a virtual news conference that the UN agency is concerned that Africa will see an increase in cases "as we have seen in countries where restrictions have been eased too soon." She said more than 20 African countries have recorded more new cases lately than in previous weeks, with South Africa accounting for the largest number, but increases were also reported in Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Moeti said Uganda, Seychelles and Mauritius are doing well in controlling the virus. The agency said there were nearly 890,000 confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa and 18,000 deaths so far.

**“We have said it before and we’ll say it again: Young people are not invincible”**

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued a new warning to young people across the world to not consider themselves invulnerable to contracting COVID-19, the malady caused by the coronavirus. "Although older people are at a higher risk of severe disease, younger people are at risk too," he said. "One of the challenges we face is convincing younger people of this risk. "Evidence suggests that spikes of cases in some countries are being driven in part by younger people letting down their guard during the northern (hemisphere) summer," Tedros said. "We have said it before and we'll say it again: Young people are not invincible," he said. The number of confirmed cases worldwide topped the 17 million mark, with nearly 670,000 deaths. The rising number of COVID-19 cases has researchers racing to develop and test a vaccine to blunt the spread of the virus.

# Eid messages centre on election-time harmony

By Guardian Reporters



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses Eid el-Haji ceremony, as held at national level at Dar es Salaam's Mnazi Mmoja grounds yesterday - with him as chief guest. Photo: PMO

PEACE and unity during the coming up General Election campaigns and voting were predominant in marking Eid el Hajj as Tanzanian Muslims joined fellow Muslims the world over to mark the feast of slaughter. Addressing the Eid El Hajj Baraza at Bumbwini School Hall in Zanzibar city, President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein called on leaders and citizens to maintain peace and unity ahead of the General Election scheduled for late October. The ceremony was attended by several national leaders including Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Second Vice President Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi and the Minister for Defence and National Service, Dr Hussein Mwinyi. Others were Zanzibar Chief Justice Othman Makungu, Chief Secretary Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, diplomats, regional commissioners and other leaders. Dr Shein said that conducting a peaceful election will put Zanzibar in a good position, enabling the next government to implement various development plans and projects on time. He urged Zanzibaris not to allow a few people to instill hatred and propagate conflict among people and communities. Political parties must adhere to election procedures and ethics, making sure that they utilize the campaign period to preach their policies and priorities. "We should all ensure that we conduct peaceful campaigns as per our elections rules and regulations. There should be no conflict,

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## Ten die as strong winds break boat

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

AT least ten people have died and 100 others rescued after the boat in which they were travelling capsized after it was hit by strong winds in Lake Tanganyika. Kigoma Regional Police Commander (RPC), James Manyama said that the accident occurred on Thursday at around noon off Kalya ward, Uvinza District when the boat was moving from Sibwesa to Mpanda in Katavi Region.

After being hit by powerful winds, the boat lost direction, took in water and capsized. "The accident left ten people dead including six children and three women, but the majority of the passengers, around 100 people were rescued, he said. He said that police and other security agencies are still searching to establish if there were more passengers or unaccounted for persons. Commander Manyama urged marine vessel operators to take precautions, including

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## UNFPA, Finland team up in Covid-19 gender move

By Getrude Mbago

THE United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in Tanzania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland yesterday signed an agreement for a special project to support women and girls during the COVID-19 crisis. The agreement was signed between Riita Swan, the Ambassador of Finland on behalf of her country's foreign minister and Dr Wilfred Ochan, head of the UNFPA country office. Worth euro 900,000 (about 2.48bn/-), the

eight month project seeks to support and protect sexual reproductive health along with response services in instances of gender based violence such as medical attention for GBV survivors in various regions. UNFPA said in a statement yesterday that Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza and Shinyanga will be on the first line of beneficiary regions in the project. Women of reproductive age (15-49 years) especially girls and young people aged 10 to 24

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### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



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**FACT 4** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)



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Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein (2nd-L) exchanges greetings in Zanzibar yesterday with, among other people, Defence and National Service minister Dr Hussein Ali Mwinini (3rd-R) shortly after Eid el-Hajj prayers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Eid messages centre on election-time harmony

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hatred, violence, tribalism or racism in our campaigns," he emphasised.

He assured the general public that Zanzibar is peaceful, with political, economic and social activities continuing, the government supervising development activities to ensure that targets are pursued before and after the polls.

In Dar es Salaam, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa called on religious leaders to refrain from issuing statements that are likely to incite violence among social and community groups.

Individual statements underlined by personal sentiments should not be linked with major religious groups as this may incite violence.

"You have your own views then you go in front of the camera and link it with a religious group. It is better we take precautions," he said, underlining that religious leaders have a role to play in preaching unity and co-existence for the betterment of the nation.

"There are some religious leaders who have been issuing statement and then make the public believe it is from a certain religious group. Such postures cause tensions among communities in the country."

The premier reiterated assurances issued by President John Magufuli that the general election will be free and fair, so the public should stop worrying about that.

Religious leaders have a huge role to continue praying for the country to remain calm during and after the polls, he stated.

Speaking at the Gaddafi Mosque, Dodoma Regional Sheikh Mustafa Rajabu asked Muslims in the country to unite and pray for the coming general election to be peaceful.

He urged poll aspirants to conduct issue based campaigns and accept outcomes of the election for the betterment of the country.

"During this period when we are approaching the general election, we need to pray so that the whole electoral process goes peacefully," he said.

The leader used the platform to pray for the late former president Benjamin Mkapa for his service to the nation.

He explained how he met the late Mkapa in Libya and facilitated the construction of the huge mosque in the designated capital.

Sheikh Rajabu further said: "When president Mkapa visited Libya he requested the then president Muammar Gaddafi to build them a modern mosque.

"We were in a group of young Tanzanians who had gone for studies in Libya. Upon hearing that our president was in the country we organized ourselves to go see him, and we were happy to hear his request to President Gaddafi," he recalled.

He said Mkapa did a lot for Muslims, citing the fact that he made a decision to offer buildings that belonged to the power supply firm, Tanesco to the National Muslim Council for setting up the Muslim University of Morogoro.

"This will remain in history for many people started to question how come a public building was being handed over for religious matters," the regional sheikh intoned.

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years will be sought out in the targeted regions. The project shall work to ensure that there is continued use of essential life-saving sexual reproductive health and access to gender based violence response services, the agency said.

It further said that the project will ensure there is enhanced the protection of women and girls from violations of their human rights, including suffering from gender based violence and certain harmful practices.

Recently, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem said that the COVID crisis has taken a staggering toll on people, communities and economies everywhere, "yet not everyone is affected equally, and as we so often see, women and girls tend to suffer most."

In a message to commemorate the World Population Day on July 11, Dr Kanem said that the impact of COVID-19 will likely hamper global efforts to

## UNFPA, Finland team up in Covid-19 gender move

achieve three 'zeros' at the heart of the agency's work - zero unmet need for contraception, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls, even by 2030.

"Now, with countries on lockdown and household tensions heightened, gender-based violence is on the rise, and sexual and reproductive health services are being sidelined by health systems struggling to cope with COVID-19," the director declared.

"On this World Population Day, we call attention to the vulnerabilities and

needs of women and girls during the COVID-19 crisis, and why protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights, and ending the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence is imperative, especially in these challenging times," she emphasised

Dr Kanem however said that UNFPA is working to ensure that the supply of modern contraceptives and reproductive health commodities is maintained and that midwives and other health personnel have the personal protective equipment they need to stay safe.

"Sexual and reproductive health care is a right, and like pregnancies and childbirth, human rights don't stop with pandemics. Together, let's put the brakes on COVID-19 and safeguard the health and rights of women and girls," she added

*"Now, with countries on lockdown and household tensions heightened, gender-based violence is on the rise, and sexual and reproductive health services are being sidelined by health systems struggling to cope with COVID-19"*

## Ten die as strong winds break boat

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postponing journeys whenever they see signs of strong winds or abnormal lake conditions.

Boat operators must adhere to passenger carriage capacity indicated for their vessels so as to avoid unnecessary accidents with overloading, he appealed.

"The public should adhere to the weather authority's alerts. They should stop ignoring them as it is better to suspend travel whenever they feel the weather is not conducive. They should also avoid agreeing to travel in a vessel that is overloaded with passengers and cargo," the RPC emphasised.

Reuben Mwakilima, the Uvinza

District Commissioner confirmed receiving ten bodies and casualties at Kalya Health Centre.

He said that the majority of the survivors who were in good condition were treated and later discharged.

This is the second boat accident to happen within a month in Lake Tanganyika, as on June 25 at least nine people were killed and 51 injured after a boat capsized.

On July 16, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) warned of strong winds and high waves in Lake Tanganyika. The weather forecast said strong winds and high waves were likely to disrupt fishing activities and marine transport for the following week.

## NCPDRS in new drive to curb road accidents

By Getrude Mbagu

THE National Committee for Persons with Disabilities on Road Safety (NCPDRS) has embarked on a special campaign aimed to educate persons with disabilities, drivers and the general public on road safety rules, regulations and traffic signs.

This is part of the NCPDRS move to reduce unnecessary road accidents in the country.

According to Jutorum Kabatele, the NCPDRS chairman, the campaign which is funded by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) will be conducted in the regions of Tanga and Mtwara from August to November, this year.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam recently, Kabatele said that a good number of people still have little knowledge on various road safety rules and traffic signs, something which poses threat to the increase of unnecessary road accidents.

According to him, the campaign will also raise public awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities to road safety as well as mobilise the community to help persons with disabilities to use roads and other infrastructures safely.

Kabatele recalled back in 2006 when he embarked on a special research on road accidents which later found that 96 percent of PwDs are unaware of their rights about road

safety.

He said that the study found that some pedestrians, car drivers had no knowledge on road traffic signs, traffic laws and regulations.

The research further found out that the majority of the public including traffic controllers/police and drivers are not aware of the rights of persons with disabilities on the roads. As a result every year 10 to 18 persons with disabilities are knocked by cars and if they survive the accidents they sustain with injuries for life and cause more disabilities.

"With those findings, I decided to mobilise a group of people with disabilities in Tanzania and decided to register a non-governmental Organisation in the name of National Committee for Persons with Disabilities on Road Safety (NCPDRS) so as to support PwDs in road safety issues," he said.

Kabatele further crafted five traffic signs for PwDs which represent physical impaired persons, sight impaired people, Persons with Albinism (PwAs), hearing impaired persons, and mental impaired people.

He said that NCPDRS works to assist people with disabilities in the country to have access to transport by crafting traffic signs according to Tanzania's roads and environment.

"The public should be aware that PwDs take

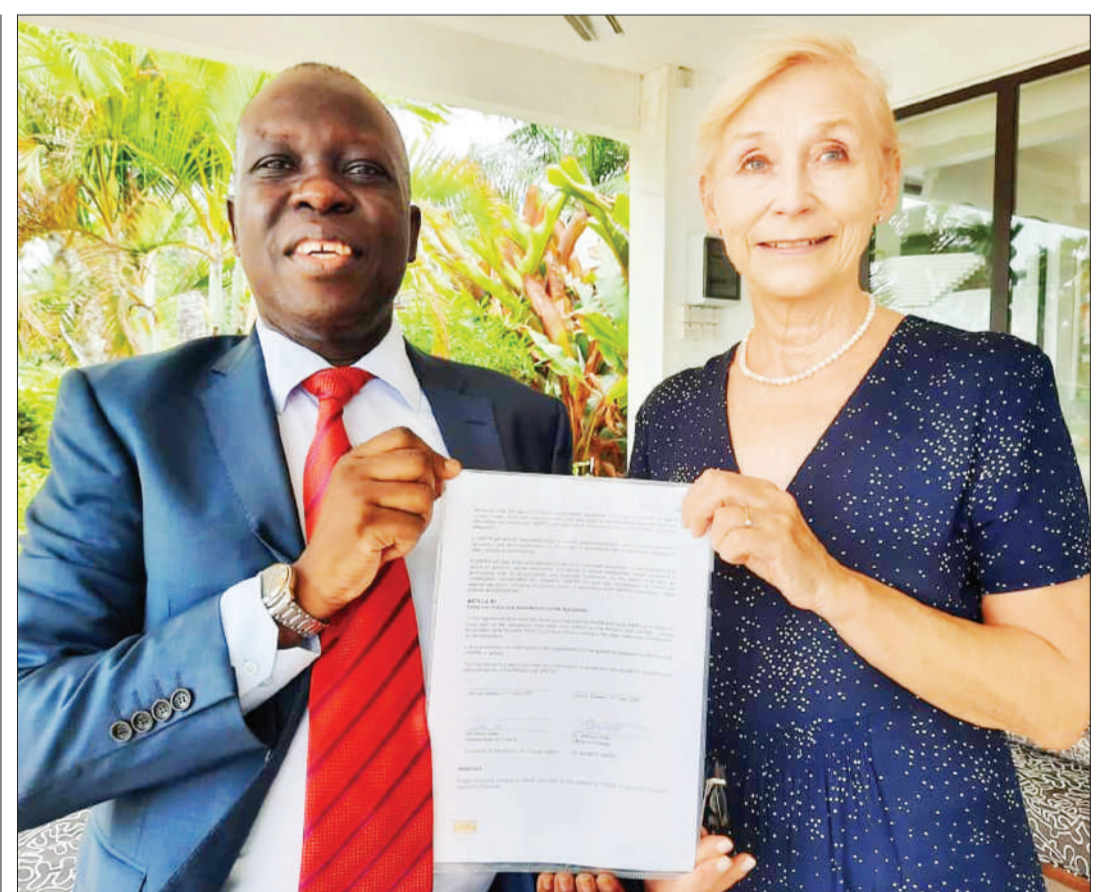
long time to cross the road, this is why we came up with the special traffic signs to help motor vehicles or road users to be careful in roads, we also beg for the public to provide support whenever they notice a person with a disability is trying to cross the road. We have witnessed a number of PwDs dying in roads due to lack of support and supervision," he added.

He said that in Tanzania 70 percent of PwDs have either tricycles or motor-vehicles. Many of them however do not have proper training in how to use the vehicles.

The chairman pointed out that to address the challenge, the committee has been training PwDs with motor vehicles on driving skills and road safety rules whereby majority of them are currently working well and earning income through their vehicles such as tricycles.

"In April 2010 the government accepted and approved the five road signs for PwDs and they are currently in use on roads. We believe that, if everyone adheres to the traffic laws and regulations, unnecessary accidents will be greatly reduced," he added.

For his part, NCPDRS Secretary General Dr Hamis Cheni said that the committee is currently struggling to ensure that passengers' busses are well improved to accommodate PwDs by designing a bus door system which can easily handle the group.



Dr Wilfred Ochan (L), UNFPA's Deputy Representative in Tanzania, and Finland's Ambassador to Tanzania, Riita Swan, show a document shortly after they signed an agreement in Dar es Salaam yesterday under which the two parties will extend support to women and girls in Tanzania during the Covid-19 crisis. Photo courtesy of UNFPA

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

## Covid-19 leaves thousands jobless in Zanzibar

THE outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has left thousands of people who were working in the Zanzibar's tourism sector jobless.

Zanzibar Minister for Labor, Empowerment, Elders, Youth, Women and Children, Maudline Castico, said the tourism sector was mostly hit by the pandemic.

Castico said that most of the

employees in the tourism sector, including the hospitality industry, lost their jobs following the shutting down of tourist hotels and cancellation of international flights.

According to the minister, Zanzibar government is still undertaking an assessment to establish the full impact

caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in all sectors.

Earlier in June Zanzibar authorities announced reopening of tourism activities after they were shut down on March 20 following the outbreak of COVID-19.

Zanzibar, the renowned tourism

destination world all over is back to normalcy after a period of no activity due to coronavirus pandemic.

Zanzibar's Information, Tourism and Heritage Minister Mohamoud Thabit Kombo announced that all tourism activities are back with charter and scheduled flights back.

Zanzibar's bubbly tourism life shut down on March 20 when the Tanzanian government ordered the closure of hotels, and other joints visited by tourists.

Two months later, it has opened up the country while other East African countries mull on protocols to adhere

to the reopening of their tourism sector.

Zanzibar is Tanzania's leading source of foreign exchange. Its closure has dealt a huge blow to the Tanzanian economy just like the other sectors have.

In 2018, this island with a population of 1.4 million people generated \$135 million in revenue and created 22,000 direct and 50,000 indirect jobs. Half a million tourists visited the island in 2018.

# Hasunga issues 14-day ultimatum to board to clear all cashew nut farmers' arrears

By Guardian Reporter

Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga has given 14-day ultimatum to the Director General of Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB), Dr Anselm Moshi, to clear all arrears it owes cashew nut farmers for the 2018/2019 season.

Hasunga made the directives when he visited the board offices in the city of Arusha on Thursday. The minister said that in 2018, the board was tasked to buy cashew nuts on behalf of the government and CPB was given them money to do so, but it hasn't cleared the arrears it owed to farmers.

"That's why I task the board to clear all the arrears within 14 days from now. I don't want to hear any complaints from farmers anymore. Make sure all farmers are paid their monies as soon as possible," the minister stressed.

In the visit, Hasunga also asked the CPB director general to present the action plan on how cereal crops processing factories will be working to produce products that meet customers' demand and government's expectations. The plan should also include the number of staff that will be required.

The minister also directed local private firm known as 'Monaban Trading and Farming Company,' which was operating at the Arusha-based storage facilities and grain processing plant of National Milling Corporation to remove all its properties as the case on the matter was completed.

While at the factory, Hasunga discovered that some of the plants are dilapidated, calling for the responsible authorities to refurbish the building starting this month instead of October as it was planned.

"We cannot wait until October. We'll be too late because rains will be on our way something that will restrain us from refurbishing this facility," he said.

The idea of the government, he said is to revive all the defunct factories so that they are used to add value of cereal crops before taking them into the international markets.

CPB is a public institution established through the Cereals and Other Produce Act No.19 of 2009 to provide for promotion and development of cereals and other agricultural produce and to provide for other related matter.



Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute director general Geoffrey Mkamilo (R) briefs Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (L) on seed and agribusiness demonstration farms at an agricultural inputs exhibition held at the institute's premises at Seliani in Arusha earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

# 'GBV still rampant in Dodoma Region despite efforts to reverse the trend'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

GENDER-BASED violence is still rampant in Dodoma Region despite efforts by the authority to reverse the trend, stakeholders have observed.

Speaking during a two days training organised by the Legal and Human Right Centre (LHRC) here at the weekend, the stakeholders comprising of ward development officers, community workers among others in the region maintained that the situation has not changed for better.

The aim of the meeting was to empower local government authority leaders like ward executive officers, village executive officers, social workers and development officers understand the level of the problem at their areas.

LHRC's Programme Officer for Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Getruda Byabena observed that Dodoma region is ranked among the top five regions in the country with high cases of gender-based violence.

"Dodoma is still among the leading regions with high cases of gender-based violence, thus the need for leaders at lower level understand the magnitude of the problem," she said, adding that at the end of the meeting the participants would come up with recommendations on the way forward.

She observed that children and people with disabilities are still at high risk of violence, mainly done to them by people who are close to them.

Ruth Kilango, a Social Welfare Officer at the Dodoma regional referral hospital who also attended the meeting observed that the vice is rampant in the region.

She said not a day can pass without gender-based violence case reported at the regional hospital and sometimes three to five cases per day.

"It is undeniable that such cases are still common in the region, mostly in the rural cases where they are hardly reported," she said, adding that all stakeholders should combine efforts to end the problems.

On the other hand, the participants also debated on the challenges to how to help economically empower people with special needs in the society.

Patrick Mafuru, Community Development Officer in Mpwapa told the meeting that while the government through the district councils have set aside empowerment fund for various groups of people in the community, some are still not aware of it.

He said while women are very proactive on this, people with disabilities and youth are not committed to benefiting from the funds.

By Guardian Reporter

# PASS to provide 1,267,800 loans to agribusiness entrepreneurs by 2022

THE Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) is envisioned to provide at least 1,267,800 loans to agribusiness entrepreneurs by 2022 in an initiative aimed to support the government's development agenda.

In a statement issued by PASS Managing Director, Nicomed Bohay said that the target is part of the organisation's strategic plan (2018-2022).

In the four-year plan, PASS is determined to ensure increased employment and income opportunities for Tanzania population.

It also targets to increase in annual guarantee commitments from 126bn/- in 2018 to 184bn/- in 2022 as well as digitalising PASS services and products, promotion of leasing finance in Tanzania, build a strong green profile and reach 50 percent female clients.

"Throughout our work, we have realised impressive productivity gains in our supported projects in various sub-sectors including coffee, tea, paddy, maize, sunflower, sugar cane, livestock, fishing, mechanisation, input trading and agro processing," Bohay said in a statement.

According to him, in the year 2019 PASS supported loans in

crop production, livestock, farm mechanisation, agro processing, crop trading, input trading, and transportation. The support created thousands of new jobs in rural areas where farmers, agro - pastoralists, agribusiness companies, women and farmer groups benefited.

Focus for the year 2020 onwards is to have special products targeting disadvantaged groups such as youth and women empowerment, he said.

Through its Agribusiness Innovation Centre (AIC) PASS will enhance agro processing in the country aiming at increasing value addition to agricultural products.

PASS has been participating in "Nane Nane" exhibitions since year 2010. Through this participation in "Nane Nane" and publication of The Agribusiness Magazine it has increased awareness to agribusiness entrepreneurs and general stakeholders on its services. It has also provided services during the exhibition through zonal participation. This has improved our outreach throughout the country. This year PASS is participating in the exhibitions in Simiyu, Morogoro

and Mbeya. According to BOT, out of 8,285,831 loans given by the banking industry to the country's agricultural sector between the years 2013 to November 2019, a total of 956,298 loans were PASS guaranteed.

Of the 7 years under scrutiny, BOT puts 2018 as the year that saw PASS give the highest guarantees standing at 217,951 out of 952,884 loans provided by the entire banking sector in the country, representing 23 per cent of the loans given. "Because of the increasing demand for PASS' services, and the relevance of existing services offered by PASS, We continue to prioritise on our strong foundation to further expand the provision of existing Business Development Services and Financial Services to significantly improve the outreach to agribusiness entrepreneurs," Bohay said, noting;

"PASS is well positioned to continuously search for and develop new, innovative products and partnerships that can further expand PASS' outreach and facilitate access to finance in the agricultural and agribusiness sector.



Charcoal dealers in business as found earlier this week just outside Dar es Salaam's Mabibo foodstuffs market, seriously inconveniencing motorists and other road users. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



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- Mtoni Branch at Mtoni Mtongani, will be merged with Tandika Branch
- Babati Branch will be merged with Arusha Branch  
Mbezi Louis Branch at Mbezi Louis Market, will be merged with Sinza Branch
- Mwenge Branch at Mwenge Puma - near Mwenge Puma petrol station, will be merged with Victoria Branch

This exercise will not affect the level of service delivery,

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# Eid el-Hajj as marked in Dar, Dodoma, Zanzibar yesterday



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Defence and National Service minister Dr Hussein Mwinyi (R) shortly after the Eid el-Hajj prayers in Zanzibar. Photo: VPO



Dar es Salaam resident Murtaza Abid (L) with close relatives and friends when preparing meat for Eid el-Hajj, Muslim faithful's 'Festival of Sacrifice'. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa participates in Eid El Hajj ceremony, held at national level at Dar es Salaam's Mnazi Mmoja grounds. Others include Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally (2nd-L) and Dar es Salaam regional sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum (4th-L). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Aboubakar Kunenge (R) has a close view of camels at the handing over of Eid el-Hajj meat donated to residents of the city's Kiwalani suburb residents by Miraaj Tanzania. The agency slaughtered 70 head of cattle, 100 goats and three camels for the purpose. Looking on (2nd-R) is firm's director, Arif Yusuf Abdurahman. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Dodoma city residents prepare meat for the festival. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Nughe Mosque Imam Sheikh Omari Salumu makes remarks at Eid el-Hajj prayers at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



A vendor and a would-be customer engaged in negotiations on the price of local-breed chickens at Buguruni in Dar es Salaam. The chickens fetched 20,000/- each on average. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Muslim faithful follow proceedings at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Rights commission to set up Mbeya branch for southern regions

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) plans to open up a branch in Mbeya to serve the Southern Highland Zone, it has been revealed.

Speaking here briefly after receiving information and communication technology (ICT) equipment worth Sh 160 million from the United Nations Development Population (UNDP) CHRAGG chairman, Judge (rt) Mathew Mwaimu said the commission is planning to expand its services throughout the country.

He said the commission is however faced with shortage of equipment to enable it operate efficiently, adding that the equipment received are purposely aimed for Zanzibar office and branches of Mwanza and Lindi.

He said the gesture is a clear confirmation of the good relations and collaborations both organisations have established, terming it not the first or the last of such kind of support.

"UNDP's previous supports include capacity building of our staff, establishment of planning and coordination unit, development of five years' strategic plan, development of communication and visibility strategies," he said.

He cited other support as development of stakeholders' engagement strategy, development of monitoring and evaluation system, development of quick response strategy for complaints handling and supply of working tools of facilities such as motor vehicle, furniture, photocopier machine, computer, among others.

The chairperson assured UNDP that whatever support CHRAGG was receiving would be positively utilised for ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights in the

country.

He said the UNDP has been supporting the commission in terms of both technical and financial support towards human rights protection and promotion initiatives in Tanzania, specifically for ensuring that CHRAGG's mandate is effectively discharged.

UNDP Resident Representative, Christine Musisi in her key note address noted that the gesture was meant to help support CHRAGG in implementing its important role of promoting human rights in the country.

She said that UNDP appreciate the mandate of the commission, promising continued support to increase the institution's effectiveness, transparency and public education and awareness on human rights issues.

The UNDP boss noted that the commission has developed a strong collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs), terming it a good step towards improved public awareness on human rights.

"We recognise that CHRAGG has only six offices countrywide, thus the need for more equipment to let it have more office to reach more people in the country is quite vital," she said, adding that her organisation is ready to continue supporting the commission.



**We recognise that CHRAGG has only six offices countrywide, thus the need for more equipment to let it have more office to reach more people in the country is quite vital**



Members of the Christ Embassy Church donate blood at their church's premises in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Makonde suburb yesterday in marking World Blood Donor Day. Attending to them (standing) is safe blood specialist Dr Peter Chami. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

RUAHA National Park has introduced sport fishing as new type of tourism to lure more tourists in the conservancy.

Park's conservation officer, Amina Salum unveiled the plan when speaking to journalists who visited the country's largest national park recently.

She said that the idea is to woo as many tourists as possible in the conservancy.

"This is possible taking into account that the national park has enough water resources and therefore the park takes advantage of Ruaha River to introduce such kind of tourism,"

# Ruaha National Park introduces sport fishing as new tourism venture for attracting tourists

the official said, adding: "We're also planning to introduce boat tourism, establishing new investments, improving infrastructure to make it easier for visitors to arrive at the park and continue to promote the park," he said.

Amina also urged Tanzanians to embark on walking safari and night game drive—a thrilling tourism ventures, which are yet to be explored. "Despite the existence of many types

of tourism at Ruaha National Park, they have been only used by foreign tourists while Tanzanians have preferred the game drive tourism only," Amina said.

According to the conservationist night game drive and walking safari give opportunities to tourist to view wild animals and other attractions directly. "That's why we're asking Tanzanians to see the importance of using those types of tourism," she said. The official said the current state of

tourism in the park has not returned to normal due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Ruaha National Park is a national park in Tanzania located in the Iringa region, with the size of 20,226 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the largest protected area in Tanzania and East Africa.

The park is one of the Tanzania birds' paradise with more than 571 species and some of them are known to be migrants from within and outside Africa.



Small traders prepare their onions for sale at Dar es Salaam's Mabibo foodstuffs market yesterday, the going price having dropped from a recent 4,500/- to 1,000/- per kilo. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

# Food insecurity in southern Africa up 10pc, report shows

By Special Correspondent, Windhoek

NEARLY 44.8 million people in 13 countries of the southern African region suffer from food-insecurity, a report released by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has said.

Food-insecurity increased by almost 10 per cent in the region in 2020 compared to the previous year. The main factors responsible included the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), climate change, conflict and economic challenges.

Acute malnutrition across the region could increase by 25 per cent or more over the remainder of 2020 and into 2021 due to COVID-19, the report added.

"Common climate-induced shocks ... economic challenges and poverty have been further exacerbated by the devastating impact of COVID-19 on communities," the report said.

Maize production in Zimbabwe dropped 57 per cent due to poor rains. Dry conditions also affected production in Eswatini, Lesotho, south-eastern Angola, southern Madagascar and southern Mozambique.

Due to lockdown, diverse varieties of food had become inaccessible and unaffordable and had forced households to adopt negative eating practices, leading to malnutrition.

The region faces the triple burden of malnutrition – undernutrition, over-nutrition and micronutrient-deficiencies.

An estimated 20.5 million school

children in the region will not have access to school meal programmes due to school closures, according to the United Nations World Food Programme Global Monitoring Report on School Meals.

Both, urban and rural populations in the region have been hit by the food insecurity. Seventeen per cent of the rural population were struggling to access food, due to price hikes, the report said.

Urban populations had suffered from significant income shocks, as a result of rising unemployment caused by lockdowns and other restrictions on movement. South Africa's jobless rate had reached 30 per cent in June 2020, with 350,000 people losing their jobs due to the pandemic.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the continuous conflict between armed groups and Congolese security forces has continued to affect the already vulnerable people, having a devastating impact on people's capacity to access food.

SADC has recommended measures to help those impacted by increased food insecurity in the light of the findings. These include a combination of short-term measures such as social protection programmes to support those immediately affected.

Other measures would include more medium-long term strategies including the maintenance of domestic and international supply chains and incentives for the diversification of agricultural production.

# TAMIDA expresses sympathy on former president Mkapa's passing

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA) has expressed its sympathy following the death of the former President Benjamin Mkapa describing him one of the strong leaders who supervised the formation of robust policies and laws to improve the mining sector in the country.

Addressing journalists here, TAMIDA national chairman Sam Molllel said that

the association remembers president Mkapa for his great contribution to the review and amendment of the Mineral Act in 1998 something which opened doors to investors from inside and outside the country.

In its message of condolences to President John Magufuli, the association said that the country has got a huge storm following the departure of Mkapa who sacrificed his efforts to bring development to his people.

He recalled back in 1998 when Tanzania hosted the World Mineral Conference which attracted participants from various parts across the globe and the then President Mkapa assured gemstone traders and investors that Tanzanian was one of the safest places to invest.

"Few months after the meetings, Tanzania started to receive a number of traders and investors from various parts of the world. We also got

opportunity to learn from expertise of various big traders which eventually brought positive impacts in the sector and the country at large," he said.

He also said that TAMIDA will honour his legacy and all the good things he did for the sector and the country. "We remember in 2002, the late President Mkapa also allowed a delegation from the sector to go to the United States to conduct talks and market Tanzania globally," Molllel added. Molllel further

said that the delegation helped to improve mineral extraction in the country. It also helped to strengthen intra-border mineral trade especially between Tanzania and USA."

Mkapa who died of cardiac arrest in Dar es Salaam last Thursday was laid to rest at his home village of Lupasa in Masasi District, Mtwara Region, a ceremony attended by thousands of mourners.

President John Magufuli, Vice

President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa were among top government officials present.

Former presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Jakaya Kikwete similarly made the trip to Lupasa.

Speakers showered the departed leader with praise for turning around Tanzania's ailing economy after winning the first multiparty election in 1995.

## Farmers challenged to utilise impending Nanenane exhibitions

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AGRICULTURAL and animal husbandry experts and stakeholders have challenged farmers in the country to attend and use bravely the forthcoming Nanenane exhibitions to learn and embrace modern and mechanized practices.

To fuel a pace of much-needed industrial economy in the country, the experts have insisted that farmers and livestock keepers in Tanzania must adopt the uses of modern agricultural and animal husbandry machineries and other best practices as part to improve their production and productivity.

Moreover, it has been suggested that applications of modern agricultural and animal husbandry machinery would also help the country compete effectively in relevant international markets.

Head of the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Dr Eligy Shirima, told The Guardian in an interview that the institute has well prepared to demonstrate and impart useful technology to livestock keepers in the course of the envisaged Nanenane exhibitions.

Some of the technologies, according to him, will base on livestock improvement and husbandry, pasture and forages, harvesting and conservation of pasture seeds, small ruminants, dairy cattle, whereby others will major on milk and meat processing as well as fattening of livestock (feedlot of livestock).

"And, we're planning also to run a brief theoretical session to impart the livestock keepers over the Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) technology which is on pipeline to be introduced to them later in the future," he briefed.

The TALIRI's General Director explained that the high-technology, MOET, targets to expand multiplication of quality livestock (dairy and beef) in the country through a massive production of heifers using high reproductive technological methods.

For his part, branch manager for Poly Machinery Co. Ltd, Dickson Raymond, said the company has set out to educate and market key agricultural and husbandry machinery, with an eye to enable indigenous farmers to yield bumper harvests, but also, meeting required international standards.

He detailed that the major focus of the company was to supplement efforts by the fifth phase government in elevating performance of farmers and crops processors through adoption and uses of key technologies.

"These machines are useful in ensuring productivity of produced crops and are also very useful in curtailing post-harvest losses," he elaborated.

He named some of the machines as maize sheller, hammer mill, packing machines for spices, rice and flour, threshers, combined rice mill, platform scale, oil filter, peanut shellers, incubators, feed processors and pellet feed machines, to mention just a few.

Agriculture minister Josephat Hasunga said the parent ministry has embarked on a special strategy to educate and sensitise the farmers in the country to adopt modern technology in order to cheat hand-hoe cultivation.

He said the fifth phase government was focusing to improve the performance of the agribusiness sector within the country, a situation which, according to him, will see Tanzania benefiting accordingly from the side as well as enabling many farmers graduating from poverty.



Nyngusi Meitalami (L, foreground), an engineer with the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), briefs 22 teachers from Dodoma city secondary schools yesterday on hand-washing items worth 10m/- which Compassion Tanzania has donated to the schools. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

## EALA appeals to EAC states to establish food commission

By Guardian Reporter

The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly Rt Hon Martin Ngoga has appealed to the East African Community to establish regional Commission responsible to coordinate Agriculture related issues among the Six member states.

Ngoga urges that the establishment of the East African Food commission will foster food security in the region and also helps in the sourcing of resources that are needed to drive the development of the agricultural sector in the region which doubles as the Economic back born of the EAC Economies.

"The Community has established special commissions in other sectors such as the health environment science and technology and education.

"These commissions are playing big roles in the development of such sectors. It is high time now to look at the agricultural sector.

"This will help the community to mobilise resources to finance the sector among the member states in the region," said Mathias Kasamba the outgoing chairperson of the Agricultural Tourism and natural resources committee at the East African Legislative Assembly who was reading a speech of Martin Ngoga during an online East African Community Agriculture Budget symposium.

He observed that although EAC member states agreed to invest at least 10% of their national Budget to the agricultural sector as it was agreed in the Malabo declaration, it is only Rwanda in the region that has fulfilled the obligation of investing 10%

into the agricultural sector and this has affected the development of the sector in the community.

The outgoing chairperson of the committee on his behalf said he will ensure all the bills related to the agricultural sector are passed by the regional parliament alongside tabling the new ones related to the establishment of the food commission.

During the same discussion the chairperson of the smallholder farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa, Hakim Baliraine noted that the agriculture sector in the region is still lagging behind because farmers are facing many challenges such as access to credits, extension services and poor regulation related to the trading of agricultural inputs on the markets among the member states.



Help comes the way of a visibly overwhelmed motorcycle rider transporting charcoal, as found in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho suburb yesterday. Photo: Neema Sigaliye, Tudarco

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 20 million people in rural and urban areas of Africa have gained access to clean drinking water for the first time, thanks to African Development Bank projects.

A report by the Bank's Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) unit, which studied projects carried out since 2005, provides key lessons for improving the bank's water sector interventions and accelerating the longer-term transformation of Africa's agriculture and health sector.

IDEV conducted four evaluations related to the water sector: three project cluster evaluations (water supply and sanitation in both rural and urban contexts, and agricultural water management) and one water sector evaluation.

These evaluations summarize the evidence, findings and lessons learned between 2005 and 2016, covering more than 400 operations across the continent with a total project cost of UA

## For 20 million Africans first-time access to clean water proves crucial amid COVID-19

6 billion (\$8.2 billion).

Access to safe water and sanitation is particularly important in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, since the spread of the virus can be mitigated by good hygiene practices. Agricultural water management can also help African farmers to optimise production and reduce the pandemic's negative impact on food security and nutrition.

Beneficiaries were key to the success of the projects, the report found. The extent and quality of collaboration with local stakeholders matters. In Ghana, for instance, there was active participation by over 600,000 community members in the various project activities thanks to raising awareness and understanding the demand-driven approach.

The evaluation also identified some barriers to the success of a water sector

intervention. For example, outcomes can be undermined by poor service delivery, insufficient human capacity, limited financing and performance of the sanitation and hygiene component or lack of appropriate assessment of critical water sector risks.

Overall, having a long-term view is paramount for determining the success of water interventions. These lessons can provide some quick responses to the ongoing COVID-19 and food security crisis, and accelerate longer-term transformation of Africa's agriculture and health sector.

Ensuring reliable access to clean water for drinking and handwashing can reduce the transmission of the coronavirus. But today, about 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed water supply, and most of these are in

Africa's poorest regions.

In addition, over 750 million Africans lack access to improved sanitation. These water and sanitation challenges are likely to be further compounded by Africa's looming climate change crisis.

To address these challenges, the bank has invested UA 4.5 billion (\$6.2 billion) over the past ten years towards promoting universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation – one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6).

According to IDEV's evaluation report, the bank's projects in agricultural water management played a role in reducing the drudgery of fetching water for domestic and agricultural use, and in increasing productivity and diversity of crops.

## Experts' views: Will coronavirus thwart global efforts to end human trafficking?

By Darnell Christie

ON World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, several experts listed their priorities for the global anti-trafficking movement.

Coronavirus is changing the world in unprecedented ways. Subscribe here for a daily briefing on how this global crisis is affecting cities, technology, approaches to climate change, and the lives of vulnerable people.

Global gains in tackling human trafficking in recent years must not be undone by the coronavirus pandemic, several experts said on Thursday to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

The United Nations has warned that the fallout of COVID-19 - from lockdowns and business closures to shut borders - could drive more people into forced labour or sexual exploitation, and mean victims are less likely to be rescued or receive support.

About 25 million people worldwide are estimated to be victims of human trafficking - a trade worth \$150 billion-a-year - according to the U.N. International Labour Organization (ILO).

As the world strives to meet a U.N. goal of ending modern slavery by 2030, the Thomson Reuters Foundation spoke to leading advocates about the priorities of the anti-trafficking movement and how it can best weather the myriad impacts of the pandemic.

Here are their responses:

Katharine Bryant, Global Research Manager, Walk Free: "People at risk of modern slavery are even more vulnerable due to the impacts of COVID-19. The biggest priority for the anti-trafficking movement is to ensure that the pandemic doesn't undo the gains made in recent years.

Although limited, there has been progress in the strengthening of laws, and supporting survivors.

The pandemic has highlighted underlying systemic inequalities and discrimination - but it has also shown us that we can make changes to solve these problems at scale.

Many countries around the world implemented policies of universal basic income or cash transfers to support the most vulnerable. These policies reduce vulnerability to modern slavery and

are essential to allow countries and economies to rebuild to protect those at risk of modern slavery."

David Westlake, CEO, International Justice Mission UK: "As the world combats COVID-19 it is essential that human trafficking doesn't fall off the agenda of global governments - especially at a time when some groups are more vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Anti-trafficking efforts from governments, law enforcement, business and civil society must be prioritised - and increased - if we are to stop trafficking.

This is especially important as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates circumstances which can leave people vulnerable to trafficking - like unemployment, poverty, insecure immigration status and debt."

Nick Grono, CEO, The Freedom Fund: "The biggest priority, to my mind, is generating political will among government leaders to prioritise the fight against modern slavery.

Given that slavery is illegal under international law, and in every country, yet thrives almost everywhere, there's a gap between the laws and implementation, and a failure to prioritise measures to build resilience amongst those communities most vulnerable to slavery.

The anti-slavery movement's biggest challenge is to generate that political will - to work in a collaborative and impactful way to push governments to give the fight against slavery the priority it deserves and requires."

Valiant Richey, co-ordinator for combating trafficking, Organisation for Security and co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

"I would say that the biggest priority today is really countering impunity.

It is estimated that there are some 25 million victims of human trafficking globally. Yet in 2019, just a little more than 11,000 traffickers were prosecuted - roughly one prosecution for every 2,154 victims.

On one hand, more effective strategies are needed to prosecute more and better the traffickers behind this atrocious crime, and on the other hand we must address and openly discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation that lead to trafficking."

## Coastal forests candidates for world heritage list - UN report

By Caroline Chebet

THE United Nations has listed Kenyan and Tanzanian coastal forests as candidates for inclusion on the Unesco World Heritage List.

Unesco's 2020 report on the status of World Heritage Sites in Africa has also proposed the extension of two other designated World Heritage Sites: Mt Kenya National Park and Kenya Lake Systems.

The progress report published in April this year notes that Arabuko Sokoke, the Tana Delta Forest Complex and Shimba Hills Forest are good candidates for the inscription of the UN designation.

The sites fall under East Africa Coastal Forests and the Eastern Arc Mountains that run from Kenya into Tanzania.

The Eastern Africa Coastal forests include Arabuko Sokoke and Shimba Hills (Kenya), the Tana Delta and Forests Complex (Kenya) and the Jozani-Chwaka Bay Conservation Area in Tanzania. The Eastern Arc Mountains include Taita Hills, Shimba Hills and several other mountains in Tanzania.

According to the report, the Eastern Arc Coastal Forests and the Eastern Arc Mountains are key candidates as they form complex ecosystems with high levels of endemism, with many species of plants and animals only restricted to the areas.

"Like the East African coastal forests, these moist mountain forests and montane grasslands have long been isolated from other tropical moist forest regions by expanses of drier lowland savannahs. The biodiversity of this ancient complex of mountain ranges is noted for very high levels of endemism, with many species of plants and animals restricted to single mountain ranges," the report says.

Inscription into the world heritage listing means that the sites get branding as a globally recognised tourism destination, improving its protection and management.

The sites also get access to international networks of expertise and technical support, thereby helping build national and local capacity for natural heritage management, including the strengthening of national legislation, policies and governance systems among other benefits.

In order to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, a site must be considered to have "outstanding universal value", with exceptional importance that transcends national boundaries.

Kenya Lake System, which includes Lakes Nakuru, Bogoria and Elementaita, the report says, are candidates for inclusion as among saline lakes that are home and breeding ground for flamingos.

The flamingo lakes are saline-alkaline, with the environmental conditions of each changing cyclically.



## UN chief invites young climate activists to meet, give input

By Special Correspondent

THE head of the United Nations said he will start meeting regularly with young climate activists, saying participation by youth on the frontlines is critical to scaling up action to slow global warming.

A group of seven people, ages 18 to 28, from seven countries will sit down with US Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to advise him on global

warming issues, he said in a video on Twitter.

"We have seen young people on the front lines of climate action, showing us what bold leadership looks like," Guterres said in a video on Twitter. The youth advisory group is tasked with providing "perspectives, ideas and solutions that will help us scale up climate action," he said. "We are in a climate emergency. We do not have the luxury of time," he added.

The announcement marked an acknowledgement of the role young people have been playing in combating climate change as they look to their future.

Young climate change activists met with U.N. leaders last fall to demand a greater role in global decision-making and planning processes to combat global warming.

The one-day summit at the U.N. drew more than 1,000 young climate

campaigners from more than 120 countries.

Guterres, who has made climate change his signature issue since taking office in 2017, said recently that governments should consider the issue when designing economic stimulus responses to the coronavirus pandemic. "Where taxpayers' money is used to rescue businesses, it needs to be tied to achieving green jobs and sustainable growth," Guterres said on

Earth Day in April.

Unable to gather due to coronavirus restrictions, young activists from about 20 countries recently took to YouTube in a 24-hour broadcast to share ideas on how to fight global warming.

Previously they were skipping classes, marching through cities and holding vigils outside government buildings in regular Friday protests.

The founder of Fridays for Future, Sweden's Greta Thunberg, 17, addressed

the United Nations last year.

She was not among those named to the advisory group, which included Nisreen Elsaïm, a Sudanese climate activist, Ernest Gibson of Fiji; Vladislav Kaim, an economist from Moldova; Sophia Kianni, an American who founded a nonprofit to translate climate information into more than 100 languages; Nathan Metenier of France; Paloma Costa, a Brazilian lawyer and Archana Soreng of India.

By Pavithra Rao

KENYAN wildlife caretaker and guide, Jemu Mwenda, bittersweetly recounts one of his favorite memories of 'Sudan,' the male northern white rhino who died two years ago, making headlines across the world.

"Sudan was the last northern white male rhino known to exist," explains Mwenda who works at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, a wildlife centre in Kenya.

"One evening, while feeding him, I saw him dropping tears, and that made me ask myself: 'Why would he be crying?'"

He continues: "People may think that animals don't have feelings, but when I looked Sudan in his eyes, I felt the pain he was going through.

"It's not easy being the last of your kind on our planet. I think the emptiness of extinction, which means forever, and never coming back, is tragic. It is a void that would have made Sudan feel very sad. This really transformed me and helped me know I have a responsibility to be his voice."

Mwenda reflected poignantly on the extinction of white male rhinos. In May 2019, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assessed that approximately 1 million plant and animal species were in dire danger of extinction. Based in Bonn, Germany, the IBES works to strengthen the link between science and policy on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Rhinos have especially been victims of a merciless chase by poachers. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy is home to the two remaining northern white females - 20-year-old Fatu and 30-year-old Najin.

What makes these gentle giants susceptible to poaching?

Mwenda explains that poachers target rhinos for their horns that are made of keratin - the same component in human nails and hair. Though the sale of rhino horns was banned by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) since 1977, its purported curative properties sustains its demand in the Far East.

"They're very prized," he says, "especially [as it is believed that properties from rhino horns] can treat cancer, influenza, convulsions, and

## Technology gives hope to Africa's endangered northern white rhinos



even act as an aphrodisiac. They're also used as status symbols." A kilo can fetch \$60,000 - \$65,000 in the Asian black

market, he adds. "People are willing to pay any price for their health."

The chase for rhino horns began

since the 1960s. At that time the population of northern white rhinos was about 2,400, according to

conservation charity Save the Rhino.

Although national governments with large rhino populations such as South

Africa are taking traditional measures such as dehorning rhinos to make them less susceptible to poaching, innovative technology is also being explored to regrow the population of the endangered animals.

This past January, Ol Pejeta Conservancy released the encouraging news that sperm from the late Sudan and another deceased male northern white rhino was preserved and frozen and has been combined with 12 eggs harvested from Fatu and Najin to create viable embryos.

These embryos were slated to be implanted into the northern white rhino's cousin the southern white rhino. Due to COVID-19, however, plans for implantation have been suspended.

Nevertheless, eggs from a southern white female in Germany were recently harvested and fertilized, and the viable embryos are now awaiting transfer.

The invitro fertilization (IVF) process had been accomplished with southern white rhinos who carry their own embryos, but it is the first time that northern white rhino embryos will be carried by surrogate southern white rhinos. The results, according to Ol Pejeta Conservancy, could potentially be groundbreaking in growing the rhino population in years to come.

Mwenda believes that using technology to save rhinos could be a boon. "I think different methods can be explored to save the northern white rhino, including cloning, artificial insemination and IVF. These assisted reproductive techniques are essential."

It seems many people agree with him. Kenya's Tourism Minister, Najib Balala urged "scientists to explore how to use technology and innovation to ensure that rhinos don't go extinct. It's amazing to see that we may be able to reverse the tragic loss of this subspecies through science."

In the meantime, Mwenda encourages people to be considerate of their fellow living creatures.

"I feel we have a greater responsibility to make the planet better and, especially being a young person myself, I am obligated to push young people to live conscientiously," he says. "It is going to have an impact on us as young people and we have a responsibility to continue to help the best we can."

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## It's very simple logic: Roads demand regular maintenance

RESIDENT John Magufuli was visibly disturbed by the state of the road from Somanga to Dar es Salaam which he was too rough for comfort, implying that it was not being maintained properly or has been neglected for quite a while.

He questioned what bigwigs in Tanroads (Tanzania National Roads Agency) and the ministry concerned - Works, Transport and Communications - have been doing while a highway of that importance was in an unsatisfactory condition.

From a reader's point of view, what the president saw wasn't surprising, as it appears to reinforce the fact that we commonly lack a maintenance culture.

This is an oft-stated maxim of how development activity in the country is conducted, in the sense that those in ministerial departments and agencies prefer a project-kind of situation rather than routine work.

That means that a road is planned and built as a project and then it is used in a continuous manner with little or no cash being directed into its maintenance, or not much money being allocated in that direction as there are usually funds for projects but not routine maintenance.

After a while, when the road starts being a public nuisance - for instance, if there is flooding and bridges are swept away, then a project is due.

It is easy to understand why the bureaucracy wants project financing rather than routine maintenance, as only with projects is there room for plenty of auxiliary expertise.

This is, for instance, in relation to feasibility studies, contracting arrangements, advising on what companies can be tendered and their terms of reference, who is appointed in consulting capacity or in execution of works, etc.

All these needs for expertise disappear in routine maintenance work, reduced to a matter of

procurement of minor sorts of materials and office-based supervision where transactions are minimal. It is this sort of work they abhor.

There are other drawbacks of road maintenance that catch the public eye, and when the president tells off ministerial executives on the shoddy maintenance or lack of it for a major highway, one can easily see how these remarks apply to newly-built roads.

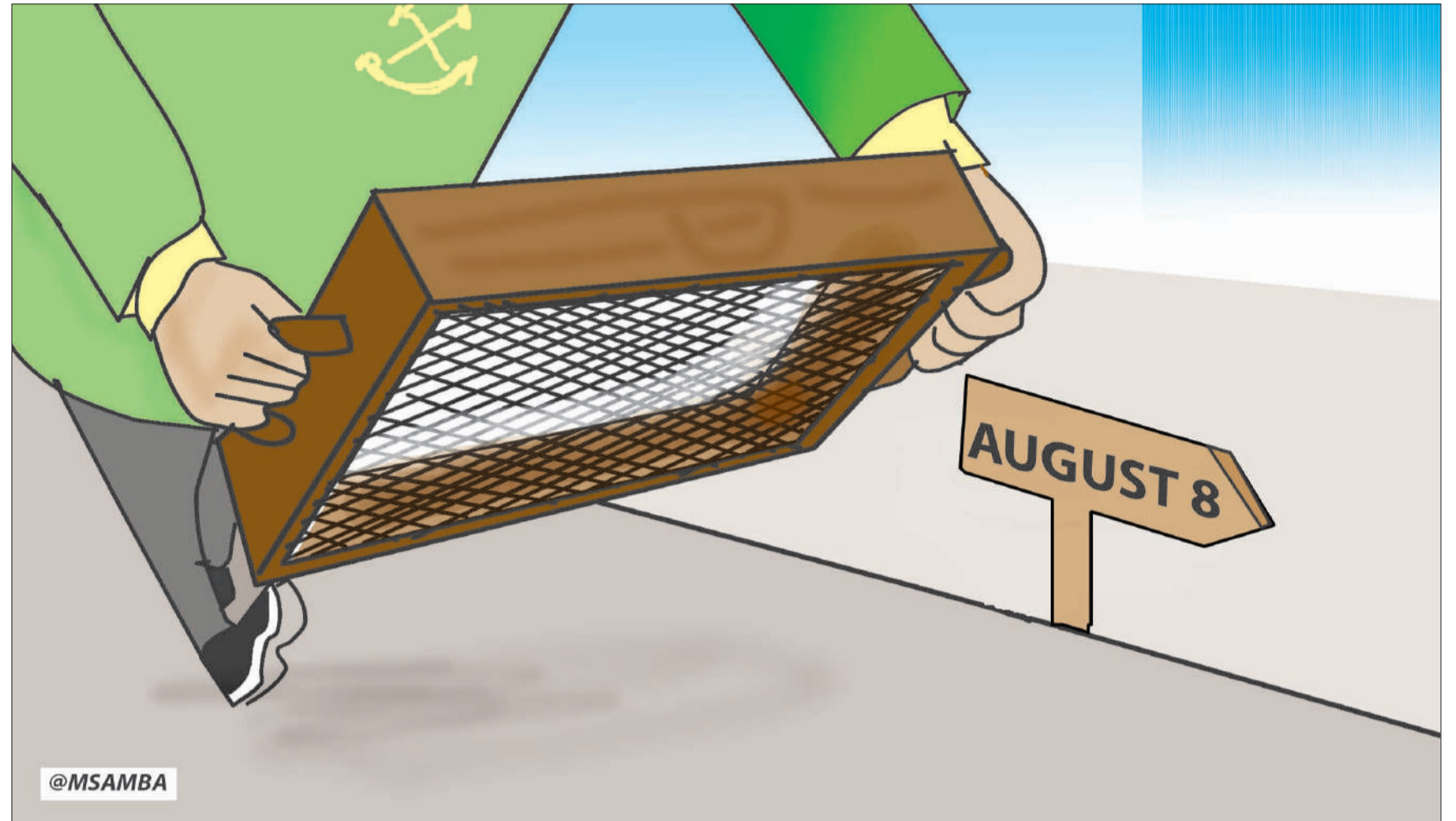
Admittedly, our various municipalities and other local government authorities are making an effort at regularly removing sand from the edges of newly-built roads, but they don't seem to be capable of doing the same as regards drainage systems. Shovels and brooms can do with sand, collected in wheelbarrows and safely piled up somewhere, but drainage is much harder to deal with.

As it was the case earlier with shallow dug-up road edge canals that served as drainage, perhaps because the municipal authorities expected no rains at all, the new properly built drainage systems depend on "nature" (specifically, the floods) to clear the dirt that accumulates. Minor blockages keep pools of dirty water turning green to show that they are an environmental hazard, but luckily there aren't children along all along such roads.

Still, municipal labourers who are at times hired to clean up the drainage or those who collect plastic bottles in such vicinities run big risks, as they are often unprotected.

Now that the president has demonstrated time and again why it is important for him to inspect public works or facilities - and even routine governance - and without such intervention little appears to be done, solutions are urgently needed.

After a road is built, some agency should be tasked with cleaning, routine maintenance - and, more importantly, ensure that the work is done to satisfaction.



@MSAMBA

By Ashoka Mukpo

A new report by the advocacy watchdog Global Witness has described the 2019 as the deadliest year on record for environmental activists.

In total, the group says that at least 212 people were killed across the world in retaliation for their defense of land and the environment, with those representing Indigenous communities bearing a disproportionate brunt of the violence.

Many of the killings were linked to battles over control of forests that are critical to the global fight against climate change, said Chris Madden, a senior campaigner at Global Witness.

"Looking at the cases that we're seeing and the issues these people are working against, they're often the very same causes of climate breakdown," he said, adding: "So that's why we're saying they're at the front line of the climate crisis."

Topping the list of the deadliest countries for environmental defenders in 2019 were Colombia and the Philippines, with 64 and 43 killings respectively. In Colombia, the figure was more than double the number who were murdered in 2018.

Overall, the most dangerous region for defenders was Latin America, which saw two-thirds of the global death toll, with the Amazon alone accounting for 33 deaths.

Despite only making up 5 per cent of the world's population, activists representing Indigenous communities, who are often on the front lines of conflict over forests and land, comprised 40 percent of those killed.

In Colombia, the 2016 peace agreement signed between the government and the leftist guerrilla group FARC is causing a scramble for control over lucrative resources left behind in the group's wake.

As FARC insurgents demobilise under the terms of the agreement, paramilitary and other criminal groups are rushing in to fill the void, with Indigenous communities suffering as a result of the power struggle. Those communities accounted for half of the documented killings in the country despite representing less than 5 per cent of Colombia's population.

In late May, Mongabay published video of paramilitaries firing assault rifles into an Indigenous Emberá town and forcing members of the community to flee by canoe.

When environmental defenders are killed in Colombia, the courts rarely deliver justice. According to Global Witness, nearly nine in ten murders of human rights activists in the country do not lead to a conviction.

Elsewhere, the deaths of activists have been linked to intimidation and violence carried out on behalf of repressive governments. Killings in Honduras jumped from four in 2018

## Watchdog group says 2019 deadliest year ever for environmental activists



to 14 in 2019, giving it the highest per capita rate of any country analysed by Global Witness.

In the Philippines, 2019's toll brings the total since Rodrigo Duterte took office in mid-2016 to 119 - almost doubles the figure for the comparable period before his election.

A number of killings in the Philippines have come directly at the hands of government forces or groups loyal to it, including that of a leader of the Manobo Indigenous group, who reportedly died during an aerial bombardment by the Filipino military last year.

The Manobo have long been engaged in a campaign to prevent encroachment into the Pantaron mountain range by loggers and mining companies.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines later posted a photograph of his body online, saying he was killed during a clash with local communist militants. According to Global Witness, this follows a pattern of activists and environmental defenders being "red-tagged," or accused of holding communist sympathies and providing support for rebel groups.

"In the Philippines, state forces are implicated in quite a number of cases," Madden said.

Overall, data shared with Mongabay by Global Witness show that the majority of killings globally are carried out by unknown assailants, accounting for 65 of the deaths.

Forty were traced to hit men, 22 to paramilitary forces, and 17 to armed forces or police. Others were connected to landowners, criminal gangs, and private security guards.

In recent years, agribusiness has been linked to a rising number of retaliatory murders of land rights activists. Last year, 34 such killings were recorded, an increase of more than 60 per cent from the previous year.

As global consumption rises, Madden says that violent conflict over land that can be used to produce palm oil, soy, cattle, and other commodities is likely to spike as well.

"At the global level, with increased consumption, we are seeing that these industries do have to keep expanding into ever more remote or different areas," he said, adding: "That's what we're seeing at the Amazon at the moment with agribusiness and logging ramping up again, and it's playing out in various places across the world."

Madden says that, troubling as the numbers are, they are also likely to be significantly underestimated.

The methodology Global Witness uses to verify killings of environmental and land defenders is strict, drawing on media reports as well as those from the group's local partners. In some parts of Africa, for example, retaliation against local and Indigenous activists can be hard to track.

Tabitha Netuwa of Defend Defenders, a Uganda-based human rights

organization that provides support to activists in East Africa, agrees that the true figure is almost certainly higher.

"It is an underestimate - the shrinking civic space for (human rights defenders) to operate is making reporting about human rights violations a challenge. In addition, many of these violations happen in areas far removed from the capitals where accessibility is a challenge and many human rights defenders working in those remote areas face reprisals for speaking out," she said.

Four activists from sub-Saharan Africa were represented in the total, with one each from Kenya and Ghana along with two from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including Joël Imbangola Luneu, who was allegedly murdered by a security guard working for the Canadian palm oil company Feronia Inc.

According to Madden, while some governments, corporations and financial institutions have taken steps to protect local activists, more needs to be done.

"I think that governments in particular in the EU, the US, and global north have a particular role to play in strengthening requirements around what companies need to do in these situations," he said, adding: "So making sure they have to do full due diligence of the human rights impacts throughout their whole supply chain."

## Lowering park fees positive, but new methods would help

TANZANIA National Parks authorities are moving to lower charges for visitors, significantly altering what is demanded as gate fees for local and regional visitors as well as those from abroad.

While data on inflows of tourists since the government opened Tanzanian airspace for regular commercial plane traffic are scant, a summation from Zanzibar for May and June showed that there was at best a trickle of visitors. By rules of sampling, the picture can't be much different on the northern circuit.

In these 'Black Lives Matter' times, where monuments of individuals who left cherished memories, it is difficult to figure out how to attract visitors from countries where travel is problematic.

It means that Tanapa and kindred organisations can at best plan for a healthier global situation where Covid-19 would have been scaled back somewhat. But, just in the case of the park fee reduction move, they ought to start now.

There are two ways of thinking about tourist visits, especially when it comes to cultural tourism rather than sunbathing on the sand or sightseeing, chiefly for wildlife. Cultural tourism involves visiting sites that bring up specific memories or sentiments of a particular country or particular personalities, and this is where the whole issue of moments comes up.

Many of our specific sites have to do with the work of enthusiasts in various fields, whether it is archaeology on the part of the likes of Dr Louis and Mary Leakey in Ngorongoro, wildlife conservation with Dr Bernard Grizmek in the Serengeti, or the hunter-type like Frederick Selous.

Similarly, the National Museum and the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry are understood to

be preparing a list of national heritage items that are found in museums chiefly in former colonial powers Germany and Britain.

One reason for returning these historical artifacts is that they attract cultural tourists who wish to view them, aside from the preliminary issue of where they actually belong.

As a middle-income economy albeit at lower levels, we have a right of citation as to having this or that artifact and the necessary environment for them to be viewed or accessory information obtained from experts.

But there are things that even a middle-income economy with plenty of attractions just can't create or ensure that it is created, namely, the interest in seeing or visiting its natural environment or cultural artifacts, as the ministry is now working to elevate the level of visits.

The reason is that visiting a place isn't just a matter of appreciating what they have or what there is, or being able to travel and be accommodated in camps or hotels for a while, but actually picking up such interest.

Our usual method has been to advertise what we have, authoritative but statistics show that we haven't achieved much, and we stand to lose what we achieved.

Data for 2019 indicated that Tanzania was second in the world behind Brazil thanks to the diversity and sheer excitement of its tourism attractions, but it had a three-digit level of tourist visits.

There is no way Tanapa can say that it has all the answers to the questions it has not been able to answer for 30 years or so since the liberalization of the economy. Entering into partnerships with interested foreign organisations like those we cited would stand us in good stead.





# Food security threats: Now warning and later may be too late

ROME

RECENT world reports confirm that the goals set by the international community to end poverty and hunger, and create a more balanced, sustainable and fair world by 2030, are currently in danger. If effective and rapid global action is not taken, the goals will not be met and the results in just 10 years may be very negative for all of us.

In 2015, when heads of state and government, as well as other senior representatives from 190 countries, decided at the United Nations General Assembly that they would change the profile of our world, the international community had confidence that it would reach them all.

These important goals to create a world with true peace include the elimination of poverty and hunger, guaranteeing a healthy and sustainable life, gender equality, the availability of water for all, sustainable economic growth, effective action to fight against climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

The International Community had such confidence because back in 2000, when 189 countries set out to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), significant progress was made. These eight goals aimed to reduce poverty and hunger, improve conditions in education, reduce infant mortality and other diseases, achieve greater gender equality, and achieve better environmental sustainability.

In 2015, it was about expanding the goals and entirely eliminating the most negative aspects that affect humanity.

But just five years later, in 2020, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), an annual report prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



(FAO) and other agencies of the United Nations (UN), showed that if the negative trend that we are living consolidates, it is doubtful that the goals that the international community set out by mutual consent to solve the main problems we have before us will be achieved.

The report noted that 690 million people still suffer from hunger, 10 million more than a year ago, and 60 million more if we include the last five years.

Although Asia is the most affected, hunger is a problem in all continents: in Africa it is increasing very rapidly, and numbers also remain high in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**A group of women of Central Africa receives training in production diversification and improvement to expand the food security of their communities. File photo**

Since 2015, the positive trend of hunger reduction began to reverse and undernourishment and malnutrition have been on the rise.

According to the SOFI report, 381 million Asians suffer from undernourishment, as well as 250 million Africans and 48 million Latin Americans and Caribbean people. On the other hand, if we analyze the percentage in relation to its populations, Africa is the most affected region with 19.1 percent of the undernourished population, followed by Asia with 8.3 percent and Latin America with 7.4 percent.

This analysis was made before the

COVID-19 pandemic, and while it is still early to have definitive data on the effects of this new dramatic reality, experts estimate that another 83 million people, and perhaps up to 132 million people may start suffering from starvation in 2020 as a result of the ongoing economic recession.

In this regard, another recent report by FAO and the World Food Program (WFP) identified 27 countries that will be imminently affected by the food crisis resulting from COVID-19. No region will be exempt from it, from Afghanistan to Bangladesh, Haiti to Central American countries, Iraq to Lebanon and Syria.

Burkina Faso to Liberia, Niger, Mozambique, Mali, Zimbabwe and others will be reaching levels of acute hunger.

Many of these countries were already affected by famine before COVID-19, due to pre-existing factors and tensions, such as economic crises, instability and insecurity, extreme weather events, plant pests, and animal diseases.

But the COVID-19 crisis compounded all of these situations with the decrease in jobs and wages, disturbances associated with preventive sanitary measures to face the pandemic, the fall in government revenues with direct effects on social security and protection, and generating political instability with the increase of different types of conflicts that are due to natural resources, such as water and grazing lands, and migratory phenomena that affects agricultural production and markets.

Undernourishment must be permanently included in the analysis of the situation regarding hunger because its consequences (including malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity) continue to worsen, especially since for a significant amount of the population nutritious food is too costly and inaccessible.

Remember that high-nutrient foods, such as dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and protein foods, are the most expensive food products. They cost about five times more than filling your stomach with low-nutrient and unhealthy foods.

Although each country has its own specific way to solve this difficult situation, SOFI summarizes many of the reflections of recent years to face solutions to these problems with actions that can be implemented throughout the food supply chain and in trade policies, public spending and investment.

Some of the actions to achieve this include reducing the costs of food production, storage, transportation, distribution and marketing, as well as reducing inefficiency, food loss and waste, supporting small local producers to produce and sell more nutritious food by accessing new markets, promoting behaviour change through education and communication, integrating nutrition into the social protection system, and implementing investment strategies at national levels.

As FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu pointed out, this whole situation cannot be considered "as a threat that may arise in the future. We have to do more to safeguard both the food systems and our most vulnerable populations right now."

The outlook is clear, and so are the combined solutions. It is about acting to avoid being witnesses to a dangerous failure in just 10 years of the 2030 Agenda that was set by the international community to put an end to the millions of people that face the humiliation of hunger and poverty.

## Statue smashing – Heroes, values and racism

STOCKHOLM / ROME

ON Friday the 24th of June, President Trump announced he was skipping a weekend at his New Jersey golf resort to "ensure law and order in Washington", tweeting:

I just had the privilege of signing a very strong Executive Order protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues - and combatting recent Criminal Violence. Long prison terms for these lawless acts against our Great Country!

This time, Trump acted with remarkable speed and much more decisively than he had ever done when it came to denouncing racism, or mitigating the COVID19 pandemic. What angered him was an intent to topple over an equestrian statue in Washington, on Monday 20th of June.

President Trump was already incensed by the tearing down of statues and monuments all over the country. Fuelled by the police killing of George Floyd on May 25, people expressed their anger and frustration by vandalizing and destroying monuments - so far almost two hundred have been destroyed, disfigured, or taken away. Similar incidents occur in other areas of the world, where monuments erected to honour racists, colonialists and abusers of native populations are being destroyed, or removed.

After Trump's announcement, his White House staff added that "monument destroyers": seek nothing more than to destroy anything that honors our past and to erase from the public mind any suggestion that our past may be worth honoring. President Trump will never allow violence to control our streets, rewrite our history, or harm the American way of life.

Trump labelled the monument wreckers as left-wing extremists, "who identify themselves with ideologies - such as Marxism" and are endowed with a "deep ignorance of our history". Such a statement makes one wonder what history Trump is talking about. It must be some kind of home-made construction in accordance with a statement he made in his fourth of July speech in front of Mount Rushmore:

Our nation is witnessing a merciless campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values, and indoctrinate our children.

What values? The vandalization of memorials began as a protest against homages to Confederate heroes. The American Civil War (1861-1865) was fought between northern states loyal to the Union and southern states, which in an effort to maintain slavery had broken loose to form The Confederate States of America. After the war, most supporters of the defeated Confederacy realized that it made little sense to argue that slavery and oppression of people of a darker complexion had been a just cause to die for. Instead, the war was recast as a battle over the principle of states' rights and Southern honour. It was lamented that the children of brave soldiers instead of revering their fathers had to be ashamed of what they had done.

To unite the nation, the victorious U.S. Government was willing to appease the vanquished and allow them to continue discriminating against people with a different skin colour, while denying them their constitutional rights. Furthermore, it gave free reigns to local chapters of the United Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Sons of Confederate Veterans to fund and erect monuments paying homage to men who had fought for the preservation of slavery and preached inequality of human beings. Their statues and monuments now embellish parks and squares all over the U.S., an honour they occasionally share with killers of the native population, from Juan de Oñate (1550-1626) and onwards.

It is not difficult to imagine the rancor felt by "coloured" people while being confronted with statues praising the heroism of white oppressors. They live in a society that not long ago (and



often still do) characterized them on the basis of their skin colour. As Ralph Ellison wrote in his novel *Invisible Man* from 1952.

I am an invisible man [...] I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids - and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me [...] When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination - indeed, everything and anything except me.

Trump declared that the highly visible statues of white murderers and chauvinists are among "our most sacred memorials". When the U.S. president affirm this as a fact I wonder if he for one second has contemplated what it means to be the descendant of victims of such "heroes"

and confronted with tangible tributes to these ruffians. Trump would probably not condemn the toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue by U.S. troops. He might not disapprove of the fact that hundreds of thousands of statues of Hitler and Stalin were destroyed all over Europe, since people could not stand being confronted with images of such tyrants.

I am not shedding any tears over recently destroyed, or removed, statues representing bullies and profiteers of slave trade and forced labour like Cecil Rhodes, Edward Colston, Robert Milligan, John Cass, Leopold II of Belgium, John Hamilton in New Zealand, or some offensive colonialists in India, who now join ranks with Hoxha, Marcos, Gaddafi, Lenin, and other toppled heroes.

However, statue smashing remains a thorny issue, particularly since representations of controversial, but to a great extent beneficial per-

sonalities like Winston Churchill recently have been vandalized, as well as those of generally admirable persons like Gandhi and Frederick Douglass. The right thing would probably be not to destroy any statues at all, and when it comes to the worst tyrants and murderers follow the motto of Indiana Jones, namely that they "belong in a museum".

Monuments dedicated to great women and men are often erected after their deaths in remembrance of good deeds and the admiration they fostered. Worse is when dictators and vainglorious men erect monuments in their own honour, like the dictator Rafael Leónidas Trujillo who besides having the highest mountain peak and the capital of the Dominican Republic named after himself, succeeded in entering Guinness Book of Records due to the fact that he during his lifetime had more than 2,000 statues and busts of himself erected in public places. I am somewhat sceptical to that record, assuming that Stalin and Mao Zedong were far superior champions in that particular area of self-glorification.

Another manner of glorifying a living person is to commission her/his portrait and hang it in a public space, an honour generally bestowed upon business leaders and heads of state. One example of this tradition is the official portraits of U.S. presidents, generally loaned from the National Portrait Gallery and hung in the White House. Some controversy arose when Donald J. Trump refused to bring the official portraits of his predecessor Barack Obama and his wife to the White House.

Trump has not yet decided who is going to paint his official White House portrait, though he was recently portrayed by one of USA's highest paid portrait painters, John Howard Sanden, who painted the official portraits of George W. Bush and his wife Laura, which are ably executed but nevertheless quite bland. Sanden's portrait of Trump was finished in August 2019 and intended as a homage to a president the artist admires.

I am grateful for the President's strong pro-life policies, and he sees a need for Christians to defend and proclaim Biblical truth as the culture celebrates immorality in a way that would have seemed inconceivable 50 years ago. Somebody's got to take a stand for the Lord because we're going down the tubes.

When I quite recently saw Sanden's portrait of Donald J. Trump I was struck by the details in the background. On his website, John Sanden describes his painting:

The President wears his signature red tie and dark suit and sits in an attitude of thoughtful determination, an expression well-known to all Americans. Just behind the President's chair is the American flag, the honoring of which has been a central theme of his Presidential leadership.

As a matter of fact, the Stars and Stripes does not appear in any of the White House's presidential portraits, but the most curious prop is a miniature of the bronze statue of President Andrew Jackson that occupies the center of Lafayette Park, opposite the White House. The inclusion of Jackson's equestrian statue in a portrait of Trump now seems to be almost prophetic. As mentioned above, an effort to topple the statue was made on the 6th of June and perpetrators have been charged for attempting to "destroy federal property". They will thus be the first offenders charged according to Trump's new directives and thus run the risk of being condemned to "up to ten years of imprisonment for lawless acts against our Great Country."

Why did they try to demolish Andrew Jackson's statue? Probably because Jackson was a plantation owner who also owned a cotton cleaning factory, and an adjoining whiskey distillery, operated by 150 slaves. One of Jackson's most controversial decisions was his enforcement of the Indian Removal Act, which allowed for the forced expulsion of indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands. Approximately 45,000 Native Americans were forcibly displaced during Jackson's presidency. His policies were continued by his successor Martin Van Buren, when an already planned "relocation" of Cherokees was initiated, about 4,000 men, women and children died during this so-called Trail of Tears. The anger against the Andrew Jackson's memorial might thus be understandable, though in its defence it may be said that is not at all a bad piece of art. What is incomprehensible, however, is why the "historically conscious" Donald J. Trump has chosen to have a replica of it as a background for his portrait.



# Community-based forest management: This is what villagers, experts say on legal framework

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ON May 24, 2019, the government published The Forest Regulations, 2019 Gazettement Notice 417. These regulations differ from the Forest Act 2002 and previous regulations. The new regulations have introduced different changes which environmental, forest experts and other stakeholders say may pose big risks to community-based forest management (CBFM).

The establishment and management of village land forest reserves by village governments is provided by the policy statements number 5 and 6 of National Forestry Policy of 1998 and the sections 32 to 41 and 65 (3), 78 (3) and 97 (1) (b), of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002. The process starts with preparation of village land use plans, based on provision of sections 12, 13, 22,33 and 35 of the Land Use Plan Act of 2007, through which villages allocate areas for village forests. The governments in collaboration with development partners have been implementing CBFM since 1986, and led to establishment of about 1.4 million hectares of village land forest reserves (VLFRs) across the country by 2019.

## CBFM in Kilwa District, Lindi Region

Through CBFM, Kilwa residents in Lindi region have recognised that forests have wide environmental, social and economic benefits to them, other people, the nation and the planet. They also understand that forests play a significant role in the livelihoods of the rural poor through their provision of goods and services. They are therefore, keen to protect their forests against any illegal forest practice. In Nanjirinji village for example, the villagers have raised a total of eight hundred million shillings (800m/-) from CBFM. They have managed to turn their forest into opportunity for wealth. Nanjirinji village chairman Mohamedi Mussa said the village in collaboration with Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) started implementing CBFM in 2012. They conducted land use plan and set aside village land forest reserves from Bumbila forest. Within a very short period, the revenues accrued from the first village land forest reserve led to the establishment of the second village land forest reserve, so they have two VLFRs. Since then, the villagers have been using their forest revenues to support improve health facilities, build schools, the village guest house and drill water wells among many other benefits. The village success story is worth to be emulated by other villages and decision makers in the country. This tells us that forest conservation is possible and tangible results can be derived from the forest. So any new regulations, will only be discouraging our efforts to conserve the forest and taking away our right and the econo-

my of the village, he said.

Commenting on CBFM, the village executive officer Hassan Mkunguru said the village is proud of community-based forest management because of its ability of rural communities like Nanjirinji to support their economic development. The project has added value to local forest uses by developing local forest-based enterprises. Since 2012, CBFM has made the villagers to slowly shift beyond a focus wholly on local subsistence use, to a range of commercial initiatives and ventures.

"We are also supporting social services in our village. For example we support 100,000/- for each primary school pupil who passes standard seven examination to join form one, and we are also providing 50,000/- for each pregnant mothers to facilitate them labor equipment," he said.

To date, Nanjirinji village through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) is promoting forest conservation and at the same time creating opportunities for communities to benefit from managing forest reserves under their village land and so far has attracted many people especially the youth from outside the village. Any attempt to implement GN 417 will be setting back efforts and achievements registered by the villagers and their partners.

At Mchakama village, CBFM has played a key role to conserve natural forests and the associated biodiversity. Revenues from forest-based enterprises are enough charm to beacon communities to opt forest conservation than any other income generating activity. They are no longer clearing forest for charcoal and agriculture. The Forest and land management programmes implemented in CBFM project sites have also educated them on sustainable harvesting and technologies. These programmes have significantly contributed to natural forest and biodiversity rejuvenation in the village land forest reserves.

Former village chairman Salum Msusa explained that since the intervention of MCDI with support from WWF Tanzania a couple of years ago, the villagers have benefited a lot from Uchungwa village land forest reserve. "In fact, the forest has turned out to be the pearl of Mchakama village as the money accrued from the forest products have also been used to buy Solar power for Mchakama village dispensary and constructed house for the clinician. Unlike in the past, availability of power for 24 hours has helped the villagers to access medical and health service at the health facility day and night," he said.

Clinicians said before the installation of solar power, they were using torches but with the new technology of using Solar power, they can administer medical services throughout day and night.

The installation of power has helped to administer emergency services dur-



Nanjirinji villagers pose for a photo in front of the new village government office built from CBFM programmes. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

ing night to pregnant women and delivering mothers.

The Secretary of the Village Natural Resource Committee Ahamadi Abdallah Ligambe said between 2016 and 2018 the village earned millions of shillings from timber harvest. 50 percent village dividend, 5 percent went to the Kilwa district council, MCDI received 5 percent as a voluntary contribution by the community for its support, and the remaining went to the village natural resource committee for operational expenditure.

"The 50 percent from the forest proceeds is allocated for the development activities of the village. For example, beside building new toilet for the pupils, the village has constructed clinician house worth 44m/- and renovated the village government office for 1m/-," he said. "Some of the money has been used to start goat project and to build capacity of the Natural Resource Committee like buying a motorcycle for patrol, buying uniforms and other operational costs," he added.

Commenting on individual benefits, the villagers said they have been trained on different aspects. For example good governance trainings have enabled the Natural Resources Committee to effectively play their role in managing the forest and facilitated benefit sharing. Women engagement has improved their confidence and now some of them are even holding senior positions in the village and in the committees.

Liwiti village in Kilwa district is another village in Kilwa which is implementing CBFM. It is one of the fourteen villages which are endowed with well conserved Miombo woodlands in the Ruvuma landscape that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification improves the villagers'

prospects to benefit from a high and better timber price at international market compared to the local market.

The villagers in collaboration with the District Council, Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) and WWF have implemented a project on Community sustainable harvesting and timber processing at Namatuli, Liwiti's village land forest reserve. Since the forest certification, they have managed to raise enough money and so far they have built two classrooms worth 26m/- shillings in 2011, constructed teachers office at 5m/, and in 2016 to 2018, constructed two teachers houses worth more than 40m/-. In 2017, the village government gave 22 students a total of 2.2m/- who passed to join secondary school. Each student received 100,000/- From 2013 to 2019, the village also managed to provide 30 bags of food for the pupils' lunch worth 500,000/- being costs of buying and transport.

"In January 2015, we managed to buy food for the villagers worth 800,000/- This food handout helped to rescue the villagers from shortage of food, said the village chairman. Some money was used to buy textbooks for teachers worth 600,000/- shillings, another 750,000/- was used to buy two school national flags, the band music for the school and allowance for the buyers.

Also in the list, the village has managed to pay National Health Insurance of about 7m/- for the Village Natural Resource Committee which ended in 2017. They bought their uniforms worth 12m/- in different occasions. However, from 2018/19 the budget increased for their NHIF where by the village paid 30,000/- for each member, spending a total of 4,500,000/-.

"If I happen to meet people from other neighbouring villages, I will advise them to certify their forest so that they can get better price and increase their income," said the village chairman. Commenting on how women have benefited from the forest conservation, a member of the Village Natural Resource Committee Salima Msham said that women have acquired knowledge and skills on forest conservation.

"Few years ago, the village faced hunger. The village convened the meeting and decided that we should use part of the money to buy some food for the villagers. We wrote to Kilwa District Executive Director who approved our request. The food was bought and distributed among the villagers. As women we think this was a big support," she said.

The forest products have helped them in many ways, for example, from the community sustainable harvesting and timber processing, one of the timber companies Grumeti placed order for a pieces of sawn timber from the village.

She said the income accrued from the certified sawn timber has motivated the villagers to now collaborate with development partners like MCDI and WWF to manage well the forests, she said.

"As a woman I have benefited a lot from forest conservation. For example, in December last year I participated in the patrol team and received an allowance of 10,000/-. I used the money to buy three counter Books for my school child. After a short time, I was picked up again to join the patrol team and paid 10,000/- which I used to buy uniforms for my secondary school child, she adds.

Few years ago, my husband was involved in a car accident and broke his leg. The village gave me 30,000/- from the village development fund and took him to hospital. These are some of the benefits and personal achievement registered in the forest conservation, she said.

### Individual benefits

One of the villagers and beneficiary Rashid Abdallah who was trained to operate the chainsaw said he has worked for four years now and managed to buy a plot and iron-sheets. He has built a house.

"Before getting trained in chainsaw, I was engaged in agriculture, but could not realize more benefits. Forest conservation has more benefits because it provides employment as well," he said. Citing an example he said the village processed 100cbm logs. If the villagers sold the logs as they are, they would get 26m/- but after processing the timbers, the village got 67.2m/-.

Other benefits include technical training and individual income for some who were helping minor jobs at the mobile sawmill area.

The forest certification has its own importance because if the forest is certified, the products would be accepted in-

ternationally as they are considered to come from the forest conserving communities. This adds more value to the forest products than conserving uncertified forest.

Having seen how CBFM works and the benefits accrued from it, now let us see what the new regulation entails and the new changes. In fact the new regulations differ from the Forest Act and previous regulations in the following ways: first is the reallocating responsibility for the preparation of Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFR) harvesting plans from the Village Council to the Director of Forestry.

The Forest Act 2002 states that Village Councils are responsible for preparing management plans for Village Land Forest Reserves. This includes planning for harvesting and sustainable use, in Village Land Forest Reserves. Village Councils' right to decide over the management of village land and village land forests, is further provided for under the Village Land Act 1999 and the Local Government (District Authorities) Act 1982.

The 2019 regulations reallocate responsibility for the preparation of harvesting plans on village land, to the Director of Forestry. The implication is that decision-making power over the use of village land forests has been taken away from the village council and reallocated to the director of forestry. The regulations contradict the 'mother law' which is the Forest Act which grants decision-making powers to the village council.

The regulations contradict the Village Land Act 1999 which also grants decision-making powers over village land management to village councils. Furthermore, the regulations contradict the Local Government (District Authorities) Act 1982 which grants the Village Councils the right to pass by-laws on all affairs and business of a village. Also the regulations run counter to the National Forest Policy which stipulates community-based forest management as the policy tool for the management of forests on village land.

About the reallocating responsibility for issuing harvesting permits in village land forest reserves from the village council to the district forest produce harvesting committee. The Forest Act 2002 states that Village Councils are responsible for the management of Village Land Forest Reserves. This includes issuing harvesting permits, in Village Land Forest Reserves.

The 2019 regulations reallocate responsibility for issuing harvesting permits in village land forest reserves (and throughout all village land) to the District Forest Produce Harvesting Committee. Now the implication is that the regulations contradict the 'mother law' i.e. the Forest Act 2002.

The regulations also contradict the Village Land Act 1999 which grants decision-making powers to the village council. The regulations contradict the Local Government (District Authorities) Act 1982 which grants the Village Councils the right to pass by-laws on all affairs and business of a village. Decision-making power over forest management, has been taken away from communities and granted to the District Forest Produce Harvesting Committee. Community-based forest management is undermined and communities are disempowered as decision making over productive use has been shifted away from the village.

Contacted for comment, Kilwa District Executive Director Renatus Mchau and the District Commissioner Christopher Nguniagi explained that CBFM is very useful adding that the new regulations introduced by the government will only compromise CBFM and the forest conservation.

"CBFM has managed to protect forests and has improved rural livelihoods. With support from MCDI and WWF, the communities of Likawage, Nanjirinji, Liwiti and Mchakama are some of the villages that have gained significant economic benefits from forest resources, said Nguniagi.

The villagers have managed to control illegal harvesting, and encroachment. MCDI and WWF have trained them a system for sustainably harvesting and selling forest products to generate income for the community hence supporting the district and government efforts to improve their livelihood. Some villagers such as Liwiti have managed to achieve Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification and their forests have been recognised in the world market.

Now they have greater market access and potential price premiums for certified timber harvested from the VLFRs. Therefore any changes on the CBFM and the regulations would have very bad effects on the forest conservation drive and the environment at large.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 116 00--

**WORD-FIT**

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

**SOLUTIONS**

5 LETTERS: SEE, LIT, GET  
 4 LETTERS: BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON SOON, IDEM  
 5 LETTERS: ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA,  
 6 LETTERS: ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE TABOOS  
 7 LETTERS: ALLOWED  
 8 LETTERS: LEGALESE  
 10 LETTERS: BOUNDARIES

**CROSSWORD**

**Across**

1 a native of the south  
 5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage  
 7 bear native to bamboo forests in China  
 8 Kathmandu is the Capital city  
 10 the ship built by Noah  
 11 Latin from Greek Khoreia  
 13 break with a sharp cracking sound  
 15 accept  
 17 movements of hands when you talk  
 19 a person who uses something  
 20 feel doubt

**Down:**

1 ill  
 2 formal term for on  
 3 not imagined or supposed  
 4 tolerate  
 6 put on clothes  
 7 canal connects the pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean  
 9 medium for communications  
 12 stroat  
 14 stone in Greek  
 16a diving waterbird with a long neck  
 17 a weapon with bullets  
 18 join fasten

**CROSSWORD**

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

## COMPETENCY

# Johannesburg gym enthusiast creates his own equipment, jobs

JOHANNESBURG

WHEN Dylan Middleditch lost his income during lockdown, bills started piling up and with a family to feed, it forced the father of three to get creative.

He partnered with Tembisa-based welder and steelworker Sibongiseni Dingindlela to start a successful business making their own home exercise equipment. They sell the gear to fellow fitness buffs, at an affordable price. Together, the two have managed to employ at least six other young men from the Tembisa community - helping them to earn a living.

Middleditch met Dingindlela on Facebook after searching for someone who made home gym equipment, to use during lockdown. "I had no access to gym equipment for the first initial five weeks, so I went on Facebook looking and I found Sibon, my business

partner."

They started small, making benches and racks, so that people could start exercising at home. "There was a market for it and I exploited it. We've grown and enjoyed it, at least I can support him and he can support some youth in Tembisa. Everyone can have a piece of the pie at the end of the day," Middleditch, the marketing manager of the company, said.

"My wife is a swimming teacher and she hasn't been able to work, so no work no pay for her because she runs her own business. We have been able to provide, pay rent and other things without her working," he said.

Dingindlela told News24 that he started making gym equipment in April during the nationwide lockdown as a way to diversify his offering. He normally manufactures butchery and catering equipment.

"I did see the opportunity, as I al-



Dylan Middleditch inside his Johannesburg gym.

ready had the skills and experience to make butchery and catering equipment. The partnership with Dylan has benefited me and my business a lot as I was doing everything myself, like being the production manager and advertising, but now I can just focus on production and making the best possible products," he said.

While News24 is able to see and cover what is happening to the outside world during the nationwide lockdown, we need your help to show us what is happening inside your living rooms, kitchens and gardens. He's since hired six young men from the Tembisa community, providing them with an income and teaching them skills like welding.

Dingindlela was also able to buy his first ever car, a bakie to assist with the transportation of the products and delivery. In the last six weeks the pair have been making and selling about 20 benches and five to six racks a week. Their power racks cost roughly R5 000, while retailers sell them for upwards of R15 000.

The men are still contemplating the future of their business, as gyms are expected to open once lockdown regulations are eased. But they hope their low prices will give them an edge in the market. Dingindlela said he hopes that South Africans will continue to support them as their products are of better quality and value than some of the

imports that come to the country.

"My dream is that South Africans will continue to see the quality of our products. And that they'll continue to support us, so that we can grow and expand. My family and I believe that this business will succeed one day," he said. "South Africa is a land where we can make our own opportunities. I have a two-year-old little girl and I could never give up for her," Middleditch added.

## SUCCESS

## 'For me, this is quite personal': Halima Aden returns to 'Sports Illustrated' in stylish burkinis

NEW YORK

SOMALI-AMERICAN model Halima Aden is no stranger to setting new benchmarks. And proving that there's little she can't do, she's gracing the pages of Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue once again.

The 22-year-old is seen posing in a number of different conservative beach looks for the magazine's latest swimsuit issue. The different looks included a stylish pink Tommy Hilfinger catsuit, a Nike burkini and a Fendi logo-printed design. "So proud to be back for my second year," Aden said in a post on Instagram, giving her followers a behind-the-scenes look at the shoot.

Sports Illustrated has also shared some quotes from the model. "For me, this is quite personal. Wearing a burkini in my state's Miss USA pageant launched my career at the end of 2016, so to be able to wear a burkini again on the iconic pages of Sports Illustrated Swim has been a full circle moment."

"It means that I can wear a fully covered modest swimsuit, next to a woman wearing a two piece bikini

and we can both be celebrated and show young girls and women around the world that you can just be you and that's good enough. There is no need to conform; everyone is accepted. So let's all remember, 'Don't change yourself, change the game!'"

"Don't change yourself, change the game" were the exact words she used when she appeared in Sports Illustrated's swimsuit issue in 2019 - making history when she became the first woman to appear in the magazine's swimsuit issue in a hijab and burkini.

Aden wants women everywhere to know that they are represented and encourages them to take some risks. "I am motivated by the messages I get from people around the world who connect with some part of my story," she said. "That can be a young girl from small-town Wisconsin who looks nothing like me, but sees that small-town girls can go on and do big things."

"Or a Christian mum who thanks me for making modest wear look cool, or a woman with skin cancer who thanks me for making her aware that a swimsuit exists that can fully protect her on the beach, or young Muslim and hijab-wearing girls who have never before



Halima Aden, the 22-year-old modest fashion model, is featuring on Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue yet again.

seen someone who looks like them represented in the entertainment space, I have to push and keep going because I don't want to let these people down.

"I want to show them that if you are willing to put

yourself out there and take risks the benefits always outweigh any negatives." Aden shot to fame in 2016 when she competed in the Miss Minnesota beauty pageant, becoming the first contestant to compete

in a hijab. She was a semi-finalist and chose to wear a burkini for the swimwear sequence. She has since signed with modelling agency IMG and made her foray into the fashion world in 2017.

## CREATIVITY

## An organic skincare line started in a kitchen

NAIROBI

In a sea of beauty products, two sisters, Parvis and Diana Swan are trying a hand in the organic skincare market. The two founded Akusi Organics a few years ago.

Parvis is the product formulator and has a background in procurement and farming. "We want consumers to go back to nature for skin solutions and remedies," she says. Parvis, who had eczema all her life, had the burning desire to find an organic solution to her skin problem.

"Steroid creams worked for only a short time. So, I sought a natural solution. Akusi started in our kitchen in Nairobi's Ngumo Estate. I started making products for myself, then family, then friends then I joined forces with

my sister Diana and we turned it into a business, which is still home-based," she says.

With savings, the duo began building its customer base by going to popup and organic markets like the German School Fashion and Beauty Market. They showcased their products and asked people what types of products they would like. The feedback helped them build a product line.

Diana and Parvis had to bootstrap for a while. Starting a business with minimal personal funds and no external capital was harrowing, as Diana explains, but the two grew by re-investing and maintaining lean operations.

"Building a brand is not a walk in the park. It has taken years of hard work getting it to where it

is in terms of product quality, sourcing of quality organic ingredients, settling on eco-friendly packaging, and building consumer trust," says Diana, who is the CEO, owing to her background in events management and human resources.

Their headache has been competition. "New players are coming into the industry every other day which makes it super competitive and daunting to start. However, there is room for everyone, and identifying a niche is the best way to survive," says Parvis.

Finding reliable suppliers is also a huge task. "You need to do thorough research and vet your suppliers," Diana says. Parvis says nowadays, three out of every 10 consumers read the product label. They are more aware

of what ingredients they do not want and what to look out for.

"The planet provides an array of fruits, plants, spices, herbs, nuts, and flowers, that it is hard to understand why we have strayed so far from what we have now, mass-produced plastic containers full of harmful synthetic chemicals," says Diana.

Advice to business women looking to enter the beauty and skincare market? "Start small and build from there. Test, learn, implement, improve. Then repeat. Do your research. Figure out where you belong in the sector. Find your niche," Diana says.

"Find a mentor. You would be surprised how ready people are to share knowledge and offer guidance," Parvis adds. Their favourite products from the Akusi range? "I would say avocado



Parvis &amp; Diana Swan.

soap and shea butter soap," Parvis says.

"Mine is coffee scrub soap, lemongrass soap, and the lavender and tea tree body butter," Diana says, adding that the key to healthy skin is maintaining the moisture barrier and avoiding harsh products that strip away the moisture barrier.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# This pilot modelled to pay for her aviation school

## CAPE TOWN

AFTER finishing high school, Christina was hungry to take every flying lesson she could, although attending flight school is a costly affair.

After working in waitressing, sales, and bartending, she moved to India and began modelling and working in Bollywood. Within 15 months, the Capetonian had saved up enough money to attend South Africa's best flight school and has now been flying for 11 years.

The 29-year-old's journey has been far from smooth. Many people have mistaken Christina for a stewardess, and one training captain told her that 'women belong in the kitchen.' The insult wasn't something new to Christina; however, the criticism from some of her male colleagues only spurred her on. "It's been tough. I've had to work twice as hard for half the credit," she says.

"Even before I stepped into the plane, male pilots told me that women couldn't fly. Instructors have deliberately given me a hard time, and I was often singled out in class as the only woman in the room. I was told that 'women belong in the kitchen' right before my simulator testing. It upset me at first,

but I soon showed him what I was capable of." Christina believes that the modelling pictures she posts on Instagram probably feed into the idea of her that people have in their heads.

"It doesn't get to me anymore. I just want to work harder. People usually tell me that I'm the only female pilot that they've ever met and you earn a lot of respect. I love travelling. Being in the aircraft itself is great, but there is nothing like getting to see the world. I love pushing myself to my limits and embarking on new adventures."

Now looking to set up her own private charter company, Beau Monde Aviation, Christina is taking control over her career. With less than five percent of pilots being women, she hopes to use social media to inspire a new generation. "My five-year plan was always to open my own charter company, but with everything that's happening now, I've had to think about what's happened to the aviation industry," Christina says.

"I decided to make my future plan a now-plan. I was lucky enough to find an investor and we're working day and night to set it up. In a time like this, no one wants to fly on a com-



Christina stands in front of one of the planes she flies.

mmercial plane with hundreds of people." Christina is also keen

to help other women learn about aviation. "I love to speak

to any woman interested in becoming a pilot, and I'm happy

to help them online and offer advice," Christina says.

## ALERT

## Details you ought to have about skin whitening creams

## NEW DELHI

SKIN whitening has proven to be damaging, physically and mentally. But sales are booming. Experts predict the market will be worth US\$31.2 billion by 2024.

The multi-billion-dollar market for skin whitening products is an enduring sign of commodity racism. Skin whitening is at once an old and emerging globalising industry. Women (and some men) whiten their skin by using products that reduce or suppress melanin biosynthesis and function.

Products are also marketed to white women with the promise of making white women's aging skin and faces appear smooth, wrinkle-free and younger looking. As an anti-aging care, skin

whitening is formulated to bleach out visible signs of aging such as age spots. So actually, skin-whitening products have already been marketed under different labels such as skin brighteners for at least the past 20 years.

A growing number of Indians are speaking out against cosmetic giants selling skin-whitening creams as global anti-racism protests shine a spotlight on Asia's obsession with fair skin. Such products generate billions of dollars in sales.

Medical sounding terms such as cosmeceutical and skincare have long been used to market skin-whitening products to white women to fight age spots, dull skin, hyperpigmentation, etc. These coded words widely promote the message that good skin is



An ad for a Vichy Laboratoire skincare product shows fairer skin as the desired result.

youthful looking and glowing.

In the marketing of skin-whitening products, lighter skin embodies whiteness not only as a sign of racial difference but also as a signifier of class privilege.

The rebranding and niche marketing of skin-whitening products is made easier by the fact that these are often melanin-suppressing products with pharmaceutical properties.

A magazine ad shows a woman's face becoming lighter

Increasingly, advertising for skin-whitening cosmetics uses terms that

can be substituted with whiteness: glowing, radiant, translucent, bright and clear. These terms frame skin whitening as a source of recuperative wellness and youthful femininity. Meanwhile, there is no clearly defined regulatory framework for these products. This makes it easier for endless rebranding and niche marketing of skin whitening products.

## The banner of anti-aging

Skin whitening has been marketed as part of a fight against aging, which means it has also come to be seen as a legitimate way to take care of one's skin. Women are told over and over that getting and keeping glowing skin at all ages is a standard requirement for femininity and beauty.

When corporations promote skin whitening under the banner of anti-aging wellness to aging middle class white women, the practice is often defended, both by consumers and the cosmetics industry, as a legitimate way of regenerating the aging white female body and shielding it from environmental deterioration, modern stress, air pollution and more. In this way, advertisements for anti-aging skin whiteners are sup-

posedly formulated to promote wellness by restoring, regenerating and protecting white women's skin from the harmful effects of sun damage and other environmentally induced signs of aging.

The idea that increased pigmentation represents an unhealthy process of premature aging has facilitated the promotion of skin whitening products to both white women and women of colour. The symbolic association of whiteness with youthful appearance and anti-aging wellness has driven the research and development and mass marketing of high technology-based skin whitening products with anti-aging claims.

As a result, the industry invites all women, regardless of ethnicity, race and or nationality, to seek smooth, radiant and youthful-looking skin, which is free from age spots and hyperpigmentation, by consuming skin-whitening products.

An advertisement for Stillman's Skin Bleach Cream with a small green container of cream. Although skincare companies are using less explicit language about skin whitening, their products continue to promote a desire for whiteness.

## CREATIVITY

## How hobby turned into thriving fashion venture

## NAIROBI

JOAN Aoko's love for fashion started when she was pretty young. Her mother, she says, taught her crocheting when she was nine years old. This would later turn into a hobby, before growing into a full-blown enterprise.

"I grew up loving art, so I learned how to crochet from my late mum when I was nine years old," Ms Aoko says. "I picked up the art in 2015 as a hobby to keep me indoors since I'm an introvert."

Ms Aoko looked for job opportunities following her graduation in 2015 after studying International Relations and Diplomacy with IT at Maseno University. She secured a job with a county government, and later with a Non-Governmental Organisation, where she worked until 2017.

In her two jobs, one thing made her different from her colleagues; during her lunch break, she was busy crocheting as her colleagues were busy hanging out at their favourite food joints. Although this was just a hobby, she earned extra coin from it. She turned the hobby into business in 2016, naming it Byaoko, which is derived from her name Aoko.

When her contract with the NGO ended, she had made up her mind

that she was not going back to employment. "I started my business with Sh500. I remember I bought a packet of acrylic wool for Sh400 and crochet hook at Sh100," she says. Her first work was baby shoes which she made after watching a tutorial on YouTube.

"Well, it didn't turn out perfect, but it was a good start. I later made a scarf, then a bikini, and that is when I opened Instagram account to market my work," she recalls. She got her first client on her social media page who bought five pairs of baby booties at Sh1,000.

"I was very excited and I kept on telling my friends how crochet pays. I lost touch with my first client but I remember her words, she told me I would make it really big," she adds. Her designs now include dresses, crochet swimwear, baby-wear, warm-weather wears and bridal wear.

She currently has a sizable clientele, making her to work extra hours to meet increasing demand. She ventured into bridal wear after successfully making her own wedding dress in 2019. "I never thought I would even craft a wedding dress but here we are," she says. The pricing for her products depends on the type of material used, technicality of the design, time taken and size.

The swimwear prices start from



Stylist Joan Aoko shows one of her dresses

Sh2,500, dresses Sh7,500 while bridal dresses go for Sh45,000 and above.

The entrepreneur, who has three workers, makes an average of Sh 100, 000 net profit monthly. She has three "I market my products on social media especially on Instagram. Referrals from previous clients have also increased my client base," she tells Enterprise.

"With technology we learn every day. I hope to be done soon with my website construction and explore more avenues of marketing." Most of her clients buy crochet wear for special occasions, as gifts for events such as birthday or as holiday outfits. The customers, she says, view them as a luxury wear that make them stand out.

"I customise to client size, colour of choice, and style. This enables the client to have a perfect fit, bringing their sense of fashion and personality to life," says Ms Aoko. She notes that most readymade outfits don't offer the combination. "The fact that you can't find the crochet pieces in every store makes them unique," she says.

However, she notes that anything handmade is labour-intensive and time consuming especially crochet. "I could take five hours for a crop top, a day or two for swimwear depending on technicality, a month to two for bridal dresses," says Ms Aoko. She has since trained people who help her whenever she is in need of mass production.

## RELAXATION

## African countries are having to come to terms with dual citizenship matter

## ADDIS ABABA

EARLIER this year, Jawar Mohammed, the prominent political activist and media entrepreneur, who had returned home to Ethiopia from the US, looked set to challenge his former ally, prime minister Abiy Ahmed, in the country's election.

But there was immediately uncertainty created over Jawar's eligibility simply because he had been a US citizen. Ethiopian law does not allow dual nationality and even though has written letters saying he's renounced his US citizenship that uncertainty remains.

Jawar's case is one of many that highlights an increasingly common issue for many African countries, who after years of battles with Western imperialism and colonial rule were determined at independence for their citizens to literally pick a side and not be allowed to carry the passports of other countries.

But in the 60 years since independence across the continent, the forces of globalization and transatlantic migration has seen dual nationality come up more frequently as an issue which needs to be addressed across politics and business through to sports.

Back in 1985, Saudi Arabia's soccer authorities initially refused to hand over the trophy of the Afro-Asian Cup after losing to Cameroon in the finals of the tournament. They claimed Cameroon had fielded an ineligible player who was none other than legendary star Roger Milla, who had traveled to Jeddah on a French passport as he couldn't also have a Cameroonian one.

Now, Cameroon is considering a revision of its nationality code which was enacted in 1968. The current law stipulates any Cameroonian adult who willfully acquires a foreign nationality automatically loses their Cameroon nationality.

But a new draft bill—a copy of which Quartz Africa has seen—says "a Cameroonian who has acquired another nationality shall retain Cameroon nationality unless it is expressly relinquished by the concerned." The bill is expected to pass through with little challenge. Some African governments have been reluctant to legalize dual citizenship, arguing the patriotism of people with dual citizenship could be questioned. But there's also anecdotal evidence some of these governments are more concerned an influential and economically independent diaspora, able to move freely between countries, could support a challenge to the leadership.

## MILESTONE

## DR Congo startup Schoolap goes from a dream to a reality with the roll-out of SchoolapTab tablet

## KINSHASA

THE SchoolapTab is courtesy of Schoolap's school digitization initiative. The tablet is now fully made in Kinshasa and offers access to the Congolese education curriculum even when off-grid. The tablet was presented to the Special Advisor to the President in charge of Digital, Dominique Migisha, to Mrs. Tina Salama Deputy Spokesperson of the President and the DG of Airtel.

A diverse set of over 30,000 educational materials are available in text and video even when offline. Airtel allows its SIM users to update content via the internet at no charge. Schoolap is an active player in the digitization of education in the DRC. Building on the momentum of their \$500,000 fundraiser last year directed at expanding its services, it's just a matter of time before Schoolap becomes a household name and a mirror into the future of digitized education in the DRC.

Running on a mantra of "digital for better education" Schoolap aims to reduce inequality in the education sector in the DRC by enabling teachers in rural settings with the same quality of knowledge and as teachers in urban centers.

ON-RECORD

# Hijabi influencer Taqwa Bint Ali makes history by modelling for Jean Paul Gaultier

PARIS

FRENCH-Tunisian influencer Taqwa Bint Ali is on something of a roll. She is already well respected for her slick take on modest dressing, and is the co-founder of France's first modest fashion platform Galerjes Zarafet, which she set up with her cousin to help hijab wearers feel comfortable in France.

She is also actively involved with the organisation Akagi Club, which helps offer secure sport spaces for Muslim women, and now she has been picked for not one, but two fashion campaigns. In July, Bint Ali appeared on the social media page of Italian luxury house Fendi, as one of the women modelling the summer collection. Clad in a roomy, logo T-shirt, with a chic silk scarf tied under her chin, she stands with four other women, all wearing elements from the season's range.

Bint Ali was then chosen to be

part of series of images entitled No Show for French designer Jean Paul Gaultier. Although Gaultier officially retired from fashion in February, this new series is a celebration of his vast archive, with diverse personalities wearing his vintage couture designs.

In the image, Bint Ali sports an oversized lime green jumper that has trailing neck ties, worn over a black feather-trimmed skirt, and what could well be football shin guards. With Gaultier, anything is possible.

As the first hijabi to model for the house, this is something of a milestone not only for Bint Ali, but for Gaultier, too. Always one to embrace the unconventional, Gaultier has long used everyday people rather than models for his runway shows.

On a wider scale, this also marks an important moment for French fashion. As a nation, France has

what is best described as a complex relationship with modest dress codes. While it has freedom of religious expression enshrined into its law, it has also taken actions such as banning the burkini in 2016, drawing widespread criticism. As a much cherished figure in France, it is good to see that Gaultier at least is taking strides to tackle inclusion and diversity.

When asked about her experience as a Muslim woman growing up in Paris, Bint Ali told Mille World: "As a hijabi woman, it has never been easy for me to find a school, an internship or a job. I've always loved fashion and art but have always felt like there was a huge representation problem within these industries." However, she cites Galerjes Zarafet, which "seeks to celebrate Muslim and modest culture", as helping change the narrative. "Now, even non-Muslim men and women are hearing us and following us."



Taqwa Bint Ali is the first hijabi woman to model for Jean Paul Gaultier.

LIFESTYLE



Kelly Lundberg, stylist and founder of Style Me Divine, is a former Emirates cabin crew member.

## Life after flying: How to change careers after working as cabin crew

DUBAI

BEING a member of an airline's cabin crew promises infinite possibilities. It's a job that offers endless travel, a chance to experience different cultures and interact with various nationalities. It's for this reason that many in the field say being a flight attendant is more than simply a job - it's a lifestyle.

However, these perks have led to some in the field saying it has left them complacent. A statement often heard is that it's a temporary job, to be done for a year or two. And before you know it, half a decade has passed.

If you are a member of cabin crew, and you're considering embarking on a new career, here are the stories of four former UAE flight attendants who have done exactly that, by using skills learnt on the job to find success in another line of work.

Many UAE residents will know of Kelly Lundberg, who set up the styling service Style Me Divine in the Middle East 15 years ago. What most don't know is that prior to being a fashion-savvy businesswoman, Lundberg was a member of Emirates' cabin crew. She hung up her wings after two-and-a-half years of flying.

She's now using her combined experience as a stylist and former cabin crew member to host a Brand You masterclass on Wednesday, July 22, from 11am to noon, free for all members of cabin crew. It's her way of giving back to an industry that has been hard hit by the pandemic.

"I want to show people that you can transition from being a crew member and still have a nice life. It's all about taking existing skills, learning something new and building confidence. Especially if a person were to lose their job, it can be demotivating. I want to inspire them to do whatever they want and show them there is still hope."

Lundberg says there are some skills that all cabin crew have ingrained in them, which should be played up when meeting potential employers. "The first is personal presentation. Cabin crew are very good at presenting themselves, which can make them good in careers related to customer service. Then there's communicating, problem-solving and negotiating, which makes them suitable for quite a few careers from retail to hospitality," she says.

"It also takes a lot of courage to leave your home country and become cabin crew, just like starting a new business or venture takes a lot of courage." Her advice is to take time out to figure out what you are personally interested in, even if it is only a hobby, and see if it's possible to turn it into a career.

Once you have figured out what you want to do, she recommends learning to brand yourself. "You are always your own personal brand," she says. "A lot of time people equate their personal brand with their company's brand, but that's not necessarily a good thing. Building a personal brand helps build a wider network and reach new clients."

In order to develop a personal brand in line with new career aspirations, Lundberg recommends working on your digital presence. "Check your social media pages, your LinkedIn account, ask people for references, offer to do work in the field, even if it's not paying a lot, so you can keep busy and develop your skill set. You never know when you might meet the right contact."

Travelling around the world can lend itself to a colourful Instagram feed or travel blog, which is why a number of cabin crew staff find themselves becoming digital stars or influencers by default. While many might not take it seriously, building that social media presence could help launch a career.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE		MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM		ITV																					
<b>SATURDAY 01 Aug</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Hawavumii lakini wamo 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTW	20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utalii 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	<b>TUESDAY 04 Aug</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya 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# Pompeo widely blasted by US media, seen as 'worst secretary of state ever'

WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been widely denounced by domestic media for his egregious performance in office, with The New York Times calling him "the worst secretary of state in American history, without a single diplomatic achievement."

In an opinion piece published by the newspaper, Thomas L. Friedman pointed out that Pompeo's two most notable accomplishments as secretary of state are "shooting two of his senior State Department officials in the back," and pushing conspiracy theories in terms of Washington's response to COVID-19 to scapegoat China and distract domestic attention.

"The secretary of state first accuses China of manufacturing a virus that has killed over 340,000 people worldwide and then, when reminded that our intelligence agencies have concluded no such thing, he backs off with no explanation.

Can you be any more unprofessional?" he wrote in late May. "The morale and effectiveness of our State Department - and our standing in the world - are both the worse for him," Friedman lashed out.

In a hostile speech at Richard Nixon

on Presidential Library and Museum last Thursday, Pompeo groundlessly attacked the domestic and foreign policies of China, incited ideological hatred against the Communist Party of China and tried to instigate "the free world" to stand up against China. "The problem was not simply that the nation's chief diplomat was decidedly undiplomatic.

Worse was his misrepresentation of history and his failure to suggest a coherent or viable path forward for managing a relationship that more than any other will define this era," Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in an article in The Washington Post on July 26. Pompeo sought to commit the United States to a path that is "bound to fail," Haass warned.

Joe Scarborough, a cable news host on MSNBC, slapped Pompeo over Ukraine issues as a "common thug" and a "criminal" who has been "lying through his teeth" for the U.S. administration.

"He's acting like a common thug. He's lying about our country. He was in on [the Ukraine] call that he knows crossed every line of propriety," Scarborough said.

"Now he's behaving like a thug in



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

trying to basically tell Congress that he can do whatever he wants to do and not to reach out to anybody at the State Department."

Likewise, Pompeo was acting like "a bald-faced liar" over Ukraine issues,

according to Dartagnan, a community member of Daily Kora, a U.S. group blog and internet forum.

"As it turns out, he's looking just as corrupt as his pals," Dartagnan wrote. "If there was ever a time for the House

to exercise its power of Inherent Contempt, this would be that time. Because you'd really be hard pressed to find anyone more inherently contemptible than Mike Pompeo," the writer noted.

Xinhua

## China-Europe freight trains: 'locomotive envoys of the ancient Silk Road'

CONSIDERED an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Europe freight train service has injected new vitality into Xi'an.

Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, has been an important gateway to China's opening-up since ancient times. It was the capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the starting point of the ancient Silk Road. Its political and economic ties with foreign countries date back over 3,000 years.

Xi'an launched its first China-Europe freight train in 2013. Currently, the train service, known as the "Chang'an" China-Europe freight trains, has 15 routes linking Kazakhstan, Russia, Belgium, Germany, Poland and other countries.

More than 5,000 types of goods, including automobiles, textile raw materials, household cleaners and personal care products, are transported by the freight trains.

"Despite the COVID-19 epidemic this year, the 'Chang'an' China-Europe freight trains have guaranteed smooth traffic through international trade routes and services of global supply chains for corporations," said Liu Wei, Assistant Director of the Port Operation Promotion Bureau of the Administrative Committee of Xi'an International Trade & Logistics Park.

The freight train service adopts a segmented transport system, which does not require the personnel involved to be quarantined. The "non-contact" feature is especially significant, especially during a pandemic.

From January to June this year, China-Europe freight trains to and from Xi'an made more than 1,600 trips, twice the number of the same period of last year. The total weight of the cargo was 1.301 million tons, 1.9 times the same period of last year, according to the Xi'an International Trade & Logistics Park.

"The freight trains have become 'locomotive envoys of the ancient Silk Road', exporting products that are made in China and importing specialty products of countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative into the Chinese market," Liu said.

People's Daily



**Despite the COVID-19 epidemic this year, the 'Chang'an' China-Europe freight trains have guaranteed smooth traffic through**

Agencies

## Russian biologists find new hints of natural origin of COVID-19

MOSCOW

RESEARCHERS of the Institute for Information Transmission Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences have discovered an unusual way of accumulation of point mutations in the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus genome indicating that recently it was evolutionarily adapted to reside in bats, the Institute's press service reported on Tuesday citing the article in the PeerJ journal.

"We discovered that the share of mutations of guanine to uracil in the SARS-CoV-2 genome increased almost ten-fold after the virus was transmitted to humans. This characteristic is much less pronounced in the genome of the atypical pneumonia SARS-CoV pathogen and is practically non-existent in the cold HKU1 virus," researchers wrote.

The scientists for a rather long time have been trying to understand where and how the novel coronavirus emerged causing the global COVID-19 pandemic as well as when it started to be transmitted from human to human. There is no consensus among the epidemiologists on this

subject.

There are many discussions when and where the first infection of a human with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus occurred, whether it shows signs of recombination, whether humans received the virus directly from bats or through a transitional host as well as why the SARS-CoV-2 turned out to be so strong.

Biologists of the Institute for Information Transmission Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexander and Yuri Panchin attempted to receive answers to some of these questions, comparing the accumulation of point mutations in the genome of the COVID-19 pathogen with other related coronaviruses - the atypical pneumonia SARS virus and the common cold HKU1 virus. The scientists studied how the relative mutation frequencies changed in those viruses after infecting humans.

### A natural virus

In all, Russian scientists analyzed and compared over a thousand SARS-CoV-2 genomes, about two hundred genomes of the atypical pneumonia pathogen, forty



sequences for the HKU1 virus as well as several genomes of its closest relatives among the coronaviruses of animal origin.

It turned out that in the genomes of all human viruses approximately one or two thousand point variations are present having appeared presumably after those viruses adapted to infect humans.

A study of these small muta-

tions allowed the researchers to uncover a unique characteristic of the novel coronavirus not typical of its closest relatives.

They found that the SARS-CoV-2 genome contains an unusually large number of mutations which lead to the replacement of guanine (G), one of the four "letters" of the DNA and the RNA chains, with the molecules of uracil (U). In all,

over two hundred (15%) of the discovered mutations belong to this category.

This is almost ten times the share of such mutations in the SARS-CoV-2 ancestor before the infection of humans.

This was absolutely not typical of other coronaviruses in which the share of replacement of guanine with uracil before and after infections

in humans was similar. This unique characteristic of the SARS-CoV-2 virus manifested itself both in the full set of genomes and in the analyses of the genome sets obtained in some countries, such as the US and China.

As the article's authors suggest, this feature of the COVID-19 pathogen reflects the fact that until recently it was infecting bats whose cells are unusually well-defended from the accumulation of various aggressive molecules capable of introducing mutations in the new copies of the viral RNA.

When the SARS-CoV-2 virus moved on to infect humans, it lost this defense, which, as the authors think, led to a damage of a large number of the guanine "letters" of the RNA and the quick accumulation of mutations in the coronavirus genome.

The researchers conclude that on the one hand, this is an argument for the natural origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, while on the other hand it makes one think why something similar did not occur with the atypical pneumonia pathogen which also originated in bats.

Agencies

## Transformation of Kashmir underway

THE first shoots of a new Kashmir rising from the abyss of violence are becoming visible in the new highways, state-of-art hospital facilities, educational institutions and resort coming up in different part of the union territory.

Many high-profile projects, long delayed first by violence and then by the Corona virus epidemic, are now underway with great speed and determination.

These project will link far flung villages with the mainstream, connect millions of people to better opportunities and prosperity and transform Kashmir into a sought after destination for tourists as well as entrepreneurs.

Kashmir's reincarnation has begun.

In Srinagar, a significant development work in progress has been an additional block with state-of-art medical facility at Lal Ded Maternity Hospital.

The project, estimated to cost Rs 132 crore, will benefit hundreds and thousands of women and children across the union territory. This is the only medical facility of its kind in the region specializing in gynae and child care.

The main features of this addition to the hospital are 82 in-patient beds, 49 floating beds, 6

modular OTs, 3 wards, State-of-art medical equipment.

New bridges and roads are key features of the new image of Kashmir. Seven vital road projects have been taken up on a priority basis. These roads will connect far flung villages and communities to the mainstream. Work on three new bridges in Jammu division and more than Rs 160 crore worth of development projects, funded by the World Bank, are underway.

In North Kashmir, Gogjidaji bridge, being built at a cost of more than Rs 6 crores, will connect Sopore via Tarzoo-Naidkhai to Sumbal Bandipore. Over 30,000 people will benefit from this connectivity.

Up-gradation work is in progress of Amberpora-Haritar road, costing Rs 8.03 Cr in Baramulla District which will connect villages of Amberpora, Akhanpore, Haritar and Rabi Gaon and benefit a population of about 60000. In South Kashmir work has begun on the construction of Rs 9.22 cr worth of renovation of the Govt. Degree College, Bijbehara and also on the up-gradation of Rs 4.98 crore Halmulla Panchpora Kralokot roads.

These projects will generate greater employment opportunities for skilled as well as unskilled workers besides creating

a sense of partnership among the communities participating in the project.

The entire state is witnessing top tarring or macadamisation of all major and minor roads on a war footing. These roads include 11000-km fair weather roads.

In the Jammu Division, a similar impetus to road construction is visible. Work is progressing on the up-gradation work on 18.29 Km Sidhra-Surinsar road, 11-km Tutan Di Khule to Khada-Madana road, 10 km-Malini Chakraborty road, 10.15 Km-Chirala Link road; 27-km Gulat to Shahdra Sharief road via Ganbir Gali, 5-km Devi Mai to Ohli Mandir road and 4.25 km Anji-Panasa road (Reasi).

The project includes construction of four vital bridges in remote parts of the Jammu Division- Kathel Ganjoo to Barsoa Motorable steel bridge over Ghordi Nallah and Barsoa to Patri Bridge over Barmeen Nallah (Udhampur), besides, steel decked foot bridge over Anji Nallah at Sukhal Ghati (Reasi) and Steel Truss Bridge over Beter nallah (Poonch).

Other key infrastructure projects which are expected to benefit local communities include the construction of Rs 12.5 crore composite market centre building for whole chain activity of silk at Govt. Silk Factory Ra-

jbagh Srinagar.

This building is being constructed using the traditional architectural design and with the use of traditional materials like Devri stone. The building will also be equipped with the latest equipment like Twister and other preparatory equipment for silk yarn processing.

The construction of Rs 2 crore building for whole chain activity of wool processing along with the restoration and repair works for Govt. Woolen Mill at Bemina with the cost of Rs 2.4 crore is also under execution.

Efforts are also on to upgrade the skills of artisans associated with traditional handicrafts of embroidery and papier mache. Two handicrafts clusters at Noorbagh (embroidery) and Zadibal (papier mache), will help more than 1250 artisans in the areas of product development, design innovations, colour schemes, managerial training and artisan owned associations and development of market linkages for marketing of finished products.

Business worth a crore has been generated in both the clusters till date. Two more artisan cluster in Ganderbal district are also being taken up.

These projects, besides providing employment to local youth, will transform the face of Kashmir like never before.

Agencies

## President Putin signs bill allowing multiple-day elections into law

MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin signed a bill that amends Russian electoral legislation, including providing an option to hold a vote for several days, but no more than three. The document was published on the official legal information website.

This amendment was introduced during second reading of a law that allows removing an electoral commission member with a right of deciding vote from office even before their mandate expires.

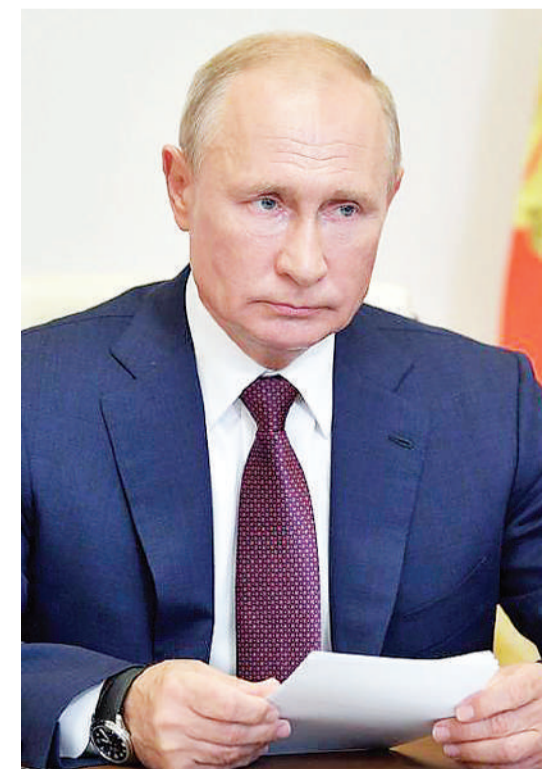
This document was introduced to the State Duma in 2012 by then-President Dmitry Medvedev. It allows electoral commissions to recall commission members over motivated pledge of political parties that appointed them.

Such pledges could only be reviewed if the corresponding political party also came up with a replacement candidacy.

The decision whether a vote will take place for several days will be made by the electoral commissions. The decision must be made within 10 days after an official announcement of a vote, and cannot be changed later.

The multiple-day vote does not imply voting via absentee ballots or early voting. The new bill allows holding elections and referendums outside the voting premises on equipped territories, including courtyards and general purpose territories.

Voting with additional options is proposed to voters who live in remote settlements without voting premises or with poor transport accessibility.



A multiple-day vote can also be assigned by the regional electoral commission during elections to local government or during local referendums.

The law also stipulates that elections could only be observed by people, registered on the same territory where the voting takes place. The maximum number of observers during multiple-day vote is also increased threefold.

Agencies

The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) makes a shot against the Los Angeles Clippers during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Thursday, July 30, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

## James' layup late lifts Los Angeles Lakers past Clippers, 103-101

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

LeBRON James and the Los Angeles Lakers showed some rust.

They knocked it off with time to spare.

Anthony Davis scored 34 points, James had the go-ahead basket with 12.8 seconds left and the Lakers moved closer to clinching the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs by topping the Los Angeles Clippers 103-101 on Thursday night in the second game of the NBA's re-opening doubleheader.

James had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists to help the Lakers move 6 1/2 games ahead of the Clippers in the West with seven games remaining. Kyle Kuzma added 16 points.

"It felt like a real game to me, two teams battling. ... Can't complain for the first game," Davis said.

Paul George had 30 points and Kawhi Leonard scored 28 for the Clippers, who had an 11-point lead midway through the third in a game with deep ebbs and flows. The Clippers got that lead after a 26-5 run; the Lakers immediately rebutted with a 36-14 run to reclaim control.

And it still came down to the final moments. George's 3-pointer with 1:50 left cut the Lakers' lead to 99-98. James muscled his way to a layup on the next possession, and then George hit another 3 to tie the game at 101 with 29 seconds remaining.

James followed his own miss down the lane for the go-ahead basket, then was brilliant on the last defensive possession - forcing the ball out of Leonard's hands and covering George as his 3-point try at the buzzer misfired.

"We can't have self-inflicted wounds and I thought we had too many of them," said Clippers coach Doc Rivers, whose team - which remains short-handed with Lou Williams still in quarantine and Montrezl Harrell tending to a family matter - gave up 29 points off turnovers.

Thursday marked the NBA's first game action in 141 days, the league getting back to work after the coronavirus pandemic forced a shutdown.

During the pandemic, a renewed discussion about racial injustice happened in this country - the conversation that surrounds this NBA restart. The courts have "Black Lives Matter" on them, and the Lakers and Clippers knelt together during the national anthem in a silent protest to demand equality. New Orleans and Utah did the same in the night's opener.

James - who is going to win his first assist title - had five in the first quarter to get teammates going, and then his first basket of the restart came on a dunk early in the second quarter to put the Lakers up 37-24.

But for a stretch that basically spanned a full quarter, spanning the second and third periods, the Lakers couldn't make a shot. They went 1 for 10 to end the half, then 0 for 9 to start the third and the Clippers took advantage.

They turned a 50-40 deficit into a 66-55 edge in the third. And then it was the Lakers' turn to rally, slicing the Clippers' lead to 77-76 going into the fourth.

"It was a good game," Leonard said. "Still had fun out there. It was great to be back on the floor."

Meanwhile, Rudy Gobert sank two free throws with 6.9 seconds left to cap a 14-point, 12-rebound and three-block performance, giving the Utah Jazz a 106-104 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans in the first game of the NBA's restart on Thursday night.

AP

## Players, coaches kneel before NBA's re-opening night

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

BLACK players were next to white players. Coaches from one team were next to their compatriots from the opposing side. Many locked arms with the man next to them, some shut their eyes tightly, a few including LeBron James briefly raising a fist into the air or pointing skyward.

The NBA had a strong, powerful re-opening night message.

When it comes to demanding change, the league stands united - and Thursday, the four teams that played on the first night of the league's restart showed that by not standing.

They were unprecedented images for the league in unprecedented times: The Utah Jazz and New Orleans Pelicans knelt alongside one another during "The Star-Spangled Banner," their way of joining the chorus of those demanding racial justice and equality in society. In the second game Thursday, James' Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles Clippers did the same thing during the anthem preceding their matchup.

"Tonight we witnessed sober, powerfully moving and heartfelt demonstrations by our players of their commitment to the pursuit of justice," National Basketball Players Association Executive Director Michele Roberts tweeted. "Very proud."

The NBA has a rule that dates to the early 1980s decreeing that players must stand for the national anthem, and Commissioner Adam Silver quickly announced that the policy is being adjusted. The anthems were pre-recorded: Jon Batiste performed the one before Pelicans-Jazz, the Compton Kidz Club had the task before Clippers-Lakers. "I respect our teams' unified act of peaceful protest for social justice and under these unique circumstances will not enforce our long-standing rule requiring standing during the playing of our national anthem," said Silver, who watched from a plexiglass-enclosed suite because he has not been quarantined and therefore cannot be around players and coaches who are living inside the NBA's so-called bubble at Walt Disney World.

The coaches, first New Orleans' Alvin Gentry and Utah's Quin Snyder and then the Lakers' Frank Vogel and the Clippers' Doc Rivers, were next to one another, their arms locked together. The scenes, which occurred with the teams lined up along the sideline nearest where "Black Lives Matter" was painted onto the court, were the first of what is expected to be many silent game-day statements by players and coaches who will



Members of the New Orleans Pelicans and Utah Jazz kneel together around the Black Lives Matter logo on the court during the national anthem before the start of an NBA basketball game Thursday, July 30, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

kneel to call attention to many issues - foremost among them, police brutality following the deaths of, among others, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in recent months. James said he took a knee with Colin Kaepernick, the former San Francisco quarterback who began kneeling during anthems in 2016 - a protest against oppression, he called it - in mind.

"I hope we made Kap proud," James said. "Hope we continue to make Kap proud." Even the game referees took a knee during the pregame scene.

"I think it's critical that all of us, in a unified way, turn attention to social justice," Snyder said during a televised in-game interview. "And all the players, all the coaches, are united in that fact and committed to do what we can do to effect long-term change."

Many players warmed up wearing shirts that said "Black Lives Matter." Thursday also marked the debut of new jerseys bearing messages that many players chose to have added, such as "Equality" and "Peace." The NBA season was suspended when Rudy Gobert - who also scored the first basket of the restarted season - of the Jazz tested positive for the coronavirus and became the first player in the league with such a diagnosis.

Gobert was diagnosed on March 11; two days later, Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was fatally shot when police officers burst into her Louisville, Kentucky apartment using a no-knock warrant

during a narcotics investigation. The warrant was in connection with a suspect who did not live there and no drugs were found.

Then on May 25, Floyd died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into the Black man's neck for nearly eight minutes. That happened on a street, with the images - and sounds of the man saying he couldn't breathe, then crying out for his mother - all captured on a cell phone video.

The anthems lasted just under two minutes. Some players brought towels with them to cushion their knees. And Rivers said his knee was aching midway through the song. "Yet there was a guy who had his knee on someone's neck for 8 minutes. Think about that. ... That's nuts when you think about it," Rivers said.

NBA players have used their platforms - both in the bubble and on social media - to demand equality, to demand justice for Taylor. Coaches have also said it is incumbent on them to demand change and educate themselves and others. And the pregame actions Thursday were just the start of what is expected to be a constant during the remainder of this season.

Other teams who will play their first games of the restart on Friday and Saturday are planning similar gestures.

"We want our lives to be valued as much as everybody else," Boston Celtics star Jayson Tatum said in a video that aired before the games, part of a project organized by both the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association.

"We don't think that we're better. We want to be seen as equals." Added Chris Paul, the Oklahoma City Thunder guard and president of the NBPA, speaking in the same video: "Things aren't going to change until we sort of make them change."

Gentry said he appreciated the accidental symmetry that came from the first games of the restarted season coming only hours after the funeral for U.S. Rep. John Lewis, who died July 17 at the age of 80.

Lewis spent most of his life championing civil rights and equality and was the youngest speaker at the 1963 March on Washington - the one where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Gentry said he believes this movement, like the one Lewis helped spark six decades ago, will endure. "If you talk to some of the younger generation, I think this is here to stay. I really do," Gentry said. "I have a 20-year-old son and a 22-year-old son, and I know that they feel like this is the most opportune time for us to try to have change in this country."

AP

## Kanye West's NJ ballot petition falls short, complaint says

TRENTON, N.J.

KANYE West's petition to appear on New Jersey's ballot as a presidential candidate fails to pass legal muster because signatures are incomplete, and in some cases appear written with very similar handwriting, according to a formal complaint filed with the state Wednesday.

Election law attorney Scott Salmon, a registered Democrat, filed the objection with the state Division of Elections after reviewing the more than 1,300 signatures the rapper had submitted.

New Jersey requires presidential candidates to get 800 signatures to appear on the ballot, but Salmon said in an interview that he counted more than 600 that were in some way defective.

"Mr. West's petitions do not contain the valid signatures of 800 qualified voters and should have been rejected by the Division," Salmon wrote in the complaint.

The petition shows that a number of signatures appear nearly identical, including lower-case 's' dotted with a small circle. Some signatures lack complete addresses.

West's spokesperson directed questions to what appeared to be a campaign email address. A message seeking comment was sent to that address. The Division of Elections did not respond to an emailed message seeking a response.

The status of the rapper and fashion designer's presidential campaign and whether he is truly seeking the White House remains a question. Kim Kardashian West last week asked for empathy for her husband and said he is bipolar.

Earlier this month in South Carolina, Kanye West delivered an unconventional campaign introduction speech during which he proposed a \$1 million payout to mothers and decried Harriet



Kanye West makes his first presidential campaign appearance, Sunday, July 19, 2020 in North Charleston, S.C. Rapper Kanye West, in his first event since declaring himself a presidential candidate, delivered a lengthy monologue Sunday touching on topics from abortion and religion to international trade and licensing deals. Whether he's actually seeking the nation's highest office remains a question. (AP)

Tubman for her work on the Underground Railroad. New Jersey law also allows for someone other than the candidate herself or himself to gather signatures. Those people are required to submit paperwork avowing they're who they say they are and the people whose signatures were collected are also who they say they are.

Those documents were not filed, according to Salmon's complaint.

Sometimes similar handwriting in some of the fields can be explained because the so-called circulator filled out the paperwork after the petition was signed, especially in cases where someone could be short on time, for instance, according to Salmon.

In five years as a New Jersey election law attorney there hasn't been an application with as many issues as West's, Salmon said. Salmon said he did not file the letter on

behalf of any Democratic organization and filed the complaint on his own behalf.

News of the complaint was first reported by Politico.

New Jersey is a reliably Democratic state in presidential elections, siding with the Democrat since 1988. AP

## Celtic quest for historic 10-in-a-row piles pressure on Rangers

LONDON

CELTIC launch their quest for a record 10th consecutive Scottish Premiership title this weekend, with Rangers manager Steven Gerrard under intense pressure to stop them.

Nearly five months after the coronavirus shut down Scottish football, the 2020/21 season starts on Saturday with the battle for supremacy in Glasgow as fierce as ever despite the empty stands.

Celtic and Rangers have each achieved nine titles in a row before, but neither Celtic's European Cup-winning side that won nine titles from 1965 to 1974, nor Rangers cast of stars that reigned from 1988 to 1997, could complete a full decade of dominance.

The current Celtic squad look well set to succeed where those two great sides fell short as the economic consequences of the pandemic have left little chance for others to catch up.

"Going for the 10, it's historic, it's momentous and very special," said Celtic manager Neil Lennon. "I know it's been on the tip of a lot of our supporters' tongues and we'll be going all out to do it."

Celtic have been quiet in the transfer market other than the £4.5 million (\$5.9 million) signing of Greek international goalkeeper Vasilis Barkas.

However, unlike recent seasons when Moussa Dembele, Stuart Armstrong and Kieran Tierney departed, they have so far kept hold of key players, despite admiring glances from some of Europe's heavyweight clubs for Ousmane Edouard and Kristoffer Ajer.

- Gerrard challenge -

For Rangers boss Gerrard, the time has come to prove he can achieve as a manager what he failed to do in his storied playing career at Liverpool - win a league title.

No Rangers manager has ever failed to win a trophy in his first two seasons in charge and been given the opportunity for a third.

Circumstances have given Gerrard that chance. Even the historically demanding Rangers support

acknowledged the gap the former England captain had to bridge when he took the job in May 2018.

Gerrard has made the blue side of Glasgow a respected force in Europe again at Europa League level and beaten Celtic home and away in one-off matches.

But when the COVID-19 pandemic ended the 2019/20 Scottish season, Rangers were 13 points adrift of their bitter rivals at the top of the table.

The squabbling that engulfed the Scottish game as Rangers sought an independent investigation into the vote that saw league tables decided on points-per-game highlighted the landmark staging post that is nine-in-a-row in Scotland.

Rangers have turned a loan deal for Ianis Hagi, son of Romanian great Gheorghe Hagi, into a permanent transfer and fleshed out their squad with the additions of goalkeeper Jon McLaughlin and defenders Calvin Bassey and Leon Balogun on free transfers.

But the club were already relying on investors to cover a loss of £11 million in Gerrard's first season before coronavirus closed stadiums.

"We need more," Gerrard said after completing an impressive pre-season unbeaten with notable victories over Lyon and Nice. "I have told the club that. I've been honest and open with what I feel we need."

"In terms of where we are at from a financial point of view, they are questions for other people - but I have made it quite clear that we need to add to what we've got."

"We need to add players into the 11 to make us stronger and then, naturally, that will make the squad stronger." To bolster Gerrard's squad in more than one area of the pitch, Rangers might have to cash in on Alfredo Morelos, with Lille interested in the Colombian striker.

Morelos has been Rangers' top scorer for the past three seasons, but his time in Glasgow has also been peppered with seven red cards.

Gerrard faces a difficult balancing act but it is one he must get right or Celtic will stand alone in the history books.

AFP

# FA Cup final gives Arteta chance to prove Arsenal are going places

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta insists even winning the FA Cup final against Chelsea on Saturday will not salvage Arsenal's season, but a trophy just eight months into his first managerial role will strengthen the impression the Gunners now have the right man in charge to right the ship.

Arteta won the FA Cup as captain when Arsenal ended a nine-year trophy drought in 2014.

Yet despite winning the competition twice more in the six years since, standards have continued to slip at the Emirates since Arsene Wenger's departure two years ago.

Despite an upturn since Arteta's appointment in December, eighth place in the Premier League was the Londoners worst league finish in 15 years.

"For me this club deserves the best and you have to be fighting for every title," said the Spaniard on the prospect of silverware and a place in the Europa League next season redeeming a miserable campaign.

"Obviously after everything that happened, if we are able to win the final and qualify for Europe, we can say it's okay. But it's not the level for this football club."

The Europa League may be the poor relation to the riches and prestige of the Champions League, but failure to qualify for European football at all for the first time since the 1995/96 season would be a further blow to Arsenal's already fragile finances.

Due to the lack of Champions League football, the Gunners posted a loss of £27 million (\$35 million) in the 2018/2019 campaign for the first time in 17 years.

That was despite generating nearly £40 million in TV and prize money from a run to the Europa League final and before the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic saw the club's playing and coaching staff agree a 12.5 percent pay cut.

Victories over Liverpool and former employers Manchester City in the space of four days earlier this month have given Arteta plenty of credit in the bank from the Arsenal support.

But questions remain over how much he can do to restore the club's former glories if he is not backed in the transfer market.

"The gap is enormous," said Arteta after beating Liverpool despite having just 33 percent possession and three shots to the Premier League champions' 24.

"You know how you build those squads, there is no magic."

"You need to improve with quality players and you need bigger squads to compete in this competition."

Before looking to recruit for a rebuild, Arsenal also have to convince their outstanding talent to stay put.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was just one goal behind Jamie Vardy in the battle for the Premier League Golden Boot despite playing in a struggling side and it was his two goals that saw off City in the semi-final to make it back to Wembley on Saturday.

The former Borussia Dortmund forward has just one year left on his contract and given Arsenal's financial predicament, it would make business sense



Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta could win his first trophy as a manager in Saturday's FA Cup final (AFP Photo)

to sell in the close season if Aubameyang cannot be convinced to extend his contract.

"It is our responsibility for make him feel this is the right next step in his career," said Arteta. "In order to do that he needs to feel valued, feel that he belongs to us and we want him and he needs to believe we can take this club forward the way we want to do. He is an extremely key player in that."

For one of Europe's top strikers, Aubameyang has precious few medals with only a French League Cup at St Etienne and one German Cup with Dortmund to his name.

In what could be his final game for the club, a trophy at Wembley could go a long way to convincing Aubameyang to buy into Arteta's project and Arsenal's American owners, Kroenke Sports and Entertainment, to do likewise in the transfer market in the coming months.

Meanwhile, Mikel Arteta believes Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's future at Arsenal could be influenced by the outcome of Saturday's FA Cup final against Chelsea as the Gunners try to convince the Gabon international to extend his contract.

Aubameyang, 31, has just one year left on

his deal at the Emirates and given Arsenal's financial predicament, it would make sense to sell in the close season if he cannot be convinced to prolong his contract.

Despite his strike rate as one of Europe's deadliest forwards over the past six years, Aubameyang has just two major trophies to his name with cup wins at St Etienne and Borussia Dortmund.

Arteta captained Arsenal to two FA Cup wins during his playing career and believes experiencing that success could convince Aubameyang to trust the club are going in the right direction.

"No, I don't have that feeling," said Arteta on Friday when asked if Saturday's clash could be Aubameyang's final game for the club.

"It's a package at the end. You need to have a lot of ingredients on the table to persuade a player of his level to be at this football club."

"Don't forget that he still has a contract here with us. We want to do it in a long-term, at the moment he's with us and he should be really proud of where he is."

"Winning a trophy helps to really believe and feel 'wow', I want more of these moments. If you are wearing the armband

and able to lift that cup, it is such a moment. This is going to help for sure."

Winning a trophy in his first season in management would also be a huge bonus for Arteta to prove he can restore Arsenal's former glories.

"It generates trust when you win titles," he added. "It generates moments when together you go through some good emotions."

"It brings everybody together, you have memories, there is a lot of things about winning a trophy that is so positive for any group and when you are in a process of (development) that makes it even more important, so we have a great opportunity tomorrow, let's go for it."

Beating their London rivals behind closed doors at Wembley would also ensure Arsenal do not miss out on European football next season for the first time since 1995/96 by qualifying for the Europa League.

"It's a final, the only focus is on winning that trophy tomorrow," said Arteta.

"Financially it would be really helpful and on the sporting side, to play European football for this club is a must."

AFP

## Liverpool throw-in coach now signs new contract

LONDON

Liverpool's throw-in coach Thomas Gronnemark has signed a contract extension with the Premier League champions.

Gronnemark, who started working with Jurgen Klopp's side in 2018, announced the news on his social media account on Thursday.

Gronnemark is one of the world's foremost throw-in specialists, having worked with Ajax, RB Leipzig, Gent and FC Midtjylland.

According to his website, his goal is to "reduce the loss of possession, score more goals and win matches with a throw-in."

When Klopp recruited Gronnemark on a freelance basis in 2018, he said at the time: "When I heard about Thomas, it was clear to me I wanted to meet him; when I met him, it was 100% clear I wanted to employ him."

(Agencies)

## Coach quits Brazil club over keeper's femicide conviction

SAO PAULO

THE coach of the women's team of Brazilian football club Rio Branco quit Thursday in protest at the men's team's decision to sign star goalkeeper Bruno, who was convicted in 2013 of murdering his girlfriend.

Bruno Fernandes das Dores de Souza - the player's full name - was one of Brazil's most promising young stars, but his career was cut short in 2010 when he was arrested on suspicion of murdering a former lover with whom he had a child.

Bruno, now 35, was convicted three years later.

Although he is currently out of prison pending his appeal, Rio Branco women's coach Rose Costa said his conviction should have made signing him taboo.

"My life story as a woman and a professional prevent me from remaining at Rio Branco," she wrote on

Instagram, announcing her resignation with immediate effect.

"I need to respect my own beliefs, including that we educate by example." Rio Branco, which is based in the northern state of Acre, plays in the Brazilian fourth division.

At the time of his arrest, Bruno was the starting goalkeeper for top-flight club Flamengo, and had racked up a series of impressive performances.

But his career was derailed by his court case. He was sentenced to 20 years and nine months for murdering Eliza Samudio, a 25-year-old model, and kidnapping their son.

He was released in 2017 pending appeal and signed with the club Boa Esporte, but was then re-arrested when the decision to free him was overturned in court.

Released again, he briefly played last year for third-division side Pocos de Caldas.

MILAN

LAZIO'S **Ciro Immobile** is set to join an exclusive club as the highest-scoring player in Europe this season.

In a decade dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the underrated Italian is near assured of winning the European Golden Shoe for the continent's top scorer.

From Messi, to Ronaldo, Mohamed Salah, Robert Lewandowski and Erling Braut Haaland, nobody in Europe has managed to keep pace with the Naples-born player.

Immobile overtook Bayern Munich striker Lewandowski with his 35th goal against Brescia midweek, and will close his campaign against Napoli on Saturday.

Juventus star Ronaldo, on 31 goals, is four behind before the Serie A champions' final game against Roma in Turin, in which he may not even play with the Champions League looming.

It would not be the first time that 30-year-old Immobile has topped the Serie A goal-scoring charts, having won the 'Capocannoniere' twice before in 2014 and 2018.

But he would become just the third Italian winner of the European Golden Shoe after Roma's Francesco Totti (26) in 2007 and Luca Toni for Fiorentina in 2006 (31).

Another two goals on Saturday would also see him surpass Gonzalo Higuain's Serie A record of 36 goals, set playing for Napoli in the 2015-16 season.

"I am only sorry that I cannot celebrate these numbers with the fans," said Immobile, nicknamed 'King Ciro' in the capital, but whose career before arriving in Rome had been erratic.

Success has not followed onto the national team, where he has scored ten goals in 39 games, taking the brunt of criticism after Italy failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Immobile started his career at Juventus, where he made just three appearances before a breakthrough loan season in 2011-2012 at Pescara where his 28 goals lifted the Serie B side into the top flight.

He couldn't follow up his form the following season with Genoa, but had more success with Torino where he scored 22 goals in 33 appearances to win his first Serie A top scorer award.

An 18 million euros (\$22 million) move to the Bun-



Lazio's Italian forward **Ciro Immobile** scored his 35th goal this season against Brescia. (AFP Photo)

desliga followed, but he scored just three times in 24 appearances for Borussia Dortmund, followed by an unsuccessful six-month spell at Sevilla.

- Lazio revival -

But scoring is something he has done with stunning regularity since joining Lazio

AFP

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko



# SPORT

FA Cup final gives Arteta chance to prove Arsenal are going places

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



GP Pak Stars Club's players discuss game tactics when the squad faced one of their opponents in the previous season's GP Gymkhana Shield cricket tournament, which was held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

## Women Combine tumble to Upanga Warriors in 2020 TCA Development League

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN Combine cricketers have started their campaign in the TCA Dar es Salaam Development League on a wrong foot, conceding a 231-run loss to Upanga Warriors in the city early this week.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized league, which has sides locking horns in 40-over encounters, has brought together six teams, with a view to, among others, promoting cricket in the country.

Upanga Warriors raced to 291 runs for six wickets in 40 overs after winning the toss and chose to start batting in what turned out to be a one-sided clash.

Abdullah Jabiri, batting at number four, surpassed a century mark to post 104 runs, whereas fellow top order batsman, Faraj Athumani, notched a half century to mercilessly punish the Women Combine bowlers.

Jabiri cracked 12 fours and a six in his spell, Athumani recorded 55 runs which included seven fours.

Aaditya Kailas Bhattbhatt was the other batsman in Upanga Warriors team, who had an impressive spell at the crease, posting 28 runs not out.

Upanga Warriors' skipper, Dhruvit Mehta, Ally Hafidh and Abdulrahman Akida chipped in with 19 runs, 18 runs not out and 15 runs respectively.

Experienced pacer, Mwanaidi Ibrahim, and youthful Nuru Omary were the Women Combine's bowlers with significant contribution.

Mwanaidi recorded three wickets and leaked 20 runs in eight overs, posting an economy rate of 2.50.

Nuru's spell saw the bowler take two wickets, leaking 35 runs in eight overs and an economy rate of 4.38. Nasra Hamza chipped in with one wicket, leaking 53 runs in eight overs.

Women Combine found the going tough in the chase given they were, in response, bowled out for 60 runs in 17.1 overs.

With the side, to a great extent, consisting of inexperienced batters, they could not keep their much more competent opponents at bay.

None of the Women Combine performers notched double digit score, facing dismissal in quick succession.

Mwanaidi and skipper Monica Pascal were the batters that managed a couple of overs at the crease, with the former notching seven runs whilst the latter recorded eight runs.

Promising batters, Kandida Laurent and Nasra Hamza, posted six runs not out and five runs respectively, with Nasra ultimately being run out by Emmanuel Laurent from Abubakar Selemani delivery.

Laksh Snehal and Akida took four wickets apiece for Upanga Warriors.

Kinondoni Development, Al Madrasa Boys, Upanga Warriors, Women Combine, Lions Academy and Ilala Boys are the teams participating in the league.

Women Combine, as noted by TCA information officer Atif Salim, feature in the tournament in an effort to gain experience.

Some of the side's players also feature for the national junior women cricket side, whereas the senior players play for the senior national women team.



Women Combine Club's Neema Justine bowls against Upanga Warriors in a TCA Dar es Salaam Development League clash, which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA



Arusha's Mbuni FC players take part in training in the city recently to shape up for the this season's Second Division League (SDL). PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBUNI FOOTBALL CLUB

## Trouble mars Arusha Football Association's general elections

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IT was supposed to be conducted next month, but the Arusha Regional Football Association (ARFA)'s general election seems to be hanging in limbo as authorities here demand official validity documents before the association could be allowed to proceed with the exercise.

That is according to Benson Maneno, the Deputy Registrar of Sports Clubs in the Arusha city prefecture who, through an official letter with serials UD/R.40/1/92, has requested the ARFA officials to produce relevant documents to back the authenticity of both the

association and election process.

"My office has requested ARFA officials to produce two types of valid documents, copies of authentic club constitution and a copy of registration certificate for the football association, as required by the law," Maneno stated.

The city Sports Official was of view that the National Sports Council (NSC) Act number 12 of 1967, demands that all clubs and sports associations in the country must be fully registered and operating under respective members' endorsed constitutions.

"It should be understood that we are not trying to stop ARFA's elections, I do not possess

such authority, it is only that my office demands the association to go about the process as per the country laws and regulations," Maneno said.

As it happens the Arusha City Sports Office has not received the official documents from the ARFA.

Maneno, however, said they have given the association officials up to Monday to produce both the certificate and constitution.

When contacted about the issue, the ARFA Secretary General, Zakayo Mjema, said it was too early to comment about the subject because they were preparing for the election.

"Plus we are not about to start exchanging words with govern-

ment officials, soon we shall meet to discuss the issue with sports officials," Mjema maintained.

The Election Committee of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) had announced the general election for the ARFA should be held on September 2 2020.

According to the TFF release, the leadership slots to be filled during the ARFA polls include the Chairman's post, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer, Annual General Meeting representatives and clubs' representative.

The election will also entail voting for members of the association's Executive Committee.

## GP Pak Stars out to end losing run in 2020 Nasser Memorial Cricket League

By Guardian Reporter

THE GP Pak Stars A cricketers will be out to bring their losing streak in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A to an end, when they confront Strikers A at the Gymkhana Club oval in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The GP Pak Stars A have suffered two successive losses in their past two outings in what has turned out to be a less impressive start to their quest for success in the competition.

They lost to Aces A by 116 runs in the first clash, played at the same venue on July 7.

They thereafter suffered a two-wicket loss to Gymkhana A at the same venue on July 19 to eventually hold the last spot in the division's standing with no point.

The two defeats have left GP Pak Stars A with a net run rate of -2.4177 after amassing 183 runs and leaking 303 runs.

Sunday's clash, therefore, is a must win match for GP Pak Stars A, should they wish to bring their campaign back on track.

The club's key players, Abdullah Jabir, Ayaz Mustafa, Zahid Abbas, Goodluck Andrew and skipper, Muzamil Hussain, have a daunting task of motivating the rest of the team to come out firing on all cylinders and post the much needed victory.

Abbas and Jabir were, as it was the case for some of their team mates, below par at the crease when GP Pak Stars A took on Aces A, failing to notch double digit figures.

The two all-rounders will thus be tasked with making up for their less impressive showing in the previous duel, when their side faces Strikers A.

Medium pacer Andrew and spinner Tambwe Rashid's talent can as well come in handy for the side, when it comes to keeping Strikers A's batsmen in check tomorrow.

Skipper Hussain, Nisar Ahmed and Abbas, further, have the potential to take the game away from Strikers A during the GP Pak Stars A's turn with the bat.

The GP Pak Stars, as described by some of the club's senior players, turn out to be newcomers in the longer format of cricket in domestic competitions.

They though, the senior players noted, are a team with a lot of passion and good competitiveness level that can ensure they excel in the top tier of the KNML.

Strikers A are, nevertheless, not expected to let GP Pak Stars A easily walk all over them, given the former will equally be seeking to improve their pursuit of successful spell.

Strikers A will be depending on such key players like Kishen Kamanika, Jatin Darji, Vikram Rathore and skipper Ashish Kamanika, who helped them stun Aga Khan SC A in the previous duel, to get the better of GP Pak Stars A tomorrow.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

