



National Pg 4 Zanzibar Diaspora law lined up



National Pg 5 NHIF to register 22,000 members in Mbeya



National Pg 6 Tanzania second largest grape producer



Dozens killed in eastern DR Congo's latest rebel attack

KINSHASA

AT LEAST 22 people have been killed by rebel fighters in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), officials have said, the latest in a series of deadly attacks in the region this month.

The attack by a unit of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) happened in the regional capital, Beni on Saturday night, Donat Kibwana, the region's administrator said.

"Teams have been mobilised to recover the bodies and bring them back for dignified funerals," Kibwana said.

The victims were farmers including 13 women, said Noella Katsongerwaki, Beni's civil society president.

The latest incident came a day after six civilians were killed in an attack in Beni.

Earlier this month, 26 people were killed in separate attacks, one in Mantumbi village and two others near Kamango town.

A local human rights organisation CEPADHO, said more than 150 people have been killed by rebels since October.

DRC forces launched operations against

Teams have been mobilised to recover the bodies and bring them back for dignified funerals

the armed group late October, with the ADF retaliating by carrying out killings of civilians.

Up to 160 rebel groups with more than 20,000 fighters are active in the eastern part of restive DRC, tied up with lawless harvesting of natural resources.

The ADF is originally from Uganda and it repeatedly carries out attacks around Beni, killing more than one thousand people in the two decades of its existence and in some cases it has attacked United Nations peacekeepers.

UN peacekeeping units watch over the vast territory but can do little to stabilise the country that has seen intermittent civil war for the past 20 years. The presence of a 15,000-strong UN peacekeeping force is barely felt.

In recent weeks, residents of Beni and other cities have demonstrated their dissatisfaction at government and UN protection, saying not enough was being done to prevent rebels attacks.

The poor security situation has also complicated efforts to combat an Ebola epidemic in the region, UN officials assert.

Aging mines: Ministry awaits site closure readiness layouts



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier (L), and Aga Khan Development Network director for health services Dr Gijs Walraven signing a grant MoU in Dar es Salaam. The funds will go into supporting the implementation of a comprehensive project designed as an evidence-based initiative meant to ease the cancer 'burden' in Tanzania. Photo: Romana Mallya

Prof Simon Msanjila, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals, said the forum is the first of its kind to take place since the establishment of the ministry, bringing together miners, government experts and environment management institutions for discussion and sharing experience on how to close the mines

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko has said only ten of the country's 200 big mining companies have submitted workable plan to close the mines.

As per the 2010 Mining Act and its 2017/18 amendments mining firms operating in the country are required to prepare and submit to the Commissioner for Mines a technical document on how to close the mines from the first day they start mining and not after they are about to finish their mining activities.

Opening a two-day forum organized by the Commission for Mines yesterday, the minister expressed dismay that big mining firms have failed to submit the documents.

"The number of companies submitting plans to close mines is small, only ten firms out of 200 legally required to do so on account of their operations," he said.

The document should clearly state how much the company will spend in restoring the environment and how it will fill up the pits, and should be cognizant of steps to be taken against them if they do not do so.

He said anywhere in the world mining activities has never been environment friendly if not strictly

The number of companies submitting plans to close mines is small, only ten firms out of 200 legally required to do so on account of their operations

supervised, as after the resources have been dug up, the site environment should revert to its original condition.

Biteko noted that President John Magufuli loathes situations whereby miners after digging up the minerals leave vast hollow pits that could pose grave danger for people residing near the mining sites.

Prof Simon Msanjila, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals, said the forum is the first of its kind to take place since the establishment of the ministry, bringing together miners, government experts and environment management institutions for discussion and sharing experience on how to close the mines.

Prof Idris Kikula, the commission chairman, said the forum had one big goal, in understanding every institution and every undertaking being done as well as incorporating the public and reaping the fruits of the presence of mines in their areas.

Mining companies need to reduce complaints from people living in mining areas by implementing local content directives, such as local provision of employment for security and

WMA checks quality of 700,000 water meters

By Guardian Reporter

AT LEAST 700,000 water meters have been tested for quality by the Weight and Measures Agency (WMA) in the last four years, to ensure value for money when users pay bills.

During the period, around 570,000 verified meters were approved for use while about 130,000 meters were not approved as they showed various defects.

WMA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ludovic Manège told a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the exercise was among initiatives by the fifth phase government to ensure that people get quality water but also that they are fairly billed.

During the period, around 570,000 verified meters were approved for use while about 130,000 meters were not approved as they showed various defects

The government has embarked on various projects to ensure supply of clean and potable water, including construction of deep water wells, he said.

The press conference was intended to highlight achievements attained by WMA in the four years of President John Magufuli, where he said the government gave the weights and measures agency 500m/- to purchase the water meter testing equipment.

"The government targeted ensuring quality water services and fair billing. With the water meter bench, consumers will now be paying exact bills," he said Dr Manège, noting further that during the period the agency issued 12.5bn/- to the Treasury as dividends.

The meter testing equipments have been distributed to regions across the country, he said.

During the period WMA also managed to construct the Misugusugu weighbridge specially

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TANAPA lines up artistes for year-end festivals tour

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS the year grinds to an end, the December holidays are taking shape with new tourism promotion being rolled out by the Tanzania National Parks in association with local artists with high online follow-ups.

Acting TANAPA Commissioner of Conservation, Witness Shoo stated here yesterday that the initiative moves in line with the 60th anniversary of the Serengeti, the country's first national park as well as boosting the newly gazetted parks, but the focus will be mostly on lesser known destinations.

"The Northern Circuit entailing the Serengeti,



Pascal Shelutete

Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Mount Kilimanjaro features household names that don't need any more introduction or promotion, so we are shifting weight to attractions in the Southern Circuit as well as the Lake Zone," she said.

TANAPA, with its head offices in Arusha, currently manages 22 national Parks across the country. The parks and other reserves are visited by around 1.4 million tourists per year with the majority being foreign visitors.

"We now want to cultivate the new culture of having local Tanzanians visit tourist attractions during holidays instead of investing in drinking binges or undertaking expensive holiday journeys abroad," the acting commissioner intoned.

Artists in the fold include singers, actors, former beauty queens and social media pundits who are going to make bankrolled holiday trips to national parks during Christmas and New

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TANAPA lines up artistes for year-end festivals tour

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Year. Among the artists include former Miss Tanzania 2018 Elizabeth Makune, rapper Mrisho Mpoti, former Miss Tanzania 2005 Nancy Sumari, actor and comedian Idris Sultan, singers Lulu Abbas (Diva) and Rubby as well as social media personality, Millard Ayo who could breathe new life into

localized wildlife-based tourism.

TANAPA's Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner, communications, Pascal Shelutete named the parks included in the promotional tour as Ruaha, Katavi, Mkomazi, Rubondo, Mikumi and the baboon paradise of Gombe along the Lake Tanganyika shoreline in Kigoma region.

WMA checks quality of 700,000 water meters

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to cater for fuel tankers, he stated.

The Misugusugu facility can weigh up to 60 lorries per day compared to the earlier weigh bridge in Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke districts, with the capacity to weigh only eight large trucks per day.

The weigh bridge has to a large extent helped to ease congestion among vehicles carrying oil to Zambia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On the agriculture sector, he said WMA has administered effective

measurements of strategic crops such as cashew nuts, cotton and coffee.

Dr Manega said the aim was to ensure that farmers are protected by ensuring that all weighing machines used by Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) are verified by WMA.

The amendment of the Weight and Measures Act along with the review and consolidation of weights and measures legislation was meant to control tampering with weighing devices, he added.

Rail project to link Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti park with Mt Meru in Arusha

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AN early proposal for an ambitious infrastructural project was targeted to link Tanzania's second highest peak, Mount Meru, with Serengeti National Park, via Ngorongoro Crater rim.

The project was also to connect the two famous tourist attractions with Lake Victoria at Speke bay, according to reports being unveiled ahead of the 60th Anniversary of Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area peaking on the 23rd December 2019 at Fort Ikoma.

The two parks were endorsed in 1959 two years before Tanganyika independence, whose anniversary was held last week. Ngorongoro is the only conservation area in east Africa which was then annexed from Serengeti reserve.

Vice President, Mama Samia Suluhu will be gracing the dual ceremony at Ikoma next Monday.

The Commissioner Conservator for Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Dr Allan Kijazi and the Deputy Conservator for Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Assangye Bangu said they have decided to hold joint ceremony due to the importance of the two parks.

Joining the two tourist destinations was also an idea behind the railway project which should have linked them with Mount Meru and Lake Victoria.

It was hatched during the first several attempts by 'white men' from overseas that had set out on inland voyages into Tanganyika, journeys that led the teams of explorers to as far as Ngorongoro and the Serengeti plains.

German explorer Oscar Baumann, working for the then colonial government, thought of the idea to link the slopes of Mount Meru in the area now known as Arusha, to Ngorongoro Crater walls using a railway line.

Later the same rail tracks were to be extended from Ngorongoro to the shores of Lake Victoria via Serengeti National Park.

The proposal behind the anticipated project was tabled and the German government is said to have approved it, but everything fell into pieces when allied forces defeated Hitler in World War II.

The Railway was meant to ease transport for foreign explorers who yearned to discover the inland precincts of the country as previous explorers had faced major problems in making it into highlands.

The first such excursion was through the 1889 Royal Geographical Society scholars' Expedition which was led by

one Joseph Thomson.

Entering from what is now known as Tanga Port, the expedition targeting to enter the then called 'Maasai Land,' trekked inland and only managed to reach the eastern border of northern Maasailand, near Mount Kilimanjaro, some 275 kilometres south-east of the Ngorongoro.

The expedition was forced to turn back after being threatened by Maasai warriors that had earlier on attacked a caravan led by another explorer, Dr Fischer.

Nine years later, another German (Austrian?), Oscar Baumann, attempted a similar venture, and thanks to protection by some German Soldiers he proceeded further West braving ferocious wildlife and less than conducive environment into the heart of Maasailand.

Going beyond the rift valley Baumann targeted Lake Victoria, and that was how he came across the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti plains.

Dr Baumann is recorded to be the first 'white man' to reach Serengeti plains in 1882. He reportedly used 23 days to cross the Serengeti and while at it, he documented 'first' sightings of Lakes Eyasi, Manyara, and Ndutu.

He managed to venture further because his team was guarded by German soldiers after he reported to be 'doing it for Europe!'

Maybe the toils of traversing the terrains in the Northern Tanganyika, without proper roads is what drove him to come up with the proposal, of linking the slopes of Mount Meru to the rim of Ngorongoro Crater with a railway line.

Baumann's proposal did not stop there, but suggested further that the rail network should also connect the crater with shores of Lake Victoria in Mwanza, or Nyanza, as known then.

Apparently the idea was then deemed right and even got tabled several times but now, a century later, the project is yet to take off. Even the proposal writings towards the projects have reportedly 'disappeared.'



Joining the two tourist destinations was also an idea behind the railway project which should have linked them with Mount Meru and Lake Victoria



Women from a herders' community in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region, who have benefited from start-up capital extended to them by UN Women attend business development training held at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

KENYAN'S farmers are grubbing up their coffee bushes to plant other crops as low prices and climate change drive small growers to the brink of collapse.

Arabica coffee, the higher-quality variety that Kenya grows, ends up in speciality beverages from Berlin to San Francisco. The plant thrives in moderate temperatures and high altitudes. But rising temperatures are scorching plants, making them susceptible to diseases such as coffee leaf rust.

Farmer Shadrack Wambua Mutisia has been growing coffee up a winding hill southeast of the Kenyan capital for 40 years but he's replaced most of his bushes with banana, macadamia and avocado trees.

"Now we see diseases that we never saw before," said Mutisia, 67, his dark brown eyes tinged with the blue of old age.

Average Kenyan temperatures have risen by 0.3 degrees per decade since 1985, according to USAID. More erratic

Kenya coffee crop nosedives due to high temperatures, low prices

rainfall is reducing quality and yields.

In the 1960s, Kenya averaged one storm day - more than 50 millimetres in 24 hours - per year, said Joseph Kimemia, vice chairman of the African Fine Coffees Association board. In 2017, there were five storm days. That damages fragile roots and throws off the ripening cycle.

"Every year it gets hotter," he said.

Kenya produces only 0.5 percent of global coffee but plays an outside role in the high-quality market, as "the 'champagne' region for coffee", said Matthew Harrison, buyer at speciality coffee sourcing company Trabocca.

"The diminishing volume is very concerning for the speciality coffee world," he said.

Kenya's coffee production is tumbling - the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts the 2019/20 harvest will hit a

57-year low.

Anecdotal evidence shows the number of coffee farmers falling, but there's no national statistics because there hasn't been a coffee census in two decades, said the national coffee directorate.

In Mutisia's home county of Machakos, more than three quarters of the 200,000 farmers active in the 1980s have given up, said county cooperative union head Martin Muliya. Machakos is Kenya's tenth largest coffee producing county.

Global coffee prices plunged to 2005 lows of 86 cents per pound this year, far below the cost of production in most of the world, especially Kenya, where beans are hand-picked. Prices have recovered to \$1.18 per pound - but there's still a glut.

Largely mechanised mega-

producers such as Brazil and Vietnam have grabbed more than half the global market from small-scale speciality producers, U.S. Department of Agriculture data shows.

Cameroonian production is the lowest on record. The El Salvador harvest has fallen by half over a decade, while Ecuador's output has fallen even more steeply.

Low prices mean farmers won't invest in planting shade trees, disease-resistant seeds, or new irrigation.

Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi could soon stop growing coffee altogether, said Charles Agwanda, commodities coordinator at the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International.

"Then it will be a crisis for everyone, including the consumers," said Agwanda.



Dorothy Mwaluko, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Investment), makes remarks at a national forum on disaster management held in Dodoma yesterday. Left is Major Selastine Masalamando, Director of the National Centre for Operations and Emergency Communication in the Prime Minister's Office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Aging mines: Ministry awaits site closure readiness layouts

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other areas, not assigning foreigners such tasks, he said.

Prof Shukrani Manya, the commission's chief executive officer, said the forum on environment protection and on how to effectively close the mines was a step ahead since

stakeholders have charted ways to protect the environment when the mines close.

Simoni Shayo, the Geita Gold Mines (GGM) vice president said

researchers and miners are ready to work together with the government to ensure the environment is protected even after the mines are closed.

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Sewa Road, which traverses Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni Light Industrial Area and has for years been so 'forgotten' as to become notoriously potholed, is now undergoing rehabilitation in earnest. Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole captured this scene yesterday, but it was not immediately established as to who was behind the idea.

Initiative to see rise in number of cancer cases handled at hospitals

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE newly launched 38bn/- Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project will see more cancer patients seeking treatment at hospitals as services including prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment will be provided at the grassroots level.

Under the project, which is to be implemented in 13 districts, Tanzanians residing in rural areas will have access to cancer screening, awareness campaigns and treatment at their localities.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndungulile made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday where the government, Aga Khan Health Service (AKHS) and the French Development Agency (AFD) signed an agreement for implementation of the project under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

Dr Ndungulile said the four years project aims to strengthen and expanding the quality access and capacity of cancer care services through an innovative PPP initiative. The project is co-financed by French Development Agency—29bn and Aga Khan Foundation providing 9bn/-.

"This project will increase the

number of cancer patient who reach hospitals to 10 percent from the current number of 10 percent", said the Health Deputy Minister adding it will be implemented in 13 districts, five in Dar es Salaam and eight in Mwanza city.

He was optimistic that after the implementation period, at least 60 percent of Tanzanians will be reached by cancer awareness campaigns following increased ecology services from prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment to survivorship especial to rural population.

Dr Ndungulile added: "Currently, 75 per cent of cancer patients reach hospital at critical stage; we expect the number to drop to 50 percent by the end of the project".

The project will also include capacity building to health personnel and community social and health workers at all partner institutions and participating community.

Addressing delegates, the project leader, Dr Harrison Chuwa said the comprehensive cancer project is evidence based initiative designed to reduce the burden of cancer morbidity and mortality in two targeted regions of Dar es Salaam and Mwanza.

Dr Chuwa explained: "This will be achieved through a strategy that focuses on the enhanced

performance and expanded outreach of the Tanzanian based implementing partners including AKHS, ORCI, Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) and the government with the technical support from Institute Curie from France.

Dr Chuwa who is also a Consultant Oncologist at the Aga Khan Hospital added: "The development of partnership between government and private institutions is to contribute to the creation of a strong, integrated cancer care network in targeted region".

"The AKHST and partners are well equipped to enhance quality care provision and to address the challenges of cancer in the country", Dr. Chuwa said.

Country director of the French Development Agency (FDA) Stéphanie Mouen explained that the project will have strong social and financial commitment that have been agreed with the implementing agencies on creating greater access to the vulnerable population.

Speaking at the event the French Ambassador to Tanzania Frederic Clavier said French and Aga Khan have joined to make such historical agreement in order to give new support in the health sector in Tanzania due to the fact that cancer is a big challenge in the country.

By Guardian Reporter

Mineral trading centre launched in Handeni

DEPUTY Minister for Minerals Stanslaus Nyongo yesterday launched minerals market centre in Handeni district, Tanga region, opening doors for small-scale miners to improve their businesses and incomes.

Speaking shortly after the launch, the deputy minister said that with the launch of the market, traders will no longer travel long distances searching for customers.

According to him, the new mineral market would consist of various mineral experts who would be responsible for providing education to miners and traders as well as providing important

information concerning mining market in the country.

"The purpose of building this market is to make it to help miners to get their right by benefiting from what they are doing" Nyongo told miners in Handeni district.

He said that the market was set not only for the district's residents but for also traders and buyers from across the region and the country

Nyongo further instructed the contractor (Suma JKT) to complete the construction of the market within

this month including the installation of furniture for the market to officially commence operation.

For his part the Suma JKT Manager in northern zone, Lieutenant Colonel Daud Zengo the project cost 1.8bn/- and has reached 95per cent of construction.

Col. Zengo cited poor road infrastructures as among the major challenge which has been thwarting the smooth implementation of the project.

He however vowed to complete the project before end of this month.

For his part, chairman of miners in

Tanga region thanked the government for bringing the market closer to them because previously was spending a lot of time looking for market.

In March this year, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed regional commissioners in all regions blessed with minerals to open up minerals trading centres to enable the sector benefit all people.

Speaking during the launch of the Geita Gold Market in March, PM Majaliwa said "All mineral-producing regions should set up these trading

centres as soon as possible to serve small miners."

The Premier said the Geita centre would serve as a model for others adding that all the centres to be built were aimed at controlling smuggling of gold and other minerals.

Reports cites Tanzania as the Africa's fourth-biggest gold producer after South Africa, Ghana and Mali and gold exports are a key source of foreign exchange.

It exported gold worth \$1.549 billion last year, up slightly from \$1.541 billion in 2017, central bank data shows. The mining sector contributes around 4.8 percent to Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the government.

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- o Familiarity with popular CMSs, including WordPress and Joomla!
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- o Knowledge in computer operating systems, specifically Windows, Linux and macOS;
- o Knowledge in hardware including PCs, laptops, network routers, printers etc.;
- o Practical skills in configuring and managing VLANs, routers and switches;
- o Knowledge in designing a Windows Active Directory, creating users, groups and shared folders, managing active directory, maintenance, troubleshooting and disaster recovery; and
- o Practical skills in software and application installation, maintenance and updates.

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OR through Email recruitment@uongozi.or.tz, with subject line "MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS OFFICER". Deadline for receiving applications: 8th January, 2020.

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Diaspora law to be in place before May 2020 - Dr Shein

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has assured Zanzibaris in Diaspora that the government will ensure the Zanzibar Diaspora law is in place before May 2020.

Dr Shein said this on Sunday in Zanzibar when officially opening the 6th Diaspora Forum organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation in collaboration with the Zanzibar President Office.

He said the aim of the forum is to continue cooperation arrangements with people from Diaspora and investors as development partners under the slogan "mtu kwao ndio ngao" "A person's country of origin is his shield".

He said: "Last year I explained about plans to establish diaspora offices in Zanzibar in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation."

"In recognition of the importance of Tanzanians living in foreign countries, the government of Tanzania established a special department to deal with issues of diaspora in the foreign affairs ministry in 2010 so as to incorporate with our people in diaspora in the country's development."

He said out of this importance they established a Department for Diaspora in Zanzibar and prepared a special policy for it and now a draft on the law for the diaspora has reached a positive stage.

Dr Shein said he instructed the Zanzibar Minister of State in the President Office

Issa Haji Ussi Gavu to ensure the draft for the law is submitted at the cabinet meeting before May 2020, and promised that before he completes his tenure of office the law will be ready.

Earlier, the chairman of people in diaspora Norman Jasson said the process on the diaspora policy has taken a very long time and there has been silence for almost three years and asked President Shein to help them by taking control of the issue.

He said people in diaspora are confident the policy will simplify the enactment of the law that will recognise all Tanzanians living in foreign countries unmindful whether they have taken citizenship in other countries.

Jasson further said the basis of people in diaspora is their being Tanzanians and their readiness to push along their country's development.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) George Simbachawene said the policy on diaspora for Tanzania Mainland was the first draft which has already been completed and the next thing is to incorporate people in the diaspora through our diplomatic missions abroad for them to give their views.

Among others the 6th Diaspora Forum has discussed seven issues including importation of plastic waste, Tanzania and Investment, Diaspora and investment, Low Cost Housing Project, Modern Agriculture, Amendment to Zanzibar Tourism System and the Zanzibar-Mainland Bridge Project.



Tanzania Networking Gender Programme (TGNP) chairperson Asseny Muro speaks at a workshop held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The focus was on ways to boost the participation of women during the countdown to the General Election lined up for late next year - and beyond. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter, Kilimanjaro

The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has said Tanzania has made tremendous developments in promotion of social rights, good governance, nutrition, health, infrastructure and education.

This was said by CHRAGG chairman Judge (rt) Mathew Mwaimu when opening a national dialogue on human rights, culture and society which was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Commission praises Tanzania for enhancing promotion of social rights, good governance

Judge (rt) Mwaimu said the forum was aimed at discussing economic development that Tanzania has attained since independence.

He said Tanzania has made various achievements in the education sector through its free education policy which has increased the student's enrollment.

He said despite the development, the issue now is how to increase the construction of classrooms, desks and school infrastructure which are in bad form.

He said during the forum, various stakeholders including those from the health sector explained the

achievements that have been attained by the government especially construction of health centres at village and ward level as well as improvement of other social services.

"On the health sector, the government has done a lot to ensure the rights to health. These include establishment

of health insurance packages and increased health budget from 31bn/- in 2015 to 270bn/- in 2018/19 financial year," he said.

Earlier, when opening the seminar, Constitution and Legal Affairs Minister Dr Augustine Mahiga said the government is committed towards

improving people's lives.

He added that the government will continue to implement various programmes aimed at bringing development to local and remote areas.

According to him, the government is working on national development plan which is aimed at building an industrial economy.

The Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.

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Filbert Mponzi, NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, addresses Tanzania Association of Tour Operators members at a dinner held in Arusha city at the weekend. The bank has for long supported the country's tourism industry with various customised products and services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NHIF set to register 22,000 members in Mbeya Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) in Mbeya region plans to register 22,000 new members through the first phase of health insurance bundles

This was said over the weekend by Mbeya NHIF manager, Mbala Shitindi during a meeting of the funds senior officials and journalists that aimed to educate the people on their plans.

He said groups to be involved include adults, children and college students and stressed they will continue to educate the wananchi on the importance of the insurance fund.

Shitindi said they will ensure all wananchi in the region are mobilised, including those in villages, and added that up to now they have already reached all 6,000 tobacco farmers in Chunya district and also plan to register 11 students and 500 children during this first phase.

He stressed that they will eventually reach all farmers' groups of strategic crops including coffee and tea farmers in Rungwe district as well as 'bodaboda' drivers, and added that they will work together with various stakeholders including journalists in mobilising people to join NHIF.

Earlier the NHIF director general, Bernard Konga said up to now eight per cent of all Tanzanians have already joined NHIF through the bundles system beginning last September saying that is a positive step.

He said before adopting the system NHIF made research to satisfy itself that it would be more beneficial than the old system which saw some unrelated groups joining thereby complicating problems for NHIF.

He stressed that it was important for every mwananchi to have health insurance and ensure they contribute to simplify health service provision to them when they get ill.

"Contributions to the Fund do not match with treatment costs, there are treatments like those for heart, kidney dialysis and cancer entail great costs which an ordinary mwananchi without insurance cannot afford," Konga said.

Meanwhile, a total of 9,883 elders have been identified in Chunya district, Mbeya region to be provided with ID cards to get free medical services at hospitals and health centers.

Chunya district community development officer, Theresia Mwendapole told this paper the plan is part of implementation of various health projects within the district.

She said out of these elders, 100 have started using them for medical treatment from health centres and various government hospitals for free.

She also stressed that there should be a separate windows at all government hospitals and health centres to cater for the elders.

She said elders are an important group in the society as many of them had contributed immensely in the country's development before they became old.

By Guardian Reporter

Unesco to launch national campaign on early and unintended pregnancy

UNESCO in collaboration with the office of Kisarawe District Commissioner in the Coast Region and the Tanzania Interfaith Partnership are today expected to launch a national campaign on early and unintended pregnancy.

The main objective of the campaign is to engage relevant stakeholders and motivate policy responses, social and behavioural changes that will contribute to reducing and ultimately eliminating early and unintended pregnancy among adolescents in the country.

The launch slated for Kisarawe, will go hand in hand with a high-level religious dialogue on early and unintended pregnancy to create awareness on the need to come with strategies to address its contributing factors.

The campaign comes at a time where early and unintended pregnancy is a major public health issue in Tanzania with the 2018 BEST Report indicating

that over 4800 girls failed to continue with their studies due to pregnancies.

For many adolescent girls, sex, marriage, and pregnancy are not voluntary or consensual, and many lack access to information to make informed decisions. In Tanzania, 12 per cent of young women between 15 - 24 years have sex before they reach 15 years of age - (Tanzania

Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey - TDHSMIS 2015/16) Pregnancies among girls less than 18 years of age have irreparable consequences. Aside from the well-documented health risks for adolescent mothers, they may lose the chance to continue their education, may be forced to work at an early age, or endure greater levels of socio-

economic deprivation.

The session is expected to bring together 200 people ranging from representatives from Coast region, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) and PO-RALG, religious leaders, community leaders, teachers,

parents, media practitioners as well as students and young people from within and outside of the district.

At the end of the launch, there will be a communique from religious leaders meant to reiterate their commitment to support the campaign.

The session is conducted by UNESCO's programme on HIV and Health Education which aims to engage relevant stakeholders and motivate policy responses, social and behavior change that contribute to reducing and ultimately eliminating early and unintended pregnancy among adolescents in the country. The programme is funded by SIDA.

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NBC Ltd director of business Elvis Ndunguru (C) chats with managing director Theobald Sabi (L) at a year-end social event the bank hosted in Dar es Salaam last week for its customers. Looking on is Chelsea Starway Group chairman Martin Mbwana. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Indian surgeons due to hold screening camp in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

SURGEONS from India are expected in the country next week where they will conduct screening camp to patients with spine related problems.

According to the statement from Regency Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam where the two days camp will be held, the specialists will also screen various spinal cord problems requiring

surgical intervention.

Some spine related problems to be checked by surgeons from India Spine Clinic include neck pain, spine pain and sciatica problems.

According to the statement, the camp is part of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme implemented by the hospital in collaboration with the government. The screening camps conducted locally, helps to save

monies spent to seek similar medical treatment abroad. The screening has been organised by Regency Medical Centre in collaboration with Lions Club of Dar es Salaam.

The statement said experts will do consultation on neck pain, back pain spinal surgical procedures, spinal cord problems and during this camp, experts will select patients for major and minor spinal; surgical procedures

which will be carried out at Regency Medical Centre.

"This spinal screening and spinal surgical procedure camp will take place from 19th to 20th December at Regency hospital. This is a golden opportunity for fellow Tanzanians to use this opportunity of getting treatment including surgical procedures at door steps of Regency Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam," the statement said.

Tanzania is rated the second largest SSA's producer of grapes, says TARI

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE production of 86 types of grape seeds by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute Makutupora (TARI-Makutupora) in Dodoma has resulted in the country being ranked second top producer of grapes in sub Saharan Africa.

Speaking in a special interview with this paper, TARI-Makutupora Director, Dr Corlen Massawe said the modern ant-pests seeds have been tried by farmers in various areas and showed promising results.

Massawe noted that some farmers have already started planting the modern seeds.

According to Dr Massawe, Dodoma Region is the country's biggest producer of grapes cultivated in the districts of Bahi and Chamwino and Dodoma city. He said the institute has also distributed the seeds to farmers in other regions.

He said grapes production is fast growing - from 10,000 tonnes in 2016 to 15,000 tonnes in 2018, an average increase of 48 percent.

Dr Massawe said due to increasing grapes production in Dodoma Region some farmers have established small extraction plants, others are making wine and hard drinks.

The TARI-Makutupora Coordinator of Technology and Communications, Vidah Mahava said in the plan to develop grapes production in various areas of Dodoma region, they have been educating farmers including secondary and university students on the new technology of grapes seeds.

She said in collaboration with the Office of Dodoma Regional Commissioner they have mobilised farmers to start small extraction factories as well as assuring them of ready markets both locally and outside the country.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said the aim of the institute is to develop and produce seeds for every crop grown in the country and already there are 18 centres that have been commissioned to produce seeds by using modern technology for better crop yields.

He said TARI has mobilised itself to ensure it implements President John Magufuli's directives to produce seeds using modern technology so as to stop depending on foreign seeds that now stands at 70 percent.



He said grapes production is fast growing - from 10,000 tonnes in 2016 to 15,000 tonnes in 2018, an average increase of 48 percent

Newly built health centre to improve health services in Kwediboma ward

By Correspondent George Sembony, Kilindi

THOUSANDS of villagers in Kwediboma ward, Kilindi District, in Tanga Region have all reasons to smile as they will now start accessing quality health services following major improvements done at health centre in the area.

The improvement includes installation of modern medical equipment which will among others simplify service provision at the centre.

The equipment was donated by a Japanese non-governmental organisation, Azora, in response to a request made by the World Vision Tanzania (WVT) which has contributed to the construction of the new health facility.

Speaking at the handover of the medical equipment worth 135m/- for the newly constructed Kwediboma Health Centre, Tanga Regional Administrative Officer (RAS), Zena Said, asked Tanzanians to assess themselves how much they can contribute towards the improvement of the health sector.

She commended Azora, World Vision and the Kwediboma community for the construction of the health centre.

Zena pointed out that Tanzanians were living in a century where everybody need to get better health services that is why the government and stakeholders invest much of their efforts in improving healthcare services.

Speaking at the event, Dr Hada said the support was like "a dream coming true" for him because improving people's health has always been a passion for him.

"I took this profession to save lives of needy people in Africa," he said

According to him, "Inadequate health services are a major obstacle to the socio-economic development and have a negative health impact in the

population, so the improvement of the health centre is going to boost social-economic activities."

Narrating why he helped the villagers of Kwediboma, he said last year he met a girl who was crying because she lost her mother. 'I also met a three-year-old boy who also lost her mother through a preventable disease...this pained me a lot,' Dr. Hada said.

"I did not come to be thanked. I am here to make sure everybody does not lose their loved ones through preventable diseases," Dr Hada, who mobilised the funds from 6,000 Japanese to buy the medical equipment for the new health centre, said as he received some traditional gifts from villagers, including traditional clothes and items.

The health centre is the second to be built in the district. The government injected 300/- million to support people's efforts while the World Vision contributed 209m/-, including costs of preliminary assessment, training for pediatric nurses, construction of the one building and installation of power to the centre.

For her part, Madam Dickson, the Project Manager for the Eastern Cluster of the World Vision Tanzania said earlier Kwediboma's residents either travelled 65 kilometres to the Songe Health centre or 60 kilometres to Handeni Hospital in Handeni district for health services.

The other nearest health facility is 15 kilometres away at Mgera dispensary or 8 kilometres at Bakang'a village. The Health Centre would serve over three wards in the district, including Mgera.

Kwediboma Ward Councilor, Mwijuma Hatibu Senpule said that Kwediboma residents were getting health services from a health centre owned by the Roman Catholic Church, whose services she described as expensive for the locals to afford.



Prof James Mdoe (R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, presents a certificate to a St. Joseph University In Tanzania graduate at a ceremony held at the university's Mbezi-Luguruni campus in suburban Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Looking on (C) is SJUIT council president Dr Thomson Ananth. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Reinforce health services, boost prevention of disease outbreaks, medical officers told

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

REGIONAL and district medical officers in the country have been urged to supervise public health in their areas by ensuring that they mobilise efforts and support the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases in the communities.

The director of Prevention Services at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, elderly and Children, Dr Leonard Subi made the

call yesterday here when speaking during the medical officers meeting.

The medical officers are meeting for a three-day working session to discuss the implementation of the resolutions made by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the first general conference last year.

"This is a very important meeting for medical officers, because you are the major supervisors of health activities at community level. So you have a role to play to ensure that our communities are safe from diseases," he said.

According to him, the meeting will among other things discuss issues on environmental health, climate change and community health at large. The participants will also share the performance of regional and district health and progress of project activities.

"It's my hope that, you will use this meeting to learn and share experience on how to improve services in your communities...use this platform also to come up with recommendations to advise the government in social

welfare," Dr Subi added.

He further added that the officials have a role of strengthening surveillance in border areas to protect outbreaks from outside the country.

The meeting is today set to be opened officially by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and children Ummu Mwalimu.

The meeting theme is "Quality health services, environment and sanitation; essential catalyst for sustainable economy."

Another International Milestone for NMB Bank as it becomes an ACCA Approved Employer

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank, the most profitable financial institution in Tanzania, has received the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) global certification as an ACCA approved Employer that will improve its visibility internationally.

The ACCA Approved Employer programme recognizes and rewards employers' quality staff training and development. It looks to ensure that the highest standards for the professional development of ACCA students and members are met within organizations around the world.

With the award, NMB Bank which is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) implies that the bank has a global standard of staff training and development. During an interview with the Guardian, **NMB's Senior Manager, Internal Audit, Gaudence Nganyagwa and NMB's Senior Internal Auditor, Sulemani Manyiwa** who are also ACCA members gave detailed explanations on the NMB certification.

Q1. Please tell us what is the ACCA programme all about?

ACCA is the global body for professional accountants, offering business-relevant, first-choice qualifications to people of application, ability and ambition around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.

ACCA is the world's most forward-thinking professional accountancy body with 527,000 students and 219,000 qualified members in 179 countries.

ACCA works through a network of 110 offices and centres and 7,571 Approved Employers worldwide and 328 approved learning providers who provide high standards of learning and development.

ACCA develops innovative and strategic thinking finance leaders into the world's best qualified and highly sought after. Their mission is to be a global leader in shaping and strengthening the accounting profession across the world.

ACCA creates a standard benchmark for the accounting profession across the globe.

Q2. NMB Bank has just received the ACCA Approved Employer-Professional Development Certification. What does this imply for the bank's continued professional development?

This implies that the NMB Bank has global standard of staff training and development. The robust training and development activities help ACCA members and other professionals to automatically meet their annual practical experience requirements.



Gaudence Nganyagwa
Senior Manager, Internal Audit



Sulemani Manyiwa
Senior Internal Auditor

The bank is now a partner with ACCA as from 26th September 2019. There are only 13 partners in Tanzania, most of which are international professional firms. This means that both the bank and ACCA will continue to ensure that staff are developed to the highest standards possible.

It signifies that the bank provides a conducive working environment designed to support ACCA members and trainers.

ACCA has introduced major innovations to its flagship qualification to ensure its members and future members continue to be the most valued, up to date and sought-after accountancy professionals globally. This recognition truly compliments the commitment and efforts which NMB bank has invested in supporting the career and professional development of its employees.

Q3. Why now? What made NMB Bank seek the approval of the ACCA approved employer?

At NMB Bank we value staff development. For many years, the bank has been investing significantly in training and developing staff to provide quality output.

Therefore, we are glad that ACCA has appreciated our commitment through this recognition. We believe that as leaders in the financial services industry, we have to inspire other institutions to invest in people skills.

Q4. What does it mean for NMB, to receive this ACCA Approved Employer Award? Being valid until 2022, what benefits will the bank reap during this period?

Being an ACCA approved employer improves the bank's visibility internationally. It is easier for NMB Bank to recruit and retain the best talents in the market. NMB Bank can now advertise internationally on ACCA career job boards and have access to virtual career fairs. This will also open doors even for Tanzanians living abroad/foreigners who wish to develop their careers with a committed employer in Tanzania. We can use the ACCA Approved employer logo on our website and during our hiring proceedings.

Our surveys and questionnaires will now be accommodated by ACCA to add professional insights to the future of the industry. We will also be frequently updated with the industry trends and research findings from ACCA. We can also conduct Joint researches and Joint events with ACCA, which will improve the brand image of the bank.

Staff who are ACCA affiliates and members will have guaranteed support needed to qualify or stay qualified by meeting their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and on the job training.

The bank will also get express service from the ACCA Tanzania office with regards to any query and stay updated through the ACCA approved employer newsletter. The bank will be able to support staff to access various training opportunities from ACCA at discounted prices.

After 2022, the bank will be eligible for re-admission to ACCA Approved Employer programme subject to its continued effort in providing professional development opportunities for its employees.

Q5. What sets NMB Bank apart from the rest in terms of the professional development of its staff?

Our commitment to building our staff professional capacity is thrilling. Our prestigious NMB academy, comprehensive education bursary schemes, modern e-learning system and e-library services, our domestic and international attachment program, our graduate management trainee program, effective learning and development policy, alongside the constant specialists trainings in and outside the country are the evidence that we are very dedicated.

Q6. How does NMB Bank as one of the leading financial institutions in the country ensure its staff are prepared to face the numerous challenges at their workplace and empowered towards professional development?

Firstly, at the start of the year, all staff set their performance targets and identify skills needed to achieve them, these are incorporated in the training budget for the year. To monitor this, all staff are appraised twice each year where arising development needs are identified and addressed.

Secondly, we have our competent human resources specialist team that has been reviewing and improving our learning and development policies regularly to ensure that appropriate professional development opportunities are created. Our human resource team also conducts adequate research to identify relevant soft and technical training needed to improve staff working conditions.

Also, the bank has recognized how digitalization of banking processes improves the staff working environment, strengthen controls and overall efficiency. This is why the bank has invested significantly on digitalization.

All these efforts ensure our employees are well equipped with skills and required competencies to tackle arising challenges at the workplace.

Q7. What are the criteria for an organisation to get ACCA certification?

To be accredited, an entity should have a documented learning and development policy that explains the company's approach and appetite to the personal and professional development of its employees.

Secondly, there should be a formal employee development plan that allows opportunities for staff to identify relevant development needs. The plan should also show how the organisation supports staff to achieve their professional development requirements by stating the available training and development programs. The entity needs to demonstrate a list of in house or outsourced development opportunities available to employees and should have clear procedures for employees to access those opportunities.

The organization also need to demonstrate how professional development opportunities are communicated to employees and provide evidence of budget allocation or spending for development opportunities.

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TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Sustainable mountain development is well worth extending support to

CLIMATE change, increasing natural disasters, food and energy crises, population growth, water scarcity and desertification, loss of biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems, migration, and growth of cities - the planet is currently facing a multitude of challenges. Mountain regions and their inhabitants are disproportionately affected, but also offer significant opportunities for solutions.

By providing key environmental services such as freshwater, biodiversity conservation and hydropower to more than half of humanity, mountain ecosystems play a critical role in world development. Mountain systems are essential building blocks for long-term sustainable global development, poverty alleviation and the transition to a green economy. In a world heading towards water, food and energy crisis, sustainable mountain development is a global priority.

Mountains cover approximately one-quarter of the world's surface and are home to 12 percent of the human population. Mountains are also high-risk environments; avalanches, landslides, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and glacial lake outburst floods threaten life in mountain regions and surrounding areas, while fragile soils and vegetation cover make mountain areas vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Mountains play an important role in influencing global and regional climates and weather conditions. By intercepting the global circulation of air, they have a decisive effect on wind, precipitation and temperature patterns. Mountain people have developed sophisticated techniques for farming, livestock breeding, forestry and water use that are adapted to life on steep slopes and in harsh, unpredictable conditions. In many mountain areas resources are limited. Mountain dwellers make the most of them by, for example,

growing sun-loving plants on the warmest slopes and moving livestock to graze on high summer pastures after the snow has melted. Diversified and well-adapted traditional land-use systems protect the soil from erosion, conserve water and maintain a rich biodiversity.

Mountain people are among the world's poorest and most disadvantaged. Harsh climatic and environmental conditions, remoteness and often difficult access hamper development in mountain regions. Mountain people frequently face political, social and economic marginalization and lack access to such basic services as health and education. Mountain communities live far from the centres of commerce and power, so they have little influence on the policies and decisions that affect their lives, and their voices often go unheard. Current global challenges such as climate change, economic developments and population growth exacerbate the hardships they face. Urbanization and migration processes have a significant impact on mountain environments and societies.

December 11, "International Mountain Day", was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The General Assembly "encouraged the international community to organise events at all levels on that day to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development."

International Mountain Day is "observed every year with a different theme relevant to sustainable mountain development. FAO is the U.N. organisation mandated to lead observance of International Mountain Day.

The theme for International Mountain Day 2010 was "Mountain minorities and indigenous peoples." It aims to raise awareness about indigenous peoples and minorities who live in mountain environments and the relevance of their cultural heritage, traditions and customs."

Global action a must as we mark Day of Solidarity with Migrants

HUMAN migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily at a new location (geographic region). The movement is often over long distances and from one country to another, but internal migration is also possible; indeed, this is the dominant form globally. People may migrate as individuals, in family units or in large groups. There are four major forms of migration: invasion, conquest, colonization and immigration.

A person who moves from their home due to forced displacement (such as a natural disaster or civil disturbance) may be described as a displaced person or, if remaining in the home country, an internally displaced person. A person who is seeking refuge in another country can, if the reason for leaving the home country is political, religious, or another form of persecution, make a formal application to that country where refuge is sought and is then usually described as an asylum seeker. If this application is successful this person's legal status becomes that of a refugee.

Immigration is the international movement of people to a destination country of which they are not natives or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle or reside there, especially as permanent residents or naturalised citizens, or to take up employment as a migrant worker or temporarily as a foreign worker.

As for economic effects, research suggests that migration is beneficial both to the receiving and sending countries. Research, with few exceptions, finds that immigration on average has positive economic effects on the native population, but is mixed as to whether low-skilled immigration adversely affects low-skilled natives. Studies show that the elimination of barriers to migration would have profound effects on world GDP, with estimates

of gains ranging between 67 and 147 percent. Development economists argue that reducing barriers to labor mobility between developing countries and developed countries would be one of the most efficient tools of poverty reduction.

International Migrants Day is observed on 18 December in accordance with Resolution 55/93 of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted on 4 December 2000.

On 18 December 1990, the General Assembly had adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

This day is observed in many countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations through the dissemination of information on human rights and fundamental political freedoms of migrants, and through sharing of experiences and the design of actions to ensure the protection of migrants. As of 2016, International Migrants Day is hardly getting recognized due to the amount of racism that has happened.

In 1997, Filipino and other Asian migrant organizations began celebrating and promoting 18 December as the International Day of Solidarity with Migrants. This date was chosen because it was on 18 December 1990 that the UN adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Building on this initiative, 18 December with support from Migrant Rights International and the Steering Committee for the Global Campaign for Ratification of the International Convention on Migrants' Rights and many other organizations - began late 1999 campaigning online for the official UN designation of an International Migrant's Day, which was finally proclaimed on 4 December 2000.

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Autocrats, fifth columnists, and cracked walls

By Uddin Ifeanyi

... Far more important is the threat posed by the dysfunctional nature of President Muhammadu Buhari administration. And this is where those who would pillory the PUNCH newspapers need pause for breath. For the threat in this case is not so much from the administration. But from the ease with which fifth columnists may, like lizards before yawning walls, leverage the cracks in the administration.

Despite the intense debates that have recently taken place around the notion, Nigeria is nothing like the dystopia so frightfully depicted by George Orwell in his book, 1984! Indeed, if anything, some who yearn for a better Nigeria might be willing to trade in some of the incompetence that has become the trademark of our governments for some of "Big Brother's" efficiency. Our biggest let as an economy, today, is the slipshod way the country is run. Incompetence across major spheres of our lives is the biggest threat to lives and property, here.

Even, then, poorly-run government and all, Nigeria is not Enver Halil Hoxha's Albania, either. And despite appearances to the contrary, our variant of the Sigurimi hasn't started showing up in the dead of the night at dissidents' residences. After which these disappear never to be heard from again. Nor have we started incarcerating those who differ from us in labour camps, where thousands are put to the gun for the flimsiest of excuses. We are not even close to modern-day Thailand, where the offence of lèse-majesté, the capricious manner in which it is defined, and heavy-handed punishments of which make nonsense of that country's claim to being a democracy.

Thus, those who took umbrage at the recent characterisation by the PUNCH newspapers of the Buhari government as a threat to the commonwealth's claim to be a democracy do have a point. We were always a practice democracy. A work-in-progress, as it were. A pragmatic, longer-term view of the desirable economic, social, and political outcomes for this space was always going to be one that saw us gain on the straights, far more than we lose at the bends.

... the many shortcomings of the Buhari administration could then be understood as simply that. Errors. But only up to a point. For when the state security services err, they do so, as in the invasion of the court to effect Omoyele Sowore's re-arrest...

Therefore, the many shortcomings of the Buhari administration could then be understood as simply that. Errors. But only up to a point. For when the state security services err, they do so, as in the invasion of the court to effect



Omoyele Sowore's re-arrest, not in the extent in which they infringe rights. But in the way they do so. Heavy-handed. Minatory.

Designed to frighten all as behold such episodes. And in those aspects of our lived experiences, where rights have been completely unfurled, it is this that matters most. Not that the state could arrest anybody that it took a fancy to. But that it would do so with force so excessive as to dissuade others from the behaviour that the state takes exception to. And when the state is whimsical in those things that gets its dander up, misery of a totally different flavour than that accompanying economic mismanagement ensues.

This prospect worried George Orwell. And the resultant progress of a government brought into power on the euphoria of hopes of radical change, from the promise of El Dorado to the darkest pits of Hades he chronicles so well in the allegorical Animal Farm. Alas, the same concerns weigh on the minds of the PUNCH newspapers, today.

Those who lived through the flowery hopes of the Great October Revolution in the Soviet Union, only to have it morph into the dictatorship of Joseph Stalin would have appreciated both points of view.

Up to a point, the First Lady has alerted the nation to the presence of different "rebel" columns in government. All the PUNCH newspapers has done is indicate the cracks in the walls of our democracy through which we may admit these weaknesses.

Unfortunately, not many of those who took exception to the PUNCH newspapers' editorial have a working recollection of the old Soviet threat. For non-sympathisers of that worldview, consensus is that at this juncture in our country's development, it is not so much that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty". Although it is. Or that "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary

Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety".

Both these clichéd aphorisms matter. But far more important is the threat posed by the dysfunctional nature of the Buhari administration. And this is where those who would pillory the PUNCH newspapers need pause for breath. For the threat in this case is not so much from the administration. But from the ease with which fifth columnists may, like lizards before yawning walls, leverage the cracks in the administration.

Up to a point, the First Lady has alerted the nation to the presence of different "rebel" columns in government. All the PUNCH newspapers has done is indicate the cracks in the walls of our democracy through which we may admit these weaknesses.

We do well to pay attention!

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, commonly referred to as Nigeria is a federal republic in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the southeast, and Benin in the west. Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The federation comprises 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja is located. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country.

Nigeria has been home to a number of ancient and indigenous kingdoms and states over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and took its present territorial shape with the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914.

The British set up administrative and legal structures while practising indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960. It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It thereafter alternated between democratically elected

civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2011 presidential election considered the first to be reasonably free and fair.

Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy. With 186 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has the third-largest youth population in the world, after India and China, with more than 90 million of its population under age 18.

The country is viewed as a multinational state as it is inhabited by 250 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 250 different languages and are identified with a wide variety of cultures. The official language is English. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern part of the country, and Muslims, who live mostly in the north. A minority of the population practice religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to the Igbo and Yoruba ethnicities.

As of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. The 2013 debt-to-GDP ratio was 11 percent. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; it has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power. However, it currently has a "low" Human Development Index, ranking 152nd in the world. Nigeria is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe's next "BRIC-like" economies.

Student 'lawmakers' help in boosting rights and GBV awareness among Mafia residents

By Beatrice Philemon

The students' Parliament is the best platform where a student can be heard in accordance with his or her needs, students can express their opinions about education and human rights issues and explore actions to help realise human rights in their community.

Kilindoni Primary School is among 10 schools in Mafia District of coast Region that has benefited from Student Parliaments that was set up by ActionAid Tanzania in 10 schools through Local Rights Programme (LRP) which is being executed by ActionAid Tanzania in Mafia.

Kilindoni Primary School, head teacher, Steven Mlobi said this recently while briefing ActionAid Tanzania staff and journalists who visited the school to speak with pupils and teachers on how the student's parliament has helped pupils to understand their rights and improve academic performance.

Student Parliaments was established in schools to help students discuss violence issues affecting them in school, at home and give children the chance to learn about their rights.

"As school management, we are very glad for what we have achieved in our school because through the student's parliament, right now 98 percent of parents and guardians are attending school meetings to discuss various issues relating to their children's education, school's development and make follow-up on academic performance for their children contrary to the situation before," he noted.

Also, it has brought positive results in terms of academic performance and parents are now fighting for their children to help them get best education, something that wasn't there before.

Before ActionAid Tanzania has started engaging with the school and pupils undertaking advocacy dialogue for raising awareness on children's education rights and gender-based violence against girls and boys and the effect it has for children, it was very difficult for



ActionAid Tanzania - Mafia, Project Coordinator, Samwel Mesiaak congratulates pupils at Kilindoni Primary School for changing community's behaviour to support education's development and understand their rights. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

parents and guardians to attend school meetings.

"Among 470 parents, we normally had 25, 50 or 70 parents attending school meetings, that is very few," he says.

ActionAid intervention has eased their work, things have changed and members of the community have developed an appreciation for the role the school administration and the School Parliament members played in helping students identify actions to improve human rights within the community and children as well," he said.

Elaborating on academic performance at Kilindoni Primary School, he said so far their academic performance for pupils has improved, pupils are aware on their rights, they know how to report the main challenges they have at school and their homes and how to find alternative solutions, something that wasn't there before.

Right now school parliament members can sit together with teachers to discuss various issues relating to their learning experiences as well as write what they need and submit it to the Head teacher for more action.

Also, parliament members have come up with new comprehensive strategy to educate their peers to value education because right now there are some pupils who don't like going to school and reassure them that education is the most powerful weapon for their future.

Furthermore, pupils can stand in front of their peers or parents through different forums, meet-

ings and create awareness on gender-based violence against girls, boys and the effect it has for children, they have a confidence to express themselves, they can defend and claim their education right and get it.

"The Parliament is an eye-opener for us, he says lauding ActionAid Tanzania for their support that in turn has helped the school to obtain best academic results for 2019, 2018 and 2017 academic years and change community's behaviour of undermining education," he noted.

Right now more parents in Mafia are aware of what is violence and the effect it has for children. The number of girls who drops out of school in Mafia has declined because parents have begun to send their daughters to school and Mafia district has witnessed the large decline in early marriages and teenage pregnancies.

Also, the parliament has enabled pupils to report violence issues that affect them at home and school to police or use 'Suggestion Box' located at school grounds to submit their ideas or the challenges they have for more action.

Highlighting on the academic results for pupils, he said the rate of pupils who were selected to join secondary schools has increased.

He said in 2019 a total of 52 students sat for Standard Seven National Examinations and among them, a total of 52 pupils that is equivalent to 100 percent were selected to join secondary schools, he said noting that among those 25 pupils are boys and the remained 27 are girls.

While in 2018, 54 students sat for standard seven national examinations and among them, 53 pupils that is equivalent to 98 percent were selected to join secondary schools, he said among those 27 pupils were boys and 26 were girls.

In 2017, a total of 52 students sat for Standard Seven National Examinations, among them a total of 51 pupils that is equivalent to 98 percent were selected to join secondary schools and among those 21 pupils were boys and 30 were girls.

While in 2016, 50 students sat for standard seven national examinations and 37 students that is equal to 74 percent were selected to join secondary schools. He said among those 18 pupils were girls and 19 were boys.

In 2015, a total of 42 students sat for Standard Seven National Examinations and a total of 41 students, equivalent to 98 percent were selected to join secondary schools, he said among those 23 pupils were boys and 18 were girls.

While in 2014, 55 students sat for standard seven national examinations and among them 50 students that is equal to 91 percent were selected to join secondary school, among those 22 pupils were boys and 28 were girls.

Elaborating on Standard Seven National Examination results, he said in 2019 the

school ranked No. 5 among 34 primary schools that sat for Standard Seven national examinations at the district level, at the regional level the school ranked No. 27 among 269 primary schools while at the national level it ranked No.1078 among 9929 primary schools.

In 2018 academic year, the school ranked No. 1 among 34 primary schools at the district level, at the regional level the school ranked No. 11 among 251 primary schools that sat for Standard Seven national examinations and at the national level the school ranked No.849 among 10090 primary schools.

In 2017 the school ranked No.3 among 34 primary schools at the district level, at the regional level the school ranked No. 16 among 239 primary schools and at the national level, the school ranked No. 1042 among 6736 primary schools that sat for Standard Seven national examinations.

Kilindoni Primary School officially started in 1967, so far the school has 478 students and among those, 242 are boys while the remained 236 are girls.

So far the school has 14 classrooms that accommodate 478 pupils, 8 pit latrines for pupils, four teachers houses which are very dilapidated, 155 desks, 13 teachers - six being male and the remained 7 females.

According to him, currently they still need two teachers for Science and English subjects, four pit latrines for pupils, 15 teacher's houses, 70 desks and Kiswahili and Mathematics books for Standard Three and others.

"We need more books because the books that we received from the government are very few compared with the number of students that we have in our school while majority of pupils sit on the floor due to lack of enough desks at the school," he noted.

For her part, a 12-year-old pupil, Sada Khatibu of Kilindoni Primary School lauded ActionAid Tanzania for their support because the parliament has helped the pupils to know their rights and has helped girls to stay in school, contrary to how the situa-

tion was before.

She said the parliament has helped pupils to develop their talents, allowed pupils to work as a team, accept the opinions of others, solve problems and find alternative solutions.

"In our school parliament, we've learnt about children's rights - like children's rights to participate, children's right to get an education, children's rights to be able to be heard," she noted.

ActionAid Tanzania has brought positive results to pupils because now they can sit together and discuss different things relating to education, gender based violence against children and how to put in good use the suggestion box where they can write about issues that they feel need further actions.

Also, the student's parliament has helped the pupils a lot because after attending sessions they come into the village and the community where they teach other children about the things that they've learned, like issues of violence.

She said they educate the community that children have special rights that need to be recognised and protected, that includes, the right to be cared for if he/she do not live with their parents, the right to be cared for by your parents, the right to share your ideas and be listened to, the right to special help if you need it and the right to be treated fairly by everyone.

"I'm very proud of what I have gained because my academic performance has improved, I now know what is violence, the effect it has on children, I'm more vocal and very confident to express my opinion to my peers and the school management as well, thanks to ActionAid Tanzania," she said.

Furthermore, they got the opportunity to make learning visits to other schools and this has increased their confidence to express their concerns and needs to the school management, parents and expands their knowledge on their rights.

Prior to ActionAid engagements with the school, pupils were not aware on their rights and it was very

difficult for them to speak and deliver any messages to the community or the school management.

Also it was very difficult to report cases relating to gender based violence against girls and boys, ask questions to their parents and demand their rights.

For his part, ActionAid Tanzania - Mafia, Project Coordinator, Samwel Mesiaak added that before they started to create awareness to communities on stopping violence against girls in school, girls were married before they turned 18 years which was very bad for their life and education as well.

Also dropout was very high in secondary schools, early marriage, family separation causing children especially girls to suffer neglect and lack of basic needs and prevalence of rape by stepfathers.

Early marriages and domestic labour created very serious limitations on girls' capacity to enjoy their rights to education in Mafia because parents have been forcing girls to fail in their studies so they can be married off once they finish their primary education while boys have been forced to engage in domestic labour such as fishing activities.

Right now girl's school attendance has greatly increased from 99.3 percent in 2015, 99.8 percent in 2016, 99.8 percent in 2017 to 99.9 percent in 2018.

"This indicate that parents are now aware of gender based violence against girls and conscious of educating girls which is the result of the knowledge they received through community sensitization done by pupils, SAWAMA, ActionAid Mafia and other stakeholders," he noted.

According to him, in 2018 the average school attendance has improved to 92.7 percent compared to 85.86 in 2016.

While incidence of violence against girls were numerous at 0.2 percent leading to dropout, early and unintended pregnancy, the interventions have recent statistics showing more incidences of violence reported than before.

BYTSION TADESSE ABEBE AND SOLOMON HASSEN TEGEGNE

The Global Refugee Forum: African experience is key

Finding lasting solutions to Africa's refugee crisis is a priority. The key challenge is to find holistic solutions for refugees and host communities that go beyond their immediate needs, and help reduce their future risk and vulnerability.

One way to encourage these kinds of solutions is through sharing lessons learnt and building bridges between affected countries, particularly those piloting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Seven of the 15 CRRF pilot countries are in Africa. Their experiences are likely to feature prominently at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), which will kick off tomorrow, 17 December.

The forum will bring on board non-traditional refugee actors such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the private sector. This will serve as a critical platform to mobilise tangible support to Africa's refugee-hosting countries

which are themselves struggling to provide for their own populations.

International responsibility is a key element of the Global Compact on Refugees. The CRRF serves as the compact's implementation framework. The expectation is that the developed world will come up with a support package that could fundamentally change the way refugees and host communities are treated.

A lot is also expected from participating African countries such as Ethiopia, which is both a co-convenor of the forum (together with Costa Rica, Germany, Pakistan and Turkey) and a CRRF pilot country.

To meet these expectations, African countries need to go to the forum with feasible project proposals tailored to changing the current refugee protection model by emphasising areas such as education, livelihoods and self-reliance. Africa hosts 25.2 million of the



The forum provides Africa's refugee-hosting countries with a critical platform to mobilise long-term support. File photo

world's 70.8 million displaced populations, and international support to Africa should reflect this.

The Global Compact on Refugees and its CRRF aspire to facilitate a comprehensive refugee response, creating the link between humanitarian aid and development aspirations. Their success, however, depends on clearly defining how the development-humanitarian nexus

works.

African and other CRRF pilot countries' experiences shared during the Global Refugee Forum will serve as a lesson as to how the link is working, and what needs to improve to sharpen its implementation.

In this respect, three points should be focused on: clarity on the allocation and implementation of humanitarian aid versus development funding and long-

term commitment, more attention to the facilitation of socio-economic opportunities for refugee host communities, and the need to build the institutional capacities of refugee-hosting countries.

First, the current allocation of humanitarian versus developmental funding needs to be clarified. There seems to be confusion around whether the development funding provided to

the CRRF pilot countries is additional or part of existing humanitarian funding. This lack of clarity blurs the line between humanitarian aid and development support, which makes quantifying deliverables and clarifying accountability of the different stakeholders difficult.

Related to this, there is a need to address the short-term nature of funding by most donors, which often lasts only two to three years. This makes long-term planning difficult. A good model for this could be the Swiss government's 10-year strategy for the Durable Solutions Initiative in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development region, which other donors could learn from.

Second, the implementation of the CRRF's humanitarian-development link should practically facilitate socio-economic opportunities to host communities. Key to the value of the CRRF is its recognition of the developmental needs of host

communities. This makes more sense in the context that a substantial number of citizens of the CRRF pilot countries need humanitarian aid.

Currently, according to the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs, it's estimated that over 30 million people require humanitarian aid in the seven CRRF pilot countries.

Host community members' access to basic and social services is central. The CRRF's current emphasis is on facilitating access to existing public and refugee schools and health facilities. However the amount of funding allocated to building additional facilities and for training personnel is unclear.

The focus should be on building facilities that are long-lasting as demonstrated by the experience in Malawi. At the end of 1980s, Malawi hosted 1.1 million Mozambican refugees. Malawi integrated the refugees through for example building additional schools and medical centres.

ABUJA

Recently, Madhukar Pai, the Director of McGill University Global Health Program wrote about the inequity in global health research. He observed that researches are skewed in favor of the global north. We agree that this inequity exists. However, we also have found that global fellowships such as the Atlantic Fellowship, of which we are both Senior Fellows, are platforms to reverse this inequity, foster international partnerships and amplify voices of development practitioners from the global south.

Shubha Nagesh is a medical doctor by training and thereafter specialised in Global Health from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden as an Erasmus Mundus Fellow. She presently works with children with developmental disabilities in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas.

Ifeanyi Nsofor is a Nigerian medical doctor and a graduate of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He is a Senior New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute and 2006 Ford Foundation International Fellow. Ifeanyi is a leading advocate for universal health coverage in Nigeria.

The world must realise that fostering a global village requires that different geographical locations do not attempt to solve problems alone. There must be a sense of community in all efforts to improve health.

The Atlantic fellowship is funded by the Atlantic Institute and connects

Four lessons to reverse inequity in the global health workforce



An eight-month-old boy is examined by a doctor in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. File photo

the seven Atlantic fellows programmes spread across six countries. The goal of the Atlantic Institute is to advance fairer, healthier societies. Fellows have diverse backgrounds and are united by their commitment to a more inclusive world.

As Senior Fellows of the Atlantic Fellowship for Health Equity at George Washington University, both authors have benefitted from an enriching fellowship year. This experience has led to convenings in the U.S., Rwanda and other locations

and have been great learning opportunities to understand the local health systems and the benefits of international collaborations.

The mid-year convening at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, allowed both authors to witness firsthand the partnership between the government of Rwanda and Partners in Health, which has led to significant improvements in mental health through the Mario Pagenel Fellowship in Global Mental Health Delivery.

In previous opinion pieces, Shubha wrote about her Rwanda experience and Ifeanyi did the same.

From our combined experiences of benefiting Erasmus Mundus Fellowship, Ford Foundation International Fellowship, Aspen New Voices Fellowship and Atlantic Fellowship, there are four lessons that the global health community can learn to gradually reverse the inequity in global health workforce.

First, talent is universal, but opportunities are not. Opportu-

nities for development experts from the global south are limited, especially those that demand leadership positions. Fellowships help create platforms for development experts from different countries to interact, get to know each other and learn about the capacities that every one brings to the table.

For instance, the 2019 Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity at George Washington University comprises of 18 Fellows from 7 countries -

Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, US, Philippines, India and Iraq. Over a period of one year, the Fellows exchanged ideas and supported each in pushing for health equity in their different countries.

Second, prioritise women in global health workforce appointments because women face more inequities than men. Out of the 18 Fellows mentioned above, 15 are females. This was intentional on the part of the organizers in order to ensure that the gap between men and women will gradually be reduced. While women form the bulk of the health workforce, key decision makers in the health sector are usually men. The recent appointment of Winnie Byanyima as the Executive Director of UNAIDS, after serving a successful 6-year tenure as the Executive Director of Oxfam, should be replicated across more global health agencies.

Third, Fellowships can amplify global south voices on the global stage. This is the core aim of the Aspen Institute's New Voices Fellowship. It has trained more than 100 senior fellows from many countries from the global south.

These fellows have written more than 1,000 opinion pieces published on different platforms and have been interviewed on radio, TV and other platforms sharing their

ideas. Ifeanyi is a Senior New Voices Fellow and has within the past 2 years written and published 33 opinion pieces on platforms such as Devex, The Hill, Scientific American, Biomed Central, All Africa, Inter Press News Service etc.

Therefore, this opinion piece is another case of amplifying voices of Indian and Nigerian development experts on the global stage.

Fourth, collaborations are for life and reduce inequities. The agenda of most fellowships is to nurture collaboration and not competition. Collaboration beats competition, every single time. Mentorships created within the boundaries of Fellowships can be transformed to collaborations that could prove beneficial for a long time.

The world must realise that fostering a global village requires that different geographical locations do not attempt to solve problems alone. There must be a sense of community in all efforts to improve health. This African proverb captures our thoughts succinctly: "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

To be sure, Fellowships will not stamp out the global health workforce inequity overnight. However, fellowship should be used as platforms to systematically work to reverse the inequities articulated by Madhukar Pai.

As Senior Fellows for health equity at the Atlantic Institute, we will collaboratively continue to advance fairer, healthier and more inclusive societies.

Agencies

VIENNA

At a time when the world is battling unprecedented drought, bushfires, rising sea levels and water shortages, reducing energy use across industry is one powerful way to fight climate change in the immediate term.

However, historic slow-downs in energy efficiency progress persist. As we conclude another Conference of Parties (COP25) on climate change, and move into a new decade with unprecedented environmental challenges, governments have to put industrial energy efficiency back on the agenda before it is too late.

I have worked in the energy sector for nearly 25 years. During this time, I have witnessed some incredible advances. Yet, now, when we should be doing everything in our power to reduce the unnecessary use of fossil fuels, we are instead witnessing a slowing of progress on energy efficiency, with the International Energy Agency reporting last month that progress on energy efficiency had declined to its slowest rate since this decade began.

Among the many reasons for this "historic slow-down" is a lack of national government commitment for the cause, which is seriously hampering wide-scale change.

Prioritising industrial energy efficiency is one way that governments can simultaneously ease pressure on the economy, enhance energy security and the environment in the here and now. It's what we at UNIDO refer to as the "invisible solution".

A large-scale shift toward more energy efficient practices in industry would enable companies to massively reduce their power bills.

Industrial energy efficiency is a climate solution



Staff from MCI Santé Animale, one of the 18 companies that have participated in energy management training organised by UNIDO's Industrial Energy Accelerator in partnership with the Moroccan government, at work, as the country moves to reduce its reliance on fossil fuel imports. File photo.

In economic terms, industrial energy efficiency can increase productivity, lower manufacturing costs, and create more jobs.

When it comes to the environment, the widespread adoption of energy efficiency measures could reduce industrial energy use by over 25%. This potential is a significant reduction of 8% in the global energy use and 12.4% reduction in global CO2 emissions.

With this in mind, here are five practical steps governments can take to harness industrial energy efficiency against climate change:

1. Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, at least for those industries which are large enough to afford it. Analysis

commissioned by the IMF this year found that if fossil fuels had been priced appropriately, global carbon emissions would be reduced by 28 per cent and governments revenues would increase 3.8 per cent of GDP. Developed economies and nations such as those in the United States and European Union should be leading by example on this issue.

Meanwhile, in major emerging economies like Argentina, Indonesia, South Africa, Turkey and Russia fossil fuel subsidies have historically kept the cost of energy artificially low.

As a result, there has never really been a major concern for industries to make changes. When industries don't fully understand the

potential of energy efficiency, and energy costs are bearable, it's a lot easier for them to become complacent.

One just has to look to Morocco for inspiration. In 2014 the North African nation ended subsidies of gasoline and fuel oil and begun to cut diesel subsidies as part of its drive to repair public finances.

Fast forward to today and Morocco is considered one of the most progressive countries when it comes to its national energy commitments and efforts to prioritise industrial energy efficiency.

2. Breaking down barriers to finance. In developing economies in particular, investors' lack of awareness of the commercial benefits

of best practices in energy efficiency is preventing much needed investment. In countries like Brazil, 'high-risk' perceptions surrounding energy efficiency projects mean that interest rates are often impossibly high for companies eager to invest in industrial energy efficiency advancements.

The public sector must pinpoint the best ways to design and implement energy efficiency policies to effectively mobilise finance and investment. Co-funded blended finance schemes, tax breaks, financial sector training and project bundling are just some of the many ways governments can help to simultaneously incentivise and de-risk investments into industrial energy efficiency.

3. Supporting SMEs. Often in emerging economies, small-to-medium sized enterprises make up the majority of the industrial sector. However, many of these small businesses lack the formal qualifications and the collateral needed to access finance and adhere to newly introduced industrial energy efficiency regulations.

In Mexico for example, where small-to-medium sized enterprises form the backbone of the national economy, the government is working to introduce a labour competencies standard for internal energy auditors that responds specifically to the needs of SMEs.

4. Making the invisible, visible. Despite offering so many win-win benefits, industrial energy efficiency is often referred to as an invisible solution. Energy efficiency interventions require changing behaviours and they are often technical.

Retrofitting the insulation level of pipes or replacing an old inefficient boiler is not as appealing as investing into multimillion-dollar renewable energy projects panels or as noticeable as saving forests.

However, government leaders can help change this by working with industry to advocate and discuss the potential of implementing industrial energy efficiency measures to consumers and other stakeholders. To facilitate and amplify this conversation, UNIDO recently launched a dedicated Industrial Energy Accelerator website and LinkedIn community.

5. Joining forces. We cannot solve this challenge country-by-country, we

must work together under a coordinated and ambitious multilateral framework. At the end of the day we are calling on competitive multinational companies to overhaul their production processes, incentivise their global supply chains and invest in long-term sustainability measures.

In order to enable this, countries must create a level playing field for businesses to operate within by aligning national incentives and energy pricing systems.

Government is absolutely critical to the energy efficiency transition. Even with the willpower of the private sector, without coordinated government incentives, such as support for SMEs, advocacy and effective policy, industrial energy efficiency will be impossible to achieve on a large scale.

As we conclude another COP and move into a new decade with unprecedented environmental, social and economic challenges, on behalf of UNIDO and the Industrial Energy Accelerator, I urge all governments worldwide to put industrial energy efficiency back on the agenda. We have the knowhow, we have the technology, now is the time for leadership and effective policy to help us implement the solutions.

UNIDO's Industrial Energy Accelerator works on the ground to rally government, business and finance around solutions for industrial energy efficiency. Next year the programme will enter phase two of project implementation in the Accelerator's first five partner countries, and we will begin work in new countries including Palestine, Sri Lanka, India, Ukraine and Ghana.

IPS

Goodbye Ethiopia, Hello Makeni and Segbwema

By Sulaiman Momodu

I am writing this piece on board Ethiopian Airlines, the flag carrier of Ethiopia, which has become one of the continent's leading carriers, unrivalled in Africa for efficiency and operational success. It is a Boeing aircraft and we are cruising at several hundreds of miles above sea level.

My destination? Sierra Leone via the Ivorian capital Abidjan, where the love of learning French took me and my family a few years ago with a deliberate idea to have at least two international languages spoken at home.

The very helpful air hostesses are doing all they could to make passengers comfortable and to make the flight a pleasant one. I have just received some snacks and a cold can of ginger ale as breakfast as I look forward to lunchtime and to the routine question of - chicken, beef or fish?

About a year ago, I was elated to end my reporting assignment in Geneva and return to Africa. Working for the UN in Switzerland was a pleasant experience and brought memories of Segbwema and Makeni, two towns in Sierra Leone that have played significant roles in my life's journey and are priority places I would definitely love to revisit and explore a bit more.

I have been privileged to work in Ethiopia on two occasions in recent times. The first time, it was in the region near South Sudan during which I witnessed firsthand

the sad but familiar scenes of people fleeing carnage. The battle to restore peace and sanity to Africa's newest independent nation continues.

Starting my primary education in Kailahun District, Segbwema probably commenced shaping my thoughts and views about life itself and about the political struggles in the country, and by extension in Africa.

As a pupil of the Roman Catholic Primary School, I have vivid recollections of the hardships that people were contending with at the time, how cockroaches would starve to death in some homes, how salaries were few and far between, and when paid, the wages of some people could not even feed a grasshopper.

Amid political intrigues, I was one day caned by a teacher for merely singing. In class? Of course not! It was lunchtime and yours truly was sitting under a tree with a friend waiting for the bell to return to class when suddenly a certain song came to our lips and we were enjoying the fresh air - singing happily - when trouble struck. "Why are you singing that song?" a teacher thundered at us as we wondered what our offence was. I still remember the lyrics of that song even today. But did we deserve some strokes of the cane for singing a song that we ignorantly had no clue whether it was politically correct or not?

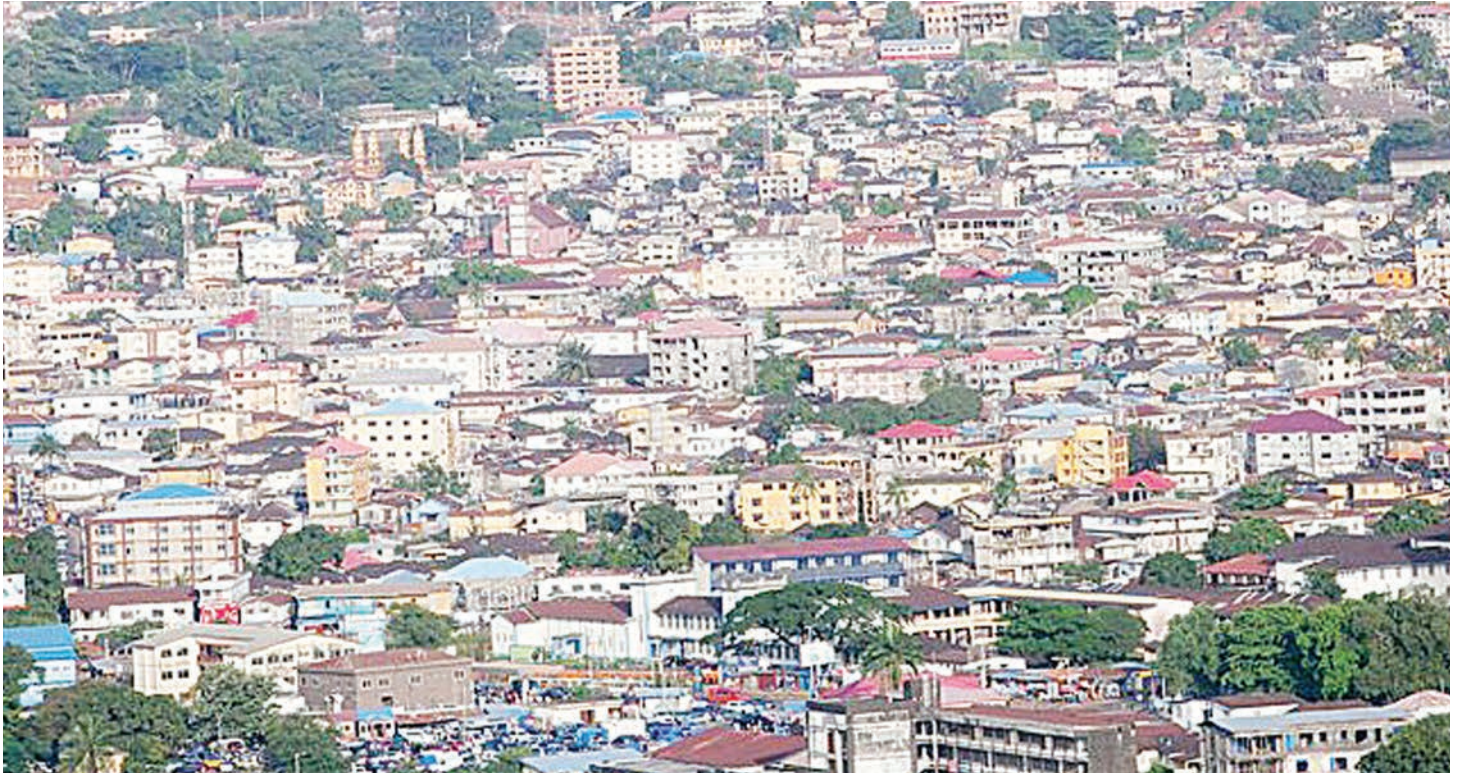
Growing up in Segbwema was a combination of fear and excitement. I had friends with

whom I played and it was always a good feeling to have corn meal served to pupils in school. Fond memories of Segbwema include going to look for guava fruits in Holy Ghost compound, searching for mangoes, especially after a heavy wind or storm, and searching for coins that may have dropped from revellers at disco shows on unpaved floors.

Amid the childhood excitement, there was also an atmosphere of fear - fear of Lassa fever, which is endemic in the area, and dad would repeatedly remind us never to touch a rat with bare hands, whether dead or alive, always cover food and drinks, amongst other precautionary measures.

Growing up when the All People's Congress was in power, from time to time we had to stand in the scorching sun to wait, sometimes for hours on empty stomachs, for politicians whose modus operandi was to dupe the people. "Is the sun very hot?" President Siaka Stevens, now late, would usually ask, a question that was apparently pregnant with meanings as the APC party symbol is the blazing sun. Even at a young age, it was somewhat depressing that we had a great shortage of honesty and accountability in the country. Frustrated at what was happening, some people predicted the outbreak of a civil war.

One name I found fascinating in Segbwema was how residents referred to smoked fish. The name "Hotaboleygbeuwa"



A view of Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone

(please forgive my poor Mende writing skills) literally means the stranger with the bent or crooked neck.

After a few years in Kailahun, our "nomadic" life continued and my family relocated to nearby Kenema. My life's journey, with some years spent in Bo, later took me to Makeni, the northern provincial capital as Foday Sankoh, a bearded, semi-literate and almost insane photographer started a civil war just as some people had prophesied. Some people

knew Foday Sankoh, including my dad who knew him in Segbwema as a photographer.

Sankoh and his group of lunatics said they came to liberate the people. They demonstrated this by killing, looting and burning down their houses. It was indeed a double tragedy for the largely destitute people in Sierra Leone. With no formal training in journalism at the time, but really sick and tired of the propaganda that was going on during the war, the truth-telling career called

and I answered.

Life in Makeni was memorable. Like Segbwema, I had all eyes on particularly the politics. In a short space of time, I would easily know the local authorities, including the paramount chief, and would sometimes visit "Ataya" tea shops to get hold of the latest gossips and diverse views on topical issues.

In Makeni, I had a passion for three things. One? Exposing lies. Two? Exposing lies. Three? Exposing lies. Wait a minute!

There is an aroma of appetizing food hanging in the air and someone has just walked up to me. It is lunchtime onboard Ethiopian Airlines. Remember the question? "Chicken, beef or fish?" I have been asked. What have I chosen? To be continued.

About the author: Sulaiman Momodu is a former editor of the Concord Times newspaper. He also reported for the BBC during the civil war in Sierra Leone and has worked for the United Nations.



Somali refugees from Yemen

UN agencies take back 5,087 Somali refugees from Yemen in 2 years

SANAA

Two UN agencies said Friday some 5,087 Somali refugees have so far returned home from Yemen since it started an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) program in 2017.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said 39 organized departures have now taken place from Yemen to Somalia since the ASR program commenced two years ago.

"IOM provides operational support to refugee return movements through chartering a boat, providing medical support upon arrival and transportation assistance to the refugees' final destinations," said the UN agencies.

The agencies said a boat carrying 145 Somali refugees left the Port of Aden on Thursday and was due at the Port of Berbera on Friday in the latest departure.

Amongst those who departed on Thursday was 20-year-old Naima who is hoping to go back to school in Somalia.

"She had to stop her education 10 years ago when her father got sick.

Naima was left helping her mother around the house and working in the family business," said the UN agencies.

"I hope to be able to go back to school, complete my education, study medicine, and one day become a doctor," said Naima.

According to the UN, Yemen hosts the world's second-largest Somali refugee population, around 250,000 refugees.

It is a long-standing refugee host nation and the only country in the Arabian Peninsula which is a signatory to the Refugee Convention and its protocol. But, after more than four years of conflict in Yemen -- the situation for civilians, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants has deteriorated, said the UN agencies.

The ASR program is facilitated by UNHCR in partnership with IOM, and in cooperation with humanitarian partners and authorities in Yemen and Somalia.

According to UNHCR, refugee movements from Somalia to Yemen have been taking place since the 1980s and continued following the outbreak of civil war in Somalia.

AGENCIES

The beacon of universal health coverage in Africa

NEW YORK

Rwanda is one of the smallest countries in the African mainland. It is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. No miracle was expected from that African country following the genocide against the Tutsi of 1994. Fundamental to recovery - building trust and fostering peace and stability - Rwanda has been continuously investing in services, like health, infrastructures and education. After the tragic 1994 events the new leadership put at the center of a raising nation, public health, education, and health for all.

In September 2019 in New York, USA during the United Nations General Assembly, world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly unanimously

adopted a political declaration on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). For the first time, all 193 Member States agreed around a common and comprehensive commitment to achieving this goal for a more humane civilization. Rwanda was one of them.

Bugesera District Hospital, Eastern Province, south of Kigali. This remote rural area is now a mixed urban-rural zone close to the capital. Not so long ago, the first point of contact people had were the local Health Centers, some of which could be close to an hour's walk away. After a nationwide assessment, health authorities decided to move services closer to the population. In the pilot seat of shortening the distance from fifty minutes to half, the Districts of Nyanza, Gisagara, Nyagatare and Burera.

"Before I used bad birth control

methods. I had six children one after the other. I did not have time to take care of myself and my children. I almost died during one delivery. Now I deliver my babies at the hospital, not at home. I am on family planning now thanks to the Community Health Workers. And now, I own a small shop. My oldest girl has just completed university and works at a Health Post. That's my victory!"

The Rwandan system is a referral system. The burden of the disease is treated at the bottom of the pyramid by the Community Health Worker. From the CHWs, the case can be scaled up to a Health Post. Over 850 Health Posts exist in the country. Then, the beneficiary will be sent to a Health Center (600), from Health Centers the patient can be referred to a District Hospital (37 in the country). At the top of the pyramid, four Provincial Hospitals and

seven Referral Hospitals. This is how Rwanda implemented its own vision of geographical accessibility.

For each Rwandan, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It includes the full range of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment and care to minimize out of pocket payment. Those who can afford the Mutuelle will pay for it and those who can't, will receive financial support from the government. The "Mutuelle de Santé" is a national pride that empowers everybody.

Another accomplishment in the country: vaccination. The country has a 93% vaccination coverage rate. Over 90% of mothers give birth at a

Health Facility, consequently, babies get vaccinated at the very beginning of their life course. There is a program to remind families to come for second dose. Kids are vaccinated against 11 antigens, pictures the willingness of the government to get the whole Rwandan population to be healthy and covered by health insurance when it is needed. Vaccination is the embodiment of UHC in Rwanda.

"When I was young there were a lot of deadly diseases like malaria. I used traditional medicine and herbs, but kept on getting sick. The Hospital and the Community Health Workers changed my perception of health and to also trust science. I have 3 boys now. I taught them to seek help through Health Care services, to be responsible citizens because diseases impact us all. I taught them about hygiene to prevent

for good diseases in the family and the community".

Dr Diane Gashumba, Rwanda Minister of Health: "UHC was attained in Rwanda because of the leadership that believes in good health as fundamental human right and thanks to the trust of people of Rwanda that have embraced the health insurance, which has led to a 91% coverage"

"Rwanda's health sector agenda in general and in particular the health reforms towards UHC is highly valued, notably the Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) policy and subsequent reforms which will serve as key instrument for accelerating progress towards achieving UHC in Rwanda." said Dr Kasonde Mwinga, WHO Representative in Rwanda.

AGENCIES

By Greg Marinovich

Documenting the bloody transition from apartheid

Offline and silenced: Internet blackouts are going global 2 days ago

Photographs have a life free of context and explanation. And they do not.

When discussing an image, I am often torn between what we can see in the image and that which we cannot. This is especially so when the images have emerged from a place and time that has a complex, perhaps contradictory, history.

This triptych was shot in the sprawling but obscure black township of Sebokeng, south of Johannesburg, as the winter of 1991 was easing its hold on the highveld, but still weeks before the summer rains would settle the haze and dust.

Sebokeng, like many of the areas designated for black people under apartheid, suffered from extraordinary levels of political violence during the early 1990s, especially if they had migrant workers' hostel complexes. More on that later, but suffice to say that I was familiar with the quickest way to every hostel in and around Johannesburg.

Two boys, a toy gun and a camera

Any of the three images could hold its own to tell one of the most recognisable aspects of the South African story of those times - the youthful defiance of apartheid's all-powerful enforcers. The tender years of the children is alarmingly fa-

miliar, as is the distant might of the approaching security forces.

The pistol held by the taller (possibly older?) of the boys is a toy; not only useless as a weapon, but sure, we feel, to draw the ire, and possibly the fire of the policemen lurching inexorably forward in their armoured behemoths.

The details beyond the children are tricky to discern as these parts of the images are so far beyond the plane of focus, but we can make out how ineffectual the rock barricade seems as the police column advances. There is a facsimile of normal life - like the man in the white top cycling along, and then moving away from the police column.

The school jersey worn by the boy with the gun prompts memories of my younger self; of a garment that barely helped against the morning chill and then scratched in the midday sun. While we may all have been blighted with uniforms made to an equally low standard, my childhood could not have been more different from those children's. I grew up as a middle-class white boy in a safe, comfortable neighbourhood; my prosperous future almost guaranteed by my racial designation and constrained only by my imagination or failings.

Even that fine, broad road is not a gift to easy commut-



A schoolboy points a toy gun at armoured police vehicles in Sebokeng, South Africa, 1991. Photo courtesy: Greg Marinovich

ing, but a threat. It was part of the architecture of apartheid that would allow the police or military to access and traverse - and thus control - the densely-populated black residential areas should there be "trouble". That the white planners understood that their social engineering would eventually lead to uprisings is in itself disturbing and dispels any of the "separate but equal" nonsense propagated by the white minority regime.

How does this factor into the taking of the images; the reading of them? While I was committed to a non-racial future and was a "radical" in comparison with every one of the boys I had spent most of my school years with, I could not truly experience what it was like to live every day and night under the heel of oppression and poverty as those two boys in Sebokeng did. I was aware of the broader strokes of history and what was happening that day, that week, in Sebokeng, but I lacked the insider knowledge to

read every aspect of what I was seeing, hearing, smelling

A bloody transition, ignored

The transition epoch away from apartheid was loosely defined as being from the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in early 1990 up to his inauguration as president in 1994.

Yet the first of those two years saw 49 massacres recorded by the Human Rights Commission (HRC). The HRC defined a massacre as the killing of 10 or more people in a single occurrence.

The bloody collateral damage during a supposed negotiated transition from apartheid rule to a non-racial democracy has been tacitly ignored. It does not fit into the inspirational narrative of the universal moral right overcoming white supremacy.

How can we discuss a seemingly simple photograph that is a signifier of generations of repression and resistance? Can these images, without words, contain the weight of the massacre of 50

residents of Sebokeng as they sat in vigil over a slain African National Congress (ANC) activist earlier that year, or somehow convey the nihilist horror of the Boipatong massacre that would occur nearby, a few months in the future?

A family wiped out

I rarely went into those conflict zones at night, when the spooky illumination from the high mast lights would be augmented only by car headlights or the disconcerting strobing of blue police lights.

On drier nights, the streets were often manned by young men and teenagers who felled trees across thoroughfares and burned tyres to deter would-be killers, or dug knee-deep trenches across backroads to trap the otherwise unstoppable armoured vehicles the police used.

While most of the mass killings were committed by supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) with the direct or indirect aid of the white security

forces, followers of the ANC were also guilty of such acts.

The end of decades of white rule was messy. While many political parties and groups were participating in talks to form a new South Africa, on the ground, other bloodier strategies were playing out as the security forces of the then still all-white government tried to chip away at the ANC and Mandela's almost messianic status. There were no good guys, it seemed then, just less bad ones.

The settlements earmarked for black and "coloured" (mixed-race) people suffered many such instances of violence. On one drenched night, that year or the next, my pager alerted me to a Sebokeng family having been wiped out by attackers.

It was with more than the usual trepidation that four of us sprayed and slid through deserted streets on our way to the house. The details of what we found there are too gruesome to describe. Even a child hiding in a closet had been found and killed.

Why was an entire family wiped out? Was it political, gang-related, a family conflict? I never found out. As with so many of the less publicised killings, the news machine - and I - moved on to the next horror.

Would one of the images from that night do a better job than the child with the

toy pistol at showing just what the morally-rotten political and social system had provoked?

What is a photojournalist's purpose?

To answer that, we have to first establish if it is the purpose of a photojournalist or documentarian to share a moment regardless of its effect, or to satisfy a need to create a historical document of injustice, or to feed the vicarious delight of an otherwise unmoved audience?

I feel it is critical to compel an audience to be curious and engaged, be it on the day or in years to come.

The historically-unimportant scene that day in Sebokeng was a distillation of so many things I had seen but which never played out within the frame of a camera viewfinder.

I like the fact that of the only three negatives exposed of that scene, the information available to the viewer grows and even develops a narrative plot with a twist. It allows our imaginations to come into play and provokes us to doubt the completeness, the broader veracity, of a single image and a singular viewpoint.

"The essential cruelty of the situation is not that all blacks are virtuous and all whites villainous, but that whites are conditioned not to see anything wrong in the injustices they impose on their black neighbours."

Ernst Cole, House of Bondage, 1967.

Agencies

'Between life and death': Rescued migrants recall Libya 'hell'

By Faras Ghani

Onboard the Ocean Viking in the Mediterranean - Forty-two-year old Florent took off his life jacket, knelt to the floor of the Ocean Viking, a migrant rescue vessel, and let out a roar.

He looked up, index fingers pointing to the sky as tears rolled down his cheeks, trickling between grease stains and cracked, dry skin on his face. His eyes were red, not least from the trauma of being out on the sea for more than 36 hours after spending five years in Libya.

"If I die right now, I'll die

with no regrets. I've managed to escape Libya. It was hell. Nothing less than hell," Florent, from Cameroon, told Al Jazeera after being rescued together with 89 other migrants and refugees from an overcrowded rubber boat in distress in the central Mediterranean.

"If the Libyans [coastguards] come on board right now, I will smash my head into that wall, slit my throat and jump into the water. That will be so much better than going back to Libya," he said, the quaver in his voice evident despite the smile that belied the pain, agony and distress of the last five years he spent in the North African country.

Behind Florent was Karim, a 16-year-old from Ivory Coast, whose dream of playing football in Europe led him to run away from home in 2016 without telling his parents.

Wearing Juventus football club track bottoms, Karim had a wide smile on his face, more out of relief than anything else, as he queued up for registration.

"You see this," he said, pointing to his shoulder, "this is where a Libyan stabbed me when I asked for money for the work I did for him."

He then pointed to his right leg and said, "This is where I was shot while wait-

ing for work in Tripoli."

"There is complete lawlessness there. Everyone has guns and knives. There are no rights for black people, even someone who has been stabbed or shot."

Libya acts as a major gateway for African migrants hoping to reach Europe. According to the United Nations, there are more than 40,000 refugees and migrants in Libya.

However, a 2018 UN report highlighted that migrants are subjected to "unimaginable horrors" from the time they enter Libya, during their stay and in their attempts to cross the Mediterranean, if they make it that far.



Migrants and refugees being rescued from a boat in distress in the Mediterranean. File photo

These people arrive in Libya fleeing poverty, conflict, war, forced labour, female genital mutilation, corrupt governments and personal threats. Just the will to survive drives them away from home and into Libya, transiting through various countries on the way.

Some arrive in Libya by choice, others by force. For some, Libya is a country of destination and not transit. The promise of livelihood forces the testing and exhausting journey from home, unaware of what awaits them en route and also when they set foot in Libya.

"This journey is horrendous. It is perilous and very challenging," Michael Farc, project coordinator for the medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on board the Ocean Viking, told Al Jazeera. "People generally have to deal with criminal networks and traffickers. There is extortion, abuse, physical and sexual violence and arbitrary detention where people are held for ransom, forced to contact their families to send money to secure their release. And once they arrive in Libya, they face the same situation."

Libya, a large oil producer, has been engulfed by chaos since 2011 when longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi was killed in an uprising.

It is now split between two

rival administrations: the internationally backed Government of National Accord (GNA) led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, and the House of Representatives allied to renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA).

About 4,500 people are currently held in "official" detention centres across Libya. Thousands more are held in "prisons" run by armed groups. Both types are said to be overcrowded with unhygienic and inhumane conditions, with abuse and violence rampant. There is a shortage of food and drinking water, but an abundance of torture and forced labour.

These detention centres are not safe from the conflict either. One centre in the eastern Tripoli suburb of Tajoura was bombed earlier this year, killing at least 50 migrants and refugees and wounding more than 130.

"The conditions in these centres are crazy," 17-year-old Alkaol from the Gambia said. "Sometimes you get food, sometimes you don't. If they give you bread, you eat half and save half. You don't know when you will eat next. If you don't have money, your only way out is either escaping or death."

"If they catch people running away, they shoot at you. They

may shoot you in the leg, they may shoot you in the head. Everything is a risk."

Saou, from Central African Republic (CAR), described the time inside a prison as a "time between life and death", adding many of his friends died there because of the brutal conditions.

The capital Tripoli has been under attack since April from forces loyal to Haftar.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the battle for Tripoli, according to the World Health Organization, which said at least 5,750 were also wounded and about 100,000 civilians forced to flee their homes.

"In most of the stories you hear from the rescued people, the common denominator is violence, both sexual and physical," Juan Pablo Sanchez, an MSF medic on the Ocean Viking, said. "We had many people who suffered physical violence: Electrocutation, wounds by knives and machetes, gunshot wounds and also being beaten up by rubber and metal pipes."

This year, the International Organization for Migration reported more than 10,700 arrivals in Italy. But according to its Missing Migrants project, more than 740 people have died making that sea crossing to Italy or Malta.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE 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

WORD FIT

3 Letter word: DAM
4 Letter word: EARS, BALL, LICE, SILO, CUTE, DOPE, COPE, SECT, PAIR,
5 Letter word: PAIRS, ALTER, TALCS, UIGUR, PENAL NEVER, KOALA, TOKEN
6 Letter word: SHIRES, INDICT, ENDURE, SVELTE
8 Letter word: SPELLING, EASEMENT
10 Letter word: EVACUATION

WORD FIT

1. Distribute (5)
2. Reply (6)
3. Misty (5)
8. Smallest continent (9)
10. At no time (5)
11. Backed food with pastry (3)
12. tags (4)
14. long-tailed rodents (4)
17. Mineral (3)
19. Truth (8)
22. Long curved yellow fruit (6)
23. Edible bulb used as vegetable (5)
25. Go in (5)
26. Produce (4) 28. Smooth (4)
29. Frog (4) 30. Proverb (6)
31. Writing instrument (3)

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD

Clues: Across
Down:

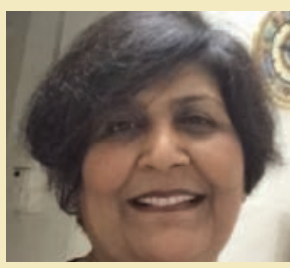
1. Quick (5)
2. Reply (6)
4. Average (4)
5. Capital city of Ukraine (4)
6. Stopper (4)
7. Vocation (6)
9. Decayed (6)
13. Jewish state (6)
15. Stop (5)
16. Evergreen tree (4)
17. Empire established by Yoruba (3)
18. Convents (6)
20. Soft fiber (6) 21. Weary (5)
24. Daughter of sibling (5)
27. Evergreen climbing plant (3)

Comments: 0789 4373 09



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Poland's Feerum SA awaiting govt nod to invest 46bn/-in cashewnuts complex

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

A modern cashew-nut complex that will incorporate a 40,000 metric tons storage facility and processing plant worth US\$20 million (about 46bn/-) is simply waiting for endorsement by government ministries and agencies.

"Everything is ready with us including financing but we are waiting for a government's MoU to proceed and mobilise our partners," said Feerum SA Tanzania Branch's country director, Mikolaj Kucia who noted that the Polish based company has long term plans to invest in the country because of its vast agriculture potential.

Kucia said the proposal to have the cashew-nut complex in Mtwara was presented to the government through Ministry of Agriculture earlier this year and that the company remains optimistic that soon a memorandum of understanding will be signed.

"We need the government's signed MoU to present to our Polish and international partners so that the project can take off," said Kucia who company



Agriculture minister, Japhet Hasunga.

is also undertaking construction work of maize storage silos in Dodoma, Iringa, Ruvuma, Shinyanga and Songwe regions valued at US\$30 million (about 69bn/-).

He said Feerum made the decision to invest in the cashew-nut processing and storage complex to save the country from post harvest losses but also add value to the commodity before be-

ing exported abroad.

"We have seen the government encouraging investments in agro-processing industries and chose to invest in cashew-nuts because most of them are exported raw," the Feerum SA Tanzania country director added.

The bulk of the country's cashew-nuts are exported raw because of lack of processing factories. Out of the 222,000 metric tons of raw cashew-nuts purchased by the state last season, over 213,000 tons have already been exported raw.

According to minister for agriculture and cooperatives, Japhet Hasunga the raw cashew-nut exports earned the country US\$251.7 million (equivalent to 578.9bn/-). "Domestic processors got 4,800 tons of which over 800 tons have been processed and exported," Hasunga said late last month.

Hasunga who has been mobilising investment in agro-

processing industries and agro-input manufacturers, has called on both local and foreign investors to seize the opportunity presented by the agriculture sector which includes the cashew-nuts sub sector.

President John Magufuli whose administration has made industrialization its focal point of departure towards attaining middle income status by 2025, has warned bureaucrats and politicians who frustrate or delay private investment.

"If you are serving in my government and frustrating private investment especially in industries, then you are not fit to be part of the team," he warned his lieutenants during a meeting with the private sector held at State House in Dar es Salaam where individual business people and their leaders complained against frustration by bureaucratic red tape in the processing of project proposals and related permits.

Oil rallying as US and China agree on 'first phase' of deal

NEW YORK

The US and China agreed to a "phase one" trade deal, temporarily freezing their tariff war and prompting the biggest rally in oil prices in three months.

The preliminary trade deal puts a planned 15 per cent levy on \$160 billion worth of Chinese goods due to be implemented on December 15 on hold. Mobile phones, laptops, clothing and toys would have been affected if the duties had been introduced. The US will also reduce by half the levy rate it imposed on \$120bn of Chinese goods in September to 7.5 per cent.

In exchange, China agreed to drop a 25 per cent levy that was to take effect on December 15 on US cars. China will also buy annually up to \$50bn of US agricultural products, energy and other goods and Beijing pledged to address American grievances regarding intellectual property right practices.

"We have agreed to a very large Phase One Deal with China. They have agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of Agricultural Product, Energy, and Manufactured Goods, plus much more. The 25 per cent Tariffs will remain as is, with 7 1/2 put on much of the remainder..." the US President Donald Trump tweeted on Friday. The two sides will begin work on a "phase two" deal immediately, with no plans to delay another agreement until after the 2020 US presidential election, he added.

China has committed to refrain from currency devaluations that give it a trade advantage, which if violated will incur US retaliatory tariffs. Oil prices, which have been largely in tepid territory this year due to the trade dispute surged to above \$65 per barrel for the first time since the September attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil processing facilities, which temporarily halted 5 per cent of global supply. Brent settled at \$65.22 per barrel on Friday, while West Texas Intermediate closed at \$60.07 per barrel. The S&P 500 also closed at a record high of 0.9 per cent on Friday. The tariff discord between the world's largest economies placed brakes on global economic growth this year, as well as curtailed demand growth for crude.

"Rolling back tariffs in exchange for buying more agricultural products doesn't fix any of the big trade issues. From a markets standpoint a phase one deal would just improve the chance of a global economic rebound next year," said Jasper Lawler, head of research at trading company London Capital Group.

The International Monetary Fund in October cited increased protectionism as well as uncertainty relating to trade and geopolitics behind what it called a "synchronised slowdown" in global economic growth. The multilateral lender projected the world economy to grow 3 per cent this year, a 0.3 percentage point downgrade from its April forecast, as well as its fifth outlook revision for 2019. Economic growth averaged 3.6 per cent last year. The global economy is forecast to pick up to 3.4 per cent in 2020, a 0.2 percentage point reduction from an earlier forecast.

A little less trade uncertainty as 2019 winds down

LONDON

From Europe's flash Purchasing Managers Indexes to China industry and the all-important mood among U.S. consumers, it's a chance to review the outlook for 2020. That's looking a bit brighter after the U.S. and China finally agreed on the first part of a trade deal, while the Conservative victory in the U.K. election means some Brexit certainty might finally be on the way.

Meanwhile, it's the end of an era in Sweden, where the Riksbank may call time on negative interest rates after almost five years. Here's what happened last week and below is our overview of what's going on in the world economy in the coming days: U.S. and Canada

U.S. policy makers are back on the speaking circuit after the Fed decided to hold rates steady last week. On Tuesday, Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan and New York Fed President John Williams speak, and Eric Rosengren of the Boston Fed addresses the Forecasters

Club of New York. A day later, Chicago Fed President Charles Evans speaks to the Economic Club of Indiana. The weekends with key numbers on the U.S. consumer, including the University of Michigan sentiment index and data on personal spending. There's also another estimate of third-quarter GDP.

Europe, Russia, Middle East and Africa
European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde offered a relatively upbeat take on the euro-area economy last week, and investors will be looking to the PMIs and German business confidence to see if that was justified.

The Bank of England publishes its annual stress tests of banks Monday and interest rate decision Thursday. Governor Mark Carney speaks after the first of those (following weeks of pre-election silence), an opportunity for reaction to the U.K. vote and what it means for the economy. The other question yet to be answered is who succeeds

him when he leaves in January.

Amid ongoing criticism of negative interest rates across Europe, Sweden's central bank is forecast to hike to zero from -0.25%. But the policy statement is likely to be cautious, indicating a tightening cycle isn't kicking off.

In Nigeria, data Tuesday may show a pickup in inflation. That may keep the central bank from easing into early next year, as it focuses on anchoring the naira, one of Africa's best-performing currencies.

Asia
Central banks in Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan meet for their final interest-rate decisions of the year - none are expected to move according to an early look at economists' expectations. China's data dump for November on Monday will be closely watched for further signs of stabilization after PMI, import and credit numbers suggested the world's second-largest economy may be forming a base.

Factory Hopes Surveys suggest China's economy is stabilizing



Graph.

And on Thursday, Australian jobs numbers are set to show unemployment held steady at 5.3% last month.

Latin America
Brazil's central bank delivers its outlook for inflation and growth on Tuesday, and publishes the minutes of it

latest monetary policy decision on Thursday. That will explain further the reasoning behind the decision to cut borrowing costs to a record low 4.5%.

Mexico's central bank is expected to cut its key rate by a quarter point to 7.25% this week, while Colombia will respond to

inflation near the top of its target range by holding its benchmark steady at 4.25%. In Argentina, where an IMF bailout is on hold over details of the government's plans, GDP data will probably show South America's second-biggest economy still mired in recession.

Anger erupts at UN climate summit as major economies resist bold action

MADRID

Major economies resisted calls for bolder climate commitments as a U.N. summit in Madrid limped towards a delayed conclusion on Saturday, dimming hopes that nations will act in time to stop rising temperatures devastating people and the natural world.

With the two-week gathering spilling into the weekend, campaigners and many delegates slammed Chile, presiding over the talks, for drafting a summit text that they said risked throwing the 2015 Paris Agreement to tackle global warming into reverse.

"At a time when scientists are queuing up to warn about terrifying consequences if emissions keep rising, and school children are taking to the

streets in their millions, what we have here in Madrid is a betrayal of people across the world," said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa, a climate and energy think-tank in Nairobi.

The annual climate marathon had been due to conclude on Friday, but dragged on with ministers mired in multiple disputes over implementing the Paris deal, which has so far failed to stem the upward march of global carbon emissions.

Long-time participants in the talks expressed outrage at the unwillingness of major polluters to show ambition commensurate with the gravity of the climate crisis, after a year of wildfires, cyclones, droughts and floods.

The European Union, small island states and many other nations had been calling for the Madrid decision to



Andrés Landerretche, Chile's summit coordinator.

signal that the more than 190 countries participating in the Paris process will submit bolder pledges to cut emissions next year. The agreement enters a crucial implementation phase in 2020, when countries are supposed to ratchet up their ambitions ahead of the next

major round of talks in Glasgow. If big economies such as China, India, Japan, Brazil, Australia and others fail to agree more meaningful climate action soon, then scientists say already slim hopes of averting catastrophic temperature rises will all but vanish.

'Strong message'

Although no advanced economy is yet on track for the kind of action scientists say is needed to steer the climate onto a safer path, all the EU's 28 member states, bar Poland, agreed in Brussels on Thursday to target net zero emissions by 2050.

Krista Mikkonen, Finland's environment minister, speaking on behalf of the EU, told the talks it would be "impossible to leave" without agreeing a "strong message" on the need to redouble pledges to cut emissions next year.

Ministers broke into groups on Saturday for eleventh-hour negotiations on a tangle of issues, including finance for climate-vulnerable countries, carbon markets, and the all-important issue of the strength of the summit's final text.

With the clock ticking, Andrés Landerretche, Chile's summit coordinator, said the goal was to conclude on Saturday. "The vast majority of delegations are asking for a more ambitious text, and that's what we're aiming at," he told reporters. Campaigners had said a draft text circulating earlier was among the worst they had seen at climate negotiations.

"The approach Chile has taken on this text shows how it has listened to the polluters and not to the people," said Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International. The Paris process has been weakened by a move by U.S. President Donald Trump to begin withdrawing the world's largest historical emitter from the agreement last month, making it easier for other big countries to backslide.

Relief as state expect to relax tourism filmmaking rules in conservation areas

By Smart Money Reporter

WILDLIFE tourism filmmakers will soon have their way when the government will relax some of the stringent rules to issue permits for the exercise which is of interest to both local and foreign motion picture makers.

Natural Resources and Tourism Ministry's permanent secretary, Professor Adolf Mkenda told Tanzania Association of Tour Operators officials last week that the filming permit procedures will soon be simplified.

"Wildlife filming permits should be issued with convenience and we will simplify the process very soon," Prof Mkenda said, noting that films or documentaries associated with conservation areas expose the beauty of the country to potential visitors and investors across the globe.

The TATO delegation which was on familiarization tour of the newly created Ibanda-Kyerwa and Burigi-Chato National Parks, had an opportunity to engage Prof Mkenda during the bushwalk and later on to the formal talks at an evening campfire.

The PS implored TATO leaders to work with the government in promoting the newly gazetted national parks. TATO team which was led by chairman, Wilbard Chamburo pleaded with Prof Mkenda to spearhead a process of streamlining the bureaucratic procedure associated with issuance of permits for wildlife



TATO member and Honorary Consul of The UK in Arusha, Richard Beatty (R) on a familiarization tour at Ibanda-Kyerwa and Burigi-Chato National Park accompanied by Natural Resources and Tourism ministry permanent secretary Prof Adolf Mkenda (2nd R), TATO chairman Wilbard Chamburo and TATO CEO Sirili Akko (L). Photo: Guardian Photographer

particularly in areas where the interest of wildlife and destination promotion are concerned.

Recently, the Parliament passed a bill that made it difficult for foreign companies to obtain permit for filming in the country which drew criticism from TATO members. Specifically, foreign companies filming in Tanzania must give the government the right to vet raw footage and let the country use the movie in promotional material, according to the bill endorsed by parliament.

"This ... requires any foreign production company or individual

using Tanzania's country, content or location for filming whole or any part of a film, advertisement, documentary or program to submit their raw footage to the Tanzania Film Board," Attorney General Adelardus Kilangi told Parliament.

Filmmakers must also submit a finished copy of their work to the Tanzania Film Board or a delegated authority to get clearance before exiting Tanzania, he said. Foreign individuals or companies are also required to allow the government to use video clips or the whole film to promote

Tanzania and its culture.

Failure to comply will leave the entity responsible for a fine of five percent of the production budget, the bill stated. Opposition groups said the bill - which is yet to receive presidential assent, will likely squash the country's fledgling foreign film ventures.

"Putting these requirements in a law is like pushing away the individuals from working in Tanzania. These are not friendly conditions, instead of promoting the industry they will hold it back," said Salome Makamba, an opposition lawmaker.

Local start-up to take over space left by Jumia exit

KIGALI

As Jumia, Africa's largest e-commerce platform exits the Rwandan market, a local start-up, CanGo, says it is preparing to embark on fresh operations to fill the void that will have been left in online food delivery - a space that is becoming increasingly popular.

CanGo is a local startup that was previously engaged in taxi-hailing service, SafeMotos. Barely two days after Jumia announced it was closing its Rwanda operations, CanGo has announced the operationalisation of its mobile application sooner than had been expected.

"Our mobile app will be soon available on the App Store and Google Play!" the company posted on its social media platforms on Wednesday, pointing to January 2020 as the month in which the service will be available.

Incidentally, January is the month Jumia announced they would be completely folding business in Rwanda - most precisely on January 9. CanGo has reportedly been piloting its food delivery service in the capital Kinshasa of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Barrett Nash, one of the founders of the firm, said recently that Jumia's exit was an opportunity for his business.

"I've been testing our new food delivery system in Kinshasa and for me this is a great opportunity," he said, referring to Jumia's announced closure plans in Rwanda. Jumia, perceived as Africa's first unicorn, revealed last week that it will suspend its operations in January after it emerged that it was making significant losses in some of the markets where it operates.



Inside CanGo's logistics office, where clients' orders are taken.

Partly, the suspension of its business units is attributed to challenges of digital payments, delivery and logistical infrastructure especially in fragmented markets where it has been operating. It is true in markets like Rwanda, where the majority of people still prefer traditional ways of buying goods and services despite the increasing number of smartphones, internet penetration and plummeting data costs.

Many people have also viewed Jumia services as expensive compared to the traditional way of doing things. A cost of getting food and drink delivered, for instance, was somewhere between Rwf1,000 (about \$1) and

Rwf1,500 (\$1.6).

However, Nash insisted in the same discussion that "there will be no break in on-demand food services in Kigali," saying that they "were going to begin testing before Christmas anyway." He asked colleagues to start sharing the restaurants that are must-haves on the platform.

Efforts to reach the company were unsuccessful. But people who have used the service already believe it will be a great replacement for Jumia. "I prefer CanGo because they are fast and cheap than Jumia. Their drivers know how to use Google maps. You can order anything and you pay

after delivery and they are fast," Elysee Confrance, one of the users, told The New Times.

Samuel Tuyizere, another user, said he has used the service and he thinks it's cheaper as opposed to Jumia services. "I have used CanGo about three times now mainly because it was cheaper than Jumia and also the possibility of asking them to go wherever I want and get me what I wanted," he noted. However, Tuyizere said the "only issue with them was that they were using WhatsApp and had no dedicated application.

Currently, CanGo allows customers to make their orders through WhatsApp. In short, you

text them your order, the restaurant from which you want it delivered from and their rider will contact you to bring your order. Customers believe that is a downside since there are not many options from which they can choose just as much as many don't see WhatsApp as a genuine way of making their food delivery orders.

Perhaps it is the reason why the firm drove on Jumia's failure to announce the establishment of a mobile application that will now make it operate as a fully-fledged e-commerce platform. The firm also delivers groceries and offer courier services.

More load shedding steals Christmas for Eskom execs, again



Eskom Chief Operating Officer Jan Oberholzer

JOHANNESBURG

For the second year in a row, Eskom management and key staff members will not take leave in the festive season as instructed by President Cyril Ramaphosa, as the power utility struggles to halt power outages.

The announcement was made at a briefing which mirrored the events of a similar one exactly a year ago where Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan cancelled Christmas leave, after the country was plunged into darkness. "No one goes on leave," said Ramaphosa.

"If we are to have the system restored to stability all leave from now on until January is cancelled, all executives must remain in place and all key managers, to make sure that we do not have load shedding," he added.

Ramaphosa was addressing the media following a meeting with the Eskom board and management on Wednesday morning, about the current wave of power cuts which reached crisis point on Monday, forcing Eskom to introduce Stage 6 load shedding. This resulted in Ramaphosa cancelling an official trip to Egypt.

While the Grinch of load shedding has stolen Christmas for Eskom employees, Ramaphosa assured the public that there would not be any load shedding between December 17 and January 13. The work to stabilise the system will go on right up to March. This is much the same as last year where Gordhan promised the nation that there would be a reprieve from power cuts between December 15 2018 and January 15 2019. Another parallel to December 2018 is the spectre of 'sabotage' to the stability of the grid which has reared its head again.

When Eskom initially announced that there would be load shedding on Thursday, December 5, it informed customers that the system was severely

constrained due to unplanned outages. While the system remained volatile for the next seven days with scheduled load shedding moving between stage 3, 4 and 6, various reasons were given for this: from unplanned unit breakdowns and wet coal to flooding from excessive rain.

However, in addition to those factors, Ramaphosa revealed that there had been an act of sabotage at the Tutuka Power Station on Thursday, which wiped out 2 000 MW of power from the grid for ten hours. Investigations are currently underway, with Ramaphosa saying that Eskom should work closely with the South African Police Service and the intelligence services, to figure out how an instrument was disconnected from one of the Eskom boilers, leading to the 2 000 MW loss.

"I think it is important for all of us to note that there are certain people within the system who take it upon themselves to switch off certain instruments that lead us to lose so many megawatts," he said.

Eskom's management informed Ramaphosa that it would need increased capacity of 5 000 MW in order to stabilise the system, providing the utility with enough room to conduct maintenance at power stations that require it. Eskom Chief Operating Officer Jan Oberholzer said the 5 000 MW has not yet been modelled or calculated but is the estimated figure of what the utility believes it will require.

Proposals that were put on the table to unlock this additional supply ranged from sourcing floating generators (where ships would plug into the grid), or to consider self-generation (where households and industry supply their own power). These suggestions will be considered by cabinet on Friday, when Gordhan and the Minister of Energy Gwede Mantashe will make a presentation.

Danish firm buys Sh2bn stake in African trade financier PTA Bank

NAIROBI

The Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries has acquired stake worth \$20 million in the Trade and Development Bank (TDB) formerly PTA Bank.

In the deal signed between the two financial institutions, the Danish Investment Fund (IFU) bought 1,750 Class B shares making it the bank's largest institutional investor. TDB has membership comprising of 22 states drawn from Common Market for Eastern and Southern, East African Community and South African Development Community.

China and Belarus are the two members who are not aligned to the regional economic groups. With the entry of the Danish organisation into the TDB shareholding, the number of institutional investors has risen to 17.

Others are the African Development Bank (ADB), Africa Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Africa Reinsurance Corporation, Arab Bank for Development in Africa (BADEA),

Banco Nacional de Investimento (Mozambique), Mauritian Eagle Insurance Company, National Pension Fund (Mauritius), National Social Security Fund (Uganda), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), PTA Reinsurance Company, Rwanda Social Security Board, Sacos Group (Seychelles) and Seychelles Pension Fund

Announcing the agreement in Nairobi Wednesday, TDB chief executive and president Admassu Tadesse said the move was an indicator of the growing confidence of European investors in its ability to provide new avenues of capital management. "This investment in TDB's risk capital is a new frontier for European institutional investors who have been regular investors in the bank's international bonds over the years," he said.

When more than one class of stocks is on offer, companies will usually term them as class A and Class B, with class A allocated more voting rights than Class B shares. This will depend on the way a company's stock portfolio is set out.

Catalysing jobs for EA's rising youth population

NAIROBI

Poverty and inequality of opportunity are the two economic challenges that plague many a family in East Africa, a region with a growing youthful population that remains largely outside the formal economy and who face an uphill task not only in finding a job, but also in deriving value from every shilling that they earn.

Every year in Kenya alone, over one million young people leave secondary school, yet the economy creates on average less than 80,000 formal jobs. That means these young people have little or no chance to compete for openings in the formal sector considering that for every one million KCSE candidates, there are about 75,000 university graduates.

So, how can business leaders create long-term, quality jobs that also engender the inclusion of women and the youth in the economy and improve the livelihoods of local communities? How do they choose the industries or sectors that can guarantee long-term growth while borrowing exclusively from home-grown knowledge that is applied to provide local solutions? How can these industries then create value for investors? And ultimately, how does all this tie in with the regional governments' aspirations of creating jobs for the youth?

These are the questions that inspired a group of industry leaders to pool their resources and find ways of unlocking value, not only in Kenya but also in other East African Community member States where they have set for themselves the ambitious target of creating over half a million jobs within the next decade.

"The region is hungry for industrial development and is poised for growth," says Linus Gitahi, one of Kenya's captains of industry who also chairs the board of Msingi East Africa, a not-for-profit organisation that has been catalysing the growth of industries since it was founded in 2015.

Msingi East Africa has an interesting history. It was inspired by the experiences of Chile's salmon farming sector, through which, with the help of an endowment fund from the Chilean government and a private sector organisation, the country grew its exports to become the second leading producer of the fish after Norway.

This example of how local solutions could inspire economic growth led to the idea that this could be replicated in other countries around the world. And when Msingi was formed four years ago, with the assistance of the Gatsby Africa Foundation and DfID, it borrowed heavily from the Chilean experience.

"When we got to learn about this organisation taking a sectoral approach, that was also long-term, we thought this is something that can be applied in East Africa," says Msingi East Africa's interim CEO, Diana Mulili,



Msingi East Africa's interim CEO, Diana Mulili.

who took over the leadership of the organisation in October.

Today, the organisation and its partners have invested in two sectors; textiles and apparels and aquaculture, where it has been a player since it was founded. It plans to expand into three more broad sectors, including heavy manufacturing, over the next five years.

Before it ventured into these two sectors, Msingi embarked on a rigorous process of examining the sectors' potential and conducting research on the likelihood of success. Given that East Africa has vast resources to support aquaculture, the industry offered opportunities for growth, especially if production could be matched with market demands.

And although the businesses it has partnered with have already started production, they still have a long way to go before they can satisfy the growing demand for fish and fish products in Kenya, which remains a net importer. Last year alone, Kenya spent Sh1.7 billion on fish imports from China alone. On average, according to some scholars, imported fish takes about eight months from the time it is harvested to the moment it is served for dinner. By contrast, locally-sourced fish can take as few as eight hours.

Msingi's aim is to create 20,000 jobs in fish production within the next five years, creating a value in excess of \$17 million (Sh1.7 billion) in incomes from selling 50,000 metric tonnes of fish. This is in addition to the improvement in nutrition that this will spawn, not to mention the reduction in imports that will result from increased local production.

Research indicates that the industry is held back by constraints that can be solved, like a critical lack of good quality

affordable feed, lack of access to capital, low levels of technical expertise and business skills, and a weak policy and regulatory environment in some cases.

To get around the challenge posed by a shortage of fish feed, Ms Mulili says Msingi has identified a partner that is ready and willing to invest in that industry. "Fish feed contributes 70 to 80 percent of the cost of fish production," she tells the Business Daily. According to her, this is what makes locally-sourced fish more expensive compared to Chinese imports. If this cost can be reduced, Kenyan fish can become competitive.

"We have been working with local fish feed producers to bring that cost down while also raising the quality." This has not been easy considering that fish feed account for less than five percent of millers' incomes.

Over the last three years that Msingi has been in that sector, it has worked with six millers across East Africa to supply 2,500 metric tonnes of improved feed to fish farmers. It has also facilitated trainers for middle tier players in the supply chain and this has led to a reduction in the wastage of feed and an improvement in the handling of fish, resulting in fewer deaths, hence increased productivity and profitability.

It has also provided \$3.5 million (Sh350 million) in funding to pioneer businesses in the sector. One of the beneficiaries of its grants is Walimi Fish Co-operative Society in Uganda. Through the grant, the society put up a cold storage facility at the Wandegeya market in Kampala, meaning that farmers stop selling fish at farm gate prices and can export to destinations such as the Democratic Republic of Congo. This will in turn raise productivity.



Examples of counterfeit products.

Taking down the counterfeiters: UAE gets tougher on fake goods

ABU DHABI

UAE authorities are using new technology and improved intelligence to expose criminal gangs trading billions of dirhams in counterfeit goods.

For years, cheap copies of genuine brands have been sold in markets and shops across the Emirates and around the world. From cut-price cosmetics to leather goods and spare car parts, illegal networks have been making huge profits from the less discerning shopper.

But now experts are working to crack down on the battle against fakes, seizing counterfeit products and arresting traders. According to the Department of Economic Development in Dubai, the value of fake goods recovered in 2018 amounted to Dh332 million, a significant drop from Dh1.6 billion in 2016. And as inspection campaigns increase and technology becomes smarter, fewer products are making it to retailers' shelves.

"The UAE is very proactive in fighting the trade of fake goods and we are seeing the results," said Hatem Abdel Ghani, partner at The Legal Group, a leading law firm in Dubai. "The quality of counterfeit items is improving day by day [but] the UAE is collaborating with global brands and using technology to identify genuine from fake."

"It is important that brand owners, legal teams and government entities continue to collaborate to combat this illegal trade." The global trade in counterfeit goods is currently estimated to be worth \$509 billion annually.

A report released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development earlier this year said the majority of products are seized up in customs checks in mainland China and Hong Kong. But other "major points of origin include the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Singapore", the OECD said.

While trade in counterfeit goods has risen steadily in

recent decades, governments are tightening regulations to curb the issue. This year, the DED in Dubai introduced new artificial intelligence technology to identify counterfeit luxury goods. Using the device, inspectors can detect fake products with higher speed and accuracy, eliminating time-consuming verification checks with trademark representatives.

During a workshop held under the patronage of the Ministry of Economy in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, TLG offered training to Abu Dhabi Police and Customs officers on how to spot counterfeit products. Indicators included missing or identical serial numbers, untidy or incorrectly coloured packaging and traces of glue.

The law firm also offered insight into the UAE's war on counterfeits. In 2017, Coty, one of the world's biggest cosmetics brands and a client of TLG, worked with authorities in the Emirates to seize a number of fake products. Of the 11 million individual pieces seized in the Europe and Mena region, more than 341,000 were prevented from reaching consumers by UAE authorities.

They included make-up kits, perfumes and skin care items from brands under the Coty umbrella, including Sally Hansen and Rimmel. "Over the past few years, the UAE has been the most proactive in the region when it comes to seizing counterfeit products infringing on the Coty name," Mr Ghani said. "In 2016, more than 633,700 cosmetics falsely linked to the company were seized in the UAE, and in 2015, 617,000 products were taken off the market."

Speaking to The National, Aisha Al Dhaheri, legal researcher at the MoE said authorities need to be constantly updated on the methods criminal gangs try to use when peddling counterfeit goods. "Today, the Ministry of Economy participated in this workshop to showcase how the UAE has made great efforts to

protect the Intellectual Property rights of main brand owners in the country."

Since 1973, more than 20,000 trademark applications have been approved by the Ministry. "We regularly update rules and regulations around trademark and copyright registration and by continuing to protect brand rights in the country has encouraged more trade and investment over the years."

Trade in fake goods creates profits for organised crime gangs at the expense of companies and governments. But aside from the economic impacts, fakes of items like medical supplies, car parts and toys carry a range of health and safety risks.

"The use of counterfeit products like medicines and cosmetics can have a devastating impact on a consumer's health," Mr Ghani said. "We have to fight the process on three levels. Governments need to tighten trademark regulations, brand owners have to be more proactive about taking legal action against gangs and consumers need to increase their awareness."

TLG's global brand protection team works closely with customs, police and the DED to "protect authorised products and fight counterfeit [goods]." "We collect information about criminal operations by working hand-in-hand with our global brands, like Toyota and Coty," Mr Ghani said. "Once we have solid information about each activity we file an official complaint with authorities, they then take it forward." Last year, the law firm assisted in a number of raids in Dubai and Sharjah.

Two busts carried out in collaboration with Dubai Police resulted in the confiscation of 8,400 counterfeit perfumes. Further investigation revealed the supplier was located in China. And during a routine surveillance at a popular Sharjah market, more than 20,300 counterfeit perfumes were seized from a trader's warehouse located in the city.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Productivity loss due to ill-health

personnel management.

Cost to Employers

Various studies have been conducted to measure productivity loss in the workplace due to worker illness, and the results show that not only does the business suffer when an employee is absent from job site, but productivity loss can also occur when an employee is suffering from illness and attempting to work. The costs of hiring and training replacements can be a significant expense to employers that is often difficult to measure across the broad areas of industry. Furthermore, employees without available sick days are less likely to take time off from work, thus remaining at job at a reduced level of performance.

Economic Impact

Last week, the World Health Organization - Brazzaville: Regional Office for Africa released a report titled "A Heavy Burden: the Indirect Cost of Illness in Africa, 2019". The report attempts to address the gaps between ill-health and expected outcomes. According to this report,

- 37% of productivity losses in Africa



- are due to NCDs;
- 27% are due to infectious diseases;
- Remaining 36% are due to neglected Tropical Diseases, road traffic injuries and maternal conditions;
- NCDs are the largest cause of productivity losses and accounted for about 47% of the productivity costs accrued in East African community whereas HIV/AIDS accounted for 13%;
- The total DALYs (Number of years lost due to disability, ill-health or early death) accrued in the East

African Community in 2015 led to a productivity cost of International \$ 204 Billion, which is equivalent to 49% of the Region's 2015 GDP

Five countries Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania, accounted for almost 50% of the total DALYs (Number of Years lost due to disability, ill-health or early death) in Africa. Furthermore, the economically productive age group - 15-59 years bore the brunt of ill health and mortality - about 39%.

Link between Health and

Productivity at Workplaces

According to Rand Corporation report titled "Health, wellbeing and productivity in the Workplace", the following factors are negatively associated with productivity:

- Lack of sleep, financial concerns and providing care for family;
- Mental health problems
- Musculoskeletal and chronic health conditions

Their findings suggest that companies which pay attention to health and well-being at a board level report lower

rates of absenteeism and presenteeism. There is an increasing acceptance that work productivity and performance are strongly linked with employee health and well-being. There is a strong business case for investing in staff health and wellbeing. The simple logic is that investment in health and wellbeing can save a company more in terms of lost productivity.

Reply back to bhakti@impactafya.com or call +255 754 694 643 with your feedback. We welcome your suggestions for corporate wellness tips you'd like to see covered in our future columns.

Bhakti Shah, MPH is the Founder and Managing Director of ImpactAfya Ltd, collaborating with Workplace Options, USA to provide Corporate Wellness and EAP Solutions in East Africa. Bhakti is also the Advisor for the Africa Business Portal and the Past President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania.

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CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

In ongoing business operations, maintaining appropriate levels of production is a managerial challenge. The loss of productivity due to illness is a constant concern for employers and employees alike. Workers suffer not only the consequences of the illness, but often, lost wages and loss of leisure and family time. Employers must deal with reduction in production output and finding the balance in proper

WORLD

Who after Corbyn? The politicians in the race

By Bloomberg

The UK Labour Party is looking for a new leader after its heavy defeat in last week's general election and Jeremy Corbyn announced his plans to resign.

The process is expected to begin in January, with his successor tasked with trying to unite a party that has become bitterly divided over Corbyn's socialist policies and accusations of racism against Jews.

Despite Corbyn's failure to win at a national level, his popularity within Labour will be tough to follow. Here are some of the people who could replace him:

Rebecca Long-Bailey, 40: The Chosen One

If you were going to build a new Labour leader from scratch, Rebecca Long-Bailey would probably tick most of the boxes: she is a young and media-savvy female hailing from a northern constituency with a safe majority. Crucially, she's also loyal to the leadership, even standing in for Corbyn at Prime Minister's Questions in June. With the Labour membership still remaining firmly to the left of the party's MPs, this could prove crucial in gaining her the support needed to win the contest.

Long-Bailey is close friends with fellow leadership hopeful Angela Rayner, and there have been suggestions they could be the party's next power duo, akin to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Angela Rayner, 39: The One With the Back Story

Rayner has been at the forefront of

the party's election campaign, regularly facing the cameras and leading rallies across the country. Known for her blunt, no-nonsense interview style, her supporters think she will appeal to traditional supporters Labour has lost in recent years. In her shadow cabinet role, she spearheaded Labour's National Education Service, which was hoped to do for education what the National Health Service did for health. She also has a back story unlike almost any other British politician serving today, leaving school at the age of 16 while pregnant.

Given she's on good terms with the leadership but also not a fully fledged member of the hard-left faction of the party, she might be a compromise candidate who can unite Labour's ideological wings. However, there's one factor that might deter Rayner from putting her hat in the ring: she's a close friend and flatmate of fellow leadership front-runner Long-Bailey. Labour contests have a habit of tearing apart close friendships, and even family. Just ask the Miliband brothers, David and Ed.

Jess Phillips, 38: The Corbyn Critic

Known for her blunt and witty speeches, 38-year-old Jess Phillips has already said she may throw her hat in the ring. Despite sharing many of the same left-leaning views as Corbyn, she's been a vocal critic of him, saying he's not capable of winning a majority for Labour and repeatedly threatening to quit the party. For that reason she's proved divisive – hated by many Corbyn supporters who see her as undermining his efforts to win power.

Phillips, from Birmingham in central



Jeremy Corbyn

England, is characteristically a lone wolf and something of a contrarian. While backing a second Brexit referendum, she declined to join the People's Vote campaign, and she's on friendly terms with Conservative Brexiteer Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Lisa Nandy: The Cheerleader for Towns

Lisa Nandy, 40, is emerging as one of the "soft-left" front-runners, telling the BBC on Sunday she's "seriously" thinking about running because Labour's "shattering defeat" left towns like Wigan, where she's been the MP since 2010, feel like "the earth was quaking."

A former charity worker, Nandy is media-friendly and her northern roots will be seen as an advantage as Labour seeks to re-engage with traditional voters who abandoned the party in the general election. She co-founded the Centre for Towns, a think tank that aims to revive smaller urban areas.

A Corbyn opponent, Nandy quit as energy spokeswoman in his front-bench team in 2016 to join an attempt to overthrow him, and served as co-chair in Owen Smith's failed leadership campaign. She campaigned against Brexit in the 2016 referendum, but since then has argued the EU divorce must be delivered and voted for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's deal in October.

Keir Starmer, 57: The Arch Remainder

Currently the bookies' favorite, Corbyn's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer hasn't always been loyal to the current leader – particularly when it comes to the question of the UK's relationship with the European Union. Starmer backed Corbyn's rivals in the 2015 and 2016 leadership contests and is one

of the party's most vocal Remainers.

While Starmer has faced accusations of being out of touch with working class Leave voters in northern England, he's arguably closer to them than Corbyn, who was privately educated. To boot, he has an impressive career behind him. As a young lawyer 20 years ago, he helped two penniless environmental activists beat McDonald's Corp. after they were sued by the global burger chain for libel. Their victory forced the government to review its libel laws to redress the balance between rich and poor.

Emily Thornberry, 59: Corbyn's Neighbour

Emily Thornberry, the shadow foreign secretary, is widely expected to toss her hat in the ring, especially after she refused to rule out a leadership bid in an interview with the New Statesman magazine in early December. A strong media performer with experience in both Ed Miliband's and Corbyn's senior leadership teams, Thornberry pushed hard for Labour to back holding a second referendum on Brexit.

Old gaffes may come to haunt her, though. She was forced to resign her shadow cabinet post in 2014 after tweeting a picture perceived to be mocking working-class voters. Given she represents Islington South, neighboring Corbyn's own Islington North, members may question whether another Londoner is the right choice to get Labour winning again nationwide.

Sadiq Khan, 49: Mr London

Sadiq Khan is one of Labour's most recognizable faces thanks to his role as Mayor of London. He served in Gordon Brown's government and was a senior figure in Ed Miliband's opposition team, before moving his focus to forcing the Conservatives out of office in London in 2016.

But that hasn't meant he's kept quiet on issues of national (and international) importance. Khan has regularly clashed with Corbyn over Labour's Brexit stance and electoral strategies. He's also not backed down from a political feud with US President Donald Trump. This willingness to fight his corner, as well as his track-record as leader of one of the world's largest cities, makes him seem an ideal candidate to many.

The problem? He's not an MP, meaning he can't stand for leader. While then-Mayor of London Boris Johnson became a Tory MP in 2015 in preparation for his leadership ambitions, Khan made no such move in this election. Indeed, he went as far as to rule out a return to Parliament to make a leadership bid in an interview with Bloomberg TV earlier this month. Still, it's not unthinkable that the lure of becoming national leader may become too much for Khan to resist.

Agencies

Egyptian president calls for joint efforts to fight terrorism

SHARM EL SHEIKH

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi on Sunday called on the international community to make joint efforts to fight against terrorism.

He made the remarks at the 3rd World Youth Forum opened on Saturday in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm El Sheikh.

Speaking at a session discuss-

ing challenges facing international peace and security, the president said terror groups could harm a big country as one or two terrorist operations would destroy tourism.

He stressed that fight against terrorism requires international efforts and cooperation, even if some countries are not directly affected by terrorism.

The president also underlined that a united and decisive stance



must be taken against countries that support and use terrorism to achieve their goals. "If a decisive stance is not taken against these countries, terrorism will increase in the region and in Africa, and the whole world will be harmed and suffering," he said.

Terrorism prevailed in Egypt since the military ousted former President Mohamed Morsi in early July 2013 in response to mass pro-

tests against his 12-month rule and his currently outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group.

Terror attacks killed hundreds of policemen and soldiers in North Sinai province, and they gradually extended to other provinces, where dozens of civilians, mainly Christians, were killed. Most of the attacks were claimed by Sinai State group, based in Egypt's North Sinai province. **Xinhua**

China-EU ties standing at new historical starting point - Wang

MADRID

THE China-European Union (EU) relations are standing at a new historical starting point and China is willing to seize the opportunity with the EU to jointly advance the China-EU partnership for peace, growth, reform and civilization, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Sunday.

He made the remarks at a press conference following a meeting with the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, on the sidelines of the 14th

Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

The new EU institutions are determined to make progress and refreshing changes are already underway, Wang said, adding that he believes the new institutions will make the bloc more united, stable, open and prosperous.

Stressing that China's EU policy is highly continuous and stable, Wang said whether the EU is in good times or in bad times, China will, as always, firmly support the European integration process, the EU's unity and growth and Europe's more im-



portant role in international affairs. **Xinhua**

This is China's strategic choice rather than a stopgap measure, Wang said, noting that the two sides share the same or similar views on world affairs.

He said that China and Europe are partners rather than rivals as there is more consensus than divergence and more cooperation than competition between the two sides.

There is no historical grievance or geopolitical contradiction between China and Europe, let alone conflict of fundamental interests, Wang added.

The foreign minister said China-EU relations are facing

hard-won opportunities for development as next year not only marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two sides, but also the opening year of the new EU institutions.

He noted that China will host the China-CEEC (Central and Eastern European Countries) leaders' meeting in the first half of next year, and Germany has proposed hosting a special China-EU summit in the second half.

In addition, the 22nd China-EU leaders' meeting will be held as soon as possible, Wang said. **Xinhua**

American households see increasingly heavier debt burden

THE aggregate household debt balances in the U.S. increased to a record high of \$13.95 trillion, or 73 percent of the country's GDP, in the third quarter of 2019, said a recent report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Mortgage balances accounted for 2/3 of the total household debt balances, followed by student loans that took 11 percent of the share. Besides, auto loans and credit card balances also stood at a high level.

Each household in the U.S. carrying at least one form of debt owed an average of \$144,100, said a report issued by America's Debt Help Organization.

"With new car prices in May of 2019 were over \$37,000, an affordable auto loan now comes with a five- or six-

year repayment schedule. Credit card interest rates also continue rising as balances edge up. In the last decade, non-mortgage consumer debt has increased to \$4 trillion, a record even when adjusted for inflation," the report said.

Housing prices and higher education costs are rising far faster than most people's incomes, forcing them to either take on larger debts, the report said. They are borrowing more on their credit cards, taking on soaring levels of student debt and signing more and more personal loans, all making the next recession even riskier for those already struggling to make payments, it added.

Stephanie from Illinois is a social worker who owns a student loan of

\$151,000 for college education, mostly of which is all interest because of her payment plan. To pay the loan, she has left nothing untried.

"I have a family and I fear I will never pay this back," she said.

The story of Stephanie is not a rare example. According to a report by Washington Post, 45 million Americans have student loans totaling \$1.6 trillion, more than twice of those in 2009.

New York Times said in an article that 2/3 of college students in the U.S. took on debt last year, and the average burden for indebted college graduates is now nearly \$30,000. Millions of borrowers continued to struggle to pay their student loans, as a quarter of federal direct loan borrowers were either

delinquent or in default at the end of 2018, the report introduced.

Another New York Times report said that the U.S. Congress created a student loan forgiveness program in 2007, but fewer than 1 percent of those who have applied for relief under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program have been deemed eligible.

The vast majority of denials happened because people did not enroll in a loan or repayment plan that qualified, even if their chosen professions did, and most were not told of the error until the rejection notice's arrival, the report explained.

The report said that the forgiveness program was messy and filled with complicated requirements that borrowers and lenders have struggled to

understand, and the Education Department has made no effort to improve what is within its control.

Unlike most other forms of debt, student loans aren't dischargeable through bankruptcy, which means borrowers are obligated to make payments even if they don't have the income, said the Debt Help Organization report.

People default for a variety of reasons, but job loss or failure to land a position that pays enough to make loan payments are common problems.

"Student debt is a multi-generational problem as parents and even grandparents sign loans to help the student. If the student can't pay, the debt becomes a family problem," the report said. **People's Daily**

Democrats seek testimony from 4 current, ex-White House aides

WASHINGTON

THE senior US Senate Democrat called on Sunday for the Republican-led chamber to demand testimony from four current and former White House aides in a trial expected early next year on whether to remove President Donald Trump from office.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer urged formal legal demands for testimony from White House acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, former national security adviser John Bolton, Mulvaney aide Robert Blair and budget official Michael Duffey.

Schumer (pictured) made his appeal in a letter to Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who said last week he was coordinating with the White House and has raised the prospect of a short impeachment trial in which no witnesses would be called.

Democrats in the House of Representatives, where they have a majority, also sought testimony from the four men in their inquiry into whether to impeach Trump over his effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate his Democratic rival Joe Biden. Mulvaney, Blair and Duffey all defied subpoenas from a House committee and Bolton was not subpoenaed.

Trump is expected this week to become the third US president to be impeached when the House votes on charges that he abused his power by asking Ukraine to investigate Biden, a leading contender to oppose him in next year's US presidential election, and obstructed Congress' investigation of the matter. **Agencies**

Authorities extend internet ban to India's Uttar Pradesh, as protests over citizenship law intensify

NEW DELHI

AUTHORITIES have now extended the internet ban to parts of the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh as violent protests over new citizenship law in India spread across many states, officials said yesterday.

The ban on the internet was imposed Sunday evening in the wake of violent clashes between protesters and police in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

Massive protests rocked the university area on Sunday following which police resorted to tear smoke shelling and baton charging. Television images from Aligarh showed protesters resorting to vandalism by breaking motorbikes inside the campus area.

Officials have closed the university and asked students to vacate the hostels. On Monday morning students at Nadwa college took to streets in solidarity with their counterparts at AMU.

The protesting students tried to move outside campus but were pushed back by the police. "Mobile internet services will remain suspended until further orders," an official at district magistrate Saharanpur's office said. "The step has been taken to maintain law and order."

Internet ban has been imposed in parts of the eastern state of West Bengal also after violent protests erupted against the new law.

Protestors reportedly vandalised property at three railway stations and set five trains on fire. According to officials, the internet has been blocked in six districts and four subdivisions.

"The affected cities include Malda, Murshidabad, North Dinajpur, Howrah, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas," an official said.

The internet ban is already in place in parts of three northeastern states of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya since last week.

Authorities justify the ban on internet, saying it helps in preventing the circulation of information that has the potential to incite violence.

"We ordered the suspension of the internet as a precautionary measure in some parts until this morning but today again we extended it for another 24 hours in districts -- Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat and Kamrup," an official in Guwahati said. "If the situation will improve completely then we will restore the service."

Assam and Tripura were the first states to react to the new citizenship law. Massive protests and clashes rocked Guwahati, following which police fired tear smoke shells and bullets to contain the protests.

Two people were killed on spot on Thursday and two more succumbed on Sunday, taking the toll to four. Last week the Indian parliament passed the controversial new citizenship law. **Xinhua**

South Africa still far away from true reconciliation - president

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa still has much further to go before achieving true reconciliation, President Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday as the country marked Reconciliation Day.

"The South Africa of today still suffers from the effects of centuries of discrimination, dispossession and unequal development," Ramaphosa said in his address to the nation.

Racism and bigotry no longer define South Africa, but "we still have much further to go," the president said. According to the South African Reconciliation Barometer Survey 2019, a vast majority of South Africans agree that the country is still far away from reconciliation despite the end of apartheid 25 years ago.

Of the respondents interviewed in the survey, just over a half of respondents believe that South Africa has made progress with reconciliation since 1994, when apartheid was brought to an end.

Most respondents agree that reconciliation is impossible as long as cor-

ruption continues, political parties sow division, those who were affected by apartheid continue to be poor, gender-based violence remains, according to the survey, conducted by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

This confirms that true reconciliation is not only about social cohesion but also about political and economic transformation, Ramaphosa said in response to the survey.

"Since we attained our democracy our people have demonstrated time and again their immense capacity to look beyond superficial differences in the quest to achieve true nationhood, and with it, embrace a fuller humanity," said Ramaphosa.

South Africa still has to address the unfinished task of democratic transition, he said.

"We must close the festering wound of inequality that exists between our people. We must forge ahead with land reform and social development.

We must continue to transform our workplaces and restructure our economy so it benefits all," said Ramaphosa. In this sense, reconciliation is



President Cyril Ramaphosa

a very practical undertaking, he said. It is about the work that needs to be done to unlock investment in economy, to reduce the cost of doing business and to promote growth, said the

president.

It is also about the urgent measures that need to be taken to ensure a reliable supply of electricity to homes and businesses, and about ensuring that

the country's scarce water resources are preserved and equally available to all, Ramaphosa said.

"Reconciliation means that we should continue to use the capability of the state to improve the lives of the poor, to have a tax regime that is progressive and public finances that are responsibly managed," Ramaphosa said.

He said reconciliation also means a reduction of the massive inequalities in access to quality healthcare, the improvement of the quality of education in township and rural schools in particular, and universal attendance in early childhood development centers.

"We will continue to seek out and forge durable social compacts to attain our vision of a South Africa that has been fundamentally transformed," Ramaphosa said. He called on South Africans to play their part if they are to bequeath to their children a society that has truly reconciled.

Reconciliation Day, which came into effect in 1995, is intended to foster reconciliation, racial harmony and national unity in the country. *Xinhua*

Russia's main New Year tree arrives in Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S main New Year symbol, the 90-year-old fir tree, arrived on Sunday at the Kremlin through the Spassky Gate to decorate the Kremlin's Cathedral Square for the New Year and Christmas holidays.

"It was a precious cargo and we handled it with special caution. While driving we observed all the traffic rules and never exceeded speed limits. I was afraid we could be delayed by the bad weather but, luckily, everything went smoothly and we arrived in time," driver Pyotr, dressed as Father Frost (or Ded Moroz in Russian, the Russian Santa Claus), told journalists.

A logging vehicle made a stop near the Spassky Gate, and the driver handed special travelling papers to the guards and reported about the arrival of the valuable cargo.

The preeminent symbol of the New Year is about 90 years old and 25 meters tall. The diameter of the mammoth tree trunk is 6 meters.

This perfect tree for the Kremlin was picked out of a selection of 12 rivals, with requirements stating that it is not supposed to be shorter than 25 meters, nor older than 120 years.

The fir tree was cut at the Borodinskoye Forestry near Moscow on Friday. It is the second in the Borodinskoye Forestry's history. It will take several days to install it on the Kremlin's Cathedral Square and adorn it with festive decorations.

A concert was organized at the site where the tree was cut and all those willing to watch the process were invited to take part in master classes on making decorations for the New Year holiday.

On December 25, the tree will be unveiled and take center stage on traditional children's holiday shows in the Kremlin, set to delight thousands of children from all Russian regions. *Agencies*

Kremlin asks journalists not to bring big banners to Putin's press conference

MOSCOW

THE Russian president's press office asked journalists who would be covering Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual press conference on December 19 not to bring big banners with them.

The use of various banners, flags and soft toys by journalists to get the attention of the president or his spokesman Dmitry Peskov has become a tradition during Putin's an-

nual press conferences.

"Attention to correspondents working in the hall. We kindly ask you not to use banners exceeding the A4 format (210mm by 297mm), because it hampers the work of photographers and cameramen," the Kremlin press service said in a letter to journalists accredited to the conference.

The press service also confirmed the venue. Just like in past years, the event will be



held in the World Trade Center Moscow on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment and will begin at noon, December 19. Admission will begin at 8:30 Moscow time, 3.5 hours before the start of the event. Free buses will be orga-

nized from nearby subway stations.

Since 2001 Putin has held the major year-end news conference every year, except for the period of his premiership in May 2008-May 2012. He resumed the tradition after his election for a six-year term in 2012.

The forthcoming major news conference will be the 15th. On all previous occasions the head of state answered media questions for

several hours in a live broadcast. The event was invariably the focus of attention of the mass media and the public at large.

The event will be broadcast live by Rossiya 1, Rossiya 24 and Channel One TV channels, and by radio stations of Mayak, Vesti FM and Radio Rossii. The broadcast with sign language interpretation will be available on the Public Television of Russia.

The first news conference

in 2001 was also the shortest one (1 hour and 35 minutes). The longest one in 2008 lasted for 4 hours and 40 minutes. Starting from 2004 all news conferences continued for more than three hours. The duration depends on the president.

Last year's presidential news conference was on December 20. It lasted 3 hours and 43 minutes. Putin answered questions from 53 mass media outlets.

Xinjiang tourism peaks all year round

WITH efforts being made in the tourism industry, China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is now turning the whole year into high seasons.

On Dec. 7, Xinjiang Grand Theater in Changji, a Hui autonomous prefecture in the middle north of Xinjiang was packed with audience as a Xinjiang-themed large-scale indoor live-action dance drama was staged there.

A tourist surnamed Zhang who visited Tianchi Lake ("Heavenly Lake") in Mount Tianshan ("Heavenly Mountain") a day before told People's Daily that this show struck her with the beauty of Xinjiang.

A hundred kilometers away, tourists were having fun sliding on the snow at the Silk Road International Ski Resort in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang.

A ski enthusiast named Xiong Kai from northwest China's Qinghai province said it's been the third consecutive year for him to travel in Xinjiang. "I come here to experience the most dangerous and challenging trail," he said.

Xiong noted that his travel experience in Xinjiang was fantastic as he could enjoy the winter views of the Kanasa Lake after feeling the thrill of skiing. "Xinjiang is an amazing place. The peo-

ple are very nice, and so is the natural scenery."

As the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics is approaching, Xinjiang, a region that enjoys rich resources of winter tourism, is taking the sector as an important way to transform and upgrade its tourism, so as to promote the comprehensive development of related industries.

At present, new winter tourism activities are being constantly launched there, such as horse racing on snow, tug-of-war on ice and winter-fishing, presenting another form of beauty of the region for tourists from home and abroad.

Urumqi has built world-class ski trails; Altay has developed a snow resort in Hemu village, Kanas; and the Tianchi Lake in Mount Tianshan has largely promoted its hot spring resorts.

During the 14th Xinjiang Winter Tourism Trade Fair held in Altay last month, 14 prefectures and cities in Xinjiang launched more than 400 cultural and tourism activities of local characteristics, displaying local culture and customs of Xinjiang and presenting road trip routes that offer in-depth experiences.

"Autumn is the best season to visit Urumqi. As the weather cools, the city is shrouded by



colors and scent of ripe fruits. But now I feel the winter in Xinjiang is also marvelous." That's the comment from all visitors that have experienced the beauty of Xinjiang in winter.

In recent years, Xinjiang has taken great efforts to boost spring and winter tourism and improve both software and hardware for the sector, turning its rich winter tourism resources into new economic growth points and building itself into a favored tourist destination all year round.

To be specific, the region steadfastly improved its infrastructure and rolled out favorable policies. So far, 11 prefectures and cities have adopted a total of 41 incentives such as ticket discount for tourism attractions and flights, as well as subsidies for air charters.

Statistics indicated that before 2006, Xinjiang received only

900,000 tourists in winter each year, and the number jumped to 30 million by the end of 2018. In the first 10 months of 2019, Xinjiang received 202 million tourists from home and abroad, up 42.62 percent year on year.

"We were only busy in summer, but now the whole year is peak time," said a herder in Altay who has doubled his income by horse rental in summer and selling customized fur snowboards in winter.

Meanwhile, an industrial park in Fuhai county, Altay has been built and put into operation. The industrial park, which specializes in manufacturing snowboards and ice skating boots, is the first maker of ice and snow sports equipment of the county, improving local employment and making wealth for more and more people. *People's Daily*

Israel bans Christians in Gaza from reaching West Bank, Jerusalem for Christmas

GAZA

ISRAEL has banned the Christian minority who live in the Gaza Strip ruled by Hamas from visiting Christian holy sites and churches in the West Bank and Jerusalem to celebrate Christmas, a spokesman for the Christian community said on Sunday.

Israeli media reported on Saturday that Israel bans 500 Christians in the Gaza Strip from travelling to the West Bank for Christmas and New Year holidays.

Meanwhile, the Israeli daily said the Israeli security only agreed to allow 100 Christians from the Gaza Strip to travel to Jordan only for Christmas.

The Israeli ban has left more disappointment, anger, and frustration among the Christians in Gaza, Kamel Ayyad told reporters.

Last year, "Israel gave permission to about 500 Christians to travel to the West Bank to celebrate Christmas there," he said. Around 5,000 Christians, most of whom are Greek Orthodox, lived in the Gaza Strip before Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed Oslo peace accords in 1994.

However, their number dra-

matically declined because of the continuing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Since Hamas violently seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the number of Christians in the coastal enclave has dropped to around 900 amid threats from radical Sunni groups.

Those who left Gaza moved to either the West Bank or Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia.

"The decision to ban Christians from leaving Gaza is unfair, unjust, causing disappointment among the Christians and also outraging the only two Orthodox and Catholic churches in Gaza," said Ayyad.

"Israel is carrying out such measures to force the Christians to leave their homeland Palestine and live abroad, in order to strengthen its occupation of the Palestinian territories," he noted. Christians in the Gaza Strip, home to 2 million Palestinians, used to travel every year to the West Bank city of Bethlehem and Jerusalem to join Palestinian Christians there to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the

Gaza Strip in June 1967 before pulling out from Gaza in 2005.

Israel imposed a tight blockade on Gaza right after Hamas routed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' security forces and took control of the enclave in 2007.

Hana Eassa, secretary general of the Palestinian Christian Islamic Corporation, also condemned Israel's decision to ban Gaza's Christians from reaching the West Bank.

"The Israeli decision represents a serious violation and breach of the freedom of movement and worship stated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said Eassa.

Bishop Atallah Hanna, Archbishop of Sebastia of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Palestine, said the Israeli measure against the Christians of Gaza is totally rejected and condemned.

"On more than one occasion, we have expressed our reservations over the issue of providing permits by Israel to Christians and also to Muslims on their holidays so that they can reach the holy places all over Palestine," said Hanna. "The holy city of Jerusalem must be opened for everyone," he noted. *Xinhua*

China's Greater Bay Area secures solid development

TRAVELING among China's Macao, Hong Kong and Guangdong province within a day in an unrushed manner - it only existed in imagination. However, the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is turning this into reality.

The above-mentioned is the daily routine of Cai Yuanbo, a young entrepreneur who goes to and from Macao, Hong Kong and Guangdong on a daily basis.

He always departs Macao at 11:00 am and has lunches with business partners at the central business district of Hong Kong, and then heads to his office at the Macao-Hengqin Youth Entrepreneurship Valley (Inno Valley HQ), a startup incubator in Guangdong's Zhuhai for meetings with his employees from Chinese mainland and Macao. After all this, he would

return Macao to meet clients.

"The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has opened up a new world for entrepreneurs and generated unlimited opportunities," said Cai.

The man, in his thirties, started a company at the Inno Valley HQ this year, and has gained several hundred thousand registered users on a tourism mobile application he developed with his partners.

Standing by the Pearl River and the South China Sea, the Greater Bay Area consists of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Macao SAR and nine cities in the Pearl River Delta, such as Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

The area, which covers a total area of 56,000 square kilometers, had a combined population of approximately 70 million as of the

end of 2017. It is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in China.

The Greater Bay Area is developed under the conditions of one country, two systems, three customs territories and three currencies, without any precedents both domestically and internationally.

Therefore, for the area, how to bring into play the comprehensive advantages of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, innovate institutions and mechanisms, and promote the circulation of production factors within the framework of the "one country, two systems" policy, the Hong Kong Basic Law and the Macao Basic Law has become one of the most important and urgent issues.

On Sept. 23, 2018, the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail

Link opened to traffic. One month later, the cross-sea bridge connecting Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao also opened. Besides, the Nansha Bridge, which links Guangzhou and Dongguan, started official operation on April 2, 2019.

So far, four out of the total six passages planned along the east and west banks of the Pearl River estuary have been completed and open to traffic.

Infrastructural development is further strengthened in the area. For instance, large-scale boundary crossings such as the Liantang-Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point connecting Shenzhen and Hong Kong and the new Guangdong-Macao border access (Qingmao Boundary Control Point) are accelerating their construction.

Guangdong is also building a

rapid inter-city rail transport network, striving to reduce the travelling time among major cities within the Greater Bay Area to one hour or less.

Qianhai of Shenzhen and Hengqin of Zhuhai have piloted the Hong Kong engineering construction model and professional qualifications are gradually mutually recognized among the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao.

A financial convenience framework has been established and cross-border mobile payment is now available. Meanwhile, insurance products bought in Hengqin are now effective in Macao.

Such connectivity has facilitated the efficient flow of factors such as logistics, capital and information, and enhanced communication within the Greater Bay Area.

Hong Kong and Macao boast

world-class universities and R&D capabilities to the forefront of global technological innovation while the Pearl River Delta has the world's most complete manufacturing system and industrial chain which make it more adaptive to the market, said Li Zexiang, a professor with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Li believes such university-industry cooperation at the Greater Bay Area is sure to trigger chemical reaction and further spur innovation.

Most of the world's famous bay areas are global innovation highlands. To build the Greater Bay Area into a first-rate and competitive bay area, the priority is to highlight the vital role of innovation and construct it as an international science and technology innovation center.

Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao need to promote innovation in technology, industry and system based on local conditions, outline the blueprint for future industrial research and development, stimulate the free flow of innovation elements, gather global high-end technology resources, and build the Greater Bay Area into a land of high-tech innovation.

A series of cooperative platforms are blossoming in the Greater Bay Area, such as the Guangzhou campus of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone and the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao. *People's Daily*

The
Guardian

SPORT

Jamaican wins Miss World title, says will work for sustainable change



Toni Ann Singh of Jamaica celebrates winning during the Miss World final in London on Saturday. Photo: Agencies

LONDON

JAMAICA'S Toni-Ann Singh was crowned as Miss World 2019 on Saturday and said she wanted to use her title to work for "sustainable change" for women and their children.

Asked about the value of beauty contests in today's world of MeToo# and the drive for equality and respect for women, the 23-year-old graduate of Florida State University said beauty for her was the least important aspect of her achievement.

"I want to make a change that's sustainable. So if we're talking women... it needs to be something that will make sure that their children and their children's children have a different value of life," an overjoyed Singh told reporters after winning the title in London.

Singh did not specify what kind of change she had in mind.

"It's OK to celebrate things like beauty and attributes like strength and those things. But this is so much more," she said as she hugged

her proud parents, Jahrine and Bradshaw.

Describing herself as a "changed woman" after the experience of taking part in the Miss World competition, Singh added: "There's no way I could chalk it up to just being about beauty, because that's the last on the list, honestly."

Singh, who sang a version of the late singer Whitney Houston's "I have nothing" in the competition, received her crown from last year's winner, Vanessa Ponce of Mexico.

Jamaicans attending the event hailed Singh's win as a triumph also for their Caribbean island nation.

"The fact that Miss World is won by a black person is very, very significant to us because it represents a lot in terms of our culture, in terms of how far the world has moved on," said audience member Christine McDermott, who lives in London.

REUTERS

James' caps busy weekend with 32 as Lakers beat Hawks 101-96

ATLANTA

LeBRON James finished off a whirlwind weekend with another dazzling performance.

Not looking the least bit tired, James scored 32 points and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to seven with a 101-96 victory over the pesky Atlanta Hawks on Sunday night.

The Lakers pulled even with Milwaukee for the NBA's best record at 24-3.

"Highlights: sometimes they happen, sometimes they don't," James said. "I try to play the game with a lot of joy."

After scoring 28 points in a win at Miami on Friday night, James flew to Columbus, Ohio, to watch son Bronny play a high school game Saturday night.

Then, James traveled on to Atlanta to face the struggling Hawks. He never considered sitting out.

"I don't know how many games I've got left in my career," the 34-year-old James said. "I don't know how many kids show up to come see me play. ... That's my obligation. My obligation is to play."

The Hawks kept it close all the way. Vince Carter passed up an open layup and dished to rookie Cam Reddish in the corner for a potential tying 3-pointer, but the shot clanked off the rim. Danny Green went to the other end and knocked down a pair of free throws to send the Hawks to their fourth straight loss.

"We did our best to compete," Atlanta coach Lloyd Pierce said. "I'm proud of our guys."

If the home team was hoping to get an off night from James, he quickly dispelled that notion.

James had the crowd – many of them decked out in his No. 23 jersey – ooohing and ahhing with an appropriate 23-point effort in the first half.

He threw down three thunderous slams. He knocked down a couple of mid-range jumpers. He ventured out beyond the arc to



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) drives against Atlanta Hawks forward Cam Reddish (22) in the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019, in Atlanta. (AP Photo)

swish a couple of 3-pointers – including a step-back shot from nearly 5 feet behind the stripe to finish off the first half, sending the Lakers to the locker room with a 55-48 lead.

He also had seven rebounds and blocked a shot, but the play that really had everyone talking was an assist – a no-look, between-the-legs pass that caught Dwight Howard breaking down the lane for a massive dunk.

Rondo also contributed to the "Showtime" performance, finishing off a four-on-one with a dazzling move that looked as though he was about to throw up a lob to James streaking off the wing.

The lone defender, DeAndre Hunter, was left reeling as Rondo hung on to the ball for an

uncontested layup. James flew in behind his teammate like he was going for the block, adding some style points to an already impressive play.

James wasn't done. In the third quarter, he pulled up just inside the Hawks center-court logo and swished another 3-pointer from 36 feet to give the Lakers a 10-point edge.

"He was spectacular," Laker coach Frank Vogel said. "He had some all-time clips."

Atlanta trailed by as many as 11 but kept the margin in single digits nearly the entire way.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 30 points.

Anthony Davis scored 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the Lakers. James also had 13 rebounds, along

with seven assists.

HUERTER'S SHOULDER

Kevin Huertter's left shoulder is hurting again.

The Hawks guard re-injured his left shoulder about 4 minutes into the fourth quarter when he collided with Howard.

"I was trying to box him out and the arm kind of went limp," Huertter said.

He was holding his left arm gingerly after the game, but the team doesn't believe the injury is as serious as his previous one.

Huertter already missed 11 games with a strained left rotator cuff.

"We'll know more tomorrow," he said. "We haven't done any tests yet."

AP

The closing decade was an ever-shifting parade of fashion

NEW YORK

LADY Gaga wore meat and Rihanna went naked, practically. Kate Middleton delivered royal wedding opulence and Billy Porter went viral in a tuxedo gown. There was the much-coveted Olivia Pope white coat, Lupita Nyong'o's perfect powder blue Oscar gown and Karl Lagerfeld's embrace of athleisure.

The closing decade was ever-shifting in fashion. The most special moments among fashion editors had Rihanna and Beyoncé top of mind as trendsetters, along with the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, and former first lady Michelle Obama.

Rachel Torgerson, senior fashion editor at Cosmopolitan, said it might seem easy to overlook the decade of 2010 to 2020 fashion-wise. Lady Gaga's raw meat dress in 2010 at the MTV Video Music Awards was a much talked about exception.

"More definitive moments came before – the grunge-y '90s, the Paris Hilton-drenched early aughts," Torgerson said. "But the truth is there were some majorly iconic sartorial instances that changed us forever during this time."

We'll start with Rihanna. "My jaw dropped to the floor when Rihanna sparkled onto the stage in an Adam Selman Swarovski crystal 'naked dress' to receive her CFDA style icon award," said Jyoyann King, executive editorial director of HarpersBazaar.com. "It was as beautiful as it was provocative and began a trend that continues to rule the red carpet and our social feeds."

Laurel Pantin, fashion features director of InStyle, agreed: "I'll never forget it. In my dreams, that's what I look like and that's what I'm wearing."

The year was 2014. The following year, at the Met Gala, Beyoncé donned Givenchy in another barely there look, a long sheer design that



In this Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012 file photo, first lady Michelle Obama walks onto the stage wearing a Tracy Reese dress at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. (AP Photo)

relied on coverage from strategically placed embroidery and a smattering of sparkles, said Andrea Lavinthal, style and beauty director for People.

"It was somehow even more naked than all the other naked dresses that night," she said.

Duchess Kate wore the house of McQueen to marry Prince William in 2011, more than a year after Alexander McQueen's death. The lace and ivory satin gown included a pinched-in bodice inspired by Victorian corsetry, a signature of McQueen, but it also evoked the wedding look of Grace Kelly. It was designed by his successor, Sarah Burton.

"Literally every bride wanted to look like her then, and many still do," Torgerson said. "People are still requesting lookalikes."

The same interest followed Duchess Meghan into matrimony. The American actress wed Prince Harry in 2018 dressed in a boat-necked, long-sleeve stunner by Claire Waight Keller of Givenchy.

"In this decade, not only one but two of the U.K.'s spotlight princesses got married, which left the world pondering about who these women would choose to design their momentous wedding dresses," said Shilpa Prabhakar Nadella, fashion market director for Glamour. "Both have become style icons in their own right."

As style icons go, few had as much impact as Obama, who caused dresses and other attire to sell out simply by putting them on and was a big booster of both fashion and diverse

designers. Her choices often made headlines.

Lindsay Peoples Wagner, editor in chief of Teen Vogue, noted a particular Obama moment, this one by designer Tracy Reese, a rare African American woman among top designers. It was the pink sleeveless dress with specks of gold brocade that Obama wore for her speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2012.

"It was a historic moment of two iconic women coming together," Peoples Wagner said. "I can still remember how the dress shimmered as she walked on that stage."

Like Obama, Beyoncé served a heaping plate of style throughout the decade.

There was her larger-than-life

black hat and layered necklaces of Swarovski crystals, leather and gems in "Formation," from her groundbreaking "Lemonade" visual album. For her September 2018 Vogue cover, she was photographed by Tyler Mitchell in a huge floral headdress by Phil John Perry for Rebel Rebel. It was stunning and also historic: Mitchell became the first black photographer to shoot a cover for the magazine.

"The photos were so dynamic and powerful," Peoples Wagner said.

Rihanna, too, has endured. Her bright yellow cape gown by Chinese couturier Guo Pei won the 2015 Met Gala and launched a thousand omelette memes, Hyland said. Pei told Fashionista.com: "Only women who have the confidence of a queen could wear it."

By the decade's end, she would also become a powerful fashion and beauty mogul in her own right: Her Fenty Beauty line with its inclusive shades forced other brands to adapt a wider view, her Savage X Fenty lingerie line for all body types was cited as a reason for Victoria's Secret's drop in popularity, and she became the first black woman to helm a luxury line for LVMH with Fenty.

Virgil Abloh, as creative director of Louis Vuitton's menswear, also made history.

"Not only did he become one of the first black men to take over such a position in fashion, but the self-taught designer and multi-hyphenate represented a democratization of the industry and a breaking down of boundaries previously in the way for those considered far outside the lines of the traditional fashion industry insiders," said Brooke Bobb, senior fashion news writer for Vogue.com.

Legendary designer Lagerfeld died in February, but his faux supermarket show for Chanel in 2014 lives on.

"Karl Lagerfeld, who once equated sweatpants with 'giving up,' cheekily nodded to the athleisure industrial complex with intentionally holey sweatsuits and dad sneakers," said

Veronique Hyland, fashion features director for Elle. "It came at a turning point in fashion, with the everyday becoming more aspirational and studied casualness becoming the order of the day, even for fashion week habitues. It was also prescient. These days, the Whole Foods aisle is our runway."

Kerry Washington, buoyed by "Scandal," and Porter, uplifted by "Pose," helped define the decade as well.

"Scandal" was pretty much everything after it debuted in 2012 and pretty much every adult woman wanted Olivia Pope's polished, perfect style and crisp, white waterfall overcoat," Torgerson said. "These are the facts!"

Porter has provided more than a few moments but it's his showstopping black velvet tuxedo gown by Christian Siriano that achieved his goal in February at the Oscars: A conversation about gender, race and fashion. The top half was a classic men's tuxedo jacket he wore with a bow tie and the bottom was a dramatic full skirt.

"Gender neutral fashion and inclusion emerged as a key shift in the way designers approached creative direction and their businesses," King said. "Billy Porter's tuxedo gown that went viral embodied this movement in the most glamorous way."

Porter, the black and gay breakout star of the boundary-expanding FX series, spent the awards season using fashion as political art. There were previous dresses, and there was help from powerhouses Tom Ford and Michael Kors, along with smaller designers who embrace a greater gender fluidity in their collections and were thrilled to dress him.

"People are actually listening," Porter told The Associated Press after the Oscars. "I hope it opens up a dialogue of healing. I will always continue to do me."

AP

Ljungberg calls for quick managerial call after Man City maul Arsenal

LONDON

CARETAKER Arsenal manager Freddie Ljungberg believes the club must make a permanent appointment quickly to halt their slide after a Kevin De Bruyne inspired Manchester City cruised to a 3-0 win at the Emirates on Sunday.

De Bruyne scored twice and teed up Raheem Sterling for City's other goal to leave Arsenal down in ninth in the Premier League on the back of just one win in their last 12 games in all competitions.

Ljungberg has been in charge for five of those matches, but is hoping a permanent appointment can be made before next weekend's trip to Everton.

"It is a great honour to do this, but I've said I think it needs to be cleared up, to make a decision so that everybody knows," said Ljungberg.

"It is totally up to the club. I try to do things as well as I can but it would be good to make a decision, regardless of what it is."

There was little doubt City would bounce back from a derby defeat to Manchester United last weekend that left them 14 points behind Liverpool at the top of the table after De Bruyne opened the scoring just 90 seconds in.

Gabriel Martinelli had Arsenal's only shot on target inside the first minute when Ederson blocked from his fellow Brazilian.

City broke straight up the other end and Gabriel Jesus's low cross picked out De Bruyne to stroke the ball into the roof of the net.

Pep Guardiola's men had been ruthlessly cut apart on the counter-attack by United and were conscious not to make the same mistake again as they allowed Arsenal possession for large spells before breaking at speed.

The visitors doubled their lead just 15 minutes in with De Bruyne this time the creator as he carried the ball forward before squaring for Sterling to slot home his 16th goal of the season.

De Bruyne then showed his superior quality to any other player on the pitch again five minutes before half-time as this time he curled into the bottom corner on his weaker left foot from outside the box.

"He is an extraordinary player, we didn't discover his quality today," said Guardiola.

"He sees passes and actions that normally human beings cannot see. I always tell him you have to score more goals and today he scored two incredible goals."

Only a brilliant save from Bernd Leno denied De Bruyne a first half hat-trick moments later as the German's fingertips turned another long-range De Bruyne effort onto the post.

Arsenal's preparation for the game had been disturbed by the controversy surrounding Mesut Ozil's support for the Muslim minority Uighurs in Chinese province Xinjiang.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV pulled coverage of the match and Arsenal distanced themselves from Ozil's comments. **AFP**

Barca vs. Madrid threatened by political protest

BARCELONA, SPAIN

THIS "clásico" promises to be like none other.

Unfortunately, it may not be for the goals scored by Lionel Messi's Barcelona or Karim Benzema's Real Madrid.

Catalan separatists are planning to gather in large numbers around the Camp Nou and possibly carry out actions inside Barcelona's stadium on Wednesday when Real Madrid comes to play in one of the most watched matches of the season.

More than 25,000 protesters have agreed to gather outside Camp Nou, according to the on-line separatist platform Tsunami Democratic. The group says there will also be protesters among the spectators at the 99,000-seat stadium.

Police have prepared a 3,000-strong special detail involving police and private security staff to try to ensure that the team buses can arrive on time and that nothing interrupts the match.

The match was already postponed from its original date on Oct. 26 because of fears that separatists, then in the midst of a week of violent protests, would disrupt the game.

The clubs are level at the top of the Spanish standings ahead of the game after a weekend in which both were held to draws. Barcelona was held 2-2 at Real Sociedad on Saturday, and Madrid needed a last-gasp goal by Benzema to draw 1-1 at Valencia on Sunday.

CRAZY CLÁSICOS

Besides several thrilling showdowns between the powerhouse clubs, this century has seen some



highly-charged clásicos in Barcelona that got out of control.

The most outlandish was former Barcelona star Luis Figo's return in a Madrid kit in 2000. The Portugal forward was welcomed by a showering of trash, including a pig's head, at him by his spurned former fans.

A close second place goes to ex-Madrid manager Jose Mourinho poking then Barcelona assistant Tito Vilanova in the eye during a mass brawl between the teams in 2011.

BARCELONA DOMINANCE

Barcelona hasn't lost a game to Madrid in six consecutive league meetings, while Madrid's last win at Camp Nou in the league was in April 2014.

Last season, Barcelona routed Madrid 5-1 without the injured Messi. Madrid then drew 1-1 at Barcelona in the Copa del Rey, only to lose 3-0 in the second leg at home.

BARCA'S GRIEZMANN

Barcelona spent 120 million euros (\$134 million) this summer to trigger the escape clause in Antoine Griezmann's contract with Atlético Madrid with the hope of finding a third world-class scoring talent after Philippe Coutinho failed to fit the bill.

Just in time for Madrid, Griezmann has found his scoring form after struggling to adapt to his new role at Barcelona in the opening months of the season.

The French World Cup winner has scored three times in his last five games and has tallied seven goals on the campaign. Equally as important, he is clicking well with Messi and Luis Suárez, with all three combining for 33 goals. Griezmann scored in Saturday's draw at former club Sociedad.

"It was always nice to watch the clásicos on television, and now I can fulfill the dream of playing in one," Griezmann said on Sunday.

Messi will be looking to increase his clásico record of 26 goals.

MADRID'S BENZEMA

Benzema will be the No. 1 threat for Madrid.

The French striker leads Madrid with 16 goals in all competitions this season and leads the Spanish league along with Messi with 12 strikes.

Who will accompany Benzema in Madrid's frontline is more of a mystery.

With Eden Hazard most likely unavailable because of a leg injury, Zidane could align Gareth Bale, Francisco "Isco" Alarcón, Lucas Vázquez or Brazilian youngsters Rodrygo and Vinicius Junior.

AP

Mourinho says goalie's 'magic hands' saved Spurs

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho had huge praise for Tottenham keeper Paulo Gazzaniga's "magic hands" after his team held on for a 2-1 win against Wolves on Sunday in the Premier League.

Spurs' defence often lived on the edge against Wolves, but avoided any of the mishaps that were becoming commonplace earlier in the season before Mauricio Pochettino was sacked. When Wolves did get through, though, they found Gazzaniga in inspired form.

The Argentine made one great save late on to deny Romain Saiss as he continued to stand in for the injured Hugo Lloris.

"Magic hands," Mourinho remarked. "My father played in this stadium against Wolves in the UEFA Cup as goalkeeper. He was always telling me, a goalkeeper of a top team had to be different to the others because the goalkeeper of a top team doesn't have 10 saves to make."

"You have one, but when the one comes the magic hands have to be there and Paulo did it for us."

A key ingredient of the Chelsea sides Mourinho led to three Premier League titles was an ability to eke out victories even when second-best on the day and Tottenham

demonstrated that handy knack on Sunday.

Despite Lucas Moura's early opener for Mourinho's Tottenham at Wolves, they were under the cosh for most of the match and when Adama Traore equalised midway through the second half the hosts looked favourites for the three points.

But Jan Vertonghen popped up to score from Christian Eriksen's corner in stoppage time to push Tottenham into fifth place, three points behind Chelsea who they host next weekend.

Some might call it lucky, but Mourinho preferred to praise the "team ethic" that helped his side weather the storm on a rainy afternoon in the west Midlands.

"It's one of these victories where quality is not enough," Mourinho told reporters. "If you are not a team, a real team in the sense of what the word team means it's impossible."

Tottenham had only won three matches in their opening 12 league matches and were 11 points off the top four, but have won four of the five under Mourinho and secured a place in the last 16 of the Champions League.

(Agencies)

Depay's Euro 2020 at risk after tearing cruciate ligament

LYON

MEMPHIS Depay's bid to play for the Netherlands in Euro 2020 suffered a huge blow on Sunday after Lyon revealed that their star attacker had torn the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during Sunday's 1-0 Ligue 1 defeat to Rennes.

Depay's season is over after Lyon said that he would be out for "no less than six months", confirming an injury coach Rudi Garcia had revealed was a strong possibility in the aftermath of their loss at the Groupama Stadium.

Garcia said after the defeat that he feared the worst for the 25-year-old, who has scored eight times in his last eight matches in all competitions for Lyon, including the goal that took them to the last 16 of the Champions League.

On a dreadful day for Lyon, Depay's teammate Jeff Reine-Adelaide has also been ruled out for the season after tearing the same ligament in his right knee.

"Memphis' injury is a catastrophe because he is our most decisive player ... we'll have to forget about

him for the rest of the season," said Lyon's sporting director Juninho.

Depay has been a key player for a revitalised Dutch team, scoring eight times and making eight assists as the Oranje qualified for their first major tournament since finishing third at the 2014 World Cup.

However, he now faces months on the sidelines and little chance of being fit for next summer's Euros, which start on June 12 in Rome.

Lyon failed to follow up on the dramatic 2-2 draw with RB Leipzig that took them to the next round of the Champions League as they were booed off following their dismal defeat to Rennes, who moved into the European places with the win.

Youngster Eduardo Camavinga shot Rennes into fourth place with a late strike that gave Rennes their fourth league win in a row.

The 17-year-old's first ever Ligue 1 goal in his debut season in France top flight moved his side to 30 points in the Europa League spot, just one point away from the Champions League places.

AFP

Benzema looks to put Messi in Clasico shade

MADRID

KARIM Benzema is finally filling the void left by Cristiano Ronaldo and on Wednesday his task will be to trump Lionel Messi.

It will be the fifth Clasico since Ronaldo departed Real Madrid in 2018 and Spain's most prestigious fixture has not been quite the same without him, a duel lost between the world's two greatest players.

But Benzema's surge means Madrid have rediscovered their punch up front while Barcelona know their opponents now possess a player who may not be able to rival Messi but, like him, could win this match on his own.

"We often talk about Karim these days," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane after Benzema scored against Espanyol this month.

"He's matured and I think that's what makes the difference."

"We all have small defects, things to improve. But what he is asked to do is to chase and he does it, to score goals and he does it. I can't ask anything more of him, only that he continues like this."

When Ronaldo was sold to Juventus, the theory was Benzema would have to be more prolific and Gareth Bale more prominent, a chance for the Welshman to finally to revel in the limelight.

In truth, only one of them has fulfilled those hopes even if Bale's trajectory has again been flattened by fitness issues and Benzema's only began to turn upwards after Madrid's disastrous start to last season, which saw two coaches sacked in five months.

Yet few could argue he has been Real Madrid's best player for the majority of 2019, ahead of Eden Hazard, signed for 100 million euros last summer, and Luka Modric, last year's winner of the Ballon d'Or.

He has been more consistent than Sergio Ramos and more straightforward than Bale, despite the possibility of a criminal trial still hanging over him for his alleged role in the blackmail case involving Mathieu Valbuena in 2015.

That controversy still denies Benzema a place in the French national team and while Didier Deschamps' blackout has been vindicated by France's World Cup triumph last year, they continue to miss out on one of the world's most lethal centre forwards.

"I work for Madrid" - "I work for Madrid," Benzema said on Sunday after he scored Madrid's



Karim Benzema has 16 goals in 21 appearances for Real Madrid this season. (AFP Photo)

95th-minute equaliser against Valencia. "What is said over there I don't listen to."

Perhaps that has been to Madrid's advantage and the test now for this resurgent Benzema is to define the biggest games in the way Messi has done his whole career.

This season, Benzema has 16 goals in 21 matches -- more than Messi's 14 in 16 -- and he has nine in his last eight.

Since Zidane returned in March, Benzema has 24

goals in 30.

There is no doubt his performances have improved since Zidane came back. For many years Benzema was the foil to Ronaldo but he has become the complete package on his own -- a provider, chaser and scorer.

"What has changed is the number of goals," Benzema said. "I have a lot of confidence in myself."

Zidane has been asked many times about Benzema's contributions and often he says what he likes

most is the 31-year-old's focus on the team. "We always talk about goals, but it's what he does for the others that I hold onto most," said Zidane last month. For Messi, the emphasis appears reversed as Barcelona increasingly spend matches trying to find ways to unleash their magic number 10.

Invariably, Messi delivers, not just in the routine fixtures but when it matters most. In 41 meetings with Real Madrid, he has 26 goals. In 35, Benzema

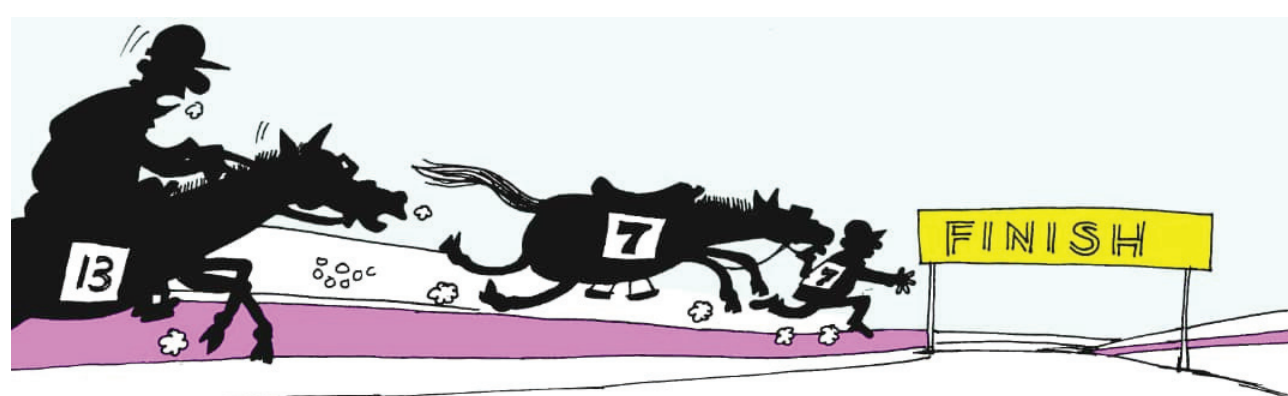
has nine. Fresh from winning a record sixth Ballon d'Or earlier this month, not to mention scoring eight goals and two hat-tricks in his last six games, Messi is in scintillating form.

But Benzema is in the form of his life too and, at this moment, it could be him who owns this first Clasico of the season, that will decide who goes top of La Liga.

Real Madrid are counting on it.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Barca vs. Madrid threatened by political protest

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Kilimanjaro Stars face Uganda test in Senior Challenge Cup semis



Mainland Tanzania soccer team 'Kilimanjaro Stars' players feature in training session in Kampala yesterday to shape up for the Senior Challenge Cup's last four clash with Uganda's Cranes, which will take place at KCCA FC venue in the city today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TTF

By Guardian Reporter

MAINLAND Tanzania football squad, Kilimanjaro Stars, have an uphill task in their quest for qualification for the finals of this year's CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup, given they will come up against hosts, Uganda's Cranes, in the semi-final in Kampala today.

Kilimanjaro Stars finished second in Group B

of the competition, with defending champions Kenya's Harambee Stars topping the group, to book a place in the last four.

Despite making it to the last four, Kilimanjaro Stars have generally been below par, with a host

of soccer followers in Tanzania expressing their disapproval of the approach deployed by the team's technical bench, which is led by head coach Juma Mgunda.

Kilimanjaro Stars, put in the same group with Zanzibar and

Sudan that have exited the competition, opened their campaign on a wrong foot, losing 1-0 to Kenya.

Kilimanjaro Stars later on bounced back, edging compatriots, Zanzibar, 1-0 in the following match to boost their quest for qualification for the last four.

A barren draw with Sudan in the last round robin clash, held on Saturday, made certain of Kilimanjaro Stars' qualification for the last four.

Mgunda and the rest of Kilimanjaro Stars technical bench have opted to regularly rotate the squad but the side has struggled to forge better coordination.

The team, for instance, struggled to break down a tight Harambee Stars' defense in the first match, with the latter ultimately coming out with valuable win.

Mgunda pointed out his squad will opt for a different game approach against Cranes in an effort to get the better the hosts.

"The most important thing is we must have a game approach which suits the knockout stage. We have today been working on a game approach we will use tomorrow and eventually secure good results," the coach noted yesterday when his team was

shaping up for the game against Cranes.

"We, first of all, respect Uganda, they are the tournament hosts, and they are a good team. Uganda's qualification for the last four proves they are a strong team."

"I should nevertheless say one thing, we have come to compete and we are ready to come up against Uganda tomorrow and get good results."

Mgunda disclosed technically today's duel stands to be tough depending on either team's tactics, noting he believes the sides will opt for almost similar approach to get victory.

Stars will need to give their all in today's last four encounter with Cranes, given the former are facing formidable opponents boasting of an impressive record in the group stage.

Cranes, placed in Group A which was as well made up of Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia, won all of their clashes to cruise to the semi-finals in grand fashion.

With an array of talents at their disposal, Cranes will be out to prove they are eager to impress at their backyard, bundle Kilimanjaro Stars out and ultimately dethrone Harambee Stars.

TONIGHT @21:00

EATV

TUESDAY

11:00 DABAZ (live)
13:30 Kazi Za Wana
14:00 Dabazi 7a Maangamizi
15:00 FIKSIFA
16:00 #KASITAO
17:00 SELENI
17:55 eNawizi
18:00 eNawizi
18:30 MUSIC
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MUDALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Yakubiana
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo na

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kibenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



The Morogoro Marathon's 10km event's participants (L-R), Juzen Nagri, Abizar Vejiani, Zainul Vejiani and Idris Bhaijee, pictured after the completion of the race at Jamhuri Stadium in the region on Sunday. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Tanzanians urged to value fitness training

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

AS the increase in the number of domestic races, particularly marathon, takes place across Tanzania, physicians have insisted on the need for people to value fitness training.

Valuing fitness training, the physicians disclosed, targets to embrace World Health Organization (WHO)'s slogan, which emphasizes sports for health care.

Abizar Vejiani, a medical official from Marhaba Pharmaceuticals in Morogoro, pointed out daily exercises are the best therapy for such non-communicable disease like diabetes.

He was among participants of the Morogoro Marathon, which took place in the region last weekend and ended with Arusha athletes finishing first, second and third.

Shambani Milk Limited and SBC Company, via Pepsi brand, sponsored the race.

Vejiani noted exercises should be part of human being activities.

Vejiani, who took part in 5km event, said his participation geared towards proving participation in exercises is worthwhile.

He maintained it is better for an individual to participate in exercises.

"Exercises should be done, as it is the case for morning prayers. An individual risks suffering diseases should he or she fails to do exercises," he disclosed.

"I'm among the 5km race competitors, my participation geared towards motivating people to value exercises."

Alfred Kindamba, who also participated in the race, stressed on the need for people to value proper diet, noting milk which is available in any formula, including yogurt, condensed and fresh, is good for health.

"It is better for an individual to drink skimmed milk, all types of milk are available at Shambani Milk Limited's office in Morogoro and the firm's shops located across the country," he insisted.

Kaushik Ramaiya, a consultant physician based in the region, revealed people need to do exercises.

He disclosed that study shows 50 percent of non-communicable diseases are associated with lifestyle, which seen in eating certain types of food containing certain vitamins and failing to take part in exercises, as well as spending hours travelling in vehicles.

Kaushik presented his study, which he conducted recently and revealed the findings at the National Non-communicable Diseases Conference, which was held in Morogoro recently.

The conference was organized by World Health Organization, World Diabetes Foundation, and National Institute for Medical Research.

Dar plans construction of first martial arts complex

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA Taekwondo Federation (TTF) is planning to construct the country's first martial arts complex that will include taekwondo and karate training facilities, as well as related sporting arena, with the Republic of Korea seemingly interested in bankrolling the project.

Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Tanzania, Taekick Cho, who was in Arusha to grace a taekwondo championship named after his office, has asked the TTF to start working towards securing a plot for that purpose.

"We will continue to support the activities in Tanzania because we have seen that there is potential in martial arts in the country," the envoy said the envoy when officiating the closing of the taekwondo event at the Sheikh Amri



A section of participants of the first Korean Ambassador Taekwondo Cup, which took place in Dar es Salaam last year, pictured prior to the presentation ceremony of the tournament, which was held in Kigamboni.

Abeid Stadium.

The TTF president, Ramouth Ally, had earlier on presented a statement to the effect that the fed-

eration was in dire straits as far as owning playing grounds is concerned.

Ally noted the federation needs a special venue for

its activities and therefore they needed assistance from the government.

As it happens, the Deputy Minister for Informa-

tion, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza, was also present at the event.

In response to TTF's request, she promised to help the federation get the required piece of land in a strategic place so that the federation can invest in the facility.

"As long as we are assured of the Republic of Korea's support towards the project, Tanzania's government will ensure that the TTF gets the plot of land," she noted.

"All you need at the moment is writing an official request to the ministry," she noted, adding that the state always likes to support sporting ventures.

The annual taekwondo championship is taking place in Arusha for the second time, going under the title of Korean Ambassador Cup.

The first championship was held in Dar es Salaam last year. According to the

organizers, the third Korean Ambassador Cup will take place in Dodoma next year.

The second Korean Ambassador Taekwondo Cup which took place in Arusha for two days, attracted participants from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

One of the taekwondo trainers based in Arusha, Master David Samson, appealed to parents to allow their children to enroll for martial arts training because the youngsters can gain a lot of benefits precisely cultivating discipline.

"Look at Kenya, they brought here over 30 female martial artists, but at the AICC Club where I train, there is only one girl. It is safer and much better to let children play taekwondo than allow them to dance in music clubs where anything can happen," he said.

Real Madrid to face Man City, Liverpool meet Atletico

NYON, Switzerland

THIRTEEN-times winners Real Madrid were drawn against English champions Manchester City while title-holders Liverpool must face Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid in the Champions League round of 16 following Monday's draw.

Real Madrid ended up in pot two after finishing second in their group behind Paris St Germain and City were the unlucky team to be paired with them

when their name was pulled out at UEFA headquarters.

City, who will be at home in the second leg, have yet to beat the Spanish side with two draws and two defeats in their previous four meetings.

However, their manager Pep Guardiola has a much more encouraging record with nine wins, four draws and four defeats in 17 meetings as coach of Barcelona and then Bayern Munich.

"It's a difficult one," said Manchester

City's director of football Txiki Begiristain. "Real Madrid are the best. We want to be the best so we have to try and beat them. It's always a pleasure to play against Real Madrid. We know them very well. They know our manager."

Liverpool and Atletico Madrid's previous meetings have produced one win for each team and two draws with both teams scoring four goals.

Only Europe's biggest five leagues – England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain

– were represented in the draw and 11 of the 16 teams also reached the knockout stages last season.

Both England and Spain managed to get all four of their teams into knockout stages. Elsewhere, Serie A champions Juventus will face French side Olympique Lyonnais and PSG will play Borussia Dortmund.

Barcelona were pitted against an unpredictable Napoli, the first time the two sides have ever met.

Napoli fired coach Carlo Ancelotti immediately after beating Genk to make sure of their place in the last 16 and replaced him with Gennaro Gattuso, who has never coached in the Champions League before.

"A great team, a great challenge, two fascinating races. We will face them without fear," he said.

Jose Mourinho's Tottenham Hotspur side, who reached the final last season, will play RB Leipzig, who are in the knockout stages for the first time, while Chelsea were drawn against Bayern Munich.

Despite their erratic domestic form, Bayern were the only team to complete the group stage with a 100% record

Serie A side Atalanta, who reached the last 16 on their first participation in the Champions League despite losing their first three group matches, were drawn against Valencia. REUTERS

Flexibles by David Chikoko

