



**BUSINESS** Come and invest in Tanzania's diverse sectors, Prof Mkumbo urges investors

### National Pg 3 Nickel firm to employ 3,000 locals



### National Pg 4 Longido DC warns livestock smugglers



### National Pg 5 Call to buy 'made in TZ' local pipes



**Bolt boosts driver safety with a 12-hour working time limit**

**We're here to serve you with steady power supply, Tanesco director general says**

# TCRA sets new rules for telecom 'bundles'

By Henry Mwangonde

**T**HE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has issued a number of rules to guide telecom companies in issuance of data bundles in a move aimed at addressing grievances aired by consumers on costs and quality of services.

TCRA Director General James Kilaba said yesterday that the new rules coming into effect on April 2 require service providers not to offer bundles without approval from the regulator and ensure data bundle prices are within indicative prices directed by TCRA.

The new rules require service providers to use simple language in data provision for ease of customers to grasp, while being disallowed from changing and twisting terms and conditions of the bundles within three month of issuance.

"Service providers will notify user on the usage of the bundle upon reaching 75-percent and 100 percent for voice

TURN TO Page2



Water Minister Jumaa Aweso pictured yesterday emerging after walking through a heavy-duty pipe manufactured by Dar es Salaam-based Pipes Industries Company Ltd as he continued with his tour of projects attesting to the massive investments Tanzanians have made in supporting the country's water sector. Second right is the firm's CEO, Nassoro Ali Seif. Photo: Chief Photographer Selemani Mpochi.

# New plan eyes fishing port, TAFICO revival

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE government has unveiled the Fisheries Sector Development Plan that includes construction of a fishing port and revitalisation of the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO).

In his remarks to open a stakeholders' meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki said the new port will serve fishing vessels operating in the deep sea.

"The feasibility study for the project has already been conducted by the consultant," he said, elaborating that as an exclusive port for fishing it will have all the facilities for inspecting, sorting, grading, storing as well as packing and unpacking fish.

"There will be facilities for docking and repair of the vessels," he said.

To strengthen TAFICO, the government will first review law governing its operations and the policy context to bring these aspects in line with a commercial focus.

**A total of 10 tied projects will be implemented under this plan at a cost of 89.3bn/-**

The government is fine-tuning the corporation's business plan to focus on deep sea fishing, fish farming and fish processing, he said.

"A total of 10 tied projects will be implemented under this plan at a cost of 89.3bn/-" he said, relating to purchasing four fishing vessels, setting up fish processing plants and aquaculture (fish farming) projects. The government will henceforth increase its investment in research on fisheries resources, beef up security in

territorial waters, improve training and laboratory services, while putting in place a business friendly environment.

As part of the plan, the government has already secured a 4.2bn/- loan from the government of Japan which will be spent on construction of a fishing vessel. The cash will also be used to put up ice plants at the port and ice storage facilities, he said.

Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda said at the meeting that the fisheries sector is hugely underutilized, appealing for more investments for increased productivity, job creation and poverty reduction.

Addressing the National Assembly last year, then minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, Luhaga Mpina, said the TAFICO business plan would be jointly implemented by the government and the private sector.

Tabling the ministry's 66.818bn/- revenue and expenditure estimates for the 2020/21 fiscal year, the minister said fishing vessels will also be deployed in inland water bodies.

# Avoid hiring surveying companies, minister tells district directors

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

**T**HE government has banned district councils from using privately registered land surveying companies insisting the job should be done by land sector employees. William Lukuvi, the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, affirmed this position yesterday at a function to issue title deeds to residents of Kisesa ward in Magu District, Mwanza Region.

"Land surveying should now be done by land sector employees and not private companies. District councils are allowed to hire surveying technicians from Ardhi Institute Morogoro to complete their tasks which includes planning services," he said.

He urged employees of the ministry to provide all the needed support to members of the public seeking to acquire title deeds, as they can be used as collateral when borrowing money from financial institutions. "You cannot access a bank loan if you don't have a title deed. Bank officials would only want to see the document despite the fact that you have a number of land plots that have not been surveyed," he said.

District councils need to educate people on the importance of surveying their land plots, he said, noting that village executives can sensitize people to contribute money for land surveying and planning services, as one village must collect 8m/- for its land to be surveyed.

Assistant Lands Commissioner, Elia Kamiyanda said the region has received 220m/- for surveying 3,000 land plots at Wita A, Igudija and Kitumba villages in Kisesa ward.

The Acting District Executive Director, Merchdes Wema said the district has so far identified 2,612 out of the targeted 3,000 land plots, installing beacons on the plots. About 34 land plots at Ihushi and Bujashi villages have purposely been allocated for construction of small industries, he added.

# Minister acts on defective Kidatu hydropower station

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

**E**NERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami has instructed the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) to take disciplinary measures against the Kidatu Station Manager and two procurement officers for laxity.

The directive came after it emerged that the station's plant number 2 that used to produce 51MW of electricity has been defective and thus idle since September last year.

**There are problems in the procuring system here. There are officials who have been sleeping on the job since September last year.**

Dr Kalemami issued the instructions on Monday after inspecting the power station, further directing TANESCO to repair the plant within 15 days to make the power station return to its original 204MW power generating capacity.

"I have toured the area and found one of the four power plants not generating electricity and when I inquired from experts; I was told they were still in the process of procuring spare parts.

"There are problems in the procuring system here. There are officials who have

been sleeping on the job since September last year. The situation has affected power supply to the national grid," he said.

In the circumstance, Dr Kalemami directed the TANESCO Managing Director to take action against two procurement officers alongside the Kidatu Station Manager.

Inspecting the transformer at the station, Dr Kalemami was told that one of its units has not been

TURN TO Page2

**TOP THINK -TANK**  
Page 5



**CASHEW-NUTS**  
Page 6



**MAIZE FARMERS**  
Page 7





## TCRA sets new rules for telecom 'bundles'

FROM PAGE 1

bundles and short message services (SMS)," the regulator elaborated.

Similarly, service providers are required to insert a mobile app to help user know the rate of data bundle usage by downloading the app.

Service providers need to enable the user to choose and agree to charges on data use and units of the selected data, where telecom companies provide for selection in the menu before a user chooses a data or voice bundle to buy.

"The service provider will not be allowed to reduce data speed during the use of the purchased bundle," the rules further underline.

The new guidelines also direct telecom companies not to issue

three promotions and special offers of different kinds at the same time.

TCRA said that from 2018 to 2021 the average cost for calls within one network without subscribing to bundles has dropped from 290.27/- per minute to 90.81/-, a 76percent decrease while inter-network connection without bundles has dropped by 81percent.

The new rules come from analysing the cost difference between using bundles and not using bundles, where TCRA noticed that 90-percent of phone use is tied to bundles and thus complaints come most from this source.

On February 5 TCRA invited views from stakeholders on data bundle services issued by telecom companies, with about 3,278 views being received by TCRA since then, he added.

## Minister acts on defective Kidatu hydropower station

FROM PAGE 1

working since September last year. He ordered a new plant be installed within one month and directed that disciplinary steps be taken against the plant's supervisor.

He similarly directed the managing director to make sure that repair work on power plants all over the country does not take more than 10 days.

As for equipment against lightning along transmission lines, he instructed TANESCO to purchase

the equipment within 17 days so that come rain, come lightning, power supply should not be interrupted.

The minister said the holding dam has adequate water levels for the needed power generation.

During the visit, he was accompanied by Managing Director Dr Tito Mwinuka, Acting Commissioner for Electricity and Renewable Energy - Edward Ishengoma, Assistant Commissioner for Electricity - Innocent Luoga and other ministerial officials.

## Zimbabwe's vice president resigns amid sex scandal

HARARE

Zimbabwe's Vice-President, Kembo Mohadi, has resigned after he became embroiled in a sex scandal involving married women.

The 71-year-old announced his resignation on Monday after an online media outlet, Zimlive, published recordings of his telephone conversations with at least four women where he is heard negotiating for sex.

He said he was resigning with immediate effect to fight the allegations in court, claiming he was a victim of blackmail.

"Following the recurring disinformation and virtualisation of my alleged immoral unions, dispensed through awkward hacktivism, I am stepping down as the vice-president of the Republic of Zimbabwe," Mohadi said in a statement.

"My decision to relinquish the vice-president's post is a way of respecting the citizens of this great nation and my party comrades, some of whom would have been affected by the falsehoods and character assassination on the digital ecosystem...My resignation is also necessitated by my desire

to seek clarity and justice on the matter."

The ex-VP also vowed to "poke holes in this strategy from political foes."

The long-serving politician claimed his voice was cloned and alleged a plot to soil his image.

The audio recordings included one where he is heard arranging to have sex with a married security aide in his office.

The former State Security minister insisted that he was innocent and a victim of "information distortion."

"I have been going through a soul searching pilgrimage and realised that I need the space to deal with my problems outside the government chair," Mohadi said.

Civil society organisations had called on Mohadi to resign, accusing him of abuse of office.

He was appointed VP three years ago after the coup that toppled long-time ruler Robert Mugabe.

Previously, he had served under Mugabe in various security portfolios since the 1990s.

Zimbabwe's other VP is Retired General Constantino Chiwenga, who led the 2017 coup as then army commander. AGENCIES



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi swears in Othman Masoud Othman (R) as Zanzibar's First Vice President at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## DRC: Politicians, bloggers spread fake news on admission to EAC

KINSHASA

As the Democratic Republic of Congo awaits its formal admission into the regional bloc, purveyors of false news have been spreading misinformation in the country.

Since Saturday, some politicians and prominent bloggers have been announcing that Kinshasa has become the seventh member of the East African Community (EAC).

Bestine Kazadi, a special adviser of President Félix Tshisekedi on international cooperation and regional integration posted online: "DRC's membership in the EAC. For Presi-

dent Félix Tshisekedi, the vision became reality on February 27, 2021. The Prime Minister Sama Lukonde has to ensure that the country gets all the benefits as a member of the bloc."

Some media outlets picked up the news and published "its official, the 21st EAC heads of state Summit has just adopted DR Congo's application for membership in the bloc. From now on, DRC is a full member of the EAC as well as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

DRC shares a long border with

four countries that are members of the East African Community. The country first applied to join the EAC in June 2019. EAC leaders had promised to respond to Kinshasa's request during its 21st summit last month.

But EAC leaders said they would make a final decision at the next summit, once the Council of Ministers verifies Kinshasa's readiness.

In the meantime, the EAC adopted French as one of its official languages.

DRC is a member of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), SADC and ECCAS -- the Central African bloc.

President Tshisekedi applied for membership of the EAC, saying admission will help break customs barriers and increase cross-border trade.

Beyond the vision of economic integration, for some analysts, DRC's membership in regional or international organisations is a sort of victory for the Congolese leader. Since coming to power in January 2019, Tshisekedi has shown himself close to East African presidents, while his predecessor was much closer and more open to the SADC.

AGENCIES



Germany's Ambassador to Tanzania, Regina Hess (L), and Old Moshi cultural tourism coordinator Gabriel Orio pictured yesterday lighting candles at the grave of Mangi (Chief) Meli Kiusa bin Rindi Makindara at Kolilia in Moshi Rural, Kilimanjaro Region. It was in commemoration of the Chagga hero's execution by German colonialists on March 2, 1900. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Just four per cent of Covid research relevant to Africa - study

NAIROBI

Just four per cent of scientific research published on COVID-19 is relevant to Africa despite the continent containing close to a fifth of humanity, according to an analysis published yesterday.

With nearly four million confirmed cases across the continent, the authors of the study said the relative lack of research on Africa or authored by Africans added to the growing body of "evidence of coloniality in global

health research and decision-making".

Researchers analysed more than 2,000 peer-reviewed articles published in the 10 leading health and medical journals between January 1 and September 30, 2020.

Just 94 out of 2,196 articles studied -- around four per cent -- contained content related to Africa or a specific African country, the analysis found.

In the articles relevant to Africa, just 210 out of 619 listed authors who were African -- 34 per cent.

That means that two-thirds of the authors of COVID-19 research related to the continent were non-African, compared with African authors making up three per cent of the authors of non-Africa-focused research.

Africa is home to 17 per cent of the world's population.

The authors of the analysis, published in the online journal BMJ Global Health, said the results were not surprising given how African authors have historically been under-represented across scientific

research.

"Health policy is not only informed by original research; sensible, contextually appropriate guidelines, opinions and commentary are also essential to improving the functioning of healthcare systems," they wrote.

"This is especially true during times of surge, when original research can be challenging to produce in low resource settings, like those in Africa.

"African voices and research are needed to guide the local pandemic

response," they concluded.

The authors called for governments to increase research funding, particularly into infectious diseases, and said that scientific journals had a role to play in ensuring their studies are more representative of the global population.

"The time has come that authoritative journals need to turn to authors and ask where local representation is on papers describing health systems in regions that are not their own," they wrote.

A separate analysis reinforced the findings, looking at research linked to African researchers or institutions between November 2019 and August 2020.

It found that African countries produced three per cent of COVID-19 publications during this period.

Almost two thirds of these came from just three countries: South Africa, Egypt and Nigeria.

AGENCIES





Implementation of one of the 540m/- water projects lined up for Bangata ward in Arumeru District well under way, as witnessed yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

## 'Safe use of chemicals vital for benefit of people, environment'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHIEF government chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko has urged entrepreneurs to make safe use of chemicals used in producing domestic goods to protect people's health and environment. Dr Mafumiko said that when opening one-day training on safe use of chemicals to the entrepreneurs that was organised by government chemist laboratory agency (GCLA) in Lake Zone office.

"I'm aware that your activities involve the use of chemicals caustic Soda (sodium hydroxide), sulphuric acid to make soap. All these are harmful if used or not protected properly. Therefore, I would like to insist on following safer ways of using chemicals in

your daily activities," he said.

Dr Mafumiko said the aim of the training was to increase awareness on the safe use of chemicals to reduce impacts as per the Industrial and Consumer Chemical Act.

"The training is further aimed at building your capacities to know the effect of using chemicals, safe use of chemicals without affecting your business and your health and steps to take during emergencies," he said.

"During training, the entrepreneurs will be trained about the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) ACT [No. 3 OF 2003]."

Beatrice Makoko, an entrepreneur from Ukerewe island said that training was useful because it had additional skills in dealing with chemicals.

"I would like to thank GCLA for the training and called the authority to make it regularly because entrepreneurs are a big group that need continuous training."

Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act [No. 3 OF 2003] was established by the parliament and assented to be law by the president in April 05, 2003.

It was established to provide for the management and control of the production, importation, transportation, exportation, storage, dealing, and disposal of chemicals and for matters connected therewith.

**IRINGA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
 PO Box 912, Iringa, tel: 026 270-2016 call: 0657864409; fax: 026 272-5055  
 Email: iringainternational@iis.ac.tz, web: http://iis.ac.tz

**TEACHING VACANCIES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR AUGUST 2021-JUNE 2023**

- Applicants must have degree in EDUCATION from an accredited university
- All applicants must have at least 3 years of teaching experience.
- All applicants must be fluent in English reading, writing and speaking.

1. Lower primary class teacher. Must have prior experience in the PYP curriculum
2. Upper primary class teacher. Must have prior experience in the PYP curriculum
3. Middle School Mathematics and Accounting
4. Middle School Science Biology, Physics and Chemistry
5. Middle School English/Humanities teacher
6. Kiswahili teacher. Must be fluent in Swahili reading, writing and speaking

Middle School applicants must be experienced in teaching the IGCSE curriculum.

Please send your letter of interest and an updated CV to [iringainternational@gmail.com](mailto:iringainternational@gmail.com)

Qualified and short-listed applicants will be notified upon review of your application. Closing date is 30th of March 2021

## Govt, investor: Nickel smelter due to employ 3000 residents of Kahama and Ngara districts

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

MORE than 3,000 residents of Ngara and Kahama districts are expected to be employed by the nickel smelting plant to be built at Buzwagi Gold Mine in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region.

The nickel smelter is expected to be built by Tembo Nickel mining firm in Ngara District, Kagera Region.

This was revealed on Monday by a team of government experts and the investor, Tembo Nickel who visited Kahama District to survey the area for the construction of the smelter that would be mined in Ngara District, Kagera Region.

Kabanga nickel executive officer Chris Showalter said upon completion the smelter will employ over 3,000 people, 2,000 of them from Ngara District.

Tanzania Commissioner for Mining Prof Abdulkarim Mruma who led the team of mining experts from the Ministry of Minerals said the government has provided an investment area at Buzwagi Gold Mine to facilitate transport of the nickel at the smelter.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack said the government has allocated four areas for the construction nickel smelting plants and what remains is for the investor to choose one of them.

General manager of Bulyanhulu and Buzwadi Gold Mines Benedict Busunzu praised Tembo Nickel for mining the mineral from Kabanga area in Ngara District in Kagera Region and for the decision to construct the smelting plant.

## Tanzania aims to produce 200mw thermal energy by 2025, says TGDC

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Geothermal Development company (TGDC) plans to open up opportunities in the use of thermal energy for the country's economic growth.

Speaking at the weekend in Morogoro at a meeting with senior editors from the country's media, TGDC general manager Eng Kato Kabaka said the government, through his institution continues with its strategic projects in the development of thermal energy to attain the government's goal to produce 200MW by 2025.

"Priority projects includes Ngozi in Mbeya and Songwe Regions, Kiejo-Mbaka in Mbeya Region, Natron in Arusha Region and Luhoi in Coast Region all of which aim to produce 200MW," he said.

He said in-depth research on geothermal energy in the priority projects continue and as for now, TGDC has begun drilling tests for geothermal wells to de-

termine the actual geothermal energy reserves under the ground.

"In the circumstances in the coming days TGDC plans to enter into agreement with a local contractor to conduct drilling tests for shallow wells for research purposes at our Kiejo-Mbaka project in Busokelo Council, Rungwe District, Mbeya Region," Kabaka said.

"Among sectors that we plan to integrate with in the geothermal energy development in the country include the energy, agriculture, livestock, industry, trade and tourism sectors," he added. He added: "Among the opportunities in the use of geothermal energy from the Songwe Region's project include hatchery for chicken, fish farming, agriculture and tourism business."

Tanzania has over 50 locations that have the potential of producing geothermal-powered electricity. The locations are scattered across Mbeya, Arusha,

Dodoma, Iringa, Coast, Kilimanjaro, Kagera, Katavi, Shinyanga, Morogoro, Mwanza, Manara, Rukwa, Singida, Songwe, and Tanga Region.

Tanzania Office  
 Plot No. 1131B, Msasani Road  
 P.O. Box 369 • Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
 Tel: +255 22 2600341 • Website: www.rti.org

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Project Close Out Notification**  
Notice to the Stakeholders, Partners and others who work with RTI

RTI International has been assisting the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Education to implement the rollout of the USAID funded project "Tanzania Tusome Pamoja Project". The project started January 2016 and will come to an end by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

This is to inform the General Public that, the Tanzania Tusome Pamoja Project will officially close on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and in this regard all project activities will officially cease on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and all 85 staffing will unfortunately be declared redundant.

Please be assured of management commitment to go through this exercise efficiently with a full appreciation of the difficulties it may cause to those who might be affected. In this regard, please let us know if you have any pending issue with anyone from our organization so that we sort the same on time. This notice will last until end of March 2021.

Yours Sincerely,  
  
 Stephen Backman  
**PROJECT CHIEF OF PARTY**

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE**  
 TUSOME PAMOJA PROJECT  
 P.O. Box 369  
 DAR-ES-SALAAM

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
**ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK**

**NOTICE** is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Athena Core Technologies Limited	International and National Network Facilities and Network Services	1. Pyramid Healthcare (Mauritius)	80
			2. Gummula Sai Charan, - (Indian)	20
2.	Mobishatra Tanzania Private Limited	National Application Services	1. Manish Nanda Shares (Indian)	91
			2. Amitabh Kumar- (Indian)	8
			3. Lucas Kiangi-(Tanzanian)	1
3.	Nlolo Company Limited	National Application Services	1. Shirumisha Clement Kwayu – (Tanzanian)	50
			2. Aikande Clement Kwayu – (Tanzanian)	50
4.	Wakandi Tanzania Ltd	National Application Services	1. Wakandi Group AS (Norwegian)	60
			2. Rafaella Carolyne Sinamwa (Tanzanian)	20
			3. Seni Songwe Malimi (Tanzanian)	20
5.	Cre8hub Limited	Regional Application Services	1. Nyerhovwo Okpako – (British)	80
			2. Asif Abdullatif – (Tanzanian)	10
			3. Abigail Okpako – (British)	5
			4. Otega Okpako – (British)	5
6.	Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (Nelson Mandela FM Radio)	District content services (Radio Broadcasting)	Nelson Mandela African Institution Of Science and Technology – (Tanzanian)	100

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 Of The Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

**Comments should be submitted to:**

**Director General**  
**Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority**  
 P. O Bo 474  
 14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
 Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2  
 Fax: +255 22 2412009  
 E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz





Mpwapwa Police Station commanding officer David Kinyage (R) briefs Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (L), who toured the station yesterday. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

## Ashden Awards calls for applications from Africa's low-carbon innovators

By Guardian Reporter

THE prestigious Ashden Awards has called for applications from Africa's low carbon innovators announcing cash grants of up to £20,000 for winning organisations which will also receive development support, networking opportunities and PR support including a broadcast-quality film about their work.

The Ashden Awards highlight outstanding climate innovations, boosting bright ideas that can be scaled up or replicated around the world. Applicants include businesses, charities and public sector bodies.

Ashden Chief Executive Officer, Harriet Lamb said: "while too many young people face unemployment or underemployment, new opportunities are opening for jobs in building the low carbon economy of the future."

Lamb said that renewable energy generates more jobs than fossil fuels, but people are not being trained up with those skills to power the future economy.

"This is why the Ashden Award is looking for exciting initiatives train-

ing people in green skills," she said.

Referring to the new Award for regenerative agriculture, she said: "Small scale farmers are the heart of the low carbon revolution. They grow our food and they often practice traditional techniques that help store carbon and protect the soil - in fact the techniques of the future. We are looking for those examples that can inspire others to follow their footsteps."

Regenerative agriculture is sustainable farming that nourishes soil, boosts biodiversity and improves water management, said Lamb adding it could bring enormous benefits to the climate, and to 500 million smallholder farmers around the world.

Awards relevant to Africa with include, Ashden Award for humanitarian energy, Ashden Award for cooling in informal settlements, Ashden award for energy access innovation, Ashden Award for natural climate solutions, Ashden Award for energy access skills and the Ashden Award for regenerative agriculture.

Winners will be announced at the international climate summit COP26 being held in Glasgow, Scotland in November.

## Saanane Island National Park charting strategies to attract more visitors

By Correspondent Wilhelm

Mulinda, Mwanza

SAANANE Island National Park is planning to improve services which include provision of special traditional diets and construction of luxury tents to accommodate tourists visiting the park.

Acting tourism officer at

the Park, Sadick Mohamed was briefing the deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja who visited the park recently.

He said the park is now putting in place a number of strategies to attract as many visitors as possible in a bid to boost the tourism industry and raise income.

According to him, the plan

also involves adding different species of animals with a view to attract more tourists to visit the area.

Sadick said the strategy responds to the call of the visitors whom for many years have been requesting for improvement of services by having varieties of attractions. "We are working to increase the number of animals such

as chimpanzees provided that the ecology supports the animals to survive," he said.

The national park is located two kilometres South-West of Mwanza city centre, lying in the Capri point Gulf of Lake Victoria. Foreign tourists visiting the park also have an opportunity to watch local cultural dances of Sukuma Tribe at Bujora located some few

kilometres from Mwanza city centre.

The park is a good place for picnicking, panoramic viewing of the city and sun rising as well as downing including filming. Sport fishing and stone jumping also are conducted in the area including boat excursions in the lake. Tourist attractions available at the park include impala,

zebra, wildebeests, lions, peacocks, more than 70 species of birds both aquatic and terrestrial migrants as well as residents and lake panoramic view. Others are revert monkeys, lizards lagama, monitor lizards, crocodiles, rock hyrax, pythons as well as sea otters to mention just a few.

Tourism is the largest foreign exchange earner since

2012, contributing an average of \$2 billion annually, which is equivalent to 25 per cent of all exchange earnings, according to the government data. It also contributes to more than 17 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creates more than 1.5 million jobs, 500,000 of which are direct.

## Cattle smuggling: When smugglers become traders

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

The vicious cycle of cross-border cattle smuggling in Longido District border has snowballed into a major challenge for the authorities which always remains on the receiving end.

Longido District Commissioner, Frank Mwaisumbe has given a seven-day ultimatum to livestock traders smuggling cattle into neighboring Kenya through porous borders.

According to an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity, cattle smugglers from the district are treated as traders once they cross over to Kenya.

"All these smugglers need to do is to offer a bribe to the dishonest officials in Longido afterwards they are free to sell it to whoever they wish," he said.

"Since there is a huge demand for cattle in Kenya, smugglers never lose a single chance to cross over to the neighbouring country where they earn easy money. The demand and supply chain has to be broken," the official said.

According to officials, tens of thousands of cattle are estimated to be smuggled to Kenya annually through the porous border in the district.

Longido DC gave the order yesterday during a tour at a slaughter factory firm belonging to Eliya Food Overseas Ltd. His visit followed reports that most of the cattle are smuggled into neighbouring countries resulting into a shortage at the factory which is located in the district.

He said the government in collaboration with officials from Kenya will from next week conduct patrols at all the livestock markets near borders. He said those who will be found conducting the business without permits will be punished in accordance with the laws.

Mwaisumbe said he recently held a meeting with his Kenyan counterpart from Kajiado to discuss on how best they can control livestock smuggling between the two countries.

"Livestock smuggling affects production at the factory which has secured markets in Arabic countries, the investor requires a consistent supply to be able to slaughter cattle at its full capacity and meet the market demand," said the District Commissioner noting illegal transportation of the domestic animals denies the government revenues.

Chairman of livestock traders at the international livestock market in Longido District, Saruni Laizer said they have been sensitising traders to use the market for the government to get revenues.



January Msoffe (L), a retired Judge of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, pictured on Monday making a presentation to 70 resident magistrates attending a seminar organised by the High Court of Tanzania and conducted by the Lushoto-based Institute of Judicial Administration. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## Ngira Primary School in Masama facing shortage of teachers

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

THREE teachers at Ngira Primary School in Masama East ward in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, are forced to teach more than 400 pupils in Standard One to Seven due to serious shortage of teachers.

Following the problem, Hai District Executive Director, Yohana Sintoo, has ordered immediate transfer of

two teachers from schools with a sufficient number of teachers to Ngira primary school.

Sintoo gave the directive yesterday when responding to a question from Masama East Ward councilor who wanted to know the government plans to allocate more teachers at Ngira primary school.

The councilor was concerned that with the big number of pupils the school requires many teachers to be

able to properly teach all the subjects from Standard one to seven. He said for better academic performances, authorities must ensure a standard pupil-teacher ratio.

"We cannot have over 400 pupils taught by just three teachers; with this trend pupils will never achieve their targeted academic goals," said the councilor.

According to Sintoo, the district education officer (primary) Christopher Wangwe will next week trans-

fer two teachers from other schools to Ngira primary school. He promised to resolve the shortage of teachers at all the schools depending on new employment to be done by the government.

"Allocation of teachers will now be directed to schools with serious shortage," said the DED.

Meanwhile, Wangwe promised to send three teachers to Ngira primary school by March 3rd 2021.



# TanESCO ready with 70 megawatts for use during first phase of SGR operations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TanESCO) is unveiling 70 Megawatts of electricity to power the first phase of the standard gauge railway (SGR) set to start operations in the coming few months, a senior official has said.

SGR power project manager Eng Albano Sembua said the actual construction of power lines between Dar es Salaam (Kinyerezi) and Morogoro (Kingorwira) was completed and the government through the power utility firm spent 71.1bn/- to accomplish the first-phase of the project.

TanESCO has installed 462 electric poles from Kinyere-

zi (Dar es Salaam) to Kingorwira (Morogoro).

"What is waiting now is for the SGR to take the power for their own use," he said.

Construction of the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro stretch started in January 2019.

The 70MW would be provided to the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) as soon as the corporation

gets ready to start run the first phase of SGR trains between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro.

Addressing senior editors and journalists in Morogoro over the weekend, Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemami said the project is done by 100 percent.

He however assured the public that the SGR train op-

erations couldn't be disrupted in times of power cuts as the locomotives will have inbuilt power-saving systems to keep them charged for not less than one hour.

He said: "Firstly, power disruptions will be reduced but secondly, the locomotives will run in such a way that they are able to keep themselves powered for an hour

to two after power cut.

TanESCO managing Director, Dr Tito Mwinuka said that the line is connected with four newly built Traction Power Substations (TPS) in Pugu, Ruvu, Kidugalo, and Kingolwira.

The transmission line, which has a capacity of 220 kV covers a total distance of 159 kilometers from Kinyere-

zi through Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, and it will serve as a source of power for SGR train.

SGR is one of the strategic major projects undertaken by the fifth-phase government, which is devoted towards strengthening railway, air, water, and road transport infrastructures to provide diverse options to its citizens.

## Purchase water pipes from Tanzania firms, minister Aweso directs contractors

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has stressed the need for contractors implementing water projects to procure materials including pipes from local manufacturers.

"The government insists on transforming the country into an industrialized nation, we need to support our industries because their products meet the required standards," said Water Minister Juma Aweso when speaking during a visit at a Dar es Salaam-based plastic pipes manufacturer—Plasco Limited on Monday.

The tour was aimed to inspect the industry operations as well as to discuss challenges facing local plastic manufacturers.

Minister Aweso asserted that there are no reasons for delaying water projects since most of the materials especially pipes can be procured locally. He underscored the need for Tanzanians to change their mindset against locally manufactured products as they are of good quality.

"I am impressed with the technology you apply in manufacturing the pipes. We don't need to continue ordering materials from abroad. What you need is to assure us with the production capacity, timely delivery of materials and reasonable prices," he said adding there are over 600 water projects implemented at different places across the country.

According to him the government is determined to improve the water sector to reach its target of ensuring 85 percent of rural dwellers and 95 percent of those living in urban areas get access to clean and safe water.

Aweso urged the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and Agency (RUWASA) to ensure timely payment of contractors since the government funds the projects through the Water Fund.

The minister challenged local plastic pipes manufacturers to consider producing pipe fittings because they are currently procured outside the country.

He said ordering pipe fittings abroad have been contributing to delays in completing water projects since it takes up to five months for contractors to get them.

Responding, Plasco Limited Chief Operating Officer, Alimiya Osman said they have already started to invest for production of the water pipe fittings. Osman said the industry has a capacity to convert 28,000 tonnes of plastic per year.

Wholite technology used to manufacture pipes which can be used in gas, irrigation and water projects.

"Our pipes can be used for water distribution, storage and sanitation projects," said Osman noting the factory which was established in 1993, also exports its products to Rwanda, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The factory's Sales and Marketing Manager, Edith James informed the minister on the various challenges that plastic pipe manufacturers face including fear by Tanzanians to use proven technology in water projects due to frequent maintenance and shorter lifetime.

She said delays in Value Added Tax (VAT) exemptions contribute in project delays, suggesting for the government to fast-track its issuance.

RUWASA Director General, Clement Kivegelo said the minister's decision to organize a water stakeholders forum in the coming days would help to discuss various challenges facing the sector and enhance good relations with local water pipe manufacturers.

"We are glad that the minister is keen to closely work and support local manufacturers, his determination to improve the water sector will unlock the various challenges you currently face," he noted.



Plasco Ltd chief operating officer Alimiya Osman (R) shows Water minister Juma Aweso some of the pipes manufactured by the firm using Wholite technology. The pipes can be used in gas distribution, irrigation and water supply projects. Photo: Guardian Photographer

## REPOA ranked as the top think-tank in Tanzania

By Getrude Mbagu

THE country's top think-tank-REPOA has for the 7th consecutive year been ranked as the top think-tank in Tanzania and among top think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In a report issued recently by the Global Go to Think Tank Index (GGTI), REPOA has been ranked as the 4th leading think tank in Sub-Saharan Africa, up from the 11th position it had maintained in 2019 and 2018.

Organized by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Programmes (TTCSPP), the index's major aim is to acknowledge the important roles that Think Tanks play in informing policy thus accelerating development in respective countries. Speaking to

journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, REPOA's Executive Director, Dr Donald Mmari commended TTCSPP management for their innovation and efforts to raise the voice of think tanks globally.

According to him, REPOA has been ranked top due its quality of research, capacity building initiatives and contribution to policy development.

He said REPOA has been in the named top number out of more than 612 think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa and 92 participating policy-oriented think tanks. He said GGTTI is an international survey conducted by the TTCSPP of the University of Pennsylvania. Since its inception in 1989, TTCSPP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policymak-

ing process.

According to him, in the report, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) was named a "centre of excellency" in the Sub-Saharan region. REPOA 4th possession comes after the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) of South Africa, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIP-PRA) and the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) of Ghana.

"It reminds us of our responsibilities and commitments to undertake credible research and analytical work and to provide knowledge that is relevant for evidence-informed policy making, and to contribute to the national capacity development for research and policy analysis," Mmari said.



### CALL FOR TENDER TO OFFER VARIOUS CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO THE TRUST

#### About AMDT

The Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT) has been established by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland in 2014 and the current Trustee is KPMG. The Trust has been established as a long term facility with the overall objective of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people in Tanzania. With a strong pro-poor focus, the Trust works with the Private Sector, Government and Civil Society Organisations to promote the making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs. AMDT achieves this by investing, together with market actors, in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources targeting similar outcomes, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

As part of its continued improvement and planned future growth, the Trust is seeking for eligible and qualified firms for the consultancies mentioned below:

1. Provision of in-house ICT Enhancement (Re-Advertised) <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>
2. Development of a Robust Online Tool for monitoring (New) <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>
3. Review of AMDT Catalytic Investment Manual (New) <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>

All tenderers are requested to access detailed Terms of Reference and tender descriptions through the above links. The links provide for a complete tender description listing the scope, responsibilities and qualifications required.

Interested bidders for the above tenders may send any other enquiry to: [procurement@amdt.co.tz](mailto:procurement@amdt.co.tz) by 10th March 2021.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the RFP:

All applications shall be sent through [procurement@amdt.co.tz](mailto:procurement@amdt.co.tz)

Only qualified firms will be contacted via email.

**CLOSING DATE: 17th March 2021**



### INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (For Short listing of Companies/ Service Providers)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN Migration Agency established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

In the framework of humanitarian activities IOM now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Companies/Service Providers for the supply and services in different 16 Categories.

- A. Furniture and Fixture.
- B. Generator and Generator accessories.
- C. IT equipment and IT Accessories.
- D. Office Stationery, office supplies,
- E. Food and beverages.
- F. Solar Water Pumps, Solar System, Plumbing Material.
- G. Construction Material.
- H. Construction and rehabilitation companies.
- I. Electrical and Electronics equipment and accessories.
- J. Security enhancement
- K. Electric Electronic tools and equipment's
- L. Household companies
- M. Medicines and medical Supplies.
- N. Transportation Companies.
- O. Renting Vehicles Companies.
- P. NFIs [Non Food Items].

The Expression of Interest shall contain information on the following:

- a.) Range of relevant consulting services offered.
- b.) Qualification and experience of relevant professionals and technical personnel currently maintained
- c.) Track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment including list of major clients served and
- d.) Other relevant information.

The Expression of Interest shall be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received either by hand by IOM with the following below address on or before **22nd of March 2021**

**Procurement unit**  
IOM Dar Es Salam Office  
Box 9270, Slipway road,  
Msasani Peninsula

**Procurement Unit**  
IOM Kasulu Sub Office  
Box 303, Kasulu Teachers Collage Road-Junction to Bongwe high school Road.

**Finance unit**  
IOM Moshi Office  
Box 6697, TRITA building-near NCCF,  
Moshi.

**IOM ARUSHA**  
East African Community Headquarters  
Box 1096  
Africa Mashariki Road  
AICC Building/ Kilimanjaro Wing  
Room no 638  
Arusha, Tanzania

Based on the above information, IOM shall draw up the shortlist of Companies/Service Providers Only Short-listed Companies/Service Providers will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Interested vendor may obtain further information from IOM at the above office address on from 1 of March to 20 of 2021 between 9:30-12:30.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest, and to annul the selection process and reject all Expression at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Companies/Service Providers.





Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority board chairman retired Maj Gen Hamis Semfuko has an audience in Njombe at the weekend with Mpanga Kipengere Game Reserve staff, the thrust being on ways to promote wildlife conservation. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## BUWASA, RUWASA executing huge water project at Kemondo

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

THE government, through Bukoba Water and Sanitation Authority (BUWASA) and Rural Water and sanitation Authority (RUWASA) has begun implementing a huge water project at Kemondo town in Kagera Region.

Kemondo water project is being implemented following President John Magufuli's pledge during last year's election campaign in the area.

Addressing Kemondo residents early this week during her inspection visit at the project, Deputy Water Minister Maryprisca Mahundi praised both BUWASA and RUWASA for fast implementation of the project.

"My hope is to see Kemondo residents get clean and safe water supply service as early as possible and we have every reason to work day and night to complete the project," she stressed.

She said when completed, the project using Force Account experts will serve six wards with 17 villages in three phases, the first of which will

incorporate Kemondo ward with two villages where a three million-litre reservoir will be constructed with main water pipe network.

She said 600m/- has already been received for the work.

She added that the second phase to cost 7m/- will incorporate four wards of Maruku, Kanyangereko, Bujugo and Katerero, while the last phase will incorporate Muhutwe Ward and will cost 3bn/-.

While in Missenyi District, Deputy Water Minister Mahundi inaugurated Gera water project and called on residents to respect water infrastructures for them to last long.

She also inspected Kyaka-Bunazi water project in Missenyi District whose construction work was 48 per cent complete and when fully operational will serve 65,000 residents and will cost 15.1bn/-.

The project is a result of President John Magufuli's directive on July 11 2019 when he said Kyaka and Bunazi residents should get safe and clean water supply within a period of not more than one year.

## Aweso demands collection of pipes abandoned at Dar-based factory

By Henry Mwangonde

WATER minister Jumaa Aweso yesterday issued a seven-day ultimatum for the collection of pipes which have been abandoned at a factory in Dar es Salaam meant for a project at Bwiti, Tandahimba District in Mtwara Region.

The minister made the remarks during his tour of various water pipes manu-

facturing industries in Dar es Salaam.

The pipes, which have been paid for and abandoned at Pipes Industries Company Limited, were supposed to be transported to Mtwara for the project which is now three years under construction while it was supposed to end in a year time.

The minister said he was impressed with the perfor-

mance of local industries in manufacturing pipes saying this was a clear indication that water projects were going to end on time.

The minister said he was going to work on debts that the government owes pipe manufacturing industries which was a key issue which was raised by the manufactures.

"Water sector is a very sen-

sitive area because its an area which has no option that is the reason the government has been working on ensuring that there are no setbacks to implementing water projects," he said.

The minister said his ministry was ready to work with the private sector especially manufactures to ensure that the projects in the country

are implemented at a fast speed.

He added that the water sector was going through reforms to ensure all the remaining projects are implemented on time.

The minister said the main challenge currently was availability of pumps which is an issue which can be easily addressed because the country has

industries to manufacture pumps.

In his remarks, Chief Executive Officer Nassor Seif said they were ready to work with the government to ensure Tanzania was home to quality water pipes.

In 2019 president John Magufuli ordered the use of locally manufactured pipes in all government fully funded projects in a move aimed

at empowering local industries as well as saving billions of money spent on importation.

The Head of State made the directive when he launched Pipe Industries Limited, a High Density Polyethylene Pipe (HDPE) Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and Glass fiber reinforced Plastic pipes (GRP) manufacturing industry owned by local investors.

## Liwale cashew nuts farmers urged not to lose hope over low production last season

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika, Liwale

LINDI Region's Assistant Cooperatives Registrar Edmund Masawe, has urged cashewnut farmers in the region not to lose hope following drop of the crop's production in the last season, and instead they take that as an opportunity to mobilise themselves anew for the coming season.

He also called on them not to engage themselves in scapegoating, they should understand that crops' production is often mired with challenges beyond their control.

Masawe was speaking at the weekend at the Liwale Primary Cooperative Union annual meeting after reading of the Union's report for the last season that indicated drop in cashew nuts production.

The report was read by the Union's Chairman Hassan Mpako showing that it expected to collect 3,300 tonnes of the crop in 2020/21 season, but only 1,700 tonnes were collected.

"The production drop in the last season should be an opportunity for farmers to mobilise themselves anew and find out where they went wrong," he said.

He said the production drop could have been caused by many factors, including those within the farmers' capabilities, and added that for those needing advice from experts, should be referred to them.



Construction of drainage system in progress on the sides of a trunk road in Muleba District, Kagera Region, late last week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## PCCB drags to court Igunga District Hospital nurse for alleged soliciting of bribes

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

THE Tanzania Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has dragged to court a nurse from Igunga District Hospital Wallace Kazili for allegedly soliciting bribes amounting to 200,000/-.

Prosecutor of PCCB in Igunga District, Mazengo Joseph told the court that Kazili (52) was charged for committing the offence on October 30, this year.

He said Kazili, a nurse has been prosecuted for so-

liciting bribes amounting to 200,000/- from an Igunga resident, Kasembe Bundala so as to provide TB medicines to Kasembe's mother who was admitted at the hospital.

Before the Igunga Resident Magistrate Court and the district's senior magistrate Lydia Ilunda, the prosecutor claimed that the suspects committed the offence on October 30, 2019 while knowing exactly that it is against article 15 (1) of the PCCB Act no 11 of 2007.

The suspect however pleaded not guilty and was

granted bail of 300,000/- waiting for the case which has been adjourned to April 28, this year.

The 2019 report by Transparency International's (TI) Global Corruption Barometer Africa cited Tanzania to be among the nations that are excelling in the fight against the vice.

According to the report, 71 per cent of the Tanzanian population thinks their government is doing a good job of tackling corruption, with the remaining 23 per cent is still in doubt.

Since President Magufuli assumed the top seat in 2015, the nation has been in a concerted war against corruption, misconduct of officials who abuse their offices and institutions that oppress citizens while infringing their rights.

According to the report, among 35 nations in Africa, Tanzania has taken a lead on how her citizens perceive the government's positive progress in tackling matters of corruption, other countries being Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Nigeria and Ghana.



# Government initiates measures to increase sunflower oil production

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Ministry of Industry and Trade through its departments has started taking measures aimed at increasing production of edible sunflower oil in the country.

Already the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), in collaboration with Business and Registration Licensing Agency (BRELA) Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) have conducted a sensitization training on production, processing and preserving the edible by adhering to standards and quality packaging.

Speaking during the closing of the training in Mbeya Acting Director of Quality Control at TBS Baraka Mbajije, said that quality edible oil should adhere to the agricultural, processing and health procedures.

He said most of the local sunflower oil producers have been using traditional methods which do not adhere to quality and safety of the edible oil hence affecting the health of consumers.

He asked farmers to ensure the quality of seeds, good edible oil processing and preservation.

For his part the Acting Head of TBS Southern Highland Zone Abel Mwakasonda asked processors to follow procedures in certifying quality of their product since doing so would enable them to secure local and foreign markets and protect the health of consumers.

He said that the government recognizes their contribution in supporting economy of the country.

Apart from training, TBS has been providing certification services for SMEs for three years free of charge to enable them to grow

and meet required standards in market related issues.

"I urge SMES to use this important opportunity which the government has provided so as to increase your income and the nation as a whole," he insisted.

Speaking, Marketing Officer at TBS, Debora Haule said a total of 972 sunflower stakeholders in Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Songwe regions have attended the one week training which ended recently.

She said that the training is sustainable and would be conducted in all the regions countrywide.

According to her, similar training have been conducted in Dodoma, Singida, Tabora and Kigoma regions.

At moment Tanzania produces not more than 200,000 tonnes of edible oil while the actual demand stands at between 450,000 to 600,000 tonnes per annum.



Helena Amosi, chairperson of Tushirikiane Women Group of Ngulyati village in Bariadi District, pictured yesterday identifying some of the items they have made with support from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf). Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Diongoya Secondary School in need of dorms, classrooms, teachers' houses

By Guardian Correspondent, Mvomero

DIONGOYA Secondary School in Turiani Division of Mvomero District in Morogoro Region is in need of dormitories following three students who lost their lives two years ago after being washed away by water while crossing the Mbulumi River.

School headmaster Remmy Mpagama said this yesterday when briefing District Commissioner Albinus Mugonya soon after receiving various items worth 18.5m/- for schools and hospitals from NMB Bank.

He said in the 2018 rainy season the school lost two children and in 2020 they lost one child after being swept away by water while crossing the river, which is close to Digalama village on their way to school.

He also said that two Form Two students failed to do the exams in 2020 after failing to cross the flooded river.

According to him, the construction of dormitories at the school will help address challenges facing students who live in the villages of Digalama and Digoma who walk long distances to reach the school. "That's why we're calling upon education stakeholders to assist the school by putting up dormitories, which apart from providing secu-

rity to students, will also improve education performance," he said.

He said many of the best performing schools in the district are those with dormitories including Muscat Secondary School hence if they get dormitories they will also be able to do better.

Commenting on the performance at the school, Mpagama said the performance has increased from 77% in 2019 to 84% in 2020.

He however cited lack of fencing, houses for teachers, and shortage three classrooms as among challenges facing the school.

A Form Four Shakira Mohamed lauded the bank for donating chairs and tables, asking the financial institution to help them with dormitories that will help alleviate the suffering of their classmates who ride long distances to school by bicycle. DC Mugonya also commended the bank for supporting education development in the district, urging other financial institutions to emulate that spirit.

He said the NMB has shown a response to various issues in the district through their 1 percent of their collection every year including helping them when they were hit by floods in the Malindi Division which left residents homeless, and now support the school and hospital facilities.

## TARURA decries small fund allocation for road repairs in Manyara Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

SMALL allocation of funds for rural road projects received in Manyara Region could affect condition of the roads in the region that have become menace to farmers.

This is according to Babati District TARURA manager, Eng Muhudi Ramadhani who said only 773.5m/- was approved for Financial Year 2020/21.

He said the money, from the Road Fund, is for road repairs.

"Basically, up to February this year, TARURA in Babati Town received 276.6m/- from the Road Fund, equivalent to 35.76 per cent of the approved budget," said Ramadhani.

He said 14.16 per cent of the roads network normally receive funds for repairs from the government.

He said due to heavy rains at the end of 2019 up to mid-2020 that caused havoc to road infrastructures, TARURA asked for emergency funds to improve road communication between Sinai and sora.

However, he said, the district received 215.7m/- for the construction of a double-cylinder culvert, the work which was still going on.

duction from their farms.

"Many farmers in the country have been running behind tractors in the farms while cultivating, planting seeds as they do so unmindful seeds spacing, sometimes even skipping areas needed to be planted," he said.

He further said his firm has provided training to farmers to cultivate a small area to be certain of higher crop yields that would increase their incomes.

## Maize farmers advised to adopt morden farming practices

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MAIZE farmers in the country have been called upon to practice technology farming using modern farming equipment and quality seeds to produce more crops that would increase their incomes.

The call was given on Monday this week by the agricultural officer from Seed-Co, Semboja Elivs at a short ceremony to show modern farm-

ing equipment to farmers with large farms.

He said modern equipment technology will cut down a lot of farming time of large scale farmers.

In addition, he said they farmers stand to get more income from crops using modern farming equipment.

In regard to small farmers, Elvis said called on them to use measurements including strings and tape measurement to increase crops pro-



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE FOR PAYMENT OF IMPORT TAXES FOR THE LISTED BELOW VEHICLES

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) would like to inform owners of the Motor Vehicles listed below to submit evidence of payment of import taxes to the nearest customs office or Zonal Tax Investigation office for verification.

This requirement is as per Section 235 of the East African Community Customs Management Act of 2004.

The owners should submit the required documents thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this notice which is 3rd March, 2021.

Failure to comply, will compel Tanzania revenue Authority in collaboration with other Government agencies to impound and seize the respective Motor Vehicles in accordance with Section 200 d (iii) of the East African Community Customs Management Act.

*"Together We Build Our Nation"*

Issued by

COMMISSIONER FOR TAX INVESTIGATIONS

#### EAGT MOTOR VEHICLES

S/N	Reg. Number	Make	Chassis
1	T556 BGT	NISSAN ATLAS	G4H41001784
2	T931 AKN	NISSAN ATLAS	G4H41001237
3	T544 BXT	MITSUBISHI DION	CR6W0103808
4	T501 BMY	VW BORA	WVWZZZIJZW4702884
5	T504 BMY	VW PASSAT	WVWZZZ3BZWE320448
6	T475 BTJ	TOYOTA GARIB	AE1147015605
7	T926 BBH	TOYOTA RAV4	JTEHH20V700127049
8	T919 DFG	TOYOTA PRADO	VZJ950005517
9	T464 DFT	TOYOTA CANDER	RZJ950034921
10	T688 DGF	TOYOTA L/CRUISER	UZJ1000138418
11	T959 DGK	TOYOTA NADIA	SXN150006052
12	T386 BDS	TOYOTA MARK2	GX1006162093
13	T999 BWC	TOYOTA NOAH	SR400210254
14	T184 CDY	NISSAN SERENA	TC24331168
15	T467 ATS	SUZUKI ESCUDO	TDIW100883
16	T787 CEK	SUZUKI CARRY	DD51T370806
17	T531 ANF	HONDA	L125S5418745
18	T990 AJX	MITSUBISHI	JMBLNN38WR2300118
19	T602 AVE	PEUGEOT	VE355181703167149
20	T210 AVY	TOYOTA L/CRUISER	FZJ800026512
21	T194 BXQ	TOYOTA LITEACE	MD2DDDMZZUWG75551
22	T212 DCJ	TOYOTA COASTER	H2B500009960
23	T577 CCL	TOYOTA RAV4	SXA117026088
24	T629 CDT	SUNLG	LY4YBCJC3CK000478
25	T218 BPS	SKYMARK	B2INEF08K10X00027
26	T798 DAG	SANLG	LBRSPJB51E9017570
27	MC356 ARE	KING LION	LTPBK8BG3E2K10425



## Proactive resources management essential for skilled human power

IN an era of technological, social and economic change, skilled human power is facing several challenges to further develop the key role as provider of high-quality data information on economic, social and environmental phenomena. These include the need to meet both current and future demands of the users of statistics and to develop production processes that increase efficiency of work and reduce costs.

Appropriate and skilled human resources are essential to ensure the production of high quality statistics and to implement more efficient and effective production processes based on new technologies. Proactive human resources management is essential to achieve the changes to allow meeting the challenges today and in future.

Efforts have been well underway in Tanzania to make the content and the organisation of education more relevant to the diversified needs of the population. But, major investments in improving the numbers and the qualifications of teachers, the availability of equipment and student achievement have not sufficiently been improved.

Although there has been achievements in the increasing number of educational infrastructures, a lot remains to come up with improved teaching-learning processes. If students do not acquire significant knowledge and skills, the nation will not be able to compete within a global economy.

It is therefore necessary to shift attention to quality concerns which translate more directly into an improved and a genuine learning environment. Of course, quality is a crucial challenge at higher education level. A higher education system demands high quality education and other hu-

man and material resources.

Access to all levels of the education system has to increase at a rapid rate in line with a sharp increase in the number of teachers, schools and institutions in the next academic years. However, the rapid expansion and sustainability of higher education are currently hot topics. The Tanzanian education system had displayed a leap in terms of the number of students enrolling capacity in higher learning institutions and in building colleges and universities. With the goal of growing further in the next few years, there has to be serious implications for the maintenance of quality and affordability.

The number of public universities over the course of the last two decades has increased to over 34, including private owned ones. Hence, the construction of the universities is critical in achieving targets the country has set, and to join ranks with middle income countries by 2025.

Having such achievements so far, the development of higher education should be an important element in the expansion strategy as it can provide a laboratory for innovation and new practices and competition that could refine standards as well as improve access. Currently, quality has also emerged as a determinant issue, in the processes of curriculum reform at national and institutional levels.

Though government policies and regulations vary widely, the role of higher education institutions may be seen as a solution to quality and creating access to limited space and facilities. Nowadays, higher education and some private institutions have begun to develop more expensive study fields, and to conduct more researches on system of governance in general.

## Africa needs intelligent approach for the diagnosis of crop diseases

SOUTH Asian countries are amongst the largest producers of crops with favourable climate conditions and fertile soil. However, traditional agricultural mechanisms are in place and inadequate. As such effort has been put into to exploit the usage of technology. One of the main problems being faced by agriculture sector in Africa and other developing countries is that crop diseases are not diagnosed timely and efficiently. Conventional methods for disease diagnosis in crops lead to less accurate and inefficient diagnosis, consequently leading to low productivity.

An intelligent approach for the diagnosis of crop diseases. Recently a team of scientists developed a revolutionary new mobile app that uses artificial intelligence to accurately diagnose crop diseases in the field.

The team works under the research programme on climate change, agriculture and food security (CGIAR), Research Programme on roots, tubers and bananas (RTB).

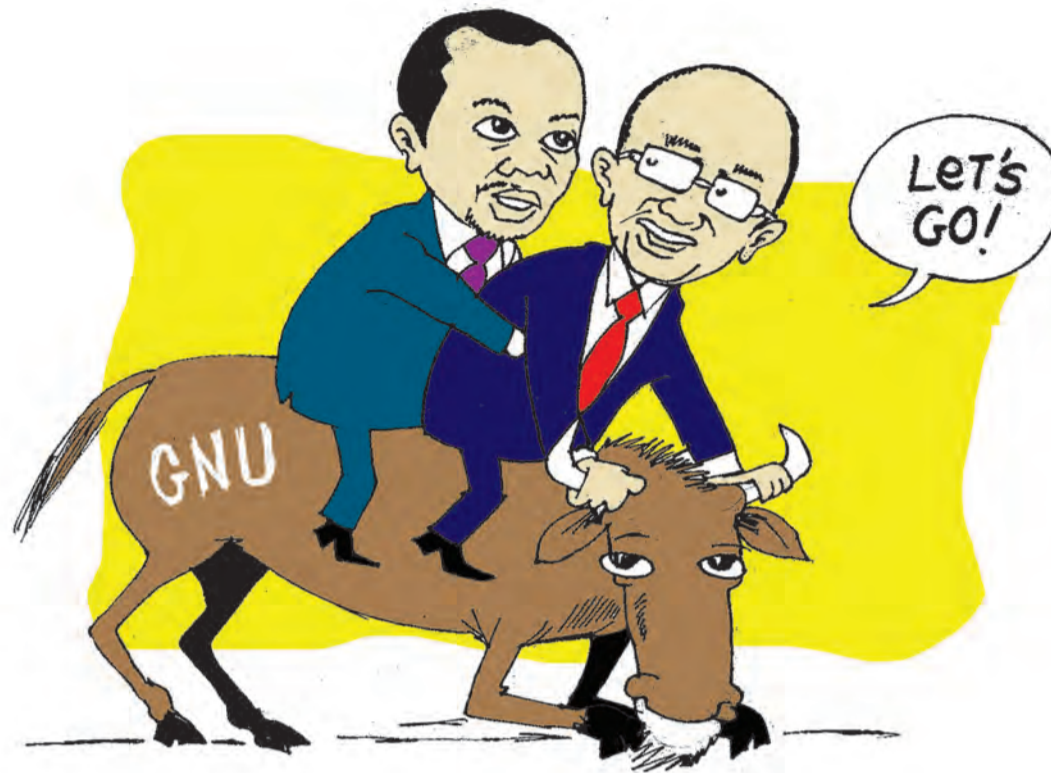
The system is capable enough to communicate to the farmers in Africa in their local languages and assist them in diagnosing diseases in their crops. Agriculture experts in government sector can get equal benefit from it in diagnosis and prevention of crops diseases. It takes symptoms of the crops as input with a provision of vague input and generates the output in the form of diagnosed disease using its inference

engine. Cassava like any other food crop requires attention if optimum (maximum) yields are to be obtained from a unit area. Cassava is affected by a number of diseases that prevent farmers from getting optimum yields of roots from their farms. Some of the diseases are so devastating (destructive) that they can give no yield of storage roots if not controlled.

Majority of farmers and a large number of people in Tanzania believe cassava is a very hardy crop that requires little attention when cultivated. A large number of people also think that when you throw cassava cuttings onto any soil in Tanzania you will harvest some roots even if no attention is given to the plants.

Cassava diseases are caused by very tiny living things that are so small in size that they can not be seen with the naked eyes. Living things that are very tiny and can not be seen with the naked eyes are said to be microscopic. These microscopic living things causing diseases are called pathogens. Pathogens that cause diseases in cassava may be viruses, bacteria or fungi.

Cassava brown streak disease and cassava mosaic disease are a threat to the food and income security of over 30 million farmers in East and Central Africa. Likewise, banana is threatened by fungal and bacterial diseases including the devastating banana bunchy top virus, while late blight still plagues potato farmers.



## Take directors and managers to task: Liquidation is a sideshow in Namibia

By Special Correspondent

THE elephant is still in the room. Yet politicians and protesters keep shouting at the top of their lungs as if the liquidation of Air Namibia is the main issue.

We can think of no other priority to address at Air Namibia and all state-owned enterprises (SOEs) than the lack of accountability by top executives and directors. Without that, the spirit of Air Namibia will be reincarnated and its ghost will come back to haunt us.

In short, it will be back to business as usual.

By accountability (in fact, lack thereof) we are referring to willful wrongdoing and sheer negligence rather than mistakes (even hugely disastrous ones) that are acceptable in the normal course of business.

Air Namibia, SME Bank, the Roads Contractor Company (RCC) and the SSC-Avid Investment Corporation are perfect examples.

That Air Namibia has failed to make a profit is not the punishable issue. What is astounding is the fact that directors and top managers have gotten away with constant mismanagement without being held responsible - even where evidence of corruption was presented.

The latest incident will be watched carefully. This month, directors committed Air Namibia to pay a controversial debt of 9.8 million euro (about N\$180 million) to Belgian company Challenge Air's liquidator Anicet Baum.

This is after president Hage Geingob announced last year that Air Namibia would be



liquidated. Ministers of finance and public enterprises reportedly also told Air Namibia not to expect any more bailouts from tax coffers.

It will be interesting to see whether the directors would be pursued for defying the shareholders and guarantors, leaving Namibian taxpayers to pick up the tab.

Between 2013 and 2015, Air Namibia's workforce nearly doubled from under 400 to more than 700.

The fortunes of the company worsened as it got even bigger taxpayer bailouts. In sharp contrast, the fortunes of the directors and managers at the time improved: They got paid more or were dispatched with golden handshakes.

Similarly at SME Bank, directors allowed taxpayer funds to be looted.

Together with the Bank of Namibia, the directors condoned the failure by SME Bank's managers to submit financials for three years.

That negligence has proven costly,

with more than N\$200 million stolen through money-laundering charges all but to be confirmed in court.

Taxpayers face losses of about N\$1 billion.

At the RCC, several managers shamelessly went into the road construction business to compete with their eight-to-five weekday employer (the RCC itself).

In all these cases the incidents were publicly exposed. The shareholder representatives and guarantors of bailouts cannot feign ignorance.

The Social Security Commission (SSC) is the only case where some sort of accountability seems to have occurred.

Paulus Kapia, a firebrand Swapo youth leader, and his fellow directors were hauled before the courts for failing in their duties as directors of Avid Investment Corporation, which fleeced the SSC of N\$30 million.

Sadly, SSC directors and managers got off scot-free.

Alas, in hindsight, taking Kapia to task was a mere smokescreen. The main objective appeared to be to eliminate a political opponent in the ruling party's faction fights.

Government leaders, the guardians of state resources, have been complicit in the maladministration and theft at parastatals.

They have dismally failed in the powers they were entrusted with - to work in the best interest of Namibian citizens.

Instead, they have rewarded incompetence and dereliction of duty.

Politicians must address the accountability elephant in the room.

They should not mislead the public with the sideshow of liquidation and similar band-aid approaches to create the impression they are cleaning up the governance of state-owned enterprises.

## Zeroing in on common goals down the road

By Special Correspondent

THE current situation in Ethiopia has dual facets. The first one is a harbinger to the rosy future that awaits the country, while the second one is a specter that augurs ill of future days when it comes to the furtherance of unity. Analysing the two is expected from all.

If the change drive underway is invigorated after the obstacles erected on the avenue of unity by dissidents are averted, a ray of optimism will flicker on the country's sky. However, as scenarios to the reverse are not barred we must not fall prey to complacency.

The intricate situation the country is in is ascribable to the wrong-headed policies of dissension the unreformed government that was in power for close to three decades applied. Instead of amplifying the nation, Nationalities and peoples unity, it was sowing a seed of discord among them. In so doing, it has made them to brush aside the main national agenda.

Accordingly, projecting the façade of a patron it had optimized its multifaceted benefit. Watering this antipathy for one another to pull down roots, it was prolonging and solidifying its power. Painting a bizarre picture in its mind, it had concluded that post-unreformed

EPRDF Ethiopia will be on the brink of collapse.

Though the last nail on the Junta's coffin is being hit prudential measures are necessary as vestiges of the seed of discord sown could have a potential to germinate.

The current conflicts, atrocities, displacements, pillages and conflagrations, here and there, whose cause is shrouded in mystery, substantiate the case in point. It shows the heinous have not yet relinquished their diabolic dreams.

This Ethiopian year is a historic juncture when major events take place in this nation. For instance, the 6th National election is due to be conducted in an unprecedented

manner.

In a decisive manner the GERD will be made to hold 13 billion cubic meters.

On the other end of the scale COVID-19 is still a threat to our country as citizens are letting up their guard. The laxity begs for a remedial solution.

Also people's displacement that has not got enduring solutions as well as the upswing in the number of aid-recipients in Tigray, which suffered more the brunt of the Junta, are the formidable debacles. Cautiously and gradually circumventing these logjams by peddlers of conflicts, we have to translate our salient objective into action.



# What role can South-South Cooperation play in post-COVID-19 recovery?

BEIJING

**F**IVE years ago, at the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations, world leaders adopted the ambitious Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The Agenda was to be accomplished through the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030: eradicating poverty, ending hunger, addressing climate change - just to name a few.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 suddenly disrupted advancement toward meeting this goal, in many cases rolling back years of progress. The World Bank, for example, estimated that COVID-19 has pushed an additional 88 to 115 million people into extreme poverty last year, bringing back the total number of poor in the world to the level of 2014-2015.

According to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report, the pandemic may have added between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020. It is as if COVID-19 had suddenly brought the world back to 2005, eroding in a few months 15 years of progress in food security.

The measures implemented to contain the COVID-19 spread (i.e. lockdown and movement restrictions) affected the entire food systems, disrupting production, processing, marketing and distribution. Rural communities and smallholder farmers - particularly in developing countries - were the most affected by the implementation of such measures; their livelihoods primarily depend on agricultural production and sales.

Considering that smallholder farmers produce over 70% of the world's food needs, the impact of COVID-19 on smallholder farmers may possibly have severe repercussions on global food security eventually. It is thus our joint interest (beside our joint responsibility) to support developing countries - and, within developing countries, rural communities and smallholder farmers - to recover from the pandemic.

International development cooperation is an important channel for the global community to support developing countries. Within this framework, South-South cooperation - that is to say cooperation among developing countries (the Global South), has increasingly emerged as a form of international cooperation that complements the traditional North-South cooperation. South-South cooperation enables developing countries to share with each other knowledge, practical experience, development solutions and investment opportunities.

South-South cooperation is a particularly suitable cooperation modality for developing countries, as many developing countries share similar develop-



ment pathways, and many experiences, solutions or innovations can be relevant or more easily adopted in similar contexts.

What role can South-South cooperation play in supporting developing countries in their post COVID-19 recovery? An interesting example is offered by the South-South Cooperation Facility managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN multilateral development organization whose mission is to promote inclusive rural development in developing countries.

The South-South Cooperation Facility at IFAD was established three years ago with a contribution of US\$10 million from China to mobilize expertise, knowledge, and resources from the Global South to reduce poverty and enhance the livelihoods of poor people in rural areas.

The Facility finances competi-

tively-selected proposals submitted in response to periodic call for proposals. Since the establishment of the Facility, 15 proposals for a total amount of about US\$ 7 million have been approved and are currently under implementation. The proposals promoted cooperation between countries in different regions and covered a broad range of themes, from value chain initiatives among farmer groups and enterprises in Cambodia, China, Laos and Vietnam, to the transfer of sustainable aquaculture technologies in Ghana and Nigeria - just to name a few.

The third call for proposals for the Facility was launched precisely at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak. Given the magnitude of the challenge presented by the pandemic, it was decided that the Facility would be used to contribute to the global response to COVID-19. The remaining funds of the Facility

were therefore designated to facilitate the exchange of approaches, solutions, innovations that could be of value for developing countries to build more resilient societies, and recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Considering one of the major impact of COVID-19 was the disruption of food systems, the Facility intended to specifically support rural communities and smallholder farmers to cope with situations of disrupted access to agricultural inputs or labour, or disrupted markets.

The Facility will support activities aimed at diversifying income-generating opportunities, thus reducing the dependence on agriculture as main source of livelihoods, or facilitating access to markets - including through the adoption of innovative digital solutions. The proposals submitted in response to the third call for

proposals are currently being appraised, and will be selected soon.

Effectively coping with the impact of the pandemic will require even greater international cooperation. As a complement to traditional North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation is arguably more important today than ever. Knowledge about solutions to COVID-induced problems, such as food system disruptions, are as important as financial support.

Across the world, every country has unique experiences of the direct and indirect impact of the pandemic, and the experiences of developing countries are different from those of the Global North, and may be more suitable to other developing countries. Only by learning from these experiences can effective solutions be found, and the international community successfully deliver the Agenda 2030.

IPS

# Why bats make such ideal hosts for viruses causing diseases

By Julia Janicki and Simon Scarr

**S**CIENTISTS have long suspected that the rate of new infectious diseases could accelerate, especially in developing countries where human and animal interaction is increasing.

Changes in the environment are driving displaced species of animals into new habitats, allowing them to mix with other species or potential hosts.

Those shifts, combined with greater human interaction with animals as people move deeper into forests, increases the chances of a virulent virus jumping species.

This kind of spillover, when a pathogen in one species could start circulating in another and potentially create a new disease - is what appears to have happened in China with the virus that causes COVID-19. Like many infectious viruses introduced this way, the outbreak started with bats.

Zoonotic diseases, those caused by pathogens that spread between animals and people, can be problematic because the human immune system has not evolved to fight against this type of invasion.

The reservoir host species often displays no symptoms despite carrying the pathogen, as the hosts and germs are often well-adapted to each other. However, when these pathogens - viruses, bacteria or other disease-causing microorganisms - jump from animals to humans, the effects can be devastating.

Bats were again thrust into the spotlight as they were thought to be the original host of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. Molecular studies have demonstrated that bats are natural reservoirs to many other viruses, some of which have already led to disease outbreaks.

Many deadly viruses in the past have originated from bats including the deadly Ebola outbreaks in Western Africa. Nipah, also carried by bats, has already caused human outbreaks across South and South East Asia and has "serious epidemic potential", according to global health and infectious disease specialists.

The coronavirus family of viruses also includes diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). Scientists have discovered that SARS and MERS were caused by viruses that originated in bats, with other animals serving as intermediate hosts.

## Why bats?

Bats are a group of flying mammals, with more than 1,300 species in 20 families, according to IUCN. They make up approximately 20% of all mammal species and are found all over the world except for the Arctic, the Antarctic and a few oceanic islands.

Bats first appear in the fossil record roughly 50 million years ago and represent the third group of flying



vertebrates in Earth's history, after the flying reptiles called pterosaurs and birds. The only other group coming close to harbouring as many viruses are rodents, the most diverse group of mammals. There are approximately 2,300 species of rodents in 33 families, making up about 40% of all mammals. Rodents are believed to harbour more viruses as a group but bats harbour more viruses per species.

The diversity of both groups has been seen by scientists as a possible mechanism for driving virus diversity, as the greater number of species can create more potential niches for viruses.

Some bats roost in forests while others in caves. Most bats eat insects such as beetles, moths and mosquitoes. Some bats eat fruit, nectar, seeds and pollen from flowers while others eat small animals such as birds, fish, frogs and lizards. A small number of bats consume blood.

The smallest bats are the Kitti's hog-nosed bat at about 3cm (1.2 inches) and the biggest, known as a flying fox, can grow to around 45cm (18

inches).

Studies have shown that bats are unique when it comes to hosting zoonotic viruses even when compared to rodents, as bats host more zoonotic viruses per species than rodents do. Here are some factors that could potentially aid this.

## Longevity

Apart from diversity, other traits that make bats suitable as virus hosts include their size and longevity.

Bats have relatively long life

spans for their body size, which can make it easier for viruses to persist as chronic infections are more common.

## Sympatry & hibernation

When bat species with large ranges migrate or use seasonal roosting sites for hibernation, this increases potential exposure to pathogens. Moreover, members of some bat species live together in large communities with close-quarter colonies in locations such as caves.

## Flight

Bats are the only mammals capable of powered flight. There is a high energy and metabolic demand for flight, leading to elevated body temperatures in bats which is similar to the effects of human fever that occurs during immune response. This means some viruses they carry have adapted to be more tolerant to higher temperatures, potentially bad news for other animals if infected.

## Why bats are important

Bats provide many beneficial ecosystem services. Some bats play important roles such as plant pollination and seed dispersal. Bats can pollinate more than 500 species of plants including avocados, bananas, dates and mangoes.

In Southeast Asia, durian, a highly valued crop, can be effectively pollinated only by the Dawn Bat. In this sense, bats are important economically for people. Some bats can also play critical roles in spreading seeds and regrowing forests.

The insect-eating bats also serve as natural biological controls of insects, consuming millions of them at night, including some major crop pests.

## Conservation

More than 200 bat species (-15%) in 60 countries are considered threatened with extinction and more than 20 are critically endangered. In addition, eight bat species have been documented as having gone extinct in the recent past. Bat population decline is not a regional issue but rather a global one.

There are nearly 250 bat species classified as Data Deficient (-19%), a relatively high proportion when compared to other mammals in general (-13%) or birds (-1%), showing that for many bat species not enough is known to even assess their status.

Threats such as habitat loss, climate change and the wildlife trade are global phenomena leading to mass biodiversity loss. For example, tens of thousands of flying foxes in Australia and South Asia have died because of extreme heat waves.

Bats are also exploited for food or traditional medicine, as around 170 of bat species have been recorded to be hunted. Given their larger size, Old World fruit bats are disproportionately affected by hunting, with roughly half of the species in that family hunted.

Agencies



# Mining magnets: Arctic island finds green power can be a curse

COPENHAGEN

IN the tenth century, Erik the Red, a Viking from Iceland, was so impressed with the vegetation on another Arctic island he had found he called it "the green land." Today, it's Greenland's rocks that are attracting outsiders - superpowers riding a green revolution.

The world's biggest island has huge resources of metals known as 'rare earths,' used to create compact, super-strong magnets which help power equipment such as wind turbines, electric vehicles, combat aircraft and weapons systems.

The metals are abundant globally, but processing them is difficult and dirty - so much so that the United States, which used to dominate production, surrendered that position to China about 20 years ago.

As Greenland's ice sheet and glaciers recede, two Australia-based mining companies - one seeking funding in the United States, the other part-owned by a Chinese state-backed firm - are racing for approval to dig into what the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) calls the world's biggest undeveloped deposits of rare earth metals.

The contest underscores the polluting side of clean energy, as well as how hard it is for the West to break free of China in production of a vital resource. Rare earth metals have many uses, and last year China produced about 90% of them, according to Toronto-based consultancy Adamas Intelligence.

As U.S.-China tensions mount, President Joe Biden's administration said last month it will review key U.S. supplies, including rare earths, to ensure other countries cannot weaponise them against the United States.

Each Greenland mine would cost about \$500 million to develop, the companies say. Both plan to send mined material away for final processing, an activity that is heavily concentrated in China.

The only rare earth mine now operating in the United States - Mountain Pass in California - is partly owned by a Chinese state-backed company that currently sends material mined in the U.S. to China for processing.

The Greenland sites are less than 16 km (10 miles) from each other at the southern tip of the island, near a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Debate on them has triggered a political crisis in the capital of Nuuk, forcing a general election on the island of 56,000, due in April. Many Greenlanders, while concerned about pollution, feel mining is key to develop their fragile economy. In a 2013 poll, just over half said they want raw materials to become the country's main source of income.

The country may ultimately back either project, both, or neither, but for those Greenlanders open to mining, the two proposals boil down to a choice between one mine that would not produce radioactive material, and another that would.



Aerial view of the town of Narsaq in southern Greenland, located 5 km (3.106 miles) from the site of a rare earths mine planned by Australian-listed company Greenland Minerals, which some residents have opposed over environmental concerns, in this undated September 2020 handout photo. Greenland Minerals.

The first mine, a private initiative from an Australian geologist who has presented it to U.S. officials, would not involve nuclear material. It has won preliminary environmental approval, but it needs cash and a processing plant.

The second one has already spent more than \$100 million preparing to mine, has proven processing technology through its Chinese partner, and won initial political support from Greenland's coalition government. But its plans include exporting uranium, a nuclear fuel, and it recently ran into strong opposition, including from residents of the nearby town of Narsaq.

"As indigenous people we have lived in harmony with nature for many, many years," said Mariane Paviassen, an opposition lawmaker who lives in the town. "We use these lands to hunt and fish."

Greenland, a self-governing territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, has a gross domestic product of around \$3 billion - similar to Andorra and Burundi. With its people living mostly on fishing and grants from Copenhagen, its government is keen to attract foreign investments.

It does not have an estimate for royalties from the first project, but expects around

1.5 billion Danish crowns (\$245 million) each year from the Chinese-linked one - equivalent to roughly 15% of public spending.

Greenland's government did not respond to requests for comment for this story. Acting Minister of Resources Vittus Qujaukitsoq said last month that if Greenlanders suddenly decide they don't want the second project, "we'll make a fool of investors. The credibility of the whole country is at stake."

## STRATEGIC RESOURCES

Greenland's rare earth metals are also a chance for America and Europe to regain control of a strategic resource.

The island's potential as a source of the raw materials needed for renewable energy technologies gained momentum in 2010, when China threatened to cut off its supply of rare earth metals to Japan, and tightened quotas to international buyers.

Prices for some of the metals have jumped in recent months, driven by surging demand for electric vehicles as well as concerns that Beijing may restrict sales.

Greenland's position near the eastern flank of the United States makes it a sensitive location. Former U.S. President Donald Trump offered to buy the island in 2019, and he was

not the first U.S. president to do so: In 1946 Harry S. Truman offered Denmark \$100 million for it. A defence treaty between Denmark and the United States dating back to 1951 gives the U.S. military almost unlimited rights there, and Greenland houses the northernmost U.S. military base.

Friedbert Pflüger, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council think tank, says the revenues generated by a major mine could give its owner leverage over policies in Greenland, and a strong Chinese presence there may pose strategic threats.

"The very presence of Chinese companies in Greenland could be used as justification for China to intervene," said Pflüger, a former German politician and ex-deputy defence minister.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement that such comments politicise economic and trade issues through "groundless speculation," adding "China has always supported Chinese companies to carry out

foreign economic cooperation in accordance with market principles and international rules."

The U.S. State Department said: "We encourage our allies and partners to carefully review any investments... that could give China access to critical infrastructure in ways that compromise their security or allow China to exert undue, adverse influence over their domestic economies."

Denmark, which handles foreign affairs and defence for Greenland, has in the past headed off Chinese involvement in infrastructure projects, which government sources say was because of security concerns. Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod declined to comment on the security implications of China's involvement. But he told Reuters that Copenhagen's close ties with the United States "should not be seen as an obstacle to commercial investments in Greenland."

China is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, so it can import uranium from Greenland. But since the fuel is used in nuclear weapons, that would be sensitive. Copenhagen, which has the final say, declined to comment.

## TRUMP'S OFFER

Trump's offer for Greenland aimed to help address Chinese dominance of rare earth supplies. Those involved say he was partly following up on talks between U.S. officials and a privately held company called Tanbreez Mining Greenland A/S. Tanbreez is the owner of the first Greenland site - Kringlerne, or Killavaat Alannuat in Greenlandic.

The company's owner, Australian geologist Greg Barnes, told Reuters he had met U.S. officials weeks before Trump made the offer, and the company website shows Barnes with them and the former U.S. ambassador to Denmark on a site visit. The USGS confirmed its officials had visited the site in 2019; Washington and a representative for the former president declined to comment.

# Myanmar: Protesters plea for international help as analysts fear full military might

BANGKOK

MYANMAR activists have called on the international community for help as security forces loyal to the military continue their draconian sweep against the civil disobedience campaign that has brought the country to a standstill since the Feb. 1 coup. The pleas come as analysts, commentators and diplomats who know Myanmar fear that more bloodshed is almost inevitable.

This comes in the wake of the bloodiest day of protests on Feb. 28 after police and security forces fired live ammunition into crowds of protesters in Yangon, Dawei, Mandalay, Myeik, Bago and Pokokku.

According to the United Nations human rights office, 18 people were killed and over 30 wounded. Local rights groups, however, believe the figure is much higher.

Several eye-witnesses have told IPS that police are invading houses, breaking down fences, doors and windows - whatever stands in their way - to conduct searches and carry out indiscriminate arrests without a warrant. Soon after the Feb. 1 coup, military leaders changed the law to allow unrestricted search and arrest, as well as indefinite detention.

"It's a total war zone," Walter Khun, a Myanmar citizen and founding partner with financial advisors based in Yangon, told IPS. "Our associates throughout the country are reporting the same: junta troops terrorising civilians."

## Blistering military crackdown

Over the past two days there have been scores of reports of police systematically looting shops and homes, stealing food from markets and commandeering possessions from private homes.

"They're turning the country into a massive battlefield," Zaw Naing, a local Myanmar businessman, told IPS. His statement was echoed by many other sources with whom IPS spoke.

Increased troops and police are being deployed across Myanmar, with convoys of soldiers and sailors being sent in as reinforcements to the strategic towns of Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Monywa, Taunggyi and Dawei.

Ruthless police charges with rifles have been filmed and posted on Facebook. In Kalaymyo - in the Sagaing region north of Mandalay - citizens managed to push advancing police with riot shields and a water cannon back. Skirmishes have also been reported in Mandalay and elsewhere.

Today, Mar. 2, the sound of gunfire was heard irregularly throughout the city of Yangon. Eye-witnesses were unable to distinguish whether it was live ammunition or rubber bullets.

In Sanchuang, in the northern-central part of the city, security forces conducted training exercises on the foot-



Protests against military coup in Kayin State, Myanmar on Feb. 9.

paths with snipers lying on the ground and taking aim with their rifles. Videos of the incident flooded Facebook and other social media outlets.

Security forces have also erected barricades and blockades at strategic roads and thoroughfares to prevent the protesters fleeing from one part of the city to another. As of today, Mar. 2, authorities have ordered all of Yangon's major shopping centres, including Junction Square, Capital Retail Myanmar and Myanmar Plaza to close indefinitely.

Many big supermarkets are also closed. Some believe this is part of the security forces control and dispersal strategy to prevent protesters taking refuge inside shopping complexes when the police charge.

Condemnation not enough - please for international intervention

While international condemnation has been swift and strong, the protesters are demanding international intervention.

"Protestors are being shot. We are very angry, we are very upset," Ma Myint, a 30-year-old young communications graduate from north of Yangon, told IPS. "How many dead bodies does the UN need to act?" she asked after Sunday's deaths.

Reuters reported that today, Mar. 2, that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations held discussions with the military, urging them to release civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and leaders from her National League for Democracy

(NLD).

"The UN is watching, the US is watching, the whole world is watching but when will they act? We need international intervention based on the 'right to protect,'" young professional, Thiri Kyaw Nyo, told IPS. "The must act otherwise there will be more bloodshed in the coming weeks."

Dr Sa Sa, Myanmar's Special Envoy to the UN - who represents the elected MPs - called on the international community to bring the authorities to justice for "crimes against humanity".

"It's time for the international community to act to protect our innocent, defenceless people who dare to stand up to these thugs who now controlling our country," Dr Sa Sa told IPS in an extensive interview.

## Fears that more bloodshed is inevitable.

Analysts, commentators and diplomats fear that more bloodshed is almost inevitable.

According to military sources the security forces standing orders and rules of engagement are to respond if attacked and the use of lethal force is permitted.

Regional military analysts believe the security forces have been relatively restrained compared to their past practices, including the crushing of the 1988 democratic uprising. The fear is the closer it gets to Mar. 27, Armed Forces Day - the anniversary celebrations for the military - the more they will not tolerate the continued civil disobedience campaign and protests in the street. Some ana-

lysts expect the army to deploy its full military might against the protests before then.

The military have been progressively ratcheting up their response - highlighted by Sunday's tragic events.

## Protests will continue

Sa Sa vowed the protests would continue despite the security forces crackdown.

"We must continue to remind the army that we are not giving up, we are not going away, and we will continue to frustrate their efforts to run the country at every turn," said Sa Sa.

The protest movement is having a dire effect on the junta's ability to rule. Banks are closed, government offices empty and the country's fuel supplies are running dangerously low. Hospitals, universities and schools are mostly closed, and most factories have also been idle for the last four months.

## Myanmar is virtually at a standstill.

But Sa Sa insisted the protests must remain non-violent. "We are a non-violent movement, our weapons are our voice, our mobile phones and social media," Sa Sa said. "It's the army that are committing crimes."

"These are the ones who facing real criminal charges and international justice at the Hague [at the International Court of Justice], they are the ones who should be in prison ... not our leaders [referring to Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders] ... they must be made accountable for their crimes."

Suu Kyi appeared in court on Feb. 16 on charges of violating import restrictions after walkie-talkies and other foreign equipment were found in her villa compound. She and other senior leaders, as well as human rights activists have been detained under house arrest since the coup.

## Protests about more than release of Suu Kyi

On the surface the protests seem to be leaderless and an expression of aspirations of the young - most of the protesters are under the age of 30.

But the civil disobedience movement encompasses more than the street campaigners.

While the movement is largely galvanised around releasing Suu Kyi, and a call for the military to abide by the election results of the November polls that saw Suu Kyi's NLD convincingly win the majority vote, the campaign is much broader.

Myanmar's civil servants - the doctors, nurses and health workers who initiated the civil disobedience campaign four weeks ago - are still on strike despite the junta's threats and intimidation, according to a young doctor heavily involved in the movement in Mandalay.



# Countries call on drug companies to share Covid vaccine know-how

PARIS

IN an industrial neighborhood on the outskirts of Bangladesh's largest city lies a factory with gleaming new equipment imported from Germany, its immaculate hallways lined with hermetically sealed rooms. It is operating at just a quarter of its capacity.

It is one of three factories that The Associated Press found on three continents whose owners say they could start producing hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccines on short notice if only they had the blueprints and technical know-how. But that knowledge belongs to the large pharmaceutical companies who produce the first three vaccines authorized by countries including Britain, the European Union and the U.S. — Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca. The factories are all still awaiting responses.

Across Africa and Southeast Asia, governments and aid groups, as well as the World Health Organization, are calling on pharmaceutical companies to share their patent information more broadly to meet a yawning global shortfall in a pandemic that already has claimed over 2.5 million lives. Pharmaceutical companies that took taxpayer money from the U.S. or Europe to develop inoculations at unprecedented speed say they are negotiating contracts and exclusive licensing deals with producers on a case-by-case basis because they need to protect their intellectual property and ensure safety.

Critics say this piecemeal approach is just too slow at a time of urgent need to stop the virus before it mutates into even deadlier forms. WHO called for vaccine manufacturers to share their know-how to "dramatically increase the global supply."

"If that can be done, then immediately overnight every continent will have dozens of companies who would be able to produce these vaccines," said Abdul Muktadir, whose Incepta plant in Bangladesh already makes vaccines against hepatitis, flu, meningitis, rabies, tetanus and measles.

All over the world, the supply of coronavirus vaccines is falling far short of demand, and the limited amount available is going to rich countries. Nearly 80% of the vaccines so far have been administered in just 10 countries, according to WHO. More than 210 countries and territories with a collective population of 2.5 billion hadn't received a single shot as of last week.

The deal-by-deal approach also means that some poorer countries end up paying more for the same vaccine than richer countries. South Africa, Mexico, Brazil and Uganda all pay different amounts per dose for the AstraZeneca vaccine — more than governments in the European Union, according to studies and publicly available documents. AstraZeneca said the price of the vaccine will differ depending on factors such as production costs, where the shots are made and how much countries order.

"What we see today is a stampede, a survival of the fittest approach, where those with the deepest pockets, with the sharpest elbows are grabbing what is there and leaving others to die," said Winnie Byanyima, executive director of UNAIDS.

In South Africa, home to the world's most worrisome COVID-19 variant, the Biovac factory has said for weeks that it's in negotiations with



an unnamed manufacturer with no contract to show for it. And in Denmark, the Bavarian Nordic factory has capacity to spare and the ability to make more than 200 million doses but is also waiting for word from the producer of a licensed coronavirus vaccine.

Governments and health experts offer two potential solutions to the vaccine shortage: One, supported by WHO, is a patent pool modeled after a platform set up for HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis treatments for voluntary sharing of technology, intellectual property and data. But not a single company has offered to share its data or transfer the necessary technology.

The other, a proposal to suspend intellectual property rights during the pandemic, has been blocked in the World Trade Organization by the United States and Europe, home to the companies responsible for creating the coronavirus vaccines. That drive has the support of at least 119 countries among the WTO's 164 member states, and the African Union, but is adamantly opposed

by vaccine makers.

Pharmaceutical companies say instead of lifting IP restrictions, rich countries should simply give more of the vaccines they have to poorer countries through COVAX, the public-private initiative WHO helped create for equitable vaccine distribution. The organization and its partners delivered its first doses last week — in very limited quantities.

But rich countries are not willing to give up what they have. Ursula Von der Leyen, head of the European Commission, has used the phrase "global common good" to describe the vaccines. Even still, the European Union imposed export controls on vaccines, giving countries the power to stop shots from leaving their borders in some cases.

In comments Monday on her first day as director-general of the WTO, Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said the time had come to shift attention to the vaccination needs of the world's poor.

"We must focus on working with companies to open up and license more viable manufacturing sites

now in emerging markets and developing countries," she said, according to notes from her closed-door talk with delegates shared with The Associated Press.

The long-held model in the pharmaceutical industry is that companies pour in huge amounts of money and research in return for the right to reap profits from their drugs and vaccines. At an industry forum last May, Pfizer's CEO Albert Bourla described the idea of sharing IP rights widely as "nonsense" and even "dangerous." AstraZeneca's chief Pascal Soriot said if intellectual property is not protected, "there is no incentive for anybody to innovate."

Thomas Cueni, director general of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, called the idea of lifting patent protections "a very bad signal to the future. You signal that if you have a pandemic, your patents are not worth anything."

Advocates of sharing vaccine blueprints argue that, unlike with most drugs, taxpayers paid billions to develop vaccines that are now "global public goods" and

should be used to end the biggest public health emergency in living memory.

"People are literally dying because we cannot agree on intellectual property rights," said Mustaqem De Gama, a South African diplomat who has been deeply involved in the WTO discussions.

Paul Fehlner, the chief legal officer for biotech company Axcella and a supporter of the WHO patent pool board, said governments that poured billions of dollars into developing vaccines and treatments should have demanded more from the companies they were financing from the beginning.

"A condition of taking taxpayer money is not treating them as dupes," he said.

In an interview with the Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the leading pandemic expert in the United States, said all options need to be on the table, including increasing aid, improving production capacity in the developing world and working with pharmaceutical companies to relax their patents.

"Rich countries, ourselves included, have a moral responsibility when you have a global outbreak like this," Fauci said. "We've got to get the entire world vaccinated, not just our own country."

It's hard to know exactly how much more vaccine could be made worldwide if intellectual property restrictions were lifted, because the spare production capacity of factories has not been publicly shared. But Suhail Siddiqi, former director of chemistry at Moderna, said with the blueprint and technical advice, a modern factory should be able to get vaccine production going in at most three to four months.

"In my opinion, the vaccine belongs to the public," said Siddiqi. "Any company which has experience synthesizing molecules should be able to do it."

# World Bank launches drought-resilience initiative in support of SADC countries

By Thuletho Zwane

DROUGHTS are the most deadly and costly natural disasters in Southern Africa. They affect most people and cause the most deaths in the region.

Research shows that the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries are vulnerable to droughts and other extreme natural and human-induced hazards. These hazards and risks affect development and remain a concern for socio-economic and sustainable development.

The World Bank, with support from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) together launched the Southern African Drought Resilience Initiative (SADRI) last week.

SADRI is an initiative that aims to provide tools that countries could use to better implement and coordinate drought resilience strategies within and across borders and sectors. The initiative aims to foster integrated drought risk management across the energy-water-food environment and help lay foundations for greater resilience in southern African countries to the multi-sectoral influence of drought.

Speaking at the launch, World Bank Sen-

ior Water Resources Management Specialist Anna Cestari said SADC economies are very vulnerable to climate change and drought. Cestari said these economies are mostly highly dependent on natural resources and droughts cause ecosystems degradation and food insecurity.

Research shows that the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries are vulnerable to droughts and other extreme natural and human-induced hazards "Droughts are felt across borders. Meteorological, hydrological and agricultural droughts affect landscapes beyond national borders. Impacts are felt across the economy. Cities run out of water, power generation declines and rural livelihoods collapse, causing widespread food insecurity," said Cestari.

SADRI's main objectives are to generate tools and dialogue for enhancing partnerships and capacity across SADC member states and to inform future national and regional investments in drought related activities. This project targets the 16 SADC member states and will be implemented from September 2020 to October 2022.

World Bank Practice Manager and lead at the World Bank's water engagement in the

SADC region, Maria Sotomayor, said SADRI will contribute to change by supporting countries, cities and regional bodies to take an integrated approach to drought risk management that is proactive and coordinated.

"Our vision is a drought resilient SADC region in which governments, institutions and households are able to withstand climate change and associated economic shocks befitting all citizens," said Sotomayor.

Sotomayor opened the SADRI launch welcoming SADRI member countries, the secretariat and partners.

She said the drought challenge requires a response that is regional and integrated across sectors.

"We need to collectively engage in how partners can jointly realise a vision for drought resilience in the region, as supported by the SADRI mission, and doing so through identifying opportunities and challenges for collaboration. We also need to co-develop a participation plan and next steps," said Sotomayor.

Research shows that urban droughts produce an imbalance of the water supply and water demand. This situation is exacerbated in water scarce cities. Droughts also

cause food insecurity and famines, killing humans and decimating livestock.

It is proven that drought can lead to displacement and expansion of crop land, increasing competition with host communities and ecosystems. An increase in water demand and a decline in water reservoir levels impacts hydropower production and the economy. Senior Climate Change Specialist at the World Bank Nathan Engle spoke of the approach that SADRI will follow. Engle said SADRI will use the integrated drought risk management as a guiding framework.

"The three key elements will include drought monitoring and early warning systems, drought vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as drought preparedness, mitigation and response," said Engle.

The World Bank, with support from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) together launched the Southern African Drought Resilience Initiative (SADRI) last week

He said SADRI will build the analytical and institutional foundations to catalyse national and regional investment in integrated drought resilience. Adding that the drought challenge therefore required a

response that is regional and integrated across sectors. Country representative for the international water management institute's regional office in southern Africa, Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, facilitated the discussions at the launch. Jacobs-Mata said establishing a drought monitoring and early warning system is often considered the foundational pillar for integrated drought risk management.

Jacobs-Mata said the key messages included the need for inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination, the strengthening of country capacity in vulnerability and impact assessments as well as drought monitoring, and the need to strengthen policy and institutional frameworks.

Jacobs-Mata said partners and SADC member countries should think about what activities SADRI should prioritise.

"These include whether the World Bank and CIWA should work with SADC member states and the secretariat to scale up an operational drought monitor and early warning system for the region, international organisation coordination or to develop clear priorities for regional and country investments to boost drought resilience," said Jacobs-Mata.

# Report ECA says green recovery can revive virus-hit economies in Africa in the face of

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

INVESTMENT in green stimulus projects would be the most cost-effective way to revive African economy that has been badly hit by COVID-19 pandemic and strike a blow against climate change, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said in a report published on Monday.

Findings of the report titled Building Forward for an African Green Recovery showed it was important for economic recovery programs to invest in future jobs that would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in coming years, rather than aim for a return to business as usual.

"We thought that as we continue to look at how we get out of this crisis (COVID-19), we should begin to see how we also plan for the future. The report we are releasing today continues to emphasise the need for support for the recovery.

We would like that recovery to be green," ECA Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe, said during a virtual media briefing to release the report ahead of the official opening of the UN 7th Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Congolese capital city Brazzaville.

"What the report is showing is that, there are actually good stories



to tell in terms of how we grow green but the green recovery requires investment and so how do we get this investment. We need to find ways to mobilise the finance. It's good business," Songwe added.

Results of the report suggest that green projects such as boosting renewable energy create more jobs, deliver higher short-term returns and lead to increased long-term cost savings relative to traditional stimulus measures.

The report highlights four main pillars for Africa's priority interventions and resource mobilization including infrastructure, food security, natural capital, and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).



# Demographic impact of coronavirus pandemic: An overview

NEW YORK

**T**HE demographic impact of the coronavirus one year after being declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020 has been enormous. The picture that emerges is one of significant consequences on the levels and trends of the key components of demographic change: mortality, fertility and migration.

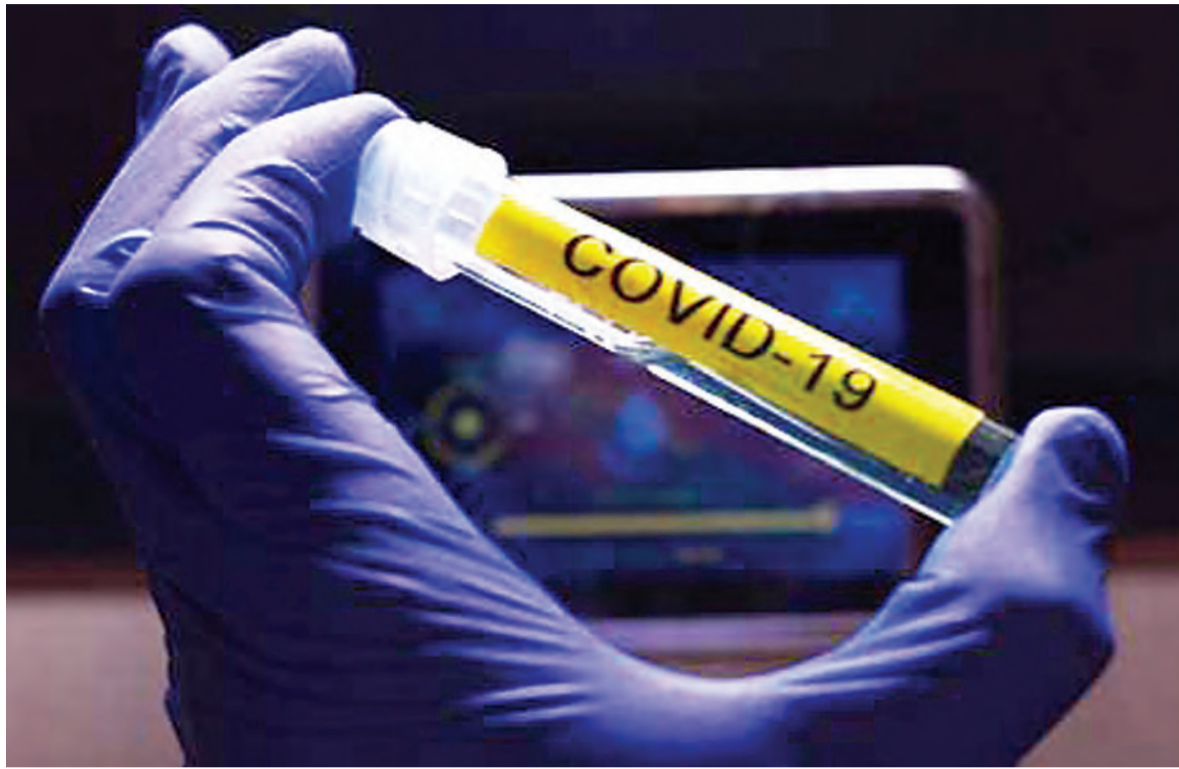
In terms of mortality, the reported number of Covid-19 deaths worldwide is approaching 3 million, with nearly 120 million coronavirus cases. However, it is widely recognized that the reported global number of Covid-19 deaths is an underestimate. In the U.S., for example, Covid-19 deaths are estimated to be undercounted by 36 percent.

Applying the U.S. undercount figure to the world yields an adjusted total number of Covid-19 deaths of approximately 4 million. If the adjusted number of Covid-19 deaths were excess deaths, the number of deaths worldwide turns out to be about 7 percent higher than the expected normal annual number.

In the U.S., the country with the largest number of Covid-19 deaths, it is estimated that fatalities nationwide were 20 percent higher than normal, amounting to a half million excess deaths, from 15 March 2020 to 30 January 2021. Estimated higher proportions of excess deaths, approximately 37 percent, have also been reported in England and Wales and Spain.

In terms of the distribution of Covid-19 deaths, the top ten countries, whose combined populations amount to one-third of the world's population, account for two-thirds of all reported deaths (Figure 1). The U.S., with 4 percent of the world's population, is in the lead position with 21 percent of all Covid-19 deaths, or more than a half a million fatalities. Following the U.S. are Brazil, Mexico and India with 10, 7 and 6 percent, respectively, which together amount to approximately the same number of deaths as the U.S.

The diversity of Covid-19 death rates among countries is particularly noteworthy. China and India, together representing 36 percent of the world's population, have Covid-19 death rates that are small fractions of the rates observed in the top ten countries. Also, the U.S. Covid-19 death rate of nearly 1,600 per 1 million far exceeds the rates of Australia (35), Canada (579), Germany (842), Israel (625) and Japan (62). For most countries with available data men have higher Covid-19 case fatality rates than women. However, in several countries, such as India, Nepal and Vietnam, the case fatality rates of women are higher than those of men. In addition to biological factors, social



One year after the pandemic was officially declared, the enormous demographic impact of the coronavirus is becoming increasingly evident as more data are compiled and analysed.

factors may also be playing an important role in sex differences in Covid-19 death rates. The risk of severe illness and death from Covid-19 increases with age, with the elderly being at the highest risk. In the United States, for example, about 80 percent of the deaths were to those aged 65 years and older. And among that older age group, Covid-19 was responsible for 14 percent of all reported deaths from all causes from 1 January 2020 to 13 February 2021. U.S. data also indicate that among those aged 75 years and older one in twenty infected with Covid-19 dies.

Provisional data for several hard-hit countries are finding that the pandemic has resulted in significant declines in life expectancy at birth. Data for five provinces of Italy found declines of several years in life expectancy at birth, with males having greater declines than females. Those findings represent the largest decline in life expectancy in Italy after the 1918 influenza pandemic and the Second World War.

In the United States for the first half of 2020 life expectancy at birth declined by 1.2 years for males and 0.9 year for females. Significant differences in life expectancy decline were also observed among major U.S. socio-economic groups (Figure 3). The largest decline in life expectancy at birth was 3 years for non-Hispanic black males and the smallest decline was 0.7 year for non-Hispanic white females.

The coronavirus pandemic has also influenced fertility in many countries, but in very different ways. Some developing countries, including as India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Uganda, are reporting beginnings of a baby boom, believed to be largely due to women being unable to access modern contraceptives.

In contrast, many other countries, including China, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, are facing declines in births pointing to a baby bust. In China, for example, it is estimated that fewer babies were born in 2020 than in any year since 1961, when China experienced mass starvation.

Due to the disruptions, lockdowns and uncertainties caused by the pandemic, couples are increasingly deciding to postpone childbearing. And delayed childbearing typically leads to lower fertility. In the United States, for example, around 300,000 fewer births are expected in 2021.

Levels of sexual activity have also fallen. The largest declines in sexual activity are reported among those with young children and school-age children who are not attending schools but are at home.

In their attempts to stem the spread of the corona-

virus, governments worldwide closed their borders, issued travel bans, and severely limited migration. Those steps have been largely ineffective in halting coronavirus' spread across countries and regions.

However, as a result of those travel bans, restrictions and lockdowns, migration across international borders came to a virtual standstill. In a matter of several months, the world experienced the biggest and most rapid decline in global human mobility in modern times.

Many migrant workers were unable to travel in search of work and many headed back to their home countries. Due to the border closings and travel restrictions, however, some migrant workers were stranded abroad and unable to return to their home countries.

In addition to migrants, business travelers and tourists, the closing of borders significantly limited the entry and processing of refugees and asylum seekers. Despite the border restrictions, however, many men, women and children have continued to cross international borders unlawfully without being tested for Covid-19, leading to increased risks of coronavirus transmission in transit and destination countries.

By mid-2020 the United Nations Network on Migration and several human rights groups called on governments to suspend deportations and involuntary transfers. The deportations created health risks not only for the migrants, but also for government officials, health workers and the public in host and origin countries. For example, by late April the government of Guatemala reported that nearly a fifth of their coronavirus cases were linked to deportees from the U.S.

The pandemic has also impacted internal migration. In many countries, both more developed and less developed, the coronavirus has caused a reverse migration from cities to less populated places and rural areas.

With higher effects of the coronavirus closely linked to high density urban living combined with prolonged urban lockdowns and related restrictions, people are reconsidering their decisions regarding place of residence. In various developing countries, including India, Kenya, Peru and South Africa, many urban dwellers are returning to their rural villages.

One year after the pandemic was officially declared, the enormous demographic impact of the coronavirus is becoming increasingly evident as more data are compiled and analyzed. While increased mortality is perhaps the most striking demographic consequence, the coronavirus has also significantly impacted fertil-

ity and migration.

With the availability of vaccines, improved public health practices, changes in social behavior and the prospects of achieving herd immunity, the demographic effects of the coronavirus appear to be slowly abating. The daily numbers of reported coronavirus cases and Covid-19 deaths are declining, migration levels and travel are gradually improving and people are becoming more hopeful about the near future.

Nevertheless, serious concerns about the pandemic lie ahead. One concern is the emergence of more contagious and possibly more lethal variants of the coronavirus. Variants of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus first detected in China have already been reported in Brazil, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. If these variants begin to spread widely, another spike in cases and deaths may occur in the coming months.

Another concern involves the formidable challenges in ensuring global availability and access to Covid-19 vaccines, especially among low-income nations. While

about 225 million doses of vaccines have been administered by the end of February, most of them have been in high-income countries.

And somewhat ironically, there is the concern of large numbers of people in various countries around the world choosing not to take the coronavirus vaccine. Based on more than a dozen country surveys it is estimated that approximately a fifth of people across the world would decline getting a Covid-19 vaccine. High proportions choosing not to be vaccinated threaten the goal of achieving herd immunity and raises the contentious issue of deciding on what activities the unvaccinated will not be allowed to do.

Given these and related concerns, the coronavirus may continue to have a significant demographic impact on the world's population in the coming years. While numerous things about the coronavirus pandemic remain unclear, unresolved and puzzling, one thing appears certain for the second year of the pandemic: many more people will have appointments in Samarra. **IPS**

## RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



### WEDNESDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
07.10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
09.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	DURU ZETU
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	AFRO TIZII

## FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



WEDNESDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-21:00HRS	BOZOKU TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
00:00-04:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)
04:00-05:00HRS	SPOTI(marudio)

### THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 161 00--

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

3 LETTERS: ORE, CRY, ICE  
 4 LETTERS: LOAD, SOME, AIDE, GOLD, MALL, ODDS, RACE  
 5 LETTERS: DODGE, ADAPT, SEMEN, ACRES, CHEER  
 6 LETTERS: ASSIST, EMPIRE, AGENDA, ENDURE, MAIDEN  
 7 LETTERS: MANDELA  
 8 LETTERS: CLIMATES  
 10 LETTERS: SUGARCANES

- CLUES: Across**
- Young nation in Africa
  - female reproductive cells
  - a church decree
  - a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvas
  - a donkey
  - to choose, to pick
  - a chemical substance soluble in water, sour in taste, that reddens litmus paper
  - a literary composition expressing personal observation
  - Judges in sports
  - thought
  - something forming a border
- Down:**
- a thick soup
  - a strong wish
  - freehold tenure based on uninterrupted possession
  - to awake
  - the exchange of goods for money
  - the middle
  - responded to something
  - lake Victoria in Kenya
  - fear, horror
  - a soft lustre on a surface
  - one of many narrow bones surrounding the chest
  - money charged for something

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

**WORD-FIT**

By Magezi: 0755429240 felixmagezi@gmail.com



## BUSINESS

## Sunflower processors expect a bumper crop in wake of good rains

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Chairman of the Tanzania Sunflower Processors Association (TASUPA), Ringo Iringo, has projected that the country will experience more harvests of sunflower crop this year due to sufficient rains.

In an interview with this paper, Iringo said the association sees that the majority of the farmers will receive good harvests compared to last year, something which will also transform their income.

He said that enough harvest of the sunflower crop will also support the stable availability of enough sunflower cooking oil and other related products on the market.

"We have received reports of good rains from all major sunflower producing regions which are Singida, Dodoma, Manyara, Arusha, Tabora, Iringa, Njombe, Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa, Morogoro, and Ruvuma," he said.

He said: "The sunflower harvesting season is expected to start in May or June and this season we project good harvest, this is so because of good rains in the country and also many farmers used high quality certified seeds."

Iringo said the sunflower sector will still register higher growth compared to last year despite several adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in the economy.

He further said the country needs 5000 tonnes of sunflower seeds

annually, alleging that the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) have failed to produce the required seeds.

Recently, the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) announced that it had embarked on the implementation of a five-year (2020-2025) strategy to increase the production of sunflower to spearhead the country's efforts to minimize a shortage and importation of edible oil.

According to reports, annually, the country imports 365,000 metric tonnes of edible oil which cost the government at least 443bn/-.

TARI's National Coordinator for Sunflower Research Frank Reuben said that the Research institute had already developed a road map to produce 45 tonnes of pre-basic and basic seeds to be distributed to different seed companies for mass production.

He was quoted to have said that TARI would partner with several companies and institutions.

They are—Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA), BioSustain Tanzania Limited, Termar, Ruddi, Agri-Seed Technologies, Southern Highland Seed Growers, Lima Africa, Inades, Agricpays Tanzania Ltd, and registered farmers working with Clinton Foundation and World Vision Tanzania.

"The companies will be responsible for the production of at least 4,500 tonnes of seeds to be certified by the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI)," he said.



## Come and invest in Tanzania's diverse sectors, Prof Mkumbo urges investors

By Guardian Reporter

PROF Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment), has called on investors from across the globe to come and invest in various fields, describing Tanzania as the best destination when it comes to investments in Africa.

Prof Mkumbo made the call in Dar es Salaam last week when speaking at the global investors' meeting aimed at exploring investment opportunities in agriculture, infrastructure and the industrial sector.

Investors reviewed the win-win opportunities which are expected to benefit both investors and Tanzanians.

Tanzania as one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania remains on investors' radar, despite the economic slowdown.

Prof Mkumbo cited political will, peace, enough and fertile land for agriculture, labour force and market as among the factors that make Tanzania the best investment destinations in the continent.

He said Tanzania has a population of nearly 60million which create market for produced

goods, citing agriculture, mining and agro-processing industries as priority areas for investment in the country.

He however said that the government was committed to promote the private sector as well as resolving any strategic issues that may arise.

African Development Bank President, Akinwumi Adesina said: "Tanzania is burgeoning with value added potential."

Dr Adesina called on investors from across the globe to take Tanzania as their area of priority when they think of investing in Africa.

Thierry Mouanza Dongala, founder of Accountable Africa, which hosted the forum, said the investors' forum was a timely event by evidence of the deals that were brokered on the sidelines of the meeting.

Amyeric Saha, Managing Director at MiDA Advisors, which advises some of the largest US institutional investors on their investments in African infrastructure projects, highlighted the hundred billion dollar appetite that foreign institutional investors have for sustainable infrastructure projects.

Attending investors also stressed the need for government support of investment exit's as much as entries.

The agriculture sector received notable interest from foreign investors looking to partner with Tanzanian smallholders to enhance productivity while staying true to Tanzania's valued Non-GMO status.

Peter Schuurs, Co-Founder of reap: "We are more than eager to put our hard-earned capital to work on Tanzanian soil to meet our bottom-line, contributing towards Tanzania's self-sufficiency and the region's food security, in a responsible and sustainable manner."

Also, present were global black diaspora investors who recently moved to Tanzania and were looking to repatriate their overseas capital to Africa, in general, and Tanzania specifically.

Members of the diaspora group remarked that it was their duty to put the capital they earned in foreign countries to work in Africa where it was most needed and could bring the most return.

The diaspora said they are actively discussing with the Tanzania Investment Center ways to facilitate their capital repatriation, which represented over \$1.9billion in Ghana during the global year of return captain.



Thierry Mouanza Dongala, founder of Accountable Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## Bolt boosts driver safety with a 12-hour working time limit

By Guardian Reporter

BOLT, a leading ride-hailing platform in Tanzania, introduced a 12-hour per day cap for drivers to operate on the application.

Remy Eseka an official with Bolt in Tanzania, said the working time limit is to ensure drivers show up for trips energetic and rejuvenated and aims to reduce road incidents resulting from driver fatigue. He said the number of hours' restriction also allows drivers to pursue other priorities such as family needs, recreational, educational, and entrepreneurial

activities.

"The safety introduction is a commitment to innovating ways to improve and enhance our platform not only for passengers but for drivers who are an important part of our business. Prioritising their mental and physical well-being is crucial to their and passengers safely," said Eseka.

He added, "We trust this resolution will help reduce not only road accidents but also improve the interactions between drivers and passengers alike." Eseka noted that the decision means that drivers confirming Bolt orders can

only stay active for a combined period of 12 hours.

Once the 12 hours have been exhausted, the driver will be restricted from operating. This will indicate that the driver must take a mandatory break to recharge and pursue other interests before getting back behind the wheel. The 12-hour operational cap applies to cars, bajaji and bodaboda drivers.

A research study mentioned by Arrive Alive indicated that 20 percent of road accidents were due to fatigue. Simultaneously, in Africa, the issue is believed to be even more pronounced:

anecdotal evidence suggested that as many as 60 percent of road accidents may be due to driver tiredness. Drivers who are deprived of sufficient breaks are exposed to neuro-behavioural effects and impairs performance of all types of work- physical and mental.

The study suggested that short-term tips for drivers to follow when experiencing problems maintaining alertness behind the wheel include: park somewhere safe and take a 15-20min nap; and have a couple of cups of strong coffee.

## We're here to serve you with steady power supply, Tanesco director general says

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) is well prepared to ensure that it will stimulate changes in rural and urban communities through steady supply of power.

Tanesco director general Dr Tito Mwinuka said this recently here during the meeting with the company's officials and editors from various media outlets.

He said that to fulfill its role, the state owned power utility is implementing several strategic projects which will strengthen power supply and thus stimulate individual

income and the country's development.

He said Tanesco is implementing several mega projects including the Julius Nyerere Power project worth 6.5tri/- which is expected to generate a total of 2115 megawatts.

The DG said as the nation is building an industrial economy, one of the government's strategies is to ensure that electricity projects reach every corner of the country.

"We are also implementing the Rumsumo power project to generate 87 megawatts and its implantation has reached 76.8 percent. This project

will spend 263bn/- to its completion," he said, noting that the power utility firm is also working to implement other projects such as Ruhuji power project to generate 358 megawatts, Rumakali (222MW), Mtwara (300MW), Somanga (300MW), Kakonko (87MW) and the Malagarasi (45MW).

"With all the highlighted projects, we expect to boost production of power to 5,000 megawatts by 2025. We have been also connecting households with power at a very low cost with some households getting the service for free, the major ob-

jective to support the government's efforts which aims to reach all people with power services and thus stimulate economic development," he added.

Dr Mwinuka said the company is also implementing various power transmission projects including the 400Kv Kenya -Tanzania Interconnector, 400Kv Tanzania -Zambia Interconnector, 400Kv Julius Nyerere to Chalinze and 400Kv Kigoma to Nyakanazi.

He further said the construction of a transmission line to be used in the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) - first

phase has been completed by 100 percent.

"The current capacity of the firm to produce electricity has reached 1602.4 megawatts while the actual demand stands at 1,180.5 megawatts. So you can see that we still have extra 520.5 megawatts," he added.

The situation, according to Dr Mwinuka assures the public and investors of reliable power thus stimulating establishment of several investment projects in the country.

He said the firm has so far connected 87 percent of residents in rural and urban areas and it is now

working to ensure that it reaches the remaining 10 percent within the next five years.

"We are working to fulfill our vision with support from three-sister firms which are the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Construction and Maintenance Company (ETDCO) with a role based on electrical infrastructure construction and maintenance; the Tanzania Geothermal Development Company Limited (TGDC) and the Tanzania Concrete Poles Manufacturing Company (TCPMC)," he said.



# Spanish unions cry foul as Inditex shuts stores

MADRID

INDITEX staff in Spain say they are being forced out as the owner of fast-fashion brand Zara rolls out its plan to shut up to 1,200 stores worldwide, despite a company agreement with Spanish unions to project jobs.

The world's biggest clothes retailer is closing smaller outlets while expanding flagship stores and the Spanish closures are the first of up to 700 expected this year in Europe, as well as 100 in the Americas and 400 elsewhere in the world.

Under a December agreement, seen by Reuters, with two Spanish unions, Inditex aims to provide all affected staff with new vacancies matching their old contracts and seniority within 25 km (16 miles) of where they used to work. But unions and staff say it's not going to plan.

In an internal report seen by Reuters, the UGT union analysed vacancies offered by Inditex and found 40% of the new positions were outside the province where the worker in question had worked, in some cases on the other side of the country. The report said one in four workers offered new positions in Spain so far had quit.

"If workers who used to work 40 hours are offered 12-hour jobs, hours away, that's not preserving employment," said Cristina Estevez, UGT's retail representative.

UGT, the second-biggest Spanish union within Inditex, signed the deal with the company along with the leading syndicate CCOO.

An Inditex spokesman said in an email to Reuters that it was complying with the union agreement and that relocations respected, "all its principles, wording and spirit, which is to prioritise the maintenance of jobs".

The company was offering more than one vacancy for every job lost, the spokesman said, pointing out that 75 percent of workers had been successfully relocated so far.

Clothing sales at Inditex and rivals such as H&M and Next recovered towards the end of last year from record lows when the COVID-19 pandemic first struck, boosted by online shopping and a quick rebound in China.

But the retail industry's recovery in the western world has been frustrated by lockdowns extending well into 2021 and slow vaccine rollouts in some countries.

While most retail jobs lost in the first quarter of 2020 in the United States and Europe have been reinstated, the number of people employed in the sector remains well below pre-pandemic levels, according to data from Eikon Datastream and Eurostat.

In the United States, the shortfall is



People hold flags from Spain's CGT labour union as they protest outside a Zara clothing store, an Inditex brand, in Madrid, last week. File Photo.

about 400,000 jobs while in Europe it's nearly 350,000, the data showed.

Inditex said in June it would close 1,000 to 1,200 of its smaller, less profitable stores worldwide by the end of 2021. The pandemic tipped the company into a loss for the first time though Inditex attributed the closures to strong results from its integrated online and in-store model.

So far, Inditex has announced the closure of 114 stores in Spain affecting 986 jobs, CCOO said, with unions expecting a further 186 outlets to shut this year.

The number of vacancies offered so far is equivalent to 126 percent of jobs affected, the Inditex spokesman said. Six Spanish unions contacted by Reuters, including CCOO and UGT, said the high proportion of offers in different regions for fewer hours and more evenings and weekends was beyond the scope of what they had expected.

Some workers said the options offered to them would have meant cutting their weekly hours from 30 to 40 to below 20, with shifts moved to evenings and weekends, as shown by documents seen by Reuters listing the new vacancies.

"They're basically inviting us to leave," said one Zara worker in Guadalajara near the capital Madrid, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions in her career, the spokesman said.

"The vacancies they offered in our store were eight or 16 hours weekly, al-

ways on weekends, or even just Sundays, when almost all the staff used to do 20, 40 hours weekly. They're laughing at us," she said.

The spokesman for Inditex said it had offered workers in Guadalajara the best alternatives available in the vicinity.

Under the December agreement, Inditex committed to reimburse transport costs up to 90 euros a month when relocation within 25 km was impossible, and cover relocation expenses if staff had to move house. Otherwise, workers could opt to leave, receiving compensation proportionate to their years with the firm.

Some workers in Barcelona were offered vacancies in Santander, a seven-hour drive away, the UGT union said. The CGT union in Madrid, said one worker was offered a position in Melilla, an autonomous Spanish city in North Africa.

"These are disguised layoffs," CGT secretary for Zara in Madrid, Anibal Maestro, said. "When you propose such moves, you're forcing the workers to quit."

The Inditex spokesman said its agreement with the unions accounted for the fact that vacancies further away may be attractive to some staff, citing examples of five people who had asked to relocate long distances.

The fashion retailer, the world's largest by revenue, expanded its global store network by a net 1,942 stores from 2012

to hit a peak of 7,199. But only 450 stores will open between 2020 and 2022, the company has said, as it seeks to boost the proportion of its online sales to 25 percent from 14 percent.

Elsewhere in Europe, negotiations over closures are still underway, according to UNI Global Union, which is overseeing the process with national unions across the region.

In a videoconference with the company's European Works Council (EWC) in June, Inditex assured them that staff affected by closures would all receive alternative job offers.

"Both parties agree that safeguarding work, training staff in order to tackle the new functions derived from digital transformation and labour organisation ... constitute the keys in the work plan," Inditex and the EWC said in a joint statement on Dec. 21.

The Inditex spokesman said maintaining employment for existing workers was a priority wherever there were closures. But workers on the ground remain fearful, especially those associated with unions that did not sign the agreement.

"That agreement was a blank cheque for the firm," said Zara worker and AST union member Jose Angel Parejo, adding that he feared his 13 years at the company would end when his store in central Madrid closes this month. "They committed to an equivalence in quantity of vacancies, but not quality."

# Volvo to go all electric by 2030

LONDON

VOLVO's entire car lineup will be fully electric by 2030, the Chinese-owned company said on Tuesday, joining a growing number of carmakers planning to phase out fossil-fuel engines by the end of this decade.

"I am totally convinced there will be no customers who really want to stay with a petrol engine," Volvo Chief Executive Håkan Samuelsson told reporters when asked about future demand for electric vehicles. "We are convinced that an electric car is more attractive for customers."

The Swedish carmaker said 50 percent of its global sales should be fully-electric cars by 2025 and the other half hybrid models.

Owned by Hangzhou-based Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, Volvo will launch a new family of electric cars in the next few years, all of which will be sold online only. Volvo will unveil its second all-electric model, the C40, later on Tuesday.

Samuelsson said Volvo will include wireless upgrades and fixes for its new electric models - an approach pioneered by electric carmaker Tesla Inc. Carmakers are racing to switch to zero-emission models as they face CO2 emissions targets in Europe and China, plus looming bans in some countries on fossil fuel vehicles.

Last month, Ford Motor Co said its lineup in Europe will be fully electric by 2030, while Tata Motors unit Jaguar Land Rover said its luxury Jaguar brand will be entirely electric by 2025 and the carmaker will launch electric models of its entire line-up by 2030.

And last November, luxury carmaker Bentley, owned by Germany's Volkswagen, said its models would be all electric by 2030. Electrification is expensive for carmakers and as electric vehicles have fewer moving parts, auto employment is expected to shrink.

Volvo CEO Samuelsson said that industry-wide, electrification will mostly affect engine plants and auto suppliers providing everything from oil filters to fuel injectors and spark plugs.

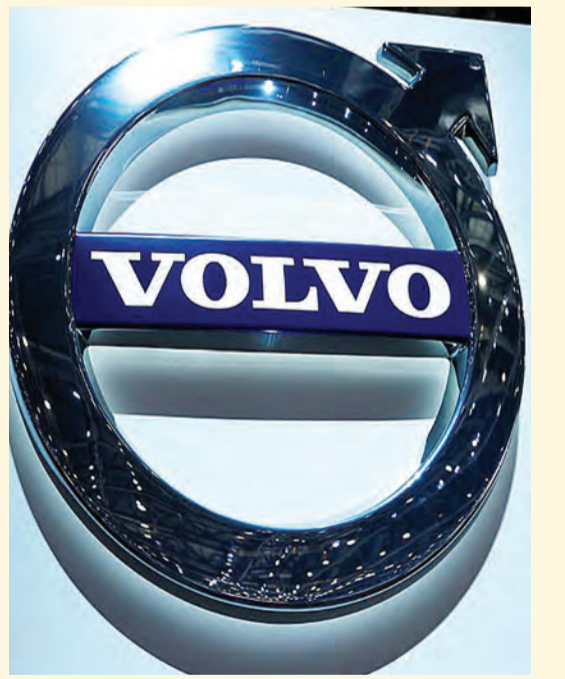
"Those are a lot of jobs of course," he said. "But overall I don't think there will be a big difference."

Volvo said it will "radically reduce" the complexity of its model line-up and provide customers with transparent pricing.

The carmaker's global network of 2,400 traditional bricks-and-mortar dealers will remain open to service vehicles and to help customers make online orders.

So far Volvo has not been affected by a pandemic-fueled global semiconductor chip shortage that has shuttered a growing number of assembly plants, which Samuelsson said was thanks to constant communication with suppliers.

"So far, knock on wood, we have not had to stop any assembly line," he said. "But it could happen any day."



# African FinTech start-up ImaliPay raises pre-seed funding

LAGOS

IMALIPAY, an African-based fintech start-up is making waves by reshaping the future of work in the gig economy.

The Australian venture capital firm TEN13 reputed for investing in top-tier start-ups has invested an undisclosed amount of pre-seed funding in ImaliPay. ImaliPay joins TEN13's growing fintech portfolio, the likes of Chipper Cash and Bookipi.

Other investors included in the raise are: Finca Ventures, Optimiser Foundation, Mercy Corps Ventures, Changecom,

and super angels from Norway, Nigeria, UK, and Kenya. The primary aim of the investment is to expand and accelerate its growth and footprint in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa to be the one-stop-shop for gig workers' financial needs.

TEN13's backing of ImaliPay follows a recent string of events that has elevated the visibility of Africa's Fintech start-up scene. "We believe this is a perfect opportunity to introduce our growing international network of investment professionals and investors to one of the most exciting emerging Fintech compa-

nies in Africa," said TEN13 Managing Partner, Stew Glynn.

The growth in the African gig workforce is being propelled by the growth in digitisation and smartphone penetration. Gig workers constitute a significant proportion of the economy within ImaliPay's target markets and this market segment is expected to grow rapidly over the next decade.

ImaliPay offers gig workers a one-stop-shop of financial services such as the ability to seamlessly save their income and receive in-kind loans through a "buy now, pay later" model

tied to their trade. Bolt drivers in Kenya can now request a fuel loan and payback after 3-4 days, this allows them to get more work done and Safeboda riders in Nigeria can now buy on credit bike parts, fuel, and smartphones to keep their gig moving and reduce any downtime.

Other products to be offered off the platform include insurance and investment options to foster a safety net for this hard-working but vulnerable part of the population.

ImaliPay was co-founded in 2020 by Zimbabwean Tatenda Furusa and Nigerian Sanmi Ak-

inmure who met whilst working at leading payments company Cellulant. They believe the backing of the start-up by a notable venture capital company such as TEN13 has tremendous benefits.

"It's a great opportunity for investors to participate in the fintech revolution and a fast-growing segment. Our vision at ImaliPay is to advance financial health and inclusion for gig workers who struggle to manage and access flexible financial services that are often only available to traditional SMEs", said Furusa.



# Union bank to support start-ups

LAGOS

UNION Bank, one of Nigeria's foremost financial institutions, has unveiled the 2021 UnionX Innovation Challenge, as part of efforts to support young start-ups and boost innovation in the start-up ecosystem.

Tagged 'a new discovery', the challenge will discover, showcase, and support eligible entrepreneurs across Nigeria with innovative, technology-focused Minimum Viable Products (MVPs).

Speaking on the UnionX Challenge and Union Bank's focus on innovation, the Bank's Head, Retail Banking and Digital, Lola Cardoso said,

"The UnionX Challenge highlights our focus on supporting innovation as key driver of sustainable development and growth of Nigeria's vibrant start-up ecosystem, and the society at large. Union Bank has a rich heritage as a trusted partner to generations of Nigerians; providing the support they need to achieve their goals. This Challenge is one of the

many ways we continue to build on this heritage."

During the entry period which ends on March 14, 2021, early-stage start-ups registered in Nigeria are invited to submit innovative MVPs with the potential to transform society. These innovative MVPs should focus on sectors including, but not limited to Financial Technology, E-Commerce, Health, Education and Agriculture. Entries will be submitted on the Union Bank website - [https://www.unionbankng.com/unionx-](https://www.unionbankng.com/unionx-innovation-challenge)

innovation-challenge.

The top 3 MVPs will attract cash prizes totalling N4.5million from Union Bank in addition to a 2-month incubation programme with GreenHouse Capital, a leading fintech venture capital fund collaborating with Union Bank on the initiative.

In addition, the winners will leverage Union Bank's network and value chain to further develop their solutions and scale for greater impact. Start-ups will be supported with a range of services focused on product

development, distribution and business modelling geared towards potential integration to the Bank.

The UnionX Challenge is the most recent in Union Bank's Innovation Challenge series. Through the Centenary Innovation Challenge in 2017, the Campus Innovation Challenge in 2018, and the 2019 Edtech Challenge, Union Bank has discovered and supported innovative start-ups and solutions that with the potential to drive sustainable impact and development in Nigeria.



# Foreign exchange trading: Key insights about virtual market in Tanzania

By Isaya Tumaini

FOREIGN exchange (Forex) is in simple terms a process of exchanging one currency to another currency for various reasons. While some people will hold forex in order to trade for profit, others may hold such currencies so that they are able to fund investments across different countries (multinationals), financing trips to other countries, transacting while in foreign jurisdiction and handling other payments.

In Forex market, currencies are traded in pairs where two currencies are involved. Forex trading can be traced far back to the origination of currencies in the World. The forex market is perceived to be the largest, most liquid in the world. According to recent report from the Bank of International Settlements, forex trading volumes average at USD 5.1 trillion per day.

The forex market, just like any other market, depends on market forces (demand and supply) to price currencies. Market forces are significantly affected by Central Bank pronouncement areas such as government policies over interest rates or inflation rates.

Other market drivers include new information on economic outlook and market

sentiments which may arise from market reaction to a particular new information. The price movements arising from swings in demand and supply create opportunities in the market and hence attract investors and speculators to trade for potential gains.

In the recent years there has been an increased involvement of Tanzanians in the forex market space, this article aims at providing insights on several things one must be aware of when involved in forex.

Majority of foreign exchange transactions do not take place for the purpose of exchanging hard currencies (e.g. exchanging currencies at the airport while travelling to a foreign country). Most of the transactions are based on speculation moves.

Traders purchase and sell currencies based on their anticipation of how the exchange rate will behave over a particular period. Forex traders usually attempt to buy currencies whose values are anticipated to increase relative to other currencies and tend to dispose currencies whose values are anticipated to decrease.

Forex trading may appear simple theoretically but in practice it is a very wide concept which entails time and commitment to understand how the market works. This is mainly because making a margin in this sphere requires an ability to make informed



decisions based on technical analysis to arrive at a conclusion on how a pair of currencies

will behave over a particular period. In some instances, trader instincts may drive huge margins.

These instincts may be triggered by emerging issues which cause imbalance in currency supply in one area or location. It is very easy to enter this global largest financial market; however, it is equally very easy to suffer losses and quit in the early stages of trading experience. This then builds into what is central to forex trading.

An effective trader must take time to understand substantially all the key aspects of forex trading before he/she officially starts trading. Experience is key and this is demonstrated by presence of various simulation/demo trading platforms which build up even before one officially starts trading. Plan your trade, resiliently learn from any losses you encounter in the process and use them as a platform to rise to a professional trader.

In Tanzania, forex trading takes place mostly through interbank market space and Bureau de changes. In August 2020 the Bank of Tanzania issued a circular which made trading with international forex brokers who are not registered in Tanzania illegal. The circular also reminded all foreign exchange dealers to observe Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures in undertaking

foreign exchange transactions.

This move by the Bank of Tanzania calls for retail forex traders to ensure they engage and deal with regulated and lawful brokers to avoid inconveniences and non-compliance. There are internationally regulated brokers who allow Tanzanians to trade in their platforms, however, care must be exercised to ensure full compliance with local laws and regulations.

The question is how many of the forex traders especially self-employed young people are aware of risks associated with forex business and measures available to mitigate them? If you ask me, there is an obvious need to ensure all dealings are done in trusted platforms and in the manner that is within existing laws and regulations governing the market.

Business and operational risks can be widely identified and analysed in many ways; at the end of the day, they will attract the level of investment commensurate to returns that a trader will be looking for.

**Isaya Tumaini (Pictured) is a senior auditor with KPMG East Africa. The views and opinions are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of KPMG.**

## Jack Ma loses title as China's richest person after coming under tight Beijing's scrutiny

BEIJING

ALIBABA and Ant Group founder Jack Ma has lost the title of China's richest man, a list published on Tuesday showed, as his peers prospered while his empire was put under heavy scrutiny by Chinese regulators.

Ma and his family had held the top spot for China's richest in the Hurun Global Rich List in 2020 and 2019 but now trail in fourth place behind bottled water maker Nongfu Spring's Zhong Shanshan, Tencent Holding's Pony Ma and e-commerce upstart Pinduoduo's Collin Huang, the latest list showed. His fall out of the top three comes "after China's regulators reined in Ant Group and Alibaba on anti-trust issues," the Hurun report said.

Ma's recent woes were triggered by an Oct. 23 speech in which he blasted China's regulatory system, leading to the suspension of his Ant Group's \$37 billion IPO just days before the fintech giant's public listing.

Regulators have since tightened anti-trust scrutiny on the country's tech sector, with Alibaba taking much of the heat; the market regulator launched an official anti-trust probe into Alibaba in December.

Chinese regulators also began to tighten their grip on the fintech sector and have asked Ant to fold some of its businesses into a financial holding company to be regulated like traditional financial firms.

Ma, who is not known for shying away from the limelight, then disappeared from the public eye

for about three months, triggering frenzied speculation about his whereabouts. He re-emerged in January with a 50-second video appearance.

China's current richest man, Zhong, made his first appearance at the top spot with a fortune of 550 billion yuan (\$85 billion), largely thanks to the share price performances of Nongfu Spring and vaccine maker Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise, which he also controls.

Tencent's Ma saw his wealth swell 70 percent over the year to 480 billion while Pinduoduo's Huang's fortune grew 283 percent to 450 billion yuan, the list said. In comparison, the wealth of Ma and his family grew 22 percent, to 360 billion yuan.

Zhang Yiming, founder of TikTok owner ByteDance, broke into the top five rankings among Chinese billionaires in Hurun's Global Rich List for the first time, with an estimated personal wealth of \$54 billion.

Alibaba Group co-founder and executive chairman Jack Ma at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai, China. File Photo.



Alibaba Group co-founder and executive chairman Jack Ma at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai, China. File Photo.

## Shares pause, awaiting the next move in bonds

LONDON

EUROPEAN shares paused on Tuesday as investors sought to guess the bond market's next move, while weak German retail sales were a stark reminder of continued COVID-19 fallout on the region's biggest economy.

Overnight falls in Asian stock markets, after a senior Chinese official expressed wariness about the risk of asset bubbles in foreign markets, and a drop in oil prices also weighed on sentiment, but the dollar was steady, along with U.S. Treasuries.

Analysts said a pause was to be expected after European shares had marked their best day in near-

ly four months on Monday when bond markets stabilized from a sharp selloff last week.

"We are in the yield waiting room to see whether central bankers push back this week on the ambivalence we saw last week about interest rates," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

"Potentially that was a mistake, giving the impression that the U.S. did not really care about sharp rises in yields and sending the wrong message."

The pan-European STOXX 600 share index edged 0.2 percent higher, with Paris down, while Frankfurt and London eked out slim gains.



**ISIDINGO** MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	CAPITAL	RADIO ONE
<p><b>WEDNESDAY 6 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 The Base 00:00 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 7 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo</p>	<p>20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>FRIDAY 8 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kiislam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 The Base 00:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 9 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Isidingo rpt 00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 10 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Movie rpt: Funzo 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:14 Bongo Movie: Huba 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p><b>WED 06 Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Thurs 07 Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Frid 08 Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Eco@Africa</p>



## WORLD

## UK parents welcome reopening of schools

LONDON

THE reopening of schools on March 8 in England will be a relief to some parents who have been juggling working from home and home schooling during the national lockdowns.

Dad-of-two David Lawrence from Durham has found home schooling "extremely difficult" since the start of the first lockdown.

"My wife and myself have both worked throughout the pandemic, from home in my case, so finding time to balance the need for work and taking on the responsibility has been an almost impossible task," he said. "The children however have coped well and have been in the fortunate position of having each other and being close in age which have helped any isolation issues."

But Lawrence said it's hard to find the time to get his children, who are aged 6 and 7, to complete their work.

"The children are at an age where they need to be managed through the work and cannot just be set away alone to complete

tasks," he said.

He added their school has provided work sheets and tasks, but "it ends there".

"There is then an expectation to complete the assigned work by a given date, which in our full-time working scenario isn't always practicable," Lawrence explained, adding there is also an expectation to complete a set amount every week regardless of circumstances.

Lawrence now fears lockdown home schooling might affect his children's education, but due to their relatively young age he believes "there is opportunity to make up for lost time".

Like other parents, Lawrence is eager for the children to go back to school soon.

## A little break

"It will be a welcome break for both parents and the children and hopefully they can get back on track quickly. I will also appreciate removing the pressures of home schooling," he said.

Stephanie, 40, lives in west London and



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

has been home schooling her 5 and 10-year-olds as well as taking care of a 6-month-old baby. She found it difficult to maintain a home-school schedule with her children.

"Since they are spending more time at home, the responsibility of teaching falls onto parents," she said. "It was difficult for us to teach the two kids, given that we have a 6-month-old baby in the house and my husband works

long hours. We are worried that they might fall behind when they are back to school."

While she has struggled during the pandemic, she did say the experience has brought her family closer together which is a "silver lining".

Schools in Scotland began a phased return on Monday, with the youngest pupils heading back to classrooms first.

Agencies

## Austria and Denmark break ranks with EU to produce vaccines with Israel

VIENNA/COPENHAGEN

AUSTRIA and Denmark, chafing at the slow rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in the European Union, have broken ranks with Brussels to form an alliance with Israel to produce second-generation vaccines against mutations of the coronavirus.

The move by the two EU member states comes amid rising anger over delays in ordering, approving and distributing vaccines that have left the 27-member bloc trailing far behind Israel's world-beating vaccination campaign.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said while the principle that the EU procures vaccines for member states was correct, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) had been too slow to approve them and lambasted pharmaceutical companies' supply bottlenecks.

"We must therefore prepare for further mutations and should no longer be dependent only on the EU for the production of second-generation vaccines," the conservative chancellor said in a statement yesterday.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was also critical of the EU's vaccine programme.

"I don't think it can stand alone, because we need to increase capacity. That is why we are now fortunate to start a partnership with Israel," she told reporters on Monday.

When asked if Denmark and Austria wanted to take unilateral action in obtaining vaccines, Frederiksen said: "You can call it that."

Kurz and Frederiksen are due to travel to Israel this week to see Israel's rapid vaccine roll-out up close.

## SIDE ORDERS

A growing number of EU countries have placed side orders for doses of vaccines from Russia and China, even though the EMA has yet to rule on whether they are both safe and effective.

Slovakia on Monday ordered 2 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine. It expects half to arrive this month as it looks to step up vaccinations amid a surge in COVID-19 infections and deaths.

The neighbouring Czech Republic - currently facing the worst COVID-19 outbreak of any EU country - is also considering ordering Russia's Sputnik V.

Hungary, meanwhile, has taken delivery of a vaccine developed by China's Sinopharm, with Prime Minister Viktor Orban announcing on Sunday that he had received the shot.

## FIRST MOVERS

Kurz said Austria and Denmark, as members of the First Mover Group, would work with Israel on vaccine production against mutations of the coronavirus and jointly research treatment options.

Experts reckon that Austria will have to vaccinate two-thirds of the population, equivalent to more than 6 million people annually, in the coming years, Kurz said.

He said he would inspect pharmaceutical companies with domestic production including Pfizer, Novartis, Polymun and Boehringer Ingelheim as well as speak to leading scientists and physicians on Tuesday.

Germany last month set up a task force to address bottlenecks in the supply chain of vaccine production and boost local manufacturing to protect itself against future pandemics.

Agencies

## FBI Director Wray to testify before Congress on deadly Capitol assault

WASHINGTON

FBI Director Chris Wray will testify to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday about the investigation of the deadly attack on the Capitol by Donald Trump's supporters and the bureau's efforts to stop right-wing extremist violence.

The hearing will mark Wray's first testimony before Congress since the Jan. 6 attack, a failed bid to block Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's election victory in November.

The Justice Department has charged more than 250 people on criminal counts ranging from conspiracy to attacking police and obstructing Congress. The rioting led to five deaths.

At least 18 people associated with the far-right Proud Boys have been charged and nine people tied to the anti-government militia known as the Oath Keepers are fac-



FBI Director Chris Wray

ing charges they conspired as far back as November to

storm the Capitol to prevent Biden from becoming presi-

dent. The FBI has not yet arrest-

ed any suspects in the death of Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick, or for pipe bombs that were discovered outside the headquarters of both the Republican and Democratic national committees.

The FBI has obtained a video that shows a suspect spraying bear spray on police officers, including Sicknick, according to a law enforcement source familiar with the investigation.

The suspect has not yet been identified by name, and it is still not clear if the bear spray contributed to Sicknick's death.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin said he spoke directly with Wray on how the bureau is allocating resources to the investigation, and said that for far too long, the federal government has "turned a blind eye" to the threats of domestic terrorism by white supremacists.

Agencies

## Singapore: ASEAN to tell Myanmar it is 'appalled' by violence

SINGAPORE

SOUTHEAST Asian nations will be frank in telling Myanmar's ruling military they are appalled by violence in the country, and the region needs to bring together ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the military to find a way out, Singapore's foreign minister said.

Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are due to hold an informal meeting with a representative of the Myanmar military later on Tuesday via videoconference.

Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said his counterparts in ASEAN would be frank when they meet by video call on Tuesday and will tell a representative of Myanmar's military they are appalled by the violence.

In a television interview late on Monday, Balakrishnan said ASEAN would encourage dialogue between Suu Kyi and the junta.

"They need to talk, and we need to help bring them together," he said.

ASEAN groups Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam.

The military justified the action saying its complaints of fraud in a November election won by Suu Kyi's party were ignored. The election commission said the vote was fair.

Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in remarks read on state television by a newscaster, said protest leaders and "instigators" would be punished and threatened action against civil servants refusing to work.

Agencies

## Germany's Social Democrats urged constructive dialogue with Russia

BERLIN

GERMANY and Europe despite the criticism of Russia are interested in cooperating with Moscow in the issues of common security, disarmament and arms control, energy, climate change and pandemics, the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) said in its program for the elections to the Bundestag.

"It is absolutely clear that it is in the interests of Germany and Europe to achieve jointly with Russia common progress

in the issues of common security, disarmament and arms control, as well as in the field of climate protection, sustainable development, energy and the fight against pandemics," says the document published on the SPD website.

"Despite all the criticism in regard to Russia we are betting on readiness for dialogue and cooperation. Peace in Europe is possible not in spite of, but only with Russia," the document says. The SPD calls for stepping up all contacts through civil society and for easing visa re-

quirements for young people.

The party stressed the need for devising "a common and coordinated policy of the EU" on Russia, which should be based on the values and principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

"Russia's readiness for a constructive dialogue is a condition for reducing tensions," the party said. "This also includes the fact that a path to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine and the related lifting of sanctions [against Russia]

largely depends on the Minsk agreements' implementation," the text stresses.

The party also called on Russia and the United States to launch talks on the issues of "verified and full disarmament" with the goal of "finally withdrawing and eliminating nuclear weapons deployed to Europe and Germany."

However, the SPD criticized Moscow, saying that "the relations between Europe and Russia are constantly subject to blows." Among them the party named the conflict in eastern

Ukraine, Crimea's reunification with Russia, a cyber attack on the Bundestag (Moscow has denied its role on numerous occasions) and the incident with Alexey Navalny. The party claimed that "Russia regularly violates international law and therefore complicates relations with its neighbors."

The elections to the German federal parliament, the Bundestag, are scheduled for September 26. The SPD's party list will be led by Federal Minister of Finance and Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

## UN chief disappointed at outcome of pledging event for Yemen

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the outcome of Monday's high-level pledging conference for Yemen is disappointing.

Pledges announced a total of about US\$1.7 billion - less than last year's pledges and US\$1 billion less than what was pledged at the conference in 2019, said Guterres in a statement.

"Millions of Yemeni children, women and men desperately need aid to live. Cutting aid is a death sentence," he said. "The best that can be said about today is that it represents a down payment. I thank those who did pledge generously, and I ask others to consider again what they can do to help stave off the worst famine the world

has seen in decades."

At the pledging conference, Guterres asked for US\$3.85 billion for humanitarian operations in Yemen for 2021.

World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley said on Monday that US\$1.9 billion is needed to prevent famine in Yemen. More money is needed for other forms of aid.

The United Nations will continue to stand in solidarity with the starving people of Yemen, said Guterres in the statement.

In the end, the only path to peace is through an immediate, nationwide ceasefire and a set of confidence-building measures, followed by an inclusive, Yemeni-led political process under UN auspices, and

supported by the international community. There is no other solution, he said.

The exact amount of total pledges made on Monday was US\$1.67 billion.

Saudi Arabia, which is leading a military coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen, made the largest donation of US\$430 million, followed by Germany (US\$245 million), the United Arab Emirates (US\$230 million), and the United States (US\$191 mil-



lion).

Other big donors include Britain with US\$123 million and the European Commission with US\$116 million.

Mark Lowcock, the UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, who co-hosted Monday's pledging conference, warned that there will be a bigger famine in Yemen unless more funds are secured.

"This does not solve the problem. We are disappointed at the outcome. It's going to be impossible with such limited resources to prevent a large-scale famine," he told a virtual press briefing after the pledging conference. "So we're gonna have to come back to people and ask them for a stronger response, before too long."

Another pledging conference for Yemen may have to be convened in a few months to raise more money, he said.

"We will not abandon them (the Yemenis). We will continue to try and persuade the world to come to their aid. We will continue to do everything we can, through the work led by our Special Envoy (for Yemen) Martin Griffiths, to push for an end to the fighting and a cessation of hostilities and the beginning of a recovery effort for the people of Yemen, because that, ultimately, is the only way out of this mire."

He said the re-engagement of the new US administration in the Yemen issue provides the best opportunity for progress in the country, both on peace and the humanitarian situation.

Agencies



# All abducted Nigerian schoolgirls freed by kidnappers

GUSAU

GUNMEN have freed all 279 girls kidnapped from a boarding school in northwest Nigeria, the governor of Zamfara state said yesterday, as one of the victims told Reuters how their abductors had beaten her and her schoolmates with their weapons.

According to earlier reports, 317 girls from the Government Girls Science Secondary (GGSS) School in the town of Jangebe were abducted by an armed gang at around 1 am on Friday.

Zamfara state spokesman Sulaiman Tanau Anka told Reuters that some of the missing girls had run into the bush at the time of the assault, and the number of those kidnapped was 279. All had now been freed, Zamfara Governor Bello Matawalle said.

Reuters journalists in Zamfara's state capital, Gusau, saw dozens of girls in Muslim veils sitting in a hall in a state government building. A few parents arrived later, and one father wept with joy after seeing his daughter.

Most of the girls appeared to be unharmed, but at least a dozen were sent to hospital for treatment. The girls were mostly barefoot, and several had injuries to their feet.

Farida Lawali, 15, told how she and the other girls had been taken to a forest, with the kidnappers carrying

those unable to walk.

"They carried the sick ones that cannot move. We were walking in the stones and thorns," she said, sitting in the government house building, covered in a light blue veil.

"They started hitting us with guns so that we could move," she added. "While they were beating them with guns, some of them were crying and moving at the same time."

News of the girls' release brings "overwhelming joy", President Muhammadu Buhari said. "I am pleased that their ordeal has come to a happy end without any incident."

One father, whose seven daughters were among those kidnapped and freed, said the incident would not deter him from schooling his children.

"It's a ploy to deny our girls ... from getting the Western education in which we are far behind," Lawal Abdullahi told Reuters. "We should not succumb to blackmail. My advice to government is that they should take immediate precautions to stop further abductions."

On Monday, state officials said they were in talks with the kidnappers.

Schools have become targets for mass kidnappings for ransom in northern Nigeria by armed criminal groups, in a trend started by the jihadist group Boko Haram, and later its off-



A group of girls previously kidnapped from their boarding school in northern Nigeria arrived on March 2, 2021 at the Government House in Gusau, Zamfara State upon their release. (AFP)

shoot Islamic State West Africa Province.

The government has repeatedly denied paying ransoms. But Buhari on Friday urged state governments "to review their policy of rewarding bandits with money and vehicles, warning that the policy might boomerang disastrously".

The raid in Zamfara state was the second such kidnapping in little over a week in the northwest, a region increasingly targeted by criminal gangs.

On Saturday, gunmen released 27 teenage boys who were kid-

napped from their school on Feb 17 in the north-central state of Niger.

In 2014, Boko Haram abducted more than 270 schoolgirls from the northeastern town of Chibok, in Nigeria's most high profile school kidnapping. Around 100 of them remain missing.

## Russia to complete phase one clinical trials of Mir-19 coronavirus medicine in March

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Federal Medical Biological Agency (FMBIA) plans to complete phase one clinical trials of the Mir-19 coronavirus medicine in mid-March, the agency's head Veronika Skvortsova said at a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

"We received permission to conduct clinical trials on December 30. All pre-clinical trials are over. Clinical trials began soon after the New Year. However, since it is a new molecule - it's patented and unparalleled - we are conducting phase one trials particularly carefully because we need to prove that it's safe for humans. We will complete phase one by mid-March. We are about to start working with patients and launch phase two," she said.

According to Skvortsova, the medication is based on micro-RNA that blocks certain parts of the virus RNA. "Micro-RNA is completely safe for humans, it affects neither the human genome nor immunity but is highly effective in targeting the virus. Experiments on animals showed that virus carriage was reduced 10,000-fold," she emphasized. "In addition, it prevents the most severe forms of the disease," the FMBIA chief added.

Skvortsova explained that clinical trials of the coronavirus vaccine developed by the Federal Medical Biological Agency will begin in July. "We now have a candidate medication and preparations for clinical trials are underway."

We do hope that we will be able to launch clinical trials by the second half of the year."

She also said that phase one and two trials would be conducted simultaneously because it was permitted by vaccine trial protocols.

# Australian police close probe into alleged rape by minister

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN police said yesterday an investigation into a rape allegation against an unidentified cabinet minister was closed after authorities concluded there was insufficient evidence.

Several opposition Australian lawmakers said late last week they had received a letter detailing an allegation of rape against a male cabinet minister before he entered

parliament.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the allegation had been referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP), although the minister had "vigorously rejected" the allegation in a conversation with him.

Yesterday, the AFP said it would not investigate as it did not have jurisdiction and police in New South Wales (NSW) - where the alleged crime is reported to have occurred in 1988 - also ruled out an investiga-

tion.

"AFP's role is to liaise and support and provide whatever advice those jurisdictions need in this matter," AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw told Australia's Channel 9. NSW Police said they had concluded there was insufficient evidence. "NSW Police Force has determined the matter is now closed," it said in an e-mail.

It said also the alleged victim did not make a formal statement to

them detailing her account before she committed suicide last year.

NSW Police did obtain a "personal document" purportedly made by the woman, but had been legally advised this was insufficient to proceed with an investigation, it said.

While the ruling means Morrison will not have to suspend the minister as directed by parliamentary rules, it does little to ease pressure on his government.

Three former staff members of

the ruling Liberal party said last month they had been raped by an unidentified colleague.

One victim who went public with her allegations has made an official police complaint.

Morrison's government said on Tuesday it had established an independent and confidential 24/7 telephone service for current and former parliamentary employees to report allegations of improper conduct. **Agencies**

# China steps up efforts to ensure spring farming

A CHINESE proverb says that a year's plan starts with spring. In China, more than half of the grain area is planted in the spring, and spring farming concerns the harvests in the following two seasons.

At present, spring farming and preparation is conducted across the country from south to north, and multiple measures have been rolled out to guarantee agricultural production.

To stabilize grain and soybean output and increase corn acreage is a major theme of China's spring farming this year. In 2020, China will work to ensure the planting of over 1.75 billion mu (117 million hectares) of grains this year, and to consolidate the planting area of double cropping rice is a priority in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. Besides, the country will also ensure that the newly added planting areas of early season rice in 2020 is not reduced this year. Corn acreage is expected to be expanded in northeast China, North China Plain, southwest China and northwest China. Soybean planting area will be stabilized in these regions.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), the planting areas of winter wheat and winter rapeseed will recover growth this



Employees of an agricultural material company in Leiqing, east China's Zhejiang Province put spring farming materials onto a forklift. File photo

year. A total of 335 million mu of winter wheat is planted, 3 million mu more than that from a year ago; 96 million mu of winter rapeseed is planted, up around 4 million mu year on year. The growth of winter wheat and winter rapeseed in most places of China is better than that in the last year. The proportion of first- and second-class winter wheat has reached 88.5 percent, 1.9 percentages higher year on year, laying a solid foundation for summer harvest.

Sufficient supply of agricultural materials is ensuring smooth spring farming and future harvests.

In an agricultural cooperative in Xiapanao village, Ankang

Township, Anxiang County, Changde, central China's Hunan Province, 15,000 kilograms of seed rice are standing by in a warehouse. The seed rice, apart from being distributed to the 2,000 mu of farmland contracted by the cooperative, will also be offered for other nearby major growers, serving the production in a total of nearly 4,000 mu of land.

"The recent situation in the market indicated that the supply of seeds is sufficient this spring, and the supply of other agricultural materials is also guaranteed," said Zhou Jianguo, head of the cooperative.

As a major grain producer of Hunan Province, Anxiang

County is planning to grow over 810,000 mu of grains this year. To promote large-scale production of early season rice, the county has established five sprout cultivation factories, which will be completed at the end of March before the start of sprout cultivation.

According to MARA, 3.4 billion kilograms of corn, rice and soybean seeds will be offered for this year's spring farming. Besides, 20.3 million tons of fertilizers are also expected to be provided.

Agricultural machineries are also offering effective services for spring farming.

Zhongxian County in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality has been promoting subsidizing policies for purchasing agricultural machineries just after the Spring Festival. The municipality has offered a total subsidy of 72 million yuan (\$11.14 million), and dispatched machinists to villages to guide the maintenance, testing and reconditioning of agricultural machineries.

Xu Zongquan is a major grower in Zhongling village, Xinli Township of Zhongxian County. He runs a professional cooperative in the village that offers machinery services for nearby farmers.

People's Daily

# After sanctions, US expects S. Arabia to do better on rights

WASHINGTON

THE United States is focused on "future conduct" of Saudi Arabia and will expect Riyadh to improve its human rights record, a US spokesman said on Monday, after Washington imposed sanctions on some Saudis for the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi but fell short of sanctions against Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The United States on Friday declassified a report that said the crown prince approved an operation in 2018 to capture or kill Khashoggi and issued some sanctions against Saudi nationals and entities.

Washington's failure to penalize the crown prince has been criticized by rights groups and others, raising questions about accountability and the Biden administration's pledge to make human rights a foreign policy priority.

Prince Mohammed, the 35-year old de facto ruler, has denied any involvement in Khashoggi's killing, for which eight people were jailed in Saudi Arabia last year, but has said he bears ultimate responsibility because it happened on his



Jamal Khashoggi

watch.

"We are very focused on future conduct and that is part of why we have cast this not as a rupture, but as a recalibration," of US-Saudi relations, US State Department spokesman Ned Price said at a press briefing.

"We are trying to get to the systemic issues underlying the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi," Price said.

The United States welcomed the recent release of two human rights activists in Saudi Arabia, Price said, but asked Riyadh to do more by lifting the travel ban on them.

"We are urging Saudi Arabia to take additional steps - to lift travel bans on those released, to commute sentences and resolve cases such as those women's rights activists and others," he said.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Monday

that the United States reserved the right to sanction Mohammed bin Salman.

Khashoggi, a US resident who wrote opinion columns for the Washington Post critical of the crown prince's policies, was killed and dismembered by a team of operatives linked to the prince in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul in October 2018.

On Friday, the United States singled out the Rapid Intervention Force, or RIF, a unit of the Saudi royal guard that has engaged in counter dissident operations. It also issued visa bans on 76 Saudis.

Price said he could not disclose the names of the 76 people and declined to say whether or not Mohammed bin Salman was among them. The United States has urged Saudi Arabia to disband the RIF, Price added.

Agencies

# Clergy lead a rare Christian revival in Iraqi town welcoming pope

QARAQOSH

AS Islamic State fighters advanced across northern Iraq in 2014, Mazen Shemes' nine-year-old son was killed by a mortar. The family had to bury him quickly before fleeing the same night, along with thousands of other Christian families.

Five years later the 47-year-old farmer returned to the town of Qaraqosh, part of a wave of people who, supported by church leaders, re-populated its empty streets and rebuilt homes left in ruins by extremist militants and the fighting that ousted them.

"This is our land. We can't just abandon it and leave," said Shemes, standing in his garden where young

trees are growing.

About half of the Christian enclave of Qaraqosh has come back since Islamic State was defeated in 2017, a rare sign of hope for a community devastated by Iraq's descent into Islamist violence after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

Iraq's Christian population of 1.5 million some 20 years ago stands at 300,000, and many of those want to leave because they see few prospects in a war-torn country where Shi'ite militias and sleeper militant cells still pose a threat.

Pope Francis will visit

the town's restored Grand Immaculate Church - Iraq's largest - on Sunday as part of a four-day tour of the country designed to boost morale and highlight the difficulties some Christian communities face.

For the Catholic clergy who led the reconstruction work and helped families return to the town near Mosul - Islamic State's de-facto capital - his trip is a source of huge pride.

"We try to do as much as we can," said Father Ammar Yako, a local Syriac Catholic priest who has been supervising the renovation of the Grand

Immaculate Church in Qaraqosh since 2019. "But then, God remains the one who decides what will happen to us."

REBUILD, REVIVE

Among the first to return to the town, the main centre of Hamdaniya district, after liberation from Islamic State were the clergy.

Embedded with security forces just after they retook Qaraqosh, Father Ammar recalled his shock at seeing the destruction.

"Over 2,000 houses were burned," he said. Others were torn apart by airstrikes against the mili-

tants. There was no water or electricity.

The imposing Grand Immaculate Church had been desecrated by the militants and ravaged by fire. But Father Ammar was thankful that it was, at least, still standing. "I started thinking that maybe we would be able to rebuild it."

Local church leaders from different denominations devised a plan to encourage families to come back to the town of 50,000 people, raising funds mainly from foreign Christian non-governmental organisations.

"We decided to start

by rebuilding houses so that people would come home," said Syriac Catholic Archbishop of Mosul Yohanna Petros Mouche, adding that churches would come next. Father Georges Jahola was put in charge.

With a team of around 20, Father Georges started to map the city, assess the damage and allocate funds to support families who began to trickle back. Over half the damaged homes have been restored.

But reconstruction funds have dried up, preventing Father Georges from completing the work.

Some 2,000 houses in the town remain empty, and church leaders are opposed to the idea of allowing Iraqis from other areas to move in.

"If we lose our land, we lose our identity," Father Georges explained, poring over a map showing the Christian enclave of Qaraqosh surrounded by land allocated to other religious groups that locals feel could endanger their town's identity.

Father Ammar hopes worshippers will soon be able to pray again regularly in the Grand Immaculate Church, a grey and yellow stone building with a distinct red roof that stands out among the surrounding houses.

Agencies





Luis Miquissone

## Simba SC winger in pursuit of professional stint in Europe

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC winger, Luis Miquissone, is adamant he is eyeing a move to Europe to turn out for one of the outfits in the continent.

The Mozambican player has recently impressed a host of football clubs in Africa, thanks to his impressive displays for Simba SC in this season's Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League.

As Miquissone keeps on sparkling with the CAF Champions League's Group A leaders, he concedes his aspiration is to move to Europe.

He has, however, not shut the entryway for a possible re-visitation of South Africa presently and he confirmed he has not got any proper methodology.

He noted: "No clubs in South Africa have reached me since I began to progress admirably."

Miquissone had been recruited by South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns before moving to Simba.

"I need to look further now, I would prefer not to say South African football is not acceptable however my aspiration is to move further to Europe," he disclosed.

"I had my time in South Africa and didn't do well for different reasons however I regard that, I can't say I will not return."

"It's football, it's about existence and on the off chance that they give me

what I need or give me a chance where my agreement states I'm coming there to play first-group then no difficult I can return."

Miquissone is accounted for to acquire around R150 000 every month with the 21-time Vodacom Premier League champions.

The 25-year-old winger has arisen as quite possibly the most energizing abilities on the pitch since joining the Mainland Tanzania Premier League's defending champions after a disastrous stretch with Mamelodi Sundowns.

The Mozambique winger has pulled in interest from CR Belouizdad of Algeria, DR Congo's TP Mazembe, Al Hilal of Sudan, Al Ahly of Egypt and his previous club Sundowns.

He netted the all-important goal for Simba against CAF Champions League defending champions in a 1-0 win for the former at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC's information officer, Haji Manara, disclosed that Miquissone will not be valued away for next to nothing.

"I need to make it clear that Luis is at present under agreement with Simba and his last offer cannot be short of what 1,000,000 euros, that is the last offer that Simba will acknowledge for the player to leave," he said.

He said: "The current world spends more on euros so his offer can't be exactly that."

## Prisons take aim at Yanga in Azam Sports Federation Cup

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

RUKWA's Prisons' assistant coach, Shaban Kazumba, has noted his team are keenly looking forward to coming up against Yanga in the round of 16 of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Prisons progressed to the event's round of 16, commanding 3-1 win over Sahare All Stars, now based in Manyara, in the competition's fourth round tie, which took place at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Kazumba had, before his squad's match against Sahare, said that when they only knew that they would play against Yanga if they won, it boosted their morale as they wanted to lock horns with them.

"When my players knew we would play Yanga, if we would emerge victorious, their morale increased and now they will meet them in the next game," he disclosed.

Kazumba said they want revenge after their previous encounter, a Premier League fixture, had seen them locked to a 1-1 draw.



Prisons

He said he, thus, wants to see to it his squad wins the round of 16 clash and sail through to the quarterfinals.

"We are really eager to take on Yanga because they play a lot of football, they came to our home venue and we didn't beat them, we will meet them in the next Azam Sports Federation Cup match," he said.

Kazumba added that he does not see Yanga having the quality, which can help them get the better of Pris-

ons, given that they have different approach.

"We will beat them by either two or three goals," he noted.

Yanga advanced to the round of 16 after beating First Division League side, Ken Gold FC of Mbeya, 1-0 in a fourth round tie held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga's head coach Cedric Kaze said his players need to win the Azam Sports Federation Cup competition's title this season and he will make

sure they win every game until they qualify for the final.

"We need every trophy, we have started with the Mapinduzi Cup, we need to continue to work hard on the field for good results," the coach disclosed.

This season's Azam Sports Federation Cup's quarterfinal stage match between Yanga and Prisons has been scheduled to take place on April 3-4 at Nelson Mandela Stadium, Sumbawanga.



Karagwe District Commissioner, Godfrey Mheruka (R), receives a sum of money from Hlucky Kombucha Investment Company Director, Hamis Jumanne, whose firm backs Kagera's Nyaishozi FC, which will take part in this season's Regional Champions League (RCL) kicking off in Katavi this week. Standing behind is a section of the Karagwe District's defense and security committee's members. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Kagera football outfit eyes success in Regional Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KARAGWE District Commissioner, Godfrey Mheruka, has asked soccer stakeholders and Kagera residents to continue backing Nyaishozi FC, the Kagera league champions who will battle it out in the 2021 Regional Champions League (RCL).

Nyaishozi have been drawn in the event's Group D and they will play matches at Katavi center, with the tournament scheduled to begin on Thursday.

Mheruka issued the statement on March 01 when he was receiving players' jerseys and money for the team from their sponsors, Hlucky Kombucha Investment Company, which produces Kombucha Ginger drink.

He disclosed: "I call on all Kagera people and stakeholders to continue to contribute to our team Nyaishozi, the Kagera

regional league champions, but I also thank Karagwe people living in Dar es Salaam and Jambo Bukoba, as they continue to present their contributions through WhatsApp, we have already received the cash."

Mheruka congratulated Hlucky Kombucha Investment Company Director, Hamis Jumanne, who has been in the forefront of volunteering to enable the team to smoothly take part in the coming showdown.

Jumanne has moreover contributed to various development projects in Karagwe District. He was also seen organize various concerts to spot and promote youths' sports talents in the district.

He said that his company has decided to support the Nyaishozi FC in a bid to back sports promotion in the region.

He has also aimed at support-

ing efforts by Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, who is also Member of Parliament for Karagwe Constituency, to see to it the constituency excels in sports.

Jumanne stated Nyaishozi FC represents Karagwe District well and the team are now continuing to represent the region well in the RCL.

He moreover assured Nyaishozi FC that he will be in the forefront of working with the people and other sports stakeholders to support the squad so that it can win in the RCL top honour and, in the end, represent the district in the national Second Division League.

Nyaishozi FC's assistant coach, Jonson Majara, assured the people of Karagwe District and Kagera that the team are

already in camp, which is well organized in collaboration with the technical bench and the team's leadership.

The tactician stated they are seeking to make it a point the club returns with the RCL's silverware.

He noted the feat will be quite interesting because Nyaishozi FC belongs to Karagwe District's people, they are keeping on dedicating themselves to the team.

Assistant Secretary of the Kagera Regional Football Association, Majaliwa Said, thanked the people and all soccer stakeholders who continue to volunteer and support Nyaishozi FC as the side is still young.

Said promised to work with the team to ensure they emerge victorious in the league, which kicks off on March 4 in Katavi.

## Azam FC still eager to lift Azam Sports Federation Cup trophy

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC's management has made it clear that the club will this season not come out empty handed as it was the case in the previous season.

The outfit's message goes directly to this season's Vodacom Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup's defending champions, Simba.

Simba have also made it clear that they need to defend their trophies, which are also courted by domestic top flight leaders, Yanga.

Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zakaria, said that clinching either one of the

major titles, or possibly both, is his outfit's main goal for the 2020/21 season.

He stated: "We have a good team with good players who are committed to excelling on the pitch, with the way the competition goes and the way we get good results we will not go empty handed."

"The goal is to see us win either two or one of the trophies in the league and the Azam Sports Federation. We need to take part in club tournaments in Africa and that will be fulfilled should fans support us," he said. Azam FC stays third in the top flight with 37 points after 21 matches and the squad has made it to the Azam Sports Fed-

eration Cup's round of 16.

The side edged Arusha's Mbuni FC, which competes in the First Division League, 1-0 in the Azam Sports Federation Cup's fourth round clash.

They will take on Polisi Tanzania Police in the showdown's round of 16 clash at Azam Complex.

Leading Azam FC's striking force is Prince Dube with seven goals in the squad, which is led by head coach George Lwandamina.

Dube, within the Azam FC squad, has successfully fulfilled his role and he led the team to the round of 16 of the Federation Cup.



## Motsepe now outlines CAF manifesto to 'unite Africa'

JOHANNESBURG

MAMELODI Sundowns owner Dr. Patrice Motsepe unveiled his 10-point manifesto for the Confederation of African Football (CAF) presidency in a press conference on Thursday as he looks to succeed Ahmad Ahmad as the head of African football and unite the continent in the process.

Revealing his plans at the Sandton Convention Centre, in Johannesburg, he gave a first glimpse of his vision for African football in the presence of supporters Danny Jordaan, the president of the South Africa Football Association; Dr Phillip Chiyangwa, president of the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA); Dr Irvin Khoza, chairman of South Africa's Premier Soccer League; and South Africa's sports minister, Nathi Mthethwa.

Central to Motsepe's vision is his desire to reunite a continent fractured by the controversies and political machinations that overshadowed Ahmad's time at the helm of CAF.

"I love football," Motsepe said in launching his manifesto, setting the tone for a positive vision for African football. "I don't think there is anyone on the continent who has lost more money to football than me. That's what this sport means to me. We have to win. I want to use sport to unite Africa.

"Those who know [Africa's] history know that we are all one people, these borders are artificial. We will succeed and make African football globally competitive. The test for me is what the results will be in two, three, four years from now."

Underpinning Motsepe's manifesto, the Sundowns owner outlined his intention to get greater exposure -- and therefore greater revenue -- for the sport in Africa.

"Football needs to be accessible to all corners of Africa," he said. "Any TV rights companies who will give us quality service to achieve that objective are welcome to sit with us around a table.

"My No. 1 duty is to football, not to any club or any country. We are going to run CAF in a manner that is world class. We need honesty and we need transparency to build trust, bearing in mind that we have to use football to bring people together."

Motsepe, who has built his reputation as a shrewd and ambitious football administrator during his tenure with Sundowns, delivered an outline of plans to oversee greater investment in each African country "through sponsorships, private sector and other partners." He also vowed to invest in the continent's football infrastructure.

In response to the ongoing accusations of financial mismanagement, corruption and nepotism that have blighted the organisation during Ahmad's tenure, Motsepe shared that he planned to "implement and adhere to governance and auditing global best practices" while overseeing statutory reforms.

He also revealed intentions to partner with FIFA and other continental governing bodies, to establish Video Assistant Referees (VAR) across the continent, and to "protect the integrity [of]" while "professionalizing" Africa's referees.

Allaying concerns about a broader re-centring of African football governance, Motsepe dismissed rumours that he was considering moving CAF headquarters from Cairo to Johannesburg.

(Agencies)

## Guardiola: I'll axe players who think Prem is won

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola has warned his players that anyone believing the Premier League title is already won will be axed.

City are 12 points clear at the top with 12 games remaining but ahead of Wolves' visit to the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday, Guardiola has warned he will be on the look-out for players he thinks are taking their foot off the pedal.

"When I feel that everyone is thinking the job is done, or how good it is, this guy is not going to play," Guardiola told a news conference on Monday.

"I'm so intuitive to know exactly the guys who are not ready to continue what we have to do."

City are on a 20-game winning run and have not lost since November but Guardiola insisted his players need to get better if they are to remain on course for an unprecedented quadruple of winning the Premier League title, Champions League, FA Cup and Carabao Cup.

"Always we can do better, that is the target," Guardiola added. "Especially in the areas of the performance of the individuals we can improve. Every player can improve. When every individual player can improve, the team will improve."

City were able to extend their lead at the top of the table over the weekend after the rest of the top five teams -- Manchester United, Leicester City, West Ham United and Chelsea -- all dropped points.

West Ham manager David Moyes described Guardiola's team as "the best in Europe" after his side lost to City on Saturday.

However, Guardiola is still concerned they could collapse.

(Agencies)

# What do clubs have to do to catch Man City next season?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC



## LEICESTER CITY: Keep finding nuggets and keep Vardy fit

Leicester's 2015-16 Premier League title triumph looks more miraculous with every passing season, but manager Brendan Rodgers has made the Foxes competitive again and they are now a genuine threat to the Big Six. Whether they can win the title again is debatable, but Leicester are a well-run club with a proven track record of finding top quality players for good value, so they will always be around the top six if they can maintain that formula.

Back in 2016, Leicester's title success was built around transfer gems such as Jamie Vardy, N'Golo Kante and Riyad Mahrez and the current team is following a similar pattern with the likes of James Maddison, Wesley Fofana and James Justin. But to have any hope of catching Guardiola's City -- who they beat 5-2 at the Etihad earlier this season -- Leicester must unearth more stars this summer and somehow find a long-term replacement for goal scorer Vardy, at the same time as ensuring that the 34-year-old can stay fit.



## MANCHESTER UNITED: Find a goal scorer

Although manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has moved United forward since he replaced Jose Mourinho in December 2018, there are still plenty of areas in need of strengthening at Old Trafford. If money were no object then a commanding goalkeeper, world-class centre-half and prolific centre-forward would all arrive this summer.

But with finances impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be that United can only tick one of those boxes. If that's the case, they simply have to put all their resources into signing a centre-forward capable of scoring at least 20 league goals a season.

Don't be fooled by United's status as the Premier League's top scorers this season. Take away the nine they scored against Southampton and they would be fourth in the list. The best gauge of United's lack of potency is their return of just ONE goal in seven league games so far against Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City this season -- and that was a penalty in a 6-1 defeat against Spurs.

United have had great goal scorers during the Premier League era including Ruud van Nistelrooy, Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie. They now need to dig deep to fund a move for Erling Haaland, Harry Kane or, if a swap deal with Paul Pogba is on the cards, Cristiano Ronaldo because their current options simply don't deliver when it matters.



## CHELSEA: Rebuild the midfield

Just like United, Chelsea have a number of holes to plug in their squad. Both clubs need better quality at centre-half and centre-forward, while manager Thomas Tuchel would also benefit from big-money signings such as Timo Werner, Kai Havertz and Christian Pulisic growing into match-winners.

But the biggest area in need of reinforcement at Chelsea is the midfield, which can no longer rely on N'Golo Kante to dominate the centre of the pitch as he did in his first season at the club in 2016-17. Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic are good Premier League players without being outstanding while Billy Gilmour, at 19, still needs time to develop into a regular starter.

Right now, Chelsea lack the power to dominate and control games from midfield as they did when they had the likes of Frank Lampard, Claude Makelele and Michael Essien in their prime. Finding a new Lampard, Makelele or Essien is a tough task, but a stronger midfield would directly improve the defence and attack, so Chelsea need to unearth a player capable of doing just that.

It is yet to solve Chelsea's attacking problems since he replaced Frank Lampard.

## LIVERPOOL: Get Van Dijk fit and press reset

On paper, Liverpool are the most likely challengers to



Pep Guardiola

Manchester City next season, but everything revolves around Virgil van Dijk returning to fitness and his place in the back four. Liverpool simply haven't been the same since the 29-year-old centre-half suffered a cruciate ligament injury in October. Van Dijk's absence has affected every area of the pitch, with the defence losing its leader and organiser and full-backs Andy Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold being exposed defensively.

It has also weakened due to manager Jurgen Klopp having to use Fabinho and/or Jordan Henderson as makeshift centre-halves. Without the drive of those two in midfield, Liverpool have been unable to dominate opponents, and chances for their forwards have reduced dramatically.

Getting Van Dijk back is crucial. Yes, there are other areas in need of attention, with Liverpool needing to find a younger version of Henderson, but everything revolves around Van Dijk. With him back in the team, Liverpool can challenge again.



## HOTSPUR: Replace Lloris and keep Kane

Jose Mourinho will hope that Spurs are now back on track this season after Sunday's 4-0 win against Burnley revived prospects of Champions League qualification, but if the club are to challenge for the title next season, there is plenty of work to be done.

The priority, as always, will be to ensure that centre-

forward Harry Kane resists the temptation to move elsewhere. With Kane, Spurs can beat anyone, and his partnership with Son Heung-min is as potent as any in the Premier League. Mourinho has the quality within his squad to sustain a title challenge, but he needs the likes of midfielder Tanguy Ndombele and defender Davinson Sanchez to develop more consistency.

At the back, however, the time has come to find a replacement for captain and goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. The France No. 1 has been among the best in the world at times during his career, but he is no longer in that bracket. Spurs would be stronger, and more capable of sustaining a title challenge, with a better goalkeeper.

What about the rest? This season's title race has been enlivened by the likes of West Ham, Everton and Aston Villa challenging for a top-four finish, while Arsenal continue to under-perform in the league as they look set to miss out on the Champions League for a fifth consecutive season. But can any of those clubs do anything over the summer to take them to another level next season and make themselves serious top four contenders or even higher?



## WEST HAM UNITED: Allow Moyes to build

West Ham are exceeding all expectations this season, with the Hammers sitting in fourth position, a point clear of Chelsea,

with 12 games to play. The club harbours ambitions of becoming a force to rival London's traditional big three of Chelsea, Arsenal and Spurs, but it will need a period of growth and consistency to achieve that goal.

Patience has always been in short supply at West Ham, though, so the club needs to buck its own trend and allow manager David Moyes the time to build solid foundations and make the team as consistent and competitive as the Scot made Everton during his 11-year spell in charge at Goodison Park. Keeping Declan Rice and Tomas Soucek at the club this summer, when big-money offers are sure to come in, would be a big step in the right direction.



## EVERTON: Back Ancelotti

Carlo Ancelotti has transformed the mood at Everton, on and off the pitch, since taking charge as manager in December 2019 and the three-time Champions League winner has put the team on course for a top-four finish this season.

Last summer, Ancelotti pushed the club to deliver the transfer targets he wanted and made sure that James Rodriguez, Abdoulaye Doucoure and Allan were added to his squad. All three players have made a big contribution this season, while Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Lucas Digne and Michael Keane have all improved dramatically under Ancelotti's management. The Italian has proved

his credentials beyond all doubt, so the Everton board and director of football Marcel Brands must, given Ancelotti what he wants this summer to take the team to the next level.



## ASTON VILLA: Keep Grealish and strengthen

Despite battling with relegation until the final week of last season, Aston Villa have sustained a push for European qualification this time around. Villa are still a work in progress under manager Dean Smith and remain heavily reliant on the creativity of midfielder Jack Grealish, so the priority is to introduce enough new quality into the squad to convince the England international to stay at Villa Park.

Nobody expects Villa to challenge for the title anytime soon, but keeping Grealish and making improvements in all areas could certainly help the club become a consistent top six challenger.



## ARSENAL: Trust the kids -- and be patient

It is now 17 years since Arsenal won their last title, with Arsene Wenger's Invincibles still the only side to win the Premier League without suffering a single defeat in a season.

Arsenal won't be winning the league anytime in the immediate future, but after more than a decade of drift at the Emirates, there are positive signs in the shape of youngsters Bukayo Saka, Emile Smith Rowe and Gabriel Martinelli. Manager Mikel Arteta has given them the chance to shine this season and all three have grasped their opportunity, but Arteta needs time to overhaul a squad that still has too many under-performing senior players.

If Arsenal can keep their best young players and replace the fading stars with similarly promising youngsters, they can look forward to a brighter future. But they might be approaching the 20th anniversary of the "Invincibles," in 2024, before they can seriously challenge for the title again.

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

What do clubs have to do to catch Man City next season?

PAGE 19

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV SAA 1**

**WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hills  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SBELEK  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Msuva targets to excel in 2021 CAF CL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WYDAD Casablanca's winger, Tanzanian Simon Msuva, has scored his first goal in this season's CAF Champions League's clash pitting his side against Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, as the former posted 4-0 victory last weekend.

After the victory, Msuva said he believed they would win the match but he did not expect such a big victory due to the quality of Kaizer Chiefs.

He disclosed that the goal he scored would open the way for him to score many goals in CAF Champions League.

He said he would work as hard as he could to score as many goals as he believes his team can win the premier continental tournament at club level, with the competition's previous season's title being held by Egypt's Al Ahly.

"I really wanted to net in the CAF Champions League, my dream has already come true this goal has raised my morale and I wanted to score more in the tournament, where we meet different types of players in terms of their standards," he said.

"When you prove your worth against highly skilled teams and players with high standards, it helps you build your confidence, that is why I enjoy this championship," he said.

As a result, Msuva's team have dropped Tanzania's Simba to third place in the overall standings of the teams with the best results after the second round of the Champions League.

Simba, despite having six points, now occupy third place in the overall standings consisting of 16 teams, behind Wydad and Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, the first two have the best goal difference.

Wydad Casablanca Wydad Casablanca are currently placed second in Morocco's Botola Pro league with 18 points after taking part in seven matches with a game in hand.

They are level on points with league leaders Raja Casablanca who sit on top of the table with 18 points with many goals scored ahead of Wydad.

Wydad Athletic Club commonly known as WAC or simply as Wydad, also called The Reds is a Moroccan sports club based in Casablanca, Morocco.

Wydad AC is considered to be one of the best and most successful football teams in Africa, the most popular club in Morocco.

Msuva is the top scorer with 45 goals in the history of foreign players who played in Botola Pro League.

He joined the Reds of Morocco from the league's other outfit Difaâ El Jadida where he netted 43 goals in 90 outings, the winger already has two goals under his sleeves for Wydad.

Msuva, who started his career with Tanzania's Azam FC, served the club for 2010/11 season, taking part in 35 matches and scoring 11 goals, before moving to Moro United where he played for one season, again scoring 15 goals in 37 games.

Later on in 2012 he joined Yanga and he six years at the club. He took part in 94 games and netted 43 goals.

Msuva has made 61 Appearance with senior national soccer squad, Taifa Stars, since his debut in 2012, and he has managed to score important 13 goals for the squad.

## Kagera Sugar ready for Azam FC in Premier League



Kagera Sugar. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KAGERA Sugar Football Club's head coach, Mecky Mexime, says his team are ready for this afternoon's Vodacom Premier League match against Azam FC, to be played at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera.

Mexime said they are keen on collecting maximum points against Azam, who are placed third in the league's standing after amassing 37 points from 21 matches.

The head coach said playing against Azam FC will not

be easy for Kagera Sugar but they are prepared for the assignment.

Kagera Sugar are placed 12th in the domestic top flight after posting 24 points.

"We are looking forward to our game against Azam FC. They are a good side ladden with talented and experienced players, but we will play our game as the aim is to collect maximum points," he said.

In Kagera Sugar's previous three games in the Premier League, the team had mixed fortunes.

They draw 3-3 with league leaders

Yanga at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, they later lost 3-0 to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Kagera Sugar went on to book a place in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s round of 16, posting 2-0 victory over Dar es Salaam's Eagles Stars in the event's fourth round clash.

Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zacharia, stated they know how Kagera Sugar play and they are prepared for the match.

"But obviously the fact that they are at home gives them a boost, but we are well prepared for the encounter as

the aim is to collect all the maximum points," he said.

In other matches today, Mwadui FC that is anchoring the league table with 15 points from 21 fixtures host the country representatives in this season's CAF Confederation Cup's group stage, Namungo FC.

Namungo sith 14th with 21 points from 16 fixtures they have taken part in.

The other game today will involve Premier League's new entrants, Ihefu FC, which will host fellow top flight debutants, Gwambina FC, at Highlands Park Stadium in Mbarali.

The two teams have 20 points apiece, but Gwambina FC, positioned 15th, has taken part in 19 outings, while the hosts have played 21 and are positioned 16th.

Ihefu FC, positioned in the top flight relegation zone, will be hoping for the win so as to increase the team's chances of remaining in the elite league.

The Coast Region's Mabatini venue will host a match between the sixth and seventh placed teams, Ruvu Shooting and Dodoma Jiji FC.

Both teams have played 21 games and they have 31 points, only that the hosts have a superior goal difference.

Coastal Union will tomorrow host Yanga at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, Mtibwa Sugar welcome Biashara United.

In the day's other ties, Polisi Tanzania will host KMC FC and they will as well be a clash pitting Tanzania Prisons against Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium.

## Tembo Warriors storm into TCA T20 Super League final

By Guardian Reporter

TEMBO Warriors cricketers have made it to this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance T20 Super League's final with comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Serengeti Giants in the last four clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The semi-final's eventual winners were set to lock horns with Ngorongoro Titans in the final the same weekend, given the Titans posted a six-wicket victory over Kilimanjaro Aces in the first of the last four stage's fixtures.

In the second of the last four clashes, Serengeti Giants notched 105 runs for the loss of six wickets in 20 overs after they had batted first.

Gifted all-rounder Ejaz Aziz, who had opened the team's innings, ended two runs short of a half century and played a pivotal role in seeing to it they record an imposing total.

He notched four fours in his innings, putting his aggressiveness with the bat to show.

He was so far the most impressive player during Serengeti Giants' turn with the bat, with fellow players failing to live up to expectations.

The club's quest for posting a much better score faced a blow the first few overs, considering Aziz's fellow opener, Jumanne Mohamed, lasted a few overs with nine runs to his name.

A section of the squad's reliable players, deployed as top order batsmen, were sent back the pavilion in quick succession to further weaken the team's resolve.

Left handed batsman, Seif Khalifa, ended a run short double digit score, with his effort to make his presence count having been brought to a halt by Tembo



Tembo Warriors cricket outfit's all-rounder, Ivan Ismail (R), receives man of the match present from Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s Chairman, Premji Pindoria, upon the completion of the side's 2021 TCA Reliance T20 Super League's last four encounter with Serengeti Giants, held in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Tembo Warriors won by nine wickets. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Warriors' Jatin Darji, who caught the performer from 's Alhaj Sadick bowling.

Youthful all-rounder, Salmini Yusuph, deployed as middle order batsman, chipped in with 19 runs not out, which included a four.

Experienced Tembo Warriors' player, Vishal Patel, and Suraj Pala ended with two wickets apiece.

Pala gave away 14 runs in four overs, Patel gave away 28 runs in four overs.

Tembo Warriors, led talented all-rounder Ivan Ismail, comfortably got down to successful chase, posting 110 runs for one wicket in 13.5 overs.

Ismail put his no nonsense quality to show, blasting 66 runs not out to catapult Tembo Warriors to victory.

They had a good start to the innings, given opening batsman Jatin Darji scored 28 runs.

Much as the experienced player's presence at the crease was brought to an end by Serengeti Giants' Mohamed, Tembo Warriors' depth in batting gave them an edge.

Ismail ferociously cracked balls to push the squad's total and he set up a solid partnership with Issa Kikasi to make certain of the side's triumph. Kikasi scored six runs not out.

The semi-final, dubbed 'Eliminator', involved teams which ended third and fourth in the TCA Reliance T20 Super League's group stage.

Reliance Insurance are main sponsors for the tournament, which is organized by the national cricket governing body in a bid to boost cricket promotion at the domestic level.

The showdown's co-sponsors are Sayona Drinks Ltd, Unity Computers, Sterling, Pepsi, Harab Motors and GI Security.

## Wheelchair tennis players to take part in Nairobi Open Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TEN Tanzania wheelchair tennis players are expected to represent the country in the coming Nairobi Open Championship slated for the end of May, Tanzania Wheelchair Tennis Association disclosed yesterday.

Riziki Salum who doubles as the team's head coach and the association's secretary general, said the players are attending intensive training sessions ahead of the Kenya Open which is the biggest event on Kenya tennis calendar.

Salum could not mention the players who will make the trip, saying the technical panel will announce them soon.

He said the three-day tournament is scheduled for May 26-28 in Nairobi and the team is expected to depart for Kenya on May 23. The contingent will consist of six boys, four girls and two officials.

"The players are now attending non-residential training at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) as it has been the case in the previous tournaments, our target is to perform well at the event," he said.

He, however, appealed to well-wishers to help the association secure 4.6m/- which will be used for helping the side's trip, accommodation and other expenses.

The Nairobi Open Championship always attracts many players from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and hosts, Kenya.

Tanzania's wheelchair tennis team have in the past competed at BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Turkey and Italy.

BNP Paribas World Team Cup is the International Tennis Federation (ITF) flagship tournament for wheelchair tennis. Teams compete at the event through qualification at zonal level.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

