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AGRICULTURE



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enters new year, dollar rebounds uyout of Jamii Bora doubtful after Kenyattas, Ndegwas merger deal





US -Iran tensions rise sharply as Gen. Qassem Soleimani is killed

DUBAI

For Iranians whose icons since the Islamic Revolution have been sternfaced clergy, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani widely represented a figure of national resilience in the face of four decades of U.S. pressure.

For the U.S. and Israel, he was a shadowy figure in command of Iran's proxy forces.

Establish wildlife gardens - JPM



TANZANIA has a total of 22 national parks has set aside 32.5 percent of its land for conservation activities. The country has a total of 23 zoos, 20 zoological gardens and six ranches

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENT John Magufuli has underscored the need for more Tanzanians to establish zoological gardens to enclose various wild animals as part of an initiative to expand opportunities in the tourism sector and create jobs.

Magufuli praised Tanzanians who Dr have established zoos at different places countrywide, mentioning Lieutenant General (rtd) Samuel Ndomba who operates the Lugari Mini Garden Zoo in Mbinga, Ruvuma region and those keeping wild animals at the Dar es Salaam Zoo and Bahari Zoo.

He said establishment of zoological gardens in Tanzania is guided by the Wildlife Conservation Act, 2009 (Number 5). Tanzanians have the right to acquire animals by following procedures and the law guiding the sector.

responsible for fighters in Syria backing President Bashar Assad and for the deaths of American troops in Iraq.

Solemani survived the horror of Iran's long war in the 1980s with Iraq to take control of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, responsible for the Islamic Republic's foreign campaigns.



Relatively unknown in Iran until the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Soleimani's popularity and mystique grew out American officials calling for his killing. By the time it came a decade and a half later, Soleimani had become Iran's most recognizable battlefield commander, ignoring calls to enter politics but becoming as powerful, if not more, than its civilian leadership.

"The warfront is mankind's lost paradise," Soleimani recounted in a 2009 interview. "One type of paradise that is

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa talks with Lindi and Mtwara region's regional and district commissioners, directors of the Tanzania Agricul-ture Development Bank (TADB) and those of the Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) in Ruangwa, Lindi region before meeting the cashewnuts business community yesterday. Photo: PMO

'Lake Zone losing forests too rapidly'

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

LAKE Zone regions are contributing to national forest destruction by 17 percent annually due to increased agro-sector and mining activities in the area. Destruction of forests in the regions will be even higher by 2025 if measures are not taken to control the situation, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine

Kanyasu has declared.

TFS says the most affected forests are Rwamgasa, Geita and Lwande as they have largely been invaded by farming and other activities

He made the remarks on hand over 200 bee hives Thursday during a function to worth over 16m/- to ten bee keeping groups in Geita region, said.

underscoring the need for measures to be taken to avert potential disaster.

"There should be measures to control forest destruction in Lake Zone regions, as the situation may worsen to 500,000 hectares destroyed annually by 2025. The government is working to protect controlling the situation. forests by using trained militia," he emphasized.

Officials from the ministry that beekeepers in Geita and the Ministry of State in the region produced 6,937.2 President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Governments) will be involved, he

Kanyasu said results of a ministerial team of eight persons that was formed by President John Magufuli will be released this month, to provide a clear picture of the pace of forest destruction and outline methods of

Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) data indicates kilograms of honey in 2019.

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The president issued the call midweek when addressing officials and game wardens plus residents of Nvabugera and Muganza islands during his visit at the Rubondo Island National Park.

"Tanzanians have the right to acquire and keep wild animals for both local and international visitors," he said, noting that there many people benefiting from the zoo business around the world, including in South Africa.

The president said investing in the zoo business would enable many people to generate incomes and jobs. There are no reasons why Tanzanians should not venture into the profitable business since it is endowed with a large number of wild animals, he said.

"You should grab the opportunity. Wildlife experts must assist in providing education to the people on how to take care of the animals," he declared, underlining that there are many places suitable for this activity.

Tanzania has a total of 22 national parks has set aside 32.5 percent of its land for conservation activities. The country has a total of 23 zoos, 20 zoological gardens and six ranches.



Tanzanians have the right to acquire and keep wild animals for both local and international visitors

NDC needs 216bn/- for strategic plan

Correspondent James Kandoya

National Development THE Corporation (NDC) needs at least 216bn/- to implement the Comprehensive Corporate Strategic Plan (2018/19-2022/23).

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by NDC Managing Director Prof Damian Gabagambi (pictured) when explaining the success achieved by the corporation since April 2018 when he took office.

He said the plan incorporates key priorities and delivering the fifth phase government's thrust on industrialization, aiming at propelling Tanzania to a semi industrialized middle income economy by 2025.

He said during implementation, the plan will be focused on six strategic objectives, especially in development and implementation of value adding industries.

"To align with the industrialization



the plan which complies with the plan for the next five years," he said.

suggests means of mobilizing funds and increasing the corporation's revenues, including but not limited to seeking seed money from the government to finance 'quick-win' projects.

aspirations of the fifth phase subventions from the annual budget government, NDC has developed approved by the National Assembly to support strategic projects, grants national industrial development from development partners, raising capital through debt and equity Prof Gabagambi said the NDC plan financing, along with strengthening, streamlining and enhancing revenue collection from NDC properties.

The NDC had embarked on a reviving of the tires manufacturing plant in Arusha, initiated the

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Other sources are government

NEWS

US -Iran tensions rise sharply as Gen. Qassem Soleimani is killed

FROM PAGE 1

portrayed for mankind is streams, beautiful nymphs and greeneries. But there is another kind of paradise. ... The warfront was the lost paradise of the human beings, indeed.'

A U.S. airstrike killed Soleimani, 62, and others as they traveled from Baghdad's international airport early Friday morning. The Pentagon said President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. military to take "decisive defensive action to protect U.S. personnel abroad by killing" a man once referred to by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a "living martyr of the revolution."

'The game has changed': Elite Iranian general slain in U.S. airstrike at Baghdad airport; Islamic republic vows 'harsh retaliation' »

Soleimani's luck ran out after being rumored dead several times in his life. Those incidents included a 2006 airplane crash that killed other military officials in northwestern Iran and a 2012 bombing in Damascus that killed top aides of Assad. More recently, rumors circulated in November 2015 that Soleimani was killed or seriously wounded leading forces loyal to Assad as they fought around Syria's Aleppo.

Iranian officials quickly vowed to take revenge amid months of tensions between Iran and the U.S. following Trump pulling out of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. While Soleimani was the Guard's most prominent general, many others in its ranks have experience in waging the asymmetrical, proxy attacks for which Iran has become known.

"Trump through his gamble has dragged the U.S. into the most dangerous situation in the region," Hessameddin Ashena, an adviser to Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, wrote on the social media app Telegram. "Whoever put his foot beyond the red line should be ready to face its consequences.'

Born March 11, 1957, Soleimani was said in his homeland to have grown up near the mountainous and the historic Iranian town of Rabor, famous for its forests, its apricot, walnut and peach harvests and its brave soldiers. The U.S. State Department has said he was born in the Iranian religious capital of Qom.

Little is known about his childhood, though Iranian accounts suggest Soleimani's father was a peasant who received a piece of land under the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, but later became encumbered by debts.

By the time he was 13, Soleimani began working in construction, later as an employee of the Kerman Water Organization. Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution swept the shah from power and Soleimani joined the Revolutionary Guard in its wake. He deployed to Iran's northwest with forces that put down Kurdish unrest following the revolution.

Why the U.S. Embassy in Iraq became a target of protesters »

Soon after, Iraq invaded Iran and began the two countries long, bloody eight-year war. The fighting killed more than 1 million people and saw Iran send waves of lightly armed troops into minefields and the fire of Iraqi forces, including teenage soldiers. Solemani's unit and others came under attack by Iraqi chemical weapons



Turkey ambassador to Tanzania Alli Davutoglu shakes hands with SOS Children Arusha board chairperson who is also Hanang Member of Parliament Mary Nagu at the handing over ceremony of Hermannn Gmeiner school operations to Turkish Maarif Foundation. Formerly the school was under SOS Children's Villages supervision. Photo: Correspon

NDC needs 216bn/- for strategic plan

FROM PAGE 1

modernization of the Kilimanjaro Machine Tools Co. (KMTC) facility and the biofertilizer manufacturing project at TAMCO, he said.

are at various stages of implementation. The projects include ex-

NDC was in the process pansion of rubber planta-

of developing several new tions, developing infrastrucprojects together with the ture industrial parks, and private sector through joint implementation of Katewaventure agreements, which ka coal to electricity project. Commenting on success

achieved in the two years (April 2018-December 2019) since he assumed office, Prof

enues reached 9.99bn/- in 2019 from 2.64bn/- in 2017. reduce its debts and pay accrued salaries to employees, he stated. um density (fibre) project to

NDC was in the stage of fibe constructed on the north-

nancing technical economy Gabagambi said NDC revstudies where the government had already disbursed This enabled the NDC to over 1.7 bn/-, with the project set to start at anytime.

Commenting on the medi-

needs at least US\$ 25 million. Already some foreign investors had shown interest to partner with NDC to run the project and when procedures were over will start operations, he added.

ern highlands, he said NDC



'Lake Zone losing forests too rapidly' FROM PAGE 1

There are 26 groups of entrepreneurs engaging in beekeeping activities in

as well

Amid the carnage, Soleimani became known for his opposition to "meaningless deaths" on the battlefield, while still weeping at times with fervor when exhorting his men into combat, embracing each individually.

After the Iraq-Iran war, Soleimani largely disappeared from public view for several years, something analysts attribute to his wartime disagreements with Hashemi Rafsanjani, who would serve as Iran's president from 1989 to 1997. But after Rafsanjani, Soleimani became head of the Quds force. He also grew so close to Khamenei that the Supreme Leader officiated the wedding of the general's daughter.

As chief of the Quds – or Jerusalem – Force, Solemani oversaw the Guard's foreign operations and soon would come to the attention of Americans following the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

In secret U.S. diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks, U.S. officials openly discussed Iraqi efforts to reach out to Soleimani to stop rocket attacks on the highly secured Green Zone in Baghdad in 2009. Another cable in 2007 outlines then-Iraqi President Jalal Talabani offering a U.S. official a message from Soleimani acknowledging having "hundreds" of agents in the country while pledging, "I swear on the grave of (the late Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini I haven't authorized a bullet against the U.S." U.S. officials at the time dismissed Soleimani's claim as they saw Iran as both an arsonist and a fireman in Iraq, controlling some Shiite militias while simultaneously stirring dissent and launching attacks. U.S. forces would blame the Quds Force for an attack in Karbala that killed five American troops, as well as for training and supplying the bomb makers whose improvised explosive devices made IED - improvised explosive device – a dreaded acronym among soldiers.

In a 2010 speech, U.S. Gen. David Petreaus recounted a message from Soleimani he said explained the scope of Iranian's powers.

"He said, 'Gen. Petreaus, you should know that I, Qassem Soleimani, control the policy for Iran with respect to Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza and Afghanistan,'" Petraeus said.

The U.S. and the United Nations put Soleimani on sanctions lists in 2007, though his travels continued. In 2011, U.S. officials also named him as a defendant in an outlandish Quds Force plot to allegedly hire a purported Mexican drug cartel assassin to kill a Saudi diplomat.

But his greatest notoriety would arise from the Syrian civil war and the rapid expansion of the Islamic State group. Iran, a major backer of Assad, sent Soleimani into Syria several times to lead attacks against IS and others opposing Assad's rule. While a U.S.-led coalition focused on airstrikes, several ground victories for Iraqi forces came with photographs emerging of Soleimani leading, never wearing a flak jacket.

Iringa Mjini Member of Parliament Rev Peter Msigwa (R) talks with CCM chairman of Kilolo district Kilian Myenzi (L) moments before the legislator addressed journalists yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

the region, with the 336 entrepreneurs operating a total of 5,405 modern beehives. The beekeepers also produced 2,982 kilograms of honey wax.

The government has promised to support four of the ten groups by providing them with subsidy from the Tanzania Forest Fund (TFF) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

TFS says the most affected forests are Rwamgasa, Geita and Lwande as they have largely been invaded by farming and other

The deputy minister vowed to take legal measures against all those involved in forest destruction or attacking game wardens. People residing near game parks should desist from attacking and injuring game wardens as stern legal measures will be taken in pursuit of such acts, he warned.

The government will continue to educate people across the country on the importance of beekeeping as one among economic activities that can help improve their welfare, he stated.

It is estimated that Tanzania loses 400,000 ha of forest cover per annum, he added.

Tanzania, BADEA partners to enhance building, equipping of Zanzibar schools

By Guardian Reporter

THE Arab Bank for Eco-Africa (BADEA) and the zania signed a loan agreement of US\$ 13.5 million to contribute to the Construction and Equipping of Secondary Schools Project in Zanzibar.

the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of nomic Development in education (Goal no. 4), as well as providing educa-United Republic of Tan- tional opportunities for students in the areas that suffer from shortage in secondary schools.

The project includes civil works to construct and equip three high The project aims at en- schools including housing

of Zanzibar in achieving One of the schools will be on behalf of the United ment operations in vari- the League of Arab States built in the western urban area of Unguja Island in Mfenesini Village, the second will be in the northern area of Unguja Island in Gamba Village and the third will be in the northern area of Bemba Island

in Kifundi Village. The agreement was signed on behalf of BADEA by H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould TAH,

Republic of Tanzania by Hon. Ambassador Mohammed R. Abdiwawa, Minister of Finance and Planning in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

BADEA total commitments to the benefit of Bank began operations Tanzania up to December in March 1975. BADEA 2019 amounted to about is a financial institution US\$ 223 million and allo- owned by eighteen Arab hancing the contribution for teachers and students. the Director-General, and cated to finance develop- countries members of

ous sectors.

With its headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan, the bank was established pursuant to the resolution of the 6th Arab Summit Conference at Algiers (28 November 1973). The

(LAS) which signed its Establishing Agreement on 18 February 1974. The Bank is an independent International Institution enjoying full international legal status and complete autonomy in administrative and financial matters. It is governed by the provisions of its Establishing Agreement and the principles of international law.

NATIONAL NEWS

Researchers finding ways to improve rice production in Kivulini Irrigation scheme

By Guardian Reporter, Hai

A team of researchers from two key institutions is doing research on how to increase rice production per acre for farmers in Kivulini Irrigation scheme located in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region. Researchers are coming from Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre (KATC) and Kilombero Agricultural Training and Research Institute (KATRIN). Among other issues, researchers are working on better land-use management as well as the effective use of improved rice seeds in the scheme.

Agricultural officer manag-

ro said that the study will help farmers increase production as they will be informed on the wise-use of farm inputs such as fertilizer.

The scheme, Kimaro said has a total of 1,800 farmers who grow rice, but dilapidated scheme and road infrastructure remained a challenge that thwarts farmers from embarking into productive rice farming.

"That's why researchers are here to do research and advise farmers on how to improve their farming undertakings."

According to Kimaro, the scheme has a total of 920ha; out of that only 410ha have ing the scheme Michael Kima- irrigation infrastructure such as canals. He said 510ha still use traditional irrigation infrastructure, which are not effective as compared to the modern ones.

A researcher from KATRIN Dr Jerome Mgase said that the study will transform farmers' livelihoods as effective use of improved seeds increases production. Some farmers who were interviewed said that currently cost of rice production has been high due to dilapidated irrigation infrastructure.

Mwanganga Kipande is one of the farmers in the scheme, who appealed to the government to revamp the irrigation scheme and road infrastructure.



Commuter bus with registration T 836 DEB bus fell into a ditch in Shinyanga town yesterday. Ten passengers were injured . Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



That's why re-

searchers are

here to do re-

search and ad-

vise farmers on

how to improve

dertakings."

their farming un-

Court found one British national guilty in economic sabotage case

By Guardian Reporter

A British national, Jean Banton (22) was yesterday fined to pay 10m/- or serve three years in jail term after he was found guilty of two charges including exportation of minerals worth 29m/-without permits.

The Kisutu Resident Magistrates Court also declared the minerals a government's property.

Reading the judgment, Resident Magistrate, Thomas Simba said the court considered to penalize Banton since it was his first time to commit such an offense, and that the suspect had admitted to have committed the offense.

"We have considered nature other health complications,

other people intending to com-Dubai.

mit similar offenses to learn. Wankyo claimed that Banton entered the country as a tourist and not a trader. He added that the suspect did not have permit to conduct minerals business, and his attempt to export them without permits was sabotage to the country's economy

The State Attorney also pledged to the court to nationalise the minerals.

Defense Lawyer, Hamza Jabir claimed that his client has committed the offenses for the first time and that he has a family which fully depends on him. He also claimed that his client has spine problems and

Mitanto claimed that On December 4th 2019, the suspected arrived in Tanzania from Rwanda for purposes of visiting tourist attractions and greeting his friends, but he was arrested at the Julius Nyerere International Airport on December 6th 2019 attempting to export gold. She said the Minerals Com-

mission evaluated the seized minerals realising that they were worth 29,067,318 Tanzania Shillings.

Banton was first arraigned at the Kisutu Resident Magistrates Court on December 20th, 2019 charged with economic sabotage case number 136/2019.

Guardian

National Development Corporation managing director Prof Damian Gabagambi addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam on the institution's achievements yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Dr Possi urges BAKITA to be creative, strategic in marketing Kiswahili language internationally

By Guardian Reporter

ACTING Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Dr Ally Possi has urged the National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) to be more creative and come with strategic and innovative projects that would market well the language internationally.

Dr Possi made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he visited the office to oversee implementation of various projects in the council.

"I congratulate you for your daily efforts in improving Kiswahili language, I also commend the new project which aims to upload about one billion words in the internet network, this will greatly help to spread the language in various parts of the world," he said. He said it is a very impor-

tant institution and it has a big role to play to ensure that Kiswahili remains one of the Tanzanian's icon while improving it to reach more speakers.

Dr Possi further assured the institution that the government will be there to provide all necessary support towards achieving the goals.

For his part, BAKITA exec-

Sewangi appealed for the government's support for the council's new project which aims at training fresh graduates to conduct best translation of the language. "For the project to com-

mence, we need funds to buy new equipment that would support teach-

voung graduates and other stakeholders, the Swahili language translation course is also aimed to completo fight unemployment," he said.

He further hailed the government for supporting the institution to secure a lator Vidah Mutasa said

utive secretary Dr Selemani ing and learning, training new plot in Dodoma to construct its offices.

> The executive secretary also urged the ministry to help them in marketing the ment the country's efforts BAKITA's new Swahili dictionary so as to reach majority in public and private

remain good ambassadors sector. of the language," she said. Speaking, the Chief trans-

that the council is going to

implement the entire direc-

tives issued by the PS to en-

sure that Kiswahili nourish-

es and continues to shine

"We will continue work-

ing hard to ensure that we

internationally.



of the offense and the fact that Banton admitted to be involved

in the said offenses. He will pay 5m/- for each of the two offenses or face a three-year jail term," said magistrate Simba. Earlier, Senior State Attorney, to punish him accordingly for Emirates Airlines through

urging the court to be compassionate When reading the charges, State Attorney, Sylvia Mitanto claimed that Banton is a businessman based in London, UK. She told the court that Banton Wankyo Simon told the court travelled to Tanzania aboard

On the first count, Banton is said to have attempted exporting some 300.7 grams of gold worth 29,067,318/- without permits and on the second count, Banton was said to possess the said minerals while knowing it was the property of the Tanzanian government.

Jubilee Insurance Company of Tanzania is a top ranking insurance company operating in Tanzania. pilee They wish to recruit the following personnel for their head office in Dar Es Salaam.

INSURANCE

GENERAL MANAGER TECHNICAL

- To be responsible for underwriting, claims and reinsurance for the company.
- To have in depth knowledge and practical experience in handling all insurance related technicalities for an insurance company.
- Thorough knowledge and proven skills in the insurance sector.
- · Effectively utilize technological tools as offered by the company including Insurance related IT applications and others which may be identified at a later date.
- Excellent analytical, interpersonal, facilitation, and negotiation skills.
- Should possess sufficient capability for business communication, financial analysis & presentation.

REQUIREMENTS

- Should have at least 18 years of experience in a General Insurance Company with at least 10 years as head of Underwriting/Claims/Re-insurance.
- Should have ACII or equivalent qualifications with a post-graduate degree.
- The candidate should have hands on exposure of new product development, agriculture insurance, portfolio management and other emerging risks.
- Pro-active, self -driven with sound communication, interpersonal and networking skills are desired.
- Knowledge of core insurance software will be expected.
- Fluency in written and verbal English is required.
- Experience in leading large teams.

Only Tanzanian Nationals should apply.

The ideal candidates should exhibit high levels of professionalism, integrity and professional ethics

The company offers competitive compensation package based on candidate's experience and qualifications.

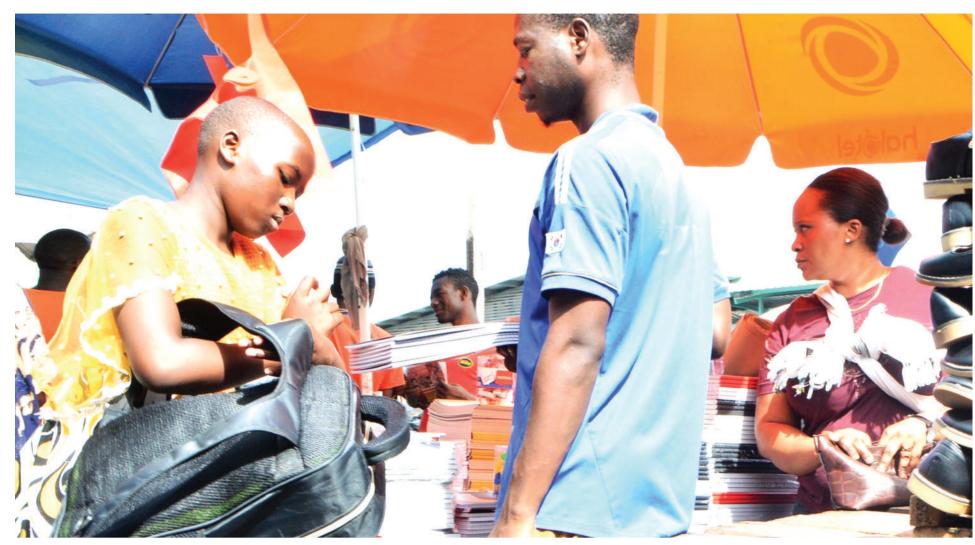
Interested candidates should forward their detailed resume stating name, age, qualification details, all experience details, telephone numbers and email address via electronic application to consultancy@genius.co.tz

Applications should clearly mention post/function being applied for along with current remuneration.

Submit your electronic application before the 17th January 2020.

<u>www.genius.co.tz</u>





School holidays are over and pupils are expected resume classes next week. Exercise books vendor attends to a student at Manzese market in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo:

SHIVYAWATA appeals to fund its operations

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organisations (SHIVYAWATA) yesterday appealed to the government to provide them with subsidies to make it operate smoothly.

Federation's secretary in Kibaha town, Happiness Matagi said: "Right now we're failing to implement our programmes on time due to limited funds."

"We're currently working in difficult environment. We've been ments as the money collected is using money from our pockets to execute federation's activities,"

she said. The federation's office is located in Kibaha Kwa Mfipa, which is far from Kibaha Township, hence needs someone to board a bus.

"That's why we're appealing to the government to come up with a strategy that will make us operate smoothly for the well-being eration's brick-making project of people with disabilities," she said.

The federation owns a three wheel vehicle popularly known as 'bajaji' which is used a taxi, but alone cannot meet the requireused to pay bills for water and power.

"We got funding from Kibaha Town Council and we established a brick-making project, which hasn't started bringing in money as we're still grappling with market challenges," she said.

Early this week, Special Seats MP, Subira Mgalu visited the fedand vowed to work on some of the challenges facing the project and people with disabilities in

general. She also pledged to address water challenges facing the group by looking for sponsors er, louder and common voice on who can help in drilling water issues of lobbying and advocacy. bore for the project.

She also used the opportunity to urge contractors implementing government's projects in Kibaha to use bricks made by the group as part of empowering them economically.

SHIVYAWATA is a non-governmental federation which was established in 1992 and brings together ten national Disabled People's Organisations (PWDs).

The Federation is a mouthpiece for matters pertaining to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The essence was to afford a larg-



We got funding from **Kibaha Town Council** and we established a brick-making project, which hasn't started bringing in money as we're still grappling with market challenges," she said.

Refugees plead for more help to secure markets

By Guardian Reporter

REFUGEES engaging in small scale income generating activities such as basket weaving and other cultural products in Mtendeli and Nduta refugee camps in Kigoma region have appealed for the government to provide more room for them to sell their products in neighbouring towns and regions.

While waiting for the time to go back to their home countries, the refugees are keeping alive their dreams by engaging in small scale businesses.

Speaking recently when the UNHCR assistant High Commissioner-Operations George Okoth Obbo visited the Burundian the camps, the refugees decried on limited market to sell their products something which thwarts their development efforts.

"At the moment we sell most of their products to staff working for aid organisations, Tanzanians who live near the camps," said one of the refuges at Mtendeli camp.

She called for authorities to re-open joint markets in the camps, saying that the existence of the markets helps the population earn extra incomes to cater for needs of their families.

Beatrice Emmanuel, proramme manager for Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE) said lack of materials is another challenge the women group are facing as they are not allowed to travel outside the camp to fetch them.

"We do support their efforts and promote self-reliance, but it is difficult for the refugees as they cannot leave the camps, either to collect raw materials or sell their products...engaging in small-scale activities also helps to reduce domestic violence,"

The UNHCR assistant High Commissioner-Operations George Okoth Obbo also admitted on market challenges, saying that it is a matter which needs more discussions.

"UNHCR commends the government for its continued support to hosting the refugees and asylum seekers, we are will continue strengthening our relationship with the government to ensure that the needy people stay safely and enjoy their rights," he said.

He further appealed for the international community to continue strongly supporting the refugee programme in Tanzania.

"In Tanzania, we need USD 126 million. Our funding available is just one third of that. We are really grateful for all the support to date but much more is needed and I thus strongly appeal for continuous support in this respect," Obbo added.

For his part, director for refugee services in the Home Affairs Ministry Sudi Mwakibasi said the government decided to close the markets for security reasons.

He said that refugees were taking advantage of the joint markets to go outside the camp and sometime engage in crimes.

He also said that the government of Tanzania will continue to keep its door open to genuine and credible asylum seekers and refugees in need of international protection and asylum where he commended UNHCR and the

Investing in health workers yields 'triple dividend', WHO chief says

By Guardian Reporter

AT the start of the New Year and new decade, the head of the United Nations health agency thanked "the brave health workers" around the globe and asked that the world do better in supporting them.

"They are doing life-saving work every day, including during holidays when the rest of us are with our loved ones at home", said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in his video message for the new year.

"But the world needs to do a better job in supporting our health workers, paying them, training them and protecting them".

WHO estimates that the world will need another 18 million health workers, mostly in lowand middle-income countries.

He recalled that 2020 is the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, which celebrates the professionals who provide a wide range of health services "from the first moments of life to the last".

There are 22 million nurses and two million midwives worldwide, who prevent, diagnose and treat diseases, provide expert care during childbirth and also serve people caught in humanitarian emergencies and conflicts, according to WHO.

"During this year, WHO and our partners will ask countries to improve the education and employment of nurses and midwives", said the WHO chief.

He also observed that 70 per cent of the global health workforce is female, pointing out that "jobs for health workers are often jobs for women".

"Investing in health workers pays a triple dividend for health, economic growth and gender equality", spelled out the WHO director-general.



Dar es Salaam resident stoops past electrical cables near Goba- Tegeta yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

NATIONAL NEWS

TCRA: No passwords needed in biometric SIM card registration



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (2nd R) listens to NIDA's director of production department Alphonce Malibiche about the authority's operations when the deputy minister visited Kibaha centre in Coast region yesterday. Right is NIDA director general Dr. Anold Kihaule Photo: Home Affairs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Communications TANZANIA Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has advised mobile phone users across the country not to unveil their passwords to anybody with a pretext of biometric SIM card registration during the ongoing exercise countrywide. TCRA's advice came at the time

when a group of conmen in Mwanza asks owners of mobile phones to provide their passwords for them to accomplish biometric registration. Head of TCRA in Lake Zone, Eng.

Francis Mihayo made the call when speaking at the meeting which involved police from Ilemela and Nyamagana districts, officers from National Identification Authority (NIDA) and media practitioners.

According to Mihayo, the conmen have been moving around streets homes, and businesses premises

operators' uniforms, with the pretext registered in the next 16 days. of biometric registration.

"They ask for passwords from mobile phones owners and use them to steal people's money online. That's why we're asking people that they shouldn't provide passwords to anybody as the biometric registration doesn't need passwords," he said.

"Soon after extending the deadline for biometric registration, a new wave of conmen emerged. They have been asking for password, something which isn't required in the registration procedures. So, I urge people to immediately report once they're being asked for passwords by registration agents in their localities," he said.

He however said that since 31 December, last year, 24,021,757 lines have been registered biometrically which is 49.7 percent of all lines. He expressed his hope that

donning mobile phones' network the remaining 24,300,192 will be

Guardian

Nyamagana District Investigation Officer, Juma Jumanne said that the biometric registration is aimed at getting rid of dishonest telephone line users, controlling cybercrime and protecting Tanzanians against those abusing the telecom sector.

In May this year, the TCRA directed that owners of all Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards to biometrically register their lines by the end of the year.

The registration of SIM cards is mandatory under the Electronics and Postal Communications Act of 2010, and, under this law it is an offense to sell or distribute an unregistered SIM card, to use an unregistered SIM card, to fail to record sale of a SIM card and to provide false information or statement during registration.

Selfie-taking tourists put most endangered species at risk with poachers - experts

DURBAN

been urged not to share their rare wildlife jamming photos and selfies on social media.

say poachers are using the geolocations on these photos to track and kill endangered elephants.

Wild's Park Working

world's the well-known SAFARI tourists have destinations, officials reserves. considering are phone signals to stop tourists size of Belgium, surged from South African experts the locations of the with 71 killed for their endangered creatures.

"I think people would be shocked to know that culture is deemed to their tips on sightings be one of the biggest animals like rhino and are being monitored enablers of poaching, by poachers," Kruger it has also had several spokesperson other

most killed in Kruger Park safari and adjacent private Elephant poaching in the park, which is roughly the advertising to a record high in 2018, ivory.

While the selfie unintended



Karen Trendler, who specializes in rhino conservation, says "it's mind-blowing sophisticated syndicates are. You'll find some poachers who have several social media profiles, just to track posts about endangered wildlife."

Trendler says tourists need to be aware of the impact their actions could have.

"I'm not saying don't take that once in a lifetime picture, but if you do, switch off your geotagging, don't say when and where and what time the photo was taken," she said. "You never know what information you're unwittingly passing along to someone with nefarious intent."

In Kruger Park, arguably

Ike Phaahla told ABC News. "We are talking to experts to see what can be done to curb how these Cutting off the signal might end up being the answer."



I think people would be shocked to know that their tips on

sightings are being monitored by poachers,"

consequences. In recent weeks, three antelopes were killed by speeding motorists. irresponsible behavior. In November, a giraffe was killed when it was hit by a racing minibus and then catapulted

onto the hired vehicle of a Swiss visitor who later died from his injuries. The speed limit on the park's 1,900mile road network is up to 30 miles per hour, depending on the quality of the surface. Phaahla said "people drive fast to get to the area thereby endangeringthemselves and the animals, then it causes congestion at the sighting which causes tempers to flare and thirdly it

More than half of the gives intelligence to 8,000 rhinos poached poaching syndicates in South Africa between if it is an animals that one of 2008 and 2018 were they intend poaching."

Nazama Tarimo outlines the challenges facing her union at the stakeholders meeting held in Mirerani on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

2 injured as oil tanker catches fire in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya

TWO people have been injured in an oil tanker fire accident in Mbarali District along the Tanzania-Zambia highway, police said yesterday here.

Mbeya Regional Police District Commander, Ulrich Matei said that the tanker with registration number T.956 DRT and its trailer T.886

DRV was being driven by residents of Igurus ward using water pump, while Issa Yusuph (35). Owned at Mbarali district in going on with the exercise by World Oil Company, the tanker carrying petrol to help to remove oil from was heading to Zambia from the Tanzania's the crash.

commercial capital. He said the car broke RPC Matei said that down at the area on the accident occurred January 1, this year and at around 4pm at Metaafter they failed to repair Igurusi area in Mbarali

Matei another vehicle. mentioned the injured Stanford Mwakyusa (45) fuel to another vehicle by registration number SM

Mbeya region who went the water pump exploded causing a big fire which the damaged vehicle after completely burnt the vehicle and injured the two," said commander Matei.

However, he said apart from the burnt out oil the damage, have decided tanker, the fire also to transfer the fuel to damaged two vehicles that were supposed to ferry at least 55 others. The "The injured were the fuel as well as a fire victims gathered at the as Julius Daud (30) and assisting to transfer the and rescue vehicle with accident site to loot the

4633 which was coming to extinguish the fire.

Commander Matei said the victims of the accident were rushed and admitted to the Igurus Health Centre for treatment.

He called on region's residents to avoid gathering to areas where there is an explosion threat because such kind of accidents have serious consequences.

On August 10, last year, a fuel tanker exploded in Morogoro, killing at least 89 people and injuring fuel.

Commander

Pangolin trafficking tops Malawi's 2019 wildlife crimes - reports

LILONGWE

PANGOLIN trafficking rescued and returned into the wilderness in the month of December alone.

place in November border into Malawi. 2017 involving three topped wildlife crimes in Mozambican nationals, 2019 in Malawi, with at Martinio Alberto and least five of the specimen Paulino Felish Nyanji, of the listed species and Habarawo Jyaime possession of specimen Mankhokwe.

The first two were while the pangolin was that the first successful when they attempted reserve, convictions for pangolin to find market for a National Park. trafficking in the sub- pangolin which they

The two court and sent to jail for seven years on charges of and a Malawian, Joseph of listed species and

> Liwonde In the same month

pangolin was rescued an were in the country's capital, convicted by Malawian Lilongwe, where the other two, Jyaime and were Mankhokwe. attempting to sell the endangered species at a illegal entry into Malawi local trading centre.

The court convicted arrested in the southern released back into one the two, and they were Media reports indicate border district of Nsanje of the country's wildlife sent to jail for five years imprisonment with hard labour.

The

institution that has always worked hand in hand with the Malawi police in fighting wildlife crime, described the November 2017 convictions as the country's breakthrough. least 15 of the endangered

species had been rescued from their traffickers since November 2017 Lilongwe and the animals had neighboring countries in

by the LWT.

Malawi is described by the LWT as the Wildlife, Southern principal transit hub for wildlife trafficking By December 2019, at and the authorities in the country are worried with the growing cases of pangolin trafficking.

Saharan country took had smuggled across the of November one more Wildlife Trust (LWT), been released back into the fight against illegal scaled mammals on wildlife reserves after a wildlife trade including earth, are listed by thorough health check that of pangolin," the the Convention on country's Director for International Trade in National Parks and Endangered Species of Brighton Africa's Kumchedwa told local media recently. "We are also promoting

domestic cooperation among law enforcement agencies in Malawi in most trafficked mammal the fight against illegal "We are working with wildlife trade," he added. and culinary dishes in Pangolins, the only South-eastern Asia.

wild fauna and flora and engaging in illegal trade of the animals attracts heft fine or jail term. According to the LWT,

pangolins are the world's for their use in medicine

Locust invasion worsened by unusual heavy rainfall, floods in E. Africa - experts

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

LOCUSTS can form huge swarms that can strip trees and crops over vast areas if allowed to breed unchecked in favourable conditions.

Adult locust swarms can fly up to 150 kilometres a day and a very small swarm eats as much in one day as about 35,000 people,

The last major upsurge was in 2003-2005 when more than 12 million hectares were treated in west and northwest Africa. incurring a cost of about \$750 million including food aid.

"Nearly 13million ha of desert locust infestations were treated with pesticides from October 2003 to September 2005," a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

However, use of pesticides can

have adverse effects on human changing weather patterns in health and the environment, the study found, as researchers

urged caution in balancing risks of pesticide use. According to the U.N. food agency, an average swarm can destroy crops that could feed

2,500 people for a year. Two weeks ago, FAO reported that desert locusts were destroying tens of thousands of hectares of crops and grazing land in Somalia, the worst invasion in 25 years. It is being reported that the latest locust plague is far more serious than

the FAO earlier projected. It has apparently been made worse by unseasonably heavy rainfall and floods across East Africa that have killed hundreds of people in the past several months.

Experts say climate shocks are swarms of grasshoppers largely responsible for rapidly

the region. The last time that Kenya

sounded the alarm over locust invasion was in December 2007. The locust swarms originated in Yemen, flew into Ethiopia's Ogaden region where they laid eggs in October and a few swarms continued south towards Somalia and northeastern Kenya, the government said at the time.

Other countries that have been hit by locust invasion in the last few years include Madagascar, Russia, United States (Las Vegas) and Pakistan.

In 2013, billions of locusts affected roughly half the island nation of Madagascar; according to CNN, it was the worst infestation since the 1950s.

And in July 2019, aassive descended on Las Vegas



National Kiswahili Council (Bakita) executive secretary Dr. Selemani Sewangi (R) hands over Kiswahili dictionary to Information, Culture, Arts and Sports acting Permanent Secretary Dr Ally Possi (L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Information Services

Ten cheated death as mini-bus plunges into ditch

yanga

AT least 10 people cheated death after the driver of a minibus lost control and plunged into a ditch along Shinyanga-Mwanza Highway.

The accident occurred on

area around 6pm. The minibus was heading to Shinyanga Municipality from Kishapu District. Eyewitnesses said before plunging into the ditch a Toyota

Hiace with registration number T 836 DEB collided with a

By Guardian Correspondent, Shin- Thursday evening at Usharika Toyota Harrier. The driver also Anthony Gwandu, said drivers' hit a cyclist and all those who failure to comply with the road were injured were rushed to the safety rules by both was the main regional referral hospital for treatment.

> eyewitnesses linked the accident passengers got minor injuries and with over speeding.

cause of the accident.

The RTO confirmed that no life Solomon Petro, one of the was lost in the accident, most of they are going on with medical Regional Traffic Officer (RTO) treatment at the hospital.

According to Gwandu, the driver of the mini-bus managed to run away soon after the accident.

He also called on all drivers in the region to obey the road safety rules, to avoid unnecessary accidents that have cost lives of people and disabilities to innocent people.



Under 30 Africa Summit set for Botswana in '20

GABORONE

FORBES has announced the first-ever Under 30 Africa Summit in Botswana, from 19-23 April 2020 - a move that recognises Botswana as an emerging centre for entrepreneurship that's poised for global growth, startup acceleration and innovation.

Hosted in partnership with the Botswana President's initiative, this summit will bring together 600 young entrepreneurs and game-changers from Africa, Asia, Europe and the US for mentorship, networking and important conversations centred around sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship. This summit will also provide rich cultural immersion opportunities and a rare international networking environment for young entrepreneurs.

"With our first-ever Under 30 Summit in

Muheza resident in Tanga region walks next to the road sign which read: The road is closed for rehabilitation yesterday. Photo: Correspondent William Steven

Africa, we're bringing the world's top young entrepreneurs to the continent that will drive global growth in the 21st Century," said Randall Lane, chief content officer at Forbes. "We're especially excited to be in Botswana, a country that has shown it intends to be a startup hub for the African Century."

"The ForbesForbes Under 30 summit is going to be groundbreaking for Botswana," said President Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana. "It's putting Botswana at the centre of entrepreneurship and will play a pivotal role in incubating startups in our country."

The event will kick off the evening of April 19 with an opening reception in Gaborone featuring a "Taste of Africa" showcasing food from in the region. On April 20, attendees will help mentor local entrepreneurs in the area - sharing their knowledge and experience to help young entrepreneurs in Botswana.

From medicine to recycling, six African start-ups doing business for good in '19

DAKAR

AS Africa tunes into the burgeoning movement of business for good, young people across the continent are finding innovative solutions to problems from illiteracy to pollution.

There are no figures for how many social enterprises have been started across the continent, but the sector is growing with the emergence of tech hubs and accelerators even in the world's least-developed countries, such as Chad.

Six African social enterprises that had people talking in 2019 include mPharma-a Ghana-based social enterprise mPharma manages prescription inventory for pharmacies to make medicines more affordable for Africans. Started five years

the purchase of Kenya's second-biggest pharmacy chain and the launch of new initiatives including a financing program for breast cancer treatment in Nigeria.

MPharma won \$1.5 million this year from Ebay billionaire Jeff Skoll and plans to eventually supply affordable drugs to public hospitals as well as pharmacies, said founder Gregory Rockson.

It also include Easy Solar, which provides pay-as-you-go solar-powered lighting and charging systems to people with no electricity access in Sierra Leone. In 2019, the three-year-old company reached 15 of 16 districts in Sierra Leone and expanded to neighboring Liberia. Founder Nthabiseng Mosia made the Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 list this year, in the category of "game-

ago, the business expanded in 2019 with changers" in technology. She plans to local collectors, mostly women, and sells it It gained momentum in 2019, winning rapidly grow the company's reach in 2020, she said, after passing 300,000 users this vear.

> Others include Toolboksi-a Tanzanianbased online platform that aims to reduce unemployment in the informal sector by connecting people seeking carpentry, plumping or construction work with local artisans and handymen skilled in those areas. The two-year-old company has facilitated over 3,000 transactions so far. In 2019 Toolboksi won Best Social Impact Start-up for its growth this year at the Southern Africa Start-up Awards. It also include SiyaBuddy–a recycling and waste management company in South Africa that aims to create jobs while helping the environment. The start-up buys waste from

to recycling companies.

SiyaBuddy gained recognition and funding this year when it won the World Export Development Forum young entrepreneurs pitch contest in Ethiopia. Since 2017, it has created 21 jobs and supported over 1,000 waste-pickers.

Another one is Farmcrowdy-a digital lending platform in Nigeria that connects farmers with small investors who can sponsor them during a season and collect a small return when they harvest. It aims to reduce hunger and poverty by increasing food production.

With over 25,000 small-scale farmers involved, Farmcrowdy has been growing quickly since it launched three years ago.

a number of awards including Africa's Innovative Business of the Year by the British Awards for African Development.

The other is Eco-Warriors, which was launched in Mauritius in 2019, Eco-Warriors is a mobile game application that teaches children about climate change and conservation. It includes monthly comic books distributed for free if young players participate in recycling household waste.

Eco-Warriors is a few months old and has won several prizes and the support of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It aims to teach sustainability throughout the Indian Ocean region, including in Reunion Island and Madagascar.

Kigoma gets new seed variety from TARI to boost oil palm production

By Gerald Kitabu, Kigoma

TENERA, a hybrid produced from local seeds dura and pisifera and which takes only three years to mature has inspired more farmers in Kigoma region to venture into oil palm production.

According to the director general for Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Dr. Geofrey Mkamilo, unlike the past seeds, the new tenera variety produces 5 times higher palm oil compared to dura.

Most farmers in Tanzania grow exclusively d ura type with low yielding potential in old farms which have been established in 1920s and have never been replanted ever since, saying this is one of the main causes for low oil palm yields in Tanzania.

In an interview with the Guardian during a tour of TARI at Kwitanga Prison in Kigoma, one of the centres selected by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to do the multiplication of the seeds, the farmers simply said that the government of President John Magufuli has heard their long time outcry.

"We thank very much the government through TARI for making the short matured improved seeds available to the farmers. I would like to request the government to promote and enhance the distribution of the seeds to reach many farmers in the region," said Sikujua Mpemba.

The local seeds have been letting us down. They take more than ten years and not productive enough. Because they take long time, some farmers especially old men were dying leaving their own farms of the oil palm not matured," said Pili Uliagazi.

TARI led by Dr. Geofrey Mkamilo spent the New Year day to visit and supply 50,000 improved seeds of oil palm vari-

ety tenera to Kwitanga Prison in Kigoma for multiplication and distribution to the farmers. This amount adds to 277,335 seeds which have been supplied previously, TARI has cumulatively supplied a total of 327,335 seeds to Kwitanga Prison.

Kwitanga Prison is located in Kigoma district council and was selected as a centre of production and distribution of improved seedlings of oil palm, tenera variety. The centre was selected by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa when he first visited the prison in July 2018 and the second visit in February 2019.

Speaking during handing over the improved seeds, Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said that the efforts of multiplying and disseminating the improved seeds of oil palm at local government authorities and to farmers in Kigoma and elsewhere is basically trying to address the issue of importation of vegetable edible oil from Malaysia and some other countries like Costa Rica, which in recent vears has cost the nation billions of shillings.

"Actually we import 365,000 metric tons of edible oil which cost approximately 443 billion/annually. This should not be the case because Tanzania has a potential land to produce all types of vegetable edible oil that we need in this country," he said.

Citing an example, he said Kigoma alone had an area of about 114,000 hectares of land which suitable for oil palm production, saying if it can be utilized well, definitely the nation will be able to reduce or eliminate importation of vegetable edible oil in the country. Dr. Mkamilo added that there are other regions which are also suitable for production of oil palm in this country such as Kyela in Mbeya, districts of Coastal region such as Mkuranga, Kibiti and Bagamoyo, Tanga region,

Director General Dr. Geofrey Mkamilo (wearing cap R) handing over 50,000 improved seeds of oil palm variety Tenera to the officer in-charge, Kwitanga Prison in Kigoma, Senior Superintendent of Prison (SSP) Dominic Kazimil. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Morogoro and Zanzibar adding that if efforts are put together, it is really possible for the country to produce enough and surplus vegetable edible oil. Receiving the improved seeds

of oil palm variety, the officer incharge, Kwitanga Prison, Senior Superintendent of Prison (SSP) Dominic Kazimil said Kwitanga Prison is committed and determined to heed the Prime Minister's call to ensure the exercise of multiplication of the seedlings is done around the clock and be distributed to as many farmers as possible. "We have been working

very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI Kihinga, and department of agriculture in Kigoma region. We are multiplying the improved seeds of oil palm variety called tenera that will be distributed across the country," he said.

SSP Kazimil informed that there are 22,335 improved seedlings in the primary nursery and other 255,000 improved tenera seeds are being germinated in the germinators. He said that Kwitanga Prison targets to plant 6,000 acres of improved oil palm. The prison has a total of 8,026 acres but he said the order from the government requires the prison to use 6,000 acres for the oil palm, saying the remaining 2,000 acres will be used for improving the infrastructures.

Commenting on the available plans, Kigoma regional agricultural advisor, Joseph Lubuye commended TARI for the good work, saying so far they had distributed the improved seeds variety tenera to six districts councils in the region. "So far we have distributed 191,000 improved seeds to the district councils. But there are other 286,000 improved

seeds at Kwitanga Prison and 119,000 at Bulombora JKT. Furthermore, there are more seeds being pre-germinated at TARI Kihinga. Therefore, so far TARI Kihinga had produced more than 700,000 seeds which has the capacity to produce more than 650,000 seedlings which can be planted in more than 13,000 acres of land," he said.

He said when the seedlings are ready, the district councils will distribute them to the farmers for free. In the past, private institutions were importing the seeds from Costa Rica and selling them to the farmers at 6,000/-.

"The government noticed this problem and that's why the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI, Kigoma region and military institutions such as Kwitanga Prison and JKT Burombola work together to enhance multiplication and distribution of adequate seeds to the farmers," he added.

He called on the farmers to visit the district councils and list their names and the number of seedling they require so that when the seedlings are ready, the district council can supply to them.

7

Youth are not active enough, putting their health at risk

By Natasha Comeau

young people MOST around the world are not getting enough physical activity, putting their health at risk, and girls are generally less active than boys, according to a major new study.

More than 80 per cent of school-going adolescents globally do not meet current recommendations of at least one hour of physical activity per day - including 85 per cent of girls and 78 per cent of boys – according to the study, published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal and produced by researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The levels of insufficient physical activity in adolescents are compromising their current and future health and contributing to growing obesity rates globally, the authors said.

"Physical activity levels need to go up pretty much everywhere in the world if we don't want to end up with an unhealthy next generation," study author Regina Guthold of the WHO said.

The difference in the proportion of boys and girls meeting the recommendations was greater than 10 percentage points in almost one in three countries in 2016, with the biggest gaps

in the study saw this gender gap widen between 2001-2016.

The first-ever study of global physical activity, conducted by researchers from the WHO, Imperial College London and the University of Western Australia, collected data from 1.6 million 11-to-17-vear-old students in 146 countries. The assessment included active play, sports, domestic chores, walking, biking and gym class.

Girls were less active than boys in all but four countries Tonga, Samoa, Afghanistan and Zambia. In almost three quarters of the countries, this gender gap widened between 2001-2016.

Guthold said boys may be more active because "in many countries, there are big national sports, such as cricket, soccer and hockey, which are growing and all male dominated."

"The trend of girls being less active than boys is concerning," said study coauthor Dr Leanne Riley of the WHO. "More opportunities to meet the needs and interests of girls are needed to attract and sustain their participation in physical activity through adolescence

and into adulthood." Rachel Colley, a senior research analyst in the Health Analysis Division of Statistics Canada, said girls' physi-



ological changes in women's Ottawa

routine."

bodies that make girls shy away from being active."

The authors noted that the study included only selfreported information from school-going adolescents. It may have under-reported female-dominated activities such as dance, gymnastics and yoga.

"Girls in a lot of the world are still confined to stereotypical roles, and so much of their activity might occur through domestic chores," said Mark Tremblay, direccal activity decreases with tor of Healthy Active Living seen in the United States age, especially around 12 and Obesity Research at the and Ireland. Most countries years old. She cited "physi- CHEO Research Institute in more direct measures of as-

sessment, including accel-"They may be doing erometers, which measure housework while carrying movement.

Tremblay recently comtheir little sister on their back, which would certainly pleted a study in Mozambique, where he found that be moderate to vigorous physical activity. But they almost all children living in might not consider this rural areas far exceeded the physical activity. For them, WHO's guidelines. "And yet it's just part of their daily they're ranked 136 out of 146 countries," he said. "It's just That is a major limitation blatantly wrong."

Data from the developof the study, said Treming world is not the only blay, and why he published a commentary critiquing information that might be the research. He said selfskewed in a self-reported reporting often does not restudy. Colley said individuflect the reality of physical als can overestimate their activity. He has instead used activity because they want to appear healthier than

they are or because they have difficulty recalling total daily activity.

When Colley compared self-reported data on Canadian adolescents to accelerometer data, she found on average that teens were ple." overreporting about 20 minutes of activity a day.

Tremblay said the WHO's rankings might not be accurate, noting that when he collected direct measures of physical fitness – an indicator of physical activity – the results were remarkably different. "Tanzania is by far the number one for kids' physical fitness, and the U.S. is near the bottom of the list," he said. "There's almost no correlation."

Tremblay's numbers align more closely with global data on obesity rates. In some countries that were ranked more active in the WHO report, obesity rates are relatively high. These nations include the United States, where child obesity rate is 18.5 per cent, and the United Kingdom, where 20 per cent of 10 year-olds are classified as obese.

"This doesn't mean the WHO did anything wrong," Tremblay says. "It's just an inherent limitation to the data they have."

One of those limitations, Guthold said, is that the WHO collected data only from school-going youth. "We might have seen a different picture if we had included out-of-school adolescents," she says. Data on this population is hard to access, but "they might be a lot more physically active because they are engaged in manual labour, for exam-

Still, experts agree that the rates of physical activity globally among adolescents are dangerously low.

The WHO called for more effective national policies and programs to promote physical activity. Recent efforts, such as former U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign, appears to have increased physical activity mainly among boys. More femaletargeted policies and programmes could be needed.

Efforts to increase physical activity need to be multi-

dimensional and engage the healthcare and education sectors, Guthold said. She pointed to Finland, where schools have implemented five physical activity breaks throughout the day to get youth moving.

"Finland is also integrating physical activity into learning. In history class, they use timelines on a

staircase to get students to go up and down the stairs," Guthold says. "The students are doing physical activity without even realising it."

Better measurements of physical activity are needed, Tremblay said, because this is a "global crisis that is related to almost all the mental, emotion, social and physical health issues we're dealing with in the world."

Clarification

In our Saturday edition of December 21, 2019 we published a story titled 'Mikocheni A leadership under fire over sold open space,' which said residents of Mikocheni A along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road in Dar es Salaam are up in arms after a potential 'investor' is accused of grabbing public land. The land under conflict is on plot number 628, which was been claimed by residents as an open space.

But after thorough investigation it came to light that that the plot has been in a long conflict, which was resolved by the High Court Land Division, through its ruling issued on February 24, 2014, recogniSing Vicent Bruno Minia as the legal owner of the land.

It was also discovered that in 2018, Damas Assesy and Flora Assesy lodged a case at the Court of Appeal to temporarily block development of the land, but the appeal was dismissed by the court on April 11, last year. We regret for the inconvenience caused to Minja, and our esteemed readers.

Editor

EDITORIALS.OPINION



Macro-economic shifts key to push KIA appeal to airlines for cargo

ANAGERS at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) are working hard to get cargo flights to land at the airport, which the management says they aren't doing that due to low amounts of cargo. In a recent interview, the management gives a picture of considerable underutilization of facilities at the airport, despite that it is the second busiest in the country, after Julius Nyerere International

Airport in Dar es Salaam. A new plan has come up to increase cargo flights from KIA chiefly among major airlines operating in the region.

An example of this drawback is that one flight must carry a minimum of 30 tonnes for landing to be economic, but the KIA management scarcely has more than 10 tons to offer at any particular moment or day, as it must receive sufficient tonnage from traders. Managers say that the situation has continued to improve but it is unclear up to what extent, as the gap between the 30 tonnes cargo planes need and the 10 tonnes they are likely to find can't be bridged in a day.

The hurdle that the airport management has to clear is in the region of ensuring that the airport has three times the cargo it normally disposes, which is definitely a tall order. Still the management has hope it is able to achieve something even in the circumstances, and this is where macroeconomic issues crop up. To enable this dream to become a reality, those being targeted may increase commerce if they are also stakeholders, as it is a question of choosing to make KIA a centre of operations. Let the management and the relevant ministry work out who would

ANAGERS at the Kilimanbe most interested, and discuss the details, as otherwise KIA management port (KIA) are working might suggest and get no one.

One thing that the KIA management says the airport has in plenty is cold room facilities, as they can handle up to 110 tonnes of cargo, and this looks like it is a key starting point. Instead of seeing this room for cargo storage as a facility from which to earn revenues, it is more helpful to see it as capital input, where a potential partner knows that a wide facility of the sort is in place. It means auxiliary needs are also taken into account - the way desert outposts like Dubai organized themselves to attract investors and become a trading hub.

Transporting agro-products abroad is one thing, but not all agro-products need to be airlifted to major markets abroad, but usually it is perishable ones. This isn't an issue that KIA managers can solve on their own or even with clients who may be interested in using its cold storage facilities, but a policy issue. In what manner can the zones around the airport, that is, in all directions, be transformed to become a farming or processing hub whose products then need to be airlifted to markets in Europe, the Middle East or farther beyond?

Situations like are typical of the kind of problem solving which catapulted Asia into development and has continually left Africa behind, as we look for mercantile solutions - more goods, more taxes -instead of capital or corporate solutions. In the latter case one needs to have partners especially by opening up the capital of a key enterprise. If a special economic zone is applied, capital can buy land or property and settle.

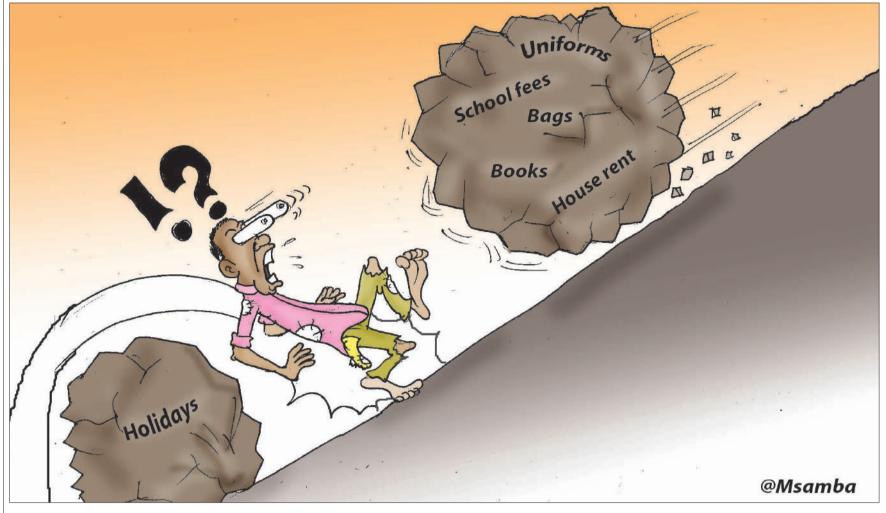
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Buhari's visit to South Africa scored high on diplomacy

By Oche Echeija Egwa

s the curtain falls on 2019, one significant journey will for long be remembered by Nigerians, South Africans and entire African continent: President Muhammadu Buhari's historic threeday visit to South Africa, October 3-5th, 2019. Before the visit, fear and anxiety had engulfed the continent, and cries of xenophobic attacks ruled the air waves. Daily figures of casualties, both real and imagined, flared tempers, and reprisals were already taking a toll on South African business interests abroad. Headlines, local and international, were metaphoric, pumping adrenaline: "Africa's Big Brothers at War", "Africa's Two Largest Economies Set for Show Down", "Xenophobic Attacks Record More Casualties", "Bad Blood Between Two African Powerhouses" and "Ramaphosa's Shame". For the period, Africa's policy of brothers' keeper was tested. The theatre of the absurd, which started in South Africa, Africa's second largest economy, was fast consuming lives and relations. Citizens of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Somalia were leaving. All hope rested on President Buhari and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa. On September 4th, 2019, following more attacks and reports of killings, Nigerian delegation to the 28th World Economic Forum on Africa in Cape Town, South Africa, which was to be led by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, shelved participation. "Clearly with this climate, he (Osinbajo) and Mr. President have agreed that he should not go," Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama explained. Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Malawi's Peter Mutharika had earlier pulled out of the conference, citing various reasons. In South Africa, the onslaught on foreign businesses, largely attributed to frustration from growing unemployment, and allegations of misgivings and poor conduct of some foreigners, had become unbearable. To further register Nigeria's chagrin, the High Commissioner to South Africa, Amb. Kabiru Bala was called to Nigeria for briefing, and the South African acting High Commissioner, Bobby Moroe, was invited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs over the deteriorating situation. For safety, South African High Commission in Abuja and other businesses across the country were closed. On September 5th, 2019, President Buhari despatched a special envoy to South Africa. The special envoy, who is Director General of Nigeria's National Intelligence Agency, Amb. Ahmed Rufai Abubakar,

met with South Africa's President and expressed Nigeria's displeasure over the treatment of her citizens. President Ramaphosa gave an assurance on safety of lives and property, attributing attacks to criminal elements.

On September 16, 2019, President Ramaphosa's special envoy, Mr Jeff Radebe, was received at the Presidential Villa in Abuja. At the meeting, a statement by Femi Adesina, Special Adviser to the President, Media and Publicity, quoted President Buhari as saying: "Going back to historical antecedents, we made great sacrifices for South Africa to become a free state. I was a junior officer to Gen. Murtala Muhammad, and Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo. They were not operating in a democracy, but they got Nigerians to support them in the bid to see a free South Africa. Our leadership was quite committed to the cause. We made sacrifices, which younger people of today may not know. During my last visit to South Africa with the late President Robert Mugabe, it was very emotional, as Mugabe spoke about Nigeria's contribution to free South Africa." Radebe apologized on behalf of his President for what he called "acts of criminality and violence" that recently occurred, adding that "such do not represent our value system, nor those of the larger number of South Africans." On September 11, 2019, the first set of Nigerians evacuated by a private airline, Air Peace, arrived in Lagos, mostly women and children. More than 600 Nigerians were flown out of the country by the airline. "We had long delays with issues of biometrics by the host country, and people were frustrated. The tension was high. When it was eventually waived, teary Nigerians started the national anthem. It was such a touching moment," Nigeria's Consular General in Johannesburg, Amb. Godwin Adama, said. Adama had spent many sleepless nights ensuring safety of citizens at the height of the diplomatic uproar. In Nigeria, South African businesses were at high risk. Initial attacks, spurred by looters, were quickly nipped in the bud. The Police made arrests, and protected all business outfits. The atmosphere of bitterness and mutual suspicion persisted. In spite of arrests in Johannesburg and Pretoria, foreigners kept fleeing the country. On August 11, 2019, President Buhari had agreed to visit South Africa, after a phone conversation with President Ramaphosa. The President spoke with the South African leader from his country home in Daura, Katsina State. In spite of the escalation of violence and destruction of Nigerian businesses in following

weeks, he kept his promise. A statement by Senior Special Assistant to the President, Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, that President Buhari would visit South Africa was greeted with mixed feelings. In Nigeria, some felt it was belittling for the Nigerian leader to visit South Africa since the crisis started from there, while others said it was unsafe. For some, since Nigeria played a significant role in the fight against apartheid, it deserved more respect. The President was unperturbed,

to promote more Nigerian investments in South Africa.

"Going further back in recent history, during the dark days of the fight against apartheid, Nigeria was formally designated a Frontline State, notwithstanding the fact that we were not geographically in Southern Africa. It was rather in recognition of the political, human and material support and sacrifices of the Nigerian Government and people for South Africa," President said at the State Dinner.

TTB and Bollywood: Certainly a welcome change of fortune

anzania is an East African country known for its vast wilderness areas. They include the plains of Serengeti National Park, a safari mecca populated by the "big five" game (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino), and Kilimanjaro National Park, home to Africa's highest mountain. Offshore lie the tropical islands of Zanzibar, with Arabic influences, and Mafia, with a marine park home to whale sharks and coral reefs.

The government is engaged with developing and promoting sustainable growth on the travel and tourism sector in Tanzania, in order to preserve its natural and cultural resources. The government, therefore, is focused in attracting high-income tourists whom are less likely to spoil the culture and the natural environment. The government has recently announced that an increase in the tourism sector's budget will be undertaken to create new products and attract up to 3m international visitors by 2018.

The Ministry of National Resources and Tourism has releases its recent statistics on tourists showing the number of tourists entering the country increased from 1.3 million in 2017 to 1.5 in 2018. Following the increase, tourist activities generated 4 2.4 billion which is an increase of 7.2 per cent from \$ 2.3 billion earned in 2017. The tourist sector recorded 25 per cent of foreign currency and contributed 17 per cent to the GDP.

TTB is now working with Bollywood-based film company to produce special films in some of the country's national parks and historical sites so as to market the attractions in India and other Asian countries, the board's chairman, Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo has said.

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam this year Judge Mihayo named

anzania is an East Afri-
can country known for
its vast wilderness areas.
They include the plains
geti National Park, a safarithe company as the "3rd Rock Multi-
media Film Company" owned by Raj
Suri, saying that after completion of
the film, Tanzania will draw a number
of tourists from the Asian continent.

According to him, the Bollywood producers who are currently in the country will visit majority of the tourist attractions to identify sites for the film's production.

He said that once the film shooting starts in October, this year, the company will bring in at least 40 actors and dancers from India along side with six celebrities.

"The film stakeholders from Bollywood are expected to visit tourism attraction areas including Zanzibar, beaches, historical buildings and other historical sites to produce the special movies," he said.

Judge Mihayo said that the move will play a significant role in the country tourism growth as it will draw big number of tourists from the Asian Continent.

He noted that the company had filmed movies in 16 different countries including Poland, Jordan, Japan and Kazastan among others.

He further added that during the forth coming Swahili Expo (SITE) slated for October this year, the company will bring a number of India's celebrities to participate in the event.

Mihayo noted that as per reports, India is the fifth market with huge numbers of tourist entering the country.

For his part, the Indian film producer, Raj Suri said that he has been attracted with the numerous tourist attractions sites that Tanzania is endowed with.

"Apart from shooting films in some tourist attractions sites, I will also produce a dance film that will include both Tanzania and Indian dancers to market and strengthen cultural relations of the two countries," he said. preferring heart-to-heart talks to resolve the issues, not diplomatic ego tripping.



We will not forget the great sacrifices made by the Nigerian people in the 1970s and 1980s for the freedom that South Africans enjoy today.

At 9.10pm, October 3, 2019, President Buhari arrived at the South African Air force Base. Waterkloof. Pretoria and was received by Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr. Naledi Pandor and Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu. Apart from the State visit, the President attended the 9th meeting of the Bi-National Commission, alongside President Ramaphosa. The Bi-National Commission for the first time witnessed the participation of two Heads of State after an elevation. The warmth and friendliness when the leaders met at the Union Building signalled intention for harmony. The elaborate, colourful military welcome ceremony at the South African administrative hub, tête-à-tête to discuss issues of mutual interests relating to the welfare of citizens, and review of 32 agreements/MOUs of the Bi-National Commission dowsed all fears and uncertainty on Nigeria/South Africa relations.

At every turn, which include press briefing, bi-national commission meeting and the state dinner, both leaders stood on a common reconciliatory ground, condemning the strings of attacks, and assuring their citizens of an early warning signal framework, need for more tolerance in a rising competitive world and closer working relationship to promote greater harmony. They also promised implementation of the MOUs from the Bi-National Commission "Nigerian workers, students and the Government made great contributions and stood shoulder to shoulder with the peoples of Southern Africa in their struggles against colonialism and apartheid."

President Ramaphosa apologised for the loss of lives of foreigners, damages to property and strained relations, with an assurance: "Your Excellency, we owe our freedom to the people of Nigeria and the people of Africa. We pay tribute to Nigeria's tireless support for the international campaign against apartheid. We will not forget how Nigeria spearheaded the call for political and economic sanctions against apartheid South Africa following the Sharpeville Massacre of 21 March 1960, which left many unarmed demonstrators dead.

"We will not forget the great sacrifices made by the Nigerian people in the 1970s and 1980s for the freedom that South Africans enjoy today. Without Nigerian support, our freedom would have come at a much greater cost. We will never forget the great debt we owe you and we will never allow the lawless actions of a few to undermine the bonds of friendship between our peoples."

Months after President Buhari's visit, Nigerians in South Africa enjoy a more peaceful stay, and South African citizens and businesses in Nigeria continue to thrive, unhindered. In both countries, 2019 end-of-year thanksgivings captured the visit that ushered in harmonious living and understanding.

On December 17th, 2019, after receiving Letters of Credence from South Africa's new High Commissioner to Nigeria, T.D. Mseleku, President Buhari said: "At the end of our visit to South Africa, all those that were expressing doubts and fears had nothing to say. The visit was spectacular in many ways. Please give my deep appreciation to President Ramaphosa." The President said former South African President, Nelson Mandela's legacy of forgiveness, sacrifice and humility should be Africa's template for leadership, and peaceful co-existence.

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FEATURE

Guardian

Who are the 2020 US Democratic presidential candidates?

WASHINGTON DC

ess than a year out from the 2020 US presidential election, the pool of Democratic candidates vying for their party's nomination is among the largest and most diverse in United States history. There are now only 14 candidates in the race, down from more than 25 earlier this year. The field is likely to continue to shrink as leading candidates continue to pull away in the polls and the race heats up.

So far, the Democrats have held six debates. The first two hosted 20 candidates each over the course of two nights, but the third saw only 10 candidates take to the stage due to stricter Democratic National Committee guidelines. A record 12 qualified for the October debate. But after a candidate dropped out and another failed to meet an even stricter threshold, the number was again reduced to 10 for the November event. December's debate hosted the smallest and least diverse of the previous event. Just seven candidates qualified.

As the field narrows, here is a look at the current 2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls:



In this file photo taken on April 10, 2019, US Senator Michael Bennet speaks during the North American Building Trades Unions Conference in Washington, DC. File photo

Michael Bennet, 54

Michael Bennet has served as a US senator from Colorado since 2009. Bennet, a former head of the Denver school district, carved out a profile as a wonky, policy-oriented senator.

He gained internet fame this year for a harsh scolding of Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas over the government shutdown.

Bennet was close to launching a presidential campaign after that, but had to pause it when he was diagnosed with Nevada, who said he made her uncomfortable by touching her shoulders and kissing the back of her head before a campaign event. Several other women have made similar claims.

In a video, Biden pledged to be "more mindful" of respecting "personal space", but Flores told Fox News this week that the former senator's jokes on the matter have been "so incredibly disrespectful".

The incident is just a glimpse of the harsh vetting from both Democrats and Republicans expected for Biden, who has run for president twice before but never from such a strong political starting position.

In recent months, he was repeatedly forced to explain his 1991 decision, as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman to allow Anita Hill to face questions about her allegations of sexual harassment against Clarence Thomas, then a nominee for the Supreme Court.

Biden has since apologised for his role in the hearing. But in the #MeToo era, it is another example of why critics believe he may struggle to catch on with the Democratic primary voters of 2020.

Biden has also become a prominent figure in the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry of Trump. That probe is centred on a July 25 phone call in which Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Biden and his businessman son, Hunter. Democrats have accused Trump of pressuring Ukraine to find incriminating information on Biden after withholding nearly \$400m in US security aid to Ukraine. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by the Bidens.

Biden has called for Trump's impeachment.

As the frontrunner, Biden has made all debate stages during this campaign season.

Michael Bloomberg, 77

Michael Bloomberg served as New York City mayor from 2002 to 2013.

The 77-year-old billionaire entered the race in November after much speculation about his possible run.

"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," the former mayor said, announcing his candidacy. "He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage."

Many have criticised Bloomberg for his run, accusing him of trying to buy the presidency.

"I understand that rich people are going to have more shoes than the rest of us, they're going to have more cars than the rest of us, they're going to have more houses," said Senator Elizabeth Warren, a frontrunner.

Senator Bernie Sanders slammed Bloomberg even before his formal announcement.

"I'm disgusted by the idea that Michael Bloomberg or any billionaire thinks they can circumvent the political process and spend tens of millions of dollars to buy elections," Sanders tweeted amid speculation Bloomberg would enter the race.

from Lucy Flores, a 2014 lieutenant governor nominee in stop taking contributions from pharmaceutical companies Hawaii's second district since 2013. in 2017.

He announced his presidential bid on February 1.

As for the debates, Booker has qualified for five events, but failed to meet the requirements for the sixth debate. Pete Buttigieg, 37

Pete Buttigieg has served as mayor of South Bend, Indiana, since 2012.

Before that, Buttigieg was a consultant for McKinsey and Company.

He is the first openly gay Democratic candidate to run for president. He announced his presidential bid on January 23, 2019.

There are no policy positions on his website. He has virtually no paid presence in the states that matter most. And his campaign manager is a high-school friend with no experience in presidential politics.

Despite this, he has suddenly become one of the hottest names in the Democrats' presidential primary season. On the campaign trail, he has frequently spoken about the struggle to legalise same-sex marriage.

He has also repeatedly criticised Vice President Mike Pence for his views that undermine LGBT rights.

"I'm not critical of his faith; I'm critical of bad policies. I don't have a problem with religion. I'm religious, too. I have a problem with religion being used as a justification to harm people and especially in the LGBT community," the Indiana Democrat said in an interview with NBC's The Ellen DeGeneres Show this month.

Buttigieg's moment may pass if he does not take swift action to build a national organisation capable of harnessing the energy, he will need to sustain his surge in the nine months or so before the first votes are cast.

Buttigieg has qualified for all debates so far.



Gabbard is the first Hindu member of Congress. At the age of 21, she became the youngest to be elected to a US state legislature serving on the Hawaii House of Representatives

She has also served in the Hawaii Army National Guard in a combat zone in Iraq and was deployed to Kuwait.

She was a fierce opponent of same-sex marriage when she served in the state legislature in her 20s. But she has since disavowed those views and professes her support for LGBT rights.

Critics have pounced on her efforts to block the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Hawaii and a meeting she held with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Earlier this year, she penned an opinion piece responding to media reports about her alleged ties to Hindu nationalists.

"While the headlines covering my announcement could have celebrated this landmark first, and maybe even informed Americans about the world's third-largest religion, some have instead fomented suspicion, fear and religious bigotry about not only me but also my supporters," she wrote.

Gabbard officially launched her presidential campaign on February 2, 2019.

Gabbard qualified for the first two debates, but failed to do so for the third. She did qualify, however, for the October and November events, but she failed to meet the requirements for the December debate.



Amy Klobuchar waits to speak at the Ankeny Area Democrats' Winter Banquet on Thursday, February 21, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa. File Photo

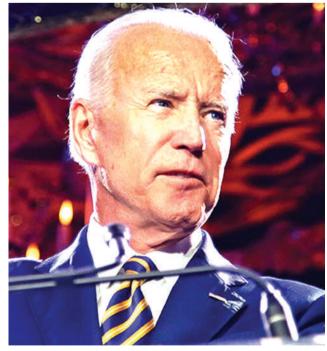
Amy Klobuchar, 58

Amy Klobuchar served as a US senator from Minnesota since 2007, becoming her state's first elected female sena-

prostate cancer.

Bennet's office said last month that the senator was treated successfully. That cleared the way for his May 2 campaign launch.

Bennet has so far only made the debate stage twice during the first and second debates. He failed to qualify for the other events.



Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Biden Courage Awards last month in New York. File photo

Joe Biden, 76

Joe Biden served as vice president under former President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017 after nearly four decades serving as a senator from Delaware.

Biden is the most experienced politician in the race and among the oldest at 76. This will be his third presidential run. His first White House bid in 1987 ended after a plagiarism scandal.

In a video announcement of his candidacy posted on Twitter on April 25, Biden focused on the 2017 deadly clash between white supremacists and counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia. Biden noted US President Donald Trump's comments that there were some "very fine people" on both sides of the violent encounter, which left one woman dead. "We are in the battle for the soul of this nation," Biden said. "If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation - who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen."

Last month, Biden struggled to respond to comments

Bloomberg has joined The Giving Pledge campaign, promising to give away at least half his wealth to charity organisations.

He angered many minority voters during his 12 years in the mayor's office for embracing and defending the controversial "stop-and-frisk" police strategy, despite its disproportionate effect on people of colour.

Facing an African American congregation this month in Brooklyn, Bloomberg apologised and acknowledged it often led to the detention of minorities.

The apology was received sceptically by many prominent activists who noted it was made as he was taking steps to enter the presidential race.



Cory Booker speaks to voters during a campaign stop in Manchester, New Hampshire. File photo

Cory Booker, 49

Cory Booker has served as a US senator from New Jersey the first African American in the state's history to hold the office since 2013. He was the mayor of Newark from 2006 to 2013.

His entry into the Democratic primary was steeped in history and symbolism, befitting his status as the second black candidate in an historically diverse field. Invoking the legacy of the national movements for civil rights and for women's suffrage, the New Jersey senator during his candidacy announcement urged a return to a "common sense of purpose".

Booker could face difficulty winning the hearts of the progressive Democratic base due to his past financial ties to banking and pharmaceutical interests. He said he would

John Delaney stands in a food vendors building during a visit to the Iowa State Fair. File photo

John Delaney, 56

John Delaney served as a US congressman for Maryland's sixth district from 2013 to 2019.

Delaney, a former banking entrepreneur, is known as politically moderate with a willingness to reach across the aisle.

He has supported a measure to raise money to build infrastructure by allowing US corporations to avoid taxes when they repatriate profits overseas if they buy bonds that would be used to build infrastructure.

He announced his presidential run in a Washington Post newspaper opinion piece published on July 28, 2017.

Delaney, one of the wealthiest members of Congress, was the first to announce he will seek his party's nomination in 2020.

He said he was entering the presidential race early because he knows he will need time to build name recognition.

He failed to qualify for the first debate, but was able to do so for the second. He could not, however, meet the guidelines for the third, fourth, fifth and sixth events.



Gabbard delivers a nomination speech for Senator Bernie Sanders on the second day at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. File photo

Tulsi Gabbard, 38 Tulsi Gabbard has served as a US congresswoman from

tor.

Before joining the Senate, she was the Hennepin County lawver.

Klobuchar gained national attention in 2018 when she sparred with Brett Kavanaugh during Senate hearings for his Supreme Court nomination.

She announced her presidential run on February 10, 2019.

On the campaign trail, the former prosecutor and corporate lawyer supports an alternative to traditional Medicare healthcare funding and is taking a hard stance against rising prescription medicine prices.

She has qualified for all debates so far.



Deval Patrick appears on stage at a First in the West Event at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. File photo

Deval Patrick, 63

Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick in November said he was seeking the Democratic Party's 2020 presidential nomination despite an already crowded race, in an effort to bring a divided country - and splintering political party - together.

Patrick, a 63-year-old African American and close ally of former President Barack Obama, said he respected the field of nearly 20 Democrats seeking to challenge Trump in next November's election. But he said he was concerned there was too much focus on either nostalgia for the way things used to be done or insisting that big ideas were the

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only path ahead.

In a campaign video announcing his bid, Patrick cited anxiety and anger among Americans who feel their government and the economy has let them down. He said he was determined "to build a better, more sustainable, more inclusive American dream for the next generation".

"This time is about the character of the country," he said in the video. "This time is more than removing an unpopular and divisive leader, as important as that is, but about delivering instead for you."

He entered the race too late to qualify for the November debate.

Bernie Sanders, 77

Bernie Sanders served as a US representative for 16 years before being elected to the Senate in 2006 where he currently represents the state of Vermont.

A progressive and cofounder of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, he is the longest-serving independent congressman in its history.

Sanders announced his presidential run on February 19, 2019. Sanders ran an unsuccessful bid for president in 2016 after losing to Hillary Clinton.

In the 2020 race, Sanders will have to fight to stand out in a packed field of progressives touting issues he brought into the Democratic Party mainstream four years ago.

His proposals include free tuition at public colleges, a \$15 minimum hourly wage and universal healthcare.

He benefits from strong name recognition and a robust network of small-dollar donors, helping him to raise \$5.9m during his first day in the contest.

Since then, he has qualified for all the debates held so far. Tom Steyer, 62

Tom Steyer, a billionaire donor and liberal activist, announced on July 9 he was joining the Democratic presidential field after initially saying he would not run to focus his attention on impeaching Trump and getting fellow Democrats elected to Congress.

"There's a breakdown in Washington DC, and I don't mean just Donald Trump," Steyer tweeted in a thread announcing his candidacy. "I'm talking about corporate money and our broken political system."

The 62-year-old is one of the most visible and deep-pocketed liberals advocating for Trump's impeachment. But he has previously said he has grown frustrated at the pace at which the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives is approaching Trump.

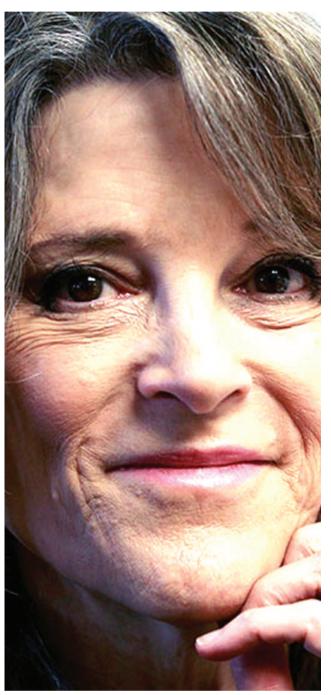
His announcement made no mention of impeachment issue, instead focusing on why he believes there is a need to reduce the influence of corporations in politics. He also said he plans to target climate change, which is the focus of the Steyer-backed advocacy group NextGen America.

Citing issues including climate change and the opioid crisis, Steyer said that in nearly every "major intractable problem, at the back of it, you see a big-money interest for for taking a DNA test to prove her claims to Native American ancestry, an assertion that has prompted Trump to mockingly refer to her as "Pocahontas".

She announced her presidential run on February 9, 2019. She has promised to fight what she calls a "rigged economic system" that favours the wealthy.

She recently unveiled a student loan forgiveness proposal that would cancel up to \$50,000 of debt for millions of US citizens. She also supports free college tuition for students at two and four-year institutions.

Warren has qualified for all the debates so far.



Andrew Yang is the founder of Venture for America. In 2012, the Obama administration selected him as a Champion of Change.

In 2015, he was selected as Presidential Ambassador of Global Entrepreneurship.

He filed with the Federal Election Commission to run for president in 2020 on November 6, 2017.

The entrepreneur and former tech executive is focusing his campaign on an ambitious universal income plan. Yang wants to guarantee all American citizens between

the ages of 18 and 64 a \$1,000 cheque every month.

The son of immigrants from Taiwan, Yang also is pushing for Medicare for All and proposing a new form of capitalism that is "human-centred".

Yang has qualified for all the debates so far. Who has dropped out?

So far 15 candidates have dropped out of the race, with more likely to end their campaigns as the top tier candidates continue to increase their lead.

Here's a look at who has dropped out so far:

Steven Bullock, 53

Montana Governor Steve Bullock quit his bid for the Democratic nomination in early December.

"Today, I am suspending my campaign to become the Democratic Party's nominee for president," Bullock, 53, said in a statement on Monday. "While there were many obstacles we could not have anticipated when entering this race, it has become clear that in this moment, I won't be able to break through to the top tier of this still-crowded field of candidates."

Bullock, 53, will return to Montana to finish out his second term as governor. He will not run for the US Senate, despite encouragement from party leaders to do so and help Democrats wrest control of Congress's upper house from Republicans.

Bullock was re-elected in conservative Montana in 2016, making him the only Democratic presidential contender who had won a statewide election in a state Trump carried in 2016

Bullock failed to make the presidential debate stage in June, but did so in July. Due to the stricter guidelines for the events in September, October and November, he did not qualify.

Julian Castro, 44

Julian Castro was elected mayor of San Antonio, Texas in 2009 and served until 2014.

He served as the 16th US secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under US President Barack Obama from 2014 until 2017.

He ended is presidential bid in January, saying in a video: "I've determined that it simply isn't our time."

He said he wasn't done fighting. "I'll keep working towards a nation where everyone counts, a nation where everyone can get a good job, good health care and a decent place to live."

Castro made the debate stage for the first four events, but

nia since 2017.

In early December, she ended her bid for the nomination, saying her campaign doesn't have the financial resources to continue.

"I've taken stock and looked at this from every angle, and over the last few days have come to one of the hardest decisions of my life," Harris said in an email to supporters on Tuesday. "My campaign for president simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue."

Harris had qualified for all five debates that took place before she ended her bid.

John Hickenlooper, 67

John Hickenlooper served as the governor of Colorado from 2011 to 2019.

He announced he was ending his presidential bid on August 15 in a video posted on Twitter.

"While this campaign didn't have the outcome we were hoping for, every moment has been worthwhile and I'm thankful to everyone who supported this campaign and our entire team," Hickenlooper tweeted.

Later in August, Hickenlooper announced he would run in the US Senate race against Republican incumbent Cory Gardner in Colorado.

Jay Inslee, 68

Jay Inslee has served as the governor of the state of Washington since 2013.

On August 21, he announced he was dropping out of the race, saying "it has become clear that I'm not going to be carrying the ball. I am not going to be the president."

Inslee made fighting climate change the central issue of his campaign. In announcing his withdrawal, Inslee said he hopes other 2020 candidates would use his detailed 10-year climate plan.

Wayne Messam, 44

Wayne Messam has served as mayor of Miramar, Florida, since 2015.

In mid-November, he tweeted that he was suspending his campaign.

Messam had failed to make a single debate stage during the campaign.

Seth Moulton, 40

Seth Moulton has served as the US representative for Massachusetts's sixth congressional district since 2015.

On August 23, he announced he was dropping out of the 2020 race, telling US media if one of the more progressive candidates won the nomination it could make it harder for the Democrats to beat Trump.

"I think it's evident that this is now a three-way race between Biden, Warren and Sanders, and really it's a debate about how far left the party should go," Moulton told the New York Times newspaper.

Richard Ojeda, 48

Richard Ojeda was the first official presidential contender to drop out of the race.

In January, the former West Virginia state senator announced he was suspending his campaign, acknowledging he "does not have the ability to compete". Beto O'Rourke, 46

whom stopping progress, stopping justice is really important to their bottom line."

Steyer announced his presidential bid after the first presidential debate in June. He failed to make the debate stage in July and September. But he did qualify for the October and November events.



Elizabeth Warren addresses the Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network during a post-midterm election at the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. File photo

Elizabeth Warren, 69

Elizabeth Warren has served as a US senator from Massachusetts since 2013.

Warren, known as a progressive, taught law at several universities and was a Harvard professor.

Warren is a leader of the party's liberals and a fierce Wall Street critic who was instrumental in creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Earlier this year, she apologised to the Cherokee Nation

Marianne Williamson meets with childcare advocates at the Nevada State Legislature in Carson City, Nevada. File photo

Marianne Williamson, 66

Marianne Williamson is an author, entrepreneur and activist. Williamson is the founder of Project Angel Food, a volunteer food delivery programme serving homebound people with life-changing illnesses.

She is also a cofounder of the Peace Alliance, an education and advocacy organisation.

The Texas native believes her spirituality-focused campaign can heal the US.

A 1992 interview on Oprah Winfrey's show propelled her to make a name for herself as a "spiritual guide" for Hollywood and a self-help expert.

She is calling for \$100bn in reparations for slavery over 10 years, gun control, education reform and equal rights for lesbian and gay communities. In 2014, she made an unsuccessful bid for a House seat in California as an independent.

She announced her presidential run on January 29, 2019. Williamson qualified for the first two debates, but failed to do so in September, October, November and December.

failed to qualify for the fifth and sixth debates. **Bill de Blasio, 58**

The New York City mayor emerged as a progressive standard-bearer in 2013, when he won the first of two fouryear terms at the helm of the country's biggest city on a platform of addressing income inequality. But he has struggled amid middling approval ratings and some political setbacks to build a national profile.

After making the first two 2020 Democratic debates, but failing to qualify for the September event, the New York City mayor dropped out of the race in mid-September.

"I feel like I've contributed all that I can to this primary election," de Blasio told MSNBC when announcing he was withdrawing from the race. "It's clearly not my time."

Kirsten Gillibrand, 52

Kirsten Gillibrand has served as a US senator from New York since 2009.

After failing to qualify for the third Democratic presidential debate, Gillibrand, who campaigned on a platform centred on women's rights, dropped out of the race.

In announcing her decision on August 28, Gillibrand told US media she had not decided which candidate to endorse.

"I think that women have a unique ability to bring people together and heal this country," Gillibrand told the New York Times newspaper.

> "I think a woman nominee would be inspiring and exciting," she added. Mike Gravel, 89

Mike Gravel, the 89-year-old former senator made a little-known run for the Democratic nomination in 2008, took another stab at it early in Democratic the race.

His goal was to make the debate stage, but when that didn't happen, he officially ended his campaign in

August, and endorsed Sanders. Kamala Harris,

54 Kamala Harris

has served as a US senator from Califor

Beto O'Rourke served Texas's 16th congressional district in the House of Representatives from 2013 to 2019.

O'Rourke gained fame last year for his record fundraising and ability to draw crowds before of his unexpectedly narrow loss in the US Senate race against Republican incumbent Ted Cruz.

On November 1, O'Rourke announced he was dropping out of the presidential race. The New York Times reported that his campaign was facing financial strain.

"My service to the country will not be as a candidate or a nominee," O'Rourke said in an online post.

"Though it is difficult to accept, it is clear to me now that this campaign does not have the means to move forward successfully," he wrote on Medium. "Acknowledging this now is in the best interests of those in the campaign; it is in the best interests of this party as we seek to unify around a nominee; and it is in the best interests of the country."

Tim Ryan, 45

Tim Ryan has served as a US House representative from Ohio's 13th district since 2003.

On October 24, he announced he is ending his bid for the nomination and would instead seek re-election in his House race.

Ryan's campaign was marked by slow fundraising and low poll numbers.

He qualified for the first two debates, but failed to do so for the September and October events.

Joe Sestak, 67

Former US Representative Joe Sestak joined the race in June

In announcing his candidacy, Sestak, a retired three-star US Navy admiral, emphasised his 31-year military career, the need to restore US leadership in the world and tackle challenges from climate change and China's growing global influence.

But after failing to qualify for any of the debates and impress donors, the 67-year-old dropped out of the race in early December.

In a statement posted on his Twitter page, Sestak offered his thanks to supporters "for the honor of running for president" as "I end our campaign together".

"Without the privilege of national press, it is unfair to ask others to husband their resolve and to sacrifice resources any longer," he wrote.

Eric Swalwell, 38

Eric Swalwell, an Iowa native, has served as a House representative from California's 15th congressional district since 2013.

He dropped out of the presidential race after the first primary debate in June.

Andrew Yang, 4





NEWS

Europe and Asia expected to drive geothermal energy growth by 2028

By Guardian Reporter

EUROPE and Asia will lead the charge on geothermal capacity growth over the next eight years, with developing markets also expected to spearhead increased output despite high initial costs, a new report found.

The sector is expected to grow by an average of 2.6 per cent year-on-year to reach 17.4 gigawatts by 2028, according to a Global Geothermal Forecast report by Fitch Solutions, with Europe and Asia projected to account for approximately 78 per cent of the global total geothermal capacity additions.

Geothermal energy refers natural heat of the earth's subsurface. The clean form of energy, which is primarily found along tectonic plate boundaries, accounted for identified in Saudi Arabia

hydropower capacity globally by the end of 2019.

The energy form is also work on a wind scheme, has garnering interest in oilyet to tender a geothermal exporting countries such energy project. as Saudi Arabia, which power capacity will increase is looking to add some by 23.2 per cent between geothermal and waste projects to its ambitious 2019 and 2028, with deployment rising from mix of renewable energy schemes.

Globally,

Fitch Solutions.

of development.

plate

14GW to 17.4GW, according to

Potential for growth will

be confined to East Africa's

Great Rift Valley, with Kenya and Ethiopia at the forefront

"The region's considerable

geothermal power potential

is attributable to its location

along divergent tectonic

create faults in the earth's

temperature subterranean

boundaries which

allowing high-

The world's largest oil exporter is looking to tap energy from the sun and wind, as well as the earth's heat, as it looks to free up more barrels for export. The kingdom recently revised its renewable energy target to be achieved by 2024 to 27.3GW, from 9.5GW previously. Geothermal sources of energy are likely to power generated from the to be found in the kingdom's crust, southern Jizan province, which borders Yemen.

water resources to permeate At least six geothermal nearer to the surface," the springs had already been report said. However, the United 3.2 per cent of total non- by a survey in 1980. So far, States, which is home to the a relatively low base.

renewables the kingdom, which has world's largest geothermal connected its first solar power industry with 2.5GW project to grid and begun of capacity is expected to remain stagnant, with tepid capacity addition of less than 30MW between 2019 geothermal and 2028,

Lack of government support, as well as falling costs for solar and wind infrastructure deployment, are likely to crowd out further capacity deployment from the geothermal sector in the US.

By the end of the 10-year forecast period, geothermal energy will comprise 0.7 per cent of global installed nonhydro renewables capacity but account for 2.2 per cent of power generation in the sector.

Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to "outperform" in the geothermal capacity additions, noted the report, opportunities but will remain "limited" as markets



such as Kenya will start from Geothermal energy refers to power generated from the natural heat of the earth's subsurface





Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park to increase tourism offer in year 2020 SOFALA

Guardian

Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

The new face of medical missions

By Susan Mettes

Valley, the boys harvesting Burundian. avocados start falling out of trees. If a boy breaks a Niyukuri, joined the my

(PAACS). That surgeon, Alliance "I'm hoping presence bone, he may go to Kibuye missionary staff of Kibuye can encourage other African missionary doctors Hope, a rural mission Hope in 2018, moving his Burundians and allow hospital in the East African family to its residences me to be a role model regions. It is the result of nation of Burundi. There, after he completed to students coming to a larger shift in medical for the first time in the 73- his medical training in the mission hospital," missions strategies that year history of the hospital, Gabon. He is one of the Niyukuri said. "The Lord many

AS the rainy season a full-time, permanent the Pan-African Academy young graduates like me, the mission hospitals."

Niyukuri is part of a that serving in their native organizations 1990s was audacious,"

he may receive care from first 100 graduates from is [calling] more and more started making a few said Mike Chupp, CEO decades ago to train and of the Christian Medical nears an end in Africa's Rift missionary surgeon who is of Christian Surgeons calling us also to serve in empower Africans to & Dental Associations, practice medicine. The a US professional group organizations recognized that sponsors overseas here long-hoped-for cohort of the potential of the medical missions and Christians in Africa and partnered with Loma sought new ways to Linda University to start deal with the continued PAACS in 2003. "It was, shortage of doctors. by 2020, to graduate 100

"The vision in the late general surgeons in Africa for Africa.'

GORONGOSA National Park, located in Sofala province, central Mozambique, in 2020 plans to open a camp for tourists in the heart of the reservation, with fully equipped tents, announced the institution in a statement issued on its website.

Surrounded by large trees, the Muzimu camp will have six raised tents with private platforms from which guests can look out over the Mussicadzi river below.

"Elevated walkways will connect the tents so that guests can stroll through the bush," and in some places, "the paths descend to ground level, allowing elephants, hippos and antelopes to move from the banks of the river to the plains beyond the camp."

Despite being in the middle of one of Africa's main natural parks the accommodation includes amenities such as a swimming pool, laundry service and Wi-Fi Internet access in the main common area.

The Gorongos National Park considers itself to be "the main national wildlife park in Mozambique," and is located on the southern end of East Africa's Rift Valley. The natural park also has "some of the most biologically rich and geologically diverse ecosystems on the continent."

WHO urges countries to invest in, improve nurses, midwives welfare

KAMPALA

THE world will need an warned. additional nine million achieve the commitment midwives

There are 22 million more health workersby 2030, the World Health according to WHO of the decade, in line with which aims to use the the founder of modern and providing expert every health system: in said.

world requires 18 million leaders last year.

nurses and midwives to nurses and two million approximately half of the agency has declared worldwide, them nurses and midwives 2020 as International of providing all people accounting for half of the to realize universal health Year of the Nurse and the bicentenary of the birth preventing, diagnosing with access to health care global health workforce, coverage before the end Midwife; a declaration of Florence Nightingale, and treating diseases, are the backbone of Adhanom Ghebreyesus

workers. The year marks the everywhere.

It is for this reason that in these crucial health a broad range of essential also serve services to

Organization (WHO) has records. However, the a pledge made by world new year to advocate nursing. It celebrates care during childbirth, 2020 we're calling on for greater investment professionals who provide nurses and midwives all countries to invest in people caught in humanitarian part of their commitment Besides emergencies and conflicts. to health for all," WHO "Nurses and midwives Director-General Tedros

people nurses and midwives as

FEATURES

Child marriages unlikely to end by UN's 2030 deadline

UNITED NATIONS

"Right now, I don't want to get married. I have a long life and a dream in front of me", a 14-year-old young girl from Bangladesh told her parents as she was just not ready to get married.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5.3) has targeted to end child marriage by 2030. According to a report published last June by the UN children's agency UNICEF, 12 million girls are married before they turn 18 every year, 650 million girls and women alive today were married before they were 18.

Nankali Maksud, Senior Advisor and Coordinator, Prevention of Harmful Cultural Practices at UNICEF, told IPS that evidence shows child marriage is not limited to particular groups or cultural norms, rather a broad combination of structural and socio-cultural drivers.

"These include poverty, lack of educational and economic opportunities, social expectations, discrimination against girls and women and restrictive gender roles, beliefs about protection of girls and low awareness of and access to alternatives".

He also added, "In many settings, girls are perceived as a burden on household expenses, with child marriage often viewed as the best option out of a menu of poor choices."

"In some contexts, child marriage is viewed as a path that unburdens the family and preserves its honor while protecting girls. Evidence suggests that when such structural and sociocultural underlying causesthe drivers of child marriage-are eliminated, the practice will decline and,

ultimately end".

A spokesperson for UN Women (UNW), the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, told IPS, child marriages may be further exacerbated by increased insecurity in settings where there is a humanitarian crisis.

"For example, the prevalence of child marriage in the Middle East and North Africa region is near the global average, with around one in five young women married before they turn 18 years of age. This marks progress in the last 25 years, though the rate of decline appears to have stalled within the past decade".

And in certain conflict areas, progress has reversed, "such as in Syria and Yemen, (where it has) been reversed substantially as conflict often produces negative coping mechanisms particularly in dire economic situations that can increase the rate of child marriage".

UNICEF saw worldwide progress in child marriage reduction rates in recent years, while South Asia has witnessed the largest decline, from nearly 50 per cent to 30 per cent, in large part due to progress in India.

UNICEF's Maksud said: "The proportion of women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent, from one in four to one in five, in the last decade"

Globally, "The total number of girls married in childhood is now estimated at 12 million a year. This points to an accumulated global reduction of 25 million fewer marriages than would have been anticipated under global levels 10 years ago"

pointed out.

While talking about the progress in child bride rate in Africa, Maksud noted "Data also points to the possibility of progress on the African continent. For example, in Ethiopia - once among the top five countries for child marriage in sub-Saharan Africa - the prevalence has dropped by a third in the last 10 years".

Countries with such harmful practices like child marriage need to prioritize their responsibilities in order to be aligned with SDG target (SDG 5.3) to end child marriage by 2030. According to Maksud,

"the accountability for achieving the SDGs lies with countries and their responsibility to prioritize ending harmful practices such as child marriage. With the right investments and accelerated progress, the SDG target is achievable".

On the contrary, Heather Barr of Human Rights Watch (HRW) told IPS that it's probably unlikely that the UN goal of ending all child marriages by 2030 can

be achieved. She said, "I think this target has already contributed significantly to reducing child marriage and will continue to do so. But it's goal of ending all child marriages by 2030 probably will not be fully achieved. There is prove, it will take nearly a just too far to go and too many countries that continue to-legally or illegallytolerate child marriage".

The spokesperson from UN Women told IPS about their view on the feasibility of reaching SDG goal- despite a significant progress seen in the past decade, no region seems to be on track to eliminate the practice by 2030.

"A substantial accelera-UNICEF and UN Women tion is needed because the



current rate of decline in child marriage is insufficient to meet the ambitious SDG target". "The annual rate of de-

cline in child marriage has been 1.9 per cent over the past 10 years but would have to be 23 per cent to achieve the SDG target on ending child marriage by 2030. If the rate of progress since 1990 does not imcentury to eliminate child marriage worldwide, and more than 150 million more girls will marry by 2030".

"Even at the faster rate of decline in the past decade, it would take 50 years to end child marriage. Therefore, progress must be accelerated significantly".

Maksud also pointed out, "However, to end the practice by 2030 - the target set out in the Sustainable Development Goals - progress must be accelerated 12 times faster than in the past decade. Without acceleration of progress, more than 150 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030 due to population growth".

UN Women lays emphasis on the importance of improving gender equality which is one of the biggest drives according to various research. "Among the main challenges that remain is the lack of a gender-transformative approach in tackling this harmful practice. Evidence shows that delaying the age of marriage alone is insufficient." "Gender equality needs to

be promoted holistically, including by placing stronger emphasis on promoting girls and women's agency, addressing the inherit power dynamics in marriages and society, and shifting attitudes, norms and behaviors around gender roles". Barr concurs about the importance of promoting gender equality. "Our research on child marriage, in countries around the world, has left us convinced that the main cause of child marriage is simply gender inequality".

UN Women spokesperson pointed out additional important factors "there are increasing changing marriage patterns that show that peer marriages, cohabitation and adolescent pregnancy leading to marriages exist alongside the traditional understanding of child marriage or forced marriage."

"A proper gender aptheir agency, it is crucial to proach requires that we ensure that a whole system recognize that early marand life-cycle approach is riages and voluntary marimplemented to support riages also constitute the broadening of economharmful practices given the ic opportunities for young

girls and young women who are at risk of child, early and forced marriages". UNICEF found strong cor-

women by promoting skills

and social protection for

relation between the length of time a girl stays in school and the biggest reductions in child marriage. "And for adolescent girls, emerging evidence indicates that having a secondary education is much more beneficial for ending child marriage than having just a primary education".

It is estimated that there would be 14 per cent fewer marriages if all girls had just a primary education, compared with 64 per cent fewer if girls also had secondary education.

"While just being in school can protect against child marriage, evidence shows that the quality of education has important implications. Adolescent girls who do poorly in school, do not learn well and fall behind are sometimes pulled out of school by their parents to marry"

Ending child marriage will only be a reality if we address it through a comprehensive gender-transformative approach that tackles the root causes of gender inequality.

UNICEF's Maksud sees potential in achieving SDG goal by 2030 if certain key steps are taken to accelerate the progress, which include "increasing girls' access to education and particularly secondary education, proactive government investments in adolescent girls' protection programmes as well as strong public messaging around the illegality of child marriage and the harm it causes".

AGENCIES

Kenyans hope of better economic prospects in 2020

NAIROBI

Thousands of Kenyans flocked places of worship and entertainment spots to usher in the New Year, with a majority optimistic that 2020 will offer better prospects.

As they danced, prayed, sang their hearts out and counted when it approach-

The East African nation in 2019 felt the pinch of sluggish economic growth. In quarter three, the economy rose 5.1 percent, down from 6.4 percent in a similar period in 2018, according to

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =027=

the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). KNBS on Tuesday said the

relieved that 2019 was over. pressed growth in most of recorded a decline in profit the sectors of the economy in particular agriculture, manufacturing, retail and construction.

The slower growth hurt many sectors, with dozens of companies laying off their employees in 2019 to stay afloat.

Several blue-chip firms deceleration was listed at the Nairobi Securies midnight, Kenyans were mainly on account of sup- ties Exchange (NSE) have ga, who closed the office

blaming the situation to depressed economic activities. Small businesses, which employ millions of Kenyans were among the hardest hit, with tens of them closing

down. "I am happy 2019 is gone, and I am hopeful that this year will bring better tidings," said Vincent Weson-

for his software start-up in the Nairobi central business district and now operates from his house on the east of Nairobi.

Wesonga had opened the office five years ago and during that period, he employed two people and never failed to pay the 25,000 shillings (250 U.S. dollars) monthly rent.

"The jobs dried up as some of the small companies we were serving closed shop. I had no choice but to take the austerity measures," he said.

Wesonga, like thousands of other small business operators in the country, is much relieved that 2019 is over.

"We had political tranquility yet the economy did not do well. We hope the measures the government has instituted would help create jobs and put money in hands of people in 2020," he said. One of the measures the

government has taken is to make county governments clear pending bills to their suppliers, a majority of them small businesspersons who have not been paid for years.

In places of worship, citizens on Tuesday night did not only pray for tranquility and better health but also for economic progress.

"Our priest led us in praying for the nation and economic growth. We are hopeful things will be much better in 2020," said Annette Achieng, an NGO worker



has on girls and the barriers

it creates to their education-

al and economic opportuni-

According to UNW. itis

crucial to integrate women's

economic empowerment

approaches to educational

interventions responding

to child marriage. Although

poverty is not the only

driver, poverty remains a

key driver of child, early

and forced marriage, which

disproportionately impacts

girls and young women and

continues to be a deeply

"In order to empower

girls and young women to

use their voice, make their

own choices and exercise

gendered practice.

ties".

who attended a night vigil at a church in Kitengela, south of Nairobi.

Central Bank governor Patrick Njoroge acknowledged that 2019 was challenging but added that the bank is ready to guide the country's monetary policy in 2020 to better the lives of people.

In an end-year survey released on Dec. 30, 2019, research firm Trends and Insights for Africa (Tifa) noted that most Kenyans (52 percent) said the year was tough for them. Further, some 66 percent of Kenyans said the economy deteriorated in 2019 compared to 2018.

was isolated in the survey as one of the things that made the year tough. Thousands of youths further continued to feel the pain of unemployment as jobs got scarcer.

Kenya's inflation rose for the fourth straight month in December 2019, rising from 5.56 percent in November to 5.82 percent, with the surge eating into citizen's purchasing power.

In a televised New Year address to the nation, President Uhuru Kenyatta said in 2020, his government will strive to make Kenya a better nation for everyone.

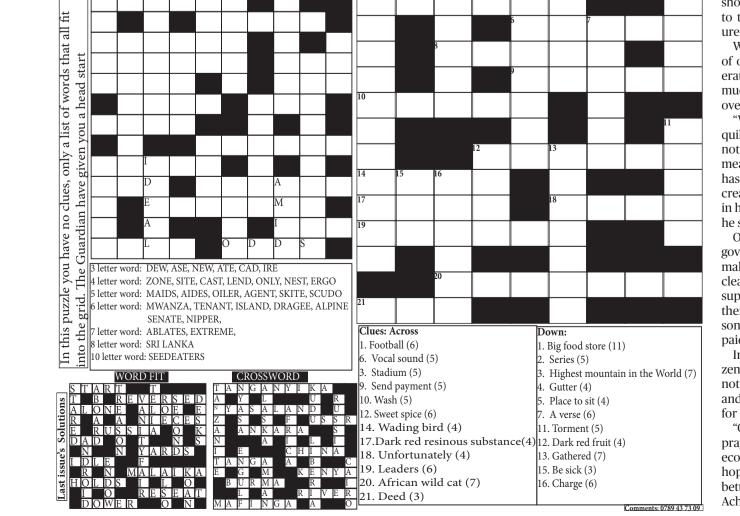
"A key aspect of this quest will be anchored under the A slow economic growth Building Bridges Initiative; amid the rising cost of living a process aimed at compre-

hensively addressing both historical and emerging national challenges," Kenyatta said.

Ernest Manuyo, a business lecturer at Pioneer Institute in Nairobi, noted that the country's economy has been sluggish for the last three years and 2019 seemed to be the climax.

"A slowdown in economic growth means less money in people's pockets as little jobs are also created. Most families, therefore, struggle to survive as it happened last year," he said, adding Kenyans should be cautiously optimistic about 2020 as economic growth does not happen overnight.

Agencies



BUSINESS

Kenya's 9-month mitumba import bill hits Sh17.8bn

Nairobi

Kenyan traders spent 17.8billion/on second-hand clothes and footwear imports in nine months through September 2019, fresh official data shows.

The 6.88 percent growth (1.14billion/- more than the same period of 2018) signals elevated demand for footwear and second-hand clothes manufactured abroad amid plans to incentivise struggling domestic leather and textiles industries under the "Big Four" plan.

This is a further growth over 12.82billion/- in January-September period of 2017 and Sh12.43 billion a year earlier, data collated by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows.

Expenditure on second-hand clothes, popularly called mitumba, grew by Sh500.9 million, or 3.91 percent in the review period to 13.31billion/- from Sh12.81 billion in 2018, 10billion/- in 2017 and 9.38billion/-.

The import bill for footwear, on the other hand, crossed Sh4.45 billion mark, Sh642.2 million or 16.85 percent jump over Sh3.81 billion in the same period in 2018, 3.32 billion a year eralier and Sh3.05 billion in 2016, the KNBS data indicates.

Higher quality and relatively lower prices for mitumba has continued to drive demand for the merchandise at expense of locally-made clothes amid higher margins enjoyed traders largely in informal markets, most of whom evade taxes.

Kenya in May 2017 hastily withdrew from a collective East African Community bloc's resolution to ban mitumba after American suppliers threatened to match the move with a motion Strategy, unveiled in July 2018.

retaliatory action.

The suppliers had warned of lobbying Congressmen to block Kenya's duty- and quota-free access to the US market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa).

Textile sales account for more than 90 percent of Agoa exports through which Kenya netted Sh68 billion in hard dollars last year, according to statistics by state-run Export Promotion Council.

The lucrative second-hand clothing market has seen traders from China a major source market - open shops in Gikomba, Kenya's largest informal market for mitumba, in recent years. This has prompted the country to create a protectionist clause within an investment policy, yet to be rolled out, aimed at identifying sectors which will be exclusively reserved for domestic investors.

Leather, textiles and agro-processing sub-sectors are largely seen as low-lying fruits to jumpstart President Uhuru Kenyatta's plan to revive and modernise Kenyan factories under the manufacturing pillar of the "Big Four" agenda.

Small-sized factories in leather and textiles business are set to be given incentives under the Big Four agenda such as access to affordable capital through the proposed merger of state-owned development financiers Kenya Industrial Estates, Development Bank of Kenya, Industrial Development Bank of Kenya.

They are also to be helped in accessing new exports markets and expanding the existing ones largely in Africa through the Integrated National Exports Development and Pro-

Ilala tasked to build decent toilets at the Dar es Salaam's Pugu livestock market

By Francis Kajubi

NISTRY of Livestock and Fisheries has directed Ilala municipal council to immediately construct decent toilets at the Dar es Salaam Pugu livestock market threatening to stop it from collecting levies.

Speaking after visiting the market on Thursday, Deputy Minister, Abdallah Ulega claimed the Ilala municipal has been collecting a lot of money in terms prove the market infrastructure.

"I have been told that Ilala municipal has so far collected 276m/- from July to December 2019 through levies, but yet nothing is done to improve market infrastructure including toilets", he noted. Ulega said it was not healthy for a population of more than 300 people to

use a single toilet with only four holes. The Deputy Minister promised to go back to the market next month to see

whether his directives have been imple-

to stop the municipal from collecting levies if the market infrastructures are not improved.

than 500m/- a year but you cannot allocate 15m/- to build new modern toilets. I am coming for you on February keep that on mind", added Ulega.

Presenting report on market performance as well as revenue collections, Pugu livestock market manager, Samweli Kerambo, said revenue collections

of levy but it has done nothing to immented. He insisted to ask the president have increased to 3.4bn/- in 2019 from 700m/- collected in 2012.

> "We are planning to collect more revenues in 2020. We call upon municipal "You are capable of collecting more council to give us more workers since we are facing a shortage of manpower", said Kerambo noting the facility saves as the national livestock market.

He pointed out that old and vandalized road at the market and poor infrastructures have been contributing to the death of animals, hence causing loss to businessmen.



Herds of cows at Pugu livestock market for sale. File photo

Global stocks hit record as rally enters new year, dollar rebounds



NEW YORK

Global stock markets jumped on the first day of trading in 2020 as a shot of Chinese stimulus and economic data drove a gauge of world equity performance to the latest in a series of record highs, while the dollar snapped a four-day losing streak.

Wall Street's three major indexes closed at records highs on Thursday, with the benchmark S&P 500 setting its 11th high in 14 sessions.

Gold hit a three-month peak while yields on U.S. Treasuries and Germany's 10-year bond tumbled on optimism about the world economy after positive Chinese manufacturing data and the move to increase liquidity dulled fixed income's safe-haven status.

bank was freeing another 800 billion yuan (\$115 billion) to prop up a slowing economy added to an improving outlook for economic growth, which has been fueled by easing U.S.-

Sino trade tensions.

China's factory activity expanded at a slower clip in December, pulling back from a three-year high the previous month as new orders softened. But production continued to grow at a solid pace and business confidence shot up. Caixin/Markit The

Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for December eased to 51.5 from 51.8 in November, yet remained above the 50-mark that separates expansion from contraction for the fifth straight month.

In another piece of positive data, the number of Americans filing claims for jobless benefits edged lower last week, helping to offset recent signs in the U.S. labor market that new claims may be trending slightly higher. "It still feels like this

News that China's central continuation of the surge that happened toward year-end in 2019," said Ken Polcari, senior market strategist at SlateStone Wealth LLC in Jupiter, Florida. "You did have some good data that came Chinese

out overnight, a positive manufacturing PMI, which is very expansionary and helping fuel the rally."

MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe gained 4.51 points, or 0.8%, to an all-time high, while the pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.93%.

The double dose of Chinese news helped Europe's main markets in London, Frankfurt and Paris jump 0.82% to 1.06%, outpacing overnight gains in Asia and setting them on course for their best opening day of a year since 2013.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 330.36 points, or 1.16%, to 28,868.8. The S&P 500 gained 27.07 points, or 0.84%, to 3,257.85 and the Nasdaq Composite added 119.59 points, or 1.33%, to 9.092.19.

Emerging market stocks rose 1.20%, as the Bovespa index in Brazil advanced 2.5% to an alltime high and Mexico's bolsa index rose 2.1%.

MSCI's Earlier in Asia, broadest index of Asia-Pacific

shares outside Japan closed 0.94% higher.

China's blue-chip CSI300 index, one of the world's best performers last year, rose 1.4%, reaching its highest since February 2018. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.25%. [.SS]

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd rose 3.6% on news that China's Ant Financial, an affiliate of the e-commerce giant, has joined the race for a digital banking license in Singapore, the company said in a statement. Gold prices were boosted by doubts about the lasting strength of Wall Street's stock rally, said Jeffrey Christian, managing partner of CPM

Group. is nervousness "There about why the stock markets are as high as they are, given the economic and political environment," Christian said. Alibaba Group Holding Ltd rose 3.6% on news that China's Ant Financial, an affiliate of the e-commerce giant, has joined the race for a digital banking license in Singapore, the

company said in a statement. Gold prices were boosted

by doubts about the lasting strength of Wall Street's stock rally, said Jeffrey Christian, managing partner of CPM Group.

"There is nervousness about why the stock markets are as high as they are, given the economic and political environment," Christian said.

Germany's 10-year bond yield briefly hit -0.16% on optimism better U.S.-China trade relations will spur global growth, denting safe-haven assets.

The yield on the bund, a benchmark for European lending, soon slid to -0.23%.

Oil prices steadied after early gains as signs of improving U.S.-China trade relations eased demand concerns and rising tensions in the Middle East provided support.

Brent crude futures settled up 25 cents at \$66.25 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 12 cents to settle at \$61.18 a barrel.

BANKING

NCBA buyout of Jamii Bora doubtful after Kenyattas, Ndegwas merger deal

NAIROBI

The acquisition of struggling Jamii Bora Bank now hangs in the balance after its suitor Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) merged with NIC.

Reports from a local paper stated that the merger, which brought together the banks owned by the Kenyatta family and former CBK governor Philip Ndegwa's family,

has seemingly derailed interest in Jamii Bora.

CBA had opened buyout talks with Jamii Bora Bank at the same time it was in discussions with NIC Bank over the merger that was completed last October creating NCBA

NCBA chief executive John Gachora said that discussions over the Jamii Bora deal have not emerged post-merger, which has

seen the entities go overdrive on

integration of NIC and CBA. "That was a pre-merger conversation with CBA, but at this point I call it a good rumour as far as I know. It has not come up postmerger," said Gachora.

CBA had in January 2018 made a Sh1.4 billion cash offer to buy out Jamii Bora Bank and hold it privately in addition to having a stake in the merged operations of

CBA and NIC.

Its microcredit business, M-Shwari, was to be spun off to Jamii Bora while NCBA was to focus on corporate and SME banking.

Jamii Bora, which is facing liquidity challenges, was hoping the merger would make it compliant with regulatory financial ratios and strengthen its position in the lending market.

Jamii Bora's last published fi-

nancials are for the first quarter of 2018. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has not officially communicated if it gave the bank any exemptions.

The regulator requires all banks to publish their financial performance after every three months of trading.

Its liquidity ratio was negative 11.1 percent compared with CBK's minimum of 20 percent as at end

of March 2018, leaving it in liquidity deficiency of 31.1 percent. This leaves it constrained in terms of issuing new loans.

A bank's liquidity ratio is a proportion of liquid assets calculated as a percentage of all its deposits, matured and other short-term liabilities.

The bank invested 500million/in loss-making Uchumi Supermarket and lent 412million/- to

Kenva Airwavs

, another struggling public entity.

Gachora had indicated earlier that the next one year of NCBA would see the management focus more on carving out the best culture from the two separate entities that now run as one. It will also be opening 10 new branches in 2020.

BUSINESS NEWS

After Tesla's record year in Norway, rivals gear up for 2020

OSLO

New electric car sales in Norway rose by a third last year amid soaring demand for Tesla Inc's (TSLA.O) vehicles, but the pioneering U.S. company will face a more competitive market in 2020 as rivals prepare to launch new electric models.

Fully electric cars made up 42.4% of sales in the Nordic country last year, a global record, rising from a 31.2% market share in 2018 and just 5.5% in 2013, the Norwegian Road Federation said on Friday.

Norway, which is Europe's biggest oil and gas producer, is seeking to become

fueled cars by 2025. The country has could be fully electric, said Volkswagen exempted battery-powered vehicles from the taxes imposed on petrol and diesel engines and after just a few years the streets of Oslo have become quieter and have less air pollution.

Most of Norway's top-10 cars in 2019 were electric, including Volkswagen's Golf (VOWG_p.DE), Nissan's (7201.T) Leaf, Audi's (NSUG.DE) e-tron, BMW's (BMWG.DE) i3, Jaguar's I-PACE and several of Hyundai's (005380.KS) models.

New car sales in the country last year were 142,381, of which 60,316 were fully electric. This year, as many as six

the first country to end the sale of fossil- in 10 of all new cars sold in the country (VW) distributor Harald A. Moeller AS, which is preparing to launch several models in 2020.

Other importers predicted the market share in 2020 would be in a range of 50-60% of all sales.

"The electrification of the car market is accelerating ... we forecast electric vehicles to hold a 100% market share in 2025," Volkswagen said of the outlook for Norway.

The country's best-selling car in 2019 was Tesla's mid-sized Model 3 sedan, which retails from 384,900 Norwegian crowns (\$43,721.74), racking up an 11%

market share in the California-based firm's first attempt at cracking the mass market.

Rising global awareness of climate change has encouraged a shift in regulation, technology and consumer preferences, disrupting the auto industry and boosting Tesla's share price to make it one of the world's most highly valued car brands.

This year, the company will start producing a medium-sized sport utility vehicle, the Model Y, but faces competition from a plethora of rivals, including by Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz, VW's Audi and Ford Motor Co (F.N).

"There will be between 20 and 30 new electric models on the market in 2020, many of them launching early in the year," the Norwegian Electric Vehi-

cle Association said in a statement. Ford late last year unveiled the Mustang Mach-E SUV, which it hopes will help turn around its flagging fortunes.

"It will compete with Tesla's models 3 and Y. I also think Audi e-tron is a big competitor. The customers have waited for this car for over two years," said Kjetil Hagestande, chief executive

of Ford importer RoehneSelmer. "This amazing car with four-wheel drive and long range fits the Norway market perfectly," Hagestande told

Reuters on the sidelines of the Mach-E launch in November.

Also aiming for a slice of Norway's market is China's Geely [GEELY.UL] group, whose Polestar and Volvo brands will begin producing fully electric cars this year.

In October, Polestar opened its first European showroom in Oslo's most upmarket shopping district, rubbing shoulders with fashion designers rather than with rival auto makers.

"I'm here to consider a new car because my wife already has her second electric car, a Hyundai," said Espen Cook, a retired IT worker, on a recent visit to the Polestar venue.

Gold spikes as investors brace for Iran response to US strike

WASHINGTON DC

Gold jumped to the highest in almost four months after a US airstrike killed one of Iran's most powerful generals, ratcheting up tensions in the Middle East and spurring demand for haven assets.

The strike in Baghdad ordered by President Donald Trump Qassem killed Soleimani, the Iranian general who led the

Revolutionary Guards' Ouds force, the Defense monetary policy, unrest in Department said. Iran's regions from Chile to Hong supreme leader, Ayatollah Kong and buying sprees from key central banks and Ali Khamenei, has vowed that "severe retaliation" exchange-traded supported the haven. awaits those who killed the commander. "While this may be

Bullion is already building the knee-jerk reaction on its stellar 2019 rally as we are seeing at present, the dollar weakens, and the likelihood of further the return of geopolitical reactions cannot be ruled concerns to the foreground out, which may keep gold will further aid prices. Gold supported in the near term," clinched its biggest annual Jingyi Pan, market strategist

gain since 2010 as looser at IG Asia Pte in Singapore, said in an email.

> Spot bullion rose as much as 1% to \$1 543.93 an ounce, the highest since September funds 5, and traded at \$1 541.77 at 2:03 p.m. in Singapore. Prices are up 2.1 per cent this week. Futures on the Comex surged as much as 1.2 per cent.

> > The rally comes even as US-China trade tensions ebb and US equities post fresh records. Last year's

advance marked a positive shift in investor attitude toward gold, according to RBC Capital Markets, which predicted further gains this year and next. Goldman Sachs, Citigroup and the UBS Group have said they're

looking for \$1 600 an ounce. on the health of the world's biggest economy, with US. January is historically gold's best month, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. If prices match the average

ISM manufacturing data and minutes from the Federal Reserve's last policy-January advance of 2.7 per setting meeting due later on cent over the past 20 years, Friday.

they'll surpass the six-year

high reached in September.

\$1 600 by February if it

matches the 5.2 per cent

average increase of the

past five years.Next up for

investors is the latest reading

The metal will approach

HSBC to stop the weekend and overnight services at ATMs after branches were vandalized

HONG KONG

HSBC will suspend overnight services at 19 ATM clusters in Hong Kong on weekends and public holidays, the bank said on Friday, two days after its branches and ATMs were targeted during anti-government protests.

Hong Kong is the bank's single most important market, accounting for just over half of its \$12.5 billion pre-tax profits in the first half of 2019.

Until mid-December, HSBC had largely escaped direct involvement in the often violent anti-government protests that have shaken Hong Kong for more than six months even as other companies with perceived links to Beijing saw premises vandalized.

Since then, HSBC has drawn the ire of some protesters who accuse it of being complicit in action by the authorities against activists trying to raise money to support their campaign.

HSBC strongly denies any connection.

The 19 groups of ATM machines are located in common protest hotspots. As a precautionary measure they will be closed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, the days before public holidays and on public holidays until further notice, the bank said in a statement. HSBC on Thursday closed two branches and seven

indoor ATM clusters after they were vandalized during



anti-government protests on New Year's Day and Christmas Eve.

The famous pair of lions that guard its city center headquarters were daubed with graffiti and briefly set alight after being doused in a flammable liquid.

Bullion of stored gold. File photo.

UN pleads for R2.8bn in support for hunger-stricken Zimbabwe, as bread prices rise 20-fold in 6 months

HARARE

The United Nations has called for increased international support for Zimbabwe as eight million people - or roughly half the population face hunger.

The World Food Programme is planning to double the number of Zimbabweans that it assists to 4.1 million, but says it will require over \$200m (R2.8bn at current exchange rates) to meet its needs in the first half of 2020 alone.

"As things stand, we will run out of food by end of February, coinciding with the peak of the hunger season - when needs are at their highest," said Niels Balzer, WFP's Deputy Country Director in Zimbabwe, in a statement.

"Firm pledges are urgently needed as it can take up to three months for funding commitments to become food on the price of basic goods bepeople's tables."

To meet the increasing hunger needs of the population, bread is now 20 times more exthe WFP was forced to launch pensive than it was six months an emergency 'lean season' ago. Rotational power cuts, assistance programme in Au- meanwhile, have been caused gust, months earlier than ex- by low water levels at Kariba

to face another below average harvest in 2020 following poor rainfall.

Hilal Elver, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, visited Zimbabwe in November where she witnessed how women and children are bearing the brunt of the crisis. "In a desperate effort to find alternative means of livelihood, some women and children are resorting to coping mechanisms that violate their most fundamental human rights and freedoms. As a result, school

drop-outs, early marriage, domestic violence, prostitution and sexual exploitation are on the rise throughout Zimbabwe," she said in a statement following her 11-day mission.

The hunger crisis comes as Zimbabwe is facing its worst economic downturn in a decade. Runaway inflation has put yond the reach of the average citizen. The WFP reported that

pected. The country is likely Dam's hydroelectric power station.

The UN agency also faces challenges in scaling-up its operations in Zimbabwe as the shortage of local currency coupled with rapid inflation requires switching from cash-based assistance to food distributions. And with other southern Af-

rican countries also gripped by drought, food stocks must be sourced outside the continent and then shipped to neighbouring South Africa or Mozambique before being transported to landlocked Zimbabwe.

WFP will require nearly 200 000 metric tons of food to assist the 4.1 million Zimbabweans it plans to target. Balzer underlined why financial support from the international community is so desperately needed.

"While WFP now has the staff, partners, trucking and logistics capacity in place for a major surge in Zimbabwe, it is essential that we receive the funding to be able to fully deliver," he said. "The lives of so many depend on this."



A plantation in Zimbabwe. File photo

BUSINESS NEWS

Guardian

Single women are dominating SA's property sales, latest data shows



PRETORIA

ingle women dominated property sales in 2017, 2018 and 2019, compared to single men and even married couples, according to data analytics firm Lightstone.

The average price of homes purchased by single women is around R800 000 and female Porsche owners have risen from 6 to 9% in the last year.

Lightstone research also shows that, while Cape Town has traditionally been highlighted as consistently showing house price growth above the national average, in October 2019 Limpopo took over in terms of inflationary growth.

Limpopo boasted a 5.9% annual growth with an increase in high-end properties. Most of these properties have become second homes to affluent Gauteng residents, according to Lightstone. Furthermore, the increase in mining activity in the province has also had a positive effect on property developments in the area.

In Johannesburg the suburbs of Sandhurst, Westcliff and Blair Atholl have the highest average value, and in Cape Town Llandudno, De Bosch and Constantia are emerging as the suburbs with the highest average value, according to Lightstone. Umhlanga in Kwazulu-Natal also features amongst the top ten suburbs with the highest average value.

According to Lightstone, following Good Governance Africa (GCA) highlighting Mossel Bay in the Western Cape as the best run municipality in South Africa, the value of properties in the area has enjoyed a steady increase.

In South Africa in general, Lightstone found that properties registered between 1991 and 2000 lead in terms of the number of property sales, with a steady price performance increase, year-on-year.

China to keep same inflation target in 2020 despite food price spike

BEIJING

China has decided to keep its inflation target unchanged this year at around 3%, sources say, suggesting policymakers will continue to roll out more economic support measures while avoiding aggressive stimulus.

Some analysts have speculated that Beijing will raise the inflation target to 3.5%, which would give authorities more room to support the world's second-largest economy as growth tails off to the slowest in nearly 30 years.

But policy sources told Reuters the government expects surging food prices to start easing in the second half of the year, as

mainly in the form of higher infrastructure spending and tax cuts, leaders have pledged they will not embark on massive stimulus like that during the 2008-09 global crisis, which saddled the economy with a mountain of debt.

China has kept its inflation target at around 3% since 2015.

While food prices have spiked, there has been little sign of a pick-up in inflation across the broader economy, suggesting demand remains sluggish. Core inflation - which excludes food and energy prices - has stayed largely subdued.

"Currently, the CPI rise is mainly due to pork prices - this is a structural, not a broadspread price rise. Pork prices could start to



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SATURDAY 4 Jan Uwanja wa Mazoez 5:30 6:00 HABÁRI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rp

SUNDAY 5 Jan

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	13:45		11:55
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HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa	13:00
Kumekucha Habari	15:00	Meza huru rpt	13:55
Al Jazeera	16:30	Watoto Wetu	14:00
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Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	19:30	Isidingo	18:30
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Igizo: Mkaguzi	22:00	Insta Moja	19:30
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Shamsham za Pwani	23:00	Habari	21:00
Jiji Letu	23:30 00:30	The Base Al Jazeera	21:10 21:40
Mapishi	00:30	DWTV	21:40
Igizo: Dhoruba Art and Style	02.00	5	23:00
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Habari	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	00:30
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Bongo Movie rpt: Keki ya	12:55	Habari za saa	11:15
Birthday	13:00 13:30	Uchumi na biashara	11:55
Tamasha la Michezo	13:55	Shamba lulu rpt Habari za saa	12:00 12:30
Mwangaza	14:00	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	12:55
The Great queen Seonduk Igizo rpt : Mkaguzi	14:55	Habari za saa	13:00
Kipindi cha kikristo	15:00	Meza Huru rpt	10.00
Jiji Letu	16:30 17:00	Watoto wetu The Base	13:30 13:55
Mapishi	18:00	Jiji Letu	14:00
Matukio ya wiki Igizo: Mtego	18:10	Yu wapi	15:00
Habari	18:15	The Great queen Seonduk	16:30
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Mizengwe	19:30 20:00	Isidingo Habari	18:00 18:15
Mjue Zaidi	20:00	Tanzania yetu	18:30
Bongo Movie: Penzi la Giza Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	21:35	Chetu ni chetu	19:00
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lgizo rpt: Dhoruba	10:00	Korean drama: The great	9:55
Habari za saa	10.00	Queen Seondok	10:00
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CAPITAL

Sat 04 Jan 08:00

CNN International Drive It rpt 09:00

09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt

10:00 Culinary delight rpt

the government takes steps to address pork shortages

The 2020 inflation target, to be unveiled at the annual parliamentary session in early March, was endorsed by top leaders at the annual closed-door Central Economic Work Conference last month, according to three sources with knowledge of the meeting's outcome.

"The target will still be around 3%", one of the policy sources said. "We cannot rule out the possibility that inflation may break 5% in the coming months but that could be shortlived".

The State Council Information Office and the National Development and Reform Commission - the state planner, did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

China's consumer price inflation (CPI) accelerated to a near eight-year high of 4.5% in November, as pork prices doubled due to a massive outbreak of African swine fever, but producer prices have remained in deflation for five straight months.

The diverging price trends have complicated policymakers' efforts to revive activity without risking overstimulating the economy.

While Beijing has rolled out a series of support measures in the last two years,



A vendor is seen in her store at a supermarket in downtown Beijing, China. File photo

fall in the second half," said a second source.

Still, the government may face a tough job in keeping inflation below 3% this year. policy insiders said, adding that rising inflation expectations could reinforce the central bank's cautious approach to further policy easing.

"A lower inflation target could help cool down the inflation expectation which is one of major forces driving up the headline inflation during the upper cycle," said Steven Zhang, chief economist and head of research at Morgan Stanley Huaxin Securities.

"The government may have higher than expected confidence to curb the food inflation despite the surging pork prices." On Wednesday, the central bank announced its eighth cut since early 2018 in banks' reserve requirements (RRR), or the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves, in a bid to shore up the economy. Analysts expect at least one more RRR cut this year.

The central bank has also begun lowering its key lending rate in recent months, with more expected possibly before the end of this month, but the cuts have been far smaller than substantial easing in the United States and many other economies over the past year.

15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Se 16:45 Igizo rpt : Mkaguzi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari Kipindi Maalum: Bik 21:05

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MONDAY 6 Jan

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Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni Isidingo Habar Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco Kesho Leo Telenovela: Elena's Ghost Habari The Base Al Jazeera DWTV **RSDAY** 9 Jan Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha HABARI Al jazeera Habariz a saa DWTV Isidingo Habari za saa Watoto Igizo: Mkaguzi Habari za saa Igizo: Mkaguzi Ripoti Maalum rpt Habari za saa Al jazeera ljue Sheria Habari za saa Kipindi Maalum rpt: Kipanya chooni Tanzania yetu Habari za saa Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost Meza huru Watoto Wetu The Base Jiji Letu Mapishi Jagina Usafiri wako Isidingo Habari Malumbano ya hoja Habari The Base DWTV DAY 10 Jan Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha HABARI Al Jazeera Habari za saa DWTV Isidingo Habari za saa Watoto wetu Hawavumi lakini wamo Habari za saa Hawavumi lakini wamo

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10:30 Innovation rpt Out n'about rpt 11:00 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt Eco@Africa rpt 12:30 Business edition rpt 13:00 Korean Drama rpt: Iljimae 13:30 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off Capchat rpt 18:15 19:15 Mizengwe The Decor 19:30 Korean Drama rpt: Iljimae 20:00 21:00 Out n' About Movie: Never Die Alone 21:30 Godwin rpt 23:00 01:00 Al Jazeera Sun 05 Jan **CNN** International 08:00 In good shape 09:00 Capchat rpt 10:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:00 Korean Drama rpt: Iljimae 11:30 12:00 Jagina rpt Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 12:30 In good shape rpt 13:00 13:30 Series rpt: Godwin 15:15 Aibu vako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizenawe rpt The Decor rpt 17:00 17:30 Meza huru Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary 19:30 Delights 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Iljimae 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está 22:15 Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera Mon 06 Jan 06:00 Al iazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital 07:00 Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Life is a teacher 16:00 Tanzania Yetu rpt 16:30 Eco@Africa rpt 17:00 Meza Huru 17:30 The Décor rot 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Series: Life is a teacher 20:00 20:45 The Monday Agenda Capital Prime News 21:30 Kipima Joto 22.00 00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Iran promises to avenge **US killing of top Iranian** commander Soleimani

BAGHDAD

IRAN promised harsh revenge after a U.S. air strike in Baghdad yesterday killed Qassem Soleimani, commander of Iran's elite Quds force and architect of its growing military influence in the Middle East.

Soleimani (pictured) was a general who was regarded as the second most powerful figure in Iran after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The overnight attack, authorized by President Donald Trump, marked a dramatic escalation in a "shadow war" in the Middle East between Iran and the United States and its allies, principally Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Top Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, an adviser to Soleimani, was also killed in the attack.

Iran has been locked in a long conflict with the United States that escalated sharply last week with an attack on the U.S. embassy in Iraq by pro-Iranian militiamen following a U.S. air raid on the Kataib Hezbollah militia, founded by Muhandis.

The Pentagon said the "U.S. military

US Democratic presidential con-

tender Joe Biden took in US\$22.7

million in the last three months of

2019, his campaign said in a state-

ment on Thursday, a pickup in

fundraising just weeks before vot-

ers kick off the party's nominating

The figure marks the best fun-

draising quarter for the former

has taken decisive defensive action to protect U.S. personnel abroad by killing Qassem Soleimani" and that the strike was ordered by Trump to disrupt future Iranian attack plans.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Soleimani was killed in a drone strike. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said he was killed in an attack by U.S. helicopters.

Concern about disruption to Middle East oil supplies pushed oil prices up nearly \$3.

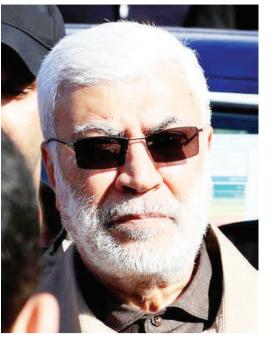
Khamenei said harsh revenge awaited the "criminals" who killed Soleimani. His death, though bitter, would double the motivation of the resistance against the United States and Israel, he said.

In a statement carried by state television he called for three days of national mourning.

The U.S. embassy in Baghdad urged all American citizens to depart Iraq immediately.

'HEROES NEVER DIE'

Soleimani led the Quds Force, the foreign arm of the Revolutionary Guards, and had a key role in fighting in Syria



and Iraq. Over two decades he had been at the forefront of projecting the Islamic Republic's military influence across the Middle East, acquiring celebrity status at

home and abroad. Iranian state television presenters wore black and broadcast footage of Soleimani peering through binoculars across a desert and greeting a soldier, and of Muhandis speaking to followers.

President Hassan Rouhani said the assassination would make Iran more decisive in resisting the United States, while the Revolutionary Guards said anti-U.S. forces would exact revenge across the Muslim world.

Hundreds of Iranians marched toward Khamenei's compound in central Tehran to convey their condolences.

"I am not a pro-regime person but I liked Soleimani. He was brave and he loved Iran, I am very sorry for our loss," said housewife Mina Khosrozadeh in Tehran. In Soleimani's hometown, Kerman, people wearing black gathered in front of his father's house, crying as they listened to a recitation of verses from the Koran.

"Heroes never die. It cannot be true. Qassem Soleimani will always be alive," said Mohammad Reza Seraj, a high school teacher.

Trump, who is facing impeachment charges, made no immediate comment but posted a picture of the U.S. flag on Twitter.

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat and strong critic of the Republican president, said the attack was carried out without consultation with Congress and without authorization for the use of military force against Iran.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi condemned the killings as a violation of the conditions of the U.S. military presence in Iraq and an act of aggression that breached Iraq's sovereignty and would lead to war.

Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who portrays himself as a nationalist rejecting both Iranian and U.S. influence, ordered his followers to be ready to defend Iraq and urged all sides to behave wisely.

The Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad condemned what it called criminal U.S. aggression.

Israel has long regarded Soleimani as a major threat. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short a trip to Greece and Israeli Army Radio said the military had gone on heightened alert.

The slain commander's Quds Force, along with paramilitary proxies from Lebanon's Hezbollah to Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces grouping of Iran-backed militias - battle-hardened militias armed with missiles - has ample means to respond.

In September, U.S. officials blamed Iran for a missile and drone attack on oil installations of Saudi state energy giant Saudi Aramco.

Iran, for its part, has absorbed scores of air strikes and missile attacks, mainly carried out by Israel against its fighters and proxies in Syria and Iraq.

LEGENDARY FIGURE

Analysts say Iran is likely to respond forcefully to the targeting of Soleimani, who had survived several assassination attempts against him by Western, Israeli and Arab agencies over the past two decades.

The Quds Force, tasked with carrying out operations beyond Iran's borders, shored up support for Syria's President Bashar al-Assad when he looked close to defeat in the civil war raging since 2011 and also helped militiamen defeat Islamic State in Iraq. **Agencies**

Russian lawmaker calls for resolving Libyan conflict peacefully

MOSCOW

THE domestic crisis in Libya needs to be resolved peacefully, while the deployment of Turkish troops may deteriorate the situation in the country, Russian State Duma (the lower house of parliament) Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Leonid Slutsky told TASS on Thursday.



"As for me, the Turkish

parliament's decision [to allow the government to send troops to Libya - TASS] causes concern. The deployment of Turkish troops to Libya at Tripoli's request may deepen the crisis and deteriorate the situation," the senior lawmaker said.

Slutsky pointed out that foreign interference was "not the best option".

"Russia has always called for resolving the domestic conflict in Libya through political and diplomatic means," he went on to say.

"There is a need to continue the search for peaceful methods to settle the crisis through the mediation of the United Nations and with the assistance of the entire international community," Slutsky added.

Earlier on Thursday, Turkey's parliament has passed a bill, which makes it possible to send Turkish troops to Libya. The bill was submitted to the country's parliament by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party on December 30.

According to the Turkish media, Ankara may first send military instructors to train the fighters of the Libvan Government of National Accord.

Besides, Turkey may consider providing Tripoli with the Hisar and Korkut missile systems. Erdogan has said on numerous occasions that Turkey was ready to send troops to Libya at Tripoli's request.

On November 28, Ankara and Tripoli signed a memorandum on cooperation, which particularly covers the defense field.

Libya crisis

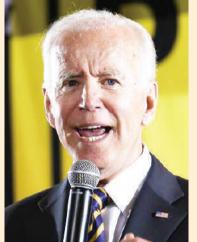
There currently are two governments in Libya: the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) headed by Fayez al-Sarraj, which is headquartered in the country's capital of Tripoli, and Abdullah al-Thani's cabinet based in the country's east, which has the support of the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar.

On December 12, Haftar announced the launch of a crucial offensive aimed at taking control of the country's capi-

The LNA has repeatedly stated that it would oppose any foreign interference in Libya's domestic affairs and threatened to sink ships and shoot down cargo aircraft carrying military aid from Turkey. **Agencies**

Turkish operator says Ghosn used its jets illegally to escape

BEIRUT/TOKYO/ISTANBUL



needs will only continue to grow." He also said the campaign has been resourceful, avoiding using outside vendors to make advertising videos by producing them inhouse instead.

Fundraising has created a demand on Biden's time. The candidate has split his days between campaigning in early voting states and crisscrossing other parts of the country to attend events with high-dollar donors.

In October, the Biden campaign reversed its opposition to receiv-

does not accept money from lobbyists or fossil fuel executives. Sanders and Warren have disavowed super PACs, while Trump has not.

Data suggests Biden's campaign was significantly outspent on advertisements in mid-December on Facebook and Google by Democratic rivals Sanders, Warren, Buttigieg and billionaire Mike Bloomberg, who is using his own

money to fund his campaign. In its most recent fundraising announcement, Biden's campaign

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders raised more than US\$34.5 million in the last vice president since his campaign quarter of 2019, while Trump launched in April, and represents drew US\$46 million, their cama rebound from the July-to-Sep- paigns said earlier on Thursday.



the Democrats' first nominating contest on Feb 3.

16

tember quarter, when Biden netted US\$15.2 million. That figure had worried some supporters who thought his campaign may not have enough cash to take on both President Donald Trump and Democrats rivals.

Democrat Pete Buttigieg raised US\$24.7 million in the quarter, while businessman Andrew Yang raised US\$16.5 million. US Senator Elizabeth Warren has not yet released her latest fundraising totals.

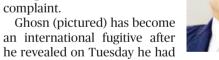
In a memo to supporters, Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz said "there's little doubt that Vice President Biden enters 2020 with wind in his sails, but our resource supporting Biden. The campaign

ing support from super PACs, groups that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money. Shortly thereafter, a super PAC called "Unite the Country" started running millions of dollars in ads

touted doubling its online fundraising compared to the previous quarter and said much of the support was from small-dollar donors, with an average contribution of US\$41.

Agencies

TURKISH private aircraft operator MNG Jet said yesterday that its planes were used illegally in the escape from Japan of ex-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, adding it had filed a criminal complaint.



fled to Lebanon to escape what he called a "rigged" justice system in Japan, where he faces charges relating to alleged financial crimes.

"In December 2019, MNG Jet leased two separate private jets to two different clients," the company said in a statement, adding that one of the company's employees had admitted falsifying records by not including Ghosn's name in the official documentation.

"One private jet from Dubai to Osaka and Osaka to Istanbul, and another private jet from Istanbul to Beirut. The two leases were seemingly not connected to each other," the statement reads.

Lebanon received an Interpol arrest warrant on Thursday for former Nissan chairmanCarlos Ghosn, while Turkey launched an investigation into his daring escape from Japan via Istanbul.

Agencies

UNICEF says 3,916 babies born on New Year's Day in Uganda

KAMPALA

NEW YORK

process.

UNITED Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) on Thursday said at least 3,916 babies were born in Uganda on New Year's Day.

The east African country's newborns accounted for approximately 1 percent of an estimated 392,078 babies born worldwide on New Year's Day, UNICEF said in a joint statement issued here.

Each January, UNICEF celebrates babies born on New Year's Day, an auspicious day for child birth around the world.

and a new decade is an opportunity to reflect on our hopes and aspirations not only for our future, but the future of those who will come after us," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "As the calendar flips each Janu-

ary, we are reminded of all the possibility and potential of each child embarking on her or his life's journey -- if they are just given that chance," she said.

UNICEF said over the past three decades, the world has seen remarkable progress in child survival, cutting the number of children "The beginning of a new year worldwide who die before their



fifth birthday by more than half. However, there has been slower progress for newborns, with babies dying in the first month accounting for 47 percent of all

deaths among children under five live births between 2011 and 2016. in 2018, up from 40 percent in 1990.

In Uganda, newborn deaths have stagnated at 27 deaths per 1,000 live births, according to the children's agency. The leading causes of newborn mortality are complications of prematurity, birth asphyxia and severe infections, while one third of underfive deaths is due to largely preventable or treatable conditions, such as malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea.

Under-five mortality in Uganda reduced from 90 to 64 per 1,000

according to official statistics. "Uganda has invested in ensur-

ing child survival through community and facility level interventions hence the reductions we see in child mortality," said Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda's minister of health, said in the statement.

"Additional efforts will focus on bringing services closer to our people through infrastructural development, including advanced care for all newborns by establishing special care units in hospitals and Health Centre IVs," she said.

Xinhua

Belt and Road Initiative is one of most important initiatives in 21st century

THE Belt and Road Initiative is one of the most important initiatives of the 21st century. Nothing is more important for world peace and prosperity than building much-needed infrastructure in the developing world, especially in the poorest countries.

A priority of the Belt and Road Initiative is to plan, finance, construct and operate critical infrastructure - roads, railways, airports, ports, power plants, telecommunications.

No country in the world has China's experience in building such infrastructure, so Belt and Road projects are naturally suited for win-win cooperation, within the framework of "achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration."

As China continues to transform and restructure its economy, it needs highquality growth of the country's manufacturing industries. By leveraging this domestic expertise, it is of great significance for China to develop new modes of globalization.

Infrastructure construction seems ideal, which is just what China is experienced in and what developing countries need to kick-start their economies. This is the essence of win-win: mutual benefits make Belt and Road cooperation sustainable.

From the very beginning of China's Belt and Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping has stressed "achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration." This guiding principle reflects China's overarching policy of seeking win-win in international cooperation and in maintaining equal relations with all countries.

Today, in our new complex international environment, China's principle of "shared growth through discussion and collaboration" takes on even greater significance.

"Discussion and collaboration" can ensure the quality of Belt and Road Initiative projects. It is only through detailed discussions and sophisticated collaboration that optimal project structure and operations can be achieved, and this is especially relevant for infrastructural construction. Key, of course, is to match loan servicing schedules, interest and principal, with reasonably conservative forecasted revenues directly or indirectly generated by the project, which can include national or regional economic growth.

One aspect of China wisdom is that learning from the past can improve the future. Some developing countries may not be experienced in structuring the financing for large infrastructure proiects.

Thus, in the project planning discussions, China, which has much experience, can advise and bring "best practices" to the project. Again, this is the benefit of "discussion and collaboration".

"Shared growth" means that Belt and Road cooperation takes win-win as essence and pursues common development of all involved sides.

Over the past five years, a series of successful projects under the Belt and Road framework have generated new opportunities for the economic and social development of host countries.

Best is to take "shared growth" seriously: what is shared is what is had by

both sides. For host countries, infrastructure enables and stimulates economic growth.

China also reaps more development opportunities, such as diversification of trade, and opens the doors of its inland provinces wider.

By boosting (over time) the economies of developing countries, China benefits from increasing trade, as does the entirety of the world. Belt and Road cooperation is an initiative seeking mutual benefit, win-win result and common growth.

From the world's perspective, poverty, under-development, and deep inequalities are seemingly intractable problems - and economic development, catalyzed by infrastructure construction, is an essential part of the solutions. Economic development must

come first, then all other problems can be addressed. Nothing good can happen without economic growth – this is the essence of the Chinese experience.

From China's perspective, after decades of remarkable growth, economic transformation is necessary, and this includes industrial transitioning and geographical rebalancing within China and expanding China's opening up by enhancing globalization. All of these can be achieved by the Belt and Road Initiative.

There are substantial global challenges, of course - economic, financial, structural, ecological, political instability, political risk, nationalism, terrorism. What's sure is that the world has great need and China has a grand plan.

WORLD NEWS

Guardian

US warns Argentina that IMF deal threatened by leftist allies

By Bloomberg

THE US is warning Argentine President Alberto Fernandez that his early foreign policy moves may jeopardize both support from the International Monetary Fund and American investment in the nation's vast shale oil and gas fields.

A senior Trump administration official said that sheltering former Bolivian President Evo Morales and engaging with Nicolas Maduro's regime in Venezuela crossed a red line and could cost Argentina backing for new IMF funding and investment in the Vaca Muerta shale fields.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private talks, said while many of Fernandez's advisers are pragmatic and understand these risks, Vice President Cristina Fernandez's influence within the administration is steering him closer to leftist leaders shunned by the US.

A State Department official said that the US had been clear that regional governments should support the interim Bolivian administration's efforts to organize elections.

The US has also urged regional gov-

to foment social unrest or influence Bolivian politics, the official added. The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment, while a US Treasury spokeswoman declined to comment.

Members of the Trump administration voiced their concerns to Fernandez and his advisers during recent meetings in Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Washington.

The US officials have been irked by the asylum offer to Morales, plus signs that Fernandez is aligning Argentina closer to other leftist politicians including Cuba's Miguel Diaz-Canel, Venezuela's Maduro and Ecuador's exleader Rafael Correa.

That frustration boiled over last month when Mauricio Claver-Carone, a top adviser to US President Donald Trump flew to Buenos Aires but then skipped Fernandez's inauguration after learning that a sanctioned Venezu- the IMF as its biggest shareholder and elan official was among the attendees.

YPF Chairman Guillermo Nielsen, a senior Argentine official involved in some of the talks, declined to comment.



Evo Morales, Bolivia's former president

brought up by American officials during Nielsen's visit to Washington last month.

The US holds the most influence at was key in offering Argentina's then-President Mauricio Macri a record \$56 billion bailout.

Alberto Fernandez criticized the deal at the time, saying it was designed A senior Argentine official denied to help win Macri re-election, yet he's the US would withdraw support for an since acknowledged the importance ernments to deny Morales a platform IMF deal, adding that the topic was not of "constructive and cooperative" dia-

logue with the Fund.

Meanwhile, he has touted Vaca Muerta as essential to spurring growth in an economy that's dipped in-andout of recession for the past decade. While Trump surprised Fernandez

with a congratulatory call after his October election, the two have already been at odds on a range of foreign policy issues.

That friction comes at a delicate time for Argentina. Fernandez's government said it's unable to pay its debt

and is starting talks with the IMF and bondholders. US officials had advised Argentina to negotiate with the IMF first before engaging with creditors, the person said.

When Morales resigned as Bolivia's leader in November, Fernandez aligned himself with Venezuela, Cuba and Mexico, criticizing Trump for applauding what he called a military coup.

The US "regressed decades" on foreign policy and "moved back to the worst of the 1970s, endorsing military interventions against popular governments," Fernandez told a local radio station at the time. Just days after taking office, his government accepted Morales's request for asylum in Argentina.

The Argentine leader also poses a potential roadblock to Trump's policy goals in Venezuela. Last January, the US rallied most of the region's heads of state, including Macri, behind Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido in an effort to topple Maduro. But Fernandez has refrained from calling Maduro a dictator and suggested Argentina may take a more neutral approach toward Caracas.

Agencies



Flights suspended in Libya's capital due to rocket fire TRIPOLI

FLIGHTS were suspended until further notice at the only functioning airport in Libya's capital Tripoli yesterday due to rockets falling nearby, an airport official said.

The closure of Mitiga Airport comes a day after Turkey's parliament voted to allow a troop deployment to Libya, deepening fears of an escalation of fighting in the North African country. Eastern-based forces led by military commander Khalifa Haftar have been waging a campaign since April to take control of Tripoli from forces aligned with Libya's internationally recognized government.

The offensive soon stalled in the outskirts of the city, but has led to increased international involvement in the conflict.

Mitiga Airport has been repeatedly closed and reopened in recent years because of risks from shelling and air strikes.

It most recently reopened on Dec 12 after a closure of nearly 3-1/2 months. Flights had been diverted to Misrata, some 200 km to the east of the capital.

The cause of the rocket fire that shut the airport on Friday was not immediately clear.

Tripoli's main airport was closed and partially destroyed in an earlier round of fighting in 2014, when Libya split into rival political and military alliances based in the capital and the east.

Croatia's president faces possible ouster in tight election

By Bloomberg

CROATIA'S president is facing possible defeat in a vote where frustration over corruption and ambitions for deeper integration in the European Union may rebalance politics in the bloc's newest member.

Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic, a former NATO executive running on the carefully crafted image of a globe-trotting diplomat, must in eastern EU states like Poland Sunday's vote.

overcome a second-place finish and in the first round and links to the scandal-plagued major of Zagreb to win. If she fails, the result could spell trouble for her ally Andrej Plenkovic, the prime minister, before general elections in the fall. Kitarovic has reached out to voters who want Plenkovic to

steer his ruling party toward the

nationalism that has taken root

betting that a center-left platform that rejects

Hun-Her challenger, former Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, is

extremism in favor of inclusiveness will give him the edge in

two main parties ahead of a big showdown: the parliamentary election later this year," said Zarko Puhovski, a political science professor at the University of Zagreb. While the president's role is largely ceremonial, the office commands the armed forces and decides over foreign-policy appointments with the premier.

A new term for Kitarovic would

"This is a battle between the strengthen Plenkovic's position as he tries to stoke an economy that's trailing other eastern European peers after years of stagnation.

> But Milanovic, prime minister during Croatia's double-dip recession from 2011 until 2015, bested the incumbent in a first round of voting on Dec 21. He has a sevenpoint lead in support with 48%, according to a poll published Dec tionalist platform. Agencies

23 by Ipsos. The president's backing among

conservatives soared in 2018, when she won international renown for images of her kissing Croatian soccer players during the country's run to the World Cup final. The 51-year-old is now counting on backers of the thirdplaced first-round finisher, singer Miroslav Skoro, who ran on a na-

Opening up of service sector brings new energy to Beijing's economy

gary.

BY expanding supply-side structural reform in the service sector, Beijing has injected new energy into its economy since it became the first city in China to carry out the pilot program of opening up the service industry in May, 2015.

During the past four years, the city opened China's first aircraft maintenance joint-venture and the first foreign-invested securities company. In addition, international rating agencies such as Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Rat-

tive filing by 45 percent. An official with Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau introduced that now the new business registration model has been promoted nationwide.

Meanwhile, Beijing has rolled out a dual-credit scheme to manage business operations. Under the scheme, companies with good credit will gain positive scores while those with bad credit will receive negative scores.

By adopting both online and of-



Trump praises 'great coordination' between **Russia and US to prevent terrorist attacks**

MOSCOW

US President Donald Trump has marked "great and important coordination" between Russia and the United States, thanks to which Russian intelligence services managed to prevent terrorist attacks in Russia.

"President Putin of Russia called to thank me and the U.S. for informing them of a planned terrorist attack in the very beau-



ings have also established new legal entities in the Chinese capital.

Beijing streamlined its administrative procedures of new business registration, enabling the applicants to go through all formalities at one service counter with one checklist, abandoning the old mode that required foreign enterprises to go through business registration and filing at different administrative departments.

A Germany-funded supply chain management company was one of the beneficiaries of the innovation. "The new model saved us a lot of time. After we submitted information to the commercial administrative department, the filing was completed on the second day," said an employee of the company. In addition, Beijing reduced un-

necessary information that need to be submitted by enterprises under the new model, slashing repeti-

fline statistical comparisons and targeted monitoring for new investment, Beijing realized precise management of foreign companies.

According to third-party assessment, Beijing has created 68 pioneering and most effective measures regarding openness expansion, trade facilitation, and environment building of the service sector. These experiences were later promoted in other regions of the country.

Driven by the pilot program, Beijing's service sector played a bigger role in boosting the city's general economy. In 2018, the added value of the sector accounted for 81 percent of the city's GDP, 3.1 percentage points higher than that in 2014 before the pilot program was carried out.

In addition, the pilot program further energized the market. 640,200 enterprises were established since the start of the program, an increase of 43.3 percent. 95.2 percent of these companies were in the service industry. In January this year, the State

Council agreed to advance the comprehensive pilot program for more openness of Beijing's service industry, further expanding foreign investment access to the sector.

It also rolled out 14 measures in such areas as information, scientific research and technology services, finance, commerce, culture and entertainment, and health

and social work

of Commerce.

"Beijing's pilot program of opening up targets at individual industries, and continuously expands the openness of different industries. Such approach is more effective than building industrial parks, as it helps build a relatively consistent market environment," said Cui Weijie, director of Institute of Industry Development and Strategy under the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry

People's Daily

tiful city of Saint Petersburg, They were able to quickly apprehend the suspects with many lives being saved. Great and important coordination!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

On December 29, in a phone President conversation, Vladimir Putin thanked his US counterpart, Donald Trump, for the information shared by special services that helped prevent terror attacked in Russia.

The two leaders also discussed a range of issues of mutual interest. They agreed to continue bilateral cooperation in the sphere of countering terrorism, the Kremlin press service reported.

On October 17, director of Russia's Federal Security Service Alexander Bortnikov said that the United States had shared information about a number of persons reportedly plotting terror attacks in Russia. He stressed

provided.

tersburg, while Moscow assisted in investigating the Boston Marathon blasts.

According to Bortnikov, Russia maintains counterterrorism cooperation with other countries' intelligence agencies as well.

Afforestation project adds green to 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games

ROWS of Scots pine trees stood out on a mountain that has not turned green in Chongli district of Zhangjiakou city, north China's Hebei Province.

Zhangjiakou is an important ecological barrier in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. Due to the high altitudes, pasturing and human activities, there was not a stable forest ecological system in the past, resulting in water and soil losses and a lack of favorable habitats for animals and plants.

In September 2016, the first batch of trees was planted there under a carbon sink project initiated by the Lao Niu Foundation and China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF).

The public welfare project, which is aimed at coping with climate change and advocating lowcarbon development, was planned

and prepared by CGCF and funded by Lao Niu Foundation in the first phase.

The project is expected to create a greener environment for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games after its completion.

The core zone of the project is 135 kilometers from Beijing's downtown area, and runs along the roads connecting Chongli district, the venue for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games events, Chicheng county, and Huailai county, in Zhangjiakou. About 2.3 million trees have been planted for the project, mostly are Chinese pine trees and Scots pine trees.

Through planting shrubs and grass, the project will help reclaim more than 30,000 mu (about 2,000 hectares) of barren mountains. The trees are expected to absorb about 380,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide



The photo shows the beautiful scenery of snow-capped mountain in the Chongli competition area of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, September 29, 2018 (File photo)

from the atmosphere during the

30-year period of the project. "One Scots pine tree can absorb 165 kilograms of carbon dioxide in 30 years," said Yang Jianzhong, director of the afforestation station of the bureau of forestry and grassland of Chongli district, adding that

the trees could not only help with the recovery of local vegetation and landscapes, absorb carbon dioxide, but also reduce losses of water and soil, contain land degradation, and protect important water sources of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. The trees could help increase

carbon sinks, said Yang. The forest landscape featuring various layers of trees around the Olympic Forest Park and along Olympic tracks will help improve the ecological environment of the surrounding area of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

The trees will also form a cor-

ridor for the exchange between species, and promote biodiversity conservation, said Yang, adding that the project and the management of the woods will provide job opportunities for local people and raise farmers' incomes.

Building the forests is not an easy task, as it takes time before an appropriate piece of land for forestation is finally selected, and the planting needs to be carried out in strict accordance with scientific methods.

Besides, the dry weather and lack of rainfall in Zhangjiakou also posed great difficulty for forestation.

In order to maintain biodiversity and facilitate vegetation recovery, the planting density was set at 3m×3m=9, a low level that would contribute to the restoration and protection of the local subalpine

ecosystem.

The density of 9 not only grants enough space for the growth of the Scots pine saplings, but also offers a common habitat for shrubs, subalpine meadow, birds, and insects. The design is able to avoid high density of a single tree species in the area which leads to low biodiversity.

The project lays more emphasis on taking care of the trees, Yang introduced, explaining that tree planters would spend five years cultivating the saplings, and a longer time managing the trees and patrolling in the forests, to guarantee that every tree could grow sturdily.

Thanks to these efforts, the indigenous vegetation landscape and the biodiversity of Zhangjiakou are gradually restored, Yang disclosed.

that it hadn't been the first time that such information had been

In 2017, the US helped in the investigation of a plot to carry out a terrorist attack in the Kazan Cathedral in Russia's St. Pe-

Study finds 2019 was a 'banner year' for female filmmakers

NEW YORK

is greater than researchers have

recorded before, suggesting that some measure of change is fi-

nally coming to a film industry

where inequality behind the

camera has remained stubborn-

It's the most meaningful in-

crease in several decades for fe-

male directors. Despite mount-

ing outcry, the rate of female

directors helming Hollywood's

top productions has long been

largely stagnant. The previous

high in USC's annual study was

8%, in 2008. In 2018, only 4.5%

of the year's top films were di-

"This is the first time we have

seen a shift in hiring practices

for female film directors in 13

years," said Stacy L. Smith, one

of the study's authors. "One no-

table reason for this jump in

2019 was that Universal Pictures

had five films with women direc-

tors at the helm in the top 100

movies. Yet there is still much

more progress needed to reach

parity for women behind the

The high-profile success of

several films had already made

2019 a historic one for women.

Those include Wang's "The Fare-

well," one of the year's most

popular indie releases, Scafaria's

acclaimed "Hustlers" (\$105 mil-

rected by women.

camera."

ly persistent.

CHICAGO

David Stern hands Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan the 1996 MVP Award. (Agencies)

In appreciation: David Stern made the NBA what it is today

BY TIM REYNOLDS

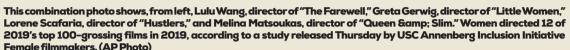
DAVID Stern once predicted that the NBA would have a division in Europe within 10 years. A few years later, he said it again. And a few years after that, he said it yet again. It never happened.

That was a rarity in Stern's life and career. Usually, when he wanted something, he got it.

problems. And I think him coming in ... his vision, his leadership, he fought for the game of basketball. He fought for this league. He had a vision that this league could really transcend, that it could reach all people."

He was right, and his words carried enormous weight. Miami coach Erik Spoelstra remembers

when the Portland Trail Blazers – his father,



lion domestically), Matsoukas' "Queen & Slim" (\$40.7 million) and Gerwig's "Little Women," which last week opened strongly with \$29 million in its first five days of release.

2018, Lee became the chief creative officer of Walt Disney Animation Studios.

Other notable films included Kasi Lemmons' "Harriet," Tina Gordon's "Little" and Jill Culton's "Abominable."

USC researchers singled out Universal Pictures, which put forward a slate of films with 26% directed by women. Universal is the only major studio with a female studio chief, Donna Langley.

Netflix also fared well. While the streaming company's films largely bypass theaters – leaving them outside the study's parameters – 20% of Netflix's 2019 movies were directed by women.

Paramount Pictures, however, hasn't released a movie ric, Lauzen found women held

all women have access and opportunity to work at this level," said Smith.

Another study released Thursday by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University examined women in the top films as not just directors but writers, producers, executive producers, editors and cinematographers. Women accounted for 20% of all such roles in the year's top films, up from 16% the year before.

But the San Diego State University study, the 22nd annual Celluloid Ceiling authored by Martha Lauzen, found less progress when the movies researched were expanded to the top 500 films. In that metmen continue to outnumber women 4 to 1 in key behindthe-scenes roles," Lauzen said in a statement. "It's odd to talk about reaching historic highs when women remain so far

Despite gains, female filmmakers have been largely overlooked in this awards season. Sunday's Golden Globes, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, includes no women nominated for best director. None of the 10 films nominated for best picture were directed by women, either.

Rebecca Goldman, Time's Up chief operating officer, earlier said those results were unacceptable.

"This year, there have been twice as many women-led features than ever, with more films by female directors on the way," Goldman said. "Women - and especially women of color continue to be pushed to the sidelines by a system that holds women back, onscreen and off."

AP







He wanted the league to grow under his watch, and it did. He wanted the game to grow internationally, and it did. He wanted players to dress more professionally, and the pregame show in locker rooms now is akin to a fashion show. He was a basketball tour de force, doing it in suits and wing-tips instead of jerseys and sneakers, and unquestionably is why the league is so successful today.

Stern died Wednesday, nearly three weeks after a brain hemorrhage made the end inevitable. He was the NBA's commissioner for exactly 30 years – from Feb. 1, 1984, through Feb. 1, 2014 – and turned a league that was having its biggest games shown on tape delay into the multibillion-dollar global juggernaut that it is today.

"We all sit here and we have these jobs and we all owe a great deal and a great debt to him for making all of our lives better," Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas said. "He truly was, and is, the father of what the NBA is now."

Thomas said those words on NBA TV which, without Stern, probably wouldn't exist.

Stern began building the bridge that connected the NBA and China, which has been a mutually beneficial relationship financially and likely will remain that way once the rift that was born this fall over political differences calms down. He took the league from 23 to 30 teams. He championed the birth of the WNBA.

"For those of us who have made a life from this league, words don't do justice to what he meant," NBA spokesman Tim Frank wrote on his personal Twitter account. "He was unique, brilliant, tough but maybe most importantly he stood by what he believed every time no matter the personal cost."

Stern never sought popularity. He seemed to embrace conflict. When a tough decision had to be made - vetoing the trade of Chris Paul, for example – he welcomed it and accepted the repercussions from whoever was going to complain. He also was the calm in the eye of storms, such as leading the support for Magic Johnson after the Los Angeles Lakers great retired in 1991 after being diagnosed with HIV

"When he first took over, the league was not as popular as it is now," Hall of Famer Grant Hill said. "There were challenges. There were Jon Spoelstra, was a member of that team's front office - drafted Arvydas Sabonis and Drazen Petrovic, international talents who might not have ever gotten to the NBA if not for Stern.

Jon Spoelstra had a million of those stories for his son, telling him that Stern was "a brilliant visionary." So when Erik Spoelstra became coach of the Heat in 2008, he found himself in a meeting with Stern and still acknowledges being intimidated.

"But I went up to him and told him that, and just to let him know that there are a lot of people that really benefited from his vision and his leadership," Spoelstra said.

Stern also had the gift of being simultaneously gruff and gracious.

He was acerbic and often acted like the smartest guy in the room, usually because he was the smartest guy in the room. He ruled with an iron fist. If you worked for the NBA, you worked for him and you were going to do things his way.

That was his cover, anyway.

He tried to hide that he had an enormous heart.

When an NBA employee's family member was diagnosed with brain cancer, Stern got word of it and had that relative in front of experts at renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center within hours after making a couple of calls. When staffers would accompany Stern on business trips, he'd act like a flight attendant, completely ignoring the fact that the private plane actually had a flight attendant. He'd ask his travel companions if they wanted anything, over and over. He morphed from boss to host on those trips.

And when he got wind that another league employee desperately wanted to meet country singer Toby Keith, Stern found himself at an event with the recording star. He told Keith someone wanted to meet him, called the employee over and surely enjoyed how tonguetied she was by the surprise encounter.

There are tons of stories like those that will be told in the coming days. Most NBA players towered over him, of course, but Stern is unquestionably one of the league's - and one of the game's - absolute giants.

"We owe him," the National Basketball Players Association said. "And we will miss him."

AP

"Only one match let me down, given I had

squad emerged as winners. I bet on regular basis but this time I was eager to win the whole cash prize."

He also said: "SportPesa are quite helpful to us as I didn't spend even 1 MB when I was betting, thanks to their promotion known as Cheza Bila Bando. I congratulate SportPesa for their honesty to the customers and seeing to it we enjoy their service."

SportPesa Tanzania's Chairman of Board of Directors, Tarimba Abbas, disclosed;" As usual, we always produce millionaires every day and, this time, we have ended the year well by getting winner of the biggest bonus ever totaling 43m/-."

"It is our duty to see to it the Jackpot winners and other prizes' winners get their cash bet the home team will win, the visiting smoothly, as we value our customers a lot

and we want to see to it there are no hitches when it comes to betting.

"Double combination, through Jackpot, gives a person that bets an opportunity to lay his hands on the cash prize via betting with two predictions on seven matches."

He added: "We have, this time, opted to come up with this approach with a view to boosting possibility for our customers to win the prize and seeing to it they enjoy betting via SportPesa should they not be sure of their bets on a particular match.

"Tigo and Vodacom companies' subscribers are keeping on enjoying our promotion known as 'ChezaBila Bando' in which people gets opportunity to visit our website www. sportpesa.co.tz and our application without being charged."

The SportPesa Jackpot bonus winner, Nolasco Mtavangu (L) gets a dummy cheque of 43,876,319/- from SportPesa Chairman of Board of Directors, Tarimba Abbas, at the firm's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was the biggest cash prize which was handed over to a winner in 2019. The SportPesa Jackpot cash prize currently stands at 381,475,460/-. PHOTO; CORRESPONDENT

Tabora resident wins SportPesa Jackpot bonus

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

TABORA resident Nolasco Mtavangu has won cash prize totaling over 43m/- after placing right bets on 12 soccer matches in the Jackpot bonus organized by gaming firm SportPesa.

He used double combination system in which he placed bets with two predictions on seven games to boost his chance to win.

Mtavangu got his cash prize from SportPesa at the company's office yesterday.

He disclosed to journalists after the function:"Honestly I was eager to emerge as the Jackpot winner and that is why I placed bets with two predictions on seven games to make certain of the win.

SOCCER.NEWS

Which was the best team for each year of the decade

BY RYAN O'HANLON, ESPN

ITH another year -and another decade -behind us, we decided to go back and name a "Team of the Year" for each of the past 10 years. This isn't another "team of the season" exercise, either: We wanted to know who the best club teams in Europe's Big Five leagues were for each calendar year of the 2010s.

The main criteria: points per game and goal differential per game. Points tell us how successful a team was at winning matches (duh), and goal differential gives us a better sense of how dominant a team actually was. Champions League trophies will also be considered but are not decisive; otherwise, this would just be a list of all the teams that won the Champions League, and you've already got Wikipedia for that.

Let's get to the list!

2010: FC Barcelona

Jose Mourinho is going to be mad, isn't he? Despite winning the Champions League, Serie A and the Club World Cup in the 2009-10 season, Inter Milan don't win the Team of the Year award. Why? Well, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, they weren't even the best team in their own country. Hell, they weren't even the second-best team in their own country. Roma finished 2010 averaging 2.13 points per game, and AC Milan collected 1.92 -- Inter were down at 1.83.

Barcelona, meanwhile, claimed an absurd 103 points in 39 games (2.64 per match), scoring 113 goals and conceding 24. Yes, they actually lost to Inter over two legs in the Champions League, but two games is not enough to close the gap built up over the year, especially given the razor-thin margin of those games. Also, Barcelona got their revenge on Mourinho with the 5-0 win over Real Madrid in November of the same vear

Blame Rafa Benitez if you must. After taking over for Mourinho, his Inter won 1.53 points per match for the remainder of 2010. That's tied for 31st in Europe -- behind the likes of Palermo, Everton, Getafe, Rennes, and Freiburg -- and the reason we chose Barcelona as the Team of the



Year.

The dominant team of the beginning of the decade rightfully earns a second straight Team of the Year prize, but this choice was closer than you might think.

In 2011, Barcelona won their third straight La Liga title and their second Champions League in three years. After cycling through a number of bigname strikers, Pep Guardiola finally achieved a perfect balance along the front line, with David Villa cutting in from the left and scoring the goals, Pedro doing the dirty work from the right and Lionel Messi playing centrally in his rightful place as the sun to Barcelona's solar system. In 2011, they averaged 72% possession; no one else on the continent was north of 62.

"They're the best in Europe, no question about that," said Sir Alex Ferguson after his Manchester United lost 3-1 to Barcelona in the Champions League final. "In my time as a manager, I would say they're the best team we've faced."

And yet, Ferguson also said "great teams do go in cycles and they're at the peak of the cycle they're in at the moment." He was right. Guardiola would leave the club just a year later, but the shifting of the guard had already started in 2011. Over the calendar year, Mourinho's Madrid won 91 points in La Liga to Barcelona's 90. But one point isn't enough to overcome Pep and co's trophy haul.



2012: FC Barcelona

So, they didn't win the Champions League and they didn't win La Liga, but they still were the best team of the year? Well, it's not going to be Chelsea, who did win the European Cup but who were also 14th in Europe in terms of points per game. Mourinho got his Madrid a La Liga title -- something the club hadn't won in four seasons and wouldn't win again for another five -- but they weren't as good as the Catalan club.

In 2012, Barcelona led all clubs in points per game (2.64) -- next best were United and Madrid, tied at 2.38 -- and they were the only team to outscore their opponents by more than two goals per match (2.08). These



teams weren't quite as memorable as other Barca vintages -- the tail end of the Guardiola era and the first half of the late Tito Vilanova's only season as manager -- but 2012 is the sweet spot that combines Messi's two best seasons as a pro. That year, he scored 59 league goals in 38 league games, the best mark in Europe by a margin of 19 freaking goals. He also threw in 13 assists (tied for fourth most) and led the continent in both dribbles and through-balls completed. Need I say more?



Finally, a new name and, along with it, perhaps the most dominant year on this list. In 2013, under Jupp Heynckes and Guardiola (sensing a theme yet?), Bayern Munich played 33 Bundesliga matches. They won 30, drew three and lost none for an insane 2.82 points per match. They scored 96 goals and allowed 19. They were fractionally behind first-place Real Madrid in goals scored per game (2.92 to 2.91), and they were the only club to allow fewer than 0.60 goals per match. Their per-game goal differential was 2.33; no one else even broke 2.00. They'd caught up to Barcelona's possession machine -- both clubs hung right around 67% -- and they also led everyone else in shots conceded, passes completed

into the opposition box and touches in the opposition box.

Oh, and did I mention that they

won the Champions League? One other quick note: If you want to see a complicated reaction from your favorite Arsenal fan, you should tell 'em that the Gunners led all Premier League teams in points won in 2013. If only the season started on



In Guardiola's first full calendar year in charge at Bayern, they dropped down to 2.60 points per game. Pathetic. They still led all of Europe in PPG: Juventus were second with 2.57, and Real Madrid were third with 2.36.

Ultimately, it comes down to Madrid or Munich. While Bayern racked up points at a higher rate, Real led all clubs with a 2.22 pergame goal differential. Guardiola's side, though, were the only other team above 2.00 (2.11). Madrid had the best attack in the world (3.06 goals per game), and Munich had the second-best defense (0.54 goals allowed per game). To put a finer point on their relatively equal bestness: they each attempted exactly 18.86 shots per match, tied for the most in Europe.

Now, if only there were a way to break the tie... oh right, there is. Real Madrid completely vaporized Bayern Munich, 5-0, across the two legs of the Champions League semifinals. They'd go on to win the final against Atletico Madrid, 4-1, in extra time, spurring on an incredible five-year stretch of European dominance that again, the same goes for Bayern largest margin. Or maybe Madrid; Munich. Despite performing at roughly the same dominant level as the best team in Spain, they got annihilated by the best team in Spain, losing 5-3 over two legs.

From a completely subjective standpoint, I think the early Luis Enrique Barcelona teams with Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar are the best teams I've ever seen. Not only could they dominate the ball like the Barca sides of old -- only Bayern averaged more possession in 2015 -- but they could also sit back and counter with the greatest trio of attackers in the history of the sport.

While Pep's Barcelona teams seemed to complicate the sport to the point of impenetrability, this side did the opposite: if you can score with only three players and defend with the other eight, this silly game becomes pretty simple.

2016: Real Madrid

I really want to give this to Juventus. They made the Champions League final in 2015 and followed that up with the best domestic calendar year in Europe. They averaged 2.63 points per game and, most important of all, they did it in their own way. To win that many points, you typically have to crush your opponents with a highly leveraged approach that includes a lot of high pressure and high possession. For most of this decade, the teams that have dominated have done so through a style that lights up the attacking end and concedes a tiny number of high-quality chances on the other side.

Not Juventus. In 2015, they allowed the fewest goals per game in Europe (0.53 points per game), and they did it by limiting both the number (thirdfewest shots allowed per game) and the quality of the chances they allowed (second-lowest expectedgoals-per-shot number). However, Real Madrid were only slightly behind Juventus in points won (2.53) and had a significantly better goal differential (2.03 to 1.66). On top of that, Real Madrid won the Champions League, while Juventus went out to Bayern Munich in the round of 16.

2017: Monaco This is the hardest choice on the list.

comparatively, they'd be the worst team (points-wise) to earn our award, but they also won the two things they're supposed to win. However, given that this is a totally subjective exercise and given how unlikely it was for Monaco to be this good, they are the most fun choice, and therefore they are the choice. Also, we need at least one short-lived supernova side that would soon get stripped for parts on this list.

Leonardo Jardim's team won 2.47 points per game in 2017, then plummeted all the way down to 1.41 the next year. Six players from the 2016-17 team -- Kylian Mbappe, Thomas Lemar, Benjamin Mendy, Bernardo Silva, Fabinho and Tiemoue Bakayoko -- were sold for at least \$45 million each. That group includes multiple World Cup winners and a handful of key contributors to the next two teams on our list.



2018: Manchester City

Despite 2018 being a part of the two best seasons in Premier League history -- 100 points in 2017-18, 98 points in '18-19 -- City somehow don't have the best or second-best points per game haul of the year. First is Iuventus, with 2.66 points per game, and second is PSG at 2.50. City are in third but they're not alone, either, tied at 2.38 PPG with Liverpool, who also beat them three times in 2018 and reached the Champions League final

However, City produced a better goal differential than every team other than Paris Saint-Germain. They led the continent in possession (nearly 70%) by a significant margin, took the second-most shots, conceded the fewest shots, completed the most passes into the penalty area and made the most touches inside the box. Sound familiar? Yep, this was the year when Manchester City became Barcelona and Bayern Munich. Despite a bit of a drop-off right around the festive fixtures that deflated their PPG, they were the side that defined the sport from start to finish in 2018.



At the end of the first year of our Is it Barcelona, who led all hallowed competition, Liverpool teams in points per game and goal were being coached by Roy Hodgson

Premier League clubs set to splash out in January sales

LONDON

THE Premier League's January sales are open for business as clubs rush to snap up new year bargains in the one-month transfer window.

Liverpool are running away with the title race and have already signed Japanese star Takumi Minamino, so the Reds are likely to sit out the frenzy while the chasing pack try to make the additions that could help them close the gap.

Here, AFP Sport looks at the key transfer issues to address for the teams hoping to hang onto Liverpool's coat-tails:

Chelsea

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard is expected to make a big splash after being unable to sign players in the summer window due to the club's transfer ban.

With that two-window suspension halved by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lampard needs several new recruits to help accelerate the development of his promising young team.

Armed with a reported £150 million transfer war-chest, Lampard will look to improve at left-back, where Emerson and Marcos Alonso have been too inconsistent.

The Blues have already been linked with Leicester's Ben Chilwell to fill that role, but Lampard might not be satisfied with only one signing.

Having constantly bemoaned Chelsea's lack of cutting edge against defensive opponents, the Chelsea boss needs pace on the flanks, a clinical finisher to dove-tail with Tammy Abraham and, ideally, a creative midfielder.

Crystal Palace forward Wilfried Zaha, Leipzig striker Timo Werner and Lyon forward Moussa Dembele are among Lampard's mooted targets.

Manchester United Paul Pogba will be absent for the

next month. France midfielder Pogba has been advised to undergo surgery on his ankle and that is a problem for United manager Solskjaer, who is already without Scott McTominay due to a knee injury.

"Of course it is playing on our decision making when we have two 11 points behind Liverpool, so players out - Paul for a month and a January spree might not be Scott for two," Solskjaer said.

"If it's available and if it's possible we will do something, definitely."

Solskjaer missed out on promising striker Erling Braut Haaland, who available is generally not as high as has signed for Borussia Dortmund in the summer window. from Red Bull Salzburg.

Aston Villa midfielder Jack Pereira and James Maddison, as well Old Trafford.

Arsenal

Mikel Arteta admits Arsenal could knee injury that will rule him out for of his contract. a lengthy period.

plans.

"We will try to be in the market to see options that can strengthen flying high, Brendan Rodgers the team, that's for sure and our maintains nobody will be leaving obligation and we will be working on that," Arteta said.

"My obligation is to give my opinion on the things we can improve. Obviously we have a bad injury with Calum a few days ago that will change our plans at the back.'

Arteta, who must also focus Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has revealed on persuading Pierre-Emerick Manchester United are "looking at Aubameyang to extend a contract one or two" players after learning which expires at the end of next season, has been linked with bids for Leicester midfielder Wilfred Ndidi, Atletico Madrid winger Thomas Lemar and Leipzig defender Dayot Upamecano.

> Tottenham, Manchester City and Leicester could be cautious shoppers

Manchester City are trailing worthwhile for the champions.

Pep Guardiola insists City will not rush into the January market because the quality of player

But City did sign Aymeric Laporte in the 2018 winter market, so a Grealish, Leicester duo Ricardo surprise swoop isn't out of the question, especially if the signing as Dortmund's Jadon Sancho have can help in Guardiola's quest to win all seen their names connected to the Champions League for the first time since 2011.

For Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho, the future of unsettled be more active than expected after playmaker Christian Eriksen needs Calum Chambers had surgery on a resolving as the Dane nears the end

While Eriksen is seemingly on It leaves new Gunners boss Arteta the way out, Mourinho must focus short of options in defence and he on defensive reinforcements and will meet with technical director Napoli's Elseid Hysaj, Marseille's Edu and head of football Raul Hiroki Sakai, Bournemouth's Nathan Sanllehi this week to mull over their Ake and West Ham's Issa Diop are said to be on his shopping list.

With second placed Leicester despite plenty of interest in his talented squad.

Rodgers is on the lookout for fresh faces, with Juventus defender Merih Demiral and AC Milan's Hakan Calhanoglu potential targets.

redefined the club's place within the sport's 21st-century hierarchy. Cristiano Ronaldo scored 17 goals and assisted on five more in the 2013-14 Champions League. That's 22 goals in which he was a direct factor; no other player in the competition had more than 10.



2015: FC Barcelona Avert your eyes again, Arsenal

fans. In 2015, buoyed by the creative peak of Mesut Ozil, one of the great creative players of the modern era, the Gunners averaged 2.13 points per match. That's significantly more than any other Premier League club -- Manchester City sat second with 1.89 -- and was the fifth-best clip of anyone in Europe. The four teams above them are the four dominant clubs from the middle part of the decade: Paris Saint-Germain (2.53), Barcelona (2.47), Bayern Munich (2.35) and Real Madrid (2.23).

PSG aren't winning this, mind you -- not this year, and not any year until they do something in the Champions League. Real Madrid lose out since, in addition to winning fewer games, they lost out to Barcelona in La Liga and in the Champions League. Once

league or make the semifinals of the Champions League? Is it Paris Saint-Germain, who were second in both the aforementioned statistical categories but also lost Ligue 1 despite a massive financial advantage?

Is it Napoli, who didn't win Serie A but had the third-most points in the world in 2017? Is it Monaco, who were fourth in points, won Ligue 1 and made the Champions League semifinals? Is it Manchester City, who were fifth in points thanks to the first half of the Centurions season?

Is it Juventus, who were sixth and made the Champions League final but also didn't even have the most points in their own country? Is it anyone in the rest of the top 10: Bayern Munich (who fired their manager), Roma (third-most points in Italy), Real Madrid (won the Champions League again and La Liga but had only the ninth-most points on the continent) or Chelsea (won the Premier League but weren't even in the Champions League until the fall and had fewer points than City)?

Given all of the potential caveats, this should probably go to Barcelona; they have the most points and they outscored their opponents by the

differential but also didn't win their and consistently trotting out a starting XI that included... Paul Konchesky. In 2010, they won the eighth-most points... in the Premier League, sandwiched between two teams, Blackburn Rovers and Stoke City, who have since been relegated. Now Liverpool are perhaps the easiest choice on this list.

In 2019, they won more points per game (2.65) than any other team. (For reference, the rest of the top five: Juventus (2.43), City (2.40), PSG (2.39), Barcelona and Bayern Munich (2.26)). Liverpool also won the Champions League. They have the fourth-best goal differential --1.65, behind PSG, City and Bayern -- a number that's not higher because of their steady succession of one-goal wins this season.

However, perhaps the most surprising shift isn't from where they were at the beginning of the decade but instead from where they were when Jurgen Klopp arrived in 2015. Over his first few seasons, this team was a high-wire, helter-skelter attacking force that descended into crisis whenever the ball entered their defensive third. In 2019? They've allowed fewer goals (0.68 per game) than anyone else.



Simba SC hosts Yanga in crunch derby **Guardia**



Which was the best team for each year of the decade

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MONDAY

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Simba SC completes Mozambican midfielder transfer

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Sports Club have confirmed the signing of attacking midfielder, Luis Jose Miquissone, who becomes the first Mozambican player in the club's history.

Yesterday afternoon, Simba, nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', confirmed the arrival of 26-year-old left footed midfielder who has joined from UD Songo where was on loan from South Africa's Premier Soccer League giants, Mamelodi Sundowns.



1chekadona TONIGHT Young Africans (Yanga),

Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Apart from the usual pride, there is more in today's match between these age-old rivals, thus, the clash, dubbed 'Dar es Salaam derby', could

prove to be a high stakes game. There are three points

By Correspondent Joseph

will, this afternoon, clash

in a Vodacom Premier

League match, which will

take place at the National

ANZANIA's

football

are at stake and officials from both clubs have vowed to play well in an effort to make their supporters happy at the end of the day.

Simba, who are the clash's hosts, are the league leaders with 34 points from 13 games while Yanga have 24 points from

11 games.



heavyweights, Yanga defender, Andrew Vincent (R), challenges Simba SC forward, Meddie Kagere, during the 2018/19 Mainland Simba SC and Premier League's second phase match that took place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Simba won 1-0. PHOTO: **COURTESY OF TFF**

expected to produce fireworks at stake so we expect nothing as either side is eager to give their fans a memorable New Year's gift.

On paper, statistics favour Simba, they have had an upper hand over Yanga in league encounters in the past five seasons.

Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, on the one hand, said his side is prepared for the derby and added today's game is very important to his side as they seek to remain on top of the league table.

He said much as it will be his first time to face Yanga, he has all the information on how his opponents play.

He was adamant he is also aware of the match's importance to Simba's supporters.

"We are geared for this match. It is one of the games which Today's encounter is both three points and pride are team is ready for today's match,

short of a win," he said.

Simba's information officer, Haji Manara, on Thursday said the squad is ready for the game and they are looking forward to nothing short of a win.

"On the domestic scene, even in the whole of East Africa, those who follow football know that Simba are the best team in the region so to prove that we are going to win on Saturday," he said.

"All players are ready both technically and tactically, I'm calling upon all football lovers to come in their large numbers and cheer their team," he insisted.

Simba will miss the services of Miraji Athuman and Rashid Juma who are nursing injuries.

On the other hand, Yanga's interim head coach, Charles Mkwasa, on Wednesday said his

noting they have prepared well. The coach said their recent

performance in the Vodacom Premier League games has boosted his players' morale.

"I'm very confident that all of my players are ready for the encounter, it will not be easy but we are well prepared to face our rivals," he said.

"We know it want be an easy game but we are ready to face them, our recent performance in the Vodacom Premier League has helped to boost the morale of our players."

And speaking yesterday, Hassan Bumbuli, Yanga's information officer, said he believes this afternoon will mark the turning point in their fortunes against their rivals.

He said Yanga are ready for the encounter and called upon his club's supporters to flock to the National Stadium to cheer their

team.

Bumbuli said Yanga are aware that playing against their age old rivals is always a tough contest as pride is at stake.

"Simba SC has really dominated us, but we are determined to change all that and we know they are beatable, we want to give our supporters something to celebrate with during this festive season," he said.

He said all players at Yanga are ready for today's match, with the exception of Lamine Moro and Tariq Seif, who will miss it due to various problems.

He, nevertheless, said there are other players who will fill in their gap.

The center of attraction in today game will be newly recruits of both sides. For Simba it will be Deo Kanda, Ali Shaiboub and Francis Kahata, who it will be their first time to play in the derby.

Yanga players who are expected to feature in the derby for their first time include Mapinduzi Balama, Abdul-aziz Makame and Ally Ahmed.

The derby is also likely to see Simba's experienced players Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Clatous Chama, Jonas Mkude, Paschal Wawa, among others, prove their worth.

They have thrilled in all derbies they have played and they once again are expected to turn on their magic for the squad.

Potential match-makers for Yanga who have played in the previous derbies include Kelvin Yondani, Papy Tshishimbi, Mrisho Ngassa and Feisal Salum. The last time the two giants met, Simba won 1-0 through a goal netted by Meddie Kagere.

However during that game, Yanga had Ibrahim Ajibu, Gadiel Michael and Beno Kakolanya, who are now with Simba.

Midfielder Haruna Nyonzima, who was also with the league's defending champions, has made his way back to Yanga.

Simba are better team, says Bocco

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AS if there were not already enough talking points to wade through the fiery-as-ever Mainland Premier League clash between Simba and Yanga, Simba's captain John Bocco has gone and muddied the waters with a comment that his team are better than their rivals. "We have mutual respect for Yanga but we are confident in the fact that we have better players

believe it will be a good game," Vandenbreock confirmed all separated by 10 points, but Yanga last league meeting in February,

and even our recent results will we shall triumph," he noted.

have been better than them. We Simba head coach Sven clash, the two local giants are Simba beat Yanga 1-0 in their

Ahead of the highly anticipated Biashara United 1-0 on Monday.

"Simba announces that we have officially finalized an agreement with Luis Jose Miquissone who joins from Mozambican Champions, UD Songo," Simba made the announcement on their official Twitter page yesterday afternoon

He was officially unveiled as a Simba player by head coach Sven Vandenbroeck who presented him with numberless jersey at the club office.

Miquissone is the first signing for Simba in the December-January transfer window, a development that comes two days after they announced the release of Brazilian striker Henrique Wilker da Silva who failed to break into the first team since his arrival in July.

Capable of filling multiple attacking roles, Miquissone appears to tick every possible box for a new Simba player.

Football fans are already familiar with him after he impressed in UD Songo's both outings against Simba, nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', in the 2019 CAF Champions League preliminary round.

He scored the spot kick that proved fatal for Simba's CAF Champions League campaign.

He was heavily linked with a move to Yanga but could not agree personal terms before Simba pounced and quickly agreed terms with his Mamelodi Sundowns who had signed him in 2018.

The arrival of Miquissone increases the number of midfielders at Vandenbroeck's disposal and the former Zambia national team head coach faces the pleasant headache of having to pick between several talented players.

Simba information officer, Haji Manara, confirmed Miquissone will not be playing against Yanga in the Vodacom Premier League clash today due to having not had a chance to train with the squad.

He could make his debut in the Mapinduzi Cup, which will take place in Zanzibar next week.



Luis Jose Miguissone

Bocco told journalists at the derby's press conference, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"We believe the fans are our 12th man and so we urge them to come out in numbers to support us. We are going to fight for the team and three points, through our efforts as Simba and God's

but two players are available for selection in today's encounter.

"There's a clean bill of health except for Miraj Athuman and Rashid Juma who are out with injuries. The rest are available and ready for selection," Vandenbroeck, who will be taking charge in his first derby match, confirmed.

have two matches in hand.

Simba are on top of the table with 34 points and a 23-goal difference, while Yanga - with just 6 goals of difference - have 24 points at third place.

Simba go into the match on the back of a five consecutive victory run while Yanga have had a mixed run of results. Yanga beat

2019 and fans have to go back to 2016 when Simba last lost a derby match against Yanga.

In head-to-head stats, Simba and Yanga have met in 102 league matches since 1965.

Yanga have claimed 36 wins compared to 31 for the Red and White side, while 35 matches have been drawn.

Tanzania ready host ITF/CAT Junior Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

Iunior

TANZANIA is ready to host the International Madagascar, Mauritius, Tennis Federation and Eritrea, Rwanda, Burundi, Confederation of African Tennis (ITF/CAT) Zonal Comoros and the hosts Championship Tanzania. which is slated for next One of the national ten-

week at the Dar es nis team's coaches, Salum Salaam Gymkhana Club Mvita, said his charges are (DGC), Tanzania Tennis training well ahead of the Association (TTA) has championship which gets

compete in singles and doubles' events in U-14, U-16 and U-18 categories. He noted local players were selected for the zonal championship, having impressed at the previous

Mvita acknowledged that the local tennis governing body is facing a lot of challenges ahead of hosting the zonal event.

He though pointed out hosting the tournament tunity for the developis an opportunity for the ment processes that TTA country to expose its talent in the sport and increase tennis and indeed an opportunity for the country's its chances of winning the tennis family to see and competition by utilizing home ground advantage.

He said the youngsters nis in a regional competiare prepared to put up a spirited performance and win medals for themselves and the country.

es we are facing in terms of preparations, I'm very sure "This is a great opporthat the country's junior players will perform well at the event," he added. is undertaking in junior The tournament pro-

vides a platform for upand-coming tennis players to have international expesupport the future of tenrience.

tion at home," Mvita noted.

"Despite all the challeng-



noted. underway on Monday and The tournament has atis expected climax on Fritracted nine countries, day. He said the starlets will namely Kenya, Ethiopia,

local and international

events.