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

DUBAI

For Iranians whose icons since the Islamic Revolution have been stern-faced 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, responsible for fighters in Syria backing President Bashar Assad and for the deaths of American troops in Iraq.

Soleimani 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.



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Relatively unknown in Iran until the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Soleimani's popularity and mystique grew out of 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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Establish wildlife gardens - JPM



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

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

PRESIDENT 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.

Dr Magufuli praised Tanzanians who 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.

The president issued the call midweek when addressing officials and game wardens plus residents of Nyabugera 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

'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.

He made the remarks on Thursday during a function to



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

hand over 200 bee hives worth over 16m/- to ten bee

keeping groups in Geita region, 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 forests by using trained militia," he emphasized.

Officials from the ministry and the Ministry of State in the President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Governments) will be involved, he

said. 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 controlling the situation.

Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) data indicates that beekeepers in Geita region produced 6,937.2 kilograms of honey in 2019.

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NDC needs 216bn/- for strategic plan

Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Development 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



aspirations of the fifth phase government, NDC has developed the plan which complies with the national industrial development plan for the next five years," he said.

Prof Gabagambi said the NDC plan 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.

Other sources are government

subventions from the annual budget approved by the National Assembly to support strategic projects, grants from development partners, raising capital through debt and equity 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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US-Iran tensions rise sharply as Gen. Qassem Soleimani is killed

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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. Soleimani's unit and others came under attack by Iraqi chemical weapons 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, Soleimani 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 Petraeus recounted a message from Soleimani he said explained the scope of Iranian's powers.

"He said, 'Gen. Petraeus, 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.



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

NDC needs 216bn/- for strategic plan

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modernization of the Kilimanjaro Machine Tools Co. (KMTCC) facility and the bio-fertilizer manufacturing project at TAMCO, he said.

NDC was in the process

of developing several new projects together with the private sector through joint venture agreements, which are at various stages of implementation.

The projects include expansion of rubber planta-

tions, developing infrastructure industrial parks, and implementation of Katewaka coal to electricity project.

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

Gabagambi said NDC revenues reached 9.99bn/- in 2019 from 2.64bn/- in 2017.

This enabled the NDC to reduce its debts and pay accrued salaries to employees, he stated.

NDC was in the stage of fi-

ancing technical economy studies where the government had already disbursed over 1.7 bn/-, with the project set to start at anytime.

Commenting on the medium density (fibre) project to be constructed on the north-

ern highlands, he said NDC 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.



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

'Lake Zone losing forests too rapidly'

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There are 26 groups of entrepreneurs engaging in beekeeping activities in 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 Lwanda as they have largely been invaded by farming and other activities.

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 Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the United Republic of Tanzania signed a loan agreement of US\$ 13.5 million to contribute to the Construction and Equipping of Secondary Schools Project in Zanzibar.

The project aims at enhancing the contribution

of Zanzibar in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of education (Goal no. 4), as well as providing educational opportunities for students in the areas that suffer from shortage in secondary schools.

The project includes civil works to construct and equip three high schools including housing for teachers and students.

One of the schools will be 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 Pemba Island in Kifundi Village.

The agreement was signed on behalf of BADEA by H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould TAH, the Director-General, and

on behalf of the United 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 Tanzania up to December 2019 amounted to about US\$ 223 million and allocated to finance develop-

ment operations in various 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 Bank began operations in March 1975. BADEA is a financial institution owned by eighteen Arab countries members of

the League of Arab States (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.

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 Mwangi 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 managing the scheme Michael Kimaro 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 irrigation infrastructure such



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

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



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 important 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.

utive secretary Dr Selemani 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 commence, we need funds to buy new equipment that would support teach-

ing and learning, training young graduates and other stakeholders, the Swahili language translation course is also aimed to complement the country's efforts to fight unemployment," he said.

He further hailed the government for supporting the institution to secure a

new plot in Dodoma to construct its offices.

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

Speaking, the Chief trans-

lator Vidah Mutasa said that the council is going to implement the entire directives issued by the PS to ensure that Kiswahili flourish and continues to shine internationally.

"We will continue working hard to ensure that we remain good ambassadors of the language," she said.

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 Kisumu 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 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, Wankyo Simon told the court to punish him accordingly for

other people intending to commit 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 other health complications, 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 travelled to Tanzania aboard Emirates Airlines through

Dubai.

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

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

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. They wish to recruit the following personnel for their head office in Dar Es Salaam.

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- Knowledge of core insurance software will be expected.
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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.

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Venue: Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center
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FREE ENTRY FOR EVERY ONE

Poets are from India

Arun Gemini

Chirag Jain

Media Partner: **The Guardian Nipashe**

For his part, BAKITA execu-



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: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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 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 of people with disabilities," she said.

The federation owns a three wheel vehicle popularly known as 'bajaji' which is used as a taxi, but alone cannot meet the requirements as the money collected is used 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 federation's brick-making project and 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 who can help in drilling water 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 larger, louder and common voice on issues of lobbying and advocacy.



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.

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 low- and 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

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 refugees 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, programme 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 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 international community for its continued support.

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 Alphonse 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

TANZANIA Communications 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

donning mobile phones' network operators' uniforms, with the pretext 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

the remaining 24,300,192 will be registered in the next 16 days.

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

SAFARI tourists have been urged not to share their rare wildlife photos and selfies on social media.

South African experts say poachers are using the geolocations on these photos to track and kill endangered animals like rhino and elephants.

Working Wild's Karen Trendler, who specializes in rhino conservation, says "it's mind-blowing how sophisticated these 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 one of

the world's most well-known safari destinations, officials are considering jamming phone signals to stop tourists from advertising the locations of the endangered creatures.

"I think people would be shocked to know that their tips on sightings are being monitored by poachers," Kruger Park spokesperson Ike Phaahla told ABC News. "We are talking to experts to see what can be done to curb irresponsible behavior. 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,"

More than half of the 8,000 rhinos poached in South Africa between 2008 and 2018 were

killed in Kruger Park and adjacent private reserves. Elephant poaching in the park, which is roughly the size of Belgium, surged to a record high in 2018, with 71 killed for their ivory.

While the selfie culture is deemed to be one of the biggest enablers of poaching, it has also had several other unintended consequences.

In recent weeks, three antelopes were killed by speeding motorists. 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 1,900-mile 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 endangering themselves and the animals, then it causes congestion at the sighting which causes tempers to flare and thirdly it gives intelligence to poaching syndicates if it is an animals that 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 Commander, Ulrich Matei said that the tanker with registration number T.956 DRT and its trailer T.886

DRV was being driven by Issa Yusuph (35). Owned by World Oil Company, the tanker carrying petrol was heading to Zambia from the Tanzania's commercial capital.

RPC Matei said that the accident occurred at around 4pm at Meta-Igurusi area in Mbarali District

Commander Matei mentioned the injured as Julius Daud (30) and Stanford Mwakyusa (45)

residents of Igurus ward at Mbarali district in Mbeya region who went to help to remove oil from the damaged vehicle after the crash.

He said the car broke down at the area on January 1, this year and after they failed to repair the damage, have decided to transfer the fuel to another vehicle.

"The injured were assisting to transfer the fuel to another vehicle by

using water pump, while going on with the exercise the water pump exploded causing a big fire which completely burnt the vehicle and injured the two," said commander Matei.

However, he said apart from the burnt out oil tanker, the fire also damaged two vehicles that were supposed to ferry the fuel as well as a fire and rescue vehicle with registration number SM

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 at least 55 others. The victims gathered at the accident site to loot the fuel.

Pangolin trafficking tops Malawi's 2019 wildlife crimes - reports

LILONGWE

PANGOLIN trafficking topped wildlife crimes in 2019 in Malawi, with at least five of the specimen of the listed species rescued and returned into the wilderness in the month of December alone.

Media reports indicate that the first successful convictions for pangolin trafficking in the sub-

Saharan country took place in November 2017 involving three Mozambican nationals, Martinio Alberto and Paulino Felish Nyanji, and Habarawo Jyaimé and a Malawian, Joseph Mankhokwe.

The first two were arrested in the southern border district of Nsanje when they attempted to find market for a pangolin which they

had smuggled across the border into Malawi.

The two were convicted by Malawian court and sent to jail for seven years on charges of possession of specimen of listed species and illegal entry into Malawi while the pangolin was released back into one of the country's wildlife reserve, Liwonde National Park.

In the same month

of November one more pangolin was rescued in the country's capital, Lilongwe, where the other two, Jyaimé and Mankhokwe, were attempting to sell the endangered species at a local trading centre.

The court convicted the two, and they were sent to jail for five years imprisonment with hard labour.

The Lilongwe

Wildlife Trust (LWT), an 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.

By December 2019, at least 15 of the endangered species had been rescued from their traffickers since November 2017 and the animals had

been released back into wildlife reserves after a thorough health check by the LWT.

Malawi is described by the LWT as the Southern Africa's principal transit hub for wildlife trafficking and the authorities in the country are worried with the growing cases of pangolin trafficking.

"We are working with neighboring countries in

the fight against illegal wildlife trade including that of pangolin," the country's Director for National Parks and Wildlife, Brighton Kumchedwa told local media recently.

"We are also promoting domestic cooperation among law enforcement agencies in Malawi in the fight against illegal wildlife trade," he added. Pangolins, the only

scaled mammals on earth, are listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora and engaging in illegal trade of the animals attracts hefty fine or jail term.

According to the LWT, pangolins are the world's most trafficked mammal for their use in medicine and culinary dishes in South-eastern Asia.

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 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 largely responsible for rapidly

changing weather patterns in 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, massive swarms of grasshoppers 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

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

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

The accident occurred on

Thursday evening at Usharika area around 6pm. The mini-bus 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

Toyota Harrier. The driver also hit a cyclist and all those who were injured were rushed to the regional referral hospital for treatment.

Solomon Petro, one of the eyewitnesses linked the accident with over speeding.

Regional Traffic Officer (RTO)

Anthony Gwandu, said drivers' failure to comply with the road safety rules by both was the main cause of the accident.

The RTO confirmed that no life was lost in the accident, most of passengers got minor injuries and they are going on with medical 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.



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

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 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

ago, the business expanded in 2019 with 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-

changers" in technology. She plans to rapidly grow the company's reach in 2020, she said, after passing 300,000 users this year.

Others include Toolboksi—a Tanzanian-based online platform that aims to reduce unemployment in the informal sector by connecting people seeking carpentry, plumbing 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

local collectors, mostly women, and sells it 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.

It gained momentum in 2019, winning 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. Geoffrey Mkamilo, unlike the past seeds, the new tenera variety produces 5 times higher palm oil compared to dura.

Most farmers in Tanzania grow exclusively dura 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. Geoffrey 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 years 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 Kyelela in Mbeya, districts of Coastal region such as Mkuranga, Kibiti and Bagamoyo, Tanga region,



Director General Dr. Geoffrey 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 in-charge, 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 Bulumbora 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.

Youth are not active enough, putting their health at risk

By Natasha Comeau

MOST young people 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 seen in the United States and Ireland. Most countries

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-year-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 co-author 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' physical activity decreases with age, especially around 12 years old. She cited "physi-



ological changes in women's bodies that make girls shy away from being active."

The authors noted that the study included only self-reported 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, director of Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research at the CHEO Research Institute in

Ottawa. "They may be doing housework while carrying their little sister on their back, which would certainly be moderate to vigorous physical activity. But they might not consider this physical activity. For them, it's just part of their daily routine."

That is a major limitation of the study, said Tremblay, and why he published a commentary critiquing the research. He said self-reporting often does not reflect the reality of physical activity. He has instead used more direct measures of as-

essment, including accelerometers, which measure movement.

Tremblay recently completed a study in Mozambique, where he found that almost all children living in rural areas far exceeded the WHO's guidelines. "And yet they're ranked 136 out of 146 countries," he said. "It's just blatantly wrong."

Data from the developing world is not the only information that might be skewed in a self-reported study. Colley said individuals can overestimate their 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 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 example."

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 female-targeted 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 Minja 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

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

MANAGERS 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

be most interested, and discuss the details, as otherwise KIA management 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.

TTB and Bollywood: Certainly a welcome change of fortune

Tanzania 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 released 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 4.24 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

the company as the "3rd Rock Multimedia 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 were 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 forthcoming 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.

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@Msamba

Buhari's visit to South Africa scored high on diplomacy

By Oche Echeija Egwa

As 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 three-day 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 metaphorical, 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 dispatched 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, 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

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. "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.

Oche Echeija Egwa is a Press Officer in the Office of the Special Adviser to the President, Media and Publicity.

Who are the 2020 US Democratic presidential candidates?

WASHINGTON DC

Less 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

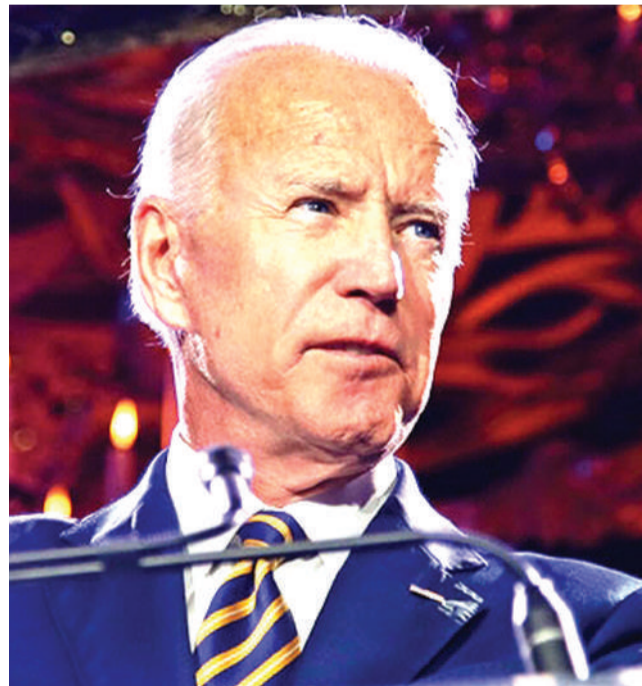
Michael Bennet has served as a US senator from Colorado since 2009. Bennet, a former head of the Denver school district, carved out a profile as a wonky, policy-oriented senator.

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 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

from Lucy Flores, a 2014 lieutenant governor nominee in 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.

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

stop taking contributions from pharmaceutical companies 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.



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

Hawaii's second district since 2013.

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 senator.

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

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

Continues on page 10

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 to power generated from the natural heat of the earth's subsurface. The clean form of energy, which is primarily found along tectonic plate boundaries, accounted for 3.2 per cent of total non-

hydropower renewables capacity globally by the end of 2019.

The energy form is also garnering interest in oil-exporting countries such as Saudi Arabia, which is looking to add some geothermal and waste projects to its ambitious mix of renewable energy schemes.

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 be found in the kingdom's southern Jizan province, which borders Yemen.

At least six geothermal springs had already been identified in Saudi Arabia by a survey in 1980. So far,

the kingdom, which has connected its first solar project to grid and begun work on a wind scheme, has yet to tender a geothermal energy project.

Globally, geothermal power capacity will increase by 23.2 per cent between 2019 and 2028, with deployment rising from 14GW to 17.4GW, according to Fitch Solutions.

Potential for growth will be confined to East Africa's Great Rift Valley, with Kenya and Ethiopia at the forefront of development.

"The region's considerable geothermal power potential is attributable to its location along divergent tectonic plate boundaries which create faults in the earth's crust, allowing high-temperature subterranean water resources to permeate nearer to the surface," the report said.

However, the United States, which is home to the

world's largest geothermal power industry with 2.5GW of capacity is expected to remain stagnant, with tepid capacity addition of less than 30MW between 2019 and 2028.

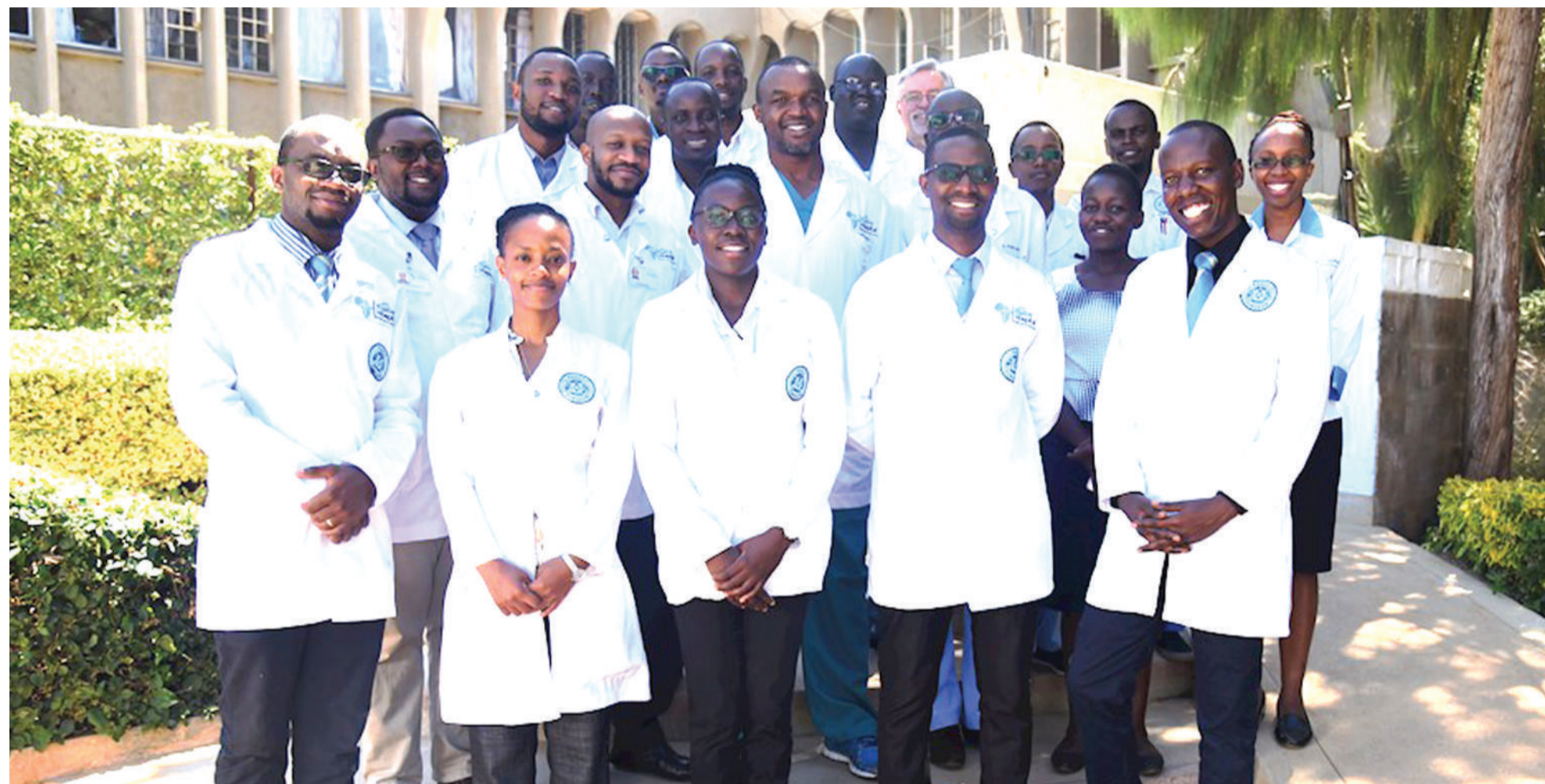
Lack of government support, as well as falling costs for solar and wind infrastructure deployment, are likely to crowd out further capacity deployment from the geothermal sector in the US.

By the end of the 10-year forecast period, geothermal energy will comprise 0.7 per cent of global installed non-hydro 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, but opportunities will remain "limited" as markets such as Kenya will start from a relatively low base.



Geothermal energy refers to power generated from the natural heat of the earth's subsurface



Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

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

SOBALA

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 Muciscadzi 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."

The new face of medical missions

By Susan Mettes

AS the rainy season nears an end in Africa's Rift Valley, the boys harvesting avocados start falling out of trees. If a boy breaks a bone, he may go to Kibuye Hope, a rural mission hospital in the East African nation of Burundi. There, for the first time in the 73-year history of the hospital,

he may receive care from a full-time, permanent missionary surgeon who is Burundian.

That surgeon, Alliance Niyukuri, joined the missionary staff of Kibuye Hope in 2018, moving his family to its residences after he completed his medical training in Gabon. He is one of the

first 100 graduates from the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS).

"I'm hoping that my presence here can encourage other Burundians and allow me to be a role model to students coming to the mission hospital," Niyukuri said. "The Lord

is [calling] more and more young graduates like me, calling us also to serve in the mission hospitals."

Niyukuri is part of a long-hoped-for cohort of African missionary doctors serving in their native regions. It is the result of a larger shift in medical missions strategies that many organizations

started making a few decades ago to train and empower Africans to practice medicine. The organizations recognized the potential of the Christians in Africa and sought new ways to deal with the continued shortage of doctors.

"The vision in the late 1990s was audacious,"

said Mike Chupp, CEO of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, a US professional group that sponsors overseas medical missions and partnered with Loma Linda University to start PAACS in 2003. "It was, by 2020, to graduate 100 general surgeons in Africa for Africa."

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

KAMPALA

THE world will need an additional nine million nurses and midwives to achieve the commitment of providing all people with access to health care by 2030, the World Health

Organization (WHO) has warned.

There are 22 million nurses and two million midwives worldwide, accounting for half of the global health workforce, according to WHO

records. However, the world requires 18 million more health workers—approximately half of them nurses and midwives to realize universal health coverage before the end of the decade, in line with

a pledge made by world leaders last year.

It is for this reason that the agency has declared 2020 as International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife; a declaration which aims to use the

new year to advocate for greater investment in these crucial health workers.

The year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern

nursing. It celebrates professionals who provide a broad range of essential services to people everywhere. Besides preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases, and providing expert

care during childbirth, nurses and midwives also serve people caught in humanitarian emergencies and conflicts. "Nurses and midwives are the backbone of every health system: in

2020 we're calling on all countries to invest in nurses and midwives as part of their commitment to health for all," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

BUSINESS

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

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

Nairobi

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

The 6.88 percent growth (1.14 billion/- 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 12.82 billion/- 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 13.31 billion/- from Sh12.81 billion in 2018, 10 billion/- in 2017 and 9.38 billion/-.

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 earlier 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

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 Promotion Strategy, unveiled in July 2018.

By Francis Kajubi

MINISTRY 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

of levy but it has done nothing to improve 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-

mented. He insisted to ask the president to stop the municipal from collecting levies if the market infrastructures are not improved.

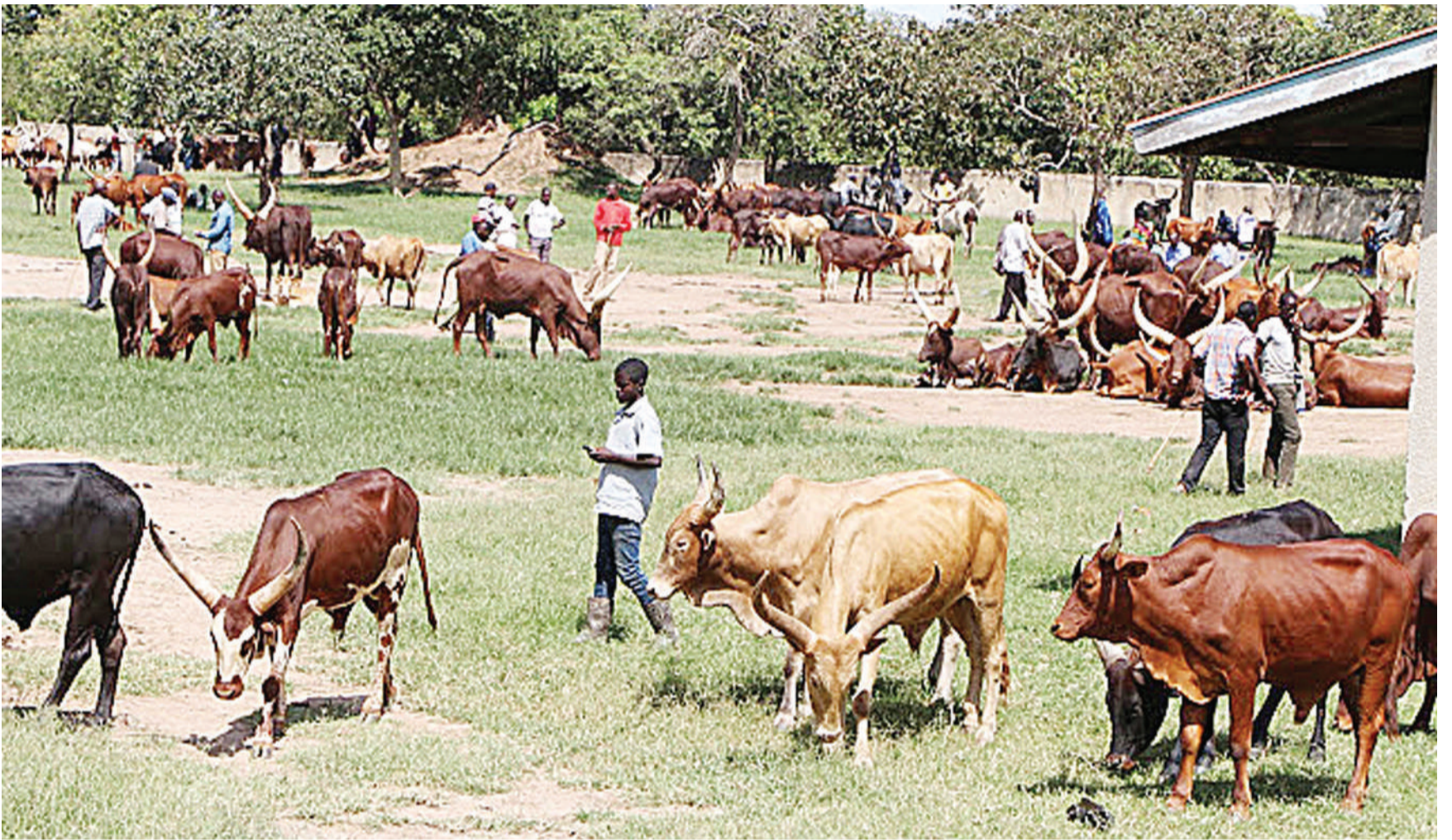
"You are capable of collecting more than 500m/- a year but you cannot allocate 15m/- to build new modern toilets. I am coming for you on February keep that on mind", added Ulega.

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

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 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.

News that China's central 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.

The Caixin/Markit 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 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 Chinese data that came

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 all-time high and Mexico's bolsa index rose 2.1%.

Earlier in Asia, MSCI's 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.

"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 post-merger," 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

Kenya Airways, 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.

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

the first country to end the sale of fossil-fueled cars by 2025. The country has 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

in 10 of all new cars sold in the country could be fully electric, said Volkswagen (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 Vehicle 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 [GELYUL] 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 killed Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian general who led the

Revolutionary Guards' Quds force, the Defense Department said. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has vowed that "severe retaliation" awaits those who killed the commander.

Bullion is already building on its stellar 2019 rally as the dollar weakens, and the return of geopolitical concerns to the foreground will further aid prices. Gold clinched its biggest annual

gain since 2010 as looser monetary policy, unrest in regions from Chile to Hong Kong and buying sprees from key central banks and exchange-traded funds supported the haven.

"While this may be the knee-jerk reaction we are seeing at present, the likelihood of further reactions cannot be ruled out, which may keep gold supported in the near term," Jingyi Pan, market strategist

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 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.

January is historically gold's best month, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. If prices match the average January advance of 2.7 per cent over the past 20 years,

they'll surpass the six-year high reached in September.

The metal will approach \$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 on the health of the world's biggest economy, with US.

ISM manufacturing data and minutes from the Federal Reserve's last policy-setting meeting due later on Friday.

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 people's tables."

To meet the increasing hunger needs of the population, the WFP was forced to launch an emergency 'lean season' assistance programme in August, months earlier than ex-

pected. The country is likely 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 the price of basic goods beyond the reach of the average citizen. The WFP reported that bread is now 20 times more expensive than it was six months ago. Rotational power cuts, meanwhile, have been caused by low water levels at Kariba

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 African 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

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



PRETORIA

Single 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 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 short-lived".

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,

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 broad-spread price rise. Pork prices could start to 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.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	MONDAY - FRIDAY	ITV	CAPITAL	
SATURDAY 4 Jan 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 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 rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Mkguzi 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and Style 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangweka 21:30 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV	13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru rpt 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Abuu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Aya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Moja 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	11:15 Jungu kuu 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooi 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Abuu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kesho Leo 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV	21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: The Second Wife 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	
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A vendor is seen in her store at a supermarket in downtown Beijing, China. File photo



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. 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

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, 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 tongue-tied 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."

Study finds 2019 was a 'banner year' for female filmmakers

NEW YORK

LULU Wang, Lorene Scafaria, Melina Matsoukas and Greta Gerwig led Hollywood to a record year for women in the director's chair. In 2019, women directed more of the most popular movies than any year before.

Women directed 12 of 2019's top 100-grossing films in 2019, according to a study released Thursday by USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative. That percentage of female filmmakers, 10.6%, is greater than researchers have recorded before, suggesting that some measure of change is finally coming to a film industry where inequality behind the camera has remained stubbornly persistent.

It's the most meaningful increase in several decades for female directors. Despite mounting 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 directed by women.

"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 notable reason for this jump in 2019 was that Universal Pictures had five films with women directors at the helm in the top 100 movies. Yet there is still much more progress needed to reach parity for women behind the camera."

The high-profile success of several films had already made 2019 a historic one for women. Those include Wang's "The Farewell," one of the year's most popular indie releases, Scafaria's acclaimed "Hustlers" (\$105 mil-



This combination photo shows, from left, Lulu Wang, director of "The Farewell," Greta Gerwig, director of "Little Women," Lorene Scafaria, director of "Hustlers," and Melina Matsoukas, director of "Queen Bees & Slims." Women directed 12 of 2019's top 100-grossing films in 2019, according to a study released Thursday by USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative Female filmmakers. (AP Photo)

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.

"Frozen II," with \$1.2 billion in worldwide ticket sales, is close to setting a new box-office record for a movie directed by a woman. Jennifer Lee, who co-directed the film, set the record with the first "Frozen" film. In 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

directed by a woman in the last five years.

Four women of color directed one of the top 100 movies in 2019, though the overall statistics for underrepresented directors dipped. Underrepresented filmmakers were behind 16.8% of films in 2019, a decline from last year's 21.4%, a record.

"While 2019 is a banner year for women, we will not be able to say there is true change until 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 metric, Lauzen found women held

steady at 23%.

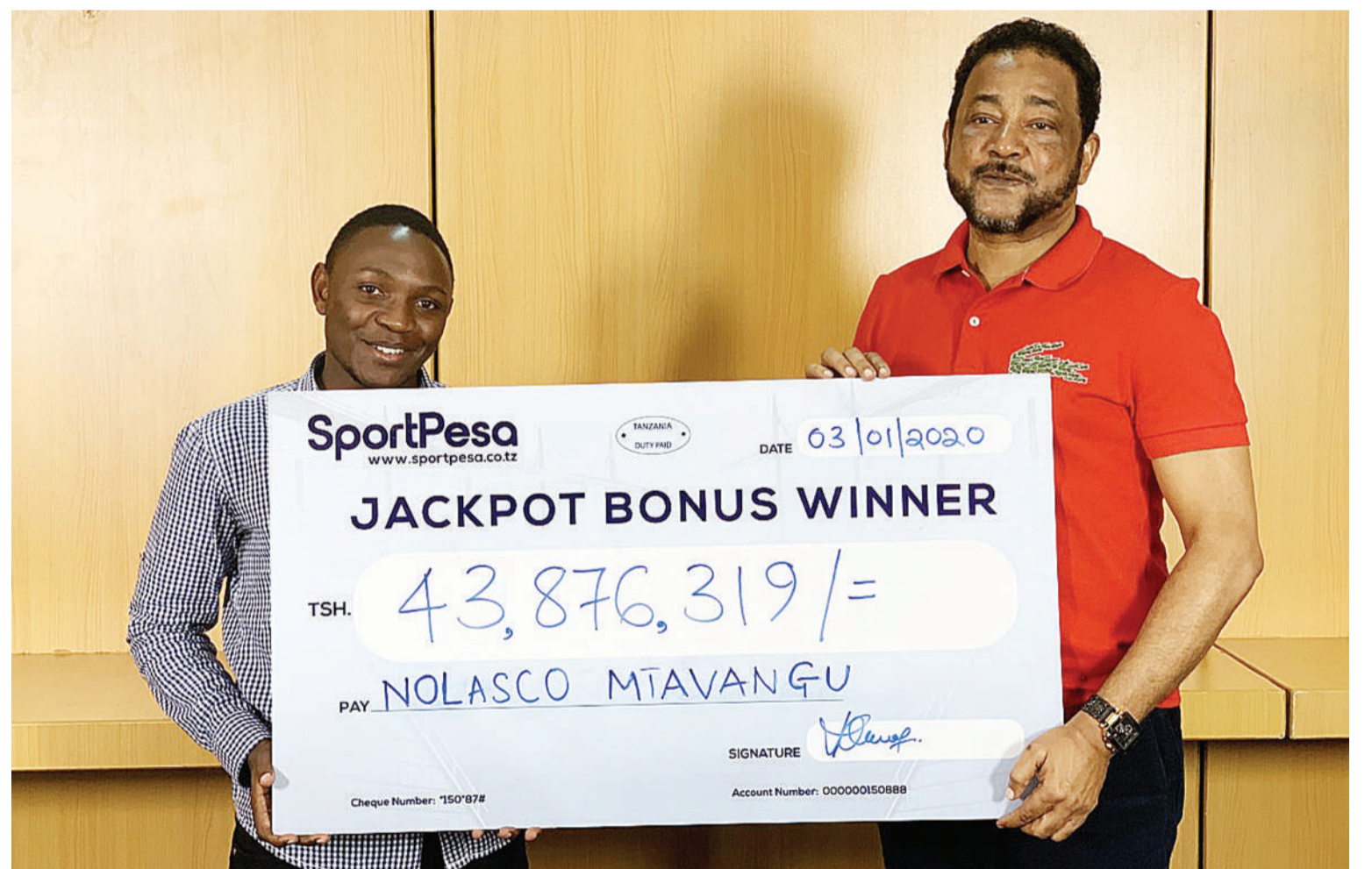
"While the numbers moved in a positive direction this year, men continue to outnumber women 4 to 1 in key behind-the-scenes roles," Lauzen said in a statement. "It's odd to talk about reaching historic highs when women remain so far from parity."

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



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."

"Only one match let me down, given I had bet the home team will win, the visiting

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 that the Jackpot winners and other prizes' winners get their cash 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."

SPORT

Which was the best team for each year of the decade

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 21:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
12:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 UTAKE
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

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.

"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 Vandebroek 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 Vandebroek'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 Miquissone

Simba SC hosts Yanga in crunch derby



Yanga defender, Andrew Vincent (R), challenges Simba SC forward, Meddie Kagere, during the 2018/19 Mainland 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

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S football heavyweights, Simba SC and Young Africans (Yanga), will, this afternoon, clash in a Vodacom Premier League match, which will take place at the National 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 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.

Today's encounter is

expected to produce fireworks 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 Vandebroek, 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 both three points and pride are

at stake so we expect nothing 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 team is ready for today's match,

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 will 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 muddled 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

and even our recent results have been better than them. We believe it will be a good game," 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

will we shall triumph," he noted.

Simba head coach Sven Vandebroek confirmed all but two players are available for selection in today's encounter.

"There's a clean bill of health except for Miraji Athuman and Rashid Juma who are out with injuries. The rest are available and ready for selection," Vandebroek, who will be taking charge in his first derby match, confirmed.

Ahead of the highly anticipated clash, the two local giants are separated by 10 points, but Yanga 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

Biashara United 1-0 on Monday.

Simba beat Yanga 1-0 in their last league meeting in February, 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

TANZANIA is ready to host the International Tennis Federation and Confederation of African Tennis (ITF/CAT) Zonal Junior Championship which is slated for next week at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) has

noted.

The tournament has attracted nine countries, namely Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Eritrea, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros and the hosts Tanzania.

One of the national tennis team's coaches, Salum Mvita, said his charges are training well ahead of the championship which gets

underway on Monday and is expected climax on Friday.

He said the starlets will 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 local and international events.

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 is an opportunity for the country to expose its talent in the sport and increase its chances of winning the competition by utilizing home ground advantage.

He said the youngsters are prepared to put up a spirited performance and win medals for themselves and the country.

"This is a great opportunity for the development processes that TTA is undertaking in junior tennis and indeed an opportunity for the country's tennis family to see and support the future of ten-

nis in a regional competition at home," Mvita noted.

"Despite all the challenges we are facing in terms of preparations, I'm very sure that the country's junior players will perform well at the event," he added.

The tournament provides a platform for up-and-coming tennis players to have international experience.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

