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4 Chinese workers kidnapped in south west Nigeria freed

LAGOS

FOUR Chinese rail workers kidnapped last week in southwest Nigeria have been released, police said yesterday.

The four were abducted last Wednesday from a rail construction site at Alaagba village in Ogun state by unknown gunmen who also killed their police escort.

The Chinese were working on a \$2.5 billion, 157-kilometre standard gauge project between Lagos and Ibadan commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari (pictured) two weeks ago.

"The four Chinese nationals were released yesterday," a senior police officer in Ogun state told AFP, without giving details.

He did not say if a ransom was paid.

Local media reported that an undisclosed amount of money was paid for the release.

State police spokesman Abimbola Oyeyemi was not immediately available for comment.

This became the springboard for attacks in neighbouring Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Niger states

Chinese firms are working in Nigeria on multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects that include mining, railways, airports and roads.

Kidnapping for ransom used to be concentrated in Nigeria's oil-producing southern region, but the crime has lately spread to other parts of the country.

Victims are usually released after a ransom is paid although police rarely confirm if money changes hands.

In April, two Chinese workers were abducted and their private security guards shot at a mining site in southwest Osun state. They were released four days later.

For the past decade, criminal gangs in northwest Nigeria have terrorised communities, attacking villages, pillaging, raping, stealing cattle, ambushing travellers and kidnapping people.

Groups have also turned to mass kidnapping, seizing hundreds of students in a string of raids on schools - apparently emulating tactics used by jihadists hundreds of kilometres away.

Here's what we know about these "bandits," as the gangs are known locally:

Violence in Nigeria's northwest originated with communal clashes over access to land and resources - a phenomenon that has worsened with the suspected impact of climate change.

On one side are predominantly Fulani herders and on the other mainly Hausa farmers.

After years of conflict, and land



Minister explains airtime charges, Budget is passed

MPs COME TOGETHER IN JUBILATION...



Members of Parliament congratulate Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (in his trademark yellow-green-black-&-blue tie) in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after the House approved the estimates of the Government Budget for financial year 2021/2022. He tabled the draft budget on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday approved the Appropriation Bill authorising expenditure of 36.68trn/- in the 2021/22 financial year.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba explained new charges introduced on airtime and mobile money transactions at length, as the most pertinent issue raised in parliamentary discussions on the Budget estimates.

Winding up debate on the estimates which brought 209 parliamentary contributions, the minister said that the charges were affordable as they are paid according to subscribers' credit recharging capacity.

In his clarification, the minister said that the charges are not meant to be charged daily but only when a subscriber recharges airtime with fresh credit, with charges categorized in groups depending on subscribers' credit recharging ability.

"Not less than eight million subscribers consume between 1,000/- and 6,500/- a day on credit for airtime and data. This group will be charged a levy of 5/- to 10/- on every fresh credit recharged. One who recharges between 7,500/- and 10,000/- will be levied 76/-, he said.

Recharging from 10,000/- to 25,000/- shall invite 112/- charge while recharging at 25,000/- and up to 100,000/- are liable to 186/- of which the airtime is most likely to last for a month. Those who spend over 100,000/- is levied 200/- in the scheme, he elaborated.

The mobile phone data and airtime levy

WB, AU set out Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank and the African Union (AU) have announced a partnership which targets to vaccinate 60 per cent of the continent's population against Covid-19 by late 2022.

In a statement released in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the World Bank said African finance ministers and the World Bank Group had just met to fast-track vaccine accessibility on the continent and avoid a third wave.

"The World Bank and the AU announced that they are partnering to support the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) initiative with resources to allow countries to purchase and deploy vaccines for up to 400 million people across Africa," it said.

This extraordinary regional effort complements the COVAX initiative and it comes at a time of rising COVID-19 cases in the region. The statement indicated that World Bank financing is available to support the purchase and deployment of doses secured under the AVATT umbrella.

World Bank Group President David Malpass said that the bank was pleased to support African countries through partnership with the African Union to quickly provide hundreds of millions of doses.

Strive Masiyiwa, African Union

A key priority in this initiative is to make sure the purchase of vaccines translates into people getting vaccinated

Nine die as minibus collides with Howo

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

NINE people have been confirmed dead after a minibus was involved in a collision with a lorry in Morogoro municipality on Monday night.

Regional Police Commander SACP Fortunatus Muslim (pictured) told reporters here yesterday that two drivers behind the wheels of two vehicles are among the casualties, blaming the crash on reckless driving by the bus driver who he said attempted to overtake at the wrong



place.

The accident occurred at around 11.00pm on June 21 at Nane Nane Oil Com area along the Morogoro-Dar es Salaam highway.

RPC Muslim said among those who lost their lives was Adam Ramadhani Binde (24), a resident of Dar es Salaam, and the driver of the Coaster bus with Reg T 689 DUK that was travelling from Dar es Salaam to Mbeya and Selemani Chawa Chali, driver of the Howo truck belonging to Dangote Cement Company with Reg T 658 DJZ, that was travelling in the opposite direction.

"The cause of the accident was the Coaster bus trying to overtake another car, a Toyota Cresta, but in attempt to avoid hitting the incoming

AGRICULTURAL DIALOGUE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STAKEHOLDERS



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Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen (R), tours the reference library at headquarters of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in Arusha city yesterday. Second left is Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud, who took over as the court's President recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister explains airtime charges, Budget is passed

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seeks to rake up sufficient funds where revenue collection to the tune of 396.306bn/- during the fiscal 2021/22 would be directed at rural roads construction, via the agency TARURA.

The minister asserted that the tax base of the country is still narrow so the government is coming up with initiatives that target direct contributions for needs of development funds, to avoid reliance on concessional and commercial foreign loans.

Leaving out indirect taxes, registered large taxpayers are only 504 while the 3.162m are registered as taxpayers out of an estimated population of 60m, he stated.

"How are we going to source the estimated 24trn/- to service the strategic mega projects and others if not by every Tanzanian contributing to development funds through paying tax?" he demanded.

Over 400bn/- has been approved for the rural roads agency, where an additional sum of 322bn/- from the airtime and data recharging levy has been placed on top of it just to make sure that rural roads are in good condition to enable economic activities, he stated.

Every parliamentarian will benefit with an addition of one billion shillings from the added amount to be dedicated to road projects in each constituency, he declared.

Another 50bn/- has been placed on top of the approved health budget to boost procurement of health and treatment facilities. Another 207bn/- will be added to Ministry of Water estimates, he stated.

Another 70bn/- has been added on top of the 500bn/- approved for the Higher Education Students'

Loans Board (HESLB) with the money likely to accommodate 10,000 higher learning students, as 11,000 students didn't get loans in the 2020/2021 fiscal year, he explained.

The sum of 100bn/- has been added to the 1.1trn/- Health ministry budget to finance the construction of health facilities across the country. On the other hand, an additional 125bn/- was inked for Education ministry for construction of ten classroom units in every district, he affirmed.

On the levy on mobile money transaction, the minister said that in sending the money one will pay 10/- in any transaction valued at 1,000/- to 2,000/-, and be charged 300/- for transactions starting from 10,000/- to 15,000/-. Sending 30,000/- or above on mobile means invites an extra charge of 1,000/- while sending 5m/- and above fetches a 10,000/- levy.

The charges were made under the amended Electronic and Postal Communications Act, CAP 306 in the Finance Bill for 2021/2022 for mobile money transaction of sending and withdrawing cash where the government intends to collect the hefty sum of 1.254trn/-.

If the money is sourced to capacity, it will be allocated to financing projects for the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), he stated.

About 63 percent of the budget is meant for recurrent expenditure and 37 per cent for development projects, which is put at 13.26trn/-. Of this amount, about 10.40trn/- or about 78.2 percent of total development expenditure will be sourced from internal revenue and 2.9trn/- tapped from external sources, he added.

Nine die as minibus collides with Howo

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Dangote truck, the bus driver hit the rear of the Cresta car in front, but thereafter he swerved back to his side and collided head on with the Dangote truck," he elaborated.

He said the driver of the Cresta car with Reg T 563 ASA, Emmanuel Sembuche (31) - an NMB employee and resident of Mji Mwema area in the municipality survived despite the vehicle's rear being badly damaged.

Five people died on the spot and four at the hospital as they were receiving treatment, he stated.

Coaster bus injured passengers Frank Lamson and Michael Sengo were admitted to Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital. They said they began their trip at Mbezi upcountry bus station in Dar es

Salaam to travel to Mbeya, with numerous disembarking points along the way.

"The speed was neither fast nor slow, but here in Morogoro there was a police roadblock at Kingolwira manned by two police officers.

"We were stopped and the driver and his conductor got down to speak to the policemen, but before we were allowed to proceed, a spare driver sitting among passengers got up and went to the driver's seat and moved the vehicle at high speed, allegedly thinking there was a police patrol car in pursuit," said Lamson.

He said the passengers got angry on the driver's high speed,

but he replied that if they were stopped by the police on patrol, they would be made to pay a 700,000/- fine.

Despite that the passengers shouted to the driver to reduce the speed, he never paid attention to them, they further noted.

The cause of the accident was the bus driver receiving a phone call via his hand set to talk to his co-driver who was left behind, he stated, noting that he was talking to the phone as he tried to overtake the Toyota Cresta. Then suddenly he came face to face with the incoming Dangote Cement Co. Lorry, he narrated.

Dr Kessy Abdul Ngarawa, the senior doctor in charge, said they received 32 persons - 25 injured

and seven dead persons, but the number of those who died increased to nine after two among the injured lost their lives as they were being put to treatment.

The dead were three women, including two adults and a child (5), and six men, while those injured include 17 men plus a one-year old boy child, along with six women including a girl child also one-year-old.

"The bodies of the deceased already identified are two while the third was identified by only one name. The condition of the injured is not bad but still causes concern, with five of them in critical condition but under close doctors' supervision," Dr Ngalawa added.

Rights defenders coalition, CSOs and TRA develop compliance tool kit for promotion

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

TANZANIA Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) in partnership with other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) have developed a compliance tool kit that will help CSOs to comply with all relevant laws, policies and regulation governing tax issues in Tanzania.

THRDC national coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa announced it yesterday in Dar es Salaam in a meeting with media practitioners.

He said, the simplified guidelines which will help to inform and facilitate CSOs understanding about key tax areas and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) laws and regulation will be launched on July 2nd in a workshop to mark activities of the seventh Human Rights Defender's Day.

He highlighted that the tax guideline comprises all vital taxes required to be paid by CSOs including PAY AS YOU EARN (PAYE), adding that the mandate is well elaborated on how CSOs can comply with returns like annual returns and available

penalties.

"It has been a challenge understanding laws because the majority of CSOs are not lawyers, so it's not easy for them to understand the legal requirements of tax payments" he intoned and cited that during the sessions CSOs will therefore be facilitated by specialists from TRA.

Olungurumwa reminded that this has been one of the difficulties they have been facing because though people have been complying but not fully due to the inadequate knowledge they have as far as taxes obligations are concerned.

"Tax payers at times don't have enough education and information on how to pay taxes so through the tax pay education unit under the TRA, we will be able to work together so as to improve CSOs capacity in tax compliances" he emphasized

He further elaborated that this will help foster economic development as a harmonious working environment between the government and CSOs will be achieved, bridging the gap of misunderstanding that had in the past existed between these two.

"This will therefore serve as a margin for a very successful collaboration in development related issues like the SGGs and the five years development plan" he said

Olungurumwa also stressed that the CSOs guideline on how to comply with the NGOs laws and regulation comprises all requirements for registrations, operations with NGOs, annual returns and penalties with the aim of ensuring that civil society members working with NGOs comply with all the requirements established by the NGOs Act.

4 Chinese workers kidnapped in southwest Nigeria are freed

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ownership laws favouring farmers, some herders turned to violent criminal activities, boosted by illegal weapons flows from as far as Libya.

These groups, mainly comprising Fulanis but also Hausas and other ethnic groups, set up camps in Rugu forest, in Zamfara state.

This became the springboard for attacks in neighbouring Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Niger states.

Some have hundreds of fighters and others have just a dozen, according to Nnamdi Obasi of the International Crisis Group think tank (ICG).

In 2019, the Zamfara authorities estimated there were more than 10,000 bandits in 40 camps across the state.

"Bandits" mainly target people in rural areas but also carry out highway ambushes, killing those who attempt to resist kidnapping or refuse to pay ransoms.

Between 2011 and 2019, up to 3,600 people were kidnapped in Zamfara alone, while violence has killed 8,000 people and displaced 200,000, according to the ICG.

Gangs have also stepped up attacks on workers on the informal gold mining sector.

And in recent months, they have targeted schools for boys and girls. Four mass kidnappings of students have taken place since December.

In the latest attack, 279 girls were taken from their boarding school in Zamfara last Friday.

As in other abductions, the girls were later released, in conditions that remain unclear.

The gangs are largely driven by financial motives and have no known ideological leanings.

But there are fears they are being infiltrated by Islamists who have waged a decade-long insurgency in the northeast.

The jihadists leapt to international notoriety in 2014 with the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls, sparking the #BringBackOurGirls movement.

Some bandit groups have pledged allegiance to Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram, while some fighters from the rival Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) group have deserted or fled to the northwest, analysts say.

On December 11, 344 boys were snatched from a school in Kankara, in Katsina state. Initially blamed on bandits, the kidnappings were later claimed by Boko Haram in a video.

The students were released a week later after a negotiations between the criminals and local authorities who rejected that Boko Haram had anything to do with the ordeal.

The Nigerian army deployed to the northwest in 2016 and launched air strikes in 2018 but attacks have persisted. **AGENCIES**



Tigo Tanzania managing director Simon Karikari (C) speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a panel discussion organised by the firm for various stakeholders, including banks and other financial institutions. The idea was to assess the impact of Covid-19 on small, medium and large enterprises in Tanzania and how technology is shaping the future of industries. He is flanked by Clouds Media Group chief creative and strategy officer Reuben Ndege (L) and Empower founder and managing partner Miranda Naiman. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WB, AU set out Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Africa

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special envoy and coordinator of the AVATT initiative said African institutions such as the Africa Import Export Bank and the Africa Centre for Disease Control will also be involved, ensuring that there is capacity to vaccinate at least 400m people, or 30 percent of the continent's 1.3bn inhabitants.

"We really appreciate the extraordinary partnership on this initiative between the AU Vaccine Champion, President Cyril Ramaphosa, and David Malpass,

the President of the World Bank," he said in gratitude.

The World Bank has put up \$12 billion in vaccine financing available to help countries purchase and distribute vaccines and address readiness issues.

It has approved operations to support vaccine roll out in 36 countries, and by end of June, it will be supporting vaccination efforts in 50 countries, two thirds of them in Africa.

The World Bank-financed COVID-19 vaccine operations allow countries to purchase

vaccines through COVAX, regional initiatives or bilateral procurement from manufacturers.

"As such, the Bank has been working closely with AVATT to see that countries in Africa can use World Bank financing to purchase COVID-19 doses through the AVATT initiative as well," the statement furthered.

The task team is an initiative of the African Union Commission, Africa CDC, Afreximbank, AU Special Envoys for COVID-19 and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to provide the continent with

sufficient and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines.

"A key priority in this initiative is to make sure the purchase of vaccines translates into people getting vaccinated," noted Vera Songwe, the ECA Executive Secretary.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm, is leading a consortium to support Africa's regional vaccine production. Work toward investments in South Africa, Senegal and Rwanda is at an advanced stage, it added.



Cornwell Tanzania director Elizabeth Lema (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing Chief Government Medical Officer Dr Aifelo Sichwale (2nd-L) at yesterday's launch in the city of a healthcare club run by NMB Bank Plc. In part, the company processes and packages natural medicines and supplements and operates a naturopathic clinic. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TRA: Resolve deadline for affixing electronic stamps

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

The Tanzania Revenue Authority had set 31 January 2021 as the deadline for affixing electronic stamps for goods entering the market. The stamp signifies compliance with tax laws and has already been implemented on alcohol products produced in Tanzania.

Other products targeted for electronic stamps include fruit and vegetable juices, bottled water and music products. Their manufacturers will be expected to register their products and apply for the estimated number of stamps needed in the year. The electronic stamp tax will not only track goods in the country but also help in raising revenue for the lower middle income country.

Ministry of Finance and Planning has directed the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) meet a Swiss firm contracted to supply, install and support the running of Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS) software and resolve issues delaying the project.

The taxman and Societe Industrielle et Commerciale de Produits Alimentaires (SICPA) inked the deal in 2018 but its implementation was delayed due to cost issues.

Deputy Finance and Planning Minister Hamad Masauni said in the National Assembly yesterday that he had on Monday this week met the two parts and directed them to go through the terms of the contract so that it is reviewed with an intention of bringing a relief in reducing operational costs and hence increase the amount of revenue generated as a result of applying the ETS system.

He was replying to the issue that rose in the House on Monday when Parliamentarians proposed suspension of the contract or place it under the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and if the bureau does not have required technology to handle the vice effectively, the private sector can be invited to bid for the tender of the job and attract competitiveness that will lead to cheaper operational costs.

"I have directed TRA to start preparing itself by coming up with well-organized technologies that will enable it to manage such systems if need in the future. I urge TRA to consider technological developments

as a key component in its operations especially at these days where everything is going digital," said Eng Masauni.

According to him, a careful feasibility study was not well conducted during the process as a result the construct has led to TRA generating a meager amount of revenue.

In her contributions to the just endorsed budget, Special Seats lawmakers, Halima Mdee alarmed the issue that the government was not receiving reasonable revenue from the contracted firm, calling for a fresh tendering process to have the new contractor or alternatively, choosing any public firm to perform similar exercise.

"Until now, records from the taxman show that about 245 manufacturers have already been given ETS machines but there is no success so far if you look at the figures before and after sealing of the contract," she said. Mdee said that before the contract in 2018, TRA was collecting 237bn/- per year but today, only 246bn/- was being collected electronically with the difference of a mere 8bn/- which was still meagre.

ETS replaced the hitherto paper based tax stamps initially attached to cigarettes, wines and spirits. The signing of the contract saw the company extending the service to all products subjected to excise duty including beers, sodas and other soft drinks in order to check counterfeiting and promote tax compliance.

However, there have been resisting arguments from some circles of the public including manufacturers. During the 2021/2022 budget debate yesterday, MPs were opposed to the contract between SICPA and TRA.

Kenneth Nolo, Bahi MP CCM advised the government on Monday to find an alternative way of handling the issue but doubted the notion that the government was losing much from the contract it entered.

On the same vein, Kisesa MP, Luhaga Mpina asked the minister to tell the House how much the SICPA was earning per year as he insisted that the contract was even killing business for suppliers of the said products. "We should be told when this contract will reach its end because the company is not even providing a dividend to the government," he said.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Z'bar govt issues warning on COVID-19 resurgence

THE Zanzibar government has issued a serious warning against COVID-19 pandemic surge including testing all those entering and exiting the Isles, calling for the people to avoid unnecessary gatherings.

Announcing the Phase III COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, Zanzibar minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said the government has decided to embark on various steps following reports of the pandemic's surge in a neighboring country.

Mazrui named the countries faced by the pandemic surge as including Uganda, Congo DRC and South Africa, saying their proximity to Tanzania has prompted the isles to take precautionary measures.

"We appeal to all the people to avoid unnecessary gatherings, to wear face

masks, to wash hands and avoid shaking hands when greeting each other," he added.

However, he said in regard to Phase III of the pandemic, Zanzibar was still safe because there isn't even a single at the testing centres for incoming and outgoing people, including tourists from various foreign countries, Africa and beyond have been tested positive.


Regarding Zanzibar's stand on Covid-19 vaccines, Mazrui said the issue was a national one hence the Union government has formed a committee of experts to follow up the entire vaccines issue before decision is made.

"In case it will be decided for vaccination to start I will be the first one

to be vaccinated, if it is harmful I will be the first one to be affected, but the entire issue will be transparent and the people will be informed accordingly," he added.

Elaborating, he said as the committee of experts was doing its work, the Zanzibar government was ready to receiver any type of vaccines, but only after the Union government provides its stand after the Committee submits its report.

The campaign on precautions against Covid-19 pandemic appeared to have gone down significantly compared in the past surges of the disease, the issue that now needs serious awareness among the people by health experts and the media.



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POSITION: A' Level Teacher for Physics - Cambridge Curriculum
LOCATION: Al Muntazir Islamic Seminary, UN Road, Dar es Salaam

QUALIFICATION PREFERRED:

- Masters / Bachelor's Degree in Education
- Min 3 Yrs Experience in similar role.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To know the subject area and syllabus, design/ implement the curriculum of the subject.

POSITION: Teacher for English IGCSE Cambridge
LOCATION : Al Muntazir Islamic Seminary, UN Road, Dar es Salaam

QUALIFICATION PREFERRED:

- Masters / Bachelor's Degree in Education
- Min 3 Yrs Experience in similar role.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To know the subject area and syllabus, design/ implement the curriculum of the subject.

POSITION: Head of Section - Girls Wing
LOCATION : Al Muntazir Islamic Seminary, UN Road, Dar es Salam

QUALIFICATION PREFERRED:

- Administrative Diploma or Similar Qualification
- Minimum 2 years' experience in school Environment

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To contribute towards the operational management of the section in delivering of the strategy.

APPLICATION PROCESS:
 Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV, copies of Educational Certifications, and an application letter to Jobs@almuntazir.org. Only short listed applicants will be contacted for an interview.

DEADLINE: The deadline for receipt of all applications is 30th June 2021



WWF for a living planet®

Invitation to Tender (Re-Advertised)

- WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. by:
 - conserving the world's biological diversity;
 - ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
 - promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO) secured some funds from Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for supporting the protection of key ecosystems, increased resilience and adaptation for sustainable use by local communities. WWF-TCO intends to apply part of its budgetary allocation to fund eligible payments under the contract of the project for rehabilitation or construction of ten water dams to collect surface runoff at the selected restoration sites to increase communities' and ecosystems' climate change resiliency due to frequent and prolonged droughts.
- WWF Tanzania Country Office, invites eligible contractors registered in (class V and above) Construction and or Rehabilitation of water dams to collect surface runoff at the selected restoration sites to increase communities' and ecosystems' climate change resiliency due to frequent and prolonged droughts. Due to the limited time for implementation, the company that has proven experience of similar works in wildlife dispersal areas and experienced with aforementioned areas within one month as the works needs to commerce in **July 1st 2021 and be completed by July 30th, 2021.**

PROJECT	SITE FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION
WWF/TCO/BMZ/OT/JUNE2021/Lot 4	KARAMBANDEA VILLAGE IN MWANGA DISTRICT

- Interested eligible contractors should send the request for obtaining the full tender document and attach the proof of payment for tender document to pndaki@wwftz.org copy mfeisal@wwftz.org. The payment of non-refundable fee for tender document is TZS 50,000/= Per Lot. The method of payment will be cash deposit to:

Bank Name: NMB
Account No. 70910003703
Account name: WWF FOR NATURE TZ COUNTRY OFFICE
- Interested tenderers are required to direct their soft copy tenders only (as mostly staffs are still working from homes) to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org Deadline for submission is **12am, 29th Tuesday 2021.**
- Only Form of Tender in a sealed envelope with clearly marked tender numbers should be submitted to:

**Secretary,
 Procurement Committee,
 WWF Tanzania Country Office,
 Plot 252 Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni
 P.O. Box 62117 Dar Es Salaam.**

Grab opportunities in mining sector, minister urges youth

By Guardian Correspondent, Ddodoma

MINERALS minister Dotto Biteko has urged the youth in the country to grab existing opportunities in the mineral sector to do away with poverty and dependency.

Biteko made the remarks when addressing youth of Tanzania Assembly of God (TAG) during the national youth forum held here at the weekend.

He said the mineral sector has many opportunities that could help them reject poverty and dependency as it is the sector that earns the government huge income.

He also called upon them to make sure they create projects

that will assist to change their lives economically.

“The main existing challenge for many youth in failing to achieve their aims is being associated with friends, many of who lack vision that can create beneficial projects except discouraging one another,” he said. He said in order to attain the targeted plans; youth are required to shun temptations that hold them down.

TAG Archbishop, Dr Barnabas Mtokambali said the church’s policy is to ensure its adherents, including the youth work hard to free themselves from poverty.

“TAG does not affiliate itself to any political party, but as a church, they are guardians of all parties, while its adherents are followers of the parties,” he added.



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella (2nd-L) hands over the Uhuru Torch to his Mara counterpart, Ally Hapi, at Robanda village in Serengeti District at the weekend for the torch to continue with its annual countrywide race. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Employers’ contributions to social security funds: Delay irks minister

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has vowed that it will continue taking stern measures against social security funds that delay to pay retired workers their benefits and dues thus causing disturbances and frustrations.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy minister in the Prime Minister’s Office Labour, Youth and Employment told the House yesterday that the government is aware of the retirees’ concerns and was closely monitoring pension funds managers and complying officers to make sure that they adhere to performance that will satisfy retired workers.

The minister made the statement when he was responding to a question by Michael Mwakamo-(Kibaha rural-CCM) who sought to know what the government is doing in

making sure that contributions by workers are submitted on time to respective social security funds to enable retirees to get their pension payments.

The Social Security Fund for Public Servants (PSSSF) was officially established on August 2018 by Act No. 2 of 2018. This fund is the result of merging the four (4) previous funds (LAPF, GEPP, PPF and PSPF) which were serving various Public Servants and making the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) remain serviced by the Private Sector.

According to Katambi, the government already has strategies and plans on the table for ensuring that retired employees receive their benefits on time.

“The strategies include developing various ICT systems for social security funds to identify members and pay appropriate benefits that suit the pension claims,” said Katambi.

He asserted that the government is set on making sure that payment of various arrears of member benefits to be paid by PSSSF and those received during the merger process.

The government has plans to establish various offices throughout the country and enable provision of quality services to its members, including strengthening payment systems.

“To ensure that retirees are paid on time, employers are reminded to adhere to the procedure set out in Act No. 2 of 2018 which directs accordingly the preparation of retirement information before payment;

The Funds have continued to improve their systems; however, employers should also adhere to the legally prescribed procedures so as to reduce delays in paying benefits to retirees” he added.

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

RESIDENTS in Iringa Region who possess customary land title deeds and certificates have been advised to make good use of the tools for their economic benefits.

Iringa Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga made the call at Isakalilo village, Kalenga Ward in Iringa District during the title deeds hand over event whereby 128 private land titles were issued to the citizens.

The RC urged the fortunate family members who obtained the documents to maintain and use them to acquire capital and loans from banks and other financial institutions so as to improve their economic activities.

Sendiga commended Wenceslaus Mtui, Regional Assistant Land Commissioner for a job well done in resolving land disputes, where his office was tasked with resolving 12 of the 15 reported land disputes.

Kalenga ward councillor Shakila Kiwanga commended the government for issuing the customary land title deeds to

RC advises holders of land title deeds and certificates

residents of Isakalilo village in Iringa district.

She said that many villagers were aware of the importance of having such documents where she urged them not to put the documents in the cupboards but rather use them to improve their businesses.

“The documents are very vital, through the documents you (residents) can access loans as well as do the basics, but before going to borrow make sure you sit down, evaluate and plan on how to properly spend the funds for development,” she said.

Kiwanga said that the establishment of regional land offices is a good move which has helped to bring services closer to the people.

According to her, previously people had to travel to Mbeya to access land services but with the issuance of customary land titles, the challenge will be permanently addressed.

Assistant land commissioner, Wenceslaus Mtui raised concern over poor response of the people in surveying their areas, something that hampers the formalization effort.

He cited the fact that out of the 663 citizens whose plots were surveyed in the Isakalilo area, only 126 have already paid, equivalent to only 21 percent.

Mtui added that for the financial year 2020/2021, the Iringa regional land office has managed and coordinated a total of 20 formalization projects with approximately 12,302 plots implemented in various (04) local councils of Iringa region, namely Mafinga town, Mufindi DC, Kilolo DC and Iringa MC.

The Isakalilo project is one of the first phases of the project where a total of 663 have been assessed and approved, adding that now the formalization service has been moved closer to the people.

Lawyers without Borders and the fight against Wildlife Crimes in East Africa

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Lawyers without Borders (LWOB), has conducted the competition to get best advocates from Tanzania and Kenya to counter wildlife trafficking.

The Wildlife Crime (WICRI) Mock Trial Competition program is a two-year, US Department of State-funded project run by Lawyers without Borders.

Advocate Joseph Kisole from LWBO, said attorneys from each country have been invited to compete against each other in an international mock trial competition at the end of the program, starting in May of 2021.

Kisole said, WICRI was designed to use a training and competition model to improve prosecutorial and judicial capacity to counter wildlife trafficking in Kenya and Tanzania.

“LWOB’s programming focuses on building advocates’ trial skills in complex wildlife trafficking cases in two key ways, including developing tools and curricula that are individually tailored to each country for collaboration and coordination cross-departmentally in investigations and prosecutions,” Kisole said.

Kisole added, the centerpiece of this program, LWOB hosted a mock trial competition in each country for outstanding advocates to spur excellence through competition.

“To select and prepare the competitors, LWOB conducted a series of progressive trial advocacy training programs based upon LWOB’s signature Support Through Trial Advocacy Training model,” Kisole said.



He said, those trainings enhanced participants’ knowledge of their domestic legal frameworks and the skills involved in prosecuting complex wildlife crime cases through case analysis, evidence selection and presentation, and trial advocacy.

“Instruction incorporated material on building strong cases that do not rely on circumstantial evidence; admitting

complex evidence in court, including financial records, forensic evidence, and evidence of corruption; and using strong trial advocacy in all aspects of case presentation.”

Amy Hirst, Operations Director and Senior Program Manager of LWOB, said this program incorporated training for magistrates and judges on common and extraordinary evidentiary challenges in

wildlife crime prosecution, sentencing in wildlife crime cases, and making rulings on preliminary motions during trial.

Hirst said, the magistrates and judges who attended the trainings were also invited to serve as judges in the mock trial competitions, ensuring the competitors can have a true-to-life challenge of advocating their case

before a member of the judiciary, while giving the judicial trainees additional opportunities to practice their art.

“Following the training programs, the selected competitors took part in a series of scrimmages prior to the mock trial competition, and they received additional substantive training on advanced topics in prosecuting complex wildlife crime cases,” Hirst said.



Shinyanga district commissioner Jasinta Mboneko has a word with members of the business community at Tinde open market yesterday, the thrust of her address being on the need to take precautions against Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Tanzanian youth wins World Bank's annual essay competition for Africa

By Guardian Reporter

A young Tanzanian January Kambamwene has become the fifth individual to win the World Bank's annual essay competition for the Africa region.

Initiated in 2016, the 'Blog4Dev' series is an important component of the World Bank Group's youth engagement program for Africa which provides space for youth in Africa to share their ideas on critical development issues.

"My desire is to bring positive change to my country. The need to work and share ideas with policymakers and young people is what drove me to participate in the World Bank's Blog4Dev competition," said Kambamwene, 26. "I hope to continue to share my perspectives at every opportunity I come across."

Kambamwene is a second year

student at the Center for Foreign Relations pursuing a degree in International Relations and Diplomacy. He also works as a market researcher at the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, the commercial section of the embassy of the Republic of Korea. Given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, applicants for the 2021 series of the competition were asked to submit a 500-word blog responding to the question: "How can young people work with their governments and civil society organizations to respond to the impact of Covid-19 and build a stronger post-pandemic economic and social system?"

The contest ran from October 17 - December 06, 2020 across the Africa region. "Strong youth voices are important in promoting sustainable development solutions in any setting," said Mara Warwick,

World Bank Country Director for Tanzania. "The youth are an enormous resource as innovators, entrepreneurs, change agents and leaders in their own right, and no country can afford to ignore them."

Initiated in 2016, the #Blog4Dev series is an important component of the World Bank Group's youth engagement program for Africa.

It provides space for youth in Africa to share their ideas on critical development issues.

Over the past five years, the platform has nurtured a growing network of resourceful young professionals and leaders who have gone on to engage in several exciting endeavors - such as the Mandela Washington Fellowship; the Queen's Young Leaders' Programme; the Yale University Mentorship programme; the Kenyatta University Mentorship Programme; and the Forbes Africa's 30 Under 30.

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

National agricultural dialogue set to address peasants' plight

TANZANIA is preparing a national dialogue on the country's food system and how local farmers can be empowered to face current climatic changes, emerging diseases, territorial threats and global transformations.

A curtain-raiser event to that effect has kicked off in Arusha through a dialogue organized for farmers and agricultural stakeholders in the northern farming zone which includes Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions.

"Many of the world's current food systems urgently need to change, for the good of people, environment and climate, as well as for our shared future," stated Dr Honest Kessy, the Director of National Food Security Unit, in the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to Dr Kessy, the global Covid-19 pandemic has further exposed vulnerabilities and inequalities in the country's food systems, affecting each nation but in varying degrees and intensity.

"We are thus organizing a national dialogue next July, to address many of these emerging issues, but specifically the role that small-scale growers and peasants play in feeding the nation and challenges they face," added the Director of National Food Security Unit.

One of the dialogue participants, Nasieku Kisambu representing the 'We Effect' Tanzania, pointed out that over 65 percent of all the food consumed in Tanzania and the rest of East Africa, is produced by peasants and other small scale

growers. "Yet these are the people who reel in poverty, have no access to loans because financial institutions regard farming as being risky business, the land on which they grow food is also being threatened with invasion, grabbing and frequent annexations," she added.

Organised by the National Networks of Farmers Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA), the Northern Zone's Agriculture Dialogue, held here, was officially opened by the Mayor of Dodoma City, Professor Davis George Mwamfupe.

"Food systems are important in that they encompass every person and every process involved in growing, raising or making food, right through to consumption; from farmers to fruit pickers to supermarket cashiers, flour mills to refrigerated trucks to neighborhood composting facilities," said Prof Mwamfupe.

He pointed out that the world involves natural resources, the environment, the economy, the preferences of people, culture, indigenous knowledge, policies, politics, trade, regulations, and beyond all influence how these systems operate.

It was learned during the Zonal Dialogue Agricultural Dialogue here that despite there being more food produced in our world than ever before, there are still 690 million people hungry and almost 2 billion people are overweight or obese.

Also challenges, such as climate change, non-communicable illness, infectious disease, social inequality, environmental degradation, and the concentration of economic power and stakeholders on the food system are not organized and not speaking the same language on the food system for the healthy community.

It was also stated that incidences of food related diseases are growing and nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 years old are attributable to under nutrition. Poor nutrition in a child's life can lead to stunted growth, which impairs cognitive ability and reduces school and work performance.

The dialogue brought together key players from the agriculture sectors including government institutions, donors group, UN agencies and international organization, Non-governmental institutions, Civil Society Organizations and representatives from academic institutions and farmers associations.

Participants in the dialogue included farmers (both crops and livestock keepers) extension workers, food processors, food vendors and CSOs in the food systems value chain.

Others were government and stakeholders from producers, food traders, food transporters, youth, business community, activists to indigenous leaders, and smallholder farmers to scientists and CEOs in the Northern zone.

IAEA, ZARI develop improved rice variety in Z'bar

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in partnership with the Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) have researched and invented the improved, higher yielding rice variety, dubbed 'SUPA BC' in a robust project aimed at advancing production of the economic cash crop in Zanzibar.

The vital development, being implemented by the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) through the National Technical Cooperation (TC) Project (URT5050), is based on the improvement of rice and barley production through application of mutation breeding with marker assisted selection.

The other key stakeholders involved in the programme include the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resource in Zanzibar.

Senior Researcher at the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission, (TAEC) Simon Mdoe, said the programme had assisted the country to use mutation breeding and related biotechnology to develop the said improved rice variety.

He detailed that Tanzania is benefiting from the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme as well as in the African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, development and training related to nuclear science and technology (AFRA).

"The benefits of the projects are being realised in the fields of agriculture, health, nuclear analytical techniques, food quality, non-destructive testing, nuclear instrumentation, radiation safety, security and waste management," he expressed.

He stated that the on-going IAEA supported programme is endeavouring to develop improved varieties of disease-resistant maize and barley in Selian Agriculture Research Institute (Arusha).

"The National TC Project-URT5032 Developing Maize Cultivars for Improved Yield and Resistance to Viral Disease- was developed with the purpose of supporting the development of maize cultivars/varieties resistant to maize viral disease, maize lethal necrosis disease (MLND)," he added.

According to him, MLND has become a major challenge to maize production and has so far posed a big threat to food security as well as sustainable productivity

in the region.

Divulging more projects, he informed that IAEA through the National TC project "URT5031 Improving Indigenous Cattle Breeds through Enhancing Artificial Insemination Services Delivery in Coastal Areas" is supporting the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) and the Veterinary Laboratory of Zanzibar to improve the genetic merit of cattle through Artificial Insemination (IA), coupled with the use of progesterone Radioimmunoassay (RIA), for monitoring and enhancing productive efficiency.

"RIA identifies non-pregnant cows early (14th day) after insemination and plays a key role in improving reproductive efficiency and profitability by reducing the interval between AI services," he said.

The ongoing IAEA programme in Tanzania, among others, consists of seven active National TC projects covering the sectors of agriculture, human health, livestock development, human resource capacity development, water resources and nutrition. Implementation of the TC programme is nationally coordinated by the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC).



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Application Deadline : Tuesday - 29th June 2021

Position : Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist (1 position)
Project : ACHIEVE Tanzania Project
Position Location : Dar es Salaam
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: CVPeople Tanzania - Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist in Dar es salaam (zohorecruit.com)

Application Deadline : Wednesday - 30th June 2021

Position : Economic Strengthening Advisor (1 position)
Project : ACHIEVE Tanzania Project
Position Location : Dar es Salaam
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: <https://cvpeopletanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400003425277/Economic-Strengthening-Advisor?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline : Thursday - 1st July 2021

Position : HIV Integration Advisor (1 position)
Project : ACHIEVE Tanzania Project
Position Location : Dar es Salaam
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: <https://cvpeopletanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400003426056/HIV-Integration-Advisor?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline : Thursday - 1st July 2021

Position : Case Management and Child Protection Advisor (1 position)
Project : ACHIEVE Tanzania Project
Position Location : Dar es Salaam
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: <https://cvpeopletanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400003426034/Case-Management-and-Child-Protection-Advisor?source=CareerSite>

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RC gives ultimatum to Mbeya city council officials to improve market at Mwanjelwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner Juma Homera, has given a 30 days ultimatum to Mbeya city council's planning officials to come up with a strategy to improve the Mwanjelwa international market to increase revenue collection.

Homera issued the directive here recently when speaking at a special Mbeya city councilors meeting that among other things discussed queries raised in the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Report for 2019/2020.

He said the market was built at very high cost from a bank loan but so far it has not shown any achievements as traders abandoned it due to lack of customers.

He said Mbeya city council planning officers are the ones supposed to advise the councilors

on how to improve the market but so far they have not taken any effort, thus denying the government its revenues.

"If you cannot implement my directives within the given time I will come up with my own decisions as all of you are under my authority," Homera added.

He also threatened to transfer the officials from the Mbeya city council and bring in others to do the work. He called upon government officials, especially heads of council's departments to make sure they implement their responsibilities in accordance with the law to attain the government's aims to serve the people.

Mbeya City Mayor, Dormohamed Issa said traders have been shunning some sections of the Mwanjelwa market especially upper stores because

most of the customers prefer doing their purchases at ground floors. He said the situation has made the council to change the use of the upper storey areas to become a conference hall to be rented to earn revenue to enable the repayment of the bank loan.

He said in the past they constructed stall around the market but the former Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila ordered their removal on claims that they were spoiling the market's appearance.

He added that as for now they were also thinking of restoring the stalls for rent especially to small traders. He also added that in recent years they have been receiving clean certificates from the CAG, but the market's construction has stained the good financial performance due to the unpaid bank loan.



Taabu Machumu, special seats councillor for Makojo ward in Musoma Rural constituency, inspects a Lake Victoria water project being implemented by the National Water Fund and meant to benefit Makojo and Chitare villages. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EABC gets new executive director

By Guardian Reporter

THE Board of Directors of the East African Business Council (EABC) has appointed, John Bosco Kalisa as the new Executive Director of the EABC - the apex body of private sector associations and corporates in the East African Community (EAC).

Prior to this appointment, John Bosco Kalisa served as the Country Director of South Sudan for TradeMark East Africa (TMEA).

Kalisa brings a wealth of experience in promoting private sector development and competitiveness in the East African region, having spent over 20 years in various roles championing the business community involvement in the EAC region integration agenda.

The new EABC CEO, Kalisa is an economist by profession with extensive experience in research

and analysis and private sector development matters. He has an in-depth understanding of the international, continental and regional trade agreements. He is an expert in taxation, commerce, international trade policy & law and economics having studied at leading universities in Pretoria, South Africa and Kigali, Rwanda.

Kalisa has extensive knowledge in global trade negotiations and deep networks with international development partners including USAID, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) African Development Bank and World Bank, Trademark East Africa, among others.

He also has a good rapport and network with the government and industry captains in East Africa and beyond having previously worked with the Rwanda Private

Sector Federation (PSF-Rwanda) and Rwanda Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

Kalisa brings on board rich experience and knowledge vital to steer the East Africa private sector agenda to higher heights in a bid to drive socio-economic resilience and growth in EAC region. As the new Executive Director, he will lead the EABC Secretariat team to implement the strategic plan in close collaboration with EABC National Focal Points, members and the business community at large and in close partnership with East African Community Secretariat Organs and Institutions.

He will also spearhead resource mobilisation and high-level advocacy at the Heads of State and Ministerial level to push forward the EABC's purpose and vision of a borderless East Africa for increased business and

Stakeholders pledge support to govt's industrialisation agenda

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Development Partners Agriculture Working Group (A-WG) has hailed the vision of the Agricultural sector in the country pledging long-term support in joint efforts to complement the government's ambitious industrialisation agenda.

The kudos were given by USAID Deputy Office Director-Economic Growth Office, Andrew Read, after holding a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenda and his deputy Hussein Bashe, who briefed him on various initiatives that the government was taking in improving the sector in the country.

We have had a great discussion with the government of Tanzania, as the minister told us the vision of his government and as development partners we will

continue with our endless support to industrialise the agricultural sector in Tanzania," he noted.

A-WG is a group of nineteen (19) bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies supporting the agriculture sector in Tanzania.

The A-WG was established to promote coherence and consistency in development assistance to agriculture through coordination of Development Partner's support in the sector with a view of achieving harmonisation, promoting coordinated policy dialogue and reducing transaction costs.

Specifically, the A-WG supports the government of Tanzania's implementation of the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) in achieving objectives stipulated in the second generation National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGPR II), also Known by its

Swahili acronym as MKUKUTA II and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

These efforts are mainly funded through general budget support, the agriculture basket fund and projects including technical assistance.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Prof Mkenda said during the discussions, the government outlined some of key projects that it was undertaking to improve agriculture in the country, among them, agricultural seedling research ongoing robust irrigation schemes and veterinary services.

Prof Mkenda said the government was providing veterinary services in Dodoma, Singida and Simiyu.

The minister further added that the government had yet another plan to produce sunflower countrywide in efforts to have enough edible oil in the country.

Society's acts of violence and abuse towards children, a recipe for disaster

By Henry Mazunda

The real measure of a virtuous, flourishing and progressive society is how it protects its children from any form of harm; empowering and guiding them to achieve their aspirations through strong and healthy social settings, effective governance structures and laws.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "The true character of society is revealed in how it treats its children. Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country and one of our basic responsibilities is to care for them in the best and most compassionate manner possible."

But my heart bleeds when I witness social and gender norms in our communities that have gradually created a climate in which violence is normalized. Today, our society is characterized by broken marriages, incoherent social ties, absent or inadequate social protection initiatives, settings with weak governance systems and poor law enforcement - giving room to rapid escalating acts of abuse and violence against the very children we must protect.

The media has been awash with unspeakable acts of violence and abuse that children are subjected to at the hands of their parents, caregivers, relatives, neighbours and teachers. Children have been experiencing increased cases of rape, molestation, neglect and torture. However, the cases we hear about in the media are just but a small fraction as many of such cases go unreported, mostly due to unjustified reasons.

I have a vivid memory of an incident that happened in Mwanza earlier this year in which, in the name of disciplining his 15-year-old child, a father beat his child unconscious and broke his hand. As this was not enough, the parents didn't even bother to seek medical attention for their wounded son. It was until the following day while at school that teachers noticed the poor state the child was in and decided to intervene in the matter by alerting the police.

One of the teachers who spoke on condition of anonymity said for some time, the child had started showing signs of sadness and anxiety which led to a significant decline in his performance at school.

"On this particular day, the boy looked in bad shape and he couldn't write due to excruciating pain on his right hand which was badly wounded. I invited him to my office and I was so perplexed to hear the ordeal that the boy was going through at home. He even showed me other deep scars on his body that were inflicted on him by both his biological mother and father as part of disciplinary measures on some normal naughty behaviours expected of children especially in their teens", he said.



Street-connected children interacting with Bongo Movie Stars

Face to face interviews that I had with a number of people within this family's neighborhood revealed that incidents of this nature were not uncommon in their vicinity.

It followed that the police through the Police Gender and Children's desk acted swiftly and summoned the boy's parents to Ilmela Police station. But, you will be greatly dumbfounded, as I was, to hear that the sin that the poor little child had committed to deserve this barbaric 'sentence' was bedwetting.

And the last time I checked, bedwetting, also known as nighttime incontinence or nocturnal enuresis is involuntary passing out of urine while one is asleep. This is a medical condition which can be a symptom of bladder control problems, overactive bladder or more severe structural issues, like enlarged prostate or bladder cancer.

It therefore doesn't need one to study rocket science to understand that medical problems require medical solutions, therefore no amount of beating or any other form of punishment would cure bedwetting.

The police mobilized key stakeholders on child protection matters such as officers from the social welfare department, a teacher from the boy's school and representatives from Railway Children Africa, a national charity that fights for street children, to help in resolving this matter.

Meanwhile, the boy had refused to return home and was at the verge of starting a new life on the streets.

"It is our aim to ensure that where possible, we intervene on matters of this nature early enough

before the children run away from their homes and get entrenched into street life, where they suffer more abuse and violence. I am happy that we worked with all relevant stakeholders and eventually resolved to take the boy to Musoma to live with his grandparents", said Menyaich Mlay, a Social Worker at Railway Children Africa who was privy to this matter.

Mlay added that "This was in the best interest of the boy himself and the parents as well as the grandparents mutually agreed to this arrangement"

But what is most intriguing and bewildering is the fact that most of criminal acts like this are often swept under the carpet, hence go unreported and the perpetrators go scot-free.

Another incident happened in Morogoro to Khadija Shaban who was raped multiple times by her stepfather. Although this later became common knowledge to Khadija's biological mother and the neighbours, they chose to turn a blind eye to the felony and act as if nothing abnormal had happened.

These are just but a fraction of hundreds if not thousands of incidences that children are subjected to across the country, every passing day.

Violence has lifelong impact on the health and wellbeing of children, families, communities and nations. Among others, violence against children can result in negative coping and health risk behaviors. Children exposed to violence and other adversities are substantially more likely to indulge in drug and alcohol abuse as well as engage in high risk sexual behaviour. They also

have higher rates of anxiety, depression and other mental health problems.

Evidence shows that when these acts of abuse and violence reach unbearable proportions, children resort to hazardous coping measures such as running away from home to live on the streets.

"Our work focuses on vulnerable children who live alone and at risk on the streets. They find themselves living there because there's nowhere else to go and nobody to turn to. However, the challenges they face while on the streets are often severalfold worse than those they endured at home", said Mussa Mgata, Executive Director at Railway Children Africa.

"If nothing happens, I'm afraid, we're creating a generation of disenfranchised youth who will likely sabotage the current developmental strides we are making as a country", he said.

The continued presence of children sleeping in the streets, reduced to begging to make a living, is a testimony that there is still a lot of work to be done to arrest the situation. However, protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation is everybody's responsibility. Families, communities, the government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) need to work together if we are to ensure that child protection is not just mere rhetoric but effectively implemented and sustained at all governance levels.

Citizens can participate in child protection efforts through their community-based child protection structures that exist to prevent and

respond to abuses and violence against children. These structures have a particular significant role of awareness raising and community mobilization on child's rights.

These community based initiatives can ensure that the issue of child protection is visible, and that children and families know where they can go for help if they experience or become aware of any form of abuse or violence.

The Law of the Child Act of 2009 provides for reform and consolidation of laws relating to children, to stipulate rights of the child and to promote, protect and maintain the welfare of a child with a view to giving effect to international and regional conventions on the rights of the child.

It also provides for affiliation, foster care, adoption and custody of the child; to further regulate employment, apprenticeship; to make provisions with respect to a child in conflict with the law and to provide for related matters.

Of course, it is crystal clear that the purpose of the Law of the Child Act was to ensure adequate protection of children against any form of abuse and violence. However, the continued presence of gruesome acts of abuse and violence against children raises eyebrows as to whether the Law of the Child Act is indeed a watertight remedy to abuse and violence against children.

Wouldn't one therefore be tempted to think, perhaps it's high time that a comprehensive review was conducted on the existing laws to make sure they remain practically relevant in as far as child protection is concerned?





KCB Bank product development manager Esnat Hollela speaks at the launch of a business management book in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Put combine harvesters to gainful use, Mbarali paddy farmers urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

MBARALI District paddy farmers, producers of Africa's best-rated rice, have been urged to put to profitable use 15 combine harvesters recently acquired on loan from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) at a cost of 950m/-. Africa has many species of rice. Mbarali rice tops the list because of its compelling smell.

Speaking to farmers here on the importance of harvesters acquired by Nguvu Kazi ya Wanava Cooperative Society, TADB Board Chairman Ishmael Kasekwa, said the harvesters have not landed in Mbarali by accident but by design and on merit because, he explained, Mbarali paddy is well-known in Africa's cereal research community. The machines were presented by the Minister for Agriculture, Prof Adolf Mkenda.

"Your cooperative is blazing the way in modern paddy growing in the district and in Mbeya Region as whole. Harvesting has to be modernised to generate world-class grain product and eliminate post-harvest losses. So please put these modern harvesters to gainful use to increase profitability in what you are going so that rice produced here remains popular in Tanzania

and beyond our borders," the chairman counselled.

Mbarali has 69,333 households; 54,144 of those or 78.0 percent are engaged in agriculture and 72.1 of Mbarali rural residents are farmers, primarily paddy farmers, according to the 2012 census.

Rice is the second staple food, after maize in Tanzania. Mbeya rice is popular especially on the external market because



These machines have benefited directly 5,800 farmers in Katavi, Manyara, Coast, Kagera, Mwanza, Iringa, Rukwa, Songwe, Njombe, Tanga Regions and enterprising farmers in Zanzibar

of its compelling scent and deliciousness. The government is pushing for increased production of the crop in southern highlands regions and Morogoro regions because they have temperate weather conditions. Paddy is also grown in parts of the Lake Victoria zone.

"We have our eyes on your paddy farms and the machines you acquired recently because we want to solve past challenges," the chairman said. Kasekwa was recently appointed TADB Board Chairman by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

During the presentation of the machines some two weeks back, the TADB Managing Director, Mr Japhet Justine, reported that in implementing government stand on paddy growing the bank has so far loaned 19 combine harvesters to farmers, 15 harvesters going to Mbarali farmers.

He reported that between 2017 and this month 12bn/- have been loaned to farmers to buy modern farm machines, explaining that 8.3bn/- have been spent on securing 123 farm machines: 90 tractors, 19 combine harvesters, planters and ploughs.

"These machines have benefited directly 5,800 farmers in Katavi, Manyara, Coast, Kagera, Mwanza, Iringa, Rukwa, Songwe, Njombe, Tanga Regions and enterprising farmers in Zanzibar," he reported.

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

Entrepreneurs urged to step up reading culture

INDUSTRIES and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo has urged startup companies and those in business to inculcate a culture of reading books to explore entrepreneurship and financial management skills to scale up their personal economic development.

He made the call in Dar es Salaam during the weekend when speaking at the official launch of a Business and Financial Management Book authored by Dr Freddy Msemwa, who is managing director of Watumishi Housing.

The minister said the book is aimed at empowering young people in the country to become gainfully self-employed rather than sitting back and waiting to be employed by an organisation or institution.

According to him, people in the industry need to read the Business and Financial Management book as well so that they can know the importance of observing financial discipline and be able to add value to their business or activities that they are doing.

"We need young people and businessmen to equip themselves with knowledge and skills by focusing more on improving their personal economic development which will lead to contributing to national economic development," he said.

He further said that many people in the country start their businesses without reading and hence find themselves facing a deficit and start complaining while if they could have invested in reading before starting any business they would be able to know which to embrace the dos and don'ts of the business they want to start.

CRDB Bank Managing Director AbdulMajid Nsekela said: "It's satisfying to see the number of people in the country applying for business loans in the banking sector.

"Many people who come for loan applications have no knowledge of financial management education however

they can now be able to read the books on finance which have been written in Kiswahili and understand the concept before deciding which business to take and CRDB is there to assist them with loans."

The author of the book, Dr Msemwa, said the book has 163 pages which are written in Kiswahili so that every countryman is able to read and understand before venturing into any business.

"Businessmen should make it a habit of reading books regarding the kind of the business that you want to start so that you're sure you're going in the right direction and not regret later of getting losses because you didn't know the basics," he said.

Dr Msemwa also asked the government to use the book as part of the textbooks in schools in order to give change to young pupils in the country to understand business ideologies at an early stage.

Government plans to bring development stakeholders activities under single roof

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Agriculture Ministry expects to come up with a strategic plan to combine development stakeholders' activities from foreign embassies and international organizations engaged in development projects in the country.

Speaking here recently, Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said the aim is to strengthen the farming sector to become profitable in the country through research, production of adequate seeds and extension services.

Prof Mkenda said another priority is the issue of irrigation, finding markets and how to access to funds to run the agriculture sector. "I have spent a lot of time to explain this in order to ensure that all efforts towards the agriculture sector are being directed in realizing positive results," he added.

However, he said as for now there are great efforts

being taken in the country that the ministry is not aware of.

"You will hear there is one foreign mission engaged in an issue in Singida, the Americans are in Arusha or Canadians in Dodoma, hence as the ministry we need to know what these people are doing.

He said the ministry has begun with extension services in Dodoma, Singida and Simiyu Regions in regard to sunflower cultivation.

"Regarding sunflower cultivation we have discussed how to obtain quality seeds and to bring together farmers to use technology," he said.

He said he had already spoken to the World Food Programme (WFP) to join efforts in locating areas to commit ourselves in order to bring positive results.

USAI Director for Economic Growth, Andrew Read said they agree on how the agriculture sector was being conducted in the country and were ready to offer cooperation to realize achievements.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SCANNING AND INDEXING SOFTWARE FOR SHAREPOINT BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring the service of Supply and Installation of scanning and indexing Software for SharePoint and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01154	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SCANNING AND INDEXING SOFTWARE FOR SHAREPOINT

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.7%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.7%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.7%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01154)	75%
Software must be capable of document scanning and importing; forms, processing; data capture; OCR/ICR ; data extraction and the ability to migrate the information into a Share point document repository	50
Software supplied needs to be an AGA "on-Premise" solution (license and maintenance costs to be supplied)	10
Software must be easily configurable to meet AGA's Metadata and numbering conventions	15
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the **GGML** Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **0830 A.M 9th JULY 2021** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

NGO budget, expenditure advisories must be realistic

A NEW report has brought both relief and consternation among nutritional sector experts, or perhaps those trying to understand what non-governmental organizations in that field are saying about current government expenditure in relation to child nutrition. An NGO report covering the past year for the east and southern Africa region praises Tanzania on one part, and admonishes it on another aspect, while the two sentiments are tied together by precisely the same sets of data. Is it a case of 'Butterfield sober' writing the first appraisal that Tanzania did well in that direction, and 'Butterfield drunk' denying it?

The first and definitely praiseworthy aspect said that regarding expenditure on nutrition, Tanzania was trailing Rwanda (IIPC) in the region, but only these two countries had crossed the three per cent of total budgetary expenditure for nutritional issues. The NGO report did not limit its focus on this second place in the regional listing, but laid emphasis on the funding gap compared to World Bank recommendations, where the current expenditure level could be described as awful. Is 4.8 pc of budget funds awfully small?

This snag in appraisal comes from the fact that the report shifts from evaluating percentages of budgetary allocations to hard funding, what it sets out as per capita nutritional allocation per child, especially those under the age of five years. This is the source of the disparity in appraisal of government performance, as in this context the NGO digs for hard allocation levels, saying that "this expenditure is around 0.6percent of the World Bank's recommended expenditure levels of \$8.5 per child," and implicitly the government needs to dig up that kind of sum, in per capita terms, in

its nutrition programme - nearly half the budget!

It is this kind of advisories that the late Dr John Magufuli used to trash in harsh terms, as NGOs have often cultivated an attitude that what they say is the most reasoned argument one can find, and definitely it isn't the case here. They aren't saying we double the amounts we allocate but multiply it tenfold, to start with, as that would come to slightly above half of what is demanded - much as in any case the NGO may have been targeting the development partners to dig deeper - far deeper than anyone can reasonably expect - to fund nutritional programmes in Tanzania. Even without a corona pandemic, it wouldn't come to fruition, as this appraisal suffers from sectoral megalomania, that it's just all there is that's worth doing.

The budgetary allocation for nutrition-related expenditure in the 2015/16 budget stood at 4.8percent of the total estimates, representing a 19percent increase from 2014/15 fiscal year allocation, the report noted.

Actual expenditure for under-five nutrition grew by a modest five percent overall for the period, mostly as a result of a 12-percent increase in central government spending on nutrition. That ought to have been taken as satisfactory, as the background is the government multiplying by eight its allocations for health compared to previous years, which the NGO skips to dwell singularly on nutritional performance per se.

In that sense the suggestion to establish a financing mechanism for nutrition lacks merit, nor is blanket rejection of budget allocation priorities because of nutrition a convincing presentation. NGOs ought to do more homework on workable evaluations and practicable recommendations to make their work relevant to budgetary precision as such.

Engaging private sector in EAC will enhance regional integration

THE private sector is the part of the economy, sometimes referred to as the citizen sector, which is owned by private groups, usually as a means of enterprise for profit, rather than being owned by the state.

The private sector employs most of the workforce in some countries. In private sector, activities are guided by the motive to earn money.

A 2013 study by the International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group) identified that 90 per cent of jobs in developing countries are in the private sector.

In free enterprise countries, such as the United States of America, the private sector is wider, and the state places fewer constraints on firms. In countries with more government authority, such as China, the public sector makes up most of the economy.

States legally regulate the private sector. Businesses operating within a country must comply with the laws in that country.

In some cases, usually involving multinational corporations that can pick and choose their suppliers and locations based on their perception of the regulatory environment, local state regulations have resulted in uneven practices within one company. For example, workers in one country may benefit from strong labour unions, while workers in another country have very weak laws supporting labour unions, even though they work

for the same employer. In some cases, industries and individual businesses choose to self-regulate by applying higher standards for dealing with their workers, customers, or the environment than the minimum that is legally required of them.

There can be negative effects from the private sector. In the early 1980s, the Corrections Corporation of America pioneered the idea of running prisons for a profit. Today, corporate-run prisons hold eight per cent of America's inmates. Since it is from the private sector, their main priority isn't rehabilitation, but profit. This has resulted in many human rights violations across the United States.

Uganda has reaffirmed its commitment towards the East African Community (EAC) integration and urged the Secretary General to revitalise the Community's strategies by engaging more with the private sector and other stakeholders to enhance integration.

Uganda's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Richard Kabonero expressed his country's commitment recently in Arusha when he paid a courtesy call to the Secretary General of EAC Dr Peter Mathuki. The Secretary General and envoy discussed a wide range of issues geared at moving forward regional integration in East Africa. The Ugandan envoy was emphatic that the EAC was making remarkable and irreversible progress on the integration agenda.

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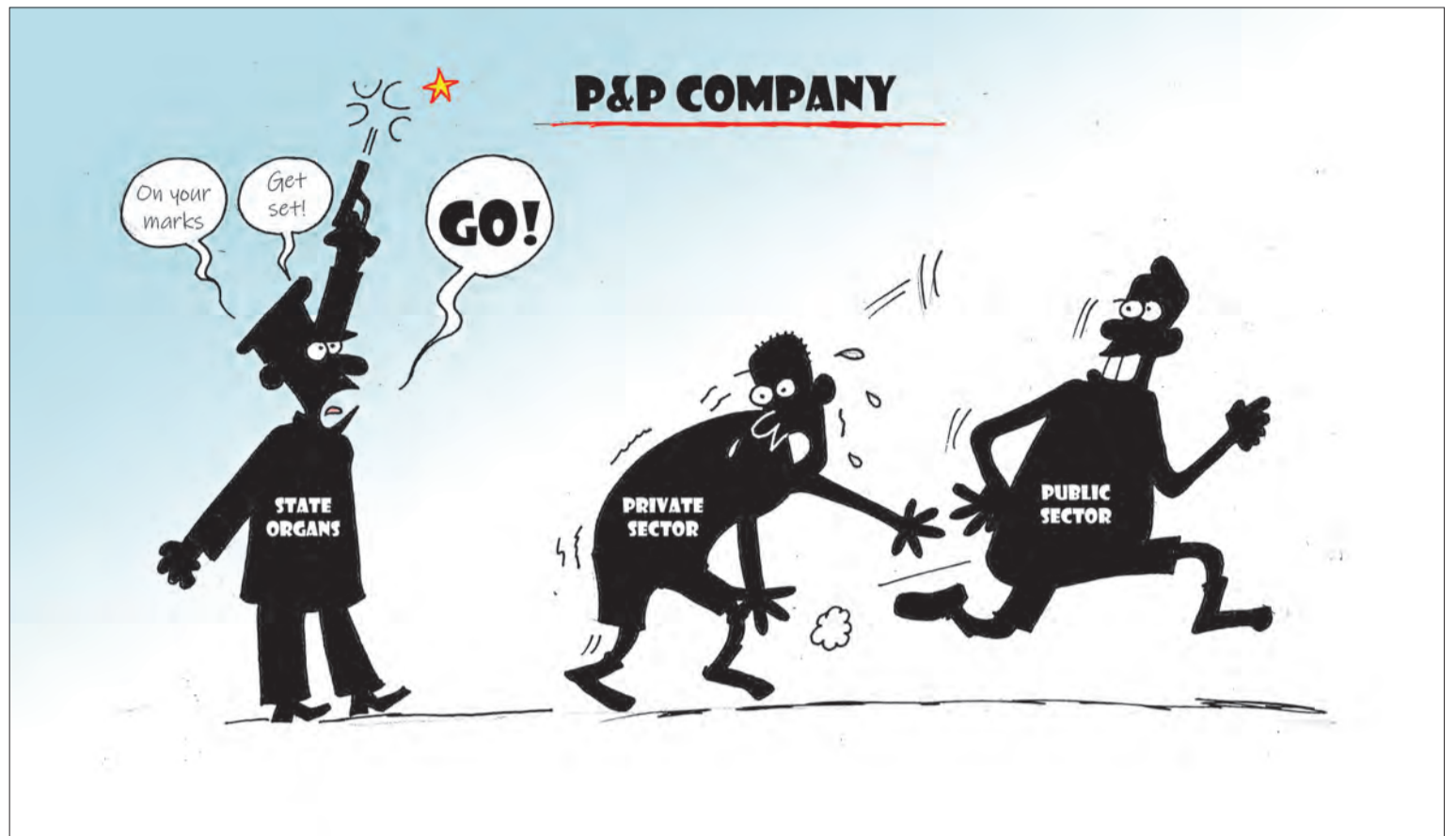
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Obituaries are important, worth rethinking and reviving -Part II

SEVEN: Ask for quirks. I can't, in 700 to 1,000 words, offer an accounting of a person's life or character. I also don't need to add polish to the tarnished picture of who a person was comes from asking about their quirks - or peculiarity.

This helped me understand how particular a university math professor was - his wife sewed an extra button into his dress shirts so that they would close completely at the neck.

It showed the character of a man with no family - he worried about paying his bills and kept a jar of peanut butter on his nightstand. And it showed how a pastor thought through everyday life - when something struck him he would declare "that'll preach!"

People often share silly quirks but sometimes they offer more revealing ones, like what a demanding diva the queen of dinner theatre could be.

Eight: Use more photos, write better headlines. Early on, we missed a real opportunity to attract digital audiences by only having one photo and weak headlines. We corrected that after a few months, and the difference in traffic shows it.

I now ask families for as many photos as they're willing to share and often combine them into collages in the stories. I also try to workshop headlines in a dedicated Times Slack channel, and they always turn out better than what I come up with. We've found that names don't perform well in headlines, but cities, businesses and neighbourhoods do.

We took the word "Epilogue" out of our headlines. It's a print brand that doesn't mean anything to people scrolling on Facebook, Instagram or Google. And we've learned to use the headline as a place for news and a promise.

Submitted photos and strong headlines don't change the heart of these stories. But they do give them a way better chance of getting read.

Nine: Use the captions well. There are often details people want me to know that aren't going to make the story: Where a person was born, the awards they received, even quotes I can't fit in. I've learned to use the photo captions as a place to put some of what would otherwise not make

the story.

Ten: Fact-check. This is something I promise upfront to the family members and friends I talk to. With one person for each obit, I will go over every detail I've learned and make sure the person they know is recognizable.

I don't read it to them or send them a copy. And I'm not there to erase flaws or boost virtue. But I do check both details and context. This takes me ten minutes and ensures there are no surprises.

I want to get an accurate sketch of a person and his or her life. Through that process, I've tweaked a word here or there but never had to make any substantial changes. I hope I've also built trust with that person and family.

This is also the right time to make sure you're using the language people want: Is it OK to switch between her drag name and his birth name depending on context? Is there an accent mark?

Now is the time to get the details right.

Eleven: Make space for feelings. Death can bring up a lot of complicated feelings for people. I've learned to expect that, to make space for slow interviews, fuzzy memories and frequent breakdowns.

When interviewing siblings, I often ask if there will be issues from me not talking to each sibling or at least naming them. Some people don't care. Some really do. With combined families, I request photos that include all the children and stepchildren.

A question I sometimes ask is: "Who am I going to get an angry call from the day after this runs?" And when I hear something about a subject from one person, I run it by the other people I talk to.

This work is a bit like being a police sketch artist, drawing from someone else's memory and emotion - and I'm aiming to make a person recognizable.

Twelve: Work with the social team. I'm at a small disadvantage because I don't work full time at the Times, but I've started to learn how they work best and it's made a huge difference in how the stories perform. The advice here is to learn how your team works - and work with it. These stories need an audience.

Thirteen: Stay in touch. After a story runs, I always send a link and the electronic edition to anyone

I spoke with. For key family members, I also ask them to let me know if I made any errors and that I will correct them.

The benefit here is that it's the right and decent thing to do, and also that it puts a value on relationships over transactions.

On death anniversaries, I've heard back from families grateful for the care we took. That relationship led to one follow-up story that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

Fourteen: Use your work as a calling card. When I cold-call someone, I offer sympathy for his or her loss, explain how the process works, and then often offer to email him or her links to other stories I've done. That always opens doors for people who are hesitant.

Lessons from launching an obits newsletter

An obits newsletter is depressing, right? I hear that sometimes - but I find this newsletter really a place to connect, remember what we have in common, reflect on our own lives and learn about other people.

The newsletter was part of the pitch for my fellowship. The idea: Use a weekly newsletter to share stories behind the obits, link to snippets from paid and local obits, and build new audiences.

We launched How They Lived in early December 2020. It comes out on Tuesdays, one day after the obits run online. It has 689 subscribers, and a 42 per cent open rate. At least one of those subscribers writes me back every other week.

The format is pretty simple and short, and that means that it's not time consuming for me, editors or subscribers.

Each week I share something from a recent reported obit - a backstory, how I found it, how it connects with similar stories.

I've shared subscriber stories, including the couple who spent years collecting euphemisms for "died", drawn from the archives, dug into my family's old obits and detailed what I learned when I called a local funeral home about their pet obits.

I've looked for reporters who'd be perfect for this little community. So far that's included the reporter whose work has uncovered lost Black cemeteries, a reporter and editor who spoke with people who had lost loved

ones, and the humour columnist who got her start writing feature obits. I also used the newsletter to rewrite the obits of two women who deserved better.

Connecting with our community

A critical piece of finding the voice and purpose of this newsletter came from an unexpected place - an advertising agency, AdZou, run by students at the University of Missouri. I extended my fellowship to work with them as a client.

They conducted quantitative research through a survey that reached 334 people in 16 states. They also held one-on-one interviews.

Here's what they shared with me: "We are talking to consumers who are ageless characters that want to feel a common bond with the people in their community. They seek any chance they can get, may that be the news they consume, in the communities they live in or any meaningful experience to them."

The target audience the class identified: "Multidimensional connection seekers." They presented a marketing plan to me last month, and it puts into three words what the newsletter and feature obits have the power to do: Community, Unity, You.

Obits have the power to remind us of our communities, of what we have in common and what we're doing with our own lives. Local newsrooms still have that opportunity, too.

I plan to continue this experiment and hope to grow the newsletter. Want to try it for yourself? I've already heard from one newsroom that has launched its own obits newsletter.

If any part of this work is something you're interested in experimenting with, please reach out. This is journalism that local newsrooms can and should be doing.

"I don't read the obits to find out how they died," one person told students at a university, getting right to the heart of this work, adding: "I read the obits to find out how they lived."

This is the second and final part of a piece by Kristen Hare, an editor with the Poynter Institute - a US-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organisation. We ran the first part in Friday's (June 18) issue. - Editor.

Three million in three years: Jamaica's tree-planting to tackle climate change

KINGSTON

BY the time he is finished, Dr. Satyanarayana Parvataneni expects he will be responsible for planting over 200,000 tree seedlings in Jamaica. It is an effort driven by a desire to preserve the planet for the next generation, as well as the one of the largest contributions to date to a national effort to plant three million trees in three years.

"I am 77, I am retired, and it is good to do something that is nice and unselfish," Dr. Parvataneni told IPS News in a telephone interview from his home in Portland, a green and lush rainy parish on the north coast of Jamaica. The medical doctor said he and workers he employs have planted mainly timber trees on the 450 acres of land he owns. He has received support from the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, through its Forestry Department in the way of seedling bags and technical expertise. "Inherently it helps a lot of things," he said of the many trees he has planted.

The country's tree-planting initiative was announced by Prime Minister Andrew Holness in 2019, and to date, over 600,000 seedlings have been deposited in the ground. This effort is necessary, according to Jerome Smith, principal director, forest operations division with the government's Forestry Department, because of climate change.

"The main reason for planting the trees was to assist with climate change mitigation and adaptation," Smith said. "Persons are very enthusiastic, and we are getting a lot of support," he said, adding that despite a lull in activity caused by COVID, the government is still confident it can meet the goal of three million trees planted by 2022.

Jamaica has been touted as a global leader when it comes to establishing climate change adapta-

tion and mitigation measures, but the small island developing state also struggles to balance economic development like building resorts with prioritizing the protection of the environment.

Jamaica was one of the first countries to submit a second set of stronger "nationally determined contributions" (NDC) for the Paris climate accord. These include a commitment to reduce emissions from business as usual level by 25%, less reliance on heavy fossil fuels and more on green energy, retrofitting buildings, more efficient water usage, and the tree-planting initiative.

Over the past few decades, the country's original, old forests have declined for a variety of reasons, among them, development, a phenomenon not unique to Jamaica.

The country of almost three million people ranks near the top in terms of forest cover, but it has in fact decreased in the recent past, Smith said.

"While even though persons on the outside may say Jamaica is well covered, we do realize that the impact of climate change and the impact of development on forests as it relates to sustainable development does come at a cost of the environment," he said. A survey taken in 2012 shows that forest cover has increased from 30% to 40% since the 90s (mainly due to reforestation efforts and land formerly used for sugar cane production now used for tree planting). However, Smith said that if measured by "primary" forest cover (original forests that have not been replanted), that has actually decreased, according to satellite imagery. In keeping with its NDCs, the government has adopted a "no net loss" policy, which means any trees lost must be replaced, said Smith, adding "no net loss sounds good, but there is still an implication for degradation" of the environment.

Jamaica's circumstances are not unique in the region. A 2020 study



Anna-Kay Brooks, a forest technician with the Forestry Department, shows some of the seedlings cultivated for future growth.

from the Inter-American Development Bank shows that in the Latin American and Caribbean region, between 2015 and 2020, South American lost three million hectares of forest per year (Figures for the Caribbean are difficult to determine as many countries have not conducted recent forest surveys). And an estimated 240 million hectares of tropical forests in the LAC is in a state of degradation, the report also notes.

And although the report says that deforestation rates have slowed over the past 15 years, it is still a tragic loss, given the benefits of forest cover. The LAC region contains a third of the world's forests, half being tropical forests and a quarter being mangroves. (In Jamaica alone, another report found that over the past two decades, 770 hectares of coastal mangroves have been lost, mostly to development.)

This means the region, and the global ecosystem, is deprived of the

many benefits of tree cover, including the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, protection from major storms, moderation of temperature, circulation of moisture and the provision of habitats for wildlife, as well as economic and cultural goods and services.

Jamaica's initiative aims to plant three million trees, roughly to match the population of the country. Given that 75% of the country's forests are on private land, the public will have to buy into the project. Another challenge is the Forestry Department's lack of budget for the initiative. What it does possess, however, is some private and public sector support, four nurseries to provide the seedlings, as well as the technical expertise to assist people who are planting trees.

The private and non-profit sectors have both come on board with promises to plant hundreds of thousands of trees, and partnerships with schools and community groups are in place to fortify the efforts, said Smith. The trees are mainly ornamental and timber species, and are being planted in a wide range of areas, including schools, communities and parks.

Professor Rosalea Hamilton, CEO of the Lasco Chin Foundation, is collaborating with the Forestry Department to champion a region-wide tree-planting initiative. Dubbed the Caribbean Tree Planting Project (through the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance), it aims to build awareness of climate change through the planting of one million trees and other climate actions. The Alliance's 19 country members have planted over a million trees to date across the region.

"The reason we took this on is we feel that this is a way every single citizen can contribute to this problem. We are also concerned about broader social and economic development issues. We want to not just plant trees, but also address employment, address livelihood

challenges, and we are all the more committed after COVID," Hamilton said. The Alliance points to tree-planting as a partial means to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a 2018 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendation to plant 1 billion hectares of forest to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C by 2050.

"Across the region, we are concerned about the rate of deforestation, that it is outpacing our replanting efforts," Hamilton said. To address this, authorities must avoid a top-down approach to governance, she added. "The voices of these people who are most affected will not be heard. We get a development initiative that is devoid of and not adequately representing the will of the people. It is very complex, because many persons want jobs and income, so if government says 'We are going to do this initiative, and jobs are being promised', a lot of people will support that."

Eleanor Terrelonge, a PhD student in molecular biology at the University of the West Indies and director for the Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council, said that while Jamaica's tree planting initiative is a positive step, she has doubts that it is sufficient.

"The government is saying all the right things when it comes to climate change, but I'm not sure all of those are translating in to action. Yes, it is a good initiative, but if the government is rapidly deforesting our existing forests, it is kind of counter-productive on a whole. We have a lot of tech expertise in Jamaica, but I don't know if there is enough political will," Terrelonge also wondered whether there will be adequate maintenance for the trees now being planted. "I think it is a good initiative, but it won't solve the problem if we won't be able to offset the trees we are cutting down."

IPS

African Americans celebrate Juneteenth as federal holiday, urging more to be done

NEW YORK

LIKE many other places across the United States, hundreds of jubilant African Americans gathered on Saturday on the green ground of Roy Wilkins Park in Queens of New York City to celebrate June Nineteenth (Juneteenth) as a federal holiday in the country for the first time.

Though New York State has recognised Juneteenth as a state holiday in 2020, many people came to this kind of community event for the first time. On the ground that could easily handle over a thousand people, the scattering crowd and the humid summer day did not hold back the joy and smile on African Americans' faces. The main stage at one end of the ground accommodated a large group of people with traditional music, dances, rap songs, drama and other live performances.

Participants could also join interactive activities like Yoga, art party, African dance class, bingo game, live painting and taking commem-

orative photos. Besides, visitors could find food, children's playground and vendors of beauty supplies, toys, wedding dresses and a few other items. The in-person celebrations, guarded by a number of policemen, followed a week-long virtual series of celebrating activities, involving history of Juneteenth, mental health, town hall meeting with local politicians, thematic songs and history of the Great Migration in the United States, according to flyers of the event.

Collette Phillips, who lives nearby and joined the celebrations with her family members, said Juneteenth is about celebrating African Americans' culture and contribution to the community. It is "just a way for us to all come together, be together like a family, whether or not we know each other," Collette said. "It's a good thing giving us an opportunity to celebrate ... It's definitely good in that

they're finally recognizing the fact that we, as a people, deserve the right to be free and to encourage the land of the free," she said.

Nicholas Ferguson, another participant, said the event is something nice to do with the family, and "it means a lot." U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday signed into law a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the nation. That is a long time coming for African Americans, especially as slavery has been abolished for such a long time, said Donna Hasfal, a local resident. "The holiday's about our victory from slavery. As much as slavery is done, I think it's still here. We experience it every day on the job. Everywhere you go, you know people call your kind of name because you're black," said Hasfal.

Hasfal said she hopes Juneteenth could be recognized by a lot more em-

ployers, so people could take this day off and celebrate it. Meanwhile, Hasfal's son Samuel, who is an 8th grade student, said he hopes the holiday "will help fix the issues that we have today and get us closer to where we want to be with racial and inequalities." "It's a wonderful thing that they decided to make it into a holiday. And this has been awaited for many years," said Samuel.

Collette said making Juneteenth a federal holiday is a step in the right direction, and there is still a lot more that needs to be done in terms of institutional racism and everything else. Though the holiday is nice for people to get together, "there's no real change because we don't have any reform being passed on the federal level," she said.

Collette stressed that the police shall be held accountable for not observing the law, and African Americans shall be treated equally and not to be targeted because of the color of skin. People need to stop killing each other, she added. "We're still waiting for a crime bill to be passed on behalf of black people."

Xinhua



A participant hugs a spectator during an annual celebration of Juneteenth in Evanston, Illinois, the United States, on June 19, 2021.

DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to enter into Purchase Agreements (PAs) for period of 12 months for Construction materials, Households, Stationeries, Agricultural products, Visibilities, CRI's, Asset & Equipment and petroleum products.

The Purchase agreements may result into one or multiple DRC purchase Orders during the period of twelve months (September, 2021 to September, 2022) of the Purchase agreement.

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests the suppliers to submit their prices for the above goods.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 23rd June, 2021 during the working days and hours: 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: 0627423991 or through email jean.kabore@drc.ngo to receive the soft copy by email.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is **6th July, 2021 at 16:00Hrs**

The ITB will be opened on **8th July, 2021 at 10:00 AM** at DRC Kibondo Office, **PO Box 177 Kibondo** by the DRC Tender Opening Committee only due to Covid-19 restrictions and guidance.

You can return your bid form through rfq.tza@drc.ngo OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void

216322801

Sowing water: A Cuban farm's bid for sustainability

HAVANA

CUBAN farmer José Antonio Casimiro found in the age-old technique of sowing water an opportunity to meet his farm's water needs and mitigate the increasingly visible effects of climate change.

For 28 years, Casimiro and his family have been applying sustainable management methods on their 10-hectare farm called Finca del Medio, located in the center of the long narrow island of Cuba, which is just over 1,200 km long from west to east.

In 1993, when Casimiro and his wife, Mileidy Rodríguez, decided to settle permanently with their children on their grandparents' family farm, the place was rundown, with severely eroded soils on rough terrain and without fences.

With the aid of tools born of popular inventiveness, and sheer determination, the family is now self-sufficient in rice, beans, different types of tubers, vegetables, milk, eggs, honey, meat, fish and more than 30 kinds of fruit.

The new generations of the Casimiro-Rodríguez family have also become involved in food production and have managed to turn the farm into

a model for agroecology and permaculture, as well as for education and the teaching of good agricultural and environmental practices.

Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the family farm was visited by tourists taking guided tours where they could interact with the crops and animals, swim in the reservoir, sample organic foods and learn about how a local farm is run.

One of the techniques applied has been water sowing, used for hundreds of years in communities in southern Spain and South America's Andes mountains, in order to reduce rainfall runoff into rivers and seas and preserve part of it for human, agricultural and livestock activities.

"We have adapted the technique to our situation and possibilities. We place as many barriers as possible to retain the water and make it run as little as possible on the surface, so that it seeps into the ground where we want it to," Casimiro explained to IPS via WhatsApp from the Finca del Medio near the town of Siguaney, Taguasco municipality, province of Sancti Spiritus, some 350 km east of Havana.

The strategy includes the construction of low ditches



A woman operates a hand pump to draw water for household chores in the Martha Abreu Basic Production Unit community in the central province of Cienfuegos. Projected increased dry periods in Cuba, due to the climate crisis, calls for stimulating initiatives for greater harvesting of rainfall, as well as encouraging the saving and reuse of water.

and dikes that slow the rate at which water drains into the ground, stimulate its infiltration into the subsoil and channel it into ponds for later recovery.

According to Casimiro, in recent weeks "some 200 mm of rain fell and the water has still not left the farm. We have a small reservoir with a capacity of 54,000 cubic meters of

water and containment barriers that accumulate thousands of cubic meters more that infiltrate slowly into the ground."

He said the infiltrated water does not only benefit his farm.

"A farmer on a neighbouring farm has not had to haul water from distant sources since we started using this technique. His well now has water all year

round," Casimiro said.

At Finca del Medio, part of the rainwater is collected mainly for domestic use, such as washing and cleaning. Using pumping systems powered by solar panels, wind systems and hydraulic rams, the liquid is pumped from the pond to higher elevations. "We have more than 100,000 litres of water in

tanks, ponds and other places, which is channeled using gravity," the farmer said.

Casimiro believes it would be feasible to stimulate initiatives for harvesting more rainwater, as well as to encourage water saving and reuse.

Living with the climate crisis

Climate change is not a minor issue for this country located on the largest island in the Caribbean, whose elongated, narrow shape gives rise to short, low-flow rivers dependent on rainfall, which is more abundant in the May to October wet season, and during the passage of tropical cyclones.

From 2014 to 2017, the country faced the worst drought in 115 years, affecting 70 percent of the national territory.

With average annual rainfall of 1,330 mm, several studies predict that Cuba's climate will tend towards less precipitation, higher temperatures and more intense droughts, and that by 2100 water availability could be reduced by more than 35 percent.

"Drought is one of the climatic extremes we face today and it creates a complex

situation that requires science, monitoring, innovation and evaluation," said Science, Technology and Environment Minister Elba Rosa Pérez during a televised appearance in April 2020.

Several of Cuba's 15 provinces show insufficient rainfall levels, despite being in the middle of the rainy season.

From December to April the rainfall level was only 54 percent of the normal average, which qualifies as a "severely dry" period, explained Antonio Rodríguez, president of the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, on television on May 13.

Filled to around 25 percent of capacity, the dams in the most critical situation are located in the capital, where 2.2 million of the country's 11.2 million inhabitants live, said the official.

"We should take better advantage of rainwater. It is very good water for washing, scrubbing and cleaning. I remember that in my childhood many houses had gutters on the roofs to collect rainwater, store it in tanks and use it later. That has been lost," Asunción Batista, an older resident of the city of Holguín, 685 km east of Havana, told IPS. **IPS**

ON June 22, 1941, exactly 80 years ago, the Nazis, having conquered practically the whole of Europe, attacked the USSR. For the Soviet people the Great Patriotic War - the bloodiest one in the history of our country - began. Tens of millions of people lost their lives, the economic potential of the country and its cultural property were severely damaged.

We are proud of the courage and steadfastness of the heroes of the Red Army and home front workers who not only defended the independence and dignity of our homeland, but also saved Europe and the world from enslavement. Despite attempts to rewrite the pages of the past that are being made today, the truth is that Soviet soldiers came to Germany not to take revenge on the Germans, but with a noble and great mission of liberation. We hold sacred the memory of the heroes who fought against Nazism. We remember with gratitude our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, participants in the Resistance movement, and German anti-fascists who brought our common victory closer.

Having lived through the horrors of the world war, the peoples of Europe were nevertheless able to overcome alienation and restore mutual trust and respect. They set a course for integration in order to draw a final line under the European tragedies of the first half of the last century. And I

would like to emphasize that the historical reconciliation of our people with the Germans living both in the east and the west of modern united Germany played a huge role in the formation of such Europe.

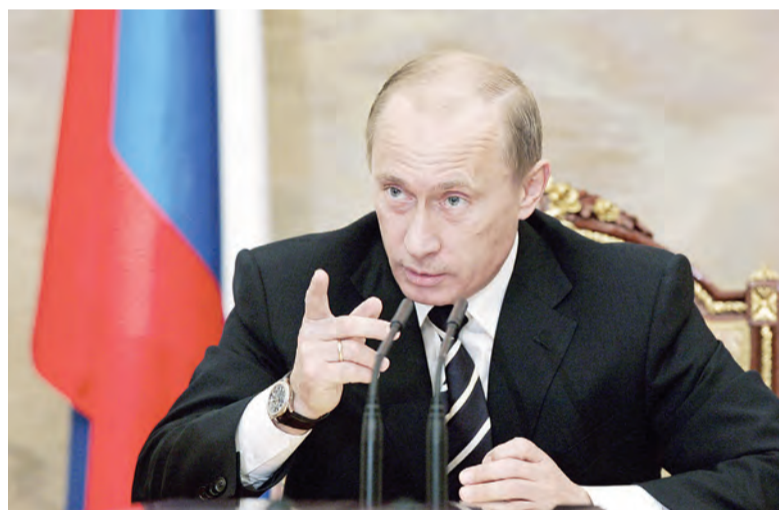
I would also like to remind that it was German entrepreneurs who became "pioneers" of cooperation with our country in the post-war years. In 1970, the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany concluded a "deal of the century" on long-term natural gas supplies to Europe that laid the foundation for constructive interdependence and initiated many future grand projects, including the construction of the Nord Stream gas pipeline.

We hoped that the end of the Cold War would be a common victory for Europe. It seemed that just a little more effort was needed to make Charles de Gaulle's dream of a single continent - not even geographically "from the Atlantic to the Urals", but culturally and civilizationally "from Lisbon to Vladivostok" - become a reality.

It is exactly with this logic in mind - the logic of building a Greater Europe united by common values and interests - that Russia has sought to develop its relations with the Europeans. Both Russia and the EU have done a lot on this path.

But a different approach has prevailed. It was based on the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance which was itself a relic of the

Being open, despite the past



Cold War. After all, it was specifically created for the confrontation of that era.

It was the bloc's movement eastwards - which, by the way, began when the Soviet leadership was actually persuaded to accept the united Germany's accession to NATO - that turned into the main reason for the rapid increase in mutual mistrust in Europe. Verbal promises made in that time such as "this is not directed against you" or "the bloc's borders will not get closer to you" were quickly forgotten. But a precedent was set.

And since 1999, five more "waves" of NATO expansion have followed. Fourteen new countries, including the former Soviet Union republics, joined the

organization, effectively dashing hopes for a continent without dividing lines. Interestingly, this was warned about in the mid-1980s by Egon Bahr, one of the SPD leaders, who proposed a radical restructuring of the entire European security system after German unification, involving both the USSR and the United States. But no one in the USSR, the USA or Europe was willing to listen to him at the time.

Moreover, many countries were put before the artificial choice of being either with the collective West or with Russia. In fact, it was an ultimatum. The Ukrainian tragedy of 2014 is an example of the consequences that this aggressive policy has led to. Europe actively supported the uncon-

stitutional armed coup in Ukraine. This was where it all started. Why was it necessary to do this? Then incumbent president Yanukovich had already accepted all the demands of the opposition. Why did the USA organize the coup and the European countries weakheartedly support it, provoking a split within Ukraine and the withdrawal of Crimea?

The whole system of European security has now degraded significantly. Tensions are rising and the risks of a new arms race are becoming real. We are missing out on the tremendous opportunities that cooperation offers - all the more important now that we are all facing common challenges, such as the pandemic and its dire social and economic consequences.

Why does this happen? And most importantly, what conclusions should we draw together? What lessons of history should we recall? I think, first and foremost, that the entire post-war history of Greater Europe confirms that prosperity and security of our common continent is only possible through the joint efforts of all countries, including Russia. Because Russia is one of the largest countries in Europe. And we are aware of our inseparable cultural and historical connection to Europe.

We are open to honest and constructive interaction. This is confirmed by our idea of creating a common space of cooperation

and security from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean which would comprise various integration formats, including the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union.

I reiterate that Russia is in favour of restoring a comprehensive partnership with Europe. We have many topics of mutual interest. These include security and strategic stability, healthcare and education, digitalization, energy, culture, science and technology, resolution of climate and environmental issues.

The world is a dynamic place, facing new challenges and threats. We simply cannot afford to carry the burden of past misunderstandings, hard feelings, conflicts, and mistakes. It is a burden that will prevent us from concentrating on the challenges at hand. We are convinced that we all should recognize these mistakes and correct them. Our common and indisputable goal is to ensure security on the continent without dividing lines, a common space for equitable cooperation and inclusive development for the prosperity of Europe and the world as a whole.

An article by Russia's President Vladimir Putin (pictured) has been published in the German weekly newspaper Die Zeit and is timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic war.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAYVO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Tomato farming in Babati District seen transforming the lives of majority youth

By Guardian Reporter, Manyara

TOMATO farming in Nangara village, Hara 'A' ward, Babati District, Manyara Region has transformed the lives of majority youth who are now reaping big while also creating employment opportunities for their fellows.

"After embarking into smart tomato farming in 2017, our lives have changed for the better, we are no longer economically dependent," says Leonard Joseph and Reginald Clement, one of the youths who are growing tomatoes and vegetables in the district.

Leonard and Reginald are among the founders and leaders of the Baraka Youth Group, which has been engaging and promoting tomato farming among other youth in the district.

Currently, the group has 9 permanent members with many other temporary workers who joined the group after witnessing their fellow youth making a good profit.

Reginald Clement who is the secretary of the group said that the farming has been benefiting them a lot as in 2019 they accumulated 1.7m/- (\$736) from 1000 seedlings.

Speaking when a team of journalists visited his tomato farm, Reginald said he will continue investing heavily in the crop as it produces positive outcomes. The journalists' trip was organized by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)-Tanzania.

"After realizing good benefits from tomato farming, we decided to increase production to a quarter hectare, we have recently planted 3000 seedlings of tomato. The fifth harvest has created substantial income to members," he said.

According to him, they have been able to collect 3.4m/- (\$1473) as a profit and they are still harvesting tomatoes.

"I would like to encourage other youth in the country to engage in agriculture activities as it provides a lot of opportunity to earn income," he encouraged.

Reginald said after completing his secondary education he failed to continue with high level education due to school fees challenges, therefore he was dependent on his parents on everything.

"After joining the project in 2017 I started a new life, I have become resourceful to my family instead of being dependent, thanks to the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)-Tanzania who introduced the project in the Climate Smart Economic Empowerment (CSEE) in our district," he explained.

Reginald added that, through the profit accumulated from tomatoes



farming he bought a plot with a big house.

"I decided to go into tomato farming after seeing that I am not able to continue with school due to financial problems, I also struggle to get any employment opportunities, I failed, therefore I opted for self-employment," Reginald explained.

Leonard Joseph the chairman and founder of the group said that through the profit accumulated from tomato farming he was able to build a four-room house and bought a one hectare of land to grow bananas and also bought a milk cow.

Joseph said they are still not satisfied with the success as they are now fighting to reach a 90m/- capital for them to do more great results.

According to him, the majority of the youth who were jobless in the street are now doing temporary jobs in the group farm.

Joseph said they have never faced market challenges because NCA through their Business development officer have been connecting them with big buyers.

Nizar Seleman, NCA-Tanzania communication and advocacy officer said; "our focus for the 2020-2024 is to help 18,000 farmers get out of poverty through Climate smart Economic Empowerment (CSEE), at least 21,000 farmers supported with climate smart food

production systems, 3000 new jobs have created for the youth."

She said the CSEE program support youth with entrepreneurship opportunities especially in agribusiness

Members of the Baraka youth group have been engaging in farming activities by using drip irrigation systems while receiving technical support from Agronomists who were employed by NCA-Tanzania.

EU to lift sanctions against Burundi

BUJUMBURA

THE European Union (EU) had started the process of lifting sanctions against Burundi that stops financial

aid to the Burundian government, EU Ambassador to Burundi Claude Bochu has said.

In March 2016, the EU suspended its direct financial support to the Burundian

government following the political crisis sparked by the controversial third term bid of then President Pierre Nkurunziza. At the end of May this year, the EU work-

ing groups unanimously gave the direction to EU judicial institutions to revoke the suspension of the financial aid to the Burundian government, Bochu told a press

briefing after meeting Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye. The move follows positive progress initiated by Ndayishimiye in terms of promoting governance, rule

of law and human rights, he said, adding that the EU is expecting more positive results.

Bochu said that the EU together with other partners like the African Development

Bank are going to finance the rehabilitation of the Port of Bujumbura and its surroundings before the end of this year, contribute funds to the farming sector.

SADC ministers of Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism busy reviewing progress in the implementation of programmes, strategies and projects in region

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) ministers responsible for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism have agreed to develop a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) long-term strategy to strengthen the region's principle of sustainable use of natural resources to combat food insecurity, reduce poverty and increase economic gains.

During their meeting, which was held virtually recently to review progress in the implementation of sectoral programmes, strategies and projects under the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, the ministers also approved the advisory paper on management and disposal of stockpiles of valuable wildlife products and trade options beyond the CITES regime.

The joint conference was attended by ministers and their representatives from Tanzania, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The joint meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Land and Environment, Ivete Maibaze and Minister of Culture and Tourism, Eldevina Materula, both from Mozambique.

The Ministers also approved the SADC Strategy on Forestry 2020-2030, and the guidelines on Regional Forest Information System (RFIS), Forest Fire Management (FFM), and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) to strengthen forest management and conservation, reduce deforestation and forest degradation to minimize the impacts of climate change and ensure sustainable development of the region, with benefits to local communities and na-

tional economies.

The ministers approved the Revised SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to fully align it with the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

They urged member states to use the harmonized continental tool platform in reporting their national determined contributions implementation to comply with the Paris Agreement.

The Ministers approved the action plan and proposed human resources capacity, and resource mobilization strategy to facilitate and fast track the implementation of the SADC Tourism Programme 2020-2030 to boost the regional economic growth which is heavily affected by the impact of COVID-19.

In their efforts to further develop and strengthen the SADC region into a functional and integrated network of Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) where shared natural resources are sustainably co-managed and conserved to foster socio-economic development, and regional integration for the benefit of local communities, and national economies.

The ministers agreed to revise the TFCA programme approved initially in 2013, building on the successes achieved since then, and on the challenges and lessons learned during almost 10 years of remarkable work.

They agreed on the Draft Agreement Amending the Protocol on the Development of Tourism in SADC to take in consideration changes that have happened in the initial regional institutional framework to promote and strengthen the development of regional tourism, including the establishment of the Tourism Coordination Policy and the SADC Secretariat, and the winding up of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA).



They noted the progress in the implementation of the Sub Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (SRAP) and urged Member States to develop their National Action Plans to implement the SADC Great Green Wall Initiative in order to restore and sustainably manage land in the dry land areas of the Region to meet the dual challenge of combating ecosystems degradation, poverty and building resilience to climate change, and conservation of biological diversity.

The Ministers commended the International Cooperating Partners for their continued support in the implementation of regional programmes for strengthening the management and conservation of natural resources, and for development of regional tourism.

SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Thembinkosi

Mhlongo, indicated that sustainable management, conservation and protection of the environment, natural resources, and tourism development are intimately woven into the fabric of the SADC regional development agenda, despite challenges including environmental degradation, climate change impacts, illegal harvesting of natural resources, and under-development of tourism, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

TAILOR-MADE

Bank comes up with 'Fanikisha Machinga' collateral free loans

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

EQUITY Bank Tanzania Limited has introduced targeting petty traders dubbed, 'Fanikisha Machinga' which allows food vendors, street hawkers and other informal businesses get loans without collateral except being members of a groups.

Addressing the petty traders repre-

sentatives from Coast and Dar es Salaam regions, Equity Bank Tanzania's Executive Director Esther Kitoka said the new loan scheme is aimed at enabling the informal businesses grow and graduate into formal enterprises.

Kitoka said informal businesses have been disenfranchised by financial institutions for a long time hence Equity Bank's decision to come up with the new product targeting them so that



Dar es Salaam mayor Omari Kumbilamoto (L) receives a gift from Equity Bank Tanzania Limited's executive director, Esther Kitoka, after opening a sensitisation seminar for small traders who are set to benefit from 'Fanikisha Machinga' loans. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

they can grow and flourish. "To us this marginalized group which lacks collateral to access loans is an important segment that we have decided to serve," she said.

The Equity Bank ED further noted that the informal businesses are an important player in the country's economic growth trajectory hence the bank believes in order to help them graduate into formal enterprises access to financing and technical advice is inevitable. "If this group graduates into the for-

mal sector then government will get taxes but also many youth will be self employed," she underlined.

Seconding her boss, Equity Bank's Business Director, Isabela Maganga said many small businesses in the country will benefit from their new product because the only condition that is applicable is to belong to trade or savings group.

Maganga stated that Dar es Salaam City is estimated to have over 45 markets which host thousands of petty traders and small businesses which

need sensitization on financial matters before giving them loans.

"Markets are important places where everyone must go for shopping and that is the reason behind our bank's decision to target them because they are also better organised groups of petty traders," he said. One of the small food vendors at Ferry Fish Market in the city, Mwasi Abdallah commended the bank for the initiative saying it will help build capacity of small businesses so that they graduate into formal businesses.

"We thank Equity Bank for realizing that we are potential clients despite our lack of collateral," Abdallah said while urging other financial institutions in the country to emulate Equity Bank Tanzania's initiative.



Markets are important places where everyone must go for shopping and that is the reason behind our bank's decision to target them because they are also better organised groups of petty traders

INVESTMENT

'Banks must provide hand sanitiser to 30,000 ATMs'

JOHANNESBURG

IT is now mandatory for local banks to make hand sanitisers available at all 30,000 automated teller machines (ATMs) in South Africa.

This new stipulation was Gazetted on June 17 as part of the changes made to the Disaster Management Act regulations introduced by Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

The new regulation aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 comes despite the banking industry pointing out that providing sanitisers at ATMs is far easier said than done. The Banking Association of SA (Basa) notes that as 70% of the country's 30 000 ATMs are situated in "remote locations and on premises that are not owned by banks, such as petrol-station forecourts, in malls, and in shops in more remote communities", the banks do



Clients draw money from ATMs in Johannesburg.

not have direct control over these machines.

The regulation makes it clear that they have to "take reasonable steps to ensure implementation of these provisions by third parties hosting ATMs ... through appropriate agreements." In a statement released earlier this year, the association said banks have tried to deploy hand sanitiser to remote ATMs, but found this strategy was "unsustainable due to pilferage and vandalism."

The changes to the regulations also require the banks to take "reasonable steps" to ensure that social distancing protocols are observed

by anyone queuing to use an ATM. Here again, Basa says this is a regulation the banks will struggle to implement.

"As there are no bank staff in the vicinity of many remote ATMs it is not practically possible for banks to monitor and enforce social distance queuing at ATMs.

"The placement of social distance markers by banks may also be an issue as these ATMs are not within bank property and are subject to the restrictions of the premise's owner." Basa says banks are taking the following steps to steps to ensure that the spread of Cov-

id-19 is mitigated: Placing social distance markers and messaging to create awareness around ATMs where practical and possible; Cleaning and sanitising of ATMs attached to branches regularly during branch operating hours; and banks will continue to ensure the sanitisation of these ATMs and provide hand sanitisers for customers.

ATMs not attached to branches are cleaned and sanitised by: external cleaning companies or landlords, where they are located; and by the cash-in-transit companies that service the ATMs.

IMPRESSIVE

CMO praises NMB Bank for debuting healthcare club loan scheme in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aifelo Sichwale, has commended NMB Bank Plc for introducing a 'healthcare club' loan scheme which has so far disbursed over 32bn/- to health facilities in the country.

Dr Sichwale said in Dar es Salaam this week while officially launching the scheme which provided medical equipment and accessories to health facilities such as hospitals, operating capital and capital investment to the private sector.

"This scheme has all the blessings of the government which considers NMB Bank as an important partner as it helps medical doctors provide vital health services to the public in the country," he said while noting that the bank's efforts align well with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's thinking.

He said that the responsibility

to provide the public with quality healthcare is for the government but acknowledged that availability of limited resources means that the private sector has a role to play in complementing such efforts.

"The government's objective is to make sure that the private sector plays an active role in the growth of the economy through tax payment and job creation. We believe that NMB's 'Healthcare Club' is an important vehicle to deliver on such initiative," the CMO added.

The bank which introduced the loan scheme during Tanzania Health Summit earlier this year has allocated 112.5bn/- to lend to the private sector till 2025. The scheme caters for all aspects of health sector such drug purchasing, medical equipment and bridge financing for administrative purposes.

Briefing the CMO on the scheme, NMB's acting Chief In-



Medical personnel attend the launch of NMB Bank Plc's Healthcare Club held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NMB

ternal Auditor, Benedicto Baragomwa commended the country's

health system for successfully containing the spreading of the

coronavirus outbreak.

Baragomwa said NMB sup-

ported them all the way round by rescheduling debt repayment while also backing efforts to fight the pandemic through investment in preventive measures.

"We at NMB has been supporting our customers navigate past the virus through donations of medical equipment to curb the virus but also the most challenging segment of maternal health and child survival," he stated. Baragomwa further noted that through Asset Financing scheme, NMB has provided affordable loans to private health facilities which include medical kits and drugs.

Tanzania Health Summit President, Dr Omary Chillo requested the government to allow the private sector attend health planning meetings at Ministry of Health so that they can collaborate more closely from the onset of pandemics.

Dr Chillo's observation was backed by Tanganyika Medical Society's President, Dr Shadrack Mwaibambe who said with NMB as financial partners, the country's health sector has a trusted friend.

"NMB's Healthcare Club is another innovative product which gives investors in health courage to take on risks," he said while stressing the Ministry of Health needs to give private health providers more room.

VAGUE

NAIROBI

SOME 15,547 candidates who scored C+ and above in the 2020 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination snubbed universities while some opted for diploma and certificate courses like plumbing in technical institutions.

Data from the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) shows 10,707 candidates did not apply for degree courses despite meeting the minimum qualifications. Another 4,840 preferred Tech-

15,547 students snub universities for TVET courses

nical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to pursue courses in an employment market where university graduates are struggling to get jobs. The 15,547 candidates accounted for 10.8 percent of the 143,140 students who qualified to join universities.

The growing share of students snubbing university education is a departure from the past when degrees were

viewed by many as a ticket for promotion at the workplace and getting a job, pushing the enrolment numbers to record high in recent years. This has coincided with the government's increased focus on technical colleges in the quest to feed the labour market with craftsmen and technicians.

The revival of the technical colleges under President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration was a

departure from the trend set by former President Mwai Kibaki of converting mid-tier colleges into universities. This led to an increase in the number of graduates with liberal arts degrees in a job market that was already saturated.

The KUCCPS announced on Monday it had reopened its application portal to give some 32,718 qualifying candidates a chance to reapply for preferred

courses. KUCCPS says that of the 131,833 that applied to be considered for placement in TVETs and universities, only 94,275 candidates were placed in degree courses of their choice.

"All efforts are being made to track 10,707 candidates with C+ and above who failed to apply for courses in universities 'in the spirit of leaving no one behind'," said KUCCPS chief

executive Agnes Wahome.

Of the 747,161 candidates that sat the 2020 KCSE examination, 143,140 attained the minimum university entry qualification of C+. More students are preferring to join TVETs, a sign that the government's efforts to grow enrolment in the institutions is bearing fruit.

Data from the Ministry of Education shows some 2,632 candidates who scored C+ and

above in the 2019 KCSE examination and qualified for placement to degree programmes opted for diploma courses in technical institutions.

The number has nearly doubled this year to 4,840 students. Over the past four years, nearly all students scoring C+ and above were admitted to the regular university programmes, reducing the pool of learners available for private universities as well as self-sponsored degree programmes in public universities.

EMPOWERMENT

CTI, GIZ hone skills of SME owners, managers to conquer global market

By Francis Kajubi

DOZENS of Small and medium size enterprise owners and managers have received training in innovative models of product branding, marketing and packaging of goods destined for the market.

Confederation of Tanzania Industries Executive Director, Leodgar Tenga said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that some 35 SME owners and managers from Dar es Salaam have received the training courtesy of German's GIZ's Business Scouts for Development Department and Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funded programme.

Tenga said CTI organised the training as part of an initiative dubbed as 'Promotion of Manufacturing Industries Performance through Human Capacity Development.' He said the initiative targets to build capacity of around 245 SME owners and managers in the areas of branding, packaging and

marketing of their products in four urban areas of Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Tanga and ends in December this year.

"The beneficiaries include agro-processors, technology and telecom, food and beverage, leather and leather products, iron and steel manufacturers, among others," he said while stressing the need to enhance a positive employer-employee relationship in the manufacturing working environment.

The CTI chief applauded GIZ Business Scouts for Development and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for financing the initiative saying it helps strengthen the manufacturing industries as well as exposing them to various opportunities that connect industries with business actors across the globe.

"CTI is dedicated at working with development partners to facilitate new innovations in the industrial sector by coordinating not only



CTI executive director Leodgar Tenga speaks in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Francis Kajubi

its members to well established manufacturers but also small and medium enterprises to which they can learn and get some productiv-

ity experience," said Ashish Mistry, CEO of ALAF Tanzania Limited.

Mistry urged CTI to regularly organize similar sessions to help up-

date its members of new technologies and labour relations evolving around the globe.

"Often, manufacturing industries

face human resource related challenges due to limited knowledge in labour laws. It is important for the manufacturing industries to be sensitized on new regulations," he said.

COMPETITIVE

AzamPay ready to launch AzamPesa

DAR ES SALAAM

THE high service fees slapped on mobile money transfers is one of the biggest hurdles says Ahmad. "One of the critiques we have of the existing digital payment system is that it is too focused on the movement of money instead of the underlying commercial transaction."

"We believe that digital payments can be more effective in promoting economic growth, financial inclusion and formalising the economy by becoming a mechanism for trust. If you can connect an unknown buyer and an unknown seller to transact digitally, then you increase the number of potential customers for that seller and the number of things that the buyer can purchase," he explained.

AzamPay's value proposition in Africa is to first transform B2B transactions from cash to digital payments and it is spearheading this through its SARAFU platform, a B2B supply chain product. The platform only provides digital payment options for orders and deliveries.

In May, SARAFU processed over Tsh5-billion and the intention is to rope in more retailers onto the platform in the coming months. It is also planning a launch of AzamPesa, a mobile money wallet similar to M-Pesa or Tigo Pesa. "Our overall approach is to build a digital ecosystem around e-commerce. The vast majority of transactions in Sub-Saharan Africa are still in cash, the opportunity right now is to expand the digital pie," Ahmad explained. The company's strategy is to create value propositions for the merchant and the consumer that push more of those transactions to digital platforms.

Less cost, bigger pie

For mobile money companies to convert more transactions from cash to digital, they need to segment the market more effectively. "The P2P transaction fee business model does not address all the use cases," said Ahmad. While virtual goods such as airtime, TV payments and electricity are heavily skewed towards digital payments, most consumers prefer to pay for point of sale goods in cash because it is more



AzamPay CEO Firas Ahmad.

convenient and to avoid the transaction fees.

Mobile money companies need to strategise around how to lower fees while creating varied value propositions for different kinds of end-users. "If ten percent of transactions in Tanzania are digital, ninety percent are not. Our thinking is how do we start to expand the pie into that ninety percent" he said.

Offering convenience at no cost was one value proposition that

turned customers towards digital payments on the company's SARAFU platform. The fact that retailers can now order all their goods at competitive prices during convenient hours with free same-day delivery was an advantage they could not pass up.

The Tsh5-billion transactions the company processed on its platform last month was closer to zero 18 months ago, Ahmad stated. "That has also given us the opportunities to now look at pro-

viding credit service and other types of financial services for the retailers. At the same time Sarafu also a benefits manufacturers as we can access data on where and how their products are selling," he said.

Consumer data is where credit cards and other traditional payment rails still have an edge over mobile money products. Credit cards obviate the need for a merchant to determine the creditworthiness of a consumer.

ARBITRATION

Regulator steps in to defuse Vodacom vs Tmcel wrangle

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE'S telecommunications industry regulator, the Mozambique National Communications Institute (INCM) has stepped in to defuse a dispute between Vodacom and state-owned Mozambique Telecom (Tmcel) over a 60 million Meticals (about US\$10-million) interconnection debt.

Vodacom has accused Tmcel of failure to comply with the interconnection contract between the two operators and said the debt has been accumulating since 2018. The operator had threatened to stop connecting calls from Tmcel users to its network unless the debt was settled by 16 June 2021. It said the move was necessary to avoid escalation of the debt, and added that its users could still continue to make calls to the Tmcel network.

Vodacom said the text message service would remain unaffected in order to ensure there was still communication between subscribers of the two networks because "Vodacom values the fact that it is providing a public service with the aim of brining communication to all Mozambicans."

The INCM called for an urgent meeting with the two operators in a bid to resolve the problem. After the meeting, INCM Director General Tuaha Mote said there would be no interruption in the interconnection and that the services provided by the two operators would continue to flow normally.

Mote said: "It should be clarified that this is basically a commercial dispute between the two companies and the INCM has come in merely to mediate in the negotiations. We think the understanding reached today will be decisive for the definitive solution of the differences."

But according to a report published in local online news publication the Club of Mozambique, there is still no agreement in place as to how the debt is to be paid and that Tmcel proposed to pay off the debt at a rate of 12 million Meticals (about US\$190,000) per month.

Food supply success belies wasteful farm policies - OECD

PARIS

EMERGENCY measures by governments helped keep food supply functioning during the COVID-19 pandemic, but agricultural policies continue to pour out subsidies inefficiently without encouraging sustainable production, the OECD said yesterday.

As coronavirus spread last year, countries took various steps including the creation of so-called green lanes for cross-border food transport and increased food aid for households, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said.

"As a result, policies were generally successful in maintaining the overall functioning of food supply chains, albeit within an overall structure of agricultural support programmes that showed little change," the OECD said in an annual survey of farming policy.

Reviewing 54 advanced and emerging economies, the Paris-based organisation estimated that a total of US\$720 billion per year was transferred to agriculture over the 2018-2020 period.

Three-quarters of this support was in aid for farmers, most of which was through what the OECD sees as market-distorting instruments like price controls or production subsidies.

Only about 14 percent of total support for the farm sector went towards structural areas like research and development, the OECD said.

Support rewarding environmental services was relatively marginal, with just US\$1.5 billion out of US\$268 billion per year in budgetary payments to producers clearly tied to such services, it estimated.

"Overall, most current support policies are not serving the wider needs of food systems," the OECD said.

The OECD study echoed criticisms by the European Court of Auditors in a report on Monday that the European Union's huge farm subsidy programme is failing to rein in greenhouse gas emissions.

The OECD recognised that crop technology has allowed a reduction in the intensity of resource use, with global food production having grown much faster than consumption of land or inputs like fertiliser.

But many subsidies could be redirected towards innovation or environmental services to curb emissions and other negative environmental effects of agriculture, it added.



Woman carries a free food supply bag as others wait at a distributing point ahead of Ramadan in Lahore. (AFP)

Agencies

FREEFALL

Bitcoin extends slide as China shuts down crypto miners

LONDON

BITCOIN, the world's largest cryptocurrency, continued its slide on Tuesday towards \$30,000 after falling to a two week low yesterday as Chinese authorities, worried about the environmental impact of cryptocurrency, closed down mining operations in Sichuan.

Bitcoin was down about 5.3 per cent on Tuesday to \$32,605 at 10.04am. Ethereum, the second largest cryptocurrency, was down 9.5 per cent to \$1,932. "The People's Bank of China has encouraged Alipay and other large institutions to crack down on cryptocurrency trading. According to reports, numerous bitcoin mines in Sichuan were shut down after China put a stop to crypto mining," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at London-based AVA Trade. "The majority of bitcoin mines consume coal power, which has raised concerns about the digital currency's potential environmental impact."

In May, public criticism of the digital currency's energy needs by Tesla's billionaire chief executive and founder Elon Musk and a Chinese regulatory crackdown caused the Bitcoin's price to plummet more than 53 per cent to \$30,000 after reaching an all-time high of \$64,899 in April.

Electricity is a primary input of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. The coins are mined by computers that process complex algorithms in halls that span the area of several football pitches. In April, researchers at Cambridge University estimated that the electricity consumption of the Bitcoin network is almost 120 terawatt-hours per year, more than the energy consumption of the UAE at 119.45 terawatt-hours, and on course to overtake Pakistan. Despite Bitcoin's volatility, investor confidence in cryptocurrencies is growing, Mr Aslam said.

"This is backed up by institutional investors, who are working to diversify their product portfolios in order to provide their clients with access to Bitcoin," he said. Mr Aslam cited findings of several surveys that show a growing number of hedge fund managers are willing to allocate about 10 per cent of their portfolio to cryptocurrencies.

"Technically, there are two make-or-break levels on



A graph showing Bitcoin and Ethereum value depreciation.

the Bitcoin chart: the \$30K support on the downside and the \$43K resistance on the upside, which is the 200-day moving average. Which will break first is hard to tell, but the state of technical indicators hints that the \$30K support could fall first," said Ipek Ozkardeska, a senior analyst at Swis-

squte.

"There is a death cross formation on the daily chart, warning that the technicals are in favour of a further Bitcoin sell-off. However ... the fact that the 200-day moving average is still on a rising path could prevent Bitcoin from a bloodbath in the short run,

and that things would get more serious once the 200-day moving average turns its nose to the downside." Central banks have been reluctant to endorse cryptocurrencies and critics have said they are speculative, lack any value and are a medium for money laundering and criminal activity.

"In its current version, in spite of the hype, Bitcoin failed to satisfy the notion of 'currency without government' (it proved to not even be a currency at all), can be neither a short or long term store of value (its expected value is no higher than 0), cannot operate as a reliable inflation hedge, and, worst of all, does not constitute, not even remotely, safe haven for one's investments, shield against government tyranny, or tail protection vehicle for catastrophic episodes," Nassim Taleb, New York University professor and author of the Black Swan wrote on his blog. Mr Taleb said there is a fundamental flaw and contradiction at the base of most cryptocurrencies and how miners extract value.

"The originators, miners, and maintainers of the system currently make their money from the inflation of their currencies rather than just from the volume of underlying transactions in them," he said.

"Hence, the total failure of Bitcoin in becoming a currency has been masked by the inflation of the currency value, generating (paper) profits for large enough a number of people to enter the discourse well ahead of its utility."

Mr Taleb went on to explain that unlike the 1995-2000 dot-com rush that was characterised by highly speculative investments in Internet-related companies, the Bitcoin bubble has no foundation. The companies "were at least promising some type of future revenue stream", he said.

CENSURE

EU fails to cut farm emissions despite \$119bn climate drive

NEW YORK

THE EU spent half its climate budget on a drive for greener agriculture which failed to bring about cuts in farming emissions, a watchdog has found.

More than €100 billion (\$119bn) of the EU's farming subsidies were earmarked for tackling climate change, representing a quarter of the EU's agricultural funds from 2014 to 2020 and half of its total spending on climate action.

But the EU's Court of Auditors found that there had been no reduction in farming emissions over the past decade. This was because the EU continued to support climate-unfriendly practices and did not provide incentives to reduce livestock farming.

Livestock production is responsible for about half of all farming emissions, with the majority coming from cattle. The EU has a target of becoming climate neutral by 2050 and wants to cut emissions by 55 per cent compared to 1990 levels by the end of this decade.

But its Common Agricultural Policy "does not seek to limit livestock numbers, nor does it provide incentives to reduce them," the auditors said. "CAP market measures include the promotion of animal products, consumption of which has not decreased since 2014.

"This contributes to maintaining greenhouse gas emissions rather than reducing them." The EU's emissions from manure and chemical fertilisers increased between 2010 and 2018. While there was some EU funding for tackling these emissions, more effective measures received little support from Brussels, the watchdog said.

In addition, there was no extra funding for planting new trees and converting farms to grassland. "The EU's role in mitigating climate change in the agricultural sector is crucial," said Viorel Stefan, the auditor responsible for the report.

"We expect our findings to be useful in the context of the EU's objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050." The new Common Agricultural Policy should have a greater focus on reducing agricultural emissions, and be more accountable and transparent about its contribution to climate mitigation."

Responding to the report, the European Commission said its drive for greener agriculture had other objectives besides reducing emissions. These included protecting biodiversity and rural communities and reducing the use of pesticides, it said.

The Commission said it was not the role of EU leaders to reduce consumer choice by banishing livestock products. "The CAP never had the specific goal of reducing livestock emissions," it said. "Emissions remained stable, while production increased."



Cattle gather in a field in Saint-Hilaire-de-Chaleons, France. Livestock production is responsible for about half of farming emissions.

UZALO

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

SATURDAY 12 June		SUNDAY 13 June		MONDAY 14 June		TUESDAY 15 June		WEDNESDAY 16 June		THURSDAY 17 June		FRIDAY 18 June		SATURDAY 19 June		SUNDAY 20 June		MONDAY 21 June					
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Sat 12 June

08:00	Al Jazeera	08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt	09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt	09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt	10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt	10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt	11:00	Out n'about rpt

WORLD

China, Tanzania vow to deepen Belt and Road cooperation

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China is willing to conduct cooperation with Tanzania under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and expand their cooperation in fields such as agriculture, transportation, telecommunication, tourism and energy.

In a phone conversation with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Xi said relations between the two countries face historic opportunities, adding that

Beijing will encourage and support more Chinese companies to invest in the African country.

Hassan said Tanzania is willing to actively promote cooperation with China under the BRI, implement outcomes of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and push for greater development of China-Africa ties.

Proposed by Xi in 2013, the BRI comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and



Photo taken on April 9, 2020 shows the Dar es Salaam Port undergoing upgrading of port berths 1 to 7 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The upgrading work is undertaken by China Harbour Engineering Company. (Xinhua)

the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes. Xi underscored the friendship between China and Tanzania over the past decades, noting that Tanzania was the first African country he visited after becoming the Chinese president in 2013.

China is willing to strengthen political mutual trust with Tanzania and jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries, he said.

Hassan extended her congratulations on the 100th anniversary of the founding

of the Communist Party of China (CPC), hailing China's remarkable achievements under the leadership of the CPC.

Tanzania cherishes its friendship with China and appreciates China's support and help over a long period of time, she said.

Hassan stressed that Tanzania firmly adheres to the one-China policy and supports China's stance on issues concerning its core interests, including issues related to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Xinjiang.

CGTN

... opposes UN rights chief's remarks on HK, Xinjiang

GENEVA

THE remarks made by the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights on Hong Kong and Xinjiang related issues at the Human Rights Council on Monday were "erroneous" and "in disregard of facts," and interfered in China's internal affairs, said the spokesperson of the Chinese Mission to the UN in Geneva.

"China is firmly opposed to the remarks," said the spokesperson Liu Yuyin, adding that it is China's sovereign right to enact and implement the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

"The law has provided a strong institutional and legal guarantee to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in Hong Kong as well as the

steady and sustained implementation of 'one country, two systems,'" Liu said.

"Since the National Security Law came into force, Hong Kong has seen a momentous transition from chaos to peace. Hong Kong citizens no longer live under the threat of turmoil and violence, and can better exercise their legitimate rights and freedoms in a safe environment, including the freedom of expression, the freedom of the press and the freedom to publish," he said.

"No freedom is boundless, nor can it go beyond the bottom line of national security, as is clearly stipulated in relevant international covenants," the diplomat said. "Hong Kong is a society under the rule of law. Everyone is equal before the law and no one can rise above the law. Those who violate the law will inevitably be held accountable."

Speaking of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Liu argued



Pedestrians walk across a road in the Wan Chai district of Hong Kong on Monday. (AFP)

that at present, Xinjiang enjoys social stability and economic prosperity, and people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang lead a safe and enjoyable life and their human rights are fully protected.

However, "certain countries and forces, out of political motives, spread shameless lies about Xinjiang in an attempt to tarnish China's image, interfere

in China's internal affairs and retard China's development," Liu added. "Their plots will not prevail."

The spokesperson said China welcomes the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit China including Xinjiang. "We have made our position very clear on several occasions that such a visit should be a friendly

one aimed at promoting exchanges and cooperation, rather than making the so-called 'investigation' under the presumption of guilt."

"I would like to stress again that Hong Kong and Xinjiang are inalienable parts of Chinese territory. The Hong Kong and Xinjiang related issues are China's internal affairs which brook no interference by any external forces. China stands firmly in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests and opposing any external interference," Liu said.

He urged the High Commissioner to respect Chinese people's right to pursue a better life, stop making erroneous remarks which interfere in China's sovereignty and judicial independence, and conduct constructive dialogue and exchanges with China so as to create a sound atmosphere for cooperation between the two sides.

Xinhua

More than 8,500 children used as soldiers in 2020 - UN

NEW YORK

MORE than 8,500 children were used as soldiers last year in various conflicts across the world and nearly 2,700 others were killed, the United Nations said on Monday.

UN chief Antonio Guterres' annual report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict covers the killing, maiming and sexual abuse of children, abduction or recruitment, denial of aid access and targeting of schools and hospitals.

The report verified that violations had been committed against 19,379 children in 21 conflicts. The most violations in 2020 were committed in Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

It verified that 8,521 children were used as soldiers last year, while another 2,674 children were killed and 5,748 injured in various conflicts.



Yemeni child who fled fighting between Yemen's armed rebels, known as the Houthis, and pro-government forces in Hodeida, is pictured at a makeshift camp in the district of Abs, in Yemen's northwestern Hajjah province. (File photo)

The report also includes a blacklist intended to shame parties to conflicts in the hope of pushing them to implement measures to protect children.

In an effort to dampen controversy surrounding the report, the blacklist released in 2017 by Guterres was split into two categories. One lists parties

that have put in place measures to protect children and the other includes parties that have not.

Verified cases of abduction and sexual violence against children increased alarmingly by 90 percent and 70 percent, respectively. Abduction is often combined with the recruitment

and use of children and sexual violence, according to the report.

Grave violations affect boys and girls differently. While 85 percent of children recruited and used were boys, 98 percent of sexual violence was perpetrated against girls. Sexual violence remained vastly under-

reported, owing to stigmatization, cultural norms, absence of services and safety concerns, according to the report.

The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated existing vulnerabilities of children, including by hampering their access to education, health and social services, limiting child protection activities and shrinking safe spaces.

The socioeconomic impact of the pandemic exposed these children to grave violations, notably recruitment and use, abduction and sexual violence. Attacks on schools and hospitals, and their military use, exacerbated the plight of children.

The protection of children affected by armed conflict is crucial to preventing conflict and sustaining peace, according to the report, adding that national and regional stakeholders should develop and expand initiatives to prevent grave violations.

Agencies

WUDONGDE hydropower plant has commissioned its last power unit on June 16, signaling that all of its 12 power units, each with a capacity of 850 MW, are now on operation as scheduled, marking a new phase of operation and management.

The project is expected to make a great contribution to China's efforts to see carbon dioxide emission peak before 2030 and go carbon neutral before 2060 and to build a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system.

It will also push social and economic transformation based on efficient use of green and low-carbon growth.

In addition to power generation,

Wudongde hydropower plant put into full operation

Wudongde, located on the borders between Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, also delivers other benefits such as flood control, navigation and powering local economic and social development.

Wudongde reservoir has an elevation of 975m in normal impoundment, a total storage capacity of 7.41 billion cubic meters and a flood control capacity of 2.44 billion cubic meters.

The dam is capable of seasonal regulation of the water level with significant benefits in flood control.

Wudongde has six power units



An overview of Wudongde hydropower plant

on the left and right banks respectively, each with a capacity of 850

MW, making them the world's largest hydropower units in operation.

The dam has a total installed capacity of 10.2 GW, which can generate an average of 38.91 billion kilowatt hours annually, equivalent to a reduction of 12.2 million tons in standard coal and 30.5 million tons of carbon dioxide. The plant started construction on December 16, 2015 after receiving the green light and commissioned its first batch of power units on June 29, 2020.

Wudongde project has set eight world records during its construction, such as the world's thinnest 300-meter high arch dam, and achieved 15 "world firsts" such as building the low-heat cement dam.

US statements on new sanctions have no legal basis, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S statements on new sanctions against Moscow for the alleged use of chemical weapons have no legal basis, they are trying to spin the much-hyped issue of chemical poisoning to activate sanctions against Nord Stream 2, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday on the Solovyev Live YouTube channel.

"The US is advocating its agenda. We can qualify it in various ways. In this case, this agenda as well as statements on introducing sanctions for the use of chemical weapons and some mythical poisoning have no legal basis. And all this is projected on Nord Stream 2 as well," she said.

The diplomat explained that such statements do not have any legal basis, as they do not correspond even to the US CBW [Chemical and Biological Weapons] Act dated 1991. "In order to implement this act, there need to be undisputed proven facts. There aren't any," Zakharova stressed.

The spokeswoman recalled that the US cites the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) when developing sanctions.

"We all know, it is public knowledge, about the destructive policy of the US and its satellite states on the platforms of this organization with the aim of turning it into a quiet compliant tool for the implementation of their agenda," she said.

The diplomat added that Washington "clearly ties" the anti-Russian sanctions "to a purely commercial project" that they were unable to stop either through economic or political means.

"As a result, they are using their favorite approach, pressing the sanctions button, and tying it to the much-hyped issue of chemical weapons, putting their foot on the gas further," she said.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan stated on Sunday that Washington is preparing new sanctions against Russia over the situation with Alexey Navalny. According to him, US officials continue to introduce sanctions against Russian companies involved in the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Agencies

Iran to prioritize improving ties with Gulf neighbors, says Raisi

DUBAI

PRESIDENT-ELECT Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday Iran's foreign policy priority would be improving ties with Gulf Arab neighbors, while calling on Saudi Arabia to halt its intervention in Yemen immediately.

Raisi, 60, a hardliner and strident critic of the West, will take over from pragmatist Hassan Rouhani in August as Iran seeks to salvage the tattered nuclear deal and be rid of punishing US sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

Raisi said Iranian foreign policy would not be limited to the nuclear deal. "Iran wants interaction with the world... My government's priority will be improving ties with our neighbors in the region," he told his first news conference in Tehran, televised by state media, since winning Friday's election.

But he called on Saudi Arabia "and its allies should immediately stop their interference in Yemen". A Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen's war in 2015 after Iran-backed Houthis forces drove its government out of the capital Sanaa. The conflict has been largely stalemated for several years.

Iranian and Western officials alike say Raisi's rise is unlikely to alter Iran's negotiating stance in talks to revive the nuclear deal - Iran's hardline Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei already has final say on all major policy.

Raisi further said the United States had violated the deal and the European Union had failed to fulfill its commitments. "I urge the United States to return to its commitment to the deal... All sanctions imposed on Iran must be lifted and verified by Tehran," he said. Asked if he would meet US President Joe Biden if those sanctions were lifted, Raisi simply answered: "No."

Negotiations have been ongoing in Vienna since April to work out how Iran and the United States can both return to compliance with the nuclear pact, which Washington abandoned in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump and then reimposed sanctions on Iran.

Iran has subsequently breached the deal's limits on enrichment of uranium, designed to minimize the risk of it developing nuclear weapons potential. Tehran has long denied having any such ambition.

Raisi said Iran's ballistic missile program was non-negotiable, despite demands by the West and Gulf Arab countries that it be included in the ongoing talks to revive the nuclear agreement.

Agencies

It also made eight breakthroughs in hydropower engineering, such as assuming the flood control role during the construction.

Multiple world-class challenges were tackled such as temperature control and crack prevention for large-volume concrete, large-scale excavation of holes and chambers underground, and 800 MPa high-strength steel welding.

The dam recorded zero quality or safety accidents during its construction period, setting a benchmark in leading the global hydropower projects

Wudongde hydropower plant has produced 24 billion kWh clean electricity by June 16.

People's Daily

Sputnik V effective against Indian strain, Russian expert says

MOSCOW

THE Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine is effective against the Indian coronavirus variant, Vladimir Gushchin, an expert with the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology, said yesterday.

"Sputnik certain copes [with the Indian strain], because we have a molecular explanation too, which shows that the virus-neutralizing activity is preserved, although it decreases.

That is why high antibody titers are certainly protective against the Indian variant of the virus," he told the Soloviev Live YouTube Channel.

Gushchin noted that the Sputnik V vaccine remained highly effective. According to the expert, it protects 100% from severe forms of the disease and deaths.

Gushchin also advised COVID-19 survivors and those, who was vaccinated more than six months ago, to be inoculated with Sputnik V.

Agencies

Polls open in Ethiopia's Sidama region as counting continues

ADDIS ABABA

VOTERS in Ethiopia's Sidama region went to the polls a day late yesterday as officials counted ballots from other regions in an election marred by an opposition boycott, war and reports of irregularities in some areas.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (pictured) hopes the national and regional elections will show the success of democratic reforms he launched after being appointed by the ruling coalition in 2018.

But the vote also reflects a messy reality in the country of 109 million people. Authorities could not hold polls on Monday in four of Ethiopia's 10 regions including Sidama, where there were logistical problems, according to the election board.

"Democracy is not built in a day. We are laying it brick by brick," Abiy said in a written statement late on Monday.

"No matter who wins, Ethiopians from all over the country have voted for whomever they choose, without any fear and without any kind of pressure. And because of that, Ethiopia is triumphant," said Abiy.

There was no comment from Abiy on Tuesday morning and his spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment as counting proceeded.

More than 37 million of Ethiopia's 109 million people are registered to vote, choosing from 46 parties and more than 9,000 candidates - a record, according to the electoral board.

Abiy's newly formed national Prosperity Party is widely forecast to defeat the fragmented opposition of dozens of mostly ethnically based parties. The ruling coalition and its allies hold all 547 national parliamentary seats.

Though the prime minister won the Nobel prize in 2019 for making peace with neighbouring Eritrea, his international reputation has been tarnished since conflict erupted in the northern Tigray region in November.

Regional problems

Voting was delayed in different areas for different reasons. In Sidama, voting was postponed after less than half the ballot papers arrived, election board chief Birtukan Midekssa said.

Two other regions, Somali and Harar, previously delayed voting until September due to problems with ballot papers and disputes.

Tigray has been a battleground since conflict erupted there in November between Ethiopia's military and the region's former governing party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). No date has been set for elections there.

Agencies

Modern version of marriage matchmaking thrives in Egypt

CAIRO

AFTER several friends successfully got married thanks to her matchmaking efforts, Sohair Mansour, a 55-year-old Egyptian woman, was encouraged to establish a professional business to help more to find the other half and tie the knot.

As a former manager of public relations and now a manager of a marriage matchmaking office located in the highly populous province of Giza, Mansour collects information about families in the neighboring districts and publishes details of marriage seekers on Facebook and YouTube.

In 2020, 500 couples inside and outside Egypt got married as a result of Mansour's matchmaking. Every day, she receives hundreds of phone calls asking for dating meetings between families.

Many families don't have good social relations and prefer to consult a matchmaker, Mansour explained. Egypt has recently witnessed a rise in the number of marriage matchmaking offices, both physical and online, which play the same role as an al-Khatbah (matchmaker in Arabic) that had long helped facilitate the marriage in both Egyptian villages and cities until more women began to receive education in the 1970s.

Nowadays, the traditional matchmakers have almost vanished in cities but are still considerably visible in rural areas. With the sharp decline in the number of marriage registration in Egypt, matchmaking started to flourish again at the beginning of 2000, Mansour said, adding she takes about 10,000 Egyptian pounds (638 U.S. dollars) from families when the couples agree to conclude the marriage contract.

Xinhua

Experts warn less vaccinated areas more at risk for highly contagious Delta variant

WASHINGTON

WHILE the White House claimed milestone of administering over 300 million COVID-19 vaccine shots in the first 150 days since U.S. President Joe Biden took office, the highly contagious Delta variant continues threatening the country, especially in states with the lowest vaccination numbers.

About 45.1 percent of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and 53.3 percent of the population has received at least one shot as of Sunday, according to latest data of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

But some states - such as Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Wyoming - have fully vaccinated less than 35 percent of residents.

The Delta variant, which is believed to be more transmissible and cause more severe disease, could cause an upsurge in infections, but the levels will vary depending on the rates of vaccination in each area, said Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Models for Delta's spread show the fall could see a peak of around 20 percent of the infections the United States recorded in January, but the distribution of those predicted surges is not even across all areas, Gottlieb said in an interview with CBS on Sunday.

"Connecticut, for example where I am, shows no upsurge of infection, but Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, show very substantial upsurges of infection. That's based entirely on how much population wide immunity you have based on vaccination," he said.

The Delta variant, which was initially identified in India in December 2020 and first detected in the United States in March 2021, has already been detected in over



People walk along the Street in New York, the United States, June 15, 2021. (Xinhua)

40 U.S. states, according to the CDC.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky warned this variant is expected to become the dominant strain in the United States, adding it is more transmissible than others.

"As worrisome as this Delta strain is with regard to its hyper transmissibility, our vaccines work," Walensky said.

New research suggests less vaccinated areas are at risk. Scientists at Helix analyzed nearly 20,000 COVID-19 tests collected since April and found the Delta variant is quickly rising in counties with

fewer vaccinated residents, according to a CNN report.

Experts have stressed vaccines are the key to containing the variants and reopening the country safely.

So far, studies suggest that the current authorized vaccines work on the circulating variants, said the CDC.

Research are still underway on how long protection from the COVID-19 vaccines will last, and when a booster is required. Zhang Zuofeng, professor of epidemiology and associate dean for research with the School of Public Health

at the University of California, Los Angeles, told Xinhua.

He urged more people to get vaccinated as soon as possible to keep the variants from taking hold. Zhang also stressed the importance of keeping social distance, wearing masks and personal hygiene as vaccines could not offer 100 percent protection.

Xinhua

UNITED NATIONS

UN envoy sees progress in South Sudan amid security concerns

THE top UN envoy in South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, on Monday reported progress in South Sudan and voiced concern over the security situation in the country.

In May, the government established a task force to oversee and coordinate trans-

sitional justice and other judicial reforms. President Salva Kiir reconstituted the national legislature and appointed 550 new members. Later in the month, President Kiir, with Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok in attendance, officially launched the permanent

constitution-making process in Juba, he noted. "Drafting a national constitution is a quintessential act of sovereignty.

It expresses the highest aspirations of a nation and its most cherished values. An inclusive national conversation will lay a foundation for a social contract

between the citizens of the country. An engaged and inclusive process will increase the probability of a durable peace," he told the Security Council in a briefing.

The Republic of South Sudan will mark its 10th anniversary as an independent state on July

9. International commitment to supporting South Sudan 10 years ago remains as important and as urgent today as the world's youngest nation strives to deliver peace and security to its citizens, he said.

Despite the progress, the overall implementation of the Revitalized Agreement is progressing slowly. Xinhua

CPC and Chinese people demonstrate strengths of socialist system with real actions - Chief of Bangladesh Peace Council



Shanghai

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) has integrated Marxism into the actual conditions of China in a pragmatic and flexible way, and found a unique path to development, Dr M.A. Quassem, secretary-general of Bangladesh Peace Council, said in a recent interview with People's Daily.

Since 1840 when the First Opium War broke out, Chinese people have struggled with unflinching courage to save the nation from subjugation, Quassem said, noting that during its long-term exploration, China tried different political systems and development paths.

History has proven that China's national independence and prosperity were only realized under the leadership of the CPC, stressed Quassem, who is nearly 80 years old and was a member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh when he was young.

Quassem has visited China many times. Every trip to China gave him a new perspective on the country, he said, explaining that he has seen with his own eyes the country's rapid development since its reform and opening-up, and really admires the CPC's great achievements in governing the country.

Socialism is thriving in China, which can be seen from the wide streets, bright lights, and hospitable people in Chinese cities, said the man who has been to Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian, Wuhan and other Chinese cities.

From winning the tough battle against poverty to containing the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, the CPC, together with the Chinese people, has demonstrated the strengths of the socialist system with real actions, said Quassem, who noted that China has made a historic achievement by solving absolute poverty that had plagued the country for several thousand years and met the poverty eradication target set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule.

Under the leadership of the CPC, China, with the strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics in pooling resources to solve major problems and the unity and hard work of the Chinese people, has created a miracle in the history of human development, Quassem said.

While achieving poverty alleviation targets at home, China has also promoted international cooperation in development by joining the United Nations' Alliance for Poverty Eradication and setting up the Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation, contributing to resolving global development issues, he added.

In the face of the sudden onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has put people and their lives first and promptly taken effective measures, which have won admiration from the world, point out Quassem, who

believes that the leadership of the CPC and the solidarity of the Chinese people have played a key role in China's hard-won achievements.

During the interview, Quassem showed People's Daily his copy of the book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China", which has been read by him many times and is filled with notes.

He has drawn a lot of philosophical thoughts and wisdom from the book, Quassem said, adding that what he finds particularly inspiring are China's new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development as well as the important idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

For one hundred years, the CPC has enjoyed Chinese people's support for its adherence to its original aspiration and mission, and retained its vigor and vitality because of its long-lasting efforts to carry out self-reform, according to him.

As the year 2021 marks the centenary of the founding of the CPC, he hopes China can secure even more brilliant achievements under the leadership of the CPC and contribute more wisdom and strength to the development of humanity, Quassem said.

People's Daily

Civil war hardens Ethiopian Nile-dam stance, Sudan minister says

By Bloomberg

THE carnage of Ethiopia's civil war is making its rulers less willing to compromise with Sudan and Egypt in a dispute over the imminent filling of its giant Nile dam, a Sudan official said, as his government urges the United Nations to prevent any unilateral move.

With Ethiopia embroiled in an eight-month conflict in the Tigray region that's sparked US sanctions and famine conditions, authorities in the Horn of Africa country are taking a tougher line in foreign policy to bolster their domestic support, said Yasir Abbas, Sudan's irrigation and water minister.

He compared Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, widely expected to win Monday's national elections, with ousted Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir who's wanted by the International Criminal Court for his alleged role in genocide during the long-running conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region.

"I think he's repeating the same mistakes," Abbas said in an interview in the capital, Khartoum. "How come you always assume yourself right and the whole world tells you 'please don't kill your own people. Please negotiate with your neighbors about your dam.'"

All-time low

He said trust between Ethiopia and Sudan is at an all-time low. A spokesperson for Abiy referred questions to Ethiopia's water resources ministry, which didn't respond to requests for comment. Ethiopia has previously said it has done everything possible to address Egyptian and Sudanese concerns over the project that's key to its economic development.

The remarks come as tension ratchets up over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Egypt and Sudan last week garnered the Arab League's support in calling for UN intervention to secure a binding agreement that would protect their water flows when Ethiopia starts a second phase of filling the hydropower project's reservoir in July.

Both Egypt and Sudan have warned of catastrophe in the region if no deal is reached, saying the US and European Union should join negotiations. Sudan's foreign minister in a TV interview Sunday said the UN should consider imposing sanctions on Ethiopia.

Ethiopia insists African Union-mediated talks, which stalled in April and have no date to reconvene, are the legitimate path.

"They want Ethiopia to become a dominant power" in the region, Abbas said. About 90 percent of the dispute over the GERD has been settled, but "it is the political damage to the issue now that makes it very complicated." Sudan and Ethiopia are also at odds over al-Fashqa, a disputed border region of fertile farmland that has recently seen deadly clashes between armies and militias. Abbas said it's being used by Ethiopia as leverage in the Nile stand-off.

Agencies

SPORT



Junior swimmers compete in a past swimming event, which took place i Dar es Salaam.

Six outfits set fo Junior Swimming Championship

By Guardian Reporter

SIX clubs have confirmed to compete in the Tanzania Junior Swimming Championship scheduled to take place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club from July 3-4 this year.

The clubs are Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC), Bluefins, Taliss, FK Blue Marlins, Lake Swim Club and Morogoro International School (MIS) Piranhas.

Speaking yesterday, Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) Secretary General, Inviolata Itatiro, said that the deadline for the team's confirmation is tomorrow and she called on other clubs to meet the deadline.

Inviolata said that so far, Kilombero Sugar Company Limited and Tanga Fresh have announced their sponsorship of the competition which is staged for the second time in the country.

She said that the event is used to introduce up-and-coming swimmers to competitive swimming, and provides them with experience.

She said national swimming governing body has adopted the maximum-possible number of disciplines to help in gauging the skills of up-and-coming swimmers.

Swimmers who are not older than

seven years, as well as 8-9, 10-11 and 12 years old will compete in different categories in the championship.

She said TSA has organised the juniors event to promote the sport, and give international exposure and experience to budding swimmers.

The approach will also help to improve their personal best (PB) times.

"The competition is a continuation of TSA's mission to promote swimming in Tanzania," Inviolata said.

According to her, trophies will be awarded to the top three swimmers in each age group, while medals will be handed over to the top three swimmers.

The medals are gold, silver and bronze for the first, second and third winners respectively.

"Points will be allocated for the first-to-10th-placed winners. The top swimmer will get 20 points, second: 16 points, third: 14 points, fourth: 12 points, fifth: 10 points, sixth: eight points, seventh: six points, eighth: four points; ninth: two points, and 10th: one point," Inviolata said.

To spice up the event, TSA has included Open Age events to enable younger swimmers of different ages to show their ability by competing against older ones.

She further stated there will also be an 'Open 400m' and 'Open 200m' Freestyle swimming for girls and boys, as well as a 200m Individual Medley.

Matola: Simba SC needs six points to clinch Premier League top honour

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC assistant coach, Suleiman Matola, has sent a warning to their rivals, stating they will clinch the Vodacom Premier League title soon.

The Premier League defending champions produced a narrow 1-0 win ove Polisi Tanzania at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza over the weekend, which was enough to take them to 70 points at the peak of the table from 28 matches.

They are three points ahead of rivals, Yanga, who pulled an incredible comeback to beat bottom-placed side Mwadui FC 3-2 on Sunday, and also have three games in hand.

Despite Yanga cutting the lead to three points, Matola was adamant nothing has changed from their target of sealing a record fourth straight title.

"It was important we win our match [against Polisi] and remember I had told you before the game, all we want to do is win the next three matches to be crowned champions, so nothing has changed, the target remains the same," Matola said.

He disclosed: "We don't care about Yanga's

result, we have our own matches to handle and that is where the focus is, but I am sure we will wrap the title in the next two matches, we will then be crowned."

"We don't want to take the title to the end of the season, Simba wants to focus on the domestic cup, we want to win the title and shift focus to the cup, we also want to defend the title, so I don't know about the rivals, and what they want to achieve."

On the game against Polisi, Matola said: "The most important thing is to get three points because by doing that, we are getting closer to defend the title that is why we must take every match seriously."

Mozambican winger Luis Miquissone scored the solitary goal for the game through a well-calculated set piece in the 27th minute of the closely contested match, thereby enabling the reigning champions to keep peddling forward.

Up next, Simba SC was expected t host Mbeya City FC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday and after that they will take on their rivals Yanga on July 3.



Suleiman Matola

SPORTS

Moses Ntilema all out to promote lifesaving skills - 2

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

MOSES Ntilema, an international senior surf lifesaving expert, in a recent interview, stated that Tanzanians should learn the profession to save lives instead of recovering dead bodies.

He disclosed: "I would like to call on the government to pay attention to this part of the sport, the way it is doing to football so that people with talents can see its advantage and use this sport as a platform to work on their talents."

He said: "It is so upsetting to see the number of Tanzanian people die from drowning and other water-related incidents and no serious initiative taken compared to other countries."

He stated that some countries, such as the United Kingdom (UK), have national drowning strategies.

He noted the UK has a drowning prevention strategy, called 'A future without drowning', for the year 2016 to 2026. Australia has the national drowning structure on water safety strategy which is to be in operation up to 2030.

"I believe it's not too late and the government still has time to introduce the National Drowning Strategy with a professional team who will be mentoring young talent to help in rescue when there is water emergence," he disclosed.

He noted: "The government can build the Olympic-level indoor public swimming pool in Dodoma, where Tanzania can host international swimming competition," he disclosed.

He said the facility could also be used by the community rather than depending on the private institutions which do



Lifesaving expert, Moses Ntilema, holds a seminar on lifesaving skills to one of Dar es Salaam schools' pupils recently.

not allow the low-income community to use their facilities to learn this important life skill.

Ntilema disclosed he is ready to support the government to meet the goals and he is ready to be used as a native expert rather than spending funds to bring in experts from other countries.

"I also suggest the government should introduce swimming and water safety lessons in public schools and introduce water safety education campaigns in the country," he added.

He extended his gratitude to the Tanzania Fire and Rescue Force for hosting the course.

He also advised the government to improve water safety awareness strategies and rescue standards which will directly boost the country's economy via coast tourism and sustainable waterways, safe maritime transport, and safe fishing as part of the blue economy.

He revealed: "I would like to extend my vote of thanks to one of the founders of Tanzania Lifesaving Society, Stewart Kiluswa, for his encouragement and advice

which helped me."

Grant Breetzke said Tanzania's water rescue team has a long way to go to meet the international lifesaving and water rescue standards.

He disclosed the government needs to recognize and use Ntilema's knowledge, skills, and experience to help his country in dealing with drowning prevention and water rescue incidents.

He noted Lifesaving South Africa has seen the hardworking and good potential in Ntilema as he was doing lifesaving activities in South Africa.



Namanga Jogging Club official, Michael Juma, leads fitness training at a bonanza which involved more than 10 jogging outfits at Namanga venue in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. The participating outfits had also taken part in jogging. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

WHO to discuss Olympics COVID-19 risks with Japan, IOC

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday it would discuss managing COVID-19 risks with Japanese authorities and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) after organisers announced some spectators would be permitted to attend the Tokyo Games.

Mike Ryan, head of WHO's emergencies programme, noted that infection rates in Japan have been falling, and said they compared favourably to other countries that were hosting large scale events.

Up to 10,000 domestic spectators will be allowed in Tokyo 2020 venues, Olympics organisers said on Monday, a decision that cut against the recommendation of some medical experts who said holding the event without fans was the least risky option.

"What we are glad of is that the rates of disease have fallen persistently and consistently in Japan over the last number of weeks," Ryan told a Geneva news conference.

"We're aware of that decision today and we are following up with the IOC and with Japanese authorities. We'll be having another call with them and their task force this week to consider this new decision regarding attendance at the Olympics."

Spectators from overseas have already been banned from the multi-billion-dollar extravaganza, which begins on July 23, amid public opposition and deep concern about a potential resurgence in infections.

Ryan said Japan's rate of 80 infections per million residents in the past week was much lower than in many other countries.

The WHO would continue to examine risk management procedures and risk assessment for the Games, "looking at measures from diagnosis to screening to surveillance to physical distancing, ventilation, and many other matters", he said.

"But again I think it is important to note that the incidence rates in Japan have fallen consistently over the last number of weeks and compare favourably with the transmission of disease in many other countries who are currently hosting major events."

REUTERS

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We're aware of that decision today and we are following up with the IOC and with Japanese authorities. We'll be having another call with them and their task force this week to consider this new decision regarding attendance at the Olympics.

Euphoria' for Denmark after difficult start at Euro 2020

COPENHAGEN

KASPER Schmeichel described his feelings after Denmark's win over Russia at the European Championship with one word.

"Euphoria," the goalkeeper said. "That sense of unbridled joy is a nice feeling for a team that's been through, as Schmeichel put it, "a turbulent emotional roller coaster" at Euro 2020 but now has every reason to look forward with optimism.

The 4-1 win over Russia secured a spot in the round of 16 for Denmark, where it will play Wales on Saturday in Amsterdam.

"After the last 10-12 days that we've been through, it feels great to advance," Schmeichel said. "So much has happened, but now the Euros start in earnest for us. We have a chance to make this a really good tournament after a very, very difficult start."

That start, with Christian Eriksen suffering cardiac arrest during the opening game against Finland, has made Denmark a sentimental favorite for many fans even outside the country.

In Denmark, it has made the entire nation unite even more than it usually would during a major soccer tournament. The crowd of 25,000 at Parken Stadium has carried the team forward in its last two games against Belgium and Russia,

and the players took time to thank them in every section of the arena after Monday's game.

"I don't think we could have done this without the support," Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said. "It lifts the players, it lifts everything, and it just means so much to us."

Now, though, they have to find a way to win in a neutral venue, and against a team that reached the semifinals at Euro 2016.

"They have great players," Hjulmand said of Wales. "It will be a very exciting and a very equal match."

Eriksen is widely considered Denmark's best player and by far its most creative playmaker. But Hjulmand has adjusted to his absence by switching to a more defensively solid formation and it was 20-year-old Mikkel Damsgaard, who has replaced Eriksen in the starting lineup, who scored the opening goal against Russia.

"It's insane that we're advancing," Damsgaard said. "It's the greatest feeling ever."

Eriksen was released from the hospital on Friday and then went to visit his teammates before going home to continue his recovery with his family. Just like after the Belgium game, the Inter Milan midfielder sent a message to the team's WhatsApp group right after the Russia win, defender Jens Stryger

La Liga: Barca risk losing Messi over wage bill

MADRID

LA Liga president Javier Tebas has warned Barcelona they risk not being able to register Lionel Messi next season if they don't reduce their wage bill.

Messi's deal expires in nine days, and he has not yet made a public decision on whether he will extend his 20-year relationship with Barca.

President Joan Laporta remains optimistic Messi will sign new terms at Camp Nou, but Tebas said Barca must ensure they remain within the league-imposed salary cap.

"Barcelona have exceeded their wage cap," Tebas said on Monday. "I hope they can keep Messi, but to do so, they will have to make cuts elsewhere."

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Barca had the largest cap in Spain's top flight in 2019-20 at €671 million.

However, La Liga's new limit for the 2020-21 season was €382.7m. The Catalan club were given some leeway in terms of reducing salaries, but it meant they were unable to register Memphis Depay despite agreeing on a fee with Lyon last September.

La Liga could technically prevent them from registering Messi's new contract or inscribing new signings this summer if they don't adhere to certain financial regulations.

Messi's most recent four-year deal, signed in 2017, was worth over €500m including his annual wage, signing on fees and bonuses.

Barca's wage bill has grown since the end of the season, with the signings of Eric Garcia, Sergio Aguero, Emerson Royal and Depay.

Meanwhile, they are struggling to shift some of the biggest earners at the club, including Samuel Umtiti and Philippe Coutinho.

CAS reduces match-fixing ban for former Nigeria coach

LONDON

THE Court of Arbitration for Sport on Monday reduced to five years the suspension for "corruption" of former Nigerian national team coach, Samson Siasia, in a match-fixing affair.

The court ruled that the life ban, imposed by FIFA in April 2019 after Siasia was found guilty of agreeing to join a match-fixing ring in 2010, was "disproportionate".

The CAS ruling upheld the guilty verdict but reduced the length of the ban and set aside the additional fine of 50,000 Swiss francs (\$54,000).

"The Panel determined the imposition of a life ban to be disproportionate for a first offence which was committed passively and which had not had an adverse or immedi-

ate effect on football stakeholders," CAS said in a statement, adding that a five-year ban would still punish Siasia.

The fine was dropped as the panel felt it would be "inappropriate and excessive" on top of the ban.

It noted that Siasia, who is 53, had not benefitted financially and had been hit in the pocket by not being able to work in football.

His suspension "from any football-related activity, nationally or internationally" is backdated to August 16, 2019 and runs until 2024.

The former striker played 51 times for Nigeria, including at the 1994 World Cup, and won a French Championship medal with Nantes in 1995.

He was coach of Nigeria between 2010 and 2011 and took the team to the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Germany eye last 16 with Portugal at risk of shock exit

LONDON

GERMANY can secure a place in the last 16 of Euro 2020 today, but holders Portugal are at real risk of crashing out despite a prolific start to Group F by Cristiano Ronaldo.

France top the section with four points heading into their final game against Portugal, a repeat of the Euro 2016 final, despite an underwhelming 1-1 draw with bottom side Hungary in Budapest.

Germany and Portugal are locked on three points apiece but Joachim Loew's side crucially have the head-to-head edge following a thrilling 4-2 win in Munich that shifted the pressure onto Ronaldo and co.

Portugal began their campaign with a 3-0 win against Hungary as Ronaldo became the leading scorer in European Championship history, but Fernando Santos watched his team ripped apart by Germany last Saturday.

"We will have to look at this game and now what we have to do is clear our heads as we have a very important game against France," Santos said after the loss to Germany.

Ronaldo scored for the third time in two games after starting and finishing a lightning counter-attack against Germany, taking his European Championship tally to 12 goals at a record fifth tournament appearance.

But a fifth defeat in as many meetings with the Germans left Portugal needing to avoid defeat against world champions France to be guaranteed a spot in the knockout rounds.



Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappe will go up against each other as Portugal play France in Group F. (Agencies)

"The next task is a very difficult one against France," said midfielder Joao Moutinho. "We want to give a better image of ourselves than we did in the last match."

A draw would likely send Portugal through as one of the four best third-placed teams, just as when they went on to win the title five years ago in France.

An opening loss to France had left Germany in trouble, contemplating the prospect of another group stage failure after their 2018 World Cup flop.

They responded by delivering arguably their best performance since winning the 2014 World Cup, but

Loew has tried to temper expectations.

"Nothing of significance has happened, we have only won a game, but now come further challenges which will be just as testing," he said.

- Benzema yet to fire -

At the last World Cup in Russia, Germany bounced back after a shock 1-0 defeat by Mexico in their opening game with a last-gasp 2-1 win over Sweden, only to then finish bottom of the group after being stunned by South Korea.

Germany will go through with a draw, but would be guaranteed a top-two finish if they beat Hungary.

The lack of goals from France's su-

perstar attack of Karim Benzema, Antoine Griezmann and Kylian Mbappe has become the talking point back home -- against Germany it was a Mats Hummels own goal that decided the game.

Griezmann, the Euro 2016 Golden Boot winner, defended Benzema, who is under the spotlight after firing blanks in his first two games at the tournament.

"He wants to score just like Kylian and I, and as a player you need it to feel relaxed and liberated," Griezmann said.

"He has been really important in our link-up play and I am sure when he gets one goal the tap will open and it will keep running."

"He knows he has the support of the staff and the players and we hope he gets a goal soon, but the most annoying thing would be if he were not even getting the chances."

Ronaldo is two goals shy of the all-time international record, set by Ali Daei who scored 109 times for Iran.

However the Portugal captain has never scored in six previous attempts against France.

As for Germany, they could be without Hummels, Thomas Mueler and Ilkay Gundogan for the clash with Hungary, after the trio picked up knocks against Portugal.

Hungary had fervent home support behind them in Budapest, but must spring an upset in Munich if they are to reach the last 16 for a second straight Euro.

AFP

Doubts hang over Spain ahead of 'do or die' game against Slovakia

SEVILLE, Spain

SPAIN are bracing themselves for a test of nerve in their last group game against Slovakia today, with Luis Enrique's side needing victory to guarantee their place in the last 16.

After leaving out Sergio Ramos, Luis Enrique has left himself open to questions about a lack of leadership in his youthful squad.

A bright start against Sweden fizzled out in the second half while a missed penalty against Poland turned a decent display into one paralysed by anxiety and tension.

"This country has won the Euro and the World Cup but in this squad there are many youngsters," Cesar Azpilicueta said on Monday. "There are several captains in our team, we know how to act and everyone is going to give their all on Wednesday."

Captain Sergio Busquets is expected to return after rejoining the group on Friday following his negative Covid-19 test. Busquets has not played in either of Spain's first two matches.

"He's an important player, with his experience on and off the pitch," Azpilicueta said. "He's an incredible captain and we know the dominance he can bring in midfield. We're very happy he's back."

Azpilicueta said Spain can draw inspiration from Chelsea's triumph in the Champions League last season.

He lifted Chelsea's second European Cup after the team changed gear under new coach Thomas Tuchel, a superb finish culminating in a surprise victory over Manchester City in the final.

- Not about 'how you start' -

Spain are pinning their hopes on a similar transformation after two disappointing draws against Sweden and Poland mean they currently sit third, a point behind Slovakia and two behind Sweden in Group E.

"It's not how you start, it's how you finish," said Azpilicueta. "I have seen it this year in the Champions League. Before January we weren't very good, and after that we did very well."

"A lot of people gave us up for dead last season, they thought we were out of the Champions League, out of the race for top four. People write you off but you never give up."

Despite his excellent form for Chelsea, Azpilicueta has rarely been favoured by Luis Enrique and has started on the bench for both of Spain's opening two games.

"We are all fighting for places," he said. "For now, we don't know anything about the next line-up."

Azpilicueta's experience might be a valuable addition to a youthful Spanish team, who now find themselves under pressure to make it out of what



Morata (C) has missed a host of chances in Spain's first two games. (Agencies)

looked a straightforward group.

"We are not in the situation we expected," Azpilicueta said. "We would have liked to be more comfortable but football rarely gives you what you expect. We are alive and we depend on ourselves."

"We must be humble, self-critical and correct what we are doing wrong and also assess what we are doing well. It's a combination of the two. It's an all or nothing game so we have to approach it with the confidence that we will go through."

"The situation is not what we hoped it would be but you can't just say: 'We didn't win the first two games, that's us out.'"

"You have to fight to the end and all pull in the same direction. Now we have a clear objective and it's important we have the right mentality because Wednesday is do or die, we have to approach it like that."

Luis Enrique could make changes, with Azpilicueta, Thiago Alcantara and Mikel Oyarzabal among those in contention to come in.

Meanwhile, Facing Spain's massive attacking potential on Wednesday, Slovakia will rely on their only number-one goalkeeper in the Premier League, Martin Dubravka of Newcastle United fame.

Spain will be huge favourites against

Slovakia, who have so far beaten Poland 2-1 and lost 1-0 to Sweden in Group E, with Dubravka pulling off a few great saves in both games.

He could do little to stop the Polish goal, but he helped Sweden get ahead from a penalty awarded after he had brought down Robin Quaison.

"He ran into me, kicked the ball and fell. It was no penalty," insisted Dubravka. "But we're not giving up. We can build on these two games. We will fight until the last moment."

In Seville on Wednesday, Spain will have to win to reach the last-16 phase, while Slovakia would be happy with a goalless draw.

So far, it has been slim pickings for Luis Enrique's team who have scored once against Poland through Alvaro Morata for a 1-1 draw after being held to a goalless stalemate by Sweden.

Star forwards including Gerard Moreno, Morata, Ferran Torres and Dani Olmo have struggled in the tournament so far.

"We could see Sweden drew at Spain. Each game is different, but we definitely want to fight for the best possible result," Dubravka said.

- 'Too many games' -

The 32-year-old joined Newcastle from Sparta Prague in 2018 when Rafael Benitez was in charge, and he has become an indispensable fixture in

the Magpies goal.

Dubravka did not miss a single league game in the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons, signing a six-year deal at St James' Park in 2019. But he had to yield to number two Karl Darlow last summer because of an ankle injury that ruled him out for six months.

"I was lucky, because I never had an injury that would sideline me for a longer time. So it had to come one day," said Dubravka. "I played too many games, the league, cups, the national team. So the body asked for a break," added the goalkeeper who also caught Covid-19 at the time.

Dubravka recovered in late December, but it took a while -- and some pressure from Newcastle fans -- before manager Steve Bruce decided to give him a chance again."

It came in late February, and although Dubravka's return was not perfect, he played the remaining 13 games of season, with Newcastle climbing from the 17th spot to 12th.

- Piano player -

Dubravka, known for taking icy showers every morning, started his career at MSK Zilina and played in the Champions League in 2010, winning two Slovak titles.

He moved to Danish top-flight side Esbjerg fB in 2014, before moving to the Czech Republic to play for Slovan Liberec and Sparta.

As a child, Dubravka went to an art school and he still plays the piano at home.

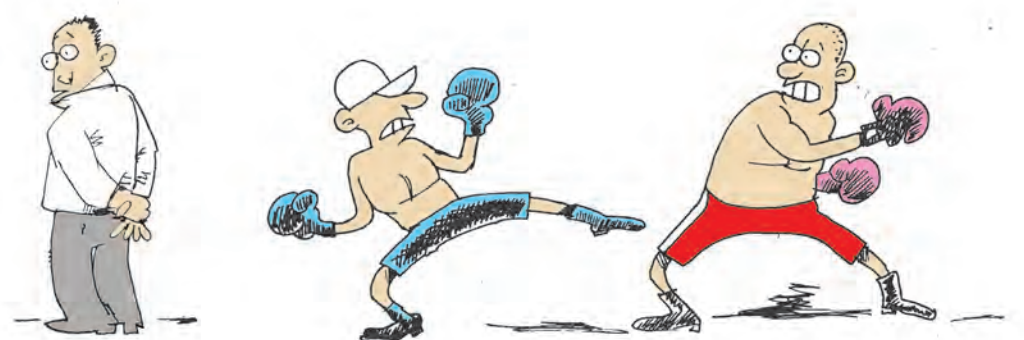
The keen reader, who names Iker Casillas and Petr Cech as his role models and likes Italian and Mexican food, was enrolled in two universities, but he gave up to his mother's dismay to focus on football.

After signing his current six-year contract at Newcastle, Dubravka said he saw its length as a signal of things to come.

"It is a hint that the club reckons with me, maybe even in other jobs later on. I really appreciate that."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Germany eye last 16 with
Portugal at risk of shock exit

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Children with special needs play volleyball in Dar es Salaam recently.

Fixtures announced for bio-secure 2021 COSAFA Cup

CAPE TOWN

The fixtures for the 2021 COSAFA Cup to be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay are out with the competition to now start a day earlier than originally planned and run from July 6-18.

Eswatini and Lesotho will kick-off the tournament at the magnificent Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, before hosts South Africa meet Botswana at the same venue later in the day.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all matches will be played without fans behind closed doors, while the limit on the number of people that can be on-site at the venues means there will be no media present either.

All matches will be live on SuperSport and streamed on COSAFA TV, allowing fans from across the world access to take in the action from the safety of their own homes.

Media will be able to engage with coaches in post-match press conferences that will be conducted via Zoom.

The bio-bubble environment is critical to ensure the safety of the teams and COSAFA, along with valued partners the South African Football Association, have successfully implemented the blueprint for these during the four tournaments that were held in Nelson Mandela Bay towards the end of 2020.

"We are in the third wave, so it means our protocols must be strictly adhered to," SAFA's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Thulani Ngwenya says.

"Everyone that will be coming into the bio-secure environment will have to produce a negative COVID-19 certificate. That includes players, team officials, COSAFA staff, and all volunteers.

"At the end of the group stages, everyone that remains will have to have a second round of tests. There will be four rounds of testing in all.

"We cannot exceed 100 people at the venues, which includes the teams, broadcasters, medical personal, and everybody involved on match-day.

"We will make sure everyone is adhering to the protocols. People showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and will be tested. The isolation period is 10 days, and after that, they can be tested again to come back into the bio-secure environment."

Eastern Cape MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture, MEC Sport, Recreation, Art & Culture, Ms Fezeka Nkomonye, says the COSAFA Cup will bring joy and hope to the entire province.

"The COSAFA Cup comes at a time when we are trying to find ways of moving from relief to recovery. The sector continues to be hard hit and this cup brings a glimpse of hope to not only the sporting industry but also tourism and the economy of the province," Ms Nkomonye says.

"The pandemic has crippled how we do things, the road to recovery and adapting to the new normal is not easy but we strongly believe that hosting this cup is a step in the right direction. It is trying to find a balance between saving lives and protecting livelihoods."

Defending champions Zambia will take their bow at this historic 20th edition of the COSAFA Cup on July 7 when they play Comoros Islands at the Isaac Wolfson Stadium, while before that Malawi and Madagascar kick-off at the same venue.

Dar Women Combine outplays Moro Women Combine in National Women T20 Championship



Dar Women Combine's cricketer, Monica Paschal (L), gets the best player of the clash prize from Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s official, Eunice Moyo, shortly after the cricketer's team took on Moro Women Combine in this season's National Women T20 Championship in Tanga early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

By Guardian Reporter

DAR Women Combine cricketers have made their pursuit of success in the 2021 National Women T20 Championship clear, cruising to an eight-wicket victory over Arusha Women Combine in Tanga yesterday.

Arusha Women Combine, banking on several cricketers that also turn out for the national women side, went in to bat first, they could not make full use of their key players given the side ultimately ended registering 82 runs and dropping five wickets in 20 overs.

Opener Linda Justine, who is as well a national women squad's dependable cricketer, was the batter with most runs, given she hit two fours on her way to notching 18 runs.

Fellow opening batter, Husna Abdi, could not make her presence felt, posting three runs and Dar Women Combine's Nuru Omary then brought the former's presence to an end.

Agness Joseph and Angela Agustino sought to boost Arusha Women Combine's score, posting 13 runs apiece.

Agness made her way back to the pavilion after 17.2 over, whilst pushing the team's score to 65 runs.

Her exit saw Arusha Women Combine drop four wickets.

Arusha Women Combine's skipper Aisha Mohamed somehow improved the score with solid knocks, she posted 17 runs not out, clearing the boundary once.

Lisa Justine ended with not out showing, she was six runs short of a two-digit score.

Dar Women Combine's Nuru Omary was the bowler with a significant contribution, in which she ended with two wickets in three overs.

Dar Women Combine, in response, smoothly chased Arusha Women Combine's total, dropping two wickets in 16 overs.

After a slight wobble, which had experienced cricketer Saida Hamisi exiting in the first over, Dar Women Combine composedly foiled Arusha Women Combine's resistance.

Nasra Hamza led the successful chase with confident shots, she registered 30 runs out consisting of two fours.

She was eventually deservedly picked s the best player o the tie, thanks to her batting exploits.

The in-form batter forged a solid stand with the experienced performer, Monica Paschal, and had

their squad confidently emerging victorious.

Monica was equally explosive, posting 21 runs not out consisting o a four.

Irene Ramadhan, who opened the innings with Saida, had a significant contribution given the cricketer scored 15 runs, cracking a four.

The massive victory has made Dar Women Combine serious challengers for the showpiece's top honour, alongside hosts Tanga Women Combine.

Dar Women Combine cricketers have posted a victory in four matches and conceded one loss, which came in the hands of the tournament favourites, the Tanga Women Combine.

Moro Women Combine locked horns with the tournament hosts, Tanga Women Combine, later in the evening.

Four regional outfits, namely, take part in the showpiece overseen b Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA).

The TCA is as well using the showpiece to select players set to form the national U-19 women squad which will take part in the ICC Africa U-19 Women showdown.

Government now instructs schools to set up sports, art areas

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS year's Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta) kicked off at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara on Monday, with the government instructing schools to set aside special areas for sports and the arts to develop and develop student talents.

Opening the 41st Umisseta games on behalf of the Minister for Education, Science, and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Professor Caroline Nombo, said her Ministry will ensure every school has all the necessary infrastructure for sports including sports for students with special needs.

She said the ministry would improve sports teaching as a talent base and a basis for sustainable participation in sports for health, education, economics, and employment.

Nombo said the government is committed to developing the talents of students through teaching personalities and sports for primary schools, and sports education for teachers training colleges.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary also added that through quality controllers the Ministry will ensure that there are assessments and advice to strengthen sports teaching and learning, sports education, and arts in the institution.

The Umitashumta and Umisseta tournament coordinator Leonard Thadeo said all games will be available except for the high school football games that have not started taking place in high schools.

The sports that will take place in Umisseta games include boys and girls' soccer, netball, boys and girls handball, boys and girls volleyball, boys and girls volleyball, basketball, and choirs and dances in the performing arts.

Mainland Tanzania and two Zanzibar regions are participating in this competition which will be held for 11 days on the grounds of Vocational School and Mtwara Teachers Training College.

With the Umisseta beginning, Umitashumta games climaxed last week with Mara becoming the overall winner after accumulating more points than the other 26 regions participating in the tournament this year.

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

