




National Pg 2
UDSM appeals for varsity land plot



National Pg 3
Dr Mwinyi applauds BoT performance



National Pg 5
Women rights: Six people awarded




Page 13



Halima Mdee (C), beleaguered former national chairperson of the opposition Chadema's women's wing and immediate past legislator for Dar es Salaam's Kawe constituency, addresses a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. She is with her 18 colleagues expelled from the party alongside her by the party's central committee following their recent controversial swearing in as Chadema Special Seats legislators. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Agro-sector census shows woeful seed, fertiliser use

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

TANZANIA faces an uphill task in its quest to modernise farming and lift millions out of poverty, if the outcome of the latest agriculture census is indicative enough.

Releasing findings of an agriculture census for 2019/2020 here yesterday, Tanzania Bureau of Statistics (TBS) director general Dr Albina Chuwa said that out of 13.5 million hectares cultivated in the season, a meager 2.8 per cent used industrial fertilizer and 20.8 per cent used improved seeds.

With close to 60 million people, 68 per cent of Tanzania's workforce engages in farming. However, an estimated 83 per cent of all holdings are run by small family farmers who dominate the agricultural sector by contributing around 75 per cent of total agricultural output.

The chief statistician found that 60.7 of cultivated land used manure while a whopping 76.7 per cent used traditional seeds.

Food crop production stood at 5.4 tons per acre for maize, rice (1.4tons) and millet (552,354 kgs). As for cash crops, coffee had 2,396 kg, tea (40,611kg), cotton (445,972kg) and cloves (3,378kg), the report noted.

Dr Chuwa said the use of modern technology was rising, and in the latest census this situation was seen to raise efficiency and enabling cost reduction.

"We have saved 5bn/- in agro-sector costs compared to the preceding major agro-census in 2007/2008 in which the bureau used 10bn/-," she said.

"It took us three years to complete the 2007/2008 census while with this one we spent only two weeks."

The UN Food and Agriculture

TURN TO PAGE 2



Wami water board finally agrees on factory meters

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRBWB) has embarked on installation of water meters for factories depending on water from this specific source.

WRBWB director Simon Nkonyani (pictured) spoke of the new plan when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that installation of the meters is expected to be completed next February.

"We've agreed with the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), companies and other institutions in the matter, so as to get the correct percentage for bill payments according to the use of water from the basin," he said.

Some industrialists are engaging in water fraud and paying water bills that are different from the water usage, inconveniencing efforts of water

TURN TO PAGE 2

Zanzibar House Speaker holds dress code seminar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

HOUSE of Representatives Speaker Zuberi Ali Maulid (pictured) has cautioned new members against violations of House rules especially on the dress code, the most infringed one in the last assembly.

Speaking here on Monday while closing an orientation seminar for the newly-elected legislators, he warned that there should be no repeat of habits in the last legislature where some members dressed as they wished. This resulted in their being ejected out of the debating chamber, he said.

Some members entered the chamber wearing sandals, while others appeared for committee duties sporting T-shirts, he pointed out, reminding the representatives to stick to formal attire while conducting House engagements.

As was the case in the last legislature, the House will not entertain violations of the dress code and other



ethical rules, as officials are instructed to be firm and strict on the rules, he said.

"Appearing on official duty in an unofficial outfit lowers your esteem in the eyes of government officials whose work you oversee as well as the public at large," the chief legislator observed.

Being a representative of the people in the august House is a noble job that cannot be performed in casual

TURN TO PAGE 2

AfDB gives US \$1m grant for crude oil pipeline project micro lending

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB), whose statutes allow it to act as an agency for donor funds, has granted \$1 million to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (Eacop) project, with each side of the project obtaining \$500,000 in loan guarantee funds.

The money will be channelled to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) conducting activities along the \$3.5 billion project that kicks off early next year.

"The overall objective is to help develop the capacity of local enterprises in the pipeline zone as a potential special economic zone, on the basis of affirmations by officials of the pan African bank based in Abidjan.

The grant will enable small firms access the new

market opportunities and build linkages with national, regional and international companies, they said.

The project aims to support an inclusive private sector growth as the project is expected to create 10,000 jobs during construction, roughly around 5000 jobs on each sphere of the two county project, they said.

On the basis of the AfDB funds allocation mode, the bank will contribute \$500,000 as a grant, while the participating countries will provide counterpart funding, the statement noted.

After modalities with Uganda were completed, a similar project is being finalized on the Tanzanian side of the project, it said, noting that assistance followed requests from the two countries.

The construction of the 1,447-kilometre pipeline

TURN TO PAGE 2

TREASURE VICTORIA APARTMENTS

1, 2, 3 Bedroom Apartments For SALE

SAMPLE HOUSE READY
Completion Date 31st Dec. 2020

AMENITIES

- Astonishing Ocean View
- All rooms are self ensuite
- Swimming pool of a five star hotel standard
- Full Equipped Gym
- CCTV and round the clock security
- Standby generator
- Water heater and water storage facilities
- Children's Play Area
- Ample parking space.

Office Loc: 1st Floor, Treasure Victoria Apartments, Regent Estate Near Kairuki Hospital, DSM, Tanzania.
Cell: +255 764 999 555 / +255 768 333 111 / +255 763 999 333.
Email: sales@treasurevictoria.com Website: www.treasurevictoria.com.

@treasure.victoria treasure.victoria tvictoria_opt

DEVELOPER **IBANGLI INTERNATIONAL**
Empower Investment Limited

11/01/2021





Masasi Urban legislator Geoffrey Mwambe (L) views high-tension electric wires, transformers and related accessories at the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) offices in Masasi yesterday. The items will be used in electrifying various parts of the constituency. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

Agro-sector census shows woeful seed, fertiliser use

FROM PAGE 1

Organisation (FAO) says Tanzania has registered continuous agricultural sector growth and is considered largely self-sufficient in its main staple crop, maize. Cassava, paddy, sorghum and bananas are the next line most widely grown staples.

Small family farms take up to five household members with an average of around 1.2 hectares. Besides agricultural production, livestock keeping and poultry play an important role and account for the second largest source of income.

Tanzanian smallholders hold on average three tropical livestock units, with a quarter of small family farms being female-headed (26 per cent), engaging in crop production rather than livestock keeping, the report noted.

FAO says the government's dedication to improving the country's educational system over the past decade has increased the average educational level of household heads, which exceeds five years of formal education.



We have saved 5bn/- in agro-sector costs compared to the preceding major agro-census in 2007/2008 in which the bureau used 10bn/-

Wami water board finally agrees on factory meters

FROM PAGE 1

protection at the board, he stated.

Water usage has increased rapidly while the sources have not changed, thus impacting on the sustainability of water sources, the director noted.

Since the water that we are using in our generation is the same that our ancestors used, increasing human activities with globalization makes water levels decrease in the basin. "We have tried to apply controls on the use of water so that water sources don't dry up," he elaborated.

Water ought to be protected, for instance

rapidly fixing damages on water taps, with industrialists and other stakeholders needing to take initiatives in conservation as well as water bill payments, he said.

He expressed appreciation on efforts by the confederation to raise awareness on conservation and prompt payment of bills, so that the board isn't impeded in its

operations and enhances its pivotal work of protecting water sources in the basin.

Activities that depend chiefly on water bill payments include the plantation of trees around water sources and building watering spots for animals, domestic and nomadic feeding at large, he said.

Legislation on water sources management

asserts that water is a basic need, while providing for water bill payments. Act II of 2009 at section 43 (1) requires that any person who needs to slow down running water, apply waterproof containment or water storage, taking or using water from the water basin source should get a permit for all this process, he added.

UDSM appeals for more land to set up modern university for medicine

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has appealed to the government in Mbeya Region for a 500-acre land plot for the construction of a modern Health and Allied Science University including a teaching hospital for students.

UDSM Chancellor, former President Jakaya Kikwete issued the appeal here early this week during the 50th graduation ceremony of the University of Dar es Salaam's Mbeya College of Health and Allied Sciences (UDSM-MCHAS) that involved 223 graduates in doctorate.

Dr Kikwete said as for now the university was using premises of the Mbeya Referral Hospital which earlier were supposed to be used by one Mbeya based college.

He said in the event the University obtains the land plot, it will move out of the hospital's premises to let the college that had been earmarked to use them to continue with their plans.

"We obtained the premises due to our size and hence we are supposed to move out and allow them in," he added.

Earlier the University Board Vice Chairman, Mwanaidi Mtanda thanked the Health ministry for its assistance to the university to use premises within the hospital.

She said due to MCHAS Campus being new, there erupted many problems including lack of staff quarters, staff offices and students' hostels.

She said in the event the University gets a land plot and builds the college, it will enhance

status of Mbeya Region including those of all other regions in the Southern Highlands Zone.

"I'm told the application for the land plot has already been submitted to the Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, and since Mbeya City has a new MP - Dr Tulia Ackson, I believe the issue is in good hands," she added.

Prof William Anangisye, UDSM Vice Chancellor congratulated the graduates in doctorate from the Campus and called on them to go out and work hard to assist the community.

Before the 223 graduates in the doctorate were conferred their degrees by Dr Kikwete, they were sworn in by the Director of Mbeya Referral Hospital, Dr Godlove Mbwani, to work for the nation and enhance humankind.



I'm told the application for the land plot has already been submitted to the Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, and since Mbeya City has a new MP - Dr Tulia Ackson, I believe the issue is in good hands



Ibrahim Athumani, a Standard Five student at Mdote Primary School in Muheza District, pictured yesterday (World Aids Day) singing a song meant to inspire people to support the war on HIV and Aids. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Zanzibar House Speaker holds dress code seminar

FROM PAGE 1

attire, he emphasized, reminding the lawmakers that they have enough time when the legislature is in recess to wear whatever they wish.

Parliamentary rules and procedures have usually to be imparted to new members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and the National Assembly, meeting in the capital, Dodoma.

Known as conventions in Commonwealth usage, some rules are not expressly provided for in any written code, but they are formal, recognized and involve a number of sanctions in case they

are breached, thus the need for Speaker's orientation seminar.

One such traditional is that House members from the ruling party and those of opposition parties sit on opposite sides in the House, with ruling party MPs taking seats on the right side of the Speaker's chair, and opposition MPs the opposite side, he stated.

Maintaining party discipline in the House is expressly recognised in parliamentary standing orders, thus the presence of a parliamentary leader known as the chief whip. During the current legislatures, Union and Zanzibar, it is unlikely that an official opposition camp will be there.

AfDB gives \$1m grant for crude oil pipeline project micro lending

FROM PAGE 1

from Hoima in western Uganda to Tanga port will cost \$3.5 million, with the target of the funding being 100 micro businesses in either country trained to do business on the pipeline project zone.

Around 70 major enterprises and relevant supply chains are expected to grow along the pipeline zone, following the signing late last month where Tanzania and Total Oil Co. agreed on technical modalities

of construction of the crude oil pipeline.

Attorney General Adelardus Kilangi signed the Host Government Agreement (HGA) for the government while Nicolas Terraz penned for Total, a French oil consortium.

The signing followed three weeks of intensive negotiations between the AG and Total executives, ending preliminary work on the pipeline which will be used for transportation of crude oil from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga port for export overseas.

Bribery sees two game wardens and one mobile money agent end up in jail

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

CHATO District Court in Geita Region yesterday sentenced two game wardens to three years in jail after finding them guilty of soliciting and receiving 9.5mn/- in bribes.

Also jailed alongside the game security personnel for the same period of time are a mobile money agent who received the money on their behalf and another accomplice—a civil militiaman.

Handing down the sentence here, Resident Magistrate Erick Kagimbo said the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the wardens—Omary Mazanza and Baraka Ukakale—committed the crime on 10 December 2017.

Earlier, lead prosecutor from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption (PCCB) in Geita Region Kelvin Murusuri told the court that the warden alongside Alex Fransisco—a civic militiaman seized 22 cattle belonging to a farmer called Mutebuka Kanyamu whom they later coerced into paying them 9.5mn/- for the release of the animals.

The court heard that on the material day, the trio impounded the animals while grazing near or within the Burigi-Chato National Park in Geita Region and told the owner to wire the money to Nicholas Nyailala, a mobile money agent based in Ngara District, Kagera Region.

Desperate to get his cattle back, Kanyamu complied with the condition and sent 9.5mn/- to Nyailala. The prosecution adduced in court 11 witnesses and 9 exhibits that proved that the offenders in deed committed the crime.

The four who faced four counts of corruption were ordered to pay a fine of 2,840,000/- each or go to jail for three year. They failed to raise the money.

"I hereby sentence you to three years in jail; upon release you will have to repay the 9.5mn/- to its owner," the magistrate said.

Hakimu said the sentence should serve as a lesson to other game wardens who use their positions to receive bribes from encroachers of protected areas and criminals such as poachers.

In their defence earlier, the offenders pleaded with the court to go for a lenient punishment, all arguing that they have families depending on them.

But the prosecution countered this prayer with an argument that acts of bribery were commonplace in protected areas in the country hence a harsh punishment was important to send the message to other criminals.



Salome Kitomari (L), a senior journalist with The Guardian's sister publication Nipasha, displays the trophy Legal Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga (R) presented to her in Dar es Salaam on Monday on behalf of the Coalition of Women's Human Rights Defenders for her outstanding performance in writing news stories and feature articles on gender-based violence. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Mwinyi applauds performance by BoT

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday assured the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) that his government will offer the most cooperation needed by the bank to scale up the socio-economic development of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Dr Mwinyi made the assurance when he met with the Central Bank governor Prof Florens Luoga, who was accompanied by other bank officials from the mainland and Zanzibar. President Mwinyi lauded the role played by the central bank in reinforcing the country's economy.

He urged BoT to advise Zanzibar on better ways to boost its economy for the betterment of the country and its people.

Dr Mwinyi also commended the bank for making its offices in Zanzibar as sub-office of the bank, pledging to offer all the cooperation needed.

He said already on mainland Tanzania, the bank had performed better and its studies have contributed positively to the economy and Zanzibar has the responsibility to use those research findings for the betterment of islanders.

He also said that COVID-19 has been used as a reason for Zanzibar's failure to collect taxes, something he said: "This is not the case".

Dr Mwinyi said despite COVID-19, but tax collection system in Zanzibar needs to be improved, noting that the appointment of Deputy Permanent Secretary (in-charge of revenues and finance) in the ministry of Finance and Planning will help to urge the central bank to improve revenue collections system.

"I'm very optimistic that BoT will provide more support in this area," Dr Mwinyi said.

However he said that his government is putting more weight on the blue economy, deep-sea fishing, and tourism, but "we need more economic experts from BoT".

Dr Mwinyi also suggested the need for better ways of assisting small-scale entrepreneurs through soft loans for them to grow to the next level. "There is a need for the central bank to come up with better ways to assist SMEs."

He added that despite the existence of the Economic Empowerment budget which seems to have not done well for various reasons including the notion of some people in the community to assume that government funds are given as gifts so its return is not going well.

At the same time, he said that his office is open to collaborating with the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and said that the goal is to move away from the mainstream economy and to consider the larger economy especially considering the need to strengthen the economy as the island nations did. it brings.

Thus, he explained that all such measures require cooperation with the Bank while emphasising that the challenge of the existence of illicit funds as well as other challenges His office is open to providing the necessary transactions.

Earlier Prof Luoga said that Zanzibar's economy had continued to grow at a satisfactory pace of an average of 6.8 per cent over the past five years where the service sector had been the biggest contributor.

He stressed that the pace of inflation remained stable where the inflation rate dropped from double-digit in 2011 to 14.7 per cent to a single digit of 5.4 percent for the period 2013-2019.

MeTL Group Launches the Graduate Development Program to promising Tanzanians

By Zuwena Shame

In a bid to support the government's efforts to facilitate the employment of fresh graduates from national universities, for the second time, MeTL Group executed the Graduate Development Program (GDP) with the objective to train graduates under a mentorship program for one year, later providing full employment in various MeTL Group companies.

Speaking during the career fair which was held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, MeTL Group's Communication Officer, Nasra Abdulfattah said that the aim of the program is to primarily give an opportunity to the local graduates to join the Group's skilled workforce. The program is also a platform to empower the fresh graduates with employability skills delivered by the various speakers during the Career Fair.

Abdulfattah said that this is the second time for MeTL Group to execute such a program, whereby a total of 1890 applications were received from graduates across the country.

Abdulfattah said that after receiving applications they had to do suitability screening which shortlisted 374 graduates from the 1890. The successful ones from this stage had to take an



MeTL HR Director, Mr. Hassan Dewji speaking to the graduates during the event.



Graduates listening to a presentation during the event.



A section of the graduates with the MeTL staff.

aptitude test, through which the top 100 were selected, who then attended the career fair.

"We noticed the challenge of unemployment among the many youths in the country especially those who are fresh from univer-

sities and have no experience in their careers. We decided to come up with this program in order to help them grow their careers", said Abdulfattah.

"After today's training, the graduates will take a simulation test

which shall be scored so that we can get the top 35 graduates who will go through an interview as the final stage. We aim to get at least 25 graduates to be enrolled in a 12-month mentorship and from there, they will be employed in the Group" said Abdulfattah.

Abdulfattah mentioned some of the fields considered in the program were Information Technology, Sales, Agriculture, Insurance, Engineering, Human Resources as well as Marketing. She said that some of the criteria for one to be considered were that s/he must be a graduate from a local university with a good GPA and must have graduated not earlier than two years ago.

One of the graduates, Dickson Michael who is a graduate of ag-

riculture from the University of Sokoine, Morogoro said that the GDP career fair has added great career lessons and experiences in his line of career to become more professional. Michael also urged other youth who are unemployed not to give up on their careers and take chances like the MeTL GDP because it's very important in building their careers and life as well.

Also, Alpha Nzuki from University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) graduate of Insurance course, appreciated the MeTL career fair because it helped her to meet different professionals from MeTL Group and share the experience with them. Nzuri said that the GDP career fair will drive her towards positive changes and in general, it will create an impact on our society.



Chadema women's wing council members in Mbeya Region chant in a show of support for the recent decision by the opposition party's central committee to expel from the party the 19 women controversially sworn last week as Special Seats legislators. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

1656 primary, secondary school teachers empowered with ICT devices' fixing skills

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ABOUT 1656 primary and secondary school teachers have benefited from basic information communication devices maintenances and repairing training for the past three years.

Dubbed: 'the Basic Information Communication Devices Maintenances and Repair Programme' is meant to enable them to supervise maintenance of devices in their respective schools.

The programme was conducted by the National Centre of Excellence in ICT (CoEICT) at Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT).

Opening a five-day training to 300 teachers from across the country, Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS)

Paulo Makanza said ICT is a must, stressing that the course is conducted for three consecutively to build the teachers' capacity to maintain computers, printers, and other accessories.

"It is time now to invest in ICT because, without it, our nation cannot experience changes in its economy," he said.

Makanza noted that the training of ICT to the teachers resonates to the education policy expressing the need to have e-library and laboratories.

Citing India, Makanza said it had hugely invested in ICT that is why it is now experiencing faster development.

DIT rector Prof Preksedis Ndomba said a total of 300 primary and secondary school teachers are attending the course, noting that the institute played

its concerted efforts to raise the status of science and technology in the country.

The don said the institute's aim was to ensure that the country reaches middle income through the industrial economy.

"We are now on the final stage of establishing a centre of Excellence for ICT in the country. It is our hope that the training will enable you to access the technology and use it effectively," he said.

IT-CoEICT director Dr Kennedy Aliila said the aim of the training is to build the teachers' capacity to maintain repairs of devices used in their schools.

He said the government provides computers and their accessories through Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF).

Dr Aliila said the course is

conducted by the Indian-Tanzania Centre of excellence in ICT (IT-CoEICT) while DIT plays the role of coordinating it.

DIT is one of the high learning institutions in Tanzania. Originally established in 1957, it is fully accredited by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) to offer technician and engineering programmes leading to the awards of Ordinary Diploma (OD) in engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) respectively and Master of Engineering (MEng).

Historically, DIT was established in 1997 by the Act of Parliament, "the DIT Act No.6 of 1997" to replace the Dar es Salaam Technical College, which had a long history of technical training in Tanzania

Study contracts carefully before signing, CRB advises contractors

By Guardian Correspondent,

Njombe

CONTRACTORS should study carefully contracts before signing to avoid unnecessary loss they may incur during the implementation of different projects, a senior official has said.

Board chairman of the Contractors Registration Board (CRB), Eng. Consolatha Ngimbwa made the advice here yesterday when opening a three-day capacity building training for local contractors in the southern zone.

She said some of the contractors are not faithfully that's why the government has decided to implement some of its construction projects by using force account model to save its money.

She said there are corrupt practices in some of the public procurement tenders the situation which leads many contractors to enter into construction contracts without doing due diligence to satisfy themselves.

"Some of you are not faithfully that's why the government has lost trust in you and opt to use force account in some of its construction projects, you must change and build good trust to the government to trust you," she said.

Speaking about the competition in the construction industry, she said there is high competition when it comes to construction tenders compared to the past five years so she urged them to fill better the tender documents.

She urged them to be open, patriot, and avoid corruption practices in the implementation of construction projects so that they can offer very high-quality products and build trust to their clients including the government itself.

She also urged them to join in one strong organization that will represent when they need to submit their grievances and

different complaints to the government.

CRB Deputy Registrar Research and Development, engineer David Jere the training will help local contractors to know the right price of the projects when they submit tender documents which has been a problem for long time.

"Sometimes our contractors put price which is not real in different tenders and this has been a complaint from different clients so with this kind of regular training we expect them to change and be real when it comes to pricing," said engineer Jere.

Some contractors from Southern Zone, Edgar Mtitu and Charles Mhagama said the training is relevant to them because they expect to improve in their tender documents and implementation of construction projects.

"The guest of honor engineer Consolatha Ngimbwa have shown us the way he insisted to young engineers to be an example of the quality job so we must use her advice as an opportunity to us," said Mtitu

On his side, Mhagama said it is true that when they get construction tenders many local contractors sign contracts without scrutinizing them something which causes many problems in the implementation of the projects.

"We have reminded on how we must study the contracts before we sign them and the importance to have a consultant who will read the contracts and between the lines advice us accordingly," he said.

"Sometimes our contractors put price which is not real in different tenders and this has been a complaint from different clients so with this kind of regular training we expect them to change and be real when it comes to pricing"

Z'bar anti-graft agency directed to investigate revenue collections in all municipal councils

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER of State in the Zanzibar President Office (Regional Administration and Special Zanzibar Government Brigades) Masoud Ali Mohammed has instructed the Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) to make investigations of revenue collections and expenditure in all municipal councils in Zanzibar Urban West Region.

Mohammed said in the one-week period since he assumed office after being nominated he toured the municipal councils for Zanzibar West 'A' and 'B' saying he was not at all satisfied over collections of revenue and expenditure of the municipal councils.

The minister was speaking here on Monday at a meeting with leaders and other officials from the Region, district and municipal councils.

He said in case the investigations will find those involved in embezzlement of public funds, the government would not hesitate to take legal steps against them according to the laws without favouring or discriminating anyone.

He stressed that the government cannot sit idle seeing its money collecting organs not doing their work properly by not collecting revenue or use the same fraudulently.

Mohammed also said he was not satisfied with the state of cleanliness of the town and called on the municipal directors from today (Wednesday) to Sunday

this week to embark on cleaning exercise of all roadsides and other areas.

Mohammed also instructed the regional officials to supervise the exercise and look for ways to make it sustainable.

He said the government now being led by Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has resolved to serve the people hence government leaders and other officials must be accountable to instill people's trust in their government.

He also called municipal councils directors and their assistants not to spend a lot of time in their offices, instead they should go out and listened to people's complaints and find solutions on them.

"There are challenges caused by officials who do not take prompt steps to resolve, every one of you must perform his/her duty as required by the laws," he added.

Meanwhile the Minister called on the regional government to work together with the municipal councils to find the correct statistics of traders in Kijangwani area when they be moved to another area so that those intended for the area should not miss area to conduct their businesses.

"There are challenges caused by officials who do not take prompt steps to resolve, every one of you must perform his/her duty as required by the laws"



A Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) worker pictured at Mafiati in Mbeya city on Monday putting up a banner bearing a message underlining the need to observe road signs. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SEVERY-FIVE percent of primary school students in Mbeya Region suffer from oral and dental problems including tooth decay, the situation experts say is very dangerous.

This was revealed at the commemoration to mark 40 years of the establishment of Tanzania Dental association (TDA) held here that also saw dentists providing free dental treatment to the people.

The dentists, together with other doctors from the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital offered free oral and tooth decay treatment at the

Mbeya primary school students suffer from dental, oral problems

Hospital, Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) grounds as well as at various primary schools in the City.

After a visit at Itiji primary school Dr Shamim Nasir said a great number of students at the school had dental problems, that was dangerous for them in future.

"In one class we found almost all students with tooth decay, hence great work has to be done

including mobilising people to do oral and dental cleanliness in the right way," said Dr Shamim.

Dr Habiba Majapa from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said apart from these children with dental problems, they also found many of them with wrong tooth arrangement.

She called on parents and guardians to frequently examine the teeth of their children to find

out that loose ones are removed in time to avoid the likelihood of new teeth growing without proper arrangement.

She said improper teeth arrangement cause difficulty in their appropriate brushing.

Some of the children said what they gained from the dental experts will help them to save their teeth including their frequent brushing.



AikansiaMuro, NMB Bank Plc's north zone manager, speaks at a seminar for members of the agribusiness community in Kilimanjaro Region held in Moshi municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Six people end up awarded for roles in rights defence

By Guardian Reporter

A senior reporter with The Guardian's sister publication - the Kiswahili daily Nipashe, Salome Kitomari is one of the six women in Tanzania who have been awarded the 2020 Human Rights Journalist Award.

The awards were presented in Dar es Salaam on Monday by the Coalition for Women's Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), under the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

Kitomari was recognised for her journalistic work that enabled many women to secure their rights, while five other women were recognized for social work that has helped many women in the country.

Other women awarded include Vicencia Shule, a lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Pili Kuliwa from Kilwa District, Lindi Region, Janeth Zakaria from Biharamulo District, Kagera Region, Rose Njiro from Arusha Region, and Flora Massoi from Morogoro Region.

The ceremony was held at the International Women's Day of Human Rights Defenders on November 29, and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (November 25 to December 10).

On the same day, the women of the organisations met and discussed women's human rights issues and strategies to take action against GBV.

An official from LHRC, Getrude Dyabene, said the women were recognised for the great work they have done to protect women and secure their rights.

"In celebrating this day we must recognise our fellow women who are doing a good job, they have helped others tirelessly and attracted many, we recognise them for their glorious contribution," she said, adding: "Salome is a journalist who has written a lot of women's stories, has closely followed and pushed for action to be taken

and for justice to be done to perpetrators, and through her work many women have gained their rights, which is why we have recognised her on this important day."

"We have to celebrate our fellows and encourage them, it will make them move forward. Let us invest in articulating and documenting the achievements of our fellow women, let us not just be talked about but show our support," she said. LHRC Executive Director Anna Henga said there were still major challenges for human rights defenders due to negative perceptions against them.

She said the society still has a negative attitude towards women who defended others to the point of being given bad names. "Another challenge is that our defenders are changing the cases or ending the cases at home, when someone is beaten and injured but decides to end the case at home this is the reason these incidents keep on rising," she said.

Former LHRC executive director Hellen Kijo Bisimba said all defenders, regardless of age, should work together to defend human rights. "In our time the challenges were many but we held on to our unity, we gave up and some resigned and invited to defend the rights of others," she said.

"Negative attitudes still exist in the community, there are those who are helped, for example, a woman was cut off by her husband, another was dragged upstairs and broke her hips, the defenders followed up closely but no one knows what happened after that," said Bisimba.

According to Bisimba, male human rights defenders currently face many challenges including being accused of having affairs with perpetrators wives.

"In celebrating this day we must recognise our fellow women who are doing a good job, they have helped others tirelessly and attracted many, we recognise them for their glorious contribution."

By Guardian Reporter

PS salutes Huawei's Seeds for the Future Programme for contribution to ICT drive

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication Dr Jim Yonazi has commended Huawei's efforts to improve the quality of ICT education to increase employability skills to University students in Tanzania.

He made the remarks during the opening ceremony of the fifth season of the "Seeds for the Future" programme that was conducted online this Monday.

In Tanzania, the "Seeds for the Future" programme was launched in 2016 under the support of the Prime Minister's office and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The programme involved 4 Universities when it was launched and now it covers seven Universities - University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (UDOM), Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), Ruaha University College (RUCO), St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) and Dar es Salaam University College of Education.

"I have been informed that in order to contribute to the development of the ICT

talent in Tanzania and align the visions and strategic plans of the country, Huawei has significantly increased its activities and partnerships with Universities and colleges in this country. These are commendable efforts for the betterment of youths in Tanzania."

Dr Yonazi called for the students to utilize the knowledge they get from the programme to teach others and benefit a larger population especially those who were not as lucky as them.

"I congratulate all the students who have taken part in seeds for the future programme this year. I advise them to use this opportunity appropriately to develop and further their knowledge and gain practical experiences in ICT. I also encourage them to share the experience gained with their colleagues in order to advance and sharpen the knowledge they have acquired," he added.

Huawei Tanzania managing director, Frank Zhou highlighted Huawei's plans of enabling Tanzania to cope with technology demands that come with

the dynamics in the digital space. "We understand that digital development requires an important, economy-wide programme to equip Tanzania for the future. In this new era, ICT skills will be necessary for society, for organisations, and even more important for young people. That is why we have deeply invested in several initiatives especially local talent development," he said.

This year, in order to reach more talents in Tanzania, the Seeds for the Future programme will be done through an online platform so that it can accommodate a huge number of students from different regions and so that students with special needs can also participate. Compared with previous years, Huawei was able to increase the number of training opportunities from 10 to 47 students. "I am very proud to announce some of them are female, which also plays an important role in the ICT industry. And I want to encourage more young students attending the course to look at and pursue careers in the telecom space," he enthused.

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

112 tonnes of expired rice destroyed in Isles

AUTHORITIES in Zanzibar have seized and destroyed a total of 112 tonnes of basmati rice after discovering the produce was expired hence unfit for human consumption.

Director of food safety control at the Zanzibar Food and Drugs Agency (ZFDA), Dr Khamis Ali Omar said that the consignment was destroyed at Kibele dump site in Unguja Central District after being proved that the rice variety was unfit for human consumption.

He said there are some traders who engage themselves in fraud by changing the labels on the packages of expired goods with new labels and packages, the practice that threaten the lives of consumers.

He said the rice was discovered in a warehouse belonging to Akhtar Enterprises aka 'Simba Chai' in Unguja's Mombasa area where they also found a large number of unused sulphate bags that had their expiry dates changed.

Dr Khamis further said they also discovered spaghetti whose date had been expired as well with fresh empty packages with new expiry dates ready for packaging and sale.

He said the owner of the warehouse has already been arrested and legal steps were being taken against

him. Suleiman Akida Ramadhan, ZFDA's Head of Food Inspection called on the people to closely examine all products they buy to see whether there are no any inconsistencies in regard to their

description on the packages and report the same to appropriate authorities.

He said ZFDA will continue to make frequent inspections on goods in the market in order to remove those whose dates had expired.

**BAM INTERNATIONAL BV TANZANIA
DAR ES SALAAM**

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from BAM International Tanzania We shall sell Empty Containers, Equipments, Construction materials and office furniture by public auction on Saturday December 5th, 2020 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at BAM International, Batching plant and Weigh bridge area Terminal 3 Project (Julius Nyerere International Airport Dar es salaam).

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND OFFICE FURNITURE:
Mobile Fencing, Manhole covers, Aluminum Profile, Galvanized street light poles, Steel and aluminum Scaffolding, Podium Ladder, Pipe hard insulations, Mesh, Electrical Items, Welding rods, Knauf Insulation materials, Sandwich panels, Fire Fighting fittings, Hose & Valves, Ceiling Tiles, Floor Tiles, Canon Photo Copy m/c CS235, Plotter HP 520, File Cabinets, Office Table, Chairs, Construction Plastic Spacers, Armored Cables, Scrap Materials etc

EMPTY CONTAINER & CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENTS:

Unit	Make	Model	Condition	Duty
47	Empty Container	40FT. High Cub, STD & Open Top	Good	Paid
8	Pipe welding & Threading	m/c 160mm	Good	Paid
4	Welding m/c	250 / 522 / 3- phase	Good	Paid
2	Table Circular Saw machine	ZBV -450	Good	Paid
4	Floor cutting machine	Petrol Engine Honda	Good	Paid
5	Converter Poker Vibrator	LAIIE 2	Good	Paid
3	Multi stage pump	11Kw / 15 - HP	Good	Paid
4	Terrazzo Grinding machine	3 phase	Good	Paid
12	Assorted Terrazzo Machine	Vacuum cleaner & Polisher	Good	Paid

All items may be inspected at BAM International Batching plant & Weigh bridge area Dar es Salaam, from December 3rd to 4th, 2020 from 10:00 am to 4:00pm

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by December 11th 2020 at 4:00pm on the Bam bank account as will be directed. For the payments not made within 4 working days, the items will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments.
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.
- All persons entering BAM project site must wear safety boots, helmet and reflector jacket

For further information contact:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA)
CELL NO: 0754 284 926

DAR ES SALAAM
E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com

**PharmAccess
FOUNDATION**

**Vacancy announcement:
BUSINESS ADVISOR- Based in Dar es Salaam**

Stichting PharmAccess International, Tanzania is currently looking for a Business Advisor to assist health care facilities in improving their business performance. This includes trainings but also provision of technical assistance to the participating health facilities to access affordable (bank) credit to finance quality improvement. The successful candidate will require to work in close collaboration with the partner organization, Medical Credit Fund (MCF). Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Identification and selection of health facilities that might be eligible for credit delivery
- Responsible for the timely execution of Situational Analysis and the Business Plan done by the bank or Technical partner.
- Upon positive intake as per relevant selection criteria, conclude the signing of a participation agreement with the facility
- Collaboration with partner banks and other institutions in regards monthly reports and business development initiatives
- Identification of potential partners in both the health, financial and telecommunication sectors
- In collaboration with Quality Officer and the management of the health facility, write an expert option, Business Quick scan or business plan (depending on the loan size) on the facility and have it approved by the MCF
- Upon approval assist the facility in applying for a loan with the MCF's partner banks
- Provide business training to facilities
- Identification of commercial opportunities within the facilities that will make them performs better and posts a better returns
- Provide business development training to help participating health facilities and partner bank branches to take advantage of those commercial opportunities to finance quality improvement

Qualifications:

- BSc Business Administration, Finance, Banking or equivalent from a recognised University
- MBA or post graduate qualification in Management, Accounting or Finance will have an added advantage.

Experience:

- At least three years post qualification experience in the financial sector
- Management experience in the financial sector
- Experience in the Microfinance or SME will have an added advantage

Skills:

- Financial, business, analytical, writing, planning and organizational Computer literacy including use of tablets and database/web applications
- Display a commitment for health quality improvement Communication, interpersonal and marketing skills

Advocacy to market based approaches to health financing
PharmAccess is an equal opportunities employer and these positions are open to all, but ONLY qualified candidates should submit a CV and a cover letter in English not later than 11th December, 2020 to:
How to apply
Human Resource Manager

**PharmAccess Foundation
P. O. Box 635
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Or
E-mail: recruitment@pharmaccess.or.tz**



In Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation



H.E. Wang Ke, Ambassador of China to Tanzania

FOCAC is a Driving Force for Sustained Development of China-Tanzania Cooperation

the year 2000; China-Africa trade reached US\$208.7 billion, 20 times the size of 2000. China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 11 years in a row, and has contributed more than 20% to Africa's growth for a number of years. Many strategic projects, such as the African Union (AU) Conference Center, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, and the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, have been completed and put into use. A host of projects including railways, roads, airports, seaports and power stations have come to fruition in Africa. So far, China has provided about 120,000 government scholarships to Africa, and sent 21,000 doctors and nurses in medical teams to 48 African nations. These figures and examples are vivid descriptions of the commitment of China and Africa to promoting common development, and strong evidence of mutual benefits and the inclusive nature of China-Africa cooperation.

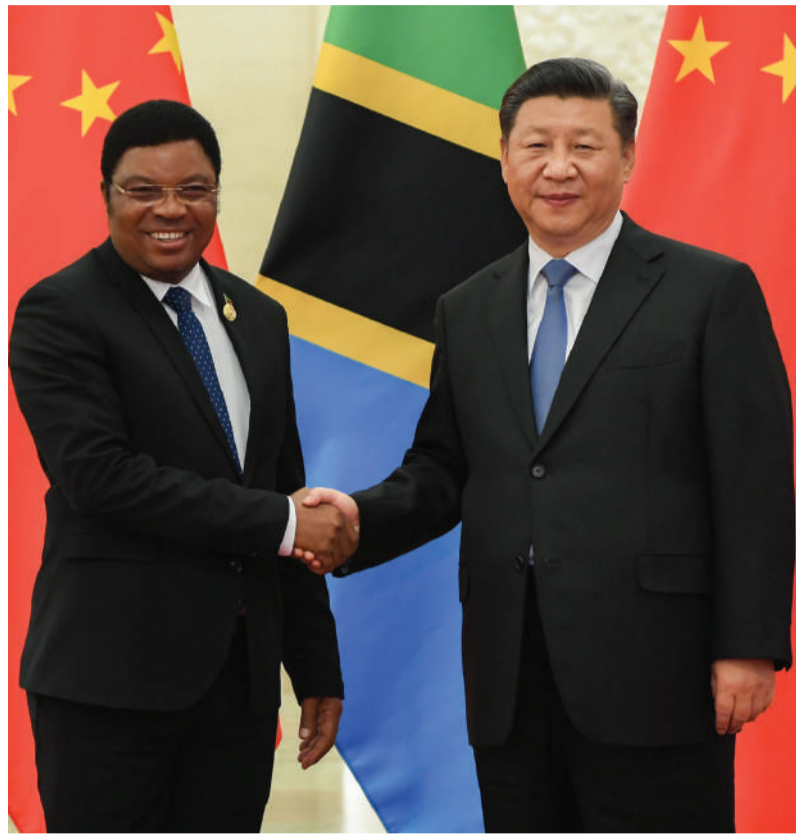
It should be noted that FOCAC has demonstrated to the world the strong vitality of China-Africa relations characterized by solidarity, mutual assistance, wide consultation and joint contribution. It has also manifested Africa's huge development potential, and enhanced Africa's international image and status. In 2000, Africa was labeled "the Hopeless Continent" in the cover story of the famous magazine *The Economist*, which represented the general view of Africa in the Western world. However, during the 20 years after the founding of FOCAC, the African economy has showed to the world an exciting growth curve, and Africa has taken on a new look featuring enduring peace and sustained development. Currently, Africa is regarded as a "Hopeful Continent" and a desirable place for investment, and various international mechanisms of cooperation with Africa are established. It is fair to say that FOCAC has not only brought remarkable changes to Africa's economic and social development,

but led and promoted the international cooperation with Africa, thus contributing greatly to the diversification of Africa's cooperation partners.

As an important country in Africa and China's traditional cooperation partner, Tanzania has played a significant role in the founding and development of FOCAC. In October 2000, when the then Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa was in his crucial period of reelection campaigns, he resolutely made the decision to go to China to attend the First Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, thus becoming one of the four African leaders who witnessed the founding of FOCAC. Former Prime Minister of Tanzania Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the then Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), was also present at that conference. In the subsequent 20 years, Tanzania has participated in all summits, ministerial conferences, coordinators' meetings, senior officials' meetings and major sub-forums within the framework of FOCAC, actively contributing its wisdom and strength to the Forum's development. In 2018, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, representing President John Pombe Magufuli, attended the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the development of China-Tanzania relations.

Over the 20 years, China and Tanzania have maintained strategic communication and deepened the mutually beneficial cooperation within the FOCAC framework. The two countries have made joint efforts to implement the outcomes of every conference of the Forum, thereby continuously giving fresh impetus to the win-win cooperation and common development of China and Tanzania.

—The bilateral trade and investment have reached new heights. In 2019, China-Tanzania



Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Beijing on 6 Sept. 2018, after the 2018 Beijing Summit of FOCAC. (Photo/Xinhua)

trade reached US\$4.179 billion, 45 times of the size in 2000. China has been Tanzania's largest trading partner for four consecutive years. China's accumulative direct investment in Tanzania has exceeded US\$7 billion, with more than 700 investment projects providing around 150,000 direct and indirect jobs for Tanzanians. Chinese enterprises have set up plants in such sectors as textiles, agricultural products processing and building materials manufacturing. These investments have contributed to the implementation of Tanzania's localization strategy in economic development and its industrialization process as well.

—Numerous shining landmarks have emerged in Tanzania. The Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) is another milestone building symbolizing China-Tanzania friendship following the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA). The Library of University of Dar es Salaam is the largest and a state-of-the-art library built with Chinese aid in Africa. Among the infrastructural projects undertaken by Chinese

companies, the Nyerere Bridge is the first cable-stayed sea-crossing bridge in East Africa; the Ubungo Interchange is the first multi-layer and multi-span flyover in Tanzania; and the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) network is Tanzania's "Information Highway" which covers the country and connects the neighboring nations.

—Cooperation to improve people's livelihood has yielded remarkable success. Over the 20 years, China has dispatched 22 medical teams comprised of 490 doctors to Tanzanian Mainland and Zanzibar. The Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), built with China's aid, has made the referral of patients to foreign countries for cardiac surgical operations a thing of the past. China has provided government scholarships to 2,339 Tanzanian students and nearly 7,000 short-term training opportunities to various Tanzanian professionals during the past 20 years. China has also funded the construction of Kagera Regional Vocational Training and Service Centre, and the expansion of Tanzania Police School - Moshi,

with the purpose of supporting Tanzania's efforts to develop its human capital.

—People-to-people exchanges have been flourishing. Recent years have witnessed an increasing number of young Tanzanians going to China to study or work. At the same time, more and more Chinese are attracted to Tanzania for business, academic study, investment and tourist purposes. "Happy Spring Festival - Celebrate the Chinese New Year in Tanzania", Tanzania International Wushu (Martial Arts) Competition and other Chinese cultural activities have become famous brands of China-Tanzania cultural exchanges. Tingatinga and other unique arts made in Tanzania have attracted numerous fans in China. Furthermore, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Tanzania in 2019 exceeded 35,000 and the direct flights between Dar es Salaam and Guangzhou are in the pipeline.

A few weeks ago, the 5th plenary of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted the CPC Central Committee's proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035. These proposals outline the blueprint of China's future development. With the completion of the sixth General Election and the assumption of duties of the national leaders and the Parliament, Tanzania is moving with an accelerated pace toward full realization of the goals set up in its Development Vision 2025. As both China and Tanzania have entered a new period of development, the two countries are facing opportunities for strengthening solidarity and mutually beneficial cooperation. China looks forward to working more closely with Tanzania to align development strategies, enhance policy communications, and accelerate the implementation of the FOCAC Beijing Summit outcomes and the Belt and Road Initiative. By making full use of the FOCAC resources, we can promote the development of our two countries and make China-Tanzania relationship a good model for building a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). At the start of the 21st century, to better respond to new situations, seize new opportunities and meet new challenges, China and Africa jointly proposed the establishment of FOCAC, which has ushered China-Africa relations into a new era featuring integrated and institutionalized development. Since then, China-Africa cooperation has shifted to a "high gear", advancing on the "fast lane".

Over the past 20 years, FOCAC has been expanding and developing continuously. It has become an important platform for collective dialogue and an effective mechanism for practical cooperation between China and Africa. It has also become a banner of South-South cooperation and international cooperation with Africa. The Forum has delivered a leap in China-Africa relations from "a new type of partnership" to "a new type of strategic partnership" and to "a comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership", and enhanced the strategic mutual trust between China and Africa to a record high.

FOCAC has never been a "talking shop", but a "task force" that gets things done. Over the past 20 years, FOCAC has formulated and implemented a series of results-oriented actions, plans and measures that meet the needs of China and Africa, bringing tangible benefits to Chinese and Africans. In 2019, direct Chinese investment stock in Africa topped US\$49.1 billion, up by nearly 100 times from

20 Years of Real Results under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation



H.E. Mbelwa Kairuki, Tanzanian Ambassador to China

direction for developing a new, stable, and long-term partnership featuring equality and mutual benefit between China and African Countries. FOCAC is arguably one of the most effective and vibrant multilateral mechanisms that fostered South-South cooperation.

The forum meets every three years. In addition to the 2000 founding event in Beijing and two other meetings held in Beijing in 2006, other meetings have been held in Ethiopia, Egypt, and South Africa. The latest event, the 7th FOCAC Ministerial Conference, was held in Beijing in September 2018. The cooperation extends to trade, investment, development aid, soft-loans, technology, diplomacy, media, agriculture, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. The 20th anniversary FOCAC celebration coincided with celebrating the 55th anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Treaty between Tanzania and China. Since the signing of the Treaty, bilateral relations have been exemplary in all aspects. Our two countries always reiterate their attachment to the international scene's same principles and their constant concern to

advance toward the consolidation of their bilateral cooperation.

The two countries maintained political consultation at the highest level, notably through bilateral contacts between leaders and senior officials. Those contacts enabled them to assess their cooperation in various fields and examine the possibilities of promoting and developing them, particularly in the economic field, including trade, investment, tourism, infrastructure, and areas

related to higher education, health, and military.

The pandemic has enabled the world to witness the solid nature of Tanzanian-Chinese friendship once again. After the spread of the virus in Wuhan, Tanzanians expressed their solidarity and compassion to their Chinese brothers and sisters. The Tanzanian government even offered to send a medical team from Tanzania to Hubei province to join their Chinese counterparts

in the fight against COVID-19.

And when the Tanzanian people subsequently faced the pandemic, the Chinese authorities quickly showed their solidarity with Tanzania and granted donations to help the Tanzanian people fight against the epidemic. In addition to the aid, China also shared its experiences in fighting the virus through several video-conferences. By helping each other in difficult times, Tanzania and China have together opened a new page in the record of their fruitful cooperation. They have shown the world that the concept of a community with a shared future for humankind, promoted by China, requires practical actions from the international community members.

China has been Tanzania's largest trade partner and leading source of Foreign Direct Investment regarding economic relations. In the last 20 years, Chinese enterprises have strengthened their presence in Tanzania and participated in Tanzania's development programs, especially in the field of infrastructures such as roads, railway, bridges, ports, and housing construction.

Bilateral cooperation has also been expanded in the fields of health, agriculture, and military. The human dimension is also present in the

framework of bilateral relations. Exchanges have been intensified in both directions, including students, journalists, and cultural events.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, is an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between Tanzania and China, particularly with regard to infrastructure connectivity and investment intensification. As an important partner of China in Africa, Tanzania will play a vital role in implementing this initiative, given its geographical location, economic potential, and diplomatic weight.

Tanzania's participation in the BRI will enable the coordination and harmonization of development programs and infrastructural connection. Projects such as Construction of Standard Gauge Central Railway Line, revitalization of TAZARA Railway and the old central line meter gauge railway, upgrading and expanding of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga, Mtwara and Zanzibar Ports, construction of new airport terminal 3 in Dar-es-Salaam and New Terminal in Zanzibar, Ubungo Interchange will contribute immensely to the implementation of the BRI.

Under the leadership of His Excellency John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and His Excellency Xi Jinping, the President of People's Republic of China, the prospects are bright for Tanzania-China cooperation after the pandemic, both bilaterally and within the framework of FOCAC and the BRI.



The Julius Nyerere International Convention Center (JNICC) was built with a grant from the Chinese Government. Its construction was completed in Sept. 2012. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)

October 10 marked one of the most significant dates in the growing Sino-Africa relations. It is the day 20 years ago that the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was established at the first Ministerial Conference held in Beijing. The then President of Tanzania, late Benjamin William Mkapa, joined his Chinese counterpart His Excellency Jiang Zemin and other Heads of State from Togo, Zambia, Algeria and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim to witness the birth of what was to become a global benchmark in multilateralism where all partners are in it for mutual benefit.

The FOCAC, comprising of 54 African Countries, the African Union Commission, and the People's Republic of China as partners, was formed to chart the



In Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation



Prof. Humphrey P. B. Moshi,
Director of the Centre for
Chinese Studies (CCS), University
of Dar es Salaam

Twenty Years of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation: Achievements, Challenges and Future Outlook

culture, and peace and security.

In the wake of the 20th anniversary, it is quite an appropriate time to take stock on how the cooperation has performed in the enumerated areas. However, it needs to be pointed out at the outset that, the intensity and extensivity of engagement cum implementation in the various areas, differ across African countries. This notwithstanding, areas such as infrastructure development, trade and investment show higher levels of engagement, across countries, than others. A few examples will illustrate the phenomenon. By the end of 2014, trade reached USD 221.06 billion, 22 times of that in 2000, accounting for 5.45 percent of China's total trade and 20.5 percent of Africa's total foreign trade. In this regard, China has been Africa's largest trading partner for six consecutive years.

Likewise, by October 2015, a total of 5,674 km of railways, 4,507 km of highways, 18 bridges, 12 ports, 14 airports and terminals, and 64 power plants had been built and completed in the African continent in the area of infrastructure development.

Indeed, a closer look at the cooperation between China and Tanzania will deliver a clearer picture on the status of cooperation. The total trade value between China and Tanzania has been growing in the past decade. China's exports to Tanzania comprise largely of manufactured goods: electrical appliances, garments and vehicles, etc. The composition of China's exports to Tanzania has remained largely unchanged although trade volumes have increased substantially. China is largely importing ores (mainly

copper and precious metal ores, but also smaller quantities of niobium, tantalum, vanadium, zirconium and manganese), vegetable and animal products from Tanzania. As trade volumes have increased, the share of cotton in China's imports from Tanzania has decreased drastically. Since 2004, ores have dominated the Chinese import profile. Tanzania has a trade deficit with China despite the increase in trade between the two countries.

Tanzania exports to China portrayed a mixed trend. The export value increased from USD 22.8 million in 2008 to USD 668.5 million in 2011, it declined to USD 307.6 million in 2013, and then reversed upwards to USD 683.9 million in 2014. Indeed, data from other sources do indicate that total trade between the two countries stood at USD 3.7 billion in 2013. Unlike exports, the value of Tanzania's imports from China indicated a strong upward trend, it more than doubled from USD 703.1 million in 2008 to USD 1,571.1 million in 2014.

In 2013, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) registered more than 522 Chinese projects with a combined value of more than USD 2.5 billion. The projects were expected to create 150,000 jobs. China has also announced it will focus on three key sectors for investment: industrialization, aviation and infrastructure, especially railways and ports. These sectors are seen as vital for boosting Tanzania's economy. Investment is expected to also target manufacturing, agro-processing, construction and information and communication technology. We have seen a number of projects undertaken by Chinese companies, such as the Nyerere Bridge, the



The Nyerere Bridge in Dar es Salaam was built by a Chinese company from Sept. 2012 to April 2016. It is the first cable-stayed, sea-crossing bridge in East Africa. (Photo/CRJE)

National ICT Backbone Broadband Network, the Ceramic factory and Steel plant, just to mention a few.

Since 1968, China regularly dispatches medical teams from Shandong Province to Tanzania Mainland and since 1964, China has been dispatching medical teams from Jiangsu Province to Zanzibar. To date, a total of 490 medical workers have been sent to the country. Through FOCAC, dozens of agricultural experts have also been dispatched to Tanzania. Moreover, three primary schools have been donated as part of the FOCAC commitments and are to be constructed in Zanzibar and in the Kiteto and Bagamoyo districts respectively. Tanzania is also to receive a hospital specialized in cardiology, as requested by the Tanzanian government. An anti-malaria research centre donated by China is also to be housed at the hospital.

In terms of educational assistance, more than 2,300 Tanzanian students have studied in China with financial support from the Chinese government since the establishment of the

bilateral relations. In 2008 alone, more than 70 Tanzanian students were selected to pursue studies at Chinese universities. Since then, the number has grown to over 200 per year.

In July 2001, China agreed to partial debt cancellation for Tanzania. According to bilateral agreements, the Chinese government agreed to exempt Tanzania from the obligations of paying back 15 batches of interest-free loans to the value of USD 19.2 million which had matured by 31st December 1999.

During President Hu Jintao's latest visit to Tanzania in February 2009, a donation of USD 22 million was made and a USD 56 million, 60,000 seat sports stadium financed by the Chinese government was inaugurated. Recently, an ultra-modern library was inaugurated at the University of Dar es Salaam, as well as a Confucius Institute.

The above narration of the performance in the context of FOCAC's existence, shows clearly that the cooperation has not only contributed positively to economic growth, through the improvement

of African countries' investment climate by the provision and improvement of infrastructures, but promoted social and cultural exchanges between African countries and China. Given the ample opportunities embedded in FOCAC and the weak or skewed Africa's human, institutional and structural capacities that inhibit effective grasping of those opportunities, including western countries' negative attitude toward the cooperation, African countries need, in collaboration with China, to scale up cooperation efforts in the areas of capacity building, industrialization, agricultural development and public health services provision, as a post-COVID-19 intervention. These efforts have to be coupled with conducting of joint research between Chinese and African scholars aimed at awareness raising, amongst a wide spectrum of stakeholders, while dispelling the Westerners' negative views on the FOCAC. Once these issues are well taken on board, the future outlook for the FOCAC remains bright, solid and sustainable.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in now twenty years old. It was established on October 10-12, 2000 when the Forum's First Ministerial Conference was held in Beijing. The Conference was attended by over 80 ministers from 44 African countries, representatives of 17 international and regional institutions, and Chinese and African business community. The main outcome of the Conference was the adoption of The Beijing Declaration and The Program for China-Africa Cooperation in Economic and Social Development. Ultimately, this laid the foundation for the development of China-Africa social-economic relations in the new era.

In this regard, the two sides committed themselves to developing a new partnership underpinned by principles of long-term stability, equality and mutual benefits to safeguard the common interests of developing countries. Indeed, it is in the context of the foregoing that FOCAC focused on ten (10) areas for spearheading the cooperation. These are the following: Industrialization, infrastructure development, finance, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction, public health,

Two Decades of Practical Cooperation and Mutual Learning Between Chinese and African Civilizations for Building a Stronger Community with a Shared Future

practical outcomes of China-Africa cooperation. Over the years, China and Africa have jointly forged ahead with strengthened political trust and high-level interactions, boosted economic and trade cooperation, and enhanced cultural and people-to-people exchanges, which have brought changes to both Chinese and African people.

From 2000 to 2010, FOCAC had shown its strength to promote China-Africa cooperation and Africa's development. China-Africa trade rose from US\$10.6 billion in 2000 to US\$106.8 billion in 2008 at an annual growth rate of over 30%, and China had become Africa's largest trading partner. The ten years had also seen a rapid development in Africa with an annual economic growth of 5%-10%. In December 2011, The Economist changed its tune on Africa, and put "Africa Rising" on its cover, admitting the huge changes happened in Africa and its possible bright future.

From 2010 to 2020, as FOCAC as a mechanism for practical cooperation further matured, China-Africa cooperation has been deepened and upgraded. In 2019, China-Africa trade reached US\$208.7 billion, which was 20 times of that in the year of 2000, and China has been Africa's top trading partner for 11 years in a row. At the same time, the direct Chinese investment stock in Africa approached US\$49.1 billion, increased by 100 times from the year 2000. According to recent research, China has contributed more than 25% to Africa's economic growth, and China-Africa cooperation continues to unleash its great potential. Since China has actively participated



Tanzania International Wushu Competition is an important annual event of China-Tanzania cultural exchanges. The photo shows a athlete playing swords at the 2019 Competition held in Dar es Salaam on 11 Aug. 2019. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)

in improving the connectivity in Africa, more than 6,000 kilometers of railways and the same mileage of roads, and nearly 20 ports and over 80 large-scale power plants have been built in various African countries. These infrastructures have laid a solid foundation to build modern logistics systems in Africa, supporting Africa to integrate into the global industrial and supply chains.

Besides promoting the cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure and connectivity, FOCAC has also played a positive role as a platform for collective dialogue between China and Africa. For African countries, China is an important partner, and FOCAC provides a platform to communicate with this partner on the development experience and issues of their core interests

and major concerns. For China, it welcomes African countries aboard the express train of its development, and FOCAC provides a pilot platform to advance the South-South cooperation, to build a community with a shared future for mankind, to advocate global governance reforms and promote a new model of international relations. Under the framework of FOCAC, more mechanisms for science and education, cultural and people-to-people exchanges have been built, demonstrating a shift to non-government-driven form. Take the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University where I am associated with as an example. We co-organized a seminar to commemorate the 10th anniversary of FOCAC in Pretoria in November 2010, when the then Vice President Xi Jinping attended the

opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Following the guidance of Chinese and African leaders, we established the China-Africa Think Tank Forum (CATTF) in 2011, creating a platform for Chinese and African think tanks to exchange ideas. In the following conferences of the CATTF, China-Africa Think Tanks 10+10 Partnership Plan was launched in 2013, and China-Africa High-Level Dialogue Conference on the Fight Against Poverty for Common Prosperity was held in the headquarters of the African Union in Ethiopia in 2017.

Through these equal dialogues and multiple exchanges, concepts and ideas drawn from China's development experience have been increasingly discussed, including development planning, reform and opening up, self-reliance and unremitting diligence,

good governance, and capacity building; and principles and wisdom concluded from China-Africa practical cooperation have been spread, including sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and pursuing the greater good and shared interests. In this process, Chinese and African people have deepened civilizational exchanges and mutual learning, and jointly worked for creating new knowledge to the humanity, and complementing the Western views and theories on world history and human civilizations.

With the efforts of both Chinese and African people, FOCAC has fostered a new development paradigm for developing countries, and set a new benchmark of mutually beneficial international cooperation, its experience will transcend time and place to establish a shining example in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Today, the world is being shaped by changes unseen in a century, while China-Africa relations has come to the best time in history. As a lifelong learner and researcher of Chinese and African history and civilizations, my observation is that, when the humanity is at a crossroads in its development course, the Chinese and African civilizations, accumulated in ancient and modern ages, will add impetus and inspiration to the development of human civilizations.

(The author is an initiator and major organizer of China-Africa Think Tank Forum. He was a visiting Professor at University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania in 2003.)



**Prof. LIU Hongwu, Founder
and Director of the Institute
of African Studies at Zhejiang
Normal University in China**

In May 2000, the British magazine The Economist released an issue with its cover labelled Africa "the hopeless continent", and mentioned that the world might give up on the entire continent. However, that only represented the Western side of the view. The fact was that China believed Africa would be a promising continent, and had been ready to build a new platform with Africa for shared development. Five months later, in October 2000, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was founded in Beijing, inaugurating a new era of China-Africa relations and Africa's development.

Though twenty years have passed since I attended the First Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, my memory of that historic event has never faded away. Since then, as a researcher of African Studies in China, I began to be interested in the core issues of Africa's development and China-Africa relations, and to observe and work for the various fields and

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Why meandering Amboni caves remain scenic tourist hotspot

THE Amboni Caves are the most extensive limestone caves in East Africa. They are located 8 km north of Tanga City in Tanzania off the Tanga-Mombasa road. The caves were formed about 150 million years ago during the Jurassic age. It covers an area of 234 km². According to researchers the area was under water some 20 million years ago. There are altogether ten caves but only one is used for guided tours.

Amboni Limited, a company which was then operating sisal plantations in Tanga Region acquired the area in 1892. The company notified the British colonial government about the caves who in turn declared the caves a conservation area in 1922.

It is not known when the caves were exactly discovered but reports indicate that ethnic groups such as the Wasegeju, Wasambaa, Wabondei and Wadigo who lived near the caves used it for prayers.

In 1963, the then government of Tanganyika handed over the caves to the Department of Antiquities. The cave attracts tourist as well as students for their geography lessons.

A new geological survey will soon start at the Amboni Caves to gather more information on the formation, morphology and legends surrounding the scenic tourist attraction, with intent to making the vicinity a new tourist hotspot.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) which manages the caves will conduct the study which also seeks to find out the precise dating of formation of the meandering caves.

The conservator of the caves, Melchizedek Mwambungu said here at the weekend that NCAA

geologists will soon embark on the work, to undo or confirm what has been said about the site for decades.

There are seven caves in the area but only two, namely number three and four are in use. The study will advise if other channels are safe for guided tour activities, he said. "We currently use data which we found when taking over, but we know we have to undertake a geological survey to make precisions in specific areas, enhancing the capacity to answer any questions by visitors," he declared.

NCAA took over the caves six months ago and it has managed to make some improvements in the cave infrastructure to increase attraction, notably on safety of visitors. This was done by installing special lights and drifts to enable visitors to enter the caves without environmental fears, even when the caves are water-logged, the conservator noted.

NCAA has stopped explosions from limestone quarrying activities, therefore, increasing the security of visitors entering the caves. "The number of visitors has increased and we now have between 800 and 1,000 visitors on a daily basis, mostly school children.

NCAA plans to build a parking lot, a camping site and restaurant to cope with increased visitors. "We had a visit from TARURA technicians to prepare to build a parking lot and other facilities to ease access to the caves," he said.

The conservator cited plans to construct a wall to block gushing water flows from Mkulumuzi River nearby. "When the river is flooded water enters the caves, blocking further use until the water recedes," he explained.

We must fight manifestations of present-day global slavery

SLAVERY and enslavement are the state and condition of being a slave, who is someone forbidden to quit their service for another person and is treated like property. Slavery relies heavily on the enslaved person being intimidated either by the threat of violence or some other method of abuse. In chattel slavery, the enslaved person is legally rendered the personal property (chattel) of the slave owner.

In economics, the term de facto slavery describes the conditions of unfree labour and forced labour that most slaves endure. In the course of human history, slavery was often a feature of civilisation and legal in most societies, but is now outlawed in all countries of the world, except as punishment for crime.

In 2019, approximately 40 million people, of whom 26 percent were children, were enslaved throughout the world despite it being illegal. In the modern world, more than 50 percent of enslaved people provide forced labour, usually in the factories and sweatshops of the private sector of a country's economy. In the industrialised countries, human trafficking is the modern variety of slavery.

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December, marks the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery international day is a yearly event on December 2, organised since 1986 by the

United Nations General Assembly. The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others was approved by the United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 1949. The Assembly proclaimed 2004 the International Year to commemorate the struggle against slavery and its abolition.

Despite the considerable efforts of governments, civil society and the international community, we still live in a world blighted by slavery and slavery-like practices. Millions of human beings are subjected to an existence that is almost unfathomable in its degradation and inhumanity.

Debt bondage, serfdom and forced labour; trafficking in persons and trafficking for the purpose of organ removal; sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour; forced marriage, the sale of wives, widow inheritance, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict - these are among the manifestations of slavery today. All are crimes and egregious violations of human rights.

Today, trafficking in persons is an issue of global concern, affecting almost all countries. According to ILO estimates, the minimum number of persons in forced labour, including sexual exploitation, at any given time as a result of trafficking is 2.45 million.

The inhumane activity involves coercion, abuse of power and human rights violations. The crime of trafficking in persons for the purposes of exploitation be it for labour, sexuality or organs, presents a distinctive set of challenges to most countries.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat...



Trans men's reproductive health needs more research

By Dr. Lynae Brayboy | Clue

AN important aspect of reproductive health is contraception. Unfortunately, for many transgender men, this choice can be difficult. There is very little research to inform their choices and very few healthcare professionals with clinical expertise in trans reproductive care, which includes pregnancy, fertility and sexual function as well as contraception.

Taking testosterone can help produce desired, gender-affirming characteristics for many trans men. As well as facial hair and a lower voice, this can include amenorrhea, or the absence of spontaneous periods - something that may be welcomed.

However, it's important to note that testosterone is not a contraceptive and people can become pregnant despite not having a period. This means that reliable contraception is still very important for trans men who don't want to become pregnant, even when taking testosterone.

There is no clinical consensus

on what the most appropriate contraceptive option is when it comes to the transition process for trans men.

A very commonly prescribed method is the oral contraceptive pill. Both components of the oral contraceptive pill work independently to impede the production and effect of androgens (hormones associated with male characteristics, like testosterone and androstenedione) that are made naturally by the ovaries and adrenal glands.

So there is a possibility that combined contraceptive pills could negate the desired effects of gender-affirming hormone therapy for trans men.

However, there is not enough data to really know with certainty whether this is the case. This is why we need further clinical research, and better enrollment of trans men in contraceptive studies in general: so we have more data.

One method of contraception that transgender men could consider could be methods that just use progesterin - a synthetic version of the natural

female reproductive hormone progesterone. These have a singular impact on testosterone production, rather than the dual one that the combined pill has.

They could also consider a hormonal IUD (intrauterine device), a t-shaped device that sits inside the uterus and which has the benefit of at least 20% of users having no period.

Finally, the etonogestrel progestin implant is the most effective form of birth control and many individuals experience infrequent period bleeding. But of course this implant, like the IUD, needs to be placed by a trained healthcare professional. Keep in mind that everyone is different so your bleeding profile could vary.

In the U.S, it was only in 1993 that the National Institute of Health policy required women to be included in all of the research that the body supported. Now, I think that it is time for the mandate to be re-evaluated, to make sure all genders are included.

There are an estimated 1.5 million trans people in the United States, but unfortunately there is really sparse data about

trans individuals across the field of reproductive health. Even emerging research, such as a study published this year on ovulation while taking testosterone by scientists at the University of Washington, concludes that further research is needed.

Anyone reading this - whether a trans person, an ally or otherwise - can petition their governmental representatives and local health officials to fund and approve studies. There is the PRIDE study, which is tracking the long-term health of LGBT+ people, but we also need new ones that specifically study both fertility, pregnancy and contraceptive options for transgender and/or non-binary individuals.

We can also direct our attention towards volunteering for trans reproductive justice initiatives, shaping medical education, and increasing our own awareness of the increased violence against Black trans lives.

Trans health issues are public health issues and we need everyone's help to address the reproductive health disparities that exist.

Food as prevention: Rising to nutritional challenges

By Gabriele Riccardi

THE risks factors contributing to the dramatic rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in recent decades have been known for a long time but the Covid-19 pandemic has brutally exposed our collective failure to deal with them.

Reporting on the findings of the latest Global Burden of Disease Study, The Lancet warns of a "perfect storm" created by the interaction of the highly infectious Covid-19 virus with the continued rise in chronic illness and associated risk factors, such as obesity and high blood sugar.

The mounting dangers posed by NCDs are highlighted in Good Health and Well-Being, the third of the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals, which targets the reduction of premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment by one third by 2030.

Yet NCDs are projected to account for 52 million deaths in 2030, representing some 75% of all deaths, up from 63% in 2013 and 71% in 2016. Worldwide life expectancy gains could be reaching a turning point.

Cardiovascular diseases account for most deaths from NCDs, followed by cancers. Diabetes is also a major killer. Deaths from Alzheimer's disease and dementia are also seen to

be rising dramatically - partly because people in richer countries are living longer but also because of improved diagnosis and reporting on death certificates, as seen in the UK where it is now the leading cause of death for women, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Many - but not all - of the risk factors leading to these NCDs are preventable and treatable through changes in unhealthy behaviours. Tackling them will bring us enormous social and economic benefits.

Good nutrition is the common key in reducing the risk of NCDs, even Alzheimer's for which there is no cure. Recent studies cited by the World Health Organisation indicate that people can lower the risk of dementia by eating a healthy diet, as well as by taking regular exercise, not smoking and avoiding harmful use of alcohol.

Obesity has become a global epidemic, not just in wealthier countries. It is on the rise in low and middle income countries, coexisting with undernutrition and stunting. One in nine people worldwide are hungry or undernourished. One in three people are overweight or obese, according to the Global Nutrition Report 2020.

Over 650 million people across the world were classified obese in 2016, exposing themselves to a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, hypertension, stroke,

diabetes and at least 12 types of cancer.

But as noted by Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy for the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit, addressing the challenges of nutrition are more complicated than those of hunger or food security because they go beyond food to cover issues of quality, access and affordability.

And so it is with obesity, a highly complex aspect of malnutrition. Policies and best practices range from the development of eating guidelines and new educational programmes to the imposition of taxes that discourage unhealthy consumption patterns.

Studies have shown that taxes increase prices, decrease purchases and reduce consumption of unhealthy food and drink. Tax policies can also influence positive change by leading to the reformulation of products to remove some of the sugar, salt, fat or calories. Norway has had a tax on added sugar since 1922.

Research into NCDs must touch many bases. The Food Sustainability Index, developed by the Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition (BCFN) in partnership with the Economist Intelligence Unit, ranks 67 countries across three categories. The US comes 34th out of 35 high-income countries in the nutritional challenges pillar, characterized by diets high in sugar, meat, saturated fat and sodium. Japan tops the

nutritional ranking, while Greece and India perform best in their income categories for the quality of their policy responses to dietary patterns.

In the European Union, around 550,000 people of working age die prematurely from NCDs. As the leading cause of mortality, they are estimated to cost EU economies 115 billion euros a year, or 0.8% of GDP. More than 20% of people are obese, while about 10% of those aged 25 years and over have diabetes.

Inequities in food systems, from production to consumption, must be confronted to deal with the surge in diet-related NCDs. The vast majority of people cannot access or afford a healthy diet. Sales of cheap but highly processed foods are soaring in rich countries but also growing fast in the developing world.

The importance of nutrition and the role of food as prevention will be key themes of Resetting the Food System from Farm to Fork, a conference hosted by BCFN in partnership with Food Tank on December 1 to formulate recommendations for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

Just as there is no single silver bullet to prevent or treat obesity, so we have to deal with an array of social inequalities - including poverty, race and housing - that interact with NCDs to increase the risk of serious illness and death from Covid-19.

'Both sides journalism' in Brazil gives credibility to harmful narratives

By Raphael Tsavkko Garcia

THE proliferation of "both sides journalism" - the idea that there are two sides to every issue that deserve equal attention and air time - has helped prop up racist, anti-science and anti-democratic attitudes in Brazil.

The approach has been especially alive and well when it comes to coverage of the Black Lives Matter protests that sprung up around the world over the summer. It has become common practice at the country's two prominent cable news channels, CNN Brasil and Globonews, in particular.

CNN Brasil resurrected a programme called Crossfire, which had been criticised for pitting two sides of controversial issues to debate each other. The Brazilian programme books experts to face off with debaters whose only credentials are that they support the far right administration of President Jair Bolsonaro.

In past episodes, Crossfire has debated the validity of the World Health Organisation's social isolation rules, and the return of soccer matches during the pandemic.

In June, CNN Brasil interviewed Eduardo Fauzi, a Brazilian integralist - a form of fascism - about the anti-fascist and Black Lives Matter protests. Fauzi fled to Russia after being accused of terrorism for throwing a Molotov cocktail at the headquarters of comedy group Porta dos Fundos.

"What CNN does in Brazil is absurd," said Cecilia Oliveira, a journalist at The Intercept Brasil, elaborating: "Not only does it put people without the slightest professional training to debate, but it has even hired as a debater a member of the Nas Ruas movement (Tomé Abduch), who has organised anti-democratic demonstrations calling for the closure of the Supreme Court. This is not to accept divergent views - it is to be anti-democratic."

CNN Brasil also has on air journalist William Waack, who was fired as lead news presenter at Globo Television Network for making racist comments. An interviewee even questioned Waack about his continued presence in CNN Brasil's coverage of the protests.

Fabiana Moraes, a journalist and professor of communication at the Federal University of Pernambuco, shares these concerns about CNN Brasil's coverage.

"This idea of journalistic objectivity



is used to defend things like putting a flat-earther or a supporter of authoritarianism to debate as if they were the 'other side' - as if they were equivalent perspectives that can have validity, and that are democratic and can establish a conversation."

CNN Brasil has covered both anti-fascist protests against Bolsonaro and protests in support of the president without sufficiently highlighting the anti-democratic nature of the latter.

For example, pro-Bolsonaro protesters have called for the closure of the Congress and even a military coup. In covering both the same way, the outlet signals that struggles for democracy and human rights carry equal weight with efforts to promote fascism.

CNN Brasil has also helped elevate non-scientific opinions about Covid-19 safety measures to an equal footing with guidance from expert international bodies like the World Health Organisation.

"The disclosure of the opinion cannot be done uncritically, otherwise it takes

on the role of hate marketing," said Leonardo Sakamoto, journalism professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo.

"Those who merely reproduce hate speech from interviewees without due consideration are not being 'technical' or 'neutral', but becoming instruments of ideological propagation of these groups," he added.

The practice of "both sides journalism" isn't limited to CNN Brasil's coverage, though. Globonews' reporting, for instance, has attempted to distinguish between different elements of the Bolsonaro administration, such as economic policies pushed by Economy minister Paulo Guedes.

However, as the economy represents a critical aspect of any administration, this has helped legitimise the undemocratic administration as a whole. Thus, it's important to add the needed context for readers and viewers when conducting such reporting to avoid this.

The network, alongside print newspapers such as Folha de São Paulo and O Globo, have also given air time to former aides of Bolsonaro such as former judge and Justice minister Sérgio Moro, portraying them as centrists. Critics have speculated this is an effort to help boost Moro's image for a possible run for president in the future.

Offering equal coverage to both sides of an issue creates false equivalency - that both sides are equally valid, noted Leandro Demori, journalist and executive director of The Intercept Brasil.

He said although experts agree that Bolsonaro's government is fascist - or worse, allowing administration members air time to preach their views is to dive headfirst into the harmful "both sides journalism" approach.

As Eric Alterman noted in an article for The Nation: when one side is fascism, you don't have to publish or give them publicity. "Not everything can be spoken with impunity," he said.

"Journalism is a mediator of society and with this nonsensical idea of neutrality, we put people on the air defending crimes like the closure of Congress, and of the Supreme Court," explained Demori.

The "both sides" approach has effectively perpetuated Brazilian news media's history with racism. Following the abolition of slavery in Brazil in the late 1800s, it was not uncommon to come across outwardly racist debates in the country's top newspapers.

"The Brazilian press began to establish itself in the second half of the 19th century, expanding through the work of former slave owners," said Moraes.

Today's approach is more elusive, yet still harmful.

In a mostly Black and mixed race country, the legacy of former slave owners is a serious problem. On top of reporting that often fails to cover issues that affect communities of colour, this makes their agendas and needs invisible while also guaranteeing ample space for racism to manifest itself. This is not to mention science deniers and those who clearly oppose democracy, as well.

"A Província de São Paulo - today Estado de São Paulo - for example, was a newspaper that had this strongly racist discourse based even on scientific racism," said Moraes, adding: "I think that much of this racism that founded the press back then is sustained today in a way that's more delicate, but which remains present."

Raphael Tsavkko Garcia is a Brazilian freelance journalist.

Covering climate change in year 2021 and beyond

By Katya Podkovyoff Lewis

THE year 2020 is on track to become the planet's hottest on record. Experts say the climate crisis could erase the progress made in human health over the past century, with the communities hit hardest by climate change among the most vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the same time, momentum for climate action is growing, renewable energy is on the rise and the world's second-most-polluting country - the United States - has chosen a president-elect determined to rejoin the Paris climate accord.

At a recent ICFJ (Washington-based International Centre for Journalists) Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum webinar, Imelda Abano, president of the Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists; David Callaway, founder and editor of Callaway Climate Insights; and Gustavo Faleiros, founder of Brazil-based InfoAmazonia and environmental investigations editor for the Pulitzer Centre, sat down with ICFJ Senior Programme Director Jennifer Dorroh to discuss top climate stories to cover during the incoming year.

While specific story ideas are dependent on region, the panelists agreed that climate change will take over the news cycle. According to Abano, who is based in the Philippines, the main story in Asia

is the intersection of climate change and natural disasters.

However, Faleiros, based in Brazil, said political tensions caused by climate issues will be an ongoing story next year and beyond.

Meanwhile, Callaway noted that in the US, the first big story in 2021 will be the transition to President-Elect Joe Biden and an exploration of his policies on climate change and the effect they will have globally.

Another big story, according to Callaway, will likely be the global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and whether it will actually be a green recovery.

There is still a disconnect between climate change and its importance on the average audience member. Faleiros noted that climate change touches every aspect of people's lives and, by incorporating it into various beats, journalists can bridge the gap and it can lead to greater understanding by the public. Callaway also said that part of the problem is that climate change has always been reported as something that is going to happen in the future, so this sense of urgency hasn't dawned on the public yet.

Compared to coverage of the past, Abano noted that including innovative tools such as mobile reporting, drones, maps, infographics and simulations has added an edge to environmental reporting as a whole and helps bridge that connection to audiences.

Climate reporting can be a



daunting task with so many sub-categories that can be explored and dozens of potential beats. Callaway's advice is to choose a specific area to focus on, "otherwise you can just drown in them".

Climate change journalism, particularly in the business press, is in a relatively early stage, said Callaway, adding however that there are a lot of opportunities for young journalists interested in incorporating it into their reporting and investigations.

One major challenge for climate change journalism is finding ways to compete with political and sensational news. The good news, Abano said, is that more and more journalists want to report on climate-related issues.

Abano has some ideas for improving climate change journalism in the future. "It's strengthening the capacity or the skills of journalists in understanding climate change issues," she said,

adding: "Because if you yourself cannot understand the issue, then how will your audience?"

Abano further noted: "We should, of course, humanise climate in human interaction if we want to have the world's attention."

Callaway echoed this sentiment, saying that journalists should be prepared to understand these abstract scientific concepts, large data sets and utilise tools such as artificial intelligence.

"Environmental reporting has been around for a long time," Callaway said, adding: "But as it becomes more mainstream, as the public and the world begins to start to realise what's at stake, you are going to see more and more media, more and more journalists want to do that type of coverage."

Faleiros' advice for journalists looking to incorporate climate issues in their reporting is to become familiar with scientific lan-

guage and the ethics of research articles. He also recommends learning to deconstruct difficult research data to create visuals and other ways of translating what's at stake for everyone.

"And I think we should keep connecting and do some of these collaborative stories," Faleiros said, adding: "I'm seeing a lot of potential for journalists to work together on different issues."

• ICFJ/IJNet

E-cigarette firms use Covid-19 to sell nicotine, research shows

By Tracie White

THE e-cigarette industry has been exploiting the Covid-19 pandemic to encourage sales of vaping products, according to a new study from Stanford Medicine researchers. Vaping is the action or practice of inhaling and exhaling vapour containing nicotine and flavouring produced by a device designed for the purpose.

The paper, published in *BMJ Tobacco Control*, analyses more than 300 pandemic-themed advertisements used to market e-cigarette products.

"While we thought we had seen it all - and we have seen a lot in our collection of over 50,000 tobacco advertisements - we had never imagined we would see tobacco companies exploiting a global pandemic for marketing purposes," said Robert Jackler, MD.

Jackler is Stanford Medicine professor, chair of otolaryngology and expert on tobacco marketing. He is the study's senior author, while research associate Divya Ramamurthi is the lead author.

The paper provides examples of advertisements that promote vaping products as a way of handling the stress of the pandemic. Slick images of cool guys vaping at home feature logos, such as 'Keep Calm and Stay Home'. Pretty, swirling vapours intertwined with the words 'Stay Home & Vape' try to entice consumers to inhale their nicotine.

Some e-cigarette marketers offer gifts of essential pandemic supplies, such as hand sanitiser and even toilet paper as a bonus with e-cigarette purchases. A few offer Covid-19 discounts to healthcare professionals and other essential workers.



ers.

"Some promote 'contactless delivery' with no signature required," Jackler said, adding: "Waiving age verification, justified by Covid-19 risk, is an invitation to underage use."

Additionally, according to the study, several companies offered branded face masks to their customers "tantamount to walking billboards promoting their product".

The study said one advertisement even lists steps to prevent Covid-19 with the logo "vape" strategically placed right above the text - a thinly veiled attempt to deceive customers into believing that vaping can help prevent infection.

"By linking e-cigarettes to the Covid-19 pandemic, marketers are implicitly, and at times explicitly, implying a health benefit of their products," the study said, adding that vaping is known to cause inflammation in the lung and also suppresses its immune defences, factors "which may prolong and intensify

lung infection".

Vaping is not good for your health, nor does it in any way protect you from the coronavirus, according to Jackler.

Recent work by Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, PhD, Stanford Medicine professor of pediatrics, backs him up. A study from her team, published last month, found that among young people tested for the coronavirus, those who vaped were five to seven times more likely to be infected than those who did not use e-cigarettes.

"Teens and young adults need to know that if you use e-cigarettes, you are likely at immediate risk of Covid-19 because you are damaging your lungs," she said in a Stanford Medicine news release.

Jackler and his colleagues first set out to systematically explore Covid-19-related nicotine marketing after noticing this trend early in the pandemic. They collected hundreds of promotional images representing 21 e-cigarette brands and 41 online vaping stores that sell multiple brands, the study said.

As founder of a group called Stanford Research Into the Impact of Tobacco Advertising, Jackler has spent years documenting marketing campaigns of tobacco and e-cigarette companies. Over time, they've reported such blatant methods as companies paying doctors to promote the health benefits of tobacco long after clear scientific evidence had shown that nicotine causes cancer.

And yet, Jackler said this newest method of marketing went further than he could have imagined.

"It is more than a bit ironic that e-cigarette companies have chosen to exploit a global pandemic for marketing purposes when their products themselves have been described as causing an epidemic of nicotine addiction among youth," he noted.

In response to views that cigarettes were unhealthful, tobacco companies used images of medical professionals to sell their products.

A Scope - Stanford Medicine dispatch.

Going about reporting on sexual assault and abuse...

By Laura Dixon

WHEN freelance journalist Sophia Huang investigates a sexual abuse case, she starts by telling victims she meets that "it's one thing to share your story; it's another to go public and name the accused".

The reporter, whose investigations spurred by the #MeToo movement uncovered cases of sexual violence at some of China's top universities - and who was herself jailed last year in connection with her reporting - says that in this type of stories it is vital that both sides fully understand the process.

"First I tell them what I have been through, what I suffered, and explain how I'm going to do the investigation, why I'm going to talk to their friends or colleagues," Huang told reporters at the GJN webinar *Investigating Sexual Abuse: Reporting Tips and Tools*.

"I also tell them about the risks, to prepare for what will come after we go public," she added.

For Huang, stories about sexual abuse require a special relationship between the journalist and the victim or survivor. The reporters need to build a relationship based on trust but also maintain objectivity to get verified accounts and evidence to prove that the story is true.

Huang, who has covered a number of stories relating to sexual abuse allegations, said it is important to "avoid victim blaming and slut shaming".

She never asks victims why they didn't go to the police. She instead asks what prevented them from going to the authorities, to push the responsibility onto a society that let them down rather than any individual failure to act.

But Huang stressed that journalistic credibility is vital. For reporters it's important to "interview as many people as you can. Colleagues, family, the accused

too. It's not one side of the story... You have to do a careful job, collect evidence: photos, audio, CCTV. Visit the place where the abuse was happening".

She tells her interviewees: "I trust you, but you need to convince other people to trust you, too, when this goes public."

French investigative journalist Lénaig Bredoux, the gender editor at *Mediapart*, one of France's leading independent media outlets, meanwhile said that journalists need to think about what kind of evidence can back up a sexual abuse investigation rather than writing off the subject as too difficult.

"Some journalists are still saying that investigations into sexual abuse are impossible because there's no evidence," Bredoux noted, adding: "That's wrong. You don't have Word documents or Excel spreadsheets, but you can have documents: text messages, emails, WhatsApp, Instagram messages. You can sometimes get voice messages, diaries, pictures to prove that the protagonists have known each other."

When digital evidence has been deleted - which Bredoux says happens in many cases where abuse has taken place - reporters can back up an account by approaching those in the survivor's circle.

"Very often they have spoken about it to someone: their partner, family, friends, a co-worker," Bredoux said, adding: "Even when it seems that no one knows, it's very exceptional the cases in which they have never told someone. You can find messages in which they speak about the abuse to other people."

Important in Bredoux's reporting - which includes trailblazing investigations into sexual violence and allegations of sexual abuse against French film director Luc Besson - is finding multiple witnesses and sometimes multiple victims. "When you have several victims, that makes the story credible and



creates a pattern," she said.

Too often, she said, journalists fail to seek out the views of male witnesses on suspicions they've had or things they have seen: "The point is not only that women should speak out. They speak - we just don't listen enough. But it's about men, too: they can break the silence, they can help. Sometimes as journalists we don't think to ask them. From my experience, they can be very good witnesses."

Witnesses, she added, are giving over "something very special: their lives, experience, their pain". But while reporters should show empathy with victims, it's also important to "keep some distance. You have to check every detail. You have to doubt; you have to collect evidence. That's our job as journalists."

Ashwaq Masoodi, a freelance journalist who writes about sexual abuse in India, said that the language chosen by journalists for their stories is also vitally important.

"Rape has nothing to do with sex; it has only to do with power," she told the webinar, adding: "You can't use the words non-consensual sex."

She said reporters should try to "ask the survivors how they choose to describe what happened to them and how they would be described themselves, rather than make a decision on her behalf".

Some people who have been sexually abused - and statistics show that in the vast majority of reported cases these are women - prefer the term "survivor" rather than "victim". Others may choose different terms to explain what happened to them.

Masoodi, who has also interviewed men who have committed sexual abuse as part of her work, said that reporting on this subject

in India has traditionally been urban-centric and biased, "obsessed with a Victorian idea of rape, of stranger danger, when the statistics show that 99 per cent of cases are by someone known to the victim".

India enacted an extremely progressive law on sexual assault after the 2012 gang rape of Delhi student Jyoti Singh, but the country remains a dangerous place with a woman raped every 15 minutes, Masoodi said. She added that sexual violence against women in India is "about class hierarchy, caste hierarchy, honour".

Huang said that the national context was also relevant in China - and that both she and her interviewees were told to stop talking because the reports were damaging to national security. In one recent case, she said, a victim was called to court for defamation.

"One of the biggest challenges for survivors to come forward is state censorship," Huang explained.

She elaborated: "It became very difficult for the survivors to come forward when the government labels them as a threat to national security. Even as a journalist, I keep getting calls from the police to stop doing these interviews. We have to fight with the perpetrators, the law, the system."

One of the final points covered in the webinar was about ongoing contact with the victims or survivors until the story is published, and even afterwards. For Huang, the question of consent is important right up

to the finish line.

"I give them as much time as they want," she said, adding: "I finish the article, don't publish it. Wait a few weeks, asking: are you ready for this? Is this correct? Am I understanding you perfectly? Have I got this right?"

For Bredoux, the journalist's responsibility to the subject does not disappear when the story is done. "After the story, you have to catch up with them," she says, adding: "We have to be careful because survivors are afraid, everywhere: in politics, in schools, in universities. And they are right to be afraid. Sex abuse is a question of domination and of power. You have to be careful of that."

This article was first published by the Global Investigative Journalists Network (GIJN). Laura Dixon is GIJN's associate editor and a freelance journalist.

Africa launches largest COVID-19 treatment clinical trial

By Special Correspondent

AN ambitious African study to identify treatments that can be used to treat mild and moderate cases of coronavirus patients early has been launched.

The clinical trial, which targets 13 African countries, also seeks to prevent spikes in hospitalisation that could overwhelm fragile and already overburdened health systems in Africa. The continent has recorded about 2.1 million cases and more than 50,000 deaths.

According to Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative

(DNDi), an international non-profit drug research and development (R&D), the investigation will be carried out at 19 sites in 13 countries by the ANTICOV consortium which is part of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) solidarity trial to find an effective treatment for Covid-19. The Solidarity trial is one of the largest international randomised trials. The clinical trial aims to identify a treatment or two treatments that could be used to treat mild and moderate cases of Covid-19, to stop the disease from getting more serious.

The study comes at a time

when three multinational pharmaceutical companies Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/Astrazeneca, and Moderna announced promising results about the ongoing clinical trials for a Covid-19 vaccine. Compared to Pfizer and Moderna's vaccine that require a storage temperature as low as -70 degrees Celsius, a logistical nightmare for many African countries, AstraZeneca's AZD1222 vaccine "can be stored, transported and handled at normal refrigerated conditions (2-8 degrees Celsius) for at least six months and administered within existing healthcare settings."

ANTICOV is an adaptive platform trial, an innovative type of clinical trial pioneered for cancer drugs that allows for several treatments to be simultaneously tested. Adaptive platform trials enable rapid decisions to be made, including adding, continuing, or stopping treatment arms based on ongoing analysis of results.

"There is a need for large clinical trials in Africa for Covid-19 to answer research questions that are specific to an African context," said Dr John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The study will test the ef-

ficacy of treatments in 2,000 to 3,000 mild-to-moderate patients in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Sudan, and Uganda, with the goal of identifying treatments that can prevent progression of coronavirus to severe disease and also limit transmission.

"African countries have mounted an impressive response so far to Covid-19 and now is the time to prepare for future waves of the disease. We welcome the ANTICOV trial led by African doctors because

it will help answer one of our most pressing questions: With limited intensive care facilities in Africa, can we treat people for Covid-19 earlier and stop our hospitals from being overwhelmed?" added Dr Nkengasong. Initially, ANTICOV will focus on drugs where large-scale randomised clinical trials could provide missing efficacy data in mild-to-moderate patients. The trial will begin testing, against a control arm, the HIV antiretroviral combination lopinavir/ritonavir and the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, which remains as a standard of care for Covid-19 in many African countries.

A study carried out early this month by a major US research centre, however, found that Hydroxychloroquine does not benefit adults hospitalised with Covid-19. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sought to test whether the malaria and arthritis drug works to treat coronavirus.

"It is heartening to see so many African countries collaborate to get much-needed answers about our unique Covid-19 patient needs," said Dr Borna Nyaoke-Anoke, a Senior Clinical Project Manager at DNDi, which is also sponsoring clinical trials in the DRC, Kenya, and Sudan.

Despite reforms, patriarchal systems continue to bar land ownership by African women

By Special Correspondent

DESPITE recent advancements in land reforms across Africa, women and girls are still hugely disadvantaged, according to a recent meeting of experts. The 2020 Africa Land Forum (ALF), which took place online between 15 and 17 September, brought together 500 participants to explore the theme 'Delivering on the African Union Agenda 2063 by Promoting People-Centered Land Governance in Africa'.

Discussions revealed that when it comes to land rights the issue of inclusion and gender equality is still a massive challenge on the continent, and while women continue to provide the largest portion of agricultural labour across Africa, they do not benefit from an equitable, secure land tenure system.

In 2015, the African Union (AU) Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank launched a campaign to ensure that 30 per cent of the land in Africa is in the hands of women by 2025. Improving women's access to and ownership and control of land is crucial if African countries are to meet a number of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, ranging from Goal 1 on poverty eradication to Goal 5 on gender equality to Goal 8 on decent work.

There is little continent-wide data regarding land ownership, but according to a 2018 working paper from the World Bank, based on data representing more than three-quarters of Africa's population, just under 13 per cent of African women (aged 20-49 years) claim sole ownership of land, compared with 36 per cent of African men. And when it comes to joint ownership, just 38 per cent of African women report owning any land (alone or jointly), compared with 51 per cent of African men.

A lack of access to land leaves women and girls at the mercy of a highly patriarchal system, deepening gender inequality and severely curtailing their social, economic and political progress, according to Esther Mwaura Muiru, the global women's land rights manager at the Rome-based International Land Coalition (ILC), which organised the September conference along with the AU Commission and

Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

She told attendees that a lack of access to land limits women's ability to access finance to support their agricultural activities or acquire farm inputs. This in turn also means that women cannot make decisions on how to use the proceeds acquired from land despite being the ones that mostly toil on it.

Muiru noted that the continent's developmental blueprint, Agenda 2063, recognises that women living in rural areas play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, income generation and in improving rural livelihoods (according to World Bank data, 59 per cent of Africans living south of the Sahara live in rural communities).

But one of the biggest hurdles to the realisation of these rights are the "serious, major gaps between gender equality provisions on paper, and the realities of women and girls on the ground," Muiru told participants. For example, strategic frameworks such as the 2016 Kilimanjaro Charter of Demands which (although yet to be officially adopted by national governments or regional bodies) was launched as a 15-point rural women's initiative to help advance the right of women and girls to access, use, control, own, inherit and dispose of their land and natural resources. There is also the AU's Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (GEWE), 2018-2028 which promotes a rights-based approach to development, as well as the Maputo Protocol on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which guarantees women's right to land and productive resources in Articles 7, 15, 19 and 21.

Persistent barriers and challenges

Improved access to land rights alone is not enough to empower women and girls. According to Agnes Andersson Djurfeld, a professor of human geography at Lund University who co-authored a book on gender and agriculture in rural Africa, "policymakers and development agencies should adopt a multifaceted approach that includes aspects beyond agriculture. These include issues of sexual and re-



productive rights, for instance, and freeing women from the heavy and time-consuming drudgery of domestic work in poor, rural settings."

Muiru agrees and calls on the continent's leaders to dedicate "significant resources, attention and political will" to deal with the persistent barriers and challenges that undermine secure land rights for women and girls.

For example, although most countries have legislation that recognizes women's equal right to land, traditional and customary practices often prevent them gaining ownership. Some women also find that instead of being allocated land by their fathers it is passed down to a male relative, or that in the event of the death of a spouse, they lose their right to land or become very vulnerable to evictions, often at the hands of their spouse's family. "By solving women and girls land rights we could end 50 per cent of all issues surrounding unequal gender relations, including lack of economic power

and marginalisation in general," Muiru declared.

Besides being disadvantaged by a culture-driven land tenure system, "modern" development initiatives across Africa also have had negative effects on women and girls. This includes large scale investments in infrastructure development that displace or negatively impact control of land and various natural resources by local communities.

"Land issues are complex and need to be connected with a lot of other sectors, such as education, policies of welfare transfers, culture, credit system - all areas where you can develop incentives or structures for a system where women participate in decisions with regard to their land," says Romy Sato, local knowledge engagement network coordinator at the Netherlands-based Land Portal Foundation (which was not part of the September event).

In addition to the aforementioned challenges, the Covid-19 pandemic has also stymied women's quest for gender equal land rights in Africa. A survey published

in July by the ILC and Oxfam found that the coronavirus had badly disrupted the ability of women to pursue their right to ownership of land due to social restrictions imposed to control the spread of the disease (such as transport bans) and the attendant economic disruption. It found that "up to 40 per cent of respondents risked losing rights to their land, while 56 per cent of land activists were unable to engage with their communities directly, and 40 per cent are not in a position to advocate for the passing of land laws and monitor its implementation."

Streamlining issues of land governance in many parts of Africa has been hampered by limited accurate and up-to-date information on land uses, tenures and rights, and is exacerbated by weak and complex processes that govern land management, according to Clement Adjorlolo, principal programme officer at the AU Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD).

"Pursuant to achieving the AU Agenda 2063 and Declaration on land issues and challenges in Africa, the land

data ecosystem must be effectively leveraged," he told the event.

Across the continent critical questions over what data exists, where it is kept, whether it is complete and current, and whether the source of the data is authoritative continues to arise. In response, in 2014 AUDA-NEPAD created the Land Governance Program (LGP) initiative, which is currently being implemented in ten countries: Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Botswana and Madagascar.

"The LGP programme aims to make available data and produce evidence to raise understanding at the country and continental level of the role of land governance for Africa's structural transformation, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and opportunities for investing in the lands sector," Adjorlolo tells Equal Times.

The initiative will involve the setting up of help desks on land governance to help collect data and share land information and will be rolled out in phases across the continent.

However, in order to ensure the land rights of women, girls and other marginalised groups, better data is fundamental to improving policies and outcomes, according to Laura Meggiolaro of the Land Portal Foundation.

"From a data perspective more granular and disaggregated data would help to gain a better picture of how women are accessing information across different tenure systems and also support the development of better policies to increase their tenure security."

New fertiliser wins praise in Kahama

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

YARA Tanzania, the leading manufacturer and supplier of fertilizer in the country has won praise for launching a new product dubbed 'MiCROP' in Shinyanga Region to help maize and rice smallholders increase production.

Launching the new product in Kahama recently and witnessed by the government officials, farmers, distributors and members of press, the chairman of Kahama Co-operative Union (KACU), Emmanuel Cherehani commended YARA Tanzania for coming up with new product designed to help farmers get more yields.

"This new product has come at the right time and

we request you (YARA Tanzania) to also consider producing similar product for cotton growers. I am very much convinced that maize and rice farmers will fully utilize the new product," he said.

Cherehani who is also the Chairman of Tobacco Cooperative Joint Enterprises (CJE) said KACU will continue to work closely with YARA Tanzania for benefits of its members and farmers in Shinyanga Region.

"Let me take this opportunity to call on maize and rice farmers in Shinyanga and elsewhere to rush for MiCROP to double their crops production. YARA has come up with new product to better their lives," he said.

Earlier, Firm's Commercial Manager, Mr Philipo

Mwakipesile said the product meant a lot in helping smallholder farmers get more yield.

Mr Mwakipesile said the new blended fertilizer which targets small scale farmers has Zinc and Sulphur Micronutrients is blended by the firm locally to meet the growing demand of the product for farmers.

"We are proud of MiCROP fertilizer since the product stands a better in stimulating maize and rice yields. Small growers will benefit a lot for using MiCROP as their incomes will improve and double food production," he said.

According to Mr. Mwakipesile, the fertilizer which is blended locally at the YARA plant in Dar es Salaam has won confidence of farmers since was officially

launched in the country. The firm has also launched in new product in the regions of Kigoma, Songwe, Iringa, Kilimanjaro and Shinyanga.

"This is in line with the government's initiative of promoting and building an industrial economy by 2025. We (YARA Tanzania) are behind the move as this time round we are producing it right here," he said.

He called on farmers to take advantage of MiCROP for better yields adding that it will be distributed countrywide to enable them benefit from the new product.

During the event, YARA Tanzania team handed over the fertilizer to their distributors and showcased the sample of the product.

War in Tigray: The battle for what constitutes the 'Ethiopian nation'

By Stephen Grootes

HISTORY has shown us that Ethiopian leaders have been unable or unwilling to address, in a transparent and genuine manner, the issue of the Ethiopian "nation".

Ironically, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was propelled into power in 2018 specifically to try to pacify the restive Oromo region that protested against the government's inability to deliver true federalism.

Yet under his leadership, the country finds itself in a state of war because of his attempts to return to state centralisation and to bring an end to the cultural federal experiment that has been in place since the 1990s.

The newly formed Prosperity Party under the leadership of Ahmed appears to hark back to a past of state centralisation and homogenisation - a crude attempt that denies the complex cultural diversity of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's cultural federalism was an attempt by the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to address the "national question". This was uncharted territory in Ethiopia and the move polarised Ethiopians and the marginalised alike.

Many in the country remained committed to the nationalist delusions of the ancien regime and rejected the decentralised approach to the nation; yet many of those who had been previously marginalised welcomed this radical departure with the past.

Despite their shifting ideological influences, when the TPLF came into power they acknowledged that a highly centralised state has not worked in Ethiopia and is unlikely to work in the future.

The cultural federal experiment became a crucial test of the fundamental ideals and conceptions of Ethiopian statehood, of which the retention and control of the territorial borders is a fundamental part.

In 2011, renowned scholar of Ethiopian Studies, John Markakis warned that "the project of state building is far from completion and its end cannot be predicted".

He went on to suggest that "the analysis of succeeding crises along the route highlights the structural faults in its design, which is the centre's monopoly of power".

Markakis warned that another political rupture in the centre was imminent. He was right.

The formation of the modern Ethiopian state in the late 19th century - the Empire state under Emperor Menelik, was characterised by conquest and subjugation. The expanding empire absorbed territories located to the south, east and west of the political centre.

The incorporation of these territories contributed to the emergence of the "Ethiopian state". The subsequent history of these territories in relation to the central state is that of resistance to Ethiopian rule, specifically



Ethiopia's cultural federalism was an attempt by the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front to address the 'national question'.

resistance to "Amharisation".

Throughout the modern period of imperial rule, from Menelik until the demise of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, the state was characterised by an absence of a unifying national discourse. The unitary state adopted the identity of the rulers who were Amhara.

There was no attempt to acknowledge the cultures of the diverse ethnic groups that were forcefully absorbed into the Ethiopian state. They had to assimilate or endure a life where they were marginalised politically, socially and economically.

The Amhara identity became the social indicator of inclusion and exclusion.

"Amhara" does not denote a specific ethnic group: it became the default national identity of the imperial state because it coincided with the cultures of the ancient state of Abyssinia.

Nation-building thus followed a process of imposing Amhara national identity on the entire population of the empire, because the ruling Amhara and Amharised elite felt that they were the embodiment of the state.

The Amhara identity could be identified by

the language (Amharic) and religion (Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity). This effectively excluded those who inhabited the peripheries and might have followed Islam or were animist.

Following the Ethiopian Revolution and the overthrow of Haile Selassie in 1974, the Marxist regime known as the Derg radicalised the state.

Marxism became entangled with elements of modernist discourse where the emergent socialist narrative sought to introduce radical land and other state reforms. Not quite breaking with the past, the Derg continued and intensified state centralisation.

The peripheries mounted a notable resistance to the formation of a "garrison state". This led to a wave of low-intensity conflict throughout the country from the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s.

Most notably at this time, the Tigrayans of the north, one-time allies of the state, found themselves on the margins under the Derg. They took up arms and joined forces with the Eritreans who were fighting for their inde-

pendence from Ethiopia.

When the TPLF came into power in 1991, they came as ardent advocates of a reconstructed Ethiopian national identity, which later gave way to the full expression of Eritrean national identity in 1993.

The TPLF's "non-nationalist" vision of cultural federalism was to a large extent influenced by their own history under the Derg regime. However, it soon became clear that the TPLF had no genuine interest in reversing the past.

They paid lip service to cultural federalism and in the process extinguished all hopes of a true democratic dispensation in Ethiopia. The TPLF concentrated power among its ranks and wreaked havoc in the peripheries where they continuously meddled in regional politics. If it was not for an insatiable desire for power, the TPLF came very close to addressing the national question in Ethiopia. Granted, there were serious issues with democratisation, yet for a certain period of time, roughly between 1995 and 2012, cultural federalism co-existed with a pan-Ethiopian

identity.

Many felt acknowledged and empowered under cultural federalism and simultaneously felt pride with their Ethiopianness. This state of equilibrium was very rare and short-lived.

Similar to previous political ruptures in Ethiopia, observers can only hope that lessons will be learned and that the leadership will avoid the temptation to fall into the shallow pit of "minority cultural chauvinism".

One hopes that leaders will listen to the many calls from Ethiopians to have a national dialogue.

The country must commit to a meaningful reform agenda that will tackle the big questions of nationality and citizenship in an open and transparent manner. This will also need to happen within a context of renewed commitment to democracy. **DM**

China nears nationwide victory in poverty alleviation

ALTHOUGH the COVID-19 epidemic has increased the difficulties of China's poverty alleviation work, the country is approaching a final victory as three remaining provincial-level regions are having their poverty-alleviation achievements undergo public scrutiny before announcing the result, while at least 19 other provincial regions' former poverty-stricken counties have shaken off the label this year.

Among the remaining three, South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Northwest China's Gansu Province are likely to announce they have lifted all counties out of poverty after the public scrutiny period ends on Wednesday. Southwest China's Guizhou Province's publicity period will last until Sunday.

But China will comprehensively review the poverty alleviation work to make sure it is a solid success and announce the results in the first half of 2021, experts said, noting the country will also set new targets to improve living standards.

Poverty alleviation is a macro task, but it would have been impossible to achieve without local governments' and officials' efforts over a period of years, which in all ways altered the lives of poverty-stricken people.

The remote Ali Prefecture in Southwest China's Tibet

Autonomous Region has one of China's most desolate landscapes. In many rural areas of Ali, not even a blade of grass grows.

Some tough Tibetans have been herding animals at an altitude of 4,650 meters for centuries, confronting the harsh environment with meager income. They slept in small tents in the sand and the wind, and many never went to school.

But life has changed greatly thanks to the poverty alleviation policies.

Tsering Tarchin, a young man from an Ali township who graduated from a college in Sichuan Province, went to Ali's Tuduo village last year to serve as an official and help villagers raise their living standards.

He told the Global Times that villagers now work at a sand factory and a yak farm. They could also receive 8,000 yuan (\$1,221) in annual subsidies for returning grazing land to conservation areas.

Their medical fees are mostly reimbursed by the government. Plus, all children go to school for free, as Tibet is the first region in China that provides 15 years of free education, Tarchin said.

"Policies here are really favorable (for poverty-stricken households)," Tarchin said. "Our [officials'] daily task is to visit the villagers, explain policies to them, check if the children are going to school,



Tsering Tarchin, a poverty-alleviation official, explains national policies and guidelines to villagers in Ali prefecture in Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. File Photo

and help them apply for bank loans or other sponsorship."

The official-village bond is very close and Tarchin took family photos for the villagers a few months ago.

Tarchin is among 20,000 people stationed in rural Tibet. Some 3 million "Tarchins" nationwide made China's poverty alleviation possible, despite concerns that the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as floods and other natural disasters that wreaked havoc in southern provinces this summer, could affect the poverty alleviation cause.

When all provincial-level regions declare their poverty-stricken counties meet the national standards, China can proudly announce it has won the tough battle against poverty under the current stage and standard, meaning the country has reached the poverty reduction target set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years

ahead of schedule, Chinese experts said.

Yu Shaoxiang, an expert on poverty relief legislation at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing, attributed the completion of the poverty alleviation campaign amid the COVID-19 pandemic to the central government's concentrated attention and strong deployment of resources.

"It was the whole nation's all-out efforts that achieved the goal," Yu said. China has strong institutional ability to concentrate resources and solve a big task, effectively execute orders, and implement policies quickly and efficiently.

The number of people living in poverty dropped from 98.99 million at the end of 2012 to 5.51 million at the end of 2019, and the incidence of poverty dropped from 10.2 percent to 0.6 percent. Regional poverty issues as a whole were basically resolved.

However, observers said it's not time to be complacent,

and it's necessary to closely watch whether some people fall back into poverty. Therefore, the poverty alleviation projects will stay in place.

He Xuefeng, director of the China Rural Governance Research Center at Wuhan University, told the Global Times that more assistance programs will continue to serve tens of millions of people who have just escaped poverty, despite the successes.

In the next step, He stressed the importance of ensuring sustainability - meaning that people can still live at a good standard without sponsorship and assistance from the government.

"Poverty-alleviation resources should be equally accessible to prevent a small group from living solely on government funding and losing their striving spirit," He said.

China's current poverty line is an annual income of 3,700 yuan (\$564), which means China needs to work further to achieve the World Bank's \$2 per day standard, Yu said, hinting that the battle against poverty is not over.

In the past, poverty alleviation was mainly targeted at rural areas, while social insurance was used in urban areas. After 2020, urban and rural poverty alleviation programs are likely to be integrated, according to Yu.

But China may not immediately declare a victory in poverty alleviation after all provincial regions' declarations, as previously released information suggests the country will have a comprehensive review and announce the results in the first half of 2021.

INCENTIVE

American experts come up with Water Balance Index to protect smallholder farmers

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERTS at US based Global Parametrics have structured two risk transfer solutions to protect smallholder farmers against drought and excess rainfall.

In a recent statement, Global Parametrics said the parametric solutions use global position's new Water Balance Index (WBI), a multi-scalar meteorological index using monthly cumulative rainfall and potential evapo-transpiration to estimate departure from the climatological norm.

The Index utilises 40-years of daily atmospheric reanalysis data supplied by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) at a 31km resolution.

Commenting on the development, GP's Director and Co-founder, Jerry Skees said, director and co-founder of GP, said: "Our WBI enables us to characterise agricultural risk anywhere in the world, particularly in areas where reliable information is not available."

"Deploying the index means we can now extend our footprint into India and Tanzania and provide protection for communities who need it most," he added while stating that nearly 65 percent of the people in the country are employed in agriculture, while in India, which is also involved in the project, agriculture employs over half of the workforce.

IBISA Co-founder, Maria Mateo Iborra backed Skees observation noting that: "Smallholder farmers are particularly exposed to extreme weather and natural hazards." One of the programmes provides a risk-transfer solution for IBISA, a Luxembourg insurtech, providing it with a backstop to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events, allowing it to scale its operations in India.

The other programme saw GP partner with One Acre Fund (OAF), a non-profit social enterprise that provides training and finance to smallholder farmers in East Africa. It uses the WBI in Tanzania to provide OAF with a tai-



Suzana and Jimmy Nziku are smallholder farmers who have been assisted by One Acre Fund since 2013. Their two acres maize farm in Iringa has more than quadrupled yields. File photo.

lored product to manage adverse impacts from drought and excess rain to its network of 70,000 maize farmers, the statement noted.

Should the index trigger, payments will be made directly to OAF which will use the capital for loan forgiveness to the farmers across impacted sites. Both solutions in India and Tanzania are structured

as an over-the-counter derivative and are backed by GP's Natural Disaster Fund (NDF).

Through its partnership with Hannover Re, the NDF cedes 50 percent of the risk, bringing the global reinsurer into the transaction, the statement concluded.

ECO-FRIENDLY

AfDB approves \$5m investment to provide clean cooking solutions

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank has approved a \$5 million investment in the SPARK+ Africa Fund to deliver clean cooking solutions to over two million households across Africa.

The European Commission will contribute an additional €10 million. The Bank's investment, which will come from its Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), is expected to enable the participation of other interested investors. As an anchor investor, the Bank will channel first-loss equity from SEFA and the European Commission thematic blending facility.

In addition to delivering clean cooking technologies, the investment is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 15.9 Mt of CO2 equivalent, by cutting

emissions from the use of inefficient stoves and open fires and forest degradation for wood fuel.

Switching to cleaner cookstoves reduces exposure to harmful cooking smoke and the time spent collecting firewood, a burden that falls disproportionately on women. "By investing in the rollout of clean cooking solutions to millions of households, the Bank is also contributing to women's empowerment, employment creation and reduced deforestation associated with charcoal production," said Dr. Kevin Kariuki, African Development Bank Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth.

Positive health impacts from the reduction of household indoor air pollution also contribute to resilience toward diseases attacking respiratory systems

such as COVID-19. The investment complements the Bank's wider efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said: "Positive health impacts from the reduction of household indoor air pollution also contributes to resilience toward diseases attacking respiratory systems such as COVID-19."

Dymphna van der Lans, Chief Executive Officer of the Clean Cooking Alliance said: "The Clean Cooking Alliance is very pleased to have collaborated with Enabling Capital, the African Development Bank, and the European Commission to develop this groundbreaking investment facility. We believe the SPARK+ Africa Fund will have a tremendous impact in the market and accelerate clean cooking sector growth to positively impact the lives of millions of people in the years to come."

Xavier Pierluca, Managing Partner of Enabling Capital stated: "We have designed the SPARK+ Africa Fund to take an ecosystem approach to further the outreach of quality solutions to low-income communities by offering tailored investment instruments throughout the value chain from design and manufacturing companies to last-mile distributors."

SPARK+ Africa is a pioneering impact investment fund launched by Enabling Capital and the Clean Cooking Alliance to channel debt and equity financing to enterprises that manufacture, distribute, and finance clean cooking solutions across Sub-Saharan Africa. The Fund targets a capitalization of \$50-70 million.

The scale of the challenge of widening access to clean cooking in Africa



An AfCFTA start-ups competition chart.

remains daunting, in part because much-needed investment has been hindered by high perceived risks and, in many cases, a return profile insufficient to attract commercial investment.

The SPARK+ Africa Fund is a direct response to this challenge and is a key component of the AfDB's response to the clean cooking challenge. The investment in the Fund's first-loss tranche will directly address a critical financing gap and enable the participation of other interested financiers.

The Clean Cooking Alliance works with a global network of partners to make clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. Enabling Capital Ltd. is an impact investment advisory company with a track record in advancing financial inclusion and access to energy.

OPPORTUNITY

AfCFTA Vision Challenge opens opportunity for tech start-ups

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN technology start-ups with innovative solutions to problems faced by African leaders have been invited to apply for the AfCFTA Vision Challenge, which offers them the opportunity to secure investment from a major pan-African development finance institution.

Ratified by 54 African nations, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) creates a continent-wide free trade area, is a strategic framework for delivering on Africa's goal for inclusive and sustainable development.

The start of trading under the AfCFTA is set for 1 January 2021, with an extraordinary Summit of Heads of State & Government to take place on

5 December 2020 to lay important foundations for this exceptionally crucial development.

AfCFTA, a cornerstone of Agenda 2063, maximises Africa's already considerable advantages: the youngest workforce in the world; abundant natural resources; and exceptional creative, cultural, and intellectual resources. But in order for it to gain rapid traction, the continent's innovators and entrepreneurs must be equipped with the tools and resources they need to push solutions to the barriers in its way.

With this in mind, the AfCFTA Secretariat has announced the AfCFTA Vision Challenge as part of the broader Vision Initiative to boost access to funding and technological capacity for start-ups, SMEs, innovators and



An AfCFTA start-ups competition chart.

entrepreneurs across the continent. The Secretariat launches the Vision Initiative with the Sankoree Institute of AfroCham-

pions on the back of the AVRIVA programme, and in support of the African Union Open Corridor Initiative.

The AfCFTA Vision Challenge is open to start-ups working in any one of eight critical issue areas: education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, good governance, trade/integration, technology, manufacturing and environment. Pure commercial start-ups as well as social enterprises are welcome to apply.

Selected start-ups will be assisted in navigating the complex process of engaging with big development finance institutions, which are usually not familiar with start-ups. The end goal is to help these start-ups secure investment from a major pan-African development finance institution.

Some of the Development Finance Institutions and Banks approached by the AfCFTA to serve on the institutional jury include

AfDB, TDB, Afreximbank, Equity Bank, Ecobank, BADEA, AFC, and CIB, among others.

Francis Mangeni, director of trade promotion and programmes at the AfCFTA Secretariat, said: "There are many things we must get right to ensure that Africa derives the full range of benefits from the AfCFTA."

Some will take a while. Creating powerful connections through institutional partnerships and technology, however, can start immediately, and there is no time to waste.

We want to propel SMEs and start-ups by opening doors for them to places where they could never previously have entered, for capital but also for capacity building."

To apply, start-ups must visit the challenge website and obtain an AfCFTA number from the main AfCFTA App, allowing them to participate in the contest.

REBUFF

SA ports regulator rejects TNPA's 19.74% tariff increase request

DURBAN

THE Ports Regulator of South Africa had some good news for the shipping industry on Monday, but bad news for the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) related to its latest tariff application. TNPA's application for an overall average tariff increase of 19.74% was reject-

ed.

The Durban-based regulator announced that "cargo dues" on export and import containers would decrease by 10% and 3% respectively for the next financial year (2020/2022). However, marine services and related tariffs (excluding container cargo dues) will increase by 5%. Coal (bulk) and magnetite

export cargo dues will also increase by 5%, while all other tariffs are to remain unchanged.

The overall move, which was welcomed by the South African Association of Shipping Operators and Agents (Saaso), is aimed at boosting the country's competitiveness and lowering the cost of doing business.

While TNPA had applied for an average 19.74% increase in tariffs for the period April 2021 to March 2022, it also presented indicative tariffs of -0.29% for 2022/2023 and -7.86% for 2023/2024. TNPA manages the country's major ports, including Durban and Cape Town (and should not be confused with Transnet Port Terminals, which

operates the terminals around the ports).

"After considering the application and the submissions made by all of the stakeholders during the consultation period, and based on latest available data, the Ports Regulator has concluded that an appropriate overall increase in average tariffs for the financial year 2021/22

is 0%," regulatory committee chair Tshikhawe Munyama said in a briefing on Monday.

He noted that several factors are considered when making the decision, including cargo volumes, TNPA's operational and cash flow requirements, and market-related factors such as the inflation outlook and the cost of debt.

MILESTONE

EcoGraf successfully tests purification of carbon battery anode

By Guardian Reporter

ECOGRAF Limited, the Epanko Graphite Project investor, has announced encouraging progress with its battery recycling business after further testing confirmed the successful purification of carbon anode material from lithium-ion batteries.

In a statement yesterday, EcoGraf's Managing Director, Andrew Spinks said the test had positive results of up to 99.8 percent carbon achieved with potential European customers on the recovery of high purity carbon anode material from battery black mass.

Spinks said the pilot plant also provided recovered carbon anode material for product qualification process, focussed on re-use of graphite in lithium-ion batteries and specialised industrial carbon products.

EcoGraf which through its local subsidiary, TanzGraphite Limited owns Epanko Graphite mines in Mahege District of Morogoro Region further stated that the success provides an opportunity to blend its high purity bat-

tery spherical graphite from its Western Australia manufacturing facility to provide a unique recycled anode material to the lithium-ion battery market.

"EcoGraf's recycling activities are part of the company's vertically integrated graphite business to provide an alternative, responsibly produced and cost effective active anode material to anode manufacturers, through the initial EcoGraf processing facility planned for Western Australia and the development of its long-life and low cost Epanko Graphite Project in Tanzania," Spinks statement noted.

The EcoGraf chief further noted that Epanko Graphite Project is a long life, highly profitable graphite project located approximately 370 kilometres from Dar es Salaam and is forecast to produce 60,000 tonnes of natural flake graphite products each year and during its initial 18 years of operation.

In conjunction with the extensive growth in lithium-ion battery use for electric vehicles and clean energy storage, recycling of batteries and



EcoGraf's managing director, Andrew Spinks.

battery materials has become a major environmental and economic concern for both government and industry, the statement added.

"Achieving 99.5 percent carbon is an important level, as it meets the specification grade for high demanding industrial applications of graphite.

The results achieved to date and the positive customer feedback provides the confidence to commence the initial engineering design for a containerised pilot plant to recover carbon anode material," the statement said.

The proposed plant will accommodate the existing EcoGraf purification flow-sheet and be designed to deliver sufficient material to enable commercial qualification of the recovered carbon anode material for both the lithium-ion battery and industrial markets, the CEO pointed out.

EcoGraf has estimated that Epanko Graphite Project will generate annual EBITDA of US\$44.5 million, a 38.9 percent internal rate of return and pre-tax net present value of US\$211 million.

EBITDA, or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, is a measure of a company's overall financial performance and is used as an alternative to net income in some circumstances.

APPRECIATION

Figures show surge in e-commerce on Black Friday weekend

JOHANNESBURG

ALTHOUGH reports have emerged of quieter-than-normal retail stores this Black Friday weekend, it seems many South African consumers turned to online shopping to beat the crowds - and the coronavirus.

The number of shoppers introduced to e-commerce for the first time because of the Covid-19 pandemic led to a huge spike in online sales this Black Friday, according to PayFast, an online payment gateway operator.

Black Friday weekend total online transaction volumes shot up by 50% compared to 2019, PayFast said on Monday. The company processed a 283% increase in total payment volumes on Black Friday alone compared to a normal busy day such as pay day.

"This year's Black Friday spend surpassed the volumes we've seen in previous years. The rapid adoption of e-commerce over the course of 2020 has meant that we've seen more people shopping online, especially amid fears of a Covid-19 resurgence," said PayFast MD Jonathan Smit in a statement.

The highest transaction for the day was R299 950 and online shoppers spent more per basket at R1 243, compared to the 2020 average basket value of R803. "Alongside big-



Rwanda Hospitality Association chairman Barakabuye Nsegiumva.

ticket items like TVs and gaming consoles, more purchases were made online for items that are traditionally brick-and-mortar retail store-focused, like toiletries, cosmetics and essentials," said Smit.

Mobile

Interestingly, 66% percent of purchases were made using a mobile device - suggesting that shoppers without a home computer are increasingly ordering online (or prefer the

convenience of mobile). This year, 66% of transactions were made using cards, but alternative online payment options are on the rise. This include instant EFT, QR codes and mobile wallets. Meanwhile, Nedbank said

it saw a decline in physical, in-store activity on Black Friday.

"Consumer spend by Nedbank clients across digital shopping channels has shown significantly higher growth levels than those of traditional channels, which not only points to changing consumer behaviour in general due to the pandemic, but also that more South Africans used digital channels specifically to do their Black Friday shopping this year," said Mpho Sadiki, executive for card and payments acceptance at Nedbank.

It offers "clear evidence of a rapid shift from physical to digital consumption", a trend that is "reshaping retail trade in South Africa," Sadiki said.

While Nedbank's payments data point to the possibility that the economic fallout of the pandemic may have resulted in slightly muted overall Black Friday retail activity (down 5% year on year), this was largely due to lower physical sales volumes and turnover figures.

"In contrast, total digital turnover (in terms of Nedbank processed payments) across all enterprises increased by 52% year on year. While large enterprise digital sales contributed 36% to this figure, they actually saw a drop of 9% in volume. SMEs, on the other hand, enjoyed a 12% rise in volumes year on year, and digital turnover for this vital segment was up a staggering 173%."

Sadiki said that the significant disparity between the negative volume and turnover growth seen across physical outlets and the significant rise in digital sales, both in terms of volume and value, confirms that digital "has now become the preferred way for the majority of South Africans to shop". "The outstanding performance by SMEs over Black November is especially significant, Sadiki said, "because it demonstrates the effect that this shift towards digitised consumption can and will have in terms of levelling the retail playing field and creating an environment in which all merchants are able to compete fairly for share of market - which is obviously of great benefit for consumers as well."

INVESTMENT

British startup to open 'Solar Business Parks' in Rwanda

KIGALI

ARC Power, a British startup, said it will set up new 'Solar Business Parks' - a collection of solar-powered buildings - in rural Rwanda in its latest initiative.

The Parks are typically built on land belonging to rural communities and support those who don't have easy access to electricity. The planned rollout target of 45 parks across the country will connect 250,000 people to affordable, reliable and clean power, according to the firm's statement released on Thursday.

The company indicated that the purpose-built Parks will be established with an aim of supporting local businesses to thrive. "Our work has always been about empowering the people of Rwanda by providing a solution to a lack of reliable power in rural areas," the company's chief executive, Karl Boyce said in a statement.

The creation of the Solar Business Parks, they say, reflects their desire to empower rural communities of Rwanda and facilitate the emergence of untapped local business potential. ARC has been in operation in Rwanda since 2017, and has plans to connect 16,000 of its citizens nationwide.

The first of the parks, located in Muramba in the Bugesera District, has recently opened its doors for business. Originally sporting four units, soon to expand to seven, the Solar Business Park will provide a home for a locally owned bakery, tailors, milling station and a welding shop.

"It is one thing bringing power to rural areas, but we want to facilitate an expansion of commercial activities in these places," Boyce noted. The Business Park operates a 'plug-and-pay' business model which allows local entrepreneurs to pay for the power used, and the space they occupy at the park, at an agreed rate.

For their part, ARC Power will provide any machinery required by the entrepreneurs on finance and charge businesses a certain rental fee for each unit. By the end of 2021, the British firm plans to have at least 20 Solar Business Parks up and running to power the creation of more than 100 new businesses across the country.

EXTRA-ORDINARY

Zimbabwe \$1.25bn plan sees cannabis as biggest cash crop

HARARE

ZIMBABWE sees export earnings from cannabis outstripping those of tobacco by almost three times after last year legalising the cultivation of the plant for medicinal use.

The government has issued 44 licenses since September when it announced rules for growing cannabis, and sales are forecast to reach \$1.25 billion in 2021, Treasury spokesman Clive Mphambela said by phone Monday. Thirty producers "are ready and some were doing test production," Mphambela said. He declined to comment on stocks of cannabis available for export.

Tobacco is the southern African nation's biggest agricultural export and earned \$444 million from the 2020 marketing season that closed in August, according to the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board.

John Robertson, an independent economist based in



Zimbabwean Treasury spokesman Clive Mphambela.

Harare, said the projections were ambitious. "It's a massive over-estimate and ignores that cannabis is grown in many markets outside of Zimbabwe," he said by phone.

"It's sold in grams, not in kilograms or tons, so there will be disappointment," Robertson said. "The only enthusiasm will be from producers, but massive supply globally will depress prices." South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Lesotho have also legalized medicinal cannabis.

In his budget statement on Nov. 26, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said cannabis production for medicinal purposes has "immense potential" to generate

export receipts and tax revenues. A so-called cannabis levy will be introduced next year, in line with export values, Ncube said. Taxes of as much as 20% will be applied on oils, bulk extracts and dried cannabis flowers. Growers, most of whom are locals with international partners, can produce \$40 million to \$46 million worth of cannabis a month, underpinning Treasury's "very conservative" estimates, Mphambela said.

Meanwhile Zimbabwe's government has ruled out adopting the US dollar as its default tender again, saying it won't repeat its past mistake of abandoning the local currency.

"One of the biggest mistakes was dollarising and removing your own currency," Secretary for Finance George Guvumatanga told business leaders Monday in the capital, Harare. "We will build this economy on the basis of the Zimbabwe dollar. The local currency will anchor this budget."

Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube last week presented a budget that targets spending of 421.6 billion Zimbabwean dollars (\$5.2 billion) next year, with a deficit of 4.9 billion Zimbabwean dollars. The government sees the economy rebounding to expand 7.4% in 2021 after contracting 4.1% this year.

Zimbabwe reintroduced its own currency last year, after a 10-year hiatus caused by the scrapping of the Zimbabwe dollar in 2009 following a bout of hyperinflation. The country used multiple foreign currencies during this period, with the greenback as the main unit of reference.

BAILOUT

IMF urges Europe to provide more monetary, fiscal support to eurozone

BRUSSELS

THE eurozone economy is going to need more monetary and fiscal support to avoid further damage from the coronavirus pandemic, the International Monetary Fund said on Monday. The United States has the highest individual death toll and infection rate from Covid-19, but Europe as a whole is not far behind, with over a quarter of a million dead from the virus. A second wave of the disease has forced a number of major eurozone economies into total or partial lockdowns, including Germany, France, Italy and Spain. Even with the prospect of a successful vaccine in coming months, the economic recovery remains fragile and could take longer than the IMF forecast a month ago. "Rising infections and re-im-

posed lockdowns have damaged confidence and lowered mobility, and the better-than-expected growth outturn in 2020Q3 will likely be followed by weaker activity in 2020Q4. Unless pandemic dynamics change significantly in the coming months, growth in 2021Q1 is set to be weaker than forecast in the October 2020 World Economic Outlook," the IMF said in a report on the outlook for the eurozone economy. US investment bank Goldman Sachs recently cut its forecasts for European economic growth in the final months of this year and said the recovery will be far slower than expected going into the first quarter of next year, following restrictions on movement that came into force in October and November. The European Central Bank and the European Commission have spent trillions of euros in

different measures to shield the economy. The two have agreed to deploy a €750 billion recovery fund to channel hard cash into the areas of the economy that need it the most. The ECB for its part has kept interest rates at zero and continues to buy up trillions in assets to grease the wheels of the financial system. The central bank has strongly hinted that, not only will it tolerate a pickup in consumer inflation beyond its target level of 2% as growth returns, it will also take more steps at its last policy meeting of 2020 to shore up the eurozone, particularly in light of the threat posed by the second wave of the COVID-19 virus. "Monetary policy has been appropriately bold, but further support is likely to be needed. The ECB's monetary policy stance is already strongly accommodative, yet with the economic

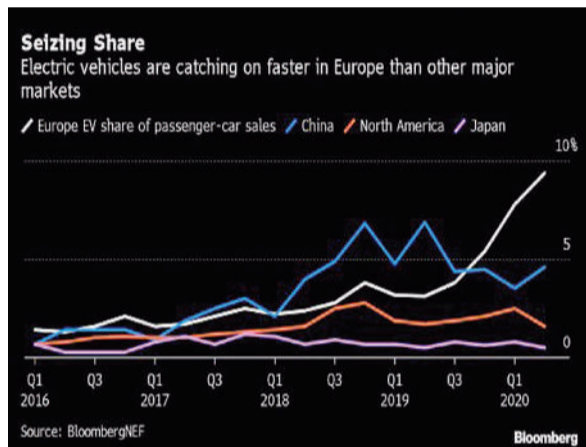


IMF Managing director Kristalina Georgieva (L) and European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen.

outlook deteriorating further, additional stimulus will be needed to facilitate a sustained increase in inflation," the IMF said. "The ECB Governing Council's commitment to recalibrate its policy instruments at its next meeting, once the December round of Eu-

rosystem staff macroeconomic projections is available, is welcome," it added. The IMF said the EU's "Next Generation" €750 billion recovery package could provide "a meaningful boost to euro area growth" if it is implemented effectively. "The agreement in July on the recovery package, which includes €390 billion in grants, sends a strong signal of European solidarity in facing this crisis. However, hurdles in finalizing the package and disbursing the funds need to be overcome, as further delays would damage euro area recovery prospects," the fund said. Not all the bloc's 27 members have welcomed the recovery fund. Hungary and Poland have promised to remain united in vetoing the mechanism. Under the program, funding for countries is dependent on rule of law principles, which the leaders of Hungary and Poland have opposed. Support from the central bank and from the heart of the EU itself has been vital, but the IMF underlined that individual nations will likely have to provide their own economic and fiscal safety nets for longer than they might currently anticipate. "National fiscal policies have been a critical defense against the pandemic, markedly dampening its economic and social impact by providing critical lifelines for workers and firms. Withdrawing such support too soon would risk derailing the recovery," the IMF said.

REGULATION



EU battery standards weighing graph

Tougher battery standards being sought by the EU

BRUSSELS AG and PSA Group. To make batteries greener, the EU will require more responsible sourcing of raw materials, using clean energy in production, cutting the share of hazardous substances, boosting energy efficiency and improving their durability, according to Sinkevicius. The new rules will affect batteries manufactured in the 27-nation bloc and brought from abroad, he said. "The new framework should apply to all types of batteries and all kinds of battery chemistry, whether sold apart or contained in products," Sinkevicius said. "It will ensure that various battery types are subject to similar but differentiated obligations." **Green deal** The increasingly electric future of the region is part of the Green Deal, a sweeping strategy that will affect each corner of the economy. To meet its goal of zeroing-out greenhouse gases by 2050, the EU needs to cut emissions from transport by 90%. Europe's growing EV market is starting to lure battery makers. China's SVolt Energy Technology Co. said this month it will join Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd. in opening a factory in Germany, while Tesla Inc. supplier Panasonic Corp. may start up a battery business in Norway. BMW said earlier this month that each of its German plants will produce at least one fully electric vehicle by the end of 2022. The EU has already invested billions in its Battery Alliance project to compete with Asia, currently Europe's only provider of EV batteries. The region's battery market value will reach 250 billion euros (\$300 billion) by 2025, with production capacity able to meet auto industry demand, according to European Commission estimated. Germany and France, home to major car manufacturers, are leading the push to roll out a European battery industry. Last year, the EU approved 3.2 billion euros in aid for a project spanning seven nations and including industrial giants such as BASF SE and carmakers BMW

EUROPE plans to impose stricter environmental requirements for batteries as it begins a radical economic overhaul set to boost electric vehicles and clean energy. The European Union will aim at setting a global standard in the fast-growing market when it proposes next month regulations to ensure all batteries marketed in the region are greener throughout their life cycle. "In our assessment, the EU will become the second-biggest global market for batteries," EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius said in an interview. "The number of batteries placed on the EU market and their importance will only grow in the coming years. Their sustainability should not lag behind."



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	THURSDAY 03 Dec	FRIDAY 04 Dec	SATURDAY 05 Dec
SATURDAY 28 Nov 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Isidingo rpt 00:30 DWTV SUNDAY 29 Nov 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:30 Jukwaa la fikra 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:14 Bongo Movie: Chuntama 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin MONDAY 30 Nov 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Mtego rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 21:50 Diego Maradona 22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV TUESDAY 01 Dec 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Sherehe za siku ya ukimwi duniani - Live 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kesho leo rpt 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV WEDNESDAY 02 Dec 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Matope Kunduchi 22:00 Diego Maradona 22:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari a saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Arts & lifestyle rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV FRIDAY 04 Dec 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:30 Ibadu ya kisilamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Utalii 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV SATURDAY 05 Dec 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Isidingo rpt 00:30 DWTV SUNDAY 06 Dec 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Movie rpt: Chuntama 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:14 Bongo Movie: 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera FRID 04 Dec 08:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Albu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera Sat 05 Dec 08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Rev rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slingshot 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot 21:00 Out n'About 21:30 Movie: Edge of darkness 23:00 Series rpt: Godwin 01:00 Al Jazeera Sun 06 Dec 08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Itohan 15:15 Albu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 00:00 Al Jazeera	

WORLD

'Virus could result in more HIV & AIDS-related deaths'

GENEVA

PRIOR to the World AIDS Day yesterday, a latest report from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has warned that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could result in 123,000 to 293,000 new HIV infections and 69,000 to 148,000 additional AIDS-related deaths between 2020 and 2022.

In a report titled *Prevailing against pandemics by putting people at the center* which was published on Nov 26, UNAIDS has warned that the global AIDS response was off track even before COVID-19.

It used to set the triple 90s targets years ago, including that by 2020, 90 percent of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90 percent who know their status are receiving treatment, and 90 percent on HIV treatment have a suppressed viral load. However, the rapid spread of the coronavirus has created additional setbacks.

For the world to be back on track to ending AIDS by 2030, as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), UNAIDS called

on countries to make far greater investments in global pandemic responses and adopt a new set of bold, ambitious but achievable HIV targets.

"The collective failure to invest sufficiently in comprehensive, rights-based, people-centered HIV responses has come at a terrible price," UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima has said in a press release on Nov 26.

"Implementing just the most politically palatable programs will not turn the tide against COVID-19 or end AIDS. To get the global response back on track will require putting people first and tackling the inequalities on which epidemics thrive."

UNAIDS has since proposed a new set of targets for 2025 that, if achieved, will make the UNSDGs of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 possible.

Those include achieving a number of 95-percents by 2025, such as 95 percent of women of reproductive age have HIV, sexual and reproductive health service needs met; 95 percent of pregnant and breast-feeding women living with HIV have suppressed viral



UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima speaks during an interview in Geneva.

loads; 95 percent of HIV-exposed children are tested; and 95 percent of people at risk of HIV infection use appropriate, prioritized, person-centered and effective combination prevention options.

The 2025 targets also include ambitious anti-discrimination goals, such as that less than ten percent of countries have punitive laws and policies, that less than ten percent of people living with and affected by HIV experience stigma and discrimination, and that less than ten percent experience gender inequality and violence.

Faced with the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the UNAIDS chief has reiterated her call for global solidarity and for the world to learn from mistakes of the HIV response. "No country can defeat these pandemics on its own.

A challenge of this magnitude can only be defeated by forging global solidarity, accepting a shared responsibility and mobilizing a response that leaves no one behind. We can do this by sharing the load and working together."

According to UNAIDS, 2019 already recorded 1.7 million new HIV infections and 690,000 deaths from AIDS-related illnesses. Globally, 38 million people are living with HIV, with more than 12 million people waiting for life-saving HIV treatment.

Xinhua

Russia ready for any global developments after US election, Lavrov says

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is ready for any developments in the world after the US presidential outcome is summed up, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with international news agency Kazinform.

"We presume that it is early to discuss the consequences of the US election for international relations before the official results are announced.

This is our principled position. Certainly, we are carefully watching what is going on the other side of the Atlantic, we are ready for any developments," Lavrov said, commenting on how Joe Biden's presumed win could influence the situation in the world.

Russia's top diplomat pointed out that judging by Biden's remarks "we could suggest that US foreign policy, in case of his victory, would fit more with the ideas promoted by [ex-US President] Barack Obama back then."

Agencies



UN chief calls for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in society

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in society, including in COVID-19 response and recovery.

The UN chief was addressing countries that are parties to the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which he stressed can only be fully implemented by tackling the obstacles, injustices and discrimination that this population experiences.

"Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities is crucial to fulfilling the core promise of the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind," he said, referring to the global action plan to bring about a more just and sustainable world.

"In all our actions, our goal is clear: a world in which all persons can enjoy equal opportunities, participate in decision-making and truly benefit from economic, social, political and cultural life. That is a goal worth fighting for."

The 13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention is taking place ahead of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, commemorated annually on Dec. 3. Like most UN events this year, it is being held in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, with participants meeting both in person and online.

The pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities affecting the world's 1 billion persons with disabilities, the secretary-general said.

Even under normal circumstances they were already less likely to access education, healthcare and jobs, or to be included in their communities. The chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities echoed this assessment.

Danlami Umaru Basharu was concerned that structural barriers, exclusion and discrimination have worsened during the crisis.

"While I celebrate that there now 182 parties to the convention, the pandemic has made evident that there is still a long way to go in fully understanding the human rights model of disability enshrined in the convention, and therefore in fully implementing its provisions," Guterres said in a video message.

In May, the UN chief issued a policy brief highlighting the disproportionate impact COVID-19 is having on persons with disabilities. He has called for pandemic response and recovery to be more disability inclusive, starting with recognizing and protecting the human rights of persons with disabilities.

"We must also ensure that the vision and aspirations of persons with disabilities are included and accounted for in a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world," he said.

The top UN official further emphasized that securing the rights of persons with disabilities is necessary for upholding the values and principles that underlie the UN. Last year, Guterres launched a UN-wide Disability Inclusion Strategy, aimed at bringing about lasting and transformative change across the organization and its operations.

Xinhua



Israeli PM opposes fresh election, calls for unity

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said that he opposes attempts to call for a new election and urged his coalition partners to keep the current power-sharing government.

"On Wednesday, the opposition will try to drag Israel to unnecessary elections," Netanyahu said at the start of his right-wing Likud faction meeting. "The Likud will vote against

elections and in favor of unity."

Yair Lapid, chairman of the opposition and leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party, said that he intends to bring a bill to the parliament on Wednesday to call for a vote to dissolve the parliament and hold a new election.

He urged the Blue and White, Netanyahu's main coalition partner party, to support the bill.

Benny Gantz, leader of the Blue and White party and Is-



Israel's alternate prime minister, has clashed with Netanyahu

rael's alternate prime minister, has clashed with Netanyahu over the delay in approving the state budget for 2020. Gantz demands the approval of the budget immediately but Netanyahu says that it should be postponed for the next year.

Netanyahu and Gantz formed their power-sharing government in May following the election in March in which no party gained enough votes to form a majority government. It was the third consecutive election in Israel in less than a year.

Netanyahu has been facing

growing public anger over the government handling of the COVID-19 outbreak and the ensuing economic crisis. In weekly rallies outside the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem and in cities and road junctions throughout the country, thousands of Israelis call him to resign.

Netanyahu is also facing a criminal trial over corruption charges. His trial is scheduled to resume in January next year.

Agencies

Virus worsens Europe's inequalities in another way - fertility gap

LISBON/ROME

"IT'S time to become a mum," was the push-notification hundreds of Portuguese women received on their cell phones last month.

The text, sent by a private hospital in Lisbon trying to drum up clients for its maternity unit, caused outrage on social media, with some women saying that the middle of a pandemic and recession is the worst possible time to have a baby.

Evidence suggests the coronavirus is deterring would-be parents from conceiving in most of Europe, but especially in the southern countries - from Italy to Greece - where safety nets are weakest and the birth rate was already in strong decline.

In the year 2000, there were 120,000 births in Portugal. Last year there were 86,600, a drop of 39 percent. The fall has been steepest following deep recessions such as the current one triggered by COVID-19.

As well as the emotional challenges now for couples wanting children, in the long run there

will also be economic challenges for countries that could face years of struggle to pull themselves out of the mire.

Fewer births means fewer and older workers. This will eventually be a drag on economic output and a strain on public pension schemes and welfare states, widening the gap between the richer north of Europe and the poorer south.

"You see stories in the media and elsewhere about people making the most of the lockdown to make babies, but that is the opposite of rational behavior," says Vanessa Cunha, a specialist in fertility, gender and family issues at University of Lisbon's ICS.

"The pandemic will have a big negative impact."

Irene Pontarelli, a 35-year-old psychiatric rehabilitation therapist, had planned to have her first child this year after seven years of marriage.

After two years working in the northern Italian city of Ferrara, some 550 kilometers from her husband Tony, she finally

found a job in her native town of Isernia, in the south, and it seemed a perfect time to start a family.

Then the coronavirus hit. She was unable to see Tony at all between March and July because of the lockdown, and says she is now too stressed to have a child.

"Our hospitals are close to collapse, especially in the south. I see myself in a maternity ward, alone, in a health system that doesn't work properly. It doesn't feel the right moment to bring a new baby into the world," she said.

North-South divide

Maria Vicario, president of Italy's National Order of Midwives, said she expected the crisis to have a "clear impact" on births next year.

"Women in Italy have children when they feel secure from a work, economic and health point of view. All that has been disrupted by the pandemic," she said.

The Lazio region around Rome has seen still births tri-

ple this year because pregnant women are scared to go to hospital for checkups, she added.

At the other end of the continent in Sweden, with its generous and efficient welfare state, Eva Nordlund, president of the Swedish Association of Midwives, said the opposite seemed to be happening. "There are pregnancy care centers that struggle with registrations due to so many new pregnancies," she said.

In Germany, Europe's largest economy, the fertility rate before the pandemic was around the EU average of 1.5 births per woman. France, Sweden and Denmark lead the bloc with rates above 1.7. At the other end, Italy and Spain are below 1.3.

A study of Europe's five largest countries during the first wave of the coronavirus in March and April showed over two thirds of people under the age of 34 planned to scrap or postpone having a baby due to the pandemic.

Respondents were far more prone to cancel their plans for a family in Italy and Spain than

in Britain, France and Germany, according to the research led by Milan's Cattolica University.

Rui Pires, a sociologist at the Lisbon University Institute, said the key factors behind falling birth rates were gender inequality and a lack of state support for bringing up children. In both areas, southern Europe lags the north, he said, adding that "inequalities have become more evident due to the pandemic".

Reeling from recession

Italy and Spain, more than the other countries in the spring study, are still suffering the consequences of the double-dip recession caused by the financial and debt crises between 2008 and 2012.

As in Portugal and Greece, young people of child-bearing age were hit hardest by the recessions. Thousands moved abroad and those who remained struggle with weak earning prospects, high unemployment and a lack of child-care facilities.

Agencies

China calls on BRICS countries to forge synergy for shared bright future

CHINESE President Xi Jinping called on the BRICS countries to fight COVID-19 in solidarity and advance BRICS cooperation through concerted efforts.

Xi made the remarks while addressing the 12th BRICS summit in Beijing via video link on Nov. 17, adding that the BRICS countries need to uphold multilateralism, enhance solidarity and coordination, pursue openness and innovation, prioritize people's livelihood and pursue green and low-carbon development.

"Right now, the world is caught between a pandemic of the century and momentous changes never seen in the last one hundred years. The international landscape keeps evolving in profound ways. At such a critical moment, we are meeting to discuss our joint response to COVID-19 and draw a blueprint for the future of BRICS. The meeting has thus

taken on a special significance," he said.

The international community believes that Xi's important and forward-looking speech based on the current achievements has injected great confidence and strong impetus into the world affected by the pandemic.

The BRICS cooperation shines bright with distinctive features, whether judging from the historical course of global development and evolving international landscape, or from the historical process of the respective and collective development of the BRICS countries.

The development and growth of the BRICS countries reflect the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries, lead to faster, further and more extensive adjustments in the international landscape, and are profoundly reshaping the international economic and political landscape.

At present, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the profound changes in the world landscape unseen in a century, and humanity now stands at a new crossroad. The world economy is in deep recession. Unilateralism, protectionism and acts of bullying are becoming rampant, and the deficit in governance, trust, development and peace is widening instead of narrowing.

Under the theme of "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth," the 12th BRICS summit demonstrates solidarity and responsibility and can inject much-needed stability and certainty into the world.

"We need to uphold multilateralism, and safeguard peace and stability in our world," Xi said, adding that the BRICS countries also need to enhance solidarity and coordination

and come together to meet the COVID-19 challenge, to pursue openness and innovation and promote global economic recovery, to prioritize people's livelihood and promote sustainable global development, and to pursue green and low-carbon development and strive for harmony between man and nature.

By observing the prevailing trend in a strategic context and making strategic decisions accordingly, Xi stressed in his speech that the BRICS countries must keep people's welfare close to heart, pursue the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, and make due contributions to making the world a better place for everyone through practical actions.

The history of human society development is a history of struggles against all challenges and difficulties and victories over them.

While the most serious pandemic in a century is threatening global public health security and dragging down world economic growth, some countries go full steam with its unilateralism and bullying as well as withdrawing from international treaties and organizations. Their acts of politicization and stigmatization of the virus, as well as practice of using the pandemic to pursue "de-globalization" and clamor for "economic decoupling" and "parallel systems" pose threats to global governance and disrupt overall global cooperation against the virus. These issues must be urgently addressed.

Facing the choice between multilateralism and unilateralism, and between justice and hegemony, the BRICS countries must stand up for equity and justice in the world, Xi said.

People's Daily

BRICS media leaders meet for post-COVID-19 exchanges, cooperation

BEIJING

THE fifth presidium meeting of the BRICS Media Forum was held via video link Monday, with members pledging joint efforts to improve the forum mechanism and step up post-COVID-19 exchanges and cooperation among BRICS media.

In the fight against COVID-19, media organizations from BRICS countries have actively fulfilled their social responsibilities, chronicling BRICS' joint fight against the pandemic and facilitating the mutual assistance and support between peoples of BRICS countries, said He Ping, executive chairman of the BRICS Media Forum.

Amid momentous changes never seen in the last hundred years, BRICS media outlets should grasp the trend of history and act as "facilitators" for peaceful development, said He, also president and editor-in-chief of Xinhua News Agency.

He urged BRICS media outlets to be aware of the general trend of global development and be "narrators" of the BRICS story, follow the evolution trends of media and be "leaders" in innovative development, and give full play to the advantages of BRICS collaboration and be "pursuers" of pragmatic cooperation.

Xinhua is willing to strengthen cooperation with media from other countries to provide spiritual impetus for defeating the pandemic, reviving the economy and building a community with a shared future, He added.

Jose Juan Sanchez, president of Brazil's CMA Group; Sergey Kochetkov, first deputy editor-in-chief of Russia's Rossiya Segodnya; Narasimhan Ram, director of The Hindu Publishing Group of India; and Iqbal Surve, executive chairman of Independent Media of South Africa, attended the event as co-chairpersons of the forum. In their speeches, they expressed the hope to further deepen the cooperation among BRICS media, to facilitate the development of the relations among BRICS countries and to help build a better world.

The year 2020 will be remembered by history books for the COVID-19 pandemic, Jose Juan Sanchez said in his speech, adding that BRICS media should strengthen information exchanges and experience sharing to contribute to building a better world after the pandemic.

Sergey Kochetkov said that even though the pandemic has impeded international exchanges, it also provided media with new growth opportunities and new paths for cooperation.



Photo caption: Executive chairman of the BRICS Media Forum He Ping, also president and editor-in-chief of Xinhua News Agency, presides over the fifth presidium meeting of the BRICS Media Forum in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. (Xinhua)

Narasimhan Ram said uncertainties will be a new kind of normal faced by media under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, calling on BRICS media to give full play to their advantages in fact-checking and take active use of new technologies like artificial intelligence in the fight against disinformation.

Iqbal Surve said the exchanges and cooperation among media in BRICS countries have never been this important due to the pandemic, calling for joint efforts from BRICS media in the post-COVID future to overcome difficulties including poverty and inequality and promote

fair distribution of vaccines after development.

The BRICS Media Forum was proposed by Xinhua News Agency and jointly initiated with mainstream media outlets from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, with the forum presidium as its top decision-making body.

Xinhua

Putin does not make decisions to counter opposition, Kremlin says

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin does not make decisions to counter the opposition, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"These positions are not taken into account," he said, answering a corresponding question.

Peskov was asked to comment on the statement made by Russian opposition figure Alexey Navalny in his interview with the Echo of Moscow radio station, in which he said that if the Russian government allegedly avoids solutions offered by the opposition, the government should be changed.

On Monday, a source in the law enforcement informed TASS that Moscow investigators are conducting an inquiry after Navalny's statement.

According to the source, the investigation believes that on April 27, Navalny called for a forceful change of the constitutional order in Russia. An inquiry was launched over public calls for extremist activity (Article 280 Part 2 of the Russian Criminal Code).



Free ARVs programme helping people with HIV in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

EVERY two months, 49-year-old Albert Khumalo goes to public hospital to collect his antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) which are distributed by South African government free of charge. Since tested positive to HIV in 2010, he has been taking the HIV pills.

"I follow the HIV treatment and have never defaulted and that keeps me healthy to work and feed my family," he told Xinhua. "I collect my pills every two months and

my wife encourages me to not default. I have never experienced any side-effects which some few individuals have complained of."

He said the ARVs treatment helps him live almost a "normal" life where he can work, do all what HIV negative can do.

Khumalo is one of some 4.7 million South African who receive ARVs through the public sector.

South Africa has the biggest and most high-profile HIV epidemic in the world.

According to the Joint United Na-

tions Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in 2018, the total number of people living with HIV is estimated at approximately 7.7 million. For adults aged from 15 to 49 years, an estimated 20.4 percent of the population is HIV positive.

South Africa accounts for about one third of all new HIV infections in southern Africa. In 2018, there were 240,000 new HIV infections and 71,000 South Africans died from AIDS-related illnesses.

South Africa introduced free ARVs in the public sector in April

2004, handing out antiretroviral treatment free to anyone who tests positive. Besides, the government clinics also provide HIV test for free. This has been largely financed from its own domestic resources.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Monday, "It was possible to reduce the number of deaths because we, together with our partners, have rolled out an extensive antiretroviral program reaching millions of people living with the disease."

He said, "Over the last decade

we made progress in reducing the number of new HIV infections in the population by nearly 60 percent. Our treatment program has contributed to a reduction in the number of deaths due to AIDS by 60 percent."

He said South Africa is currently circumcising young men to reduce their risk of contracting HIV. The government introduced a program called "She Conquers" to empower young women and girls and prevent them from contracting HIV.

Xinhua

E-commerce brings prosperity to village in central China's Hubei

GUO Mingfeng's online shop received orders worth 50,000 yuan (about \$7,639) in one night during this year's Double 11 online shopping festival from Nov. 1 to 11.

The 51-year-old was once an impoverished resident of Xiaying village, Yunxi county, Shiyan city in Central China's Hubei Province. In 2015, she started learning how to run an online store from other villagers, despite not knowing anything about computers.

In recent years, her store's annual sales volume has exceeded 300,000 yuan, as she advertises his products via WeChat, an instant messaging app in China, and live-streaming sessions.

"Being almost illiterate, I basically use the voice chat function on WeChat to communicate with customers. I benefit a lot from live-streaming, as I'm blessed with the gift of the gab," Guo said, laughing.

Guo's success can also be attributed to Xiaying's determination to develop e-commerce. Located deep in the mountains and isolated from the outside world, it was one of 84 major poor-stricken villages in Yunxi county, which is one of the 14 contiguous impoverished areas in China.



Local government hosts a training session about e-commerce for local residents in Yunxi county, Central China's Hubei Province. File photo

By 2014, there were 617 impoverished people from 179 households out of the total 339 households in the village, a poverty headcount rate of more than 40 percent.

Relying on its local calaite resources and making efforts to reduce poverty through e-commerce, Xiaying became Hubei's most famous Taobao village, a title granted by Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba to villages that see total annual e-commerce transactions of over 10 million yuan.

Xiaying shook off poverty in 2017. So far, about 700 people from 139 households in the

village have become directly engaged in e-commerce, said Liu Tingzhou, Party chief of the village, adding that Xiaying's total sales of products exceeded 200 million yuan in 2019.

The village has also built a center for poverty alleviation through e-commerce, ensured 5G coverage, and attracted over 10 express delivery companies.

At the center, local influencer Jiang Chunli and her husband Huang Hai have established a live-streaming team made up of 12 members, with a daily sales volume of

about 100,000 yuan.

Villagers also host live-streaming shows in their Western-style buildings. Ji-ang Lijun, who is in his fifties, holds live-streaming sessions in his living room every day, generating an annual sales revenue of over 1 million yuan.

Wang Huajian and his wife sell tea through their online shop and live-streaming sessions, generating an annual revenue of more than 10 million yuan, encouraging over 450 nearby households to plant tea trees.

People's Daily

Jabs could start within a week in Britain

LONDON

THE United Kingdom could see novel coronavirus vaccines being given out as early as Dec 7 after the Financial Times reported that an independent regulator was ready to approve a vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech in the next few days.

In the ordinary course of events, vaccines would also need to be approved by the European Medicines Agency, of which the UK remains a member until the end of the Brexit transition period at the end of the year.

But in emergency situations such as this, the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has the power to issue temporary authorization.

On Friday, the government also wrote to the medical regulator to ask if it could review another vaccine, created by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford.

Initial enthusiasm for this potential breakthrough, however, has been dampened by confusion over the consistency of the dosage given to people during the trial process.

"If these vaccines are approved, the (National Health Service) stands ready to roll them out as soon as safely possible," Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said.

Storage conditions

The Pfizer treatment requires two separate injections, and the vaccine would need to be stored at around minus 70 C, with a fridge life of five days

before it can be administered.

It had been thought that the likely first recipients of the vaccine, distributed through community doctors and NHS hospitals, would include the staff and residents of care homes.

The Guardian newspaper reported however that the sensitivity of the vaccine means transportation could affect its effectiveness, which may impact how it can be used.

"We've been told to expect the vaccine on Dec 7 and plan to start vaccinating our staff all that week," one senior hospital executive told The Guardian.

"However, it's the Pfizer vaccine we're getting, so it can't be moved again once it gets to us and we then have to use it within five days, as that's its shelf life.

"The original plan was to do care homes first. But once the vaccine gets to us it can't be used in the community, so only NHS staff will be able to have it, at least initially."

Martin Green, chief executive of Care England, which represents the UK's largest care home providers, was unhappy at the reported change of priorities.

"We had a commitment (from the government) that care home residents would be first in the queue," he said. "The reason is they are most susceptible to death from the virus. That commitment has to be honored."

"(The government) knew this was the vaccine and they knew it required little movement so why did they make the announcement it was care home staff and residents first?"

On Saturday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson appointed Business Minister Nadhim Zahawi to take responsibility for the national deployment of vaccines. **Agencies**

Australia, the perpetrator, should truly apologise for scathing crimes

BEIJING

It seems that in the logic of Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, a legitimate response to a heinous war crime is not a sincere apology or heartfelt confession but to shift the topic and find fault with others.

Well, Morrison and his government should simply ask the Afghan people and see if their approach is even remotely acceptable.

The Australian government should feel ashamed. Its demand for an apology from the Chinese side is as ironic as it is absurd.

What a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman has done was no more than standing up against hellish human rights crimes that deserve unanimous condemnation from

the international community, and speaking out for the truth and justice.

An investigation report recently released by the Australian Defense Forces showed that 25 Australian special forces soldiers killed 39 Afghans including children in 23 incidents, and none of those killings occurred in "the heat of a battle."

According to the report, some junior soldiers were even forced to shoot prisoners of war to gain the experience of "first killing." Australian media described the scathing scandal as "the most disgraceful episode in

Australia's military history."

Many dignitaries including Australian Governor-General David Hurley and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd have also come forward and strongly condemned those crimes.

Instead of trying to divert public attention by blaming those who spoke out for justice and human rights, the Australian government should genuinely apologize to the Afghan people and bring to justice the soldiers who committed the horrible crimes in Afghanistan.

The Australian government should feel guilty. In

the name of fighting terrorism and promoting so-called freedom and human rights, Australia, joining some other Western countries, has waged wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their reckless invasions have kicked millions of people in those countries deep into the abyss of chaos and bloodshed as well as devastation and death.

A research issued last year by the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University showed that the long-running war in Afghanistan claimed the lives of more than 40,000 civil-

ians and produced approximately 11 million refugees.

For the record, this is not the first time that such a scandal has been brought to light. Stomach-churning incidents of killing civilians or abusing prisoners in places like the notorious Guantanamo Bay have severely violated international law and the most basic human rights, and stoked public indignation worldwide.

The Australian government should be penitent. Besides an official apology to the Afghan people, the Australian government should make a solemn

promise to the international community that such atrocities will never happen again, as Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying urged at a regular press briefing on Monday.

Canberra should also revisit its double standard practice on human rights protection, and abandon its ideological prejudice and arrogance towards countries like China.

For a period of time, the Australian government has done a slew of provocative things to interfere with China's internal affairs concerning China's core inter-

ests. As a result, bilateral ties have been seriously damaged.

The international community should also do some serious soul-searching over the tragedy in Afghanistan. In the face of some hegemonic power's impulse to pursue pure self-interests, international justice can be pitifully fragile while human conscience can be so easily abandoned.

To safeguard fairness, justice and truth globally, and to promote the overall fundamental interests of ordinary people worldwide, countries around the world should be brave enough to stand on the right side of both history and humanity. For Australia, making the right choice starts with admitting its own crimes.

Xinhua

SPORT



Morrison saga as game changer in city rivalry as more drama creeps in

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A watershed moment appears to have been reached with the still smouldering issue of the shifting of then Yanga lead striker Bernard Morrison to their next street rivals, Simba SC, as there is no moment of rest before another brouhaha is stirred up.

First it was a case of suspicions of sabotage of the Msimbazi Street side where some schemers may have sought out premier league referees to cause problems for the bard hitting Msimbazi Street XI, a sorry tale of amateurish plotting that appeared more like soap series in a gossip newspaper than real news on how the premier league is being disorganized. Police stepped in.

This amateurish plotting against the premier league side to beat was also apparent in a series of nasty tackles against Morrison first but also other professional players on the team, with referees seemingly taking a hands-off attitude concerning this sort of play.

At some point the league organizers decided to act to stop that sequel of actions, as at a certain point the league would become impossible to manage if hard tackling of a professional player from outside was connived upon.

A few of us started worrying that the inter-season politicking about reducing the number of foreign players for signing was taking a hard toll.

After a few such incidents and in the wake of organizational intervention and even police presence on the sidelines as it were, it became clear that there was more of soccer scheming than a hardening of attitudes on foreign players from a xenophobic anti-professionalism platform.

It was a relief that the matter had not actually anchored into actual resistance of their presence, on the perceived advantage that Simba SC has upon other clubs, especially its hegemonic trespass into Yanga territory in the Morrison case in particular.

In that case the sumptuous defeat handed to the Jangwani Street side leads their supporters to other spheres of resistance, whether actually connected with the club leadership there or individuals act on their own.

That is why the referees' issue was tangentially directed at the leadership, that it could have been pushed from

some levers at that level, much as much of how it would go about was in the hands of individuals to arrange, as finally they act as proactive fans, not just as agents.

Something of the sort appears to underline the other saga that is making the headlines, as to whether the current organizational arrangement at the club house has been done properly or is appropriate, a one-sided sort of litigation where the other party is hard to point out.

As the police intervened in the referees' case, or anti-corruption law enforcers as the case maybe, this time it is a regulatory agency checking how companies operate, how their shares are owned.

What appears to be the case is that the club sought approval of those arrangements from a regulator in the sense that it was a business arrangement, where contracts and delivery of services are involved, etc.

In a strict regulatory sense, what would follow it to put out a notice, for instance in the case of an auction, that certain property will be disposed at say 10 am in the morning 15 days from appearance of that notice, in which case anyone with valid claim to that property or portion of it must signal that concern, for it to be taken on board.

It is not the property itself that it being inspected but the claimants thereof, of equal status.

That is why this matter appears to be marginally an aspect of the Morrison saga tremors, in that those who seek approval of club arrangements are united in that purpose, and no dissent has been filed from that sphere.

Yet there is something in this organizational dispute coming up a way that looks like putting up an advisory format, whose ramifications were earlier given by outgoing portfolio holder in the cabinet, Harrison Mwakymbembe, seeking a plurality of capital bearers in the shareholding structure.

That debate more or less ended as no stakeholders could elicit confidence in the club other than the current investor.

While expressions of scepticism or shortcomings in the club structure at that time were being put up as sound advice, they now take a different aura when they are brought up as regulatory concerns, despite the fact that the issue is the same, basically.

Still it must be said that it hasn't become a regulatory issue per se as there is no formal demand to change the structure as it stands, but merely demanding what became of potential plural ownership of club stock, a sort of demand note or seeking additional information before endorsing that arrangement.

For unless it breaks any law, a company format is a contract of two parties, and no dissent exists in the club on the issues - in which case bona fide confidence suffices for contract.

draw as they have recorded 14 points after taking part in 13 matches.

In the VPL's other fixture, which took place earlier in the day, Tanzania Prisons thrashed Mwadui FC 2-0 at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga, Rukwa.

Forward Lambert Sabiyanka recorded the opener for Prisons on the 23rd minute and substitute Gasper Mwaipasi slotted in the second for the team on the 87th minute.

Polisi Tanzania and Coastal Union were locked to 1-1 draw in a match played at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Forward Tariq Seif Kiakala opened the scoring for Polisi Tanzania on the 50th minute, before Raizin Hafidh equalized for Coastal Union on the 75th minute.

Polisi Tanzania have collected 20 points after playing 13 matches, they remain in the fifth place, three points below Ruvu Shooting and Simba SC.

Coastal Union are placed 11th as they have collected 16 points after taking part in 13 matches.

Ruvu Shooting fail to knock Simba SC off third spot in VPL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

RUVU Shooting have failed to knock Simba SC off the third place in the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) standing after the former settled for 0-0 draw with Kagera Sugar in a match played at Mabatini Stadium in Mlandizi, Coast Region on Sunday.

If Ruvu Shooting, currently placed fourth, had emerged victorious in the duel, they would have registered 25 points and knocked Simba SC, which has collected 23 points, from the third spot.

In a game that was entertaining and competitive, both Ruvu Shooting and Kagera Sugar created plenty of chances, but they failed to use them and found themselves finishing 90 minutes without finding each other's back of the net.

The results have seen Ruvu Shooting register 23 points and tie Simba SC on points, but the former remain fourth because they have an inferior goal aggregate.

Kagera Sugar are placed 13th following the

SPORTS

Godspeed Simba SC and Namungo FC

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

THE hour of reckoning has arrived once more for domestic clubs vying for honours in prestigious continental football championships.

This time around, our flag-bearers making a foray into the unpredictable, no-holds-barred arena of continental competition are domestic heavyweights, Simba SC, in the CAF Champions League and Namungo FC in the CAF Confederation Cup.

In the CAF Champions League, Simba SC takes on Plateau United in what will most naturally be a two-legged affair while in the CAF Confederation Cup, Namungo FC will face-off against South Sudanese opponents, Al Rabita, who like their Tanzanian counterparts, will be making their debut in this competition.

For Namungo FC's part, their 3-0 walloping of Al Rabita in the first leg hands them a firm advantage heading into the second leg in South Sudan.

However, they should not throw caution to the winds as they are not in the home stretch yet.

This being the CAF Confederation Cup, things can still go horrendously awry in the second leg so Namungo FC must not fall prey to overconfidence.

As for Simba, they will face Nigerian opponents in Plateau United in the CAF Champions League, and of course, it goes without saying that this writer wishes them the very best of good fortune.

Now, let us alter our gaze to much sadder news. The realm of football is still reeling in horror and profound grief from the tragic news that one of the greatest-ever to grace this enduringly enchanting sport, Diego Maradona, has sadly died.

What makes this shocking news all the harder to comprehend is that he was only 60.

But try as we might to escape it, we all have to face the grim, deeply saddening truth that Diego Maradona is no more.

The diminutive Argentinean, one of the sport's true immortals, leaves behind a breathtakingly glorious and long-lasting, nay, eternal legacy.

However, as we all come to terms



Tanzania's representatives in the 2020/21 CAF Confederation Cup, Namungo FC.

with his untimely demise, it begs the question, what was Maradona's impact on Africa?

In my book, the answer to this simple query is as well exceedingly simple, we loved him infinitely for his inimitable and one-of-a-kind football genius.

Renowned for his utterly bedazzling dribbling skills, Maradona oft times seemed eminently capable of performing sheer sorcery with the ball when weaving his way through opposing defences with seemingly effortless ease.

For countless Africans, his second goal against England in the 1986 World Cup quarterfinal in Mexico will stand as an enduring testament to the staggeringly breathtaking aesthetic genius of the left-footed football marvel.

After receiving a pass from his Argentinean teammate Enrique in the centre-circle, Maradona proceeded to dribble his way past five or six English players in a riveting, mazy run right up to the edge of England's six yards box before coolly and masterly rounding the goalkeeper Peter Shilton and then flicked the ball imperiously into a yawning net. Put succinctly, the goal was a masterpiece.

Suffice it to say that this goal set the whole 1986 World Cup abuzz and

positively electrified the length and breadth of the continent too.

Maradona would go on to inspire his beloved Argentina to hoist aloft the 1986 World Cup in a resounding triumph that left the world at his feet.

In the wake of that dizzying peak moment of his football career, however, Maradona's off-field woes began to loom ever more prominently over his reputation as the world's most supreme football talent.

In 1991, the Argentinean football gem par excellence was banned from the beautiful game after testing positive for cocaine prior to a Serie A encounter where he played for Napoli.

Sadly, an addiction to drugs and reported alcoholism would prove immensely difficult hurdles for him to overcome.

Still, now is not the time to dwell on his failings, which, although they may be different, all of us are guilty as well of having.

With his sorrowful passing, Maradona has left behind a gaping void in the sport, which will never be filled. And for Africa, we have lost an adopted son.

Fare thee well Diego Armando Maradona, the magical boots of the Argentinean squad.

KMC FC steps up preparations for Dodoma Jiji FC match



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC players take part in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the ongoing Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League club, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC has continued to prepare for the league's game against Dodoma Jiji FC, slated for December 4 at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Currently, KMC FC has camped at White Sands Hotel in the city, dwelling on preparations for the clash and ensuring that the side's strategies for coming out victorious will pay off.

The KMC FC squad, led by head coach,

John Simkoko, and his assistant, Habibu Kondo, is gearing up for lifting the domestic top flight trophy after garnering good results in the outfit's previous league match against Azam FC.

The clash, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in the city on November 22, had KMC FC edging Azam FC 1-0.

"Our squad is strong, we have no injuries, we believe that our preparations will bring good results in the game," Kondo noted.

"We are not preparing for one match but we are shaping up for every match

that we have to play."

"We have yet to play two games against Namungo FC and Simba SC, so we've had a great time making our preparations, fans should expect to see us showcase impressive performance."

The KMC FC will thereafter lock horns with Mtibwa Sugar in a match that will be played in Morogoro.

After the trip to Morogoro, KMC FC will head to Mbeya to confront Ihefu FC and Mbeya City FC, the Dar es Salaam side will later head to Iringa to face JKT Tanzania at Samora Stadium.

Lazio ace Immobile tackles past demons on Dortmund return

ROME

CIRO Immobile returns to the scene of one of his unhappiest spells as a player when Lazio take on the goal ace's former club Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Dortmund were Italy forward Immobile's first club outside of his home country and that disappointing time in the Bundesliga was followed by a similarly unsuccessful six months at Sevilla, before returning to Serie A.

Lazio are just one point behind their German hosts who lead Group F with two games to play, and four ahead of third-placed Club Brugge.

The Italians are well-positioned to advance to the last 16 in their return to the Champions League after a 13-year absence.

Last season's European 'Golden Shoe' winner thanks to his 36 league goals in Italy, Immobile's strikes powered Lazio to a fourth-place finish in Serie A.

This campaign he has scored three Champions League goals in two games – one in a 3-1 win over Dortmund in Rome and twice against Zenit with the same scoreline last time out in the Stadio Olimpico.

In between, Immobile missed two games, both 1-1 draws, against Club Brugge and away at Zenit, because of positive coronavirus tests.

"He is important for our football," said coach Simone Inzaghi.

"He'll make the fortunes of Lazio, and also those of Italy."

In total, Immobile has seven Champions League goals from 12 appearances between Lazio, Dortmund, Sevilla and Juventus.

He was also top scorer in the Europa League in 2017-18.

But despite his record performances with Lazio, the player known as 'King Ciro' to fans, has been criticised for his failure to perform well outside of Italy.

An 18 million euro (\$22 million) move to Jurgen Klopp's Dortmund in 2014 reaped just three goals in 24 appearances, before a transfer after just one season to Sevilla, who loaned him to Torino.

"I arrived at Dortmund at the wrong time, during a generational change," said Immobile.

"There were some difficulties, but I don't want to say anything about this. I know when I deserve praise or criticism."

- 'Extra stimulus' -

He returned to Lazio in 2016 for less than 10 million euros, the same year former 'Biancocelesti' forward Inzaghi took over as coach.

And the 30-year-old has flourished in a system tailor-made to his strengths, alongside Luis Alberto and Joaquin Correa, and midfielders Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Marco Parolo.

Immobile extended his contract with Lazio by two years through 2025, after last season matching Gonzalo Higuain's single-season Italian league record of 36 goals.

Immobile also led the Serie A scorers in 2013-14 with 22 goals for Torino and with Lazio in 2017-18 with 29.

This season he has scored eight goals in nine games in all competitions. Lazio are ninth in Serie A.

If he continues his current pace, the player from Naples is on track to become Lazio's all-time leading scorer.

With 133 goals across all competitions, he currently sits second on the Roman club's scoring chart behind Silvio Piola's 159 goals.

He has 108 league goals for Lazio to Piola's 143 between 1934 and 1943.

The arrival of five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo's at Juventus in 2018, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic joining AC Milan this year has provided a boost.

"Ronaldo's arrival in Italy was an extra stimulus for me," said Immobile who scored five more goals than the Portuguese star last season.

"When these great champions arrive, they push you to give more, to understand if you too you can be at that level.

"It happened with Ibra too, I studied him because he is a great champion. I hope to still be like this when I'm Ibra's age."

(Agencies)

Wolves' Jimenez hopes 'to return' after fractured skull

LONDON

RAUL Jimenez says he hoped to be back playing football soon despite the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker suffering a fractured skull in a horrific clash of heads with Arsenal's David Luiz.

The 29-year-old Mexican international tweeted from his hospital bed where he is under observation following an operation.

Jimenez received 10 minutes of treatment on the pitch after the clash of heads in the first-half of Sunday's Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium.

He was subsequently wheeled off the pitch and taken to hospital.

"Thanks for your support messages," he tweeted.

"I will be under observation, and I hope to return to the pitch soon."

Wolves went on to win the match

2-1 for their first victory at Arsenal in 41 years.

One of their goalscorers Pedro Neto dedicated his goal and the win to his stricken team-mate.

"I didn't see the impact, I only heard the impact, and it was very hard seeing him on the ground like that," said the 20-year-old Portuguese.

"It was shocking, but I hope that he is ok and that he can recover to come back with us.

"Seeing him unconscious on the floor was bad, but we had to try to focus 100 per cent on the game.

"We wanted to end the game, we wanted to win the game for him, and we wanted to get this victory for him, so I think the whole team would like to dedicate this win for him."

(Agencies)

Players 'too brave' over head injuries, says Mason

LONDON

FOOTBALL players often ignore the risks of head injuries and officials must improve concussion protocols, said former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Ryan Mason, who was forced into early retirement in 2017 after fracturing his skull.

Mason's comments come in the wake of a sickening clash of heads between Wolverhampton Wanderers striker Raul Jimenez and Arsenal's David Luiz in the Premier League at the weekend.

Jimenez underwent surgery on a fractured skull while Arsenal faced criticism for allowing Luiz to play on with his head bandaged before he was substituted at halftime.

Mason, who retired at the age of 26 after fracturing his skull in a clash of heads with Gary Cahill, has called for a change in perception on concussion

within the game.

"We live in a world with men wanting to be brave. Not many will stand up and say, 'I don't feel right here,'" former England international Mason told Sky Sports.

"That's the industry football is and we're probably still a little bit guilty of that, if I'm being perfectly honest. I was very close to losing my life on a football pitch to an incident that was very similar."

Mason said officials should be encouraged to punish players for dangerous aerial challenges.

"(David Luiz's challenge) was late and it was from behind. If on the floor with a knee or ankle it would be a yellow card. This type of challenge is viewed as an honest attempt, which this one was," Mason said.

"I think it was honest but I do believe we have a responsibility as professionals to punish dangerous play."

In trophy-filled career, Mourinho now at his peak

By Leander Schaerlaeckens

GOING into this season, it was fairly evident that Jose Mourinho faced the toughest job of his managerial career.

He was in charge of a Tottenham Hotspur team that had been in slow decline for several seasons; from the 2016-17 season through 2019-20, its Premier League points totals tumbled from 86 to 77 to 71 to 59. But Spurs stubbornly refused to add new players that might turn things around. Mourinho had done an admirable job the prior season, taking over from Mauricio Pochettino in November and dragging the side from 14th place to sixth.

Questions lingered about his ability to adapt with the times and adjust to the modern high-pressing game when his teams traditionally hadn't pressed much at all. In his last job, Mourinho had been fired ignominiously by Manchester United, marking his first job with a major club in which he had not won the domestic league.

And while Mourinho got a few reinforcements over the summer – Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and returned veteran Gareth Bale in midfield; Matt Doherty and Sergio Reguilon to shore up the back line – they were solid pickups yet also not the kinds of impact signings that promised to make a big difference. Spurs had the fourth-highest net expenditure out of any Premier League team in the summer market, behind Chelsea, Manchester City and, remarkably, newly promoted Leeds United, but had to spread it around to rebuild squad depth.

Rivals Manchester City, Chelsea, Liverpool, United and Arsenal all dropped major transfer fees on players, getting to spend more on each of them as they needed fewer signings. All the same, Spurs remain fairly thin, staring into the maw of a season with a schedule more compressed than ever.

But here are Spurs now. Here is Mourinho. Ten games into the Premier League season and with his Spurs back in first place after Sunday's tight 0-0 stalemate at fellow contenders Chelsea, you could credibly suggest that Mourinho is delivering the best performance of his managerial career.

Historically, Mourinho had thrown a load of money at his coaching problems. Presented with an issue, he would just buy, or demand, expensive signings, rather than developing the young world class talent in his squads. Like Romelu Lukaku, Kevin de Bruyne and Mo Salah, for instance, all of whom withered on the bench in Mourinho's second spell at Chelsea, only to become superstars elsewhere.

In his first period with Chelsea, the club went on an unprecedented signing spree on Mourinho's behalf. At his next job, Inter Milan bought him Wesley Sneijder, Diego Milito and Samuel Eto'o – the latter in a Zlatan Ibrahimovic swap. When he went to Real Madrid, he got to add a constellation of up-and-coming stars to a team that had just added Kaka and Cristiano Ronaldo for world-record fees. When he returned to Chelsea, he brought in Willian and Cesc Fabregas – and benefited from the recent acquisition of Eden Hazard and Oscar before his arrival. Manchester United backed him with the purchase of Paul Pogba and so many others.

In fact, in 2017 Mourinho became the first manager in history to pass a billion pounds in player recruitment on



Jose Mourinho's work with Spurs this season has been different from his work with other big clubs, but the results have been there all the same. (Agencies)

his watch. Not even Sir Alex Ferguson, Carlo Ancelotti or Louis van Gaal, who had all been at the top of management for longer, had reached that benchmark before the Portuguese did.

But at Spurs, there has been relatively little money to spend.

Instead, Mourinho has improved his players.

He has rejuvenated striker Harry Kane and added dimensions to his game. He has drawn more consistency out of Son Heung-min. Tanguy Ndombele has finally come along to justify his club-record fee. Eric Dier has become the defender he always looked capable of being.

Under Mourinho, Spurs have become far more efficient. Through 12 games under Pochettino last season, they accumulated just 1.16 points per game. After Mourinho arrived, that number jumped to 1.65 through the rest of the campaign. So far this year, Spurs are racking up 2.1 points per game.

Per Opta, Tottenham's 13 points away from home in their first five games is their best start since 1960-61 – the last

time they won the league, as it happens.

Beyond that, and veering into the less quantifiable realm, this Spurs squad seems to demand more from itself than it used to.

"A draw in here, normally, is a positive result," Mourinho said on Sunday, following the draw with his two-time former employer. "To stay top of the league with that result, is also a positive thing. And my dressing room is not happy. That's the best thing that I take from the game – we are not happy. That for me is fantastic. It's a complete change of mentality, a complete change of personality. That's the thing that makes me really, really happy; we are not happy with a draw at Stamford Bridge."

Tottenham Hotspur is largely unchanged. Yet under Mourinho, something is also different this season.

Leander Schaerlaeckens is a Yahoo Sports soccer columnist and a sports communication lecturer at Marist College. Follow him on Twitter @ LeanderAlphabet.

Cavani proves his worth to Man Utd in time for PSG reunion

LONDON

EDINSON Cavani showed why Manchester United handed the veteran Uruguayan the bumper two-year contract others balked at as he turned defeat into victory at Southampton on Sunday.

The 33-year-old came off the bench with United trailing 2-0 to score twice and set up Bruno Fernandes for the other goal in a thrilling come-from-behind win reminiscent of the club's glory days under Alex Ferguson.

Cavani's joy at making his first major contribution for United has been tempered by the prospect of a domestic ban for a misjudged social media post after the game.

He used the Spanish term "negrito" (small black person) in thanking a friend for his congratulations, but despite the affectionate context, Cavani could still fall foul of the Football Association's minimum three-match ban for offensive comments on social media.

Cavani will though be available for a reunion against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Wednesday and could exact revenge for being cast aside by the French champions.

PSG's all-time record goalscorer was allowed to leave on a free transfer when his contract expired in June and did not even hang around as the Parisians reached the Champions League final for the first time in August.

Instead, Cavani kept himself fit working on a farm in his homeland and indulging his passion for ballet before United came calling in the final days of the transfer window in October with a deal worth a reported £210,000 per week (\$271,000).

- Focal point -

After seven months out in the cold, Cavani understandably took time to make his mark in Manchester, but his impact against Southampton showed the different dimension his predatory instincts in the box offer Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men.

"Sometimes, when we've scored



Edinson Cavani

goals, it had to be the 'perfect' goal, walking it in, with an extra pass and great skill," said Solskjaer.

"Edinson has been around the block and scored so many goals and played football for so long. He's been between those posts so many times, he's seen this game before, he's scored that goal before.

"To have a focal point in the box is important for us, we've not really had that since Romelu (Lukaku) left. Anthony (Martial), Marcus (Rashford), Mason (Greenwood), they're different types of forwards. He gives us a great balance and a mix. We wanted to mix it up and Edinson had a great impact."

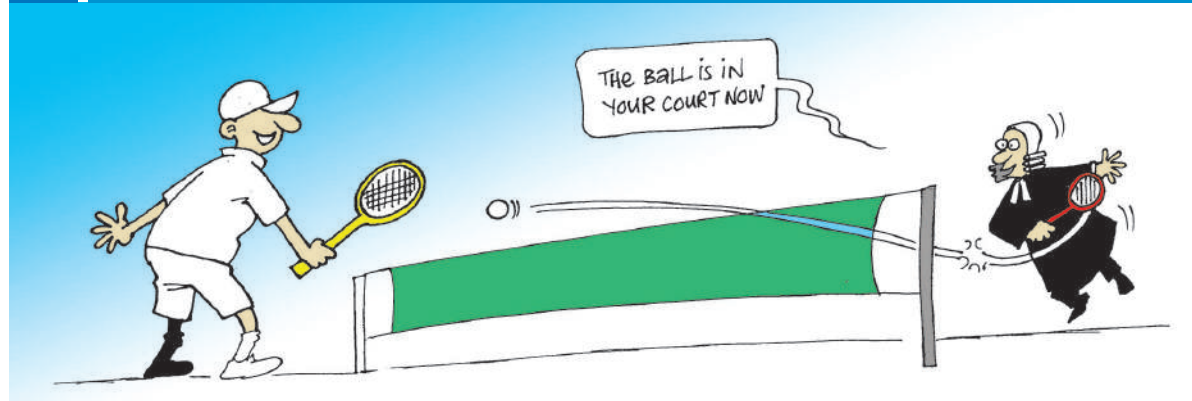
Cavani has made just one start under Solskjaer, in a 4-1 thrashing of Istanbul Basaksehir last week, but may have done enough to move ahead of Martial and Greenwood in the pecking order to start on Wednesday.

Victory over Basaksehir restored United's grip on Group H after a shock defeat in Istanbul undid some of their good work, having beaten PSG away and RB Leipzig 5-0 in a brilliant start to the section.

PSG sit three points behind Solskjaer's men and face a humiliating group-stage exit should they lose again to United.

Dispatching Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Mauro Icardi, who took his place at the Parc des Princes, from the competition PSG desire most, would be poetic justice for Cavani after the manner of his exit from the club.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

In trophy-filled career,
Mourinho now at his peak

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Singida resident rakes in cash prize from Dar es Salaam betting firm

By Guardian Correspondent

SINGIDA resident Samwel Humbe has pocketed 145,351,400/- in cash prize after he had perfectly predicted the results of various football leagues' matches in the world through a betting game, known as 'Perfect 12', which is organized by M-Bet Company.

Humbe, an avid supporter for Tanzania's soccer giants, Yanga, and English Premier League club, Arsenal, won the money after he precisely predicted 12 matches of various leagues.

Speaking during the presentation of a dummy cheque to Humbe, M-Bet Tanzania's Marketing Manager Allen Mushi said the winner, a carpenter, joined the group of the betting game's winners, who have benefited from the ongoing game.

"M-Bet is the house of winners, and we want to empower Tanzanians financially, I believe the money will help Humbe establish business and increase his income in his daily economical activities," Mushi disclosed.

Mushi said that, so far, they have spent 4.2bn/- to reward various winners through the 'Perfect 12' game which officially started in 2017.

"Humbe is the 94th winner since the start of the 'Perfect 12' game that has changed the lives of many Tanzanians in the country," he said.

Humbe noted he will use the money to establish new business while improving his carpentry workshop in order to be modern. He said he will buy modern machinery for the job.

Meanwhile, M-Bet Tanzania has launched campaign dubbed 'Ni Zamu Yako' which aims at promoting eligible people as per regulation to continue betting with the company.

Mushi said the new campaign further encourages fans to continue betting through the firm and win lucrative prizes.



Yanga's newly recruited midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza.

Ntibazonkiza arrives in Dar es Salaam to join Yanga

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's newly recruited Burundian midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza, jets into Dar es Salaam today to join his club.

Information released by the club said Ntibazonkiza, who signed a two-year contract in October this year to serve the team, had yet to join his teammates in the camp due to his country's national team's duties.

The midfielder is one of players making Burundi senior national soccer team, which had taken part in Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers.

However, it was reported that Ntibazonkiza, who can play as either an attacking midfielder or forward, was waiting for the start of mini transfer period so he could start turning out for Yanga.

This season's mini transfer period is expected to start on December 15, this year, and climax on January 15, 2021.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said earlier on Monday they expect to welcome Ntibazonkiza and have him start training with his colleagues whilst waiting for the mini transfer period to start.

Ntibazonkiza was first expected to land in Dar es Salaam the same day and enter the camp on Tuesday, ready to compete for a place in the club's first choice squad.

He will play for Yanga as soon as the mini transfer period starts on December 15.

Bumbuli disclosed: "He was expected to be in the country since November 18 this year, but, since the mini transfer period starts on December 15, he has to wait first."

"His registration procedures will be completed within a day and he will be ready to wear our club's jerseys in the league," he noted.

Ntibazonkiza is, according to reports, a proven goal scorer via both open play and set pieces.

He showcased his goal scoring virtuosity for Burundi senior national soccer team in the AFCON Qualifiers' Group E matches, netting three goals.

He also netted for Burundi when the team edged Tanzania's Taifa Stars 1-0 in an international friendly clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently.

With Yanga's head coach, Cedric Kaze, still complaining of his team's finishing woes, Ntibazonkiza's presence in the squad is set to be a boost.



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, Filbert Bayi.

Bayi seeks TOC leadership's third term

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, Filbert Bayi, will seek re-election for the post at the committee's polls slated for mid this month in Dodoma.

Bayi and incumbent TOC president Gulam Rashid are expected to win unopposed as they are the only candidates for the two top positions.

Announcing the names of TOC leadership's candidates, who have met all requirements, Lloyd Nchunga, the TOC election commission's chairman, said 21 people will compete for various positions at the election which will be held on December 12.

He said out of the 21 candidates, 13 come from

Mainland Tanzania while the remaining come from Zanzibar.

Nchunga said his commission received names of 21 people who showed their willingness to contest for the posts and only one person was disqualified due to failure to meet some of the conditions.

He said many positions have one candidate, the only top position, which seems to have attracted two influential candidates, is that of vice president, which will see Henry Tandau and Muharram Mchume compete for it.

Nchunga mentioned other candidates as Suleiman Jabir who is vying for assistant secretary post, Charles Nyange and Juma Zaidy, who will compete for treasure general post

and assistant treasurer respectively.

The TOC election commission's chairman mentioned Noorelain Shariff, Irene Mwasanga, Amina Lyamaiga, Donatha Masawe, Suma Mwaitenda, Devotha Marawa, Suleiman Nyambui and Juma Jambau as contestants for the executive committee's membership from Mainland Tanzania.

While contestants from Zanzibar are Nasra Mohammed, Ramadhan Omar, Mussa Fadhil, Suleiman Khamis and Makame Machano.

Nchunga said only six people (three from Mainland Tanzania and three from Zanzibar) will be elected as TOC executive committee members.

"All is done and 21 peo-

ple have met the regulations and conditions for TOC election which will be held on December 12 in Dodoma, now the candidates can start campaigning up to December 11," he said.

He, however, lamented the low number of people contesting for the election. He stated: "It is very surprising that very few people have shown interest in contesting for the committee's posts."

"But they are the same people who, after new TOC leaders have been elected, will complain of not being given the chance, next time people make use of this opportunity," he said.

Uganda seek revenge on Ngorongoro Heroes in 2020 CECAFA U-20 Championship final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

UGANDA'S U-20 football squad, nicknamed 'Hippos', confronts Tanzania's Ngorongoro Heroes in the 2020 Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-20 Championship final in Arusha today.

The 'Hippos' reached the competition's final after cruising to 3-1 victory over Kenya's U-20 squad in the last four stage's tie at the Black Rhino Academy Stadium in Karatu, Arusha on Monday. Uganda's goals were scored by Ivan

Bogere, who scored two, and Kenneth Semakula, who netted the other.

Kenneth opened the scoring for Uganda on the 23rd minute after he headed home a fine corner taken by forward, Najib Yiga, who also turns out for Uganda Premier League team, Vipers FC.

Kenya's defense failed to track the 'Hippos' centre back Semakula who ultimately netted Uganda's opener.

Bogere, who also features for Uganda Premier League outfit Proline FC, registered the second goal for 'Hippos'

on the 26th minute through a counter attack.

He had received a long ball from Ismail Mugulusi, who chipped the ball, finding the forward in an open position and the former slotted in.

Bogere made it 3-0 for Uganda on the 64th minute, as he sent Kenya's keeper the wrong way from a spot kick the former won after Mugulusi was fouled by the keeper.

The Kenyans were seen play fast-paced football seeking to draw level but time was not friendly to them.

His registration procedures will be completed within a day and he will be ready to wear our club's jerseys in the league

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

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 5SELEKT
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.

east africa 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

