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'Headline inflation constant in June'



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NBC readies unsecured loans for SMEs



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Govt to revoke non-performing contractors



## PM: Revive idle specialised crop sector training institutions now

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) has directed the Ministry of Agriculture to set aside funds from its annual budget allocations for the revival of collapsed research and training institutions.

Speaking yesterday during a visit at the Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute in Mtwara Region, he said it is the responsibility of the ministry to ensure that institutions that are out of use start operating.

Naliendele serves as the national coordinating research centre for cashew, oilseeds as well as for roots and tubers, he said.

"I recently visited Mlingano training institute which was established way back in 1970 and Kihinga research centre we set up recently in Kigoma Region," he elaborated.

The revival of dilapidated centres and building new agricultural training and research centres is vital in the country's bid to unleash the potential for economic growth especially in rural areas, he pursued.

The centres play a pivotal role in spurring investments in agriculture and facilitate public-private collaboration to improve the business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"We want to see more money going to these institutions and the outcome research reaching farmers for increased output. That

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# 'East Africa growth rate high despite COVID-19'

By Henry Mwangonde

EAST Africa remains the fastest growing region in the continent despite COVID-19 disruptions, a new report has indicated.

The East Africa Regional Economic Outlook, unveiled yesterday in video conference by the African Development Bank (AfDB), shows that the region's economy grew by an average of 5.0 per cent last year - higher than Africa's average of 3.3 per cent and global average of 2.9 per cent.

The report says that the region was projected to grow by 5.1 per cent against a continental average of 3.9 per cent and a global average of 3.4 per cent.

With Covid-19 shocks, the region's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to decline sharply during 2020, at 1.2 per cent growth or down to 0.2 per cent as baseline and worst case scenarios.

However, the region still remains above Africa's average of -1.7 per cent and -3.4 per cent under the Covid-19 effects as minimal and abysmal levels of projected growth, it said.

Covid-19 will reverse the region's growth momentum in 2020 but partial recovery in GDP growth to 3.7 per cent (baseline) and 2.8 per cent (worst case) is projected in 2021 assuming the pandemic is contained in the short to medium term," it says.

The report mentioned service sectors like hospitality, tourism, travel and aviation as the most susceptible to Covid-19 restrictive measures and lockdowns enforced in the region and outside.

It projected inflation at 17.3 to 18 percent from 13.5 percent

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Visitors to the Livestock and Fisheries ministry pavilion at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair view a fish of the Coelacanth Replica species caught and dried in 2009 and since stored in a glass container. Correspondent Anthony Siame captured the scene yesterday

## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



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**FACT 4** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Seek medical advice if you
  - Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)

## AfDB crop sector drive eroding rural poverty

By Guardian Reporter

AN African Development Bank (AfDB) project to enhance market infrastructure, value addition and rural finance (MIVARF) in Tanzania has increased the incomes of rural producers and traders threefold.

A report released yesterday by the project

team shows that the initiative rolled out from 2012 to 2017 has substantially altered income expectations of the beneficiaries.

With \$56.8m in funding from the AfDB, the programme was undertaken in 32 districts with a population of 6.1m in 1.2m households. Around 78 per cent of beneficiaries reported

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## EAC private sector calls for open skies

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE East African Business Council has called upon East African Community (EAC) partner states to open up their skies to allow

free movement of people and cargo.

This comes as apart from Tanzania, other regional blocks are still grappling with the consequences of Covid-19 pandemic. On Monday, Kenya partially lifted its lockdown but said international flights could only commence next month.

While Tanzania has already opened up its skies and airports, the EAC is urging the remaining five EAC member states to fast track opening of air transport services to boost regional trade, tourism and hospitality sectors.

"The East African Business Council appreciates the measures by the EAC

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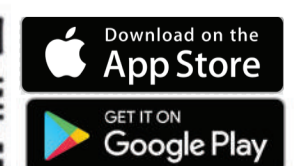
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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa admires milk produced from cashewnuts when he visited Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute in Mtwara Region on Tuesday. Left is Mtwara regional commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa. Photo: PMO

## PM: Revive idle specialised crop sector training institutions now

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is the ultimate goal that the ministry should not lose focus of," he explained.

He stated that no country has ever increased productivity in agriculture by employing centuries-old methods. To the contrary, nations that have seen agrarian revolutions and lifted millions of farmers out of poverty are those that embraced change, invested heavily in training and research and finally saw the fruits, he declared.

As a country whose economic backbone is agriculture, Tanzania which this month entered the low-middle income bracket needs to do more by investing heavily in the sector that employs the majority of its people, he stated.

Agriculture is the largest employer in Tanzania. Currently the sector provides employment to more than 70 per cent of the population and in favourable seasons, covers more than 100 per cent of domestic grain requirements.

## COVID-19: Kenya issues new 'relaxed' travel rules

NAIROBI

There will be no mandatory quarantine for travellers arriving in Kenya if they do not show Covid-19 symptoms, the government announced yesterday.

To enhance safety measures and curb the spread of Covid-19, Transport Cabinet Minister James Macharia said airports across the country will be restricted to workers and travellers only, except for cases where travelers need special assistance.

"The new protocol also includes measures to minimise contact between crew and passengers at the airport terminus, and to limit physical contact between security officers and passengers, and between airport staff and luggage.

"Air Operators will also reduce on-board service to the bare minimum, and introduce phased boarding and disembarking procedures to eliminate crowding at the aisles," the CS said.

The Transport minister also announced the Madaraka Express train services will resume on Monday between Nairobi and Mombasa.

"Kenya Railways will deploy 10 coaches for passengers with a total one-way capacity of 600 passengers (or 50 percent of capacity), and one additional coach that shall be used to isolate passengers suspected to be infected with Covid-19," he said.

Only one train will leave Nairobi for Mombasa at 8:00am and the train out of the coastal city leave at 1:25pm, the CS said.

AGENCIES



**Air Operators will also reduce on-board service to the bare minimum, and introduce phased boarding and disembarking procedures to eliminate crowding at the aisle**

## 'East Africa growth rate high despite COVID-19'

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in 2019. Partly driven by Covid-19 supply shocks, average fiscal deficit was 4.9 percent of GDP in 2019/2020, and is projected to narrow to 4.7 percent in 2020/2021 via fiscal consolidation.

Services and household consumption lead as growth drivers

amid economic transformation, it said.

"Public spending increased during the period, with dividends of political stability the main factor," said Nnene Nwabu, the AfDB Deputy Director General for the East Africa Region.

On the supply side, growth in 2019 was driven by services (about 60

percent of GDP). Agriculture and industry accounted for 26 percent and 14 percent of GDP respectively.

On the demand side, growth was led by household consumption, with investment in household consumption goods accounting for 65 percent of GDP in 2019.

The report growth rates in the region in a familiar pattern as Rwanda (9.4 percent), Ethiopia (9.0 percent) Tanzania (6.8 percent) and Djibouti (6.0 percent) which posted the highest growth rates in 2019, whereas Comoros (1.9) and Sudan (-2.5 percent) chalked the lowest rates, it added.

## AfDB crop sector drive eroding rural poverty

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improved incomes, rising from an average of \$41 in 2012 to \$133 in 2017, researchers noted.

"This increase is attributable to the sale of value-added products, improved access to markets, and increased productivity. It also involved the use of improved techniques (like rice intensification and using fertilizer and improved seeds), plus enhanced capacity to negotiate better prices," team leader Salum Ramadhani explained.

Small producers and traders gained greater access to agro-markets, cutting post-harvest losses of staple crops. One beneficiary, the Meru Dairy Company, recorded an 85 per cent spike in production by installation of a cold room, boosting its milk-production and cold storage capacity from 400 to 2200 litres.

Transportation costs on refurbished roads dropped by an average of 20 to 50 per cent, as transporting a bag of onions on a renovated road to Mang'ola market in Karatu fell from \$1.30 to \$0.221 while transport times for stored produce fell from an average of over three hours to less than one hour.

Downstream, the use of warehouses has led to a sharp decline in post-harvest losses, from 57 to 15 per cent overall, he stated.

"Despite challenges in terms of coverage, the programme has worked well thanks to efficiency of communication with district and regional liaison officers, along with effective relationships with district and regional administrative structures," the report underlined.

The successful implementation of the project helped rural poverty reduction and economic growth, by improving incomes and food security. The project complemented the work of government agencies by boosting access to markets and increasing the quantity of value-added agricultural products, it stated.

The project completion report was released on 27 February and while preparations were continuing for its being unveiled, the Covid-19 restrictions on all social gatherings were introduced, officials intoned.



Higher Education Students' Loans Board officials (in light blue shirts) brief visitors to the board's pavilion at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday on procedures relating to the issuance and repayment of the loans it oversees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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Partner States aimed at supporting the resumption of domestic and international flights in the region. This is vital for the recovery of the aviation sector in light of the COVID-19 pandemic," it said in a statement.

Tanzania resumed international flights on 18th of May while chartered flights in Rwanda restarted on 18th June. Kenya opens domestic air travel

## EAC private sector calls for open skies

on 15th July, with international flights to Kenya and Rwanda expected to resume on 1st August.

During the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, EAC partner states permitted air cargo services and inventively used passenger aircraft

for cargo operations, facilitating EAC exports of fresh produce and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on these economies.

The partner states need to come up with coordinated guidelines and measures on the opening of the

regional aviation sector to bolster consumer confidence and supporting the recovery of the sector, the council emphasised.

In opening regional air transport services, partner states' ingenuity should consider temporarily

implement tenets of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD), its fifth to ninth freedom rights. These provisions effectively increase capacity, reduce inefficiencies and costs like waiving landing fees.

Excise duty on aviation fuel,

navigation, landing, parking and COVID-19 related fees to reduce operating costs would also be reviewed, along with the reduction of permit obligation and fees for service providers within the region.

Opening the regional aviation sector will stimulate economic activities in the sector and in tourism, hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, it added.





Reginald Munisi (R), opposition Chadema's Elections director, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting forms to former minister Lazaro Nyalandu. The latter is aspiring for nomination as the party's candidate for the Tanzanian presidency in the upcoming (October) General Election. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# National Statistics Bureau: Headline inflation for June stood at a stagnant 3.2 pct

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for last month stagnated at 3.2 per cent, the same rate recorded in May 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Releasing the statistics yesterday, the director of population census and social statistics, Ruth Davison said the stagnation of the headline inflation explains that the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended June, 2020 remained constant as that recorded for the year ended May 2020.

She said the overall index went up to 120.74 in June, 2020 from 117.23 recorded in June 2019, adding that food and non alcoholic beverages inflation rate for the month of May, 2020 has decreased to 4.4 percent from 4.6 percent recorded in April 2020.

"Annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of June, 2020 has decreased to 4.7 per cent from 5.2 per cent recorded in May 2020," she said.

On the other hand, the 12 month index change for non food products in June, 2020 has increased to 3.0 per cent from 2.4 per cent recorded in May, 2020.

The director observed that the annual inflation rate which excludes food and energy for the month of June, 2020 has increased to 2.6 percent

from 2.2 per cent that was recorded in May, 2020.

She added that the overall monthly consumer index for the month of June, 2020 has decreased to 120.74 from 120.93 recorded in May, 2020, noting that the decrease of the overall index is mainly attributed to the price decrease for both food non food items.

Some of the food items that contributed to such decrease include rice by 1.4 percent, maize grain (5.1), maize flour(2.1) sorghum flour(3.1) and sweet potatoes (3.5).

On the other hand, some of the non food items that contributed to such a decrease include refrigerators by 2.2 percent, diesel (15.4), and petrol (16.0).

The consumer price index has shown a relatively stable price movement from June, 2019 to June, 2020 and the annual headline inflation rate over the same period have shown a stable trend that range between 3.2 per cent recorded in May and June, 2020 and 3.8 per cent recorded in November and December, 2019.

In comparison with other East African countries of Kenya and Uganda, she said the annual inflation rate in Kenya has decreased to 4.59 percent in June, 2020 from 5.33 per cent recorded in May, 2020.

Uganda has recorded an increase in the annual headline inflation rate from 2.8 per cent in May, 2020 to 4.1 per cent in June, 2020.

# NFRA set to buy maize from farmers to improve households food reserves

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE government through the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has started to purchase maize from farmers to ensure adequate food reserves for the country.

In Songwe Region, the agency expects to buy 37,000 tonnes out of 300,000 tonnes it plans to purchase from farmers across the country.

Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga announced yesterday when speaking

about the country's food situation and preparations for this year's Nananane celebrations.

He said since July 1 this year Songwe Region became a special NFRA zone followed by Mbeya Region. He said that in the 2018/2019 season Songwe Region was ranked third in food production in the country after Ruvuma and Rukwa regions.

Hasunga noted that the maize buying exercise officially started on July 6 this year whereas the agency bought some

10,000 tonnes at 550/- per kg.

The Minister added that the government has permitted NFRA to seek loans from banks and other financial institutions to be able to purchase large quantities of the crops which can later be sold to countries in need.

NFRA chief executive officer, Milton Lupa said the new Songwe NFRA Zone has begun buying better quality maize that will be safely stored adding that they are certain to buy the crop as

planned.

Meanwhile, Minister Hasunga, who is the Member of Parliament for Vwawa constituency (CCM) said that this year's Nananane celebrations will include an exhibition to be held from August 1 to 8.

He said the exhibition will be held to sensitize farmers on the use of better farming technologies.

The agricultural exhibition according to him will be held in eight zones—Arusha, Morogoro, Tabora, Lindi,

Mbeya, Simiyu, Dodoma as well as the Western and Lake zones.

Minister Hasunga said that the main challenge that emerges during the exhibition includes farmer's failure to participate in the exhibition over lack of entrance fees.

He said the government was working to find a solution to the challenge by increasing the number of participants.

"We want more farmers to take part in the exhibition since they are the

main target of almost all the activities", said Hasunga.

At national level, the exhibition will be held at the Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, said Hasunga.

The theme for this year's exhibition is 'For Agricultural Development, Livestock and Fisheries: Elect Better Leaders 2020'. The exhibition will be visited by various national leaders including President John Magufuli.



## Advertisement on Business Opportunities

### INFORMATION ON BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Date: 9th July 2020

Reference no: 02/NCA/2020

Subject: Provision of Consultancy Services

Contracting Authority: Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania

Deadline for submission of letter of interest: 15th July 2020

### Background

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a Norwegian non-governmental and development organization working to promote Social Justice, Human Rights and Economic Justice for poor communities. NCA has its foundations based in the congregation of Churches in Norway, whose efforts are dedicated towards eradicating poverty, its causes and social deprivation. In Tanzania, NCA works in collaboration with local faith-based partners (FBOs)

Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania, in cooperation with its partner invites qualified individual consultants or firms in provision of the following services to respond to this advertisement.

Consultants who have responded to this advertisement and provide the required information will be shortlisted and the qualified ones will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the relevant lot(s).

1. Capacity building on peace and interfaith relations
2. Agribusiness support/management
3. Gender based violence and SRHR issues
4. Research and evaluations
5. Training need assessment
6. Information and communications
7. Documentation of results
8. Business development
9. Design and manage online platform
10. Establishment and strengthening of AMCOS
11. Youth and Women Empowerment
12. Agribusiness development
13. Climate resilience or Climate Smart Agriculture or Climate change adaptation
14. Agricultural value chains and markets
15. Jobs and entrepreneurship for youths
16. Agricultural technologies (digital and non-digital)
17. Rural smallholder agriculture development
18. Baseline Study.
19. Impact assessment on Social Accountability Community Score Card Approach

The interested Consultants shall provide the following information to the Contracting Authority using the contact details below:

- Indicate which Consultancy service you are interested in.
- Provide the following information:
  - the individual or company's name and contact details;
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  - CV of individuals or brief description of the company's background and main line of work; and
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This is purely information on business opportunities and does not constitute a commitment to purchase or any other form of contractual commitment with the Contracting Authority.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are sorry that we are not accept hard copy of profiles, therefore all documents should be scanned in one original document in PDF format and send to Procurement.Tanzania@nca.no where the shortlisting will be done by the Procurement Committee and successful candidates will be contacted.

115603201



## PRESS RELEASE

### CHANGES TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE CHAMBER



Eng. Philbert Rweyemamu

The Tanzania Chamber of Mines is delighted to announce the election of **Eng. Philbert Rweyemamu** to the role of Chairperson. **Eng. Rweyemamu** is a seasoned Mining Engineer with vast experience in operations and closure of mines. He started off his career in Diamond Industry of De Beers operations in Tanzania and later seconded to South Africa and Botswana. He later joined Barrick operations in Tanzania and worked in North Mara Mine, Head Office, Tulawaka Mine as well as Buzwagi. While at ABG Head office, he was tasked with overseeing the Transformation of Artisanal Mining into Small Scale Mining Project with emphasis of coexistence between LSM and ASM. He was later assigned Government Relations duties. Currently, he works for Shanta Mining Company Limited as the General Manager for Singida Project

He will be assisted by **Mr. Damien Valente** who was elected Vice Chairperson of the Chamber. **Mr. Valente** is the General Manager - Africa for Orecorp Tanzania Limited, who are currently developing the Nyanzaga Gold Project in Sengerema district, Mwanza. **Mr. Valente** has 20 years' experience of working across continents in mining, energy, manufacturing, equipment distribution and financial services.

During the two General Meetings of the Chamber held on 28th February and 26th June 2020, **Mr. Frederick Kibodya** was elected Honorary Secretary. **Mr. Kibodya** has over 20 years experience in the extractive sector having worked for Oil and Gas prior to joining the Mining Industry in 2015. He is currently the Managing Director of Mantra Tanzania Limited, a company that operates the Mkuju Uranium Project in Namtumbo district, Ruvuma Region.

**Mr. Godvictor Lyimo**, Tax Manager with Geita Gold Mining Limited will continue with his role as Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber. **Mr. Lyimo** is a Certified Public Accountant in Public Practice and a Registered Tax Consultant with a long experience in financial audits having previously worked as an External Auditor; and with extensive experience in Mining Taxation. **CPA Lyimo** has a combined Accounting and Extractive Taxation experience spreading over 15 years.

The four elected will be the Office Bearers of the Chamber for two years with their terms expiring in December 2021. The roles above are part time. The team will be assisted in their day to day activities by the Executive Secretary who works full time and leads the Secretariat of the Chamber.

The new team is dedicated to ensuring that they use all resources at their disposal to improve the existing relationship between the Government of Tanzania and the Chamber, as well as with all other mining stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that the mining industry in Tanzania is exploited to its full potential for the benefit of Tanzanian people and all other stakeholders



Mr. Damien Valente



Mr. Frederick Kibodya



Mr. Godvictor Lyimo

Issued by: Executive Council of the Chamber

156038



# NBC Bank readies unsecured loans as incentive to SMEs

By Guardian Reporter

NBC Bank has introduced an exciting product for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for unsecured loans as part of the bank's strategy to support them to grow and support the country's industrialisation agenda.

Speaking at the Dar es Salaam SabaSaba International Trade Fair yesterday, the bank's director of business banking, Elvis Ndunguru said that the loans include facilities to distributors and suppliers of large companies.

"NBC has taken this initiative to help SMEs' empowerment as the bank's top priority to support the government's industrialization agenda", he said.

Various research reports show that SMEs occupy about 95 per cent of all businesses in the country and is one of the fast-growing sectors of economy, contributing about 35 per cent of the GDP.

"Therefore, the bank sees a need to grow with the sector where we conduct regular market research in order to come up with appropriate financial solutions that respond to our customers' needs as our strategy of supporting their journey to growth", he said.

He said the bank trained and offered over 80bn/- worth of loans to over 3000 SMEs for the past year alone, saying more credit facilities are in place.

He further named the sectors which have benefited from the loans as trade, contractors, oil and gas, tourism and hotels, transportation, manufacturing and agriculture.

According to Ndunguru, the bank is currently implementing various initiatives including reviewing its credit policy for SMEs and formation of new business credit committee to bring impartiality in decision making.

"NBC will remove the need for SMEs to prepare financial statements when applying for loans below 100m/-", he said, adding:

"We want to make lending and documentations to SMEs a simple process to sour growth and make this more friendly.

He added that the bank is currently undertaking a program to educate and invite business clubs to networking events as well as trade exhibitions like Sabasaba and international business trips to expose them to meet large entrepreneurs and investors.

On top of the long list of strategies, she said the bank has introduced an SME proposition aimed at increasing its market share through potential value on selected segment.

"To make this friendlier, the Bank has also developed a dedicated online platform to facilitate transactions for clients' convenient locations. The channel is affordable, reliable and very convenient. It allows all payments both local and international" he said.



**NBC has taken this initiative to help SMEs' empowerment as the bank's top priority to support the government's industrialization agenda**



Education, Science and Technology deputy minister William ole Nasha (L) presents a certificate in Dodoma yesterday to Vodacom Tanzania Central Zone head of sales Grace Chambua in recognition of the firm's contribution to the 2020 edition of the national technology and innovation competition. He mobile phone service provider presented a total of 20m/- to winners from primary and secondary schools. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TRA explains ETS delay on soft drinks and bottled water

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority has explained the reason behind delays in the eagerly awaited rollout of Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS) on soft drinks—water, juice and soda.

Speaking when he addressed journalists at the ongoing 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), TRA Deputy Commissioner General Msafiri Mbibo said the exercise to install special machines and train manufacturers on the ETS was ongoing.

This comes after ETS has shown great success in products such as beer, cigarettes and wine which has boosted revenue collection by 30 per cent.

"We are currently in the final stages of training the manufacturers of the products and we have begun installing ETS machines in their factories," said Mbibo.

He however, didn't mention when exactly those products will have an electronic stamp but he said for the stage that authority has reached, soon the implementation will take place.

He added that ETS which was launched in June 2018 on alcohol drinks has brought very good results, the reason for delay in other drinks was because the authority wanted to be satisfied before proceeding with the rollout.

Explaining more, Mbibo said stamps are helping to control counterfeits which are not only dangerous to the economy but also kill competition which is a necessity in business.

He said in the previous years those stamps people were able to fake them

but now it was not possible because one has to get a machine from the authority.

Speaking on the revenue collection, Mbibo said the authority is finalizing a report on collections which is expected to be released by the end of this month, adding that despite the Covid-19 revenue collection was not much affected, thanks to ETS.

The DITF started on July 1 and will climax on 13 whereby over 2000 local companies are participating in the fair while foreign companies are only 43.



Said Ibrahim (R), head of the Kilimanjaro zone of the National Irrigation Commission, has a word with rice farmers benefiting from Mawala irrigation scheme in rural Moshi on how the government intends to add value to the crop through mechanised harvesting. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Keep off politics but stand for fairness, clerics urged

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

RELIGIOUS leaders have called on their colleagues all over the country to keep off active politics but stand for fairness of the playing field ahead of the October general elections.

Speaking here on Tuesday during the Kilimanjaro regional interfaith symposium, the clerics pledged to avoid getting involved in partisan politics while speaking out about unfairness.

In his opening remarks, the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Dr Fredrick Shoo has cautioned his fellow religious leaders against involving themselves in politics and partisanship as the country heads to the general election slated for October this year.

Instead, the cleric advised that the clergy should abide by their ethics and

remain neutral to enable the country conduct fair and credible elections.

Dr Shoo who is also the bishop of the church's Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND) however argued that for the country to conduct a credible poll, the playing field must be leveled.

He said unity, peace and love among citizens in the country could be in danger if rights of voters are violated.

The symposium organised by the ELCT-ND under the sponsorship of the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) held in Moshi.

Religious leaders from various faiths and denominations participated in the event with a call for maintenance of peace and respect for human and civil rights. "As religious leaders it is not ethical for us to engage in partisan politics; our role is to support and uphold democratic principles including

fairness to all those taking part in the process," he said.

Speaking during the symposium aimed at maintaining peace and harmony in the country, Bishop Dr Glorious Shoo from the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) said that the symposium dubbed 'Different Religions-Peace and Love' also aims at promoting the role played by the religious institutions in spurring socio-economic activities in the country.

"Interfaith meeting is a very crucial platform that brings us together for the sustainable peace, love and socio economic development of Tanzania as a nation regardless our differences in our belief," he said.

Chief Sheikh of the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) in Kilimanjaro region Sheikh Mlewa Shaaban said that apart from leading their followers

to abide by commandments of their faiths, religious leaders should also tell their followers to work hard to improve their individual livelihoods and for the sustainable economic development of the country. "We also have the duty to help and support the needy people in our communities," he said.

Catholic Church leader Fr Colman Siriwa added that the role of religion is also to ensure that human beings lead a responsible but happy life.

"We can't separate happiness from socio-economic advancement as they are two sides of the same coin; we religious leaders should also guide our followers to work hard and achieve their developmental aspirations instead of achieving it through illegal and immoral mean such as theft that plunge victims and poverty," the cleric said.

## Minister warns private power producers over tariff inflation

By Guardian Correspondent, Sengerema

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemani has issued stern warning to private power producers who charge their customers higher power tariffs than those set by the government.

Speaking on Tuesday to Kahunda villagers in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region, the minister said the right power tariff for all people is 100/- per unit, and added that consumers are supposed to be charged the same rate everywhere in the country.

He directed government leaders in particular District Commissioners to take steps against private power producers who will violate the government guidelines.

He said he has been receiving complaints from the people, especially those living in islands that they were being charged higher tariffs for the

power produced by private investors.

He said the government will never tolerate such conduct from the investors because the government trusted them to supply power to people who cannot be connected to the national power grid.

However, he said the government continues with its efforts to distribute power to all islands in the country using submarine cables.

The minister also directed for the arrest and interrogation of representatives of solar power generating firm - Jumeme, after residents of Maisome island in the district accused it of being charging 3,500/- for power per unit.

Speaking at the meeting the Sengerema District Commissioner Emmanuel Kipole hailed the government deliberate efforts in ensuring all Tanzanians get quality power services.

## Zanzibar airport lounge project contractor ordered to have work done before Shein leaves office

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar has instructed Beijing Construction Engineering Group (BCEG) contracted to build the passenger lounge at Zanzibar's Airport Terminal III to ensure it hands over the completed project during the period of the current phase VI government before its tenure ends.

This was expressed by Zanzibar Deputy Minister for Communications and Transport Mohammed Ahmada Salum when he visited Zanzibar airport to see the progress of the project.

He said it would better during the remaining short period of the Phase VII Government for the contractor to work day and night to finish the project as a way of respect to the Zanzibar president Dr Mohamed Ali Shein to inaugurate the building.

He said the completion of the project

will be of great benefits to the people of Zanzibar including the increase of the number of tourists and as employment opportunity for the youth.

He explained that more than 60bn/- has been spent towards the project, hence it would be better to finish the work in time.

The project's manager Yaser de Costa requested to be provided with indigenous workers for some sections of the project so as to realize the Government's goal to complete the project by September this year.

He said as of now the project is in the advanced stage hence such workers will provide the impetus for its quick completion.

Rehema Miyeya, an engineer from the mainland's Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications said the project is 55 per cent complete and it is expected to be finalised by the end of this month (July).







## Funding constraints fail cultivation of pyrethrum

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

LIMITED funding and research for quality seeds have been cited as among the reasons disrupting the production of the crop.

Pyrethrum researcher from the Uyolet Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyolet) Baraka Mvile revealed this over the weekend when speaking with this paper.

He said that as of now the country pyrethrum production is between 2,000 to 3,000 tonnes per year while demand is great in Africa and the world in general.

It is estimated that the global demand is over 16,000 tonnes and the price has been going up rapidly due to its use in making pesticides and as domestic aerosols.

Mvile said the biggest global pyrethrum producer is Australia with 8,000 tonnes per year, but of whose quality is incomparable to the Tanzania's crop.

Mvile further said the biggest challenge in the research of better

seeds for pyrethrum production is financial resources and added that as of now they depend on the pyrethrum factory at Mufindi for processing who have been selling the concentrates thereof to the United States.

He appealed to the government to allocate enough funding for the crop's research.

TARI-Uyolet crops director Daud Mbongo said low pyrethrum production is attributed by farmers using old seeds with low yields and added that the only solution is to ensure the research centre produce modern technology seeds.

TARI-Uyolet Director Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said pyrethrum is unique for the manufacture of pesticides that are environmental friendly and safe to the users.

He said as of now it is estimated that more than 20,000 farmers are engaged in the production of the crop in Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions, even though large production is concentrated in the Southern Zone regions.



SOS Children's Villages Tanzania director David Mulongo (L) pictured yesterday helps with work in a tomato development project at Uyolet in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, when visiting various SOS-funded projects meant to empower women economically and promote the rights of children. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## Govt pledges to take action against unscrupulous cooperative officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government will take legal steps against cooperative officials who will be found to abuse office by enhancing their own personal interests instead of the people's interest.

The caution was given by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture Gerard Kusaya early this week during the event to mark international Cooperatives Day that was held at the national level in Morogoro Region.

He said there are some cooperative officials who are untrustworthy, they use the cooperatives' resources for their own interests, and added that the government, through its various organs including the PCCB continues to make investigations on the cooperatives.

"As government we have received many complaints from farmers including traders on fraudulent

acts done to them by some of the cooperative officials, and we are closely making follow ups on these complaints," he said.

He said up to now there are more than 8,600 cooperatives in the country while 4,000 of them have already been verified.

The Registrar of Cooperatives Dr Benson Ndiege said they will make sure every member of the cooperatives benefit from the cooperatives from the targets set in order to benefit all farmers especially at this time when Tanzania has attained the middle income status via the efforts of the fifth Phase government of President John Magufuli.

The chairman of Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC) Theresia Chilimbi said some of the challenges facing cooperatives include climate change which to a large extent has affected crops cooperatives.

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

MINERALS Deputy Minister Subira Mgalu says the government will not hesitate to revoke contract agreement of any contractor who will be dilly-dallying in the implementation of its responsibility by violating contract terms.

Mgalu was speaking on Tuesday with Kenswa Simbo villagers in Katumba Ward, Mpanda District, Katavi Region before switching on electricity for the village after she registered her displeasure over the slow pace of power distribution work by China Railway Construction Electrification Bureau Group Co Ltd (CRCEBG) tendered to distribute power in Katavi Region.

She said the government has already suspended contract agreement with the contractor who was given tender to distribute in Mwanza Region because it

## Govt to revoke contracts of 'dilly-dallying' contractors

failed to implement its responsibilities according to the contract agreement.

"Work pace of this contractor is not satisfactory, as of now we have decided to suspend contract agreements with contractors who do not perform as per needed speed. Today we shall sit with this contractor and review their work plan and we shall come into agreement for the last time, and if they do not change, we shall revoke the contract and find another contractor," she said.

She said the government was not ready to be held back in its efforts to distribute power in the country, which it expects by the end of July this year a

total of 10,446 villages will have power, hence she called all contractors under rural energy Agency (REA) to work hard to attain the target.

However the Deputy Minister removed fears from Katavi Region residents by saying that in the Second Phase REA III slated to begin in September this year all villages in the region would have electricity.

She said the government has allocated more than 100bn/- for the complimentary project that would see power distributed to all villages' neighbourhoods and already a contractor has been found and the

work is slated to begin next month (August).

Mile District Commissioner Rachel Kasanda said a total of 44 villages have been connected to power in the region, adding that the number is still small compared with the great number of people needing power, and called upon the contractor to increase work pace.

In her tour the Deputy Minister also visited power substation at Kampuni village and called on the contractors to increase work pace.

She also switched on electricity at Tambaza Kenswa Dispensary in Katumba Ward in the Region.



Bank of Tanzania deputy governor Dr Bernard Kibesse (L) with NCBA Bank designate managing director and CEO Margaret Karume (2nd-R), SMEs director Gift Shoko (2nd-L), and chairperson (for Tanzania) Sharmapal Aggarwal during the launch of the bank in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has reversed his intention to vie for Member of Parliament post for Iringa Urban Constituency saying he will remain with his present appointment as Mbeya Regional Commissioner.

The decision follows directives by President John Magufuli that required his appointees to perform

## Chalamila reverses plan to vie for Iringa constituency

their duties instead of contesting for elective posts.

Speaking to reporters here Chalamila confessed that he had plans to contest the Iringa Urban Constituency parliamentary seat in the coming general election but has suspended the idea and would remain as Regional Commissioner.

Elaborating, he said in the past few years President Magufuli has provided a lot of funds for the implementation of various development projects in Mbeya Region that need close supervision to realise the intended goals.

He further said he has the responsibility in the supervision of revenue collection in Mbeya Region that he has to continue managing instead of going to seek for an elective post.

"When I came here as RC government revenue was around 7bn/- per year, but now we are collecting more than 12bn/- that we were targeted to collect, hence I will appear undisciplined if I abandon

this and go to seek an elective post," he said.

He also said the government has provided about 795m/- for refurbishing Mbeya Day Secondary School and 752m/- for Rungwe Secondary School both of which need his close supervision.

He added: "If you listen to the

## DC: Let small traders with IDs do business in freedom

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

RUNGWE District Commissioner Julius Chalya has directed leaders in the district to stop charging levies from small traders who have special Identity Cards.

According to Chalya, authorities should be aware that any entrepreneur with a capital of less than 4m/- is eligible to get the ID.

Chalya made the directives here after receiving several complaints from traders at Kiwira market that there were some government officials who harass them including beating them to pay levies even if they have the IDs.

He reminded officials to uphold high moral standards when serving small scale traders which include respecting their activities.

"It is against rules to force the trade to pay other levies and taxes while they have already paid for the annual ID fee of 20,000/-. Any leader who is doing this should stop immediately, we have to let our petty traders conduct their activities freely," Chalya said.

Nuru Mwaituka, a rice trader at Kiwira said that they are usually being forced to pay high levies which they cannot afford.

"The leaders sometimes bar us from entering the market if we fail to pay the charges, we have to spend several hours outside the gate just because we cannot afford to pay the multiple levies

and taxes," Waituka said.

For his part, Fadhiri Sanje, one of the traders at the market said that they are usually forced to pay 15,000/- as levy for one tonne of cargo which is too high for them to afford.

"We have been selling our products at high prices due to the levies, this situation makes us lose customers and thus end up incurring losses," Sanje added.

He called on the District Commissioner to intervene as the situation has affected a number of traders whereby most of them have lost their businesses due to lack of capital.

"We have witnessed some traders closing their shops with others moving to other places. Majority of traders have changed their businesses and they are now conducting their activities in informal areas," Sanje explained.

Late 2018, President John Magufuli launched the programme to provide vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs with special taxpayer ID cards which he printed in efforts to expand the tax base in the country.

When handing over the cards to regional commissioners, he charged the leaders to ensure proper distribution of the cards.

The ID cards will be renewable annually and are available at a price of 20,000/-. Anyone running a business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4m/- is eligible to have one.

President you can see his intentions, that all these funds provided and you have no accounting officer, no supervisor, all have gone to vie for elective posts, you create a huge cry to Tanzanians."

He stressed from these reasons: "I have abandoned the intention to contest for the parliamentary post for Iringa Urban Constituency and I will continue to work hard as a regional commissioner serving the people."





Children cared for at Dodoma's Rahman Orphanage engaged in peace prayers earlier this week targeting the General Election slated for this October. The event was organised by Actions for Children Foundation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Red Cross hails Magufuli's efforts in fighting Covid-19

By Correspondent Enoch Charles

THE Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) has hailed efforts done by President John Magufuli in the fight against Covid-19, calling on medical colleges to recognise him with a certificate of appreciation.

Addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Chairman of TRCS for Dar es Salaam region Rajab Kusenge said the association commended President Magufuli and the ministerial team for leading the country well during the crisis.

He said that Covid-19 infections have declined significantly in the country due to strong efforts done with close supervision of President Magufuli.

He said that President Magufuli has struggled a lot to fight against Coronavirus despite facing various challenges including inadequate equipment.

Kusenge said: "Methods which were used by our President are unique; I urge medical colleges in our country to think about giving our President a certificate of appreciation so as to encourage him. While other countries were still in worse condition, Tanzania has recovered, this is due to the commitment of our national leader."

"We also commend the big job done

by service providers in the health sector including doctors, nurses and midwives, as they spent sleepless nights to ensure that many Tanzanians are healed from the disease," he added.

He also commended the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummu Mwalimu and the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda for helping President Magufuli in the fight against the pandemic.

According to Kusenge, TRCS supported the fight by providing experts, equipment and advice to the people and the government to put much effort in Dar es Salaam region where there were a lot of cases compared to other regions.

"We haven't heard announcements of new coronavirus cases in the country for a long time, everything is going well, however, the government has continued to insist people to take all precautions advised by health professionals," Kusenge added.

*"We also commend the big job done by service providers in the health sector including doctors, nurses and midwives, as they spent sleepless nights to ensure that many Tanzanians are healed from the disease"*

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

WORKS, Transport and Communications Deputy Minister Atashasta Nditaye has instructed defense and security organs to make frequent inspections on the safety of the northern railways infrastructures to control vandalism.

The deputy minister issued the instructions in Monday this week when inspecting the railway line at Moshi railway station.

"This railway line has undergone acts of sabotage for many years it had not been in operation, and as of now we

## Nditaye directs security organs to guard northern railway line

are looking for the youth to protect it against vandals and saboteurs," he said.

He said since the launching of train services between Dar es Salaam and Moshi last year more than 12,874 passengers travelled earning Tanzania railways Corporation more than

260m/-.

Last year President John Magufuli directed the ministry to ensure resumption of train services along the line that had not been in operation for more than two decades.

On TRC's request for special

permission to Tanzania Forests Services Agency (TFS) to purchase logs for use as railway sleepers, the minister directed an official request thereof to be sent in seven days on whether the permission had been granted.

"A month and half ago I received

reports of some people unscrewing railway line connections, I did not know for what aim exactly, to kill people or what. Whoever is doing that in order for his buses to have passengers I say it is plain murder, I appeal to the people to be guardians of the infrastructure."

he said.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister directed all people engaging in human activities including grazing of livestock, farming and house construction along the railway line to move away voluntarily before legal steps are taken against them.

Earlier, the Moshi Railway Station Master Japhet James said since train services were launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa July 20 last year, they received 2,720 of cement, 3,480 tonnes of fertiliser, and 8,040 tonnes of building materials for Moshi-Arusha railway line.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

CHADEMA's women wing (Bawacha) in Mbeya City Constituency has picked up nomination forms on behalf of the former Member of Parliament, Joseph Mbilinyi (Sugu) to vie for the post again in this year elections claiming he was the only one who can represent them.

Speaking at the weekend when handing him the forms, BAWACHA Mbeya District Chairperson Elizabeth Mwakimomo said women in Mbeya City decided to contribute money for the forms saying they were satisfied by Mbilinyi for what he did to the constituency and the nation in general.

She said Mbilinyi helped a lot in fighting for the removal of cost for preserving bodies of the deceased at hospitals.

## Chadema women wing collects nomination forms for Mbilinyi

She further said Mbilinyi, or famously known as "Sugu" as a musician of hip hop genre has helped in the education of over 500 children in the constituency.

She called on Mbeya residents to unite in trusting Mbilinyi as the one who has the ability to represent them well in Parliament.

Speaking soon after he was handed the forms, Mbilinyi thanked the women for having faith in him.

He said the decision by the women shows that he is supported by various groups in the community as opposed to what his political opponents say that

he was supported only by the city's people who hover at bus stands.


He also said the women have relieved him on the cost for collecting nomination forms that cost 100,000/-.

He said from the support shown by Mbeya women, he was certain he will emerge winner in the coming election for another five years.

Mbilinyi has been a Member of Parliament for Mbeya Urban Constituency on Chadema's ticket since 2010 defeating the former MP from the ruling party (CCM) Benson Mpesya who had also led the constituency for 10 years.



Muheza District Medical Officer Dr Flora Kessy (R) presents a report on the construction project of the district's hospital to Selemani Jafo (2nd-L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), who visited site of the project on Wednesday. Second right (in veil) is Muheza district commissioner Mwanaasha Tumbo. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla



**INFECTIOUS DISEASE DETECTION AND SURVEILLANCE (IDDS) PROJECT**

**Invitation for Application of Consultant work.**

**Scope of Work: TB Diagnostic Network Assessment (TB DNA) verification visits**

**Background:**

USAID has supported the development of the TB-NET (Tuberculosis Diagnostic Network) Tool to provide a means to evaluate the capacity and functionality of a country's tuberculosis TB diagnostic network. The tool, endorsed by the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI), has been used in Nigeria, Uganda, and India and undergone updates after each assessment.

The Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) Project has been tasked to further develop and adapt the TB-NET Tool to a) ensure that key components and capabilities are included in response to various country contexts and settings; b) update the electronic version of the tool to ensure ease of use in the field and ability to analyze the data in real-time and, c) develop different versions of the tool to accommodate varying levels of need, capacity, and resources to carry out TB diagnostic network assessments (TB DNA).

IDDS is committed to review and propose a new version of the TB-NET tool. This includes all core capacities, additional data collection tools and checklists, and development of additional supporting documentation. Developing this version entails refining the current tool based on lessons learned from implementation of the tool in different settings, best practices, updated World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, and other organization recommendations and guidelines.

To develop the different versions, IDDS will coordinate inputs from TB diagnostic and clinical experts through consultative meetings and through written reviews of draft versions of the tool.

**Scope of work for this consultancy:**

The consultant will actively be part of Tanzania TB DNA by:

- Providing technical expertise and support during the verification visit preparation phase by reviewing data, documents, and analysis for the assessment of one or more of the following areas:
  - The capacity of diagnostic laboratories for microbiological confirmation and drug sensitivity testing (microscopy, PCR, CB-NAAT, LPA)
  - Linkage of community screening and referral mechanisms to diagnostic facilities

- Linkage of traditional medicine practitioners to diagnostic facilities
- Linkage of diagnostic facilities to clinicians
- Identify gaps and areas to improve TB diagnosis and treatment for people living with HIV
- The capacity of diagnostic data management system that supports screening and diagnostic laboratories
- The access to the quality assured diagnostics, current practices of specimen/patient referral system, and results reporting

- Participating in the verification visit desk review, site visits, and data analysis of one or more of the above assessment areas outlined in Part a
- Drafting the verification visit key findings and recommendations
- Assisting the IDDS international external assessors to finalize the overall Tanzania TB DNA report

Specific tasks and allocated level of effort (LOE) for each consultant are presented below

Tasks	Estimated LOE in days
Read and comprehend pre-read materials	2
Participate in a 10-day Tanzania TB Diagnostic Network Assessment verification visit	10

**Period of Performance:** July 20th – Aug 14th, 2020

This includes travel to a health zone in Tanzania tentatively from August 10th – 12th (03 days in the health zone). This date is tentative and subject to change.

**Deliverables:**

- Tanzania TB Diagnostic Network Assessment findings, recommendations in core capacities, and final report

**Travel expenses:**

Travel expenses will be per PATH policy.

Interested candidates are required to send a cover letter and CV to Mary Emmanuel at [memmanuel@path.org](mailto:memmanuel@path.org) and copy Samwel Mulungu at [smulungu@path.org](mailto:smulungu@path.org) not later than **Wednesday July 15, 2020.**



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**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Population growth remains cause for immense concern

**W**ORLD Population Day is an annual event, observed on July 11 every year, which seeks to raise awareness of growing global population issues and urgency of family planning and the need to curb it. The current world population is 7.8 billion as of June 2020 according to the most recent United Nations estimates elaborated by Worldometer. Worldometer, formerly Worldometers, is a reference website that provides counters and real-time statistics for diverse topics.

The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. World Population Day aims to increase people's awareness on various population issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights.

Population, in simpler terms, is the number of people in a city or town, region, country or world; population is usually determined by a process called census (a process of collecting, analysing, compiling and publishing data).

In 2017 the United Nations Population Division projected that the world's population will reach about 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100. In the future, the world's population is expected to peak, after which it will decline due to economic reasons, health concerns, land exhaustion and environmental hazards. According to one report, it is very likely that the world's population will stop growing before the end of the 21st century. Further, there is some likelihood that population will actually decline before 2100.

More than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just nine countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India,

Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America.

The population pattern of less-developed regions of the world in recent years has been marked by gradually declining birth rates. These followed an earlier sharp reduction in death rates. This transition from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates is often referred to as the demographic transition. Human population control is the practice of altering the rate of growth of a human population. Historically, human population control has been implemented with the goal of limiting the rate of population growth. In the period from the 1950s to the 1980s, concerns about global population growth and its effects on poverty, environmental degradation, and political stability led to efforts to reduce population growth rates. While population control can involve measures that improve people's lives by giving them greater control of their reproduction, a few programmes, most notably the Chinese government's one-child per family policy, have resorted to coercive measures.

In the 1970s, tension grew between population control advocates and women's health activists who advanced women's reproductive rights as part of a human rights-based approach. Growing opposition to the narrow population control focus led to a significant change in population control policies in the early 1980s.

While press interest and general awareness in the global population surges only at the increments of whole billions of people, the world population increases annually by 100 million approximately every 14 months. The world population reached 7,400,000,000 on February 6, 2016; the world population had reached 7,500,000,000 at around 16:21 on April 24, 2017. The world population had reached 7,700,000,000 on year 2019.

## Greater appreciation of women's empowerment is a basic necessity

**W**OMEN'S empowerment is the process of empowering women. Empowerment can be defined in many ways, however, when talking about women's empowerment, empowerment means accepting and allowing people (women) who are on the outside of the decision-making process into it. Women empowerment is the most crucial point to be noted for the overall development of a country.

Many people think that the days of women fighting for rights are over but those people are wrong because 1 out of every 3 women has been sexually harassed or catcalled in public by random men they don't know. Every day women are put down and told how to act and that they were asking for it if you wear that making woman feel that it is their fault, it is not. Many celebrities are all for women empowerment power. This puts a strong emphasis on participation in political structures and formal decision-making and, in the economic sphere, on the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making.

Empowerment is the process that creates power in individuals over their own lives, society, and in their communities. People are empowered when they are able to access the opportunities available to them without limitations and restrictions such as in education, profession and lifestyle. Feeling entitled to make your own decisions creates a sense of empowerment. Empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.[4]

Alternatively, it is the process for women to redefine gender roles that allows them to acquire the ability to choose between known alternatives whom have otherwise been restricted from such an ability. There are several principles defining women's empowerment such as, for one to be empowered, they must come from a position of disempowerment. Empowerment stems from self respect. Furthermore, one must acquire empowerment themselves rather than have it given to them by an external party. Other studies have found that empowerment definitions entail people having the capability to make important decisions in their lives while also being able to act on them.

Lastly, empowerment and disempowerment is relative to other at a previous time; therefore, empowerment is a process, not a product. Women empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development and economics. It can also point to the approaches regarding other trivialized genders in a particular political or social context.

Women's economic empowerment refers to the ability for women to enjoy their right to control and benefit from the resources, assets, income and their own time, as well as the ability to manage risk and improve their economic status and well being.

Entire nations, businesses, communities and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment. Empowerment of women is a necessity for the very development of a society, since it enhances both the quality and the quantity of human resources available for development. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development.

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## Towards 50/50 Representation: Women's leadership, participation in decision-making must be prioritised

By AWLN Tanzania

**W**HEN President John Magufuli addressed the National Assembly on June 16, the final day before Parliament was dissolved; he made a strong statement encouraging political parties to give adequate opportunities to women, youth and people with disabilities in the upcoming general elections, a very important message for the country and women's future political participation.

Similarly, as processes towards the general elections begin to gain traction and potential candidates make their aspirations to hold leadership roles come November 2020 known, there is growing discourse among various stakeholders, from the women's rights activists, political leaders and gender equality champions across different fields - to ensure that more and more women are nominated and supported throughout the process to enable them to participate in the elections with the ultimate aim of attaining 50:50 representation.

The importance of women's representation, not just for women but for inclusive and sustainable development has increasingly received recognition. Time and time again, women have proved themselves as skilled and capable leaders, with studies showing that women's leadership can result in greater socio-economic benefits. Although this recognition presents a ray of hope for the women's rights and gender equality activists who have been working in this area for decades, aspiring women leaders, and women and girls everywhere, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Tanzania Chapter posits that what is even more critical, is for everyone involved to have a realistic understanding of what needs to be done to get there.

Tanzania has reached some notable milestones as a result of national efforts to promote women's political leadership. From the introduction of temporary special measures for women in 1985, women's representation in parliament has experienced substantial growth. The proportion of women in parliament increased from 3.5% in 1970 to 5.9% after the introduction of the quota system in 1985. It rose to 29.9% in the year 2005, and stood at 37.8% in the recently dissolved parliament. Amendments to the constitution in 2005 requires for women to make up no less than 30% of all members of parliament, and in 2015 the government decided to increase the proportion of women parliamentarians through Temporary Special Measures (TSM) from 30 per cent (which is provided for in the current constitution) to 40 per



cent as a progressive step towards the achievement of the SADC benchmark of 50 per cent. Furthermore, we have been fortunate to have seen a woman Speaker of the House in 2010, Deputy Speakers in both the National Assembly and the Zanzibar House of Representatives from 2105-2020, and in the same period, the first woman Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan.

These are undoubtedly great achievements; however, we must remain mindful that the numbers still fall short of national commitments for 50:50 representation, including the SADC protocol and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, outside of the temporary special measures, there is still a lot of work to be done. Only 10% of women in the National Assembly and 12% in the ZHoR have been elected through constituencies, and at the local level, only 5% of women have been elected as Councillors in Mainland Tanzania, with 21% in Zanzibar. In terms of nominations by political parties, although the proportion of women nominated grew by 14% from 1995-2015, only 19% of candidates nominated to contest for constituencies in 2015 were women.

Looking at why these proportions remain significantly low, we see that a number of barriers exist that continue to hinder women from taking up leadership and political positions. Political parties remain the only gateway to political office in Tanzania while gender discrimination within political parties remains a serious challenge. This is partly caused by male-dominated leadership within political parties, gender irresponsible party policy documents and intra-party nomination guidelines. Political

parties have been favouring the selection/nomination of men over women for leadership positions, particularly in 'winnable seats' as women are often left out. This, combined with other challenges such as violence against women in politics (VAWP); discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes; low levels of education and access to information; in addition to poverty disproportionately affect women in achieving their leadership aspirations.

In responding to the challenges that are hindering women from making strides in assuming leadership within political institutions, in 2019 the URT Parliament passed the new Political Parties (Amendment) Act, 2019 (PPA) integrating provisions that promote women's leadership and political participation. The principles incorporated in the amended law require political parties to adhere to principles of non-discrimination, gender equality, youth, and social inclusion, with Article 6A specifically emphasizing that political parties need to promote these principles in the formulation and implementation of its policies; the nomination of candidates for elections; and election of its leaders.

It is in these areas that AWLN Tanzania urges political parties to place a greater focus, to make 2020 an exemplary year towards the achievement of gender equality in political leadership. And we recognize that this does not only require building on the existing political will, but the concerted efforts of multiple stakeholders.

As a network that seeks to empower Tanzanian women leaders for the transformation of the nation, promoting women's political leadership is a key priority for AWLN Tanzania.

We are committed to amplifying the voices of women leaders in the country towards significantly increasing the role of women in leadership and political spaces. We aspire to see 50:50 representation in key decision-making organs including in the Parliament, Councils and cabinet, and we are committed to supporting efforts to ensure that women's leadership capacity is strengthened, and for women, including young women and women with disabilities to be accepted as legitimate leaders. We are committed to further building on the achievements that have been made thus far, collaborating with government, political organs, civil society, development partners, and the many other ongoing initiatives towards this end.

At the launch of the AWLN Tanzania Chapter in February 2020, the chief guest Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan urged the network to ensure that it plays a significant role in advocating for progress towards 50:50 representation in the coming general elections. AWLN Tanzania will ensure that we pursue this mission tirelessly. We believe that through collective action, Tanzania can make 50:50 representation a reality. We can increase women's participation in the 2020 elections, we can achieve unprecedented numbers of women in constituency seats, and we can ensure that not only do we have equal numbers, but an equal recognition of women's abilities as leaders. This is not just for the sake of women, but the entire country - because when more women lead, everyone benefits.

**AWLN is a network aimed at advancing, training and supporting female leaders in Africa.**



# Surviving in the city with no means of income

Living in the city is, obviously, very expensive and requires one to have a steady source of income. But, is everyone living in the city employed? I bet not because some quit their jobs while majority of them were also laid off too due to the repercussions of the global pandemic

But how do others pull it off without a steady income? How is surviving in the city without a permanent job even possible? And if it is, can you live a high-quality life and even manage to save a few coins at the end of the day?

Well, it is possible and I will be sharing with you a few routines you need to follow that a good friend and colleague shared with me.

More than a year ago, he moved to the city after completing college

He would be working in a company based in one of the suburbs in the city which was a great opportunity to grow careerwise and he didn't need to think twice about it, despite having established his brand online as a fulltime freelancer at the time. He wasn't sure whether she was making the right decision because he had dreaded living in the city all his life. But because his colleagues were also moving out and they would be working together in the startup company, he then had to make the gamble. He wasn't sure of surviving in



the city but then he went. Starting from scratch and work his way to the top like most youths his age.

A few weeks in his new job and new environment, he settled in his residential apartment at the expense of all his savings. Well, his savings account were empty and the account had an overdraft. Before moving to the city he had already secured two projects from his freelancing clients which would last him two months. Then he wasn't able to complete those projects which meant he did not get paid. Things weren't moving in the right direction and he knew it. He literary lived from hand to

mouth and this was to continue for the next eight months. Life in the city was not very lenient on him and he never gave in either. He maintained the struggle and promised himself that he was going to hold on until he made it.

Then came the global pandemic that made it even worse. By then, he was on paternal leave so he didn't quite feel the intensity it had on the company he worked with. Most companies in the region laid off a large percentage of their employees. The remaining received a pay cut of up to 50%.

The global economy was collapsing the ripple effect on compa-

nies especially startups such as theirs was adverse. A few people lost their jobs but his spot was waiting for him to report after his leave. However, his paycheck took a hit and reduced by 20% which was fair, or was it? Things got worse because he had to work from home after his paternal leave was over. The economy was falling and life was becoming unbearable.

The prices of most basic accessories shot up unprecedently. With a decrease in pay and an increase in prices, life wasn't easy for

typical citizens like her, me and you too of course. He had to act fast and hard. He then traced his steps back to freelancing network where he once worked. The prodigal son was back and this time he vowed to be as resilient as ever. Working up to twenty hours a day, nothing was going to stop him. After a few weeks of sleepless nights and working unbelievably long hours, the financial status of his young family was afloat.

It was tough, but eventually, he had a few essential bills under control. Work at his place of employment continued to be frustrating because clients continued to close their businesses. One thing led to another and he had to send his resignation letter to his boss. It was not an easy decision for him because the notion of surviving in the city without a permanent job freaked him out. But he had to do what he thought was right for him and for his young family. So, now he had no permanent employer yet he had recurrent and exaggerated bills to pay. One day after the other, one foot ahead of the other, he kept working hard and soon managed to turn things around.

**The secrets?**

Hard work and resilience.

**THE CAREER MIRROR**

*With*  
**SALMA HAMISI**

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He had to work extremely hard to elevate himself from his then position. There was no shortcut. He couldn't ask for help from anyone, or probably he did and it didn't work out. But by understanding the gravity of his own status, he knew that he needed to man up and get his life together." I took all kinds of jobs online whether they were worth the pay or not," he said. Slowly, he accumulated one dollar after the other, and even when it was enough for one bill, he settled it and kept working because he knew that he was surfing through troubled times.

The freelancing world is very unpredictable. One month you make a fortune and the next 'rivers are dry'. Discipline determines how you survive. The quality of your life depends on your ability to earn and save for a rainy day. He had to learn how to spend as little as possible and save as much as possible. It was during

that time he began thinking about health insurance among other types of insurance that would help him save on recurrent and critical bills for his family. He was learning new life skills and he credits that to hardships in the city. Surviving in the city is tough, but it toughens one to become a more skilled individual.

He also mentioned how much it also comes down to disciplined saving. Saving will allow you to live anywhere and make major moves in your life. It does not matter how much you save, eventually the little will accumulate and surprise you. There are a lot of opportunities and challenges equally.

Life is expensive around the city but jobs pay better equally. Minimize your spending, save the little you manage and eventually you catch your break. But it also depends on you, and your beliefs. If you believe you can pull it off then you can.

# The health crisis at home: Covering domestic abuse

By Tedi Doychinova

Gender-based violence and abuse is the leading public health issue around the world, with research estimating that one out of every four women will experience harassment or abuse.

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns and quarantines around the world, advocates worry that gender-based violence is on the rise - even if the number of reported incidents remains low.

"Gender-based violence is not the shadow pandemic, it is the primary pandemic. It feeds on so many other social and economic ills," said Hazel Friedman, author and TV documentary producer for Special Assignment on the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), in an ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum webinar last month.

Other panelists included Luisa Ortiz Pérez, executive director and co-founder of Vita-Activa.org; Ann Marie Cunningham, the 2020 Lipman senior fellow in civil and human rights reporting at Columbia Journalism School; and Jess Hill, Australian investigative journalist and author of "See What You Made Me Do: Power, Control and Domestic Abuse." Taylor Mulcahey, IJNet (International Journalists' Network) editor, moderated the event.

Hill said domestic abuse rises at times of economic recession when perpetrators experience increased levels of humiliation or shame, such as losing a job or a sense of public identity. They're likely to express that as fury in the family space as a way of reasserting some semblance of control, which is what is happening now during the coronavirus crisis.

But the sensitive and traumatic nature of gender-based violence makes it complicated for journalists

to report on. Experts used the webinar to share hints, informed by their own regional experiences, on reporting GBV.

**Consider the terminology**

There is a great deal of debate over what terminology to use when describing this type of violence or abuse. Domestic violence, violence against women, domestic abuse, gender-based abuse and intimate partner violence all describe similar experiences, but different advocates use different terms.

Pérez says journalists should let survivors define what has happened to them, and then reflect that concept back to them. This way, reporters and readers can better understand the realities of what happened.

Context, culture, region and language all matter, as does your audience. You shouldn't use the same language in policy circles as you would in academic circles - and the same goes with the people on the ground experiencing it.

In her book, Hill used the term 'domestic abuse' instead of 'violence', as many people had a hard time moving past physical manifestations of violence.

"Every time I used the word 'violence' and tried to explain that it can mean psychological violence - it doesn't need to mean physical - it didn't come across to people straight away," she said. Using the term 'domestic abuse' has spurred a discussion in Australia on the parts of abuse that go unnoticed, such as coercive control and systematic campaigns of domination and degradation.

**Limit reliance on data and statistics**

The panelists agreed that statistics can grab headlines, but they don't tell the full story - and they can mislead how audiences think about



traumatizing survivors or exploiting women's experiences.

It's not your role to perpetuate 'trauma porn', especially when working with images, said Friedman.

"As a television producer, it is an incredibly sensitive topic because we have got to tell why we show it," she noted, adding: "But we have also got to respect the boundaries - the intimate spaces of pain - of loss and of grief that we encounter. Sometimes you've got to know when you do not lift that camera and all you've got to do is to listen and take your cue from the person who has entrusted you into that horribly emotional, grief-stricken place."

**Care for yourself**

"You have to take care of yourselves. These are not easy topics," said Pérez, adding: "We need to be able to protect ourselves from vicarious trauma as much as we can by being good to ourselves, by being honest to why and how we are doing the reporting that we are doing. And we really need to work on our triggers, and the connection that we bring into the story."

"We need to show up with our full selves, our full racialised, full gendered, full intersectional selves. That is when we do good reporting: when we show up," she noted.

**In partnership with its parent organisation, the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), IJNet is connecting journalists with health experts and newsroom leaders through a webinar series on Covid-19. The series is part of the ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum. This article is part of the initiative's online coverage of reporting on Covid-19.**

gender-based abuse.

Many statistics rely on counting incidents, which are mostly physical. This is a limited way to frame gender-based violence or abuse, which is actually "a system of ongoing abuse that never switches off", according to Hill.

Coercive control and campaigns of domination through isolation and micromanagement often go unnoticed, and are rarely reflected in statistics.

However, statistics can be useful in showing increases in the number of threats. "There was a UN report that came out and said that if the lockdown continued for six months longer, we would be looking at 31 million additional cases of gender-based violence or domestic violence," said Hill, demonstrating that statistics can be important for audiences to understand rising - or falling

- levels of violence.

**Pay attention to online forms of violence**

"In the case of Latin America, there is a growing trend of connection with the digital world and the attempt to control and to abuse, using extortion with intimate pictures or intimate materials, trolling or even revenge pornography as a way to attack or to suppress and to silence the women," said Pérez.

"Online violence is real as well. And it is increasing in the context of the pandemic because there are a lot of idle people online just looking for a way to control the rest," she added.

**Find underreported stories**

Friedman says reporters need to keep police accountable. By following up with cases that police have investigated, or where the perpe-

trator has appeared in court, reporters can help survivors and their families find resolution after years without closure.

Reporters should also explore the compounded impact of police brutality and lack of trust in law enforcement. Cunningham, whose research will focus on violence in communities of colour in Mississippi, says that there are many cases where Black women have called the police to report domestic violence, and have ended up shot by the police.

In Australia, Hill said, police routinely arrest or fine First Nations women for small things such as unpaid fines, or an unregistered dog, for simply calling the police for help.

Another underreported story is women's resistance. Women are not just vulnerable; they are surviving on a minute-to-minute level each

passing day, and becoming masterful strategists.

"I was on a panel just yesterday with two survivors talking about resistance and agency. They are really sick of hearing victims described as vulnerable," said Hill.

She elaborated: "They said: 'I needed help. I needed assistance. I needed a place to just be safe. But don't pity me. I don't want your pity.' It's almost insulting for some women. And it and it stops them from identifying as victims of domestic abuse when they keep on hearing the same thing. And it stops courts from seeing victims as anything other than the ideal, passive, submissive victim when they see violent resistance."

**Avoid 'trauma porn'**

The panelists agreed that journalists should approach these topics with care to avoid hurting sources, re-



# Wearing of masks is critical, and here's how to sustain it...

BY ABRAAR KARAN, MD

WE are making headway (maskway?) here in the United States, with more consensus that masks are key. Collectively, we can drive transmission down big time by wearing them. But if we accept that the average person - talking about myself here - can't wear a mask 24/7, then we need to make sure that we have the best masks possible, and that we wear them when it is most critical.

Masks are important because they both block transmission to others and protect the wearer. They don't do either perfectly - the better the mask, the better it works - but perfect is the enemy of good enough to keep the R0 below one. So, masks are better than no masks. That's the most important point.

Incidentally, R0, or the basic reproduction number/rate, refers to the contagiousness and transmissibility of infectious pathogens. It varies depending on a variety of factors and is critical in public health management to en-



sure infectious epidemics (or global pandemics) are controlled.

We would greatly benefit from better masks. Folded up T-shirts work, but the better the mask, the less the viral transmission. This is especially true for essential

workers and those at high risk of severe disease. Higher filtration masks are key.

How do we get better masks? In the US, this will have to happen either through the federal government - which seems unlikely, unless officials invoked

the Defence Production Act - or through the private sector. Investors and companies should be racing towards making these, with a huge market opportunity in addition to the massive public health benefit.

Masks are not just needed

to stop Covid-19 cases, hospitalisations, and deaths. They are also our ticket to actually reopening safely, getting back to work, and doing the things that we love to do. Without a vaccine, masks are our next and most pragmatic and

achievable step to burning out the epidemic.

Masking is not an "all or nothing" behaviour, either. I keep seeing people running outside alone with masks on, yet not masking indoors while socialising with friends and family.

When you mask is almost as important as if you mask. If people can only realistically mask for X number of hours, then they must do so when transmission risk is highest.

This means masking indoors. This may very well mean masking around family or relatives as well, especially if they are in vulnerable risk groups and you live in a high-transmission area. In addition, this means masking while using public transport and at work.

Masking while alone in your car or when you are on a walk by yourself or for the second you pass by someone on the street is less useful. Your mask here likely won't do too much as your risk of transmission is already very low.

So in short: masks work, better masks work better, and masking during high-risk transmission situations matters more than during those which are low risk.

Lastly, don't shame those not wearing a mask. It won't work. A genuine conversation may go further - but keep your own mask on.

• **Medium**

BY ELIZABETH SHILPA

"During Covid-19 we are proving the case that a lot of women have thought all along that remote workspaces - being outside of the newsroom, working on schedules that work for us and for our families - are fully effective," says Emily Ramshaw, co-founder and CEO of The 19th.

The 19th is nonprofit, nonpartisan news organisation at the intersection of gender, politics and policy. It was established earlier this year and is based in Austin, Texas, the thrust of its operations being on empowering women - particularly those underserved by and underrepresented in American media - with the information, community and tools they need to be equal participants in democracy.

"I think this moment is, I hope, going to prove to everyone that we know best and we can manage our schedules and our lives and still produce extraordinary products without being tethered to a chair in a newsroom," Ramshaw told the audience during WAN-IFRA's recent World Media Leaders eSummit.

Ramshaw was taking part in a panel along with Pamella Sittoni, executive editor and managing editor of Kenya's Daily Nation and María Ramírez, head of strategy at El Diario, Spain, at the panel discussion on "Post pandemic role of women in the Media," moderated by author and former editor-in-chief of USA Today Joanne Lipman.

Lipman pointed out that women continue to be underrepresented in newsrooms globally and in news coverage. Studies have found that in the US, UK and Canada, 75 per cent or more of those who are described as experts on the front pages of newspapers are men.

"In the US, women make up the majority of journalism graduates and yet the minority in newsrooms and a vanishingly small number of our top editors. And globally, a recent study of English language news

## How to amplify the voice of women in newsrooms in a post-Covid world



sites found 77 per cent of those mentioned in articles are men," Lipman said.

She said researchers had concluded that women are "routinely marginalised and symbolically annihilated in news coverage".

Bringing in more women into the newsroom and into leadership positions will both help elevate the status of women and add diversity to the content being produced.

Sittoni explained it further: "Where you have gender diversity in a newsroom or where you have diversity at the table where you are making such a decision, you are likely to bring in more voices and more diverse content than if you

are at a table that is just full of men. When you bring in more voices, more women, you bring stories about other things that matter to women - childcare, health, issues of poverty."

### Tilting the balance

El Diario, a digital publisher based in Spain, is one of the partners of BBC's 50:50 project, which is fighting to increase the representation of women in media content. As part of the project, the experts and sources quoted in stories are counted, recorded in an excel sheet and checked at the end of every month to find out the gender balance. Based on this, active

measures are taken to increase the representation of women among them.

"We started with op-eds and now we are moving to the business section, which is usually more unbalanced than other sections. Sometimes you don't realise how many men you choose. This way articles are better and richer, and they have more sources. For us, it's really working well," Ramírez reported.

"You unconsciously choose men as your sources and experts but when you start to think about it and include more women, your article might even turn out better," she said.

Sittoni said she would like to try it in her news-

room, adding that beyond counting the people interviewed, media organisations could come up with policies that address the imbalance in newsrooms.

At The Nation, she said, deliberate efforts have been made to ensure that whenever there are promotions at least one-third of those being promoted are women.

"Last time when we had a major reshuffle, we ensured that we got one-third of the women promoted into editors and such roles. I'm hoping we get to fifty-fifty. I think it has to be very deliberate, and it has to start with the leadership of the organisation," she said.

### Post-Covid newsrooms

Sittoni noted that post-Covid there is no excuse for women not wanting to remain journalists. It is now well established that flexi times and home offices are feasible and, therefore, there should be more incentive for women to stay in newsrooms.

"What we have seen here in Africa is that women start off strong at the lower cadres but, as they get older and start having families, they drop off and go into PR and communications and government organisations, which promise them lighter schedules and more manageable time for the families. But now we

can have the best of both worlds and it should encourage more women to be in the newsroom," she said.

However, no change happens overnight, and changes in a newsroom are no different. But a good example to look up to is El Diario - where half of the editors are women and one of the top two people in power is a woman.

El Diario also makes sure that gender balance is reflected in its hiring processes, Ramírez said: "At least find women candidates. You just have to keep looking because sometimes women don't apply (for jobs) at the same rates as men do. The 50:50 thing is part of our policy now, and we don't do interviews unless half the candidates are women."

Ramshaw added that applying peer pressure to other organisations to encourage them to do the right thing when it comes to representative newsrooms might also be a good option.

• **Being optimistic**

Sittoni further noted that there has been a lot of growth for women journalists in Africa recently, particularly among those who are coming out of programmes where they have been mentored and have developed management skills.

Before the pandemic, it was not uncommon for women's voices to go unheard at meetings, or for them to be interrupted or silenced. Ramírez feels that the Covid situation has helped in addressing the matter.

"In meetings women are interrupted a lot, but that doesn't happen a lot in virtual meetings. There are fewer issues of office politics. So let us not waste this crisis and let us do more to make sure women are at the top," she said.

• **Elizabeth Shilpa is a business analyst based in Chennai, India, and filed this dispatch for the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).**



# Covid-19: Wear masks in crowded public spaces, says science body

LONDON

EVERYONE should carry a face covering when they leave home in order to tackle coronavirus, the head of the UK's national academy of science has said.

Prof Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, president of the Royal Society, said the coverings should then be worn "whenever you are in crowded public spaces".

He said evidence shows they protect the wearer and those nearby, and the UK was "way behind" other countries in usage.

No 10 said the use of face masks is always kept "under review".

Current guidance on face coverings varies across the UK, but Public Health England previously said they did not need to be worn outdoors.

Speaking as the Royal Society published two reports on face coverings, Prof Ramakrishnan said the public remained "skeptical" about their benefits because "the message has not been clear enough" and guidelines have been inconsistent.

He added: "What we would like for the government is to be a bit stronger and clearer about the messaging and require it whenever you are in crowded public spaces where you



cannot get more than two metres away from the next person.

"If you're in a crowded setting, you ought to wear a mask."

There are mixed feelings among the experts on the government's scientific advisory group, Sage, around the use of face coverings.

Some point to evidence that indicates coverings do not seem to slow the spread of flu when worn in Asian countries, and there are concerns they might give some a false sense of security.

But there is a consensus that they may reduce the risk of an infected person

passing the virus on to someone else.

"We have been very clear about the benefits of people wearing face coverings," said the prime minister's official spokesman, following Prof Ramakrishnan's comments.

"Face coverings can help us protect others and

reduce the spread of the virus if people are infected but not showing symptoms."

The Downing Street spokesman added that face coverings "should cover both the nose and mouth to reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets, helping to protect others".

The government has said

that face coverings can be made at home from cloth, and do not need to be hospital-standard masks.

Face coverings are compulsory on public transport in England, where they should also be worn in hospitals by staff, outpatients and visitors. People visiting shops are also advised, but not required, to cover their face if they judge that social distancing is not always possible.

In Scotland, masks are also mandatory on public transport, and will be in shops from 10 July.

People in Wales are being asked to wear non-medical face coverings where social distancing is not possible - including on public transport. But the government stopped short of making their use mandatory.

Plans to make wearing face masks on public transport compulsory in Northern Ireland have been put on hold, pending legal clarification.

In late April, only about 25% of people in the UK wore face coverings, compared to 83.4% in Italy, 65.8% in the United States and 63.8% in Spain, according to one of the reports, which examined the factors limiting the take-up.

Not wearing a face covering should be regarded as "anti-social" in the same way as drink driving or failing to wear a seatbelt, Prof

Ramakrishnan said.

"Not doing so increases the risk for everyone, from NHS workers to your grandmother," he said.

The World Health Organization changed its advice on face coverings in June, saying they should be worn in public where social distancing is not possible to help stop the spread of coronavirus - but countries set their own guidelines and laws.

The WHO had previously argued there was not enough evidence to say that healthy people should wear masks, despite their widespread use in many countries.

Prof Paul Edelstein from the University of Pennsylvania, who wrote the other report which examined the effectiveness of masks and other coverings, said the evidence that they protected other people was "clearer all the time", but there was also "some evidence" they protected the wearer.

"There are people without symptoms going about their daily business who are unknowingly breathing out droplets that are carrying the virus," he said.

"If they had their faces covered the majority of those droplets would be caught before they can infect other people. Wearing face coverings can help save lives and prevent disabling illnesses."

## Post Covid-19: Africa's growth stands to rebound to 3 pct next year - AfDB

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

AFRICAN governments and development partners must respond in a more coordinated, targeted, and rapid manner to be effective in limiting the Covid-19 impacts.

It is estimated that an additional 49 million Africans could be pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic and its aftermath; West and Central Africa stand to be worst hit

Africa's economic growth could rebound in 2021, provided that governments manage the COVID-19 infection rate well, according to updated forecasts from the African Development Bank (AfDB), released on Tuesday.

In a comprehensive socio-economic assessment of the pandemic's impact, the Bank said growth was now projected to rebound to 3% in 2021 from -3.4% in the worst-case scenario for 2020.

The predictions are contained in a supplement to the Bank's African Economic Outlook, which was released on 30 January. At the time, Africa's growth was forecast at 3.9% in 2020 and 4.1% in 2021.

The supplement cautioned that the growth outlook for 2021 and beyond would depend largely on African governments' effectiveness in flattening the curve of the outbreak and policies to reopen economies.

Charles Leyeka Lufumpa, Acting Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, at the African Development Bank, said: "To reopen economies, policymakers needed to follow a phased and incremental approach that carefully evaluates the trade-offs between restarting economic activity too quickly and safeguarding the health of the population."

"Economic activities can be restarted incrementally on the basis of the transmission risks of different sectors," Lufumpa said.

The spread of the virus in Africa depends largely on the preparedness of countries to separate and treat infected patients, the supplement stated, noting that only 21 out of 54 African countries are clinically prepared to deal with epidemics.

Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium and Former Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, Njuguna Ndung'u described the African Economic Outlook 2020 supplement as "a very important and useful policy tool for African countries who actually need it at this time."

"It will be useful now and in the future. It gives us important short, medium- and long-term strategies," he added, stressing crises like COVID-19 present a good opportunity for innovative reforms in countries.

The supplement noted that the curve of the pandemic in Africa was flattening gradually. However, COVID-19 remains a serious threat to lives and livelihoods, given weak healthcare systems and limited social protection.

The continent also remains vulnerable to other regional threats such as the locust swarms that have struck East Africa, as well as to extreme climate events.

Under projected scenarios for contraction of growth, Africa could lose between \$145.5 billion and \$189.7 billion of GDP in 2020, according to the publication.

Hanan Morsy, Director of the Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department at the African Development Bank, said "The African Economic Outlook 2020 Supplement shows that for the first time in the last half-century, Africa would be facing an economic recession as a fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. This would affect the gains achieved in poverty reduction as an estimated 49 million Africans could be pushed into poverty, with about 30 million jobs at the verge of disappearing. Policymakers need to act fast to allevi-

ate the impact of the crisis on vulnerable groups through well targeted social safety net measures."

The report called for urgent policy interventions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic: "Across Africa, the response must be well-sequenced and multipronged, involving a public health response to contain the spread of the virus and minimise fatalities, a monetary policy response to ease liquidity constraints and solvency risks, and a fiscal response to cushion the economic impacts of the pandemic on livelihoods and to assist businesses."

Other proposed interventions included labour market policies to protect workers and their jobs, and structural policies to enable African economies to rebuild and enhance their resilience to future shocks.

The supplement warned that the tourism, transportation, and entertainment sectors may take longer to recover. Between 2017 and 2018, African travel and tourism grew by 5.6%, compared with the global average of 3.9%.

According to Morsy, the supplement projected that, in the worst-case scenario, an additional 49 million Africans could be pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic and its aftermath. The number of people in extreme poverty in Africa (using the \$1.90 international poverty line) could reach 453.4 million in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, compared to 425.2 million under the no-outbreak scenario.

People in West and Central Africa faced a higher risk of falling into extreme poverty due to the pandemic, but COVID-19 would also deepen poverty in East and Southern Africa.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 54 African countries stood at 304,642, with 8,087 reported deaths as of 22 June 2020. According to the supplement, reported figures were likely to be higher in reality because of lim-



## African airlines take off with clipped wings

By Martina Schwikowski

THE Covid-19 pandemic brought everyday air traffic to a halt. But African airlines are preparing to take to the skies once more. Many airlines are facing a difficult path ahead to stay competitive.

Many passenger planes remain firmly on the ground around the world because of the coronavirus pandemic. In Africa too, radars picked up very little movement in the sky. But since the beginning of June, air traffic over the continent has increased.

"Most of the airlines in Africa have started operations," South African aviation expert Phuthego Mojapelo said.

Two of the countries low cost airlines, FlySafair and Mango Airlines have already resumed flights. Both are affiliated with the national airline South African Airways (SAA), which filed for bankruptcy before the outbreak in December 2019.

The South African government decided not to continue funding the airline in April 2020. According to authorities, the state no longer wanted to pump money into the bankrupt airline - it was now needed to

fight the coronavirus pandemic instead.

"SAA is developing a plan of starting a new airline, SAA 2.0," explains Mojapelo.

"That plan is still before the unions and creditors and they still have to vote on the plan." The failure of SAA leaves a big gap, however - it was one of Africa's largest airlines, along with Ethiopian Airlines and Kenya Airways.

Kenya Airways has also experienced significant losses and is currently going through the process of being nationalized. The most financially stable of Africa's big three airlines - Ethiopian Airlines - had already flagged a loss of \$550 million (€488 million) in April.

"That would have been our income if we were able to fly at full capacity," said Tewolde Gebremariam, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO.

According to the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO), African airlines are at risk of losing \$6 billion in revenue compared to 2019 and three million jobs.

But now long-haul flights are on the cards again: Ethiopian Airlines and Kenya Airways plan to fly to Paris, Geneva and

Brussels again this month - albeit on a reduced schedule. But will this increase in air traffic contribute to the spread of coronavirus? Mojapelo is optimistic that passengers will be safe:

"Most of our aircraft in Africa are fitted with HEPA, a highly efficient filter, which makes sure that the virus does not survive in the airplane."

German aviation expert Cord Schellenberg also believes the environment inside an aircraft poses very little danger to passengers.

"Worldwide, airlines will be ensuring that people are maintaining distance on the ground during check-in, at the gate and at the baggage counter," he said.

Wearing masks on board also helps to stop the spread of the virus, as well as removing and replacing the air conditioning systems that allow air to flow in from the cabin ceiling.

Passengers also have their body temperature measured in South African airports and rows on the aircraft are allowed to be fully occupied. South Africa's Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula emphasized that there is a lower risk of infection on

board than inside a normal closed room.

Airlines are operating on the assumption that it will take some time for the economy to return to pre-pandemic levels. This could have an impact on ticket prices.

So far, prices have remained the same on the domestic market, explains Mojapelo. He has a positive outlook on the future of the industry: "Africa is a magnet for tourists and the airlines will continue to position themselves for this business. The continent is also a popular destination for conferences, so the industry will recover when the pandemic wanes."

But his colleague Joachim Vermooren is more skeptical about the overall impact of the coronavirus crisis, which has hit South Africa particularly hard. "The market has certainly not returned to normality," he said.

"For that to happen, all air travel restrictions would have to be removed and air travel should be freely accessible for bookings, including leisure travellers. People have gotten used to video conferencing and the personal distance issue is still a major factor to consider."



# What's false and what's true on China-related human rights matters (Part 3)

**Prologue**

**F**ULL of ignorance of and bias against China, some people from certain countries have recently made groundless accusations against and disseminated many fallacies about China's human rights conditions concerning Hong Kong, COVID-19, and Xinjiang.

Even a small discrepancy will lead to a great error. Malicious lies will, still worse, result in huge misconception and misunderstanding.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China have compiled What's False and What's True on China-related Human Rights Matters, with the purpose of setting the record straight with facts.

Falsehoods find no market among the fair-minded, as we are confident that people will tell right from wrong!

**16 False: The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang are "concentration camps" detaining over one million Uyghurs.**

**True:** The vocational education and training centers, established in accordance with law in Xinjiang, are no different in nature from the community corrections in the US, the Desistance and Disengagement Programme (DDP) in the UK, and the deradicalization centers in France. All of them are useful measures and positive explorations for preventive counter-terrorism and deradicalization, and are in line with the principles and spirit of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other counter-terrorism resolutions.

The education and training work in Xinjiang is guided by the spirit of the rule of law as well as international principles on counter-terrorism and deradicalization. It has solid legal basis and follows well-defined legal procedures, and is done in a way that makes no linkage to any specific region, ethnic group or religion. There is no such thing as "suppression on ethnic minorities" or "persecution of Muslims".

The claim that "nearly one million Uyghurs are detained", an outright rumor, is based on two highly dubious "studies".

The first "study" was done by the US government-backed Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) with interviews of only eight people. The CHRD applied the estimated ratio shown in this absurdly small sample to the whole of Xinjiang, drawing a crude conclusion that one million people were detained in the "re-education detention camps" and two million were "forced to attend day/evening re-education sessions".

The second "study" was done by a far-right fundamentalist Christian Adrian Zenz, a.k.a. Zhong Guoen. According to The Grayzone, a US-based independent news website, Zenz is a senior fellow in China studies at the far-right Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation established by the US government in 1983, and a senior member in a research group set up with the masterminding of the US intelligence community to study Xinjiang's vocational education and training centers. He believes he is "led



**A shop owner (left) tidies up goods in his store in Gezixiang, or 'Dove Lane', in the old town of Tuancheng in Hotan, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on May 27. (Photo by Xinhua)**

by God" on a "mission" against China. In September 2018, Zenz wrote an article published in the Central Asian Survey journal, concluding that "Xinjiang's total re-education internment figure may be estimated at just over one million." According to The Grayzone, Zenz based this conclusion on a single report by Istiqlal TV, a Uyghur exile media organization based in Turkey. Far from a journalistic organization, Istiqlal TV advances separatism while playing host to an assortment of extremist figures. One such character who often appears on Istiqlal TV is Abduqadir Yaqupjan, a leader of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). Maybe it was because the reference he cited was too absurd even to himself, that Zenz admitted that "there is no certainty" in his estimate. But Zenz "bumped up" his estimate again in November 2019, claiming China was detaining 1.8 million people.

**17. False: The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang carried out "political indoctrination and intimidation" over the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.**

**True:** The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang provided courses on standard spoken and written Chinese language, legal knowledge, professional skills and deradicalization, to address the inadequate language proficiency, lack of legal literacy and job skills, as well as the varying degrees of religious extremism influence among their trainees. The purpose of the centers is to tackle terrorism and religious extremism at the root, not so-called "political indoctrination and intimidation" by any means.

Through all-round learning, the trainees have freed themselves from the influence of terrorism and religious extremism. Their overall capacity has been improved, as evidenced by a markedly increased understanding of the law, the ability to speak and write in standard Chinese, acquisition of practical

skills and the general improvement in employability. Most of them have found jobs that give them a stable income, and notably improved their families' living standards.

**18. False: The vocational education and training centers are poorly conditioned and lack medical facilities. The trainees are subjected to forced political indoctrination and torture, and are deprived of their rights to exercise religious customs, use local ethnic languages among others.**

**True:** The vocational education and training centers strictly follow the basic principle of respecting and protecting human rights enshrined in China's Constitution and other laws. The trainees' basic rights and personal dignity are well protected, and insults or abuse against the trainees in any manner are prohibited. The centers fully guarantee the personal freedom of trainees. The centers are managed as boarding schools where trainees may go home on a regular basis and ask for leave to attend to personal matters, and enjoy the freedom of correspondence.

Trainees' freedom of religious belief is fully respected and protected at the centers. Those with a religious belief can decide on their own whether to take part in legal religious activities when they are at home.

The centers fully respect and protect the customs of all ethnic groups and provide a rich variety of nutritious halal food free of charge.

The trainees' right to use the spoken and written languages of their own ethnicity is fully protected at the centers. All regulations, curricula and canteen menus at the centers are written in both standard Chinese and local ethnic languages.

The centers have well-equipped facilities. Dorms are furnished with radio, television, and air conditioning or electric fans. Medical facilities are set up to provide free health counseling

services and treatment for trainees. There are also venues for basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other sports, cultural venues such as reading rooms, computer rooms and cinemas, as well as venues for performances like auditoriums and open-air stages. Singing and dancing performances of different ethnic groups, sports games and other extra-curricular activities are often held to meet trainees' learning, living and entertainment needs to the greatest extent possible.

Legal counseling rooms are set up in the centers to help address trainees' law-related difficulties and questions promptly. There are psychotherapy rooms to provide psychological counseling services and care for trainees' mental health. All trainees are covered by old-age, medical and other social insurances and free medical check-ups.

**19. False: Detainees in the mass internment camps in Xinjiang include permanent residents of the US and Australia.**

**True:** The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang have never received trainees who are not Chinese nationals.

**20. False: Xinjiang's special operations against violent terrorist activities aim to suppress ethnic minorities under the pretext of fighting terrorism.**

**True:** Xinjiang had suffered long and deep from terrorism and extremism. Statistics show that from 1990 to 2016, ethnic separatists, religious extremists and violent terrorists plotted and conducted several thousand violent terrorist cases and incidents, killing a large number of innocent civilians and several hundred police officers, and causing immeasurable property losses. These incidents inflicted untold sufferings on the people of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

In the face of a grave and complicated counter-terrorism situation and the urgent demand from people of all ethnic groups for suppressing violence and terrorist crimes and protecting life and property safety, China's Xinjiang region has taken a series of active measures. Responding to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other counter-terrorism resolutions, Xinjiang has upheld the principle of not linking terrorism with any particular region, ethnic group or religion, and acted in accordance with the law to crack down on violence and terrorist activities that violate human rights, endanger public security, undermine ethnic unity and aim at separating the country. Since 2014, a total of 1,588 violent and terrorist groups have been taken out, 12,995 violent terrorists arrested and 2,052 explosive devices seized. Such operations have effectively curbed the rising trend of frequent terrorist activities and protected people's right to life, right to health, right to development and other basic rights to the maximum extent. These measures have received full support from people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

Through law-based counter-terrorism, deradicalization and vocational education and training, Xinjiang has not seen a single violent terrorist case in the past three-odd years. Extremist infiltration has been effectively curbed,

public security significantly improved and people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security markedly enhanced.

In October 2019, more than 60 countries spoke in support of China's Xinjiang policy at the United Nations General Assembly. Among them, over 30 are Islamic countries. In contrast, none of the few countries criticizing China's Xinjiang policy are Islamic countries.

Since late December 2018, more than 1,000 people from over 90 countries visited Xinjiang in 70-plus groups. They include UN officials, foreign envoys to China, representatives of relevant countries to Geneva, journalists and members of religious groups. After their visits, they expressed the view that Xinjiang's counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts are in line with the purposes and principles of the UN in fighting terrorism and upholding basic human rights and that these efforts deserve to be fully recognized and emulated by others.

**21. False: China restricts the freedom of communication and movement of Uyghurs in Xinjiang in the name of counter-terrorism and deradicalization.**

**True:** Xinjiang has never restricted the freedom of movement of Uyghurs or people of any other ethnic group. In Xinjiang, anyone from any ethnic group, except those prohibited from leaving the country for suspected crimes, can exit and enter China freely. Several hundred thousand people from Xinjiang are now overseas.

Xinjiang has never restricted Uyghurs or people of other ethnic groups from contacting their overseas relatives. They can do so not only through international phone calls, but also through voice and video chats on instant messaging apps such as WeChat and QQ. They can also do business and trade with people in other countries through various communication means.

**22. False: Xinjiang conducts large-scale surveillance on local ethnic minorities.**

**True:** It is an international common practice to harness modern technology and big data in improving social governance. For example, there were 4.2 million surveillance cameras installed in the UK as early as 2010, the highest number in the world then. Today the country has about six million cameras, one for every ten people. In the United States, facial recognition is conducted in the top 20 airports against passengers. The city surveillance system built by New York police has devices covering every neighborhood of the city watching people and vehicles on the street and tracking and screening information on people's mobile phones. What Xinjiang has done in this respect pales significantly in comparison with these two countries.

The cameras in urban and rural public places, main roads and transit hubs in Xinjiang are installed in accordance with the law for the purpose of improving social governance and forestalling and combating crimes. These measures make people feel safer and are widely supported by people of all ethnic groups. The measure does not target any specific ethnicity, not to

mention that cameras by themselves identify or target no specific ethnicity. They are there to deter bad guys and protect good people.

**23. False: Mass forced labor against ethnic minorities is taking place in Xinjiang.**

**True:** According to a US news website the Grayzone, the forced labor stories were in fact a PR blitz orchestrated by anti-China forces from the US and Australia. The stories were cooked up by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) which has long been funded by the US government and American arms dealers. To serve the interests of its sponsors, the institute blatantly spread disinformation to vilify and demonize China, particularly on Xinjiang-related issues. Together with anti-China forces in the US, the ASPI made up baseless and biased stories to smear and attack Xinjiang's counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts. The institute has no credibility whatsoever. Former Australian Ambassador to China Geoff Raby sees the ASPI as "the architect of the China threat theory in Australia". Former Qantas Airways CEO John Menadue said the institute "lacks integrity and brings shame to Australia".

Ethnic minority workers from Xinjiang are part and parcel of the country's labor force. They have the rights to be employed, sign labor contracts, obtain labor remunerations, take rest and vacations, acquire labor safety and health protection, and enjoy social insurance and welfare as prescribed by law. They have the freedom to choose their occupation. Their personal freedom has never been restricted.

There are only limited job opportunities in the four southern Xinjiang prefectures (Hotan, Aksu and Kashi prefectures, and Kizilsu Kirgiz autonomous prefecture) as industrialization and urbanization there are underdeveloped. The government of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region has taken measures based on the wishes of local people to help them find jobs in their hometowns, nearby cities or other areas of Xinjiang, or in the provinces and cities that have pair-up assistance programs with Xinjiang, thus ensuring peoples' right to work to the maximum extent. Since 2018, Xinjiang has helped 151,000 surplus rural workers from poor families in the southern prefectures to find employment elsewhere. With an average annual income of over 45,000 yuan, these workers have all been lifted out of poverty.

China has been improving its legal system and its State Council has established an inter-agency mechanism to crack down on crimes such as human trafficking and forced labor. Such efforts have proven effective. China earnestly fulfills its international obligations and has ratified 26 international conventions on human rights. China will continue to strengthen exchanges with all parties and fight forced labor and other crimes together.

**24. False: Xinjiang has demolished a large number of mosques.**

**True:** Xinjiang has seen sound development of the religion of Islam. The number of mosques in Xinjiang has grown from some 2,000 at the beginning of reform and opening-up in the late 1970s to 24,400 today, more than 10 times that in the United States. In Xinjiang, there is a mosque for every 530 Muslims on average. Xinjiang takes the preservation and maintenance of mosques very seriously. Some cramped and dilapidated mosques, those with poor layout designs and those inconvenient for religious activities have been rebuilt, relocated or expanded in light of the needs and wishes of local Muslim communities. Such adjustments have been welcomed by religious leaders and believers.

**25. False: Graveyards of ethnic minorities are demolished in parts of Xinjiang.**

**True:** Under the regulations of the local authorities, the government does not promote cremation for ethnic minorities observing traditional ways of interment. On the contrary, it takes concrete measures to help preserve the tradition, by designating burial ground and building dedicated cemeteries. Besides, there is no restriction on other ethnic customs followed in weddings, funerals, and name-giving ceremonies.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 104 00--

**WORD-FIT**

3 letters: SOW, NOW,  
4 letters: HAIL, TOOL, ALOE, OMEN, RHEA,  
5 letters: CANON, YEMEN, EJECT, ISLET,  
LEAVE, AHEAD, FACTS, BRAID, SWINE

6 letters: DRIVER, NATIVE, CANADA  
7 letters: DROUGHT, ETONIAN, SEA BASS  
8 letters: OHM METER, IMMUNITY,

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES: Across**

- Tanzania's statesman.
- obtain in exchange for payment.
- a period of seven days.
- an assistant to a political leader.
- open to public inspection.
- a tall deciduous shade tree with spreading branches and broad top.
- support, encourage.
- longest river in Africa.
- town on the border of Kenya and Tanzania.
- People of Nigeria.
- a rower.
- young form of a louse.
- North American plant with stems of showy snap dragon-like flowers.

**Down:**

- printed publication.
- a formal process whereby a politician is elected.
- pardon a sin.
- characterized by constant change.
- mate and then produce offspring.
- Her capital city is Luanda.
- Children.
- a building devoted to the worship.
- once more.
- a thing that is not possible.
- the expression of creative skill.
- have an obligation to pay money.

**SOLUTIONS**

WORD-FIT: SOW, NOW, HAIL, TOOL, ALOE, OMEN, RHEA, CANON, YEMEN, EJECT, ISLET, LEAVE, AHEAD, FACTS, BRAID, SWINE

CROSSWORD: Across: 1. Nyerere, 2. ransom, 3. week, 4. aide, 5. open, 6. baobab, 7. support, 8. Nile, 9. Kisumu, 10. Yoruba, 11. sculler, 12. nymph, 13. Mimulus. Down: 1. The Economist, 2. election, 3. absolve, 4. flux, 5. mate, 6. Luanda, 7. children, 8. mosque, 9. again, 10. impossible, 11. talent, 12. owe.





Thursday 9 July 2020

# Recharged NCBA Bank ventures into crowded domestic market with vigour

By The Banker Reporter

**A** rejuvenated NCBA Bank Tanzania which combines the best from NIC Tanzania and Commercial Bank of Africa has officially started operations with new vigour.

NCBA Tanzania's designate Chairman, Sharmapal Aggarwal and Managing Director designate Margaret Karume said the new bank has started operations following approval of the merged bank by regulatory authorities effective Wednesday this week.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week, Aggarwal said the new entity is inspired by digital innovation and a can-do attitude that empowers customers to 'Go For It,' as its new slogan states. He pointed out that the will foster successful personal relationships with customers by offering the best-in-class products and services for all segments of customers including personal, business or corporate.

"NCBA Bank is a stronger and larger universal financial institution with strength, expertise and regional connectivity to put our customers first through an expanded range of products and services," Aggarwal



NCBA Tanzania's designate Managing Director, Margaret Karume.

said.

The designate Chairman further noted that NCBA Bank will focus on self-belief and continuous improvement. "We are the go-to bank for go-getters, those with self-drive, a pioneering spirit and those striving to make things happen," he added.

Seconding her boss, the new bank's designate Managing Director cum CEO, Karume said that the new brand identity will allow the combined entity leverage on the strengths, values and historic legacies of the former two brands.

"We are pleased to unveil our new inspirational logo, as part of our journey to bring our merger under one unified banner. The new NCBA logo and visual identity will be rolled out gradually across all our customer touch points," she stated.

She noted that the name and logo reflect NCBA's deep roots and experience in Tanzania and the region as a whole in addition to representing the ambitions

of NCBA Group to become one of the leading banks in the local market and across the African continent. Following the merger, the NCBA is now Tier 2 banking institution.

Karume further noted that the new entity is in the final stages of harmonising systems, so that customers can enjoy seamless services across all channels in the country. "Our ambition is that by end of quarter three this year, all NCBA customers will experience the same service levels regardless of their previous relationship at NIC Bank or CBA," she added.

NCBA Bank Group Plc operates a network of more than 100 branches in five countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ivory Coast with a combined customer base of over 40 million, making it the largest bank in Africa by customer numbers. Over the next one month the bank will finalise the rebranding of their external branch signage across Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha and Zanzibar.



NCBA Group managing director John Gachora.

## NCBA obtains yard for seized cars as loan defaults rise

NAIROBI

NCBA Group has acquired a yard for storing cars repossessed from loan defaulters, pointing to a rise in asset seizures in Kenya's struggling economy.

The group, which was formed last year following the merger between CBA group and NIC group, says in latest annual report that the yard has helped it maintain the vehicles and sell them at a better price.

This represents a departure from the common practice by banks where repossessed vehicles are taken directly to auctioneers' yards for public sale. Sluggish economic activity has created a growing pool of distressed borrowers who are increasingly seeing their assets being seized by aggressive lenders. NCBA assets finance division deals mainly with cars loans.

"This has seen a 15 percent increase in the selling price of repossessed vehicles and faster turnaround in their disposal as we are now able to conduct basic maintenance like regular cleaning of vehicles and ensuring proper tyre pressure to restore their value," said the bank.

NCBA has not disclosed how much it spent on the yard, which comes at a time many auctioneers are recording increased vehicles in their yards amid reduced sales. The lender says it has financed over 4,300 vehicles worth around Sh17 billion, with over 80 percent of them being for commercial use by small and medium-sized enterprises.

The mounting defaults are a reflection of the struggles that loan holders are undergoing in an economy that has witnessed a string of job losses and closure of small business in the face of Covid-19. Many commercial banks are struggling to auction properties seized from loan defaulters with potential buyers hesitating to pay above the minimum bid price set in law.

Buyers are increasingly seeking to buy auction properties such as vehicles cheaply and at outsized discounts but their prices have not been possible due to the Land Act 2012. The Act bars banks from auctioning seized assets at below 75 percent of the prevailing market value, leading to few takers with offers that match reserved bid prices.

The delayed fall of auctioneer hammer has prompted repeat advertisements for auctions even the targeted properties suffer diminished value. NCBA has listed asset financing as among the priority growth areas, continuing the business that was popular with NIC group before the merger.

The group last year also implemented an online platform for hire purchase applications, which it says has led to about 56 percent of the applications originate from the platform. The online platform provides an automated loan application process that allows customers to apply for loans through their computer or mobile devices without having to visit a branch.

## Canada's central bank says business sentiment at its lowest for 11 years

OTTAWA

Canadian business sentiment has fallen to its lowest level since the 2008-2009 recession as sales slow and uncertainty about future growth remains elevated, according to a survey of executives released Monday by the Bank of Canada.

The Ottawa-based central bank polled businesses between May 12 and June 5 to gauge sentiment during the pandemic. The results show that even as provinces begin to reopen their economies, many businesses are still struggling with weak demand.

The plunge in sentiment is hardly a surprise, given that the nation fell into its deepest recession last quarter since the Great Depression. While there are some positive notes with the central bank highlighting that many businesses expect a fairly quick rebound, the overall gist of the data paints a business sector that has suffered a major shock.

Results "suggest that business sentiment is strongly negative in all regions and sectors due to impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic and the drop in oil prices", the Bank of Canada said in a summary of its findings.

The composite gauge of sentiment declined to -7, the lowest reading since the financial crisis. Companies reported growing slack in capacity, easing price pressures and collapsing forward-sales expectations. Firms also signalled a significant decrease in capital spending plans, along with weakening hiring intentions despite the massive increase in job losses in recent months.

The survey "was extraordinarily weak, but that comes as no surprise given the survey was taken when swathes of the economy were still shut", Benjamin Reitzes, Canadian rates and macro strategist at Bank of Montreal, said in a report.

Almost half of all executives surveyed reported a decline in sales in the past 12 months because of the impact from Covid-19, lower energy prices and heightened uncertainty. Businesses continue to expect weak demand in the future with more firms expecting lower future sales growth in the next year. Indicators of future sales - such as orders and sales inquiries - fell to record lows.

"Firms reported that, while capacity could resume quickly as the economy reopens and containment measures are lifted, the recovery in demand is expected to be more gradual," the report said. Still, business seems to be less pessimistic than they were during the financial crisis - with more than half of firms expecting their sales and employment levels to be near pre-pandemic levels within a year.

Government support seems to be buffering the economic fallout, with some firms citing the federal government's wage subsidy program as helping to reduce the need for layoffs. The survey was also taken in May when lockdowns were being lifted, mitigating the impact on the numbers.

"The headline reading probably could have been even worse if the survey had been conducted a month earlier," Andrew Grantham and Katherine Judge, economists at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said in a report.

While millions of jobs were lost in March and April due to the pandemic-induced shutdowns, jobs have started to come back and the results of the survey reinforce the view that employers are looking to rehire. A majority of firms that recently let go workers have plans to refill at least some of the positions in the next 12 months, the survey found.

Despite this, the era of tight labour markets in Canada is over. The share of businesses reporting major shortages of workers has declined significantly, suggesting a "broad-based increase in labour market slack."



Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz.

## Visa launches Click to Pay service in the Middle East

DUBAI

Payments technology company Visa rolled out its 'Click to Pay' service in the Middle East on Wednesday, aimed at allowing its customers to make quick and secure online payments.

The Click to Pay icon will be displayed on participating merchants' websites and consumers who opt to use it will not have to fill out forms giving details such as their card number, password or shipping address to make purchases.

"Whenever the consumer sees Click to Pay icon next to our logo, it means that

merchant is connected with Visa ... that merchant can access the users' data saved remotely with us," Hadi Raad, vice president and head of digital solutions for Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa at Visa, told The National.

To ensure that customers' data is safe, the US-based company is using tokenisation technology that replaces a user's 16-digit account number with a secure token that protects the underlying card number from fraudsters.

"[The] actual card number will not be shared with the merchants ... only a token will

be shared that will work only in the context of [a] Click to Pay transaction. Moreover, customers will decide on their own whether to use this service or not," said Mr Raad.

Click to Pay will save customers time and minimise the scope for "errors and frictions in online purchases," he added. "Online transactions involve many frictions as customers need to manually put details on different merchants' sites. There are cases when they make mistakes and abandon the purchase in-between or move to other merchants, causing a loss to the business."

First launched in the US

in October last year, Click to Pay had more than 10,000 merchants registered by January. In the Middle East, the service is beginning in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. Other regional markets will follow soon, said Mr Raad.

"We have plans to expand but I cannot give the timeline. Eventually, we want this experience to become a global standard. "Hundreds of regional merchants have already opted for this service", he added, without disclosing an exact number. Some of the early adopters include Emirates, Etisalat, Freedom Pizza and Kcal.





NMB Bank Plc team at the ongoing 44th DITF in Dar es Salaam.

## NMB bancassurance, mobile transactions lure many at Dar International Trade Fair

By The Banker Reporter

MEMBERS of the public visiting NMB Bank Plc's pavilion at the ongoing 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair have been buying insurance cover for life and property while transacting through NMB Mobile.

Temeke Branch Manager who is also coordinator of NMB pavilion's activities at the fair, Kidawa Masoud and NMB Wakala Manager, Edwin Kisamo said public demand for bancassurance services including Educare, has skyrocketed.

Kidawa said the public response is a result of the bank's sensitization on the importance of buying an insurance to cover life or property against natural disasters. She also noted that the bank has hired hundreds of youth to market NMB Mkononi

which is a mobile transacting platform popular among tech savvy youths.

"We have signed bancassurance contracts with a lot of people who have visited our pavilion but also registered many for NMB Mkononi which is enables one to transact anywhere without visiting an ATM machine or physical branch," Kidawa said.

The NMB Temeke Branch Manager further added that the domestic market's largest bank chose to participate at this year's trade fair in order to sensitize the public about products and services that are important in economic wellbeing of individuals as well as the nation.

She stated that Educare insurance cover which caters for children's educational needs and welfare after death of a family's breadwinner has also proven to be very popular with the public as par-

ents seeks to cushion their dependants in case of their demise.

"As a bank we have many products and services which the public doesn't know hence our decision to be here and showcase what we have on offer," she added while advising people to visit any of the bank's branches countrywide to get such products and services.

Seconding Kidawa's arguments, Kisamo said the bank has deployed 20 NMB Wakalas at the Mwalimu Nyerere Trade Fair grounds to serve the public through mobile money transactions. He said through the agents, the bank is also facilitating collections of government revenue but also fees paid to state agencies such as Tanzania Revenue Authority and National Identification Authority.

"Our agents are also serving any member of the public who wants to use NMB

banking services such as deposit or withdraw cash," he stated adding that the Dar es Salaam based lender has a network of 7,500 agents countrywide with 1,700 based in the commercial capital.

The bank's services at the 44th DITF impressed many visitors of its pavilion such as Kibaha based Zawia Omari who commended the bank for coming up with bancassurance services. "In my life, I have never imaged that I will one day buy life assurance but after being sensitized by the bank's officials, I feel obliged to buy one to cover my children's future educational needs," Omari said.

She also marvelled at the bank's digital payment solutions through NMB Mkononi saying it's the easiest way to transact which many Tanzanians especially those in rural areas would love to access as physical bank branches are not available.



Central Bank of Kenya governor, Patrick Njoroge.

## Banks likely to reduce deposit rates, resort to govt securities, as a strategy to protect profits

NAIROBI

Commercial banks are likely to lower their cost of funds and increasingly retreat to government securities in coming months in a bid to cushion their profitability, analysts at KCB Capital say.

In practice it means that lenders will push down deposit and savings rates, which were last recorded in April by the Central Bank of Kenya at an average of 7.01 and 4.21 percent respectively, to protect net interest margins.

The institutions will be trying to cope with the restructuring of hundreds of billions of shillings in loans that has caused repayments to be deferred thereby depressing their interest income in the face of Covid-19 pandemic.

Banks are also facing subdued non-funded income with the removal of fees for cash transfers between customer accounts and mobile wallets. "We expect banks to respond by lowering the cost of funding to cushion interest income (and consequently net interest margins), while enforcing cost rationalisation measures to contain operating expenses and restrict the expected spike in the cost-to-income ratio (CIR)," KCB Capital wrote in a report to clients.

Growth in loans is also likely to remain low as a way to curb the rise in non-performing loans (NPLs) that are projected to lead to an increase in provisioning, the analysts say. Some banks are also cutting dividend payments to preserve cash. "Banks [will] respond by increased allocation to government securities and depressed loan growth on the back of a rise in NPLs and preserving capital, through reduced dividend payments in the 2020 financial year," said the analysts.

Meanwhile Kenya's current account deficit narrowed to 5.2 per cent in the 12 months to May from 5.6 per cent in April, attributed to lower oil imports and improvement in exports of tea, horticulture and remittances.

The figure is below the projected current account deficit of 5.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of the year. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) said last week a faster than expected recovery in key exports has raised the prospects of the deficit ending the year better than previously projected.

"Provisional data on the balance of payments shows that the current account deficit narrowed to 5.2 per cent of GDP in the 12 months to May 2020 compared to 5.6 per cent of GDP in the 12 months to April," said the CBK in its latest weekly bulletin.

The improvement in the current account – which records the net of inflows from trade/cross-border investments and external payments – comes after it had gone up to 6.2 per cent in March due to a decline in horticulture export and tourism earnings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic led to reduced demand from the export destinations as countries placed lockdown measures to curb the spread of the virus. The CBK has projected a significant rebound in the coming months as the major sectors begin to improve.

During Monetary Policy Committee meeting held on June 25, CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said the exports of goods improved by 4.1 per cent in the period January to May 2020, mainly driven by tea, horticulture and re-exports.

## CBN devalues official naira to N381/\$

LAGOS

The naira weakened some 5.8 percent to N381 per dollar at the official market, Tuesday, as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) took yet another step towards a convergence of its multiple exchange rates.

The official rate which had been at N360/\$ since March was quoted at N381/\$ at market close on FMDQ, with analysts expecting the CBN to reflect the change on its website tomorrow. It's the second time the CBN has devalued the official rate this year following the crash in oil receipts, Nigeria's major foreign exchange earner. The CBN first devalued the official rate in March when it moved from N306/\$, where it had been for over two years, to N360/\$.

With the latest move, the CBN has collapsed the official rate with its special market intervention sales (SMIS) rate, bringing the country's multiple rates to within three. The SMIS rate was also devalued to N380/\$ from N360/\$ last Friday.

Unification of the multiple exchange rates is one of the requirements for Nigeria to assess a \$2.5 billion World



CBN Governor, Godwin Emezie.

Bank loan and formed part of the promises made to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before the disbursement of a \$3.4 billion facility.

"Oil revenue in naira should get a minor boost," from the devaluation of the official rate, said Omotola Abimbola, an analyst at Lagos-based Chapel Hill Denham. BusinessDay analysis shows

that the move could add N70 billion to the amount made available to the three tiers of government via the monthly federal accounts allocation. "Now, CBN has to unshackle the I&E window, and maybe we can put this FX liquidity problem behind us," Abimbola said.

There has been a strong clamour for adopting a more market-friendly

approach to managing Nigeria's FX market and the latest development comes after the CBN Governor, Godwin Emezie, told some foreign investors that the desire of the central bank "is to achieve exchange rate unification" around the Nigerian Autonomous Foreign Exchange Market (NAFEX)/ I&E rate. The I&E rate closed at N386/\$ Tuesday.

There are however claims that the I&E rate is being rigged by the CBN as liquidity has long dried up in the market which was created in 2017 by the CBN to meet the dollar needs of investors and exporters. "There's no liquidity in the I&E window and that has redirected a lot of demand to the parallel market," one trader said. "Transactions of many manufacturers and businesses are now being priced at the parallel market rate," the person said.

The naira trades much weaker at the parallel market at N460/\$. Emezie however believes that the parallel market rate is being driven by speculators and illegal dealings and has so far discarded the rate as a measure of the naira's market value.

## Sarb reduces bond purchases but rand recovery still fragile

JOHANNESBURG

Bond yields have returned to near pre-Covid-19 levels and the rand has recovered from record lows, although that recovery remains fragile.

The South African central bank reduced its government bond purchases to R5 billion (\$292.64 million) in June, half the monthly average, bringing its bond holdings to R35.9 billion, data showed on Tuesday.

The Reserve Bank began a series of emergency

liquidity measures in late March to ease the stress on banks and capital markets caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Among them were extra repo auctions and 275 basis points worth of lending rate cuts.

The bank has since slowed those support measures as local financial markets recovered, resisting calls from labour and some economists to resort to full-blown quantitative-easing-style funding of government's gaping budget deficit.

The bank's June statement of assets and liabilities

showed its accommodation to commercial banks via repurchase, or repo agreements, had fallen to R60 billion in June from 73.5 billion in the previous month.

In May, the central bank reduced overnight repo auctions to one per day from the two it implemented to pump liquidity to commercial banks. Bond yields have returned to near pre-Covid-19 levels and the rand has recovered from record lows, although that recovery remains fragile with the economy contracting for the consecutive time in the first quarter.



# UK consortium led by Bharti Enterprise wins OneWeb juicy tender for satellite installation

By The Banker Reporter

INDIA based Airtel Tanzania's holding company, Bharti Enterprises is leading UK Government's consortium that will construct global satellite constellations to provide enhanced broadband and other services to mobile and fixed terminals in many countries around the world. In a statement last week, Bharti Enterprise said the consortium won the deal for OneWeb's global connection that will enable OneWeb to complete the construction of a global satellite constellation network. OneWeb was formed with a mission to offer high speed, low latency wireless broadband access to billions of people across the globe, especially in rural areas through a constellation

of satellites in low earth orbit. Bharti was one of the founding members of OneWeb and had a strategic stake in the company. Chairman Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Bharti Mittal said the Indian based group will be leading efforts to deliver the promise of universal broadband connectivity through OneWeb, with the active support and participation of the British Government. "In addition to the strategic opportunities across a wide range of other applications and working with a broad range of international partners, this business has substantial commercial use cases across the telecoms, enterprise, aviation and maritime sectors," Mittal said. He noted that with strong operational execution, the consortium will be able



Chairman Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Bharti Mittal.

to generate an attractive return for investors, while ensuring that Britain plays a leading role in space and next generation communications.

"In addition to these commercial and strategic benefits, OneWeb's platform will help to reduce the digital divide by providing high speed, low latency broadband access to the poor and hard-to-reach rural areas," he added.

Mittal further stated that a low-earth orbit constellation is the only viable mechanism through which the last billion can be connected. "As one of the largest telecoms operators in India and Africa, I know what a powerful social and economic enabler this can be. We will work with partners around the world to deliver this technology to those who need it the most,"

the Indian technology mogul noted.

"I commend the Bharti Global team - led by Shrivani Bharti Mittal - and our partners in the Government for bringing together this strong consortium, and putting together the winning bid, within such a short timeframe," Mittal stated.

The Bharti Enterprises Chairman pointed out that he is particularly excited about the opportunity for India and the UK to deepen cooperation on space exploration with India's leading edge capabilities in the space program through The Indian Space Research Organisation to accelerate OneWeb's ambitions.

Bharti Enterprises is one of India's leading business groups with diversified interests in telecom,

financial services, real estate, hospitality, agri and food. Bharti has been a pioneering force in the Indian telecom sector with many firsts and innovations to its credit. Bharti Airtel, the group's flagship company, is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 18 countries across Asia and Africa.

OneWeb's vision is to enable Internet access for governments, businesses and people everywhere. It is implementing a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites with a network of global gateway stations and a range of user terminals to provide an affordable, fast, high-bandwidth and low-latency communications service, connected to the IoT future and a pathway to 5G for everyone, everywhere.

## More loans issued from R200 billion Covid-19 loan scheme

JOHANNESBURG

Banks have disbursed just over 5% of the R200 billion Covid-19 loan scheme created to assist small businesses that were experiencing liquidity issues due to the nationwide lockdown and Covid-19.

The loan guarantee scheme was launched in May to provide loans to businesses with an annual turnover of less than R300 million. The use of the loans is limited for operational purposes and may not be used for things such as repaying other loans or providing dividends.

In its latest update on the various initiatives run through the banks to provide customers with relief through this period the Banking Association of South Africa (Basa) said R10.6 billion in loans has been provided to just under 7 500 business. An initial R100 billion has been provided for the scheme, with the option of increasing it to R200 billion depending on demand.

Numbers "Cash flow relief for eligible individuals and businesses is critical to the preservation of jobs and businesses and to maintaining a functioning economy," said Bongive Kunene, managing director of Basa. "Banks hold in trust the salaries and savings of South Africa's workers, professionals and businesses. It is therefore essential that we continue to extend credit responsibly and avoid blanket debt write-offs or any other actions that might place depositors' funds at risk or otherwise undermine the integrity of the financial sector".

Since the scheme was launched participating banks have received close to 33 965 applications, of which 37% (12 660) were rejected either for not meeting the bank eligibility criteria or the eligibility criteria set out by the National Treasury or the South Africa Reserve Bank (Sarb).

The loan scheme's low uptake has been blamed on the qualifying criteria, which places onerous de-



Banking Association of South Africa's managing director, Bongive Kunene.

mands on entrepreneurs and does not increase the banks' appetite to approve loans, in turn, subverting the purpose of the scheme to get funding out to businesses in need in order to avoid closures and a job losses.

Financial market research group Intellidex, whose proposal underpins the final design for the scheme, has noted that restrictions on what the money can be spent on, requests for personal suretyship and a short payment relief period of six months were some of the issues which contributed to business owners being reluctant to take up the loans.

While the National Treasury provides over 90% guarantee for loans disbursed through the scheme, it requires banks to apply their normal credit risk processes. Failure to do so could result in Treasury refusing to pay out guarantees on defaulting loans. As a result, banks are not incentivised to lend more.

Basa said that discussions between the banks, Treasury and the Sarb on amending some of the criteria to make the crisis loans more accessi-

ble to businesses are still continuing and "details will be made available as soon as they are agreed."

Payment holidays Beyond the loan guarantee scheme, banks had also provided customers with the option of taking up a three-month payment relief for individuals and businesses under financial distress in this period. Over R30.6 billion in relief was approved as at June 27, three days before the initiative expired.

Relief granted to businesses of all sizes amounted to R12.4 billion, with a 95% approval rate from the just under 140 000 applications received. "A number of banks have already announced details of further relief on offer to their customers. The offering of each bank depends on their individual capacity and risk management policies," said Basa.

Basa also clarified that the debt relief programmes are not debt write-offs but "a relaxation of repayment terms to assist otherwise viable businesses to remain solvent and continue to pay suppliers and employees during the current crisis." Similarly,

loans through the Covid-19 Guarantee Scheme should not be regarded as grants but rather commercial agreements with "low-interest rates and [a] preferential repayment term."

## Goldman Sachs top M&A adviser by deal value in first half of 2020

NEW YORK

Goldman Sachs emerged as the top adviser on merger and acquisitions by deal value in the first half of 2020, with 113 deals worth \$205.9 billion through the Covid-19 pandemic muted deal activity globally.

JP Morgan came in second place with 105 deals worth \$178.9bn, followed by Morgan Stanley with 92 deals valued at \$170.8bn, Bank of America with 86 deals at \$130bn and Citi with 63 transactions valued at \$99bn to round off the top five financial advisers on M&A by deal value, according to GlobalData.

"The Covid-19 outbreak impacted deal making during H1 2020 with 15 of the top 20 advisers (by total deal value) witnessing decline in advised deal value in H1 2020 compared with H1 2019," Aurojyoti Bose, financial deals analyst at GlobalData, said. "Nevertheless, Goldman Sachs was the only adviser that managed to cross the \$200bn mark in H1 2020 outpacing the majority of its peers by a great margin. It was the firm's advice on some big-ticket deals that helped it top the list."

Globally, deal activity remained subdued during the first half of the year on the back of volatile market conditions due to Covid-19 outbreak. In the first six months of 2020, the value of deals announced dropped 44.7 per cent year-on-year to \$1.024 trillion in H1 2020. The number of deals also fell 15.1 per cent to 24,698, according to GlobalData's Financial Deals Database.

Ernst & Young emerged as the top

M&A financial adviser in the first half of 2020 by deal volume, according to GlobalData. The firm advised on 137 deals worth \$30.6bn. Goldman Sachs occupied the second position with 113 deals worth \$205.9bn followed by Rothschild & Co with 110 deals worth \$82.4bn.

Ernst & Young "was among the very few firms that managed to showcase growth in advised deal volume as well as value in H1 2020 compared with H1 2019," Mr Bose said. "In contrast, 16 of the top 20 advisers (by total deals volume) witnessed decline in advised deal volume in H1 2020 compared with H1 2019."

Globally, the coronavirus pandemic has infected more than 11 million people and killed more than 525,000, according to Johns Hopkins University, which tracks the pandemic. About 5.86 million people have recovered.

The International Monetary Fund projects the global economy will contract by 4.9 per cent this year, 1.9 percentage points below its April forecast, due to a worsening economic fallout from the pandemic. It expects the world economy to rebound by 5.4 per cent next year.

Rival data provider Refinitiv also named Goldman Sachs as the top M&A financial adviser in its review of deal activity in the first half of 2020 last week. It said the bank commanded a 22 per cent share of the market, ahead of Morgan Stanley with 19 per cent and Citi with 16.9 per cent. Its data showed a 41 per cent year-on-year decline in deal value.

BANKING & FINANCE

## Bank of Mozambique takes measures to enhance use of electronic payments

MAPUTO

The Board of Directors of the Bank of Mozambique has announced the extension for three months, starting on Friday, of measures taken to facilitate the use of electronic payments in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Electronic wallets on mobile devices will no longer attract fees, and commissions on customer-to-customer transfers up to a maximum daily limit of 1,000 meticaís remain

suspended. Transaction limits for mobile wallets have been increased, and commissions and fees charged for the new limits will be no higher than the maximums currently in force.

Banks will no longer charge fees and commissions for transactions made through digital channels up to a maximum daily limit of 5,000 meticaís for individual customers, except in the case of withdrawals from ATMs. Other measures decided by the central bank include halving commissions and

fees on transfers between banks, and from electronic money institutions to individual customers.

"The adoption of the measures does not exempt compliance with the rules and procedures related to preventing and combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism," the Bank of Mozambique notes. Mozambique had, by Tuesday (July 7), a cumulative total of 1,040 cases of coronavirus infection, with eight deaths and 280 recovered.



## WORLD

## US colleges scramble after new Trump order on foreign students

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

MANY US colleges were scrambling on Tuesday to modify plans for the fall semester in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic a day after the Trump administration issued an order that could force tens of thousands of foreign students to leave the country if their schools hold all classes online.

The announcement blindsided academic institutions grappling with the logistical challenges of safely resuming classes, particularly after the federal government had granted exceptions to the rules limiting online learning for foreign students when colleges and universities in March rushed to shutter campuses and move to online classes as the pandemic forced lockdowns.

There are more than a million foreign students at US colleges and universities, and many schools depend on revenue from foreign students, who often pay full tuition.

The US Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) agency said institutions moving entirely to online learning must submit plans to the agency by July 15. Schools that will use only in-person learning, shortened or delayed classes, or a blend of in-person and online learning must submit plans by Aug 1.

The guidance applies to holders of F-1 and M-1 visas, which are for academic and vocational students.

During a roundtable in Washington on reopening schools, President Donald Trump criticized a decision by Harvard University to conduct courses online in the coming academic year.

"I think it's ridiculous, I think it's an easy way out," Trump said. "I think they ought to be ashamed of themselves."

The chancellor of Rutgers University-Newark, Nancy Cantor, said in a statement on Tuesday that the school, along with other colleges across the country and lawmakers in Congress, was working to "fully understand and respond to this announcement".

In the 2018/19 school year, Rutgers



Students and passers-by walk past an entrance to Boston University College of Arts and Sciences, in Boston, Massachusetts (File photo)

had nearly 7,000 international students enrolled, according to data published by the Institute of International Education.

Cantor tried to assure foreign students the university's model for the fall would be a hybrid of online and in-person classes. Most students attending schools with that type of blended curriculum, as well as those with full-time in-person instruction, would be exempt from the new rules if their plans are approved by ICE.

Lee Bollinger, president of Columbia University in New York, called the administration's actions "deeply misguided" and said the university would take a number of steps in response, including structuring courses so they fit into the hybrid model.

"Together, these changes mark a devastating reversal of federal policy announced at the onset of the pandemic," Bollinger said.

Ken Cuccinelli, acting deputy secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security told CNN on Tuesday that the new rules would "encourage schools to reopen".

Business and conservative groups have urged reopening schools safely as important to getting parents back to work and reviving the US economy.

Coronavirus surge

The United States is experiencing a new surge in coronavirus cases, especially among younger people, raising concerns about the increased risk of spread to vulnerable adults at home as well as to older teachers and school staff if in-person classes resume.

In a survey by the newspaper the Chronicle of Higher Education of hundreds of colleges around the country, the majority said they will offer either in-person instruction or some sort of hybrid model with on-campus and online courses. But many are still sorting out their plans.

Toni Molle, director of public affairs for California State University, which bills itself as the nation's largest four-year public university, with 23 campuses across California, said the institution was reviewing the new guidance to determine the impact on students.

## Mexican president to hold first meeting with Trump as US election looms

WASHINGTON



MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador met with his US counterpart, Donald Trump, for the first time yesterday, in a potentially awkward encounter that has drawn flak from some US Democrats unhappy it is coming so close to the presidential election.

The leftist leader has brushed off criticism at home to push ahead with plans to meet Trump, a Republican widely disliked in Mexico because of his incendiary remarks about its people.

The meeting is ostensibly meant to celebrate a new North American trade deal, but friction over illegal immigration and energy investment in Mexico could surface as the two men get together yesterday afternoon.

Lopez Obrador (pictured) joined by a delegation of business officials, including Mexico's richest man, telecoms magnate Carlos Slim. They will dine on Wednesday evening with Trump and American business executives at the White House.

Ongoing Mexican support for Trump's immigration policies is likely to feature prominently on the agenda, as well as how to mitigate coronavirus disruptions and keep goods flowing between the neighbors, whose economies are deeply entwined.

It is unclear if Trump will address disputes between US companies and Lopez Obrador's government, which is rolling back a 2013-14 opening of the energy industry in favor of a state-led model, and has called a number of major contracts into question.

A senior Trump administration official said Mexico's government had pledged to uphold those contracts.

"So, we are certainly hoping that they will keep their word," the official said in a briefing with reporters.

The trip, Lopez Obrador's first foreign visit since taking office in late 2018, saw him travel commercially to Washington. One video posted on Twitter on Tuesday showed him wearing a face mask and flying coach on a packed plane.

The summit was pitched to mark the July start of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement that Trump has called a "nightmare" that cost American jobs.

But the two-day gathering was scaled back to a single day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declined to join, amid new US threats of tariffs on Canadian goods.

Lopez Obrador's critics and some US Democrats say Trump wants to use the meeting to drum up support among Hispanic voters ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election. Opinion polls show Hispanic voters favor Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden.

Lopez Obrador will not meet Biden during the trip.

Agencies

## WHO experts to go to China to identify virus' zoonotic source

GENEVA

EXPERTS from the World Health Organization (WHO) are going to China this weekend to prepare for an international mission later to identify the zoonotic source of COVID-19, the WHO chief said on Tuesday.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at Tuesday's virtual media briefing that "all preparations have been finalized and WHO experts will be traveling to China this weekend to prepare scientific plans with their Chinese counterparts

for identifying the zoonotic source of the disease."

Tedros (pictured) specified that the experts will develop the scope and terms of reference for a WHO-led international mission, whose objective is to advance the understanding of animal hosts for COVID-19 and ascertain how the disease jumped between animals and humans.

"Identifying the origin of emerging viral disease has proven complex in past epidemics in different countries. A well planned series of scientific re-



searches will advance the understanding of animal reservoirs

and the route of #COVID19 transmission to humans," Tedros said later on Twitter after the

"This process is an evolving endeavor which may lead to further international scientific research and collaboration globally," he said.

Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Program, told the media briefing that answers to questions concerning the zoonotic source of a disease can sometimes be elusive, like in the cases of Ebola, MERS and SARS, which have taken quite some time as

well as a meticulous multi-sectoral approach.

In the case of COVID-19, Ryan said identifying the zoonotic origin could involve wild animals, farmed animals, as well as the interfaces between those animals and humans.

"Understanding that the narrative and the pathway by which this virus entered the human population is extremely important, but it's not always a straightforward process of being able to get that answer," he said.

Xinhua

## US election and trade wars increase risks for Russia's economy, experts say

MOSCOW

THE consequences of the US election scheduled for November 3, 2020, and the trade war between the United States and China may adversely affect the Russian economy, according to experts interviewed by TASS.

"On the one hand, the Russian economy might face negative influence from economic turbulence, and on the other hand, a slowdown in the global economy and a corresponding decrease in demand for raw materials due to the US-China trade war," Director of HSE Centre for Business Tendencies Studies Georgy Ostapkovich believes.

Geopolitical risks rise

Associate Professor at the Department of Stock Markets and Financial Engineering at RANEPA

Sergey Khestanov believes it is likely that the United States will try to tighten trade restrictions against China during the presidential election race, which will reduce global demand for raw materials.

"The United States is approaching the presidential election in conditions of a significant economic downturn and a strong polarization of society.

All acute political issues are becoming the subject of the pre-election debate. Against this background, attempts to tighten trade restrictions against China are very likely. For Russia, this is a negative factor, since it would lead to a decrease in trade between the US and China, reducing, as a result, global demand for raw materials," he said.

According to the expert, an additional risk factor is associated with



the possible tightening of anti-Russian sanctions, which is very likely if a candidate from the Democratic Party wins the election. "However, any effects should not be expected until early 2021, when the president-elect takes office and forms a new administration," Khestanov said.

Geopolitical risks to the Russian economy are rearing their heads again, Head of Analytical Depart-

ment at Zenith Bank Vladimir Evtstifeev said. "A Democratic victory in the US presidential election would spell increased sanctions risks. Joe Biden is already speaking in favor of a tougher foreign policy towards Russia," the expert insisted.

Public debt sanctions would weaken the ruble

US election is not the most significant factor affecting the exchange rate of the Russian currency, Khestanov said.

"The influence of the oil market and the budget process is much stronger. The basic scenario includes a smooth depreciation of the ruble by 5-7% by the end of 2020. However, any significant events related to the dynamics of the oil market and/or changes in budget policy will necessitate a reviewed forecast," he believes.

According to Evtstifeev, the main risk is possible sanctions by the United States imposed on the ruble public debt. "In the context of stimulating budget policy, the Ministry of Finance announces an increase in domestic borrowing, so sanctions on OFZs may violate the plans of Russian financial authorities.

In turn, this will negatively affect the dynamics of the ruble, which could lose 10-15% after such sanctions.

The weakening of the ruble traditionally spurs inflation and will continue to negatively affect such components of GDP as final consumption and investment," he said.

Experts agree that it is beneficial for Russia that large economies - the United States, China, and the European Union - develop.

Agencies

## Merkel's party aims to 'fill 50% of key posts with women by 2025'

BERLIN

GERMANY'S dominant political party, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, is planning steps to achieve equal representation of women within its regional and national governing bodies by 2025, two party sources said yesterday.

Although currently chaired by a woman, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, and although it gave Germany its first female Chancellor in Merkel, women make up only a quarter of its members - something the party leadership wants to change.

According to the plan, thrashed out by leaders of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in overnight talks, women must make up 40 percent of all governing bodies, from the regional level upwards, from 2023 onwards, rising to 50 percent by 2025.

Other parties, in particular the Greens, running a distant second to the CDU in most national polls, have long had policies in place to ensure women are prominent in the party, including having a woman and a man as co-leaders of the party.

The CDU will apply a similar rule in composing its slates for elections to the state, national and European parliaments.

Agencies

CHINA'S online retail is now quickly making up the losses suffered by the offline sector during the COVID-19 epidemic.

According to China's National Bureau of Statistics, the online retail sales of physical goods went up by 11.5 percent in the first five months this year, accounting for 24.3 percent of the total retail sales of consumer goods. China also saw its express delivery volume surge 41 percent year-on-year in May, and the revenue of express delivery companies increased 25 percent year-on-year, said the country's State Post Bureau.

With emerging new businesses and vital online consumption, the online retail sales of physical goods is contributing an increasingly larger share to the growth of the consumption market, bringing more benefits and convenience to the consumers.

At 4:00 a.m. every day in Yan-

## China sees expansion of new businesses, upgrading of new consumption

tai, East China's Shandong Province, the machines at a logistics distribution center of Suning Logistics, a Chinese self-operated retail logistics company, crank up. Parcels are being sorted by employees and then loaded onto vehicles heading for 12 first-level branches, where the commodities will be sorted again and shipped to over 200 service centers in different townships.

"There is a huge demand for online service. Our delivery volume expanded by about 23 percent on a yearly basis in May," introduced Wang Baoyu, a principal of a Suning Logistics service center in the city.

The growth in online retail sales of physical goods indicates strong momentum of China's consumption upgrading.



Workers pack oranges for online orders in an e-commerce industrial park in Yiling district, Yichang, Central China's Hubei Province, June 18. (Photo by People's Daily Online)

"Although we had to stay at home, we could still taste the delicacies in different parts of the country," said Zhang Ju in

Hefei, capital of East China's Anhui Province. She placed an order online of Oran mandarins, a specialty of Wuming county of

Nanning, South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, after her relative-visiting trip to Guangxi was suspended by COVID-19. "The mandarins were delivered to me on the second day," Zhang said, adding that the fruits were tasty and fairly priced.

As consumption upgrading accelerates, consumers' demands are becoming increasingly diversified and personalized. The consumption upgrading showed a strong momentum in the January-May period despite the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic, and commodities from across the world are now accessible on e-commerce platforms for the Chinese public.

The growth in online retail sales of physical goods indicates flourishing new consumption.

A livestreaming marketing event was recently held by Pinduoduo, an interactive e-commerce platform in China. It attracted a total of 7.23 million consumers in 48 hours, gaining over 630,000 new followers for enterprises on the platform.

The event was joined by multiple government officials, including He Jinshan, head of Nankang district, Ganzhou of East China's Jiangxi Province, who tried to sell furniture made of the solid-wood produced in the district. When the event concluded, Nankang's furniture manufacturers achieved a turnover of over 50 million yuan (\$7.08 million).

China's e-commerce livestreaming sessions topped 4 million in the first quarter, in which over 100 mayors and

county chiefs promoted local products, according to statistics released by the country's Ministry of Commerce.

New online businesses accelerated their innovation in the epidemic, and new consumption, such as influencer marketing and community-based group buying, also demonstrated strong vitality.

Driven by digital technology, new online consumption is able to better match the demand and supply sides, tap into the potential of regional industrial clusters, and facilitate the resumption of production of relevant enterprises. It also helps make up the declined consumption, unleash the consumption potential, boost economy and stabilize employment.

The growth in online retail sales of physical goods indicates the vast space of China's domestic market. **People's Daily**



# Analysts see deep impact from Bolton's tell-all memoir

TWO weeks after the release of the memoir of John Bolton, the former US national security adviser to President Donald Trump, the media and the public are still unceasingly discussing the details of the tell-all book, as it is full of bold revelations of the administration's policies and ideas. With the book ranked first in current US book sales lists, analysts say that its impact on the future of the US should not be underestimated.

The Room Where It Happened, which was released nine months after Bolton's unceremonious exit from the White House, details in 500 pages the current US government's fraught relationship with other countries and its approach to foreign policy objectives, as experienced by Bolton.

At various points in the book, Bolton describes himself as "flabbergasted" or "stunned" by the US administration's ideas or philosophy. Trump has claimed Bolton "made things up", while the director of national intelligence and the Justice Department accuses Bolton of publishing classified information.

According to media reports, the controversial book has sold more than 780,000 copies in its first week to top The New York Times and Amazon top-seller lists, with its publisher Simon & Schuster set to print a total of 1 million copies.

After the release of the book, Bolton was asked in some interviews as to why he saved for the book key allegations he could have shared in testimony during Trump's impeachment trial.

In response, he told the media that he had refused to testify before the House of Representatives unless under subpoena, but House Democrats declined to issue one, fearing the issue would get tied up in the courts. The White House would have likely objected to his testimony, and Democrats were concerned that a decision would be delayed for months.

The book exposes some of the most controversial practices by the US administration.

The most important nugget was Bolton's claim that Trump told him in August last year that security assistance to Ukraine should remain on hold until the country agreed to investigate Joe Biden, now the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, and his son. The claim contradicted Trump's central impeachment defense that holding up the aid and his interest in investigating the Bidens were unrelated.

Less explosive details in the book included Bolton's worries about Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani's freelancing in Ukraine, and his claim that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Sec-



This June 23, 2020 photo shows copies of *The Room Where It Happened* by former US national security adviser John Bolton are displayed at a bookshop in Corte Madera, California. (AFP)

retary Mark Esper joined him in pushing Trump to release the military aid to Ukraine.

According to Bolton, Trump also allegedly said that invading Venezuela would be "cool" and that the country was "really part of the United States".

The details from the book also confirm his public attitude toward journalists, as Bolton writes that Trump told him "these

people should be executed" in a meeting where he said that reporters should be jailed in order to find out their sources. "They are scumbags."

### Internal conflicts

Ye Hailin, an international relations researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Bolton's claims revealed that there were many internal

conflicts among the hawkish officials.

"From the constant firing of officials since Trump took office to Bolton's claims in his book about the president, we can see that the internal divisions in the White House are relatively serious," Ye said.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, Ye said, Bolton is also notorious, although he was calling the current US government "naive" and "ignorant" in dealing with foreign affairs.

He said both Bolton's and Trump's tones on foreign policy were centered on the interests of the US. So, the joint efforts of the two people would make the US more arrogant on the international stage, he said.

Ye noted that long before Trump took it up as a political slogan, the bedrock of Bolton's thinking was America First, complete with contempt for international cooperation to resolve the world's problems.

In Bolton's book, where he boasts of his invitations to the White House to explain things to Trump even before he was given a job, Bolton shows his colors. "I congratulated Trump on withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement ... which I saw as an important victory against global governance," he writes.

Agencies

# Dozens injured in Belgrade riot sparked by new virus lockdown

### BELGRADE

DOZENS of demonstrators and police were injured in overnight rioting in Belgrade, triggered when a crowd stormed Serbia's parliament in protest at plans to reimpose a lockdown following a surge in coronavirus cases.

Footage showed police kicking and beating people with truncheons while protesters pelted officers with stones and bottles, after thousands chanting for the resignation of President Aleksandar Vucic gathered outside the building.

Police director Vladimir Rebic said yesterday that 43 police and 17 protesters were injured and 23 protesters had been arrested.

"A handful of hooligans will not succeed," he said overnight in a live broadcast on state-run RTS TV after the crowd was dispersed.

Vucic announced the new lockdown on Tuesday, saying it was needed because of the rising number of coronavirus cases. It is due to run over the coming weekend and will cover Belgrade and possibly also other areas.

The government says a lack of sanitary discipline among the population is the reason for the rise in cases.

The government's critics say the government's decisions to allow soccer matches, religious festivities, parties, and private gatherings to resume, and parliamentary elections to go ahead on June 21, are to blame for the spike in infections. They say people should not have to pay the price for another lockdown.

After Vucic's statement, several thousand people began gathering in front of the parliament in Belgrade's central square.

Agencies

# Libya's LNA ready to sign ceasefire agreement but Tripoli is unwilling – Lavrov

### MOSCOW

THE Libyan National Army (LNA) is ready to sign the immediate ceasefire treaty, but the government in Tripoli is unwilling to do so, as it counts on the military solution, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday following the videoconference with his counterparts from the African Union trio (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and South Africa).

"At some stage, when we in-

visited the main protagonists, gentlemen [Khalifa] Haftar, [Fayez] Sarraj, [Aguila] Saleh, in January this year ahead of the Berlin conference – the Libyan National Army thought its positions on the ground to be more favorable and was not ready to sign a document that Sarraj considered acceptable.

Now, the LNA, according to our assessments, is ready to sign such a document on immediate ceasefire, but this time it is the Tripoli government who does not want



to do it, counting on the military solution," he said.

The foreign minister expressed his regret that although all sides declare that there is no military solution to the Libyan conflict, this does not translate into practical steps.

### US tries to hinder appointment of new UN envoy to Libya

The US actions give the impression of efforts to interfere with the designation of a new UN special representative in Libya, Russia's top diplomat stated.

"It's been half a year already that the UN secretary-general cannot appoint a new special representative in Libya. Both Algeria's foreign minister and the former head of Ghana's Foreign Ministry were nominated but the US refused to support them. The

impression is that our American colleagues are trying to sideline Mr. Secretary-General Guterres," he said.

The top diplomat noted that currently the acting special representative in Libya is US citizen Stephanie Williams. "It wouldn't do for the US to 'hold down' the UN Secretariat, hindering the appointment of a special envoy counting on their fellow countrywoman to deal with some issues unclear to us," Lavrov stressed. Libya has had two parallel ex-

ecutive power structures for a long while now. The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) headed by Fayez al-Sarraj and the interim government operating in the country's east together with the parliament and supported by the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Commander Khalifa Haftar. Over a year ago the opposing parties began fighting for the capital city after on April 4, 2019 Haftar attacked the capital in order to rid it of terrorists, as he claimed.

Agencies

# US 'strongly supports' ROK-DPRK cooperation - envoy

### SEOUL / PYONGYANG

US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun said here yesterday that his country strongly supports cooperation between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) amid Seoul's efforts to resume inter-Korean cooperation.

"The United States strongly supports inter-Korean cooperation, and we believe this plays an important component in creating a more stable environment on the Korean Peninsula," Biegun told reporters in Seoul after talks with Lee Do-hoon, ROK's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, according to Yonhap news agency.

"We look forward to fully supporting the government of (South) Korea as it advances its goals with North Korea in inter-Korean cooperation," the US top nuclear envoy said.

The ROK is also referred to as South Korea and the DPRK as North Korea.

His comment came as ROK is seeking US support for the resumption of inter-Korean cooperation projects that were suspended under international sanctions on Pyongyang.

ROK President Moon Jae-in offered in late April to the DPRK resuming inter-Korean cooperation by jointly tackling the COVID-19 outbreak, before expanding the cooperation.

Moon vowed in his New Year address to seek realistic ways for a broader inter-Korean cooperation



US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun stands with ROK Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha (R) during their meeting at the foreign ministry in Seoul yesterday. (AFP)

while continuing efforts for the success of the DPRK-US denuclearization negotiations.

Citing the vision US President Donald Trump and top DPRK leader Kim Jong-un had through summits for the past two years, Biegun said his team will focus on "creating a more durable peace on the Korean Peninsula, transforming relations on the Korean Peninsula, elimination of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and a brighter future for the Korean People."

Kim and Trump met three times in 2018 and 2019, but the talks between Pyongyang and Washington to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula have been stalled since the Hanoi summit between the leaders in February 2019 ended with no agreement.

"When Chairman Kim appoints a counterpart to me who is prepared and empowered to negotiate on

these issues, they will find us ready at that very moment," said Biegun.

"I believe this is very much possible. President Trump has given us his full support to continue this effort," he noted.

Kwon Jong-gun, director general of the Department of US Affairs of the DPRK's Foreign Ministry, said Tuesday that the DPRK was unwilling to talk face to face with the United States, urging the ROK to stay away from meddling in Pyongyang's affairs.

Kwon's remarks reaffirmed the statement issued earlier by Choe Son-hui, first vice minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK, who said last weekend that the DPRK had no interest in holding another DPRK-US summit, which was proposed last week by ROK President Moon, before the US presidential election in November.

Trump said on Tuesday he is

open to another meeting with Kim and thinks it might be helpful. Voice of America reported, citing a transcript of an interview Trump gave to Atlanta, Georgia-based Gray Television, due to be aired on Sunday.

Kim has been maintaining a low profile in recent months, making far fewer public appearances than usual, according to analysts who monitor his movements.

Yesterday, DPRK state media reported Kim marked the 26th anniversary of the death of his grandfather, DPRK founding leader Kim Il-sung, by visiting Pyongyang's Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, which serves as the mausoleum for Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il, father of Kim Jong-un.

The report from the official Korean Central News Agency said Kim, together with other senior officials, paid high tribute to the statues of both leaders, and a floral basket in the name of Kim Jong-un was placed at the statues.

Tensions escalated on the peninsula after the DPRK demolished the inter-Korean liaison office building in the DPRK's border city of Kaesong last month in protest against anti-Pyongyang leaflets sent across the border by ROK civic group activists, mostly defectors from the DPRK. Pyongyang has cut off all communication lines with Seoul.

Biegun arrived in ROK on Tuesday for a three-day visit. He paid a courtesy call earlier in the day on ROK Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and held a strategic dialogue with Cho Sei-young, ROK's first vice foreign minister. Agencies

# US begins to withdraw from WHO amid mounting criticisms, surging COVID-19 cases

### WASHINGTON

THE United States has officially moved to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) as its national count of COVID-19 cases is approaching 3 million with over 130,000 deaths.

On Tuesday, Congress received formal notification of the decision from President Donald Trump, tweeted Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

"To call Trump's response to COVID chaotic & incoherent doesn't do it justice. This won't protect American lives or interests -- it leaves Americans sick & America alone," Menendez said.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, confirmed on Tuesday that the United States had submitted its withdrawal notification to Guterres on Monday.

According to the spokesman, the United States is a party to the WHO Constitution since June 1948, and its participation in the organization was accepted by the World Health Assembly "with certain conditions set out by the U.S. for its eventual withdrawal from the WHO."

"The said conditions include giving a one-year notice and fully meeting the payment of assessed financial obligations,"



said Dujarric.

### MOUNTING CRITICISMS

Trump and his administration have repeatedly assailed the WHO for months and threatened to cut ties with the organization. In mid-April, he announced that his administration would halt U.S. funding to the international health agency.

The administration's move "has few supporters, even from Republicans in Congress," noted Lauren Clason in a story posted on Roll Call, a newspaper and website published in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

"I disagree with the president's decision," said Chair of Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Lamar Alexander -- a top Republican -- in a statement.

"Withdrawing U.S. membership could, among other things, interfere with clinical trials that are essential to the development of vaccines, which citizens of the United States,

as well as others in the world, need," said Alexander, the senior Senator from Tennessee.

According to a piece published by the Hill, public health experts and Democrats have also raised alarms that the decision may be "short-sighted and could undercut the global response to the pandemic."

"The timing of the administration's decision has drawn intense scrutiny and is likely to spur questions about U.S. involvement in global efforts to develop a coronavirus vaccine," said the Hill report.

"Abandoning our seat at the table leaves the United States out of global decision-making to combat the virus and global efforts to develop and access vaccines and therapeutics, leaving us more vulnerable to COVID-19 while diminishing our position as the leader in global health," said Thomas File, Jr., president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, in a statement.

# Hong Kong national security law helps ensure long-term stability of 'one country, two systems'

ON June 30, the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) passed the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and adopted a decision to list the law in Annex III to the HKSAR Basic Law.

As a major move of the central government to manage Hong Kong affairs since its return to the motherland in 1997, the law will fully and faithfully implement the principle of "one country, two systems" and

HKSAR Basic Law, help safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, maintain Hong Kong's lasting prosperity and stability, and ensure the long-term stability of "one country, two systems". It bears both practical and historical significance.

The practice of "one country, two systems" has achieved a universally recognized success in Hong Kong since its return to the motherland. However, it has also encountered new circumstances and problems.

Especially since the disturbance

related to the now-withdrawn ordinance amendments concerning the transfer of fugitives in the HKSAR last June, the "anti-China" forces in Hong Kong have publicly supported "Hong Kong's independence," "self-determination" and "referendum" and engaged in activities to undermine the national unity and separate Hong Kong from China.

Meanwhile, some foreign and external forces blatantly interfered in Hong Kong affairs, supporting and protecting the "anti-China" forces in Hong Kong and using Hong Kong

to damage the national security of China.

The Chinese people, including the Hong Kong compatriots, have realized more than ever that the long-term absence of a national security law in Hong Kong has plunged the special administrative region into the gravest situation since its return to the motherland and that the collusion of "anti-China" forces inside and outside Hong Kong has greatly hindered the long-term stability of the "one country, two systems" principle.

The principle of "one country, two systems" was proposed to achieve and maintain national unity, while safeguarding national security is at the core of the principle.

Enacting the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR based on the authorization of the NPC, the Standing Committee of the NPC aims to improve institutional mechanisms related to the implementation of the Constitution, the HKSAR Basic Law, and the NPC Decision on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and

Enforcement Mechanisms for the HKSAR to Safeguard National Security under new circumstances. It will work to plug the legal loopholes, make up for the lack of relevant mechanisms and deal with shortcomings of the HKSAR in safeguarding national security. Besides, it will also prompt the HKSAR to fulfill its constitutional and major responsibilities to safeguard national security, make systematic and comprehensive regulation in legal system and implementation mechanism at both national and the HKSAR levels,

and properly handle the docking, compatibility, and complementarity between the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR and relevant national and HKSAR laws.

These efforts are made to fully and faithfully implement the principle of "one country, two systems" and make sure the principle is not distorted in practice and keeps advancing in the right direction.

The legislation on national security is a legislative power of every sovereign state, be it unitary or federal. People's Daily





In this March 3, 2020, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis celebrates after scoring during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, in Los Angeles. Jusuf Nurkic is back and healthy. So are Zach Collins, Meyers Leonard, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Anthony Davis and plenty of others. If the four-month NBA shutdown had a silver lining, it's that a lot of ailing players got well. (AP Photo)

## NBA teams on the cusp of having real practices again

BY TIM REYNOLDS

PRACTICE facilities in the NBA have been open for a couple of months, with one major element missing from them.

No team has had an actual practice yet.

Most of the work that has gone on in those buildings during the NBA's shutdown has been voluntary, and all of it has been of the individual variety – one player working at one basket with one ball. That changes starting Thursday, when the first handful of teams at the Disney complex will be permitted to have full-fledged practices again.

"Every day will be an adventure, a little bit of, 'OK, here's where we are today, this practice will reflect this, tomorrow's practice might be totally different,'" Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "And that's what makes it interesting. It makes it fun. But it's a little bit like a training camp. Every year you know you lay out all these grand plans and about the third practice you go, 'Oooh, they're out.'"

The teams that arrived at Disney on Tuesday, assuming quarantines are completed and other issues haven't popped up, will likely be permitted to practice sometime Thursday. More teams arrive Wednesday and Thursday, so their first practice sessions, in theory, would be as early as Friday and Saturday respectively.

Teams will be assigned a three-hour window and be able to run practice on a pair of side-by-side courts, with training and weight rooms nearby. Disney staff will clean and disinfect everything after one team leaves, preparing it for the next team to arrive.

"Just like with probably everything the league is doing, I think it'd be wise to have a degree of flexibility sprinkled in with everything that you're planning, a degree of being able to either back off or turn it up a little bit, either way," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "But to be honest with you, that happens a lot even in the normal season. There's a plan for the first practice and we'll see how it goes."

Players haven't even been allowed to play 1-on-1 yet at team facilities, per the rules of the individual workouts. That all changes at Disney, where teams will be able to practice for about two weeks before a series of three scrimmages begin on July 22.

The season resumes on July 30. Players have said throughout the shutdown that having only three weeks of actual practice

to get ready for game action may not be enough – but that's what the league ultimately decided the schedule would allow.

Most NBA coaches – D'Antoni, Budenholzer, Dallas' Rick Carlisle and more – are going into this believing that plans have to be flexible.

"It's not going to be a typical training camp where you jump in on Day One and just go full-bore," Carlisle said. "Our players have done a great job of working on their individual conditioning with individual workouts with the coaches on the floor on a 1-to-1 basis ... so I feel really good about where we're at. But this is a different situation, it's a different time, it's a different set of circumstances."

Toronto, the reigning NBA champion, has been on the road for a couple of weeks already, getting their individual work in at a pre-camp of sorts in Fort Myers, Florida. The Raptors couldn't get their pre-Disney work in at home because of travel restrictions that would have applied to players coming into Canada from the U.S.

Raptors coach Nick Nurse said his players haven't dreaded the 1-on-0 work that they've been limited to so far, saying his team has approached these weeks with "great professionalism" and that his plans for Disney are fairly loose right now. "I don't really know where we're at," Nurse said. "I can see individually. I think we look really good. But, what will that translate to when we get back into, you know, calling plays and running defenses and doing some things? ... I know that I'm sensing they really want to play basketball."

The Los Angeles Lakers arrive at Disney on Thursday, and while coach Frank Vogel isn't looking forward to weeks and potentially months away from his family, he believes the individual workouts have gotten the Western Conference leaders ready.

He said those solo sessions have been designed in large part to get players back into some sort of practice shape, with the hope of being able to hit the ground running when everyone can finally be together again at Disney.

"We just want it to be as high as possible to minimize risk of injury and just further the conditioning along as much as we can," Vogel said. "So, guys have been able to work pretty diligently the last few days or so. And, you know, we're looking forward to wrapping this up and getting on that plane." AP

## Simba SC does it again

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

LAST weekend, Simba SC confirmed their aristocratic status as one of the veritable nigh-on unstoppable juggernauts of East African club football when the marauding Msimbazi Street side won the extremely coveted Mainland Premier League title for admirably the third time on the trot.

Indeed, Simba's exceptional league triumph must have left all undiluted fans of their age-old foes, Yanga, gnashing their teeth in agony.

Among the club stalwarts whose impeccable exertions massively helped the Msimbazi Street outfit to hoist aloft yet another league trophy were two deadly attackers born and bred on our shores and they are: the evergreen veteran John Bocco and the man with the breathtaking dribbling skills, Ibrahim Ajibu.

However, despite the praiseworthy contributions of the aforesaid stars, it is crucial to note that classy foreign icons also played an instrumental role in Simba's impressive league trophy victory.

Chief among this cluster of foreign football stars whose tireless efforts helped to steer Simba unfailingly towards league victory glory land were three enormously influential imports: the sublime Rwandan forward Meddie Kagere, the skillful Zambian midfielder, Clatous Chama, and the Kenyan attacking midfielder Francis Kahata.

In this writer's humble estimation, though, Kagere's titanic strivings turned out to have the most excellent and positive impact on Simba's eventually successful road to their third consecutive league title, the outstanding contributions of Chama and Kahata notwithstanding.

Indeed, it should be borne in



Simba SC's winger, Louis Miquissone (L), dribbles past fullback, Shomari Kapombe, during the outfit's recent training at Bunju in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

mind that Kagere carted home the Golden Boot award (that is traditionally handed to the league's top scorer) last season and this season, the prolific Rwandan attacker has been very much in amidst the goals as well.

If we were to cast our eyes to the bigger picture, however, one expects that the other heavyweights of domestic club football, viz Yanga and Azam FC will have taken umbrage at Simba's now three-years-old vice-like grip of the much sought-after Mainland Premier League crown.

And, doubtlessly, the manner in which Yanga and Azam go about offering a perfect riposte to Simba's recent hegemony over domestic football is bound to make life ceaselessly interesting for all aficionados of local football, this writer included!

Let us now eagerly seek for a fitting postscript to this narrative and one matter which in-

definitely more than adequately fulfills this role is Liverpool's recent English Premier League (EPL) title triumph, which was Not just one of your run-of-the-mill league victories that are witnessed at the climax of every season on the world football landscape.

Indeed, Liverpool's title triumph was of historic proportions precisely because of the fact that the last time that the Reds lifted the league trophy was 30 lengthy years ago.

Unquestionably, world football has undergone truly monumental changes since 1990 to the present-day.

For instance, NO African star was part of the triumphant Liverpool Class of 1990, which won the English League crown that year.

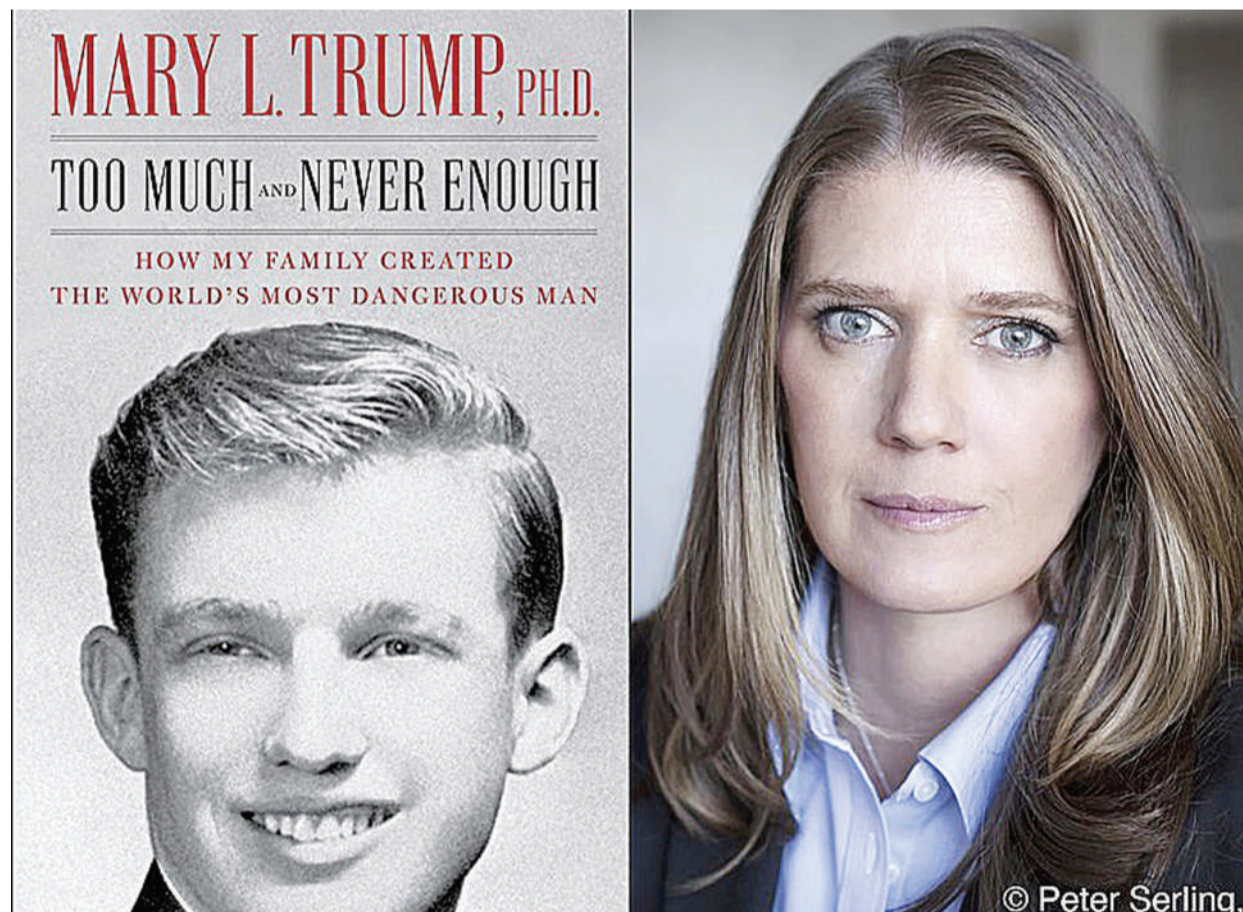
In marked contrast, however, a tandem of top notch African exports to the EPL in the form of Sadio Mane and Mohamed

Salah were absolutely key to Liverpool's remarkable and unforgettable odyssey to league glory this season.

Indisputably, Mane's partnership with Salah has turned out to be so fruitful and rewarding for the Reds to the extent that the duo is now among one of the most feared attacking tandems in global football.

Just in case a few of you are only now awakening from a deep and lengthy slumber ala a certain, famous fictional character, Rip van Winkle, Sadio Mane is from Senegal while Mohamed Salah is from the birthplace of civilization itself, Egypt.

Thus, being proudly a Tanzanian first and an African second, this writer would like to urge the brethren of Africans not just on the continent but literally anywhere in the world to engage in revelry and merry-making over Liverpool's historic league triumph this season.



This combination photo shows the cover art for "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man", left, and a portrait of author Mary L. Trump, Ph.D. The book, written by the niece of President Donald J. Trump, was originally set for release on July 28, but will now arrive on July 14. (AP)

## Mary Trump's book offers scathing portrayal of president

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's niece offers a scathing portrayal of her uncle in a new book, blaming a toxic family for raising a narcissistic, damaged man who poses an immediate danger to the public, according to a copy obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Mary L. Trump, a psychologist, writes that Trump's reelection would be catastrophic and that

"lying, playing to the lowest common denominator, cheating, and sowing division are all he knows."

"By the time this book is published, hundreds of thousands of American lives will have been sacrificed on the altar of Donald's hubris and willful ignorance. If he is afforded a second term, it would be the end of American Democracy," she writes in "Too Much and Never Enough, How My Family Created The World's Most

Dangerous Man."

Mary Trump is the daughter of Trump's elder brother, Fred Jr., who died after a struggle with alcoholism in 1981 at 42. The book is the second insider account in two months to paint a deeply unflattering portrait of the president, following the release of former national security adviser John Bolton's bestseller.

In her book, Mary Trump, who is estranged from her uncle, makes

several revelations, including alleging that the president paid a friend to take the SATs – a standardized test widely used for college admissions – in his place. She writes that his sister Maryanne Trump did his homework for him but couldn't take his tests and he worried his grade point average, which put him far from the top of the class, would "scuttle his efforts to get accepted" into the Wharton School of the Univer-

sity of Pennsylvania, where he transferred after two years at Fordham University in the Bronx.

"To hedge his bets he enlisted Joe Shapiro, a smart kid with a reputation for being a good test taker, to take his SATs for him," she writes, adding, "Donald, who never lacked for funds, paid his buddy well." White House spokesperson Sarah Matthews called the allegation "completely false."

Mary Trump also writes, in awe, of Trump's ability to gain the support of prominent Christian leaders and white evangelicals, saying: "The only time Donald went to church was when the cameras were there. It's mind boggling. He has no principles. None!"

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany slammed the book Tuesday, saying, "It's ridiculous, absurd accusations that have absolutely no bearing in truth."

Mary Trump traces much of her pain to the death of her father when she was 16. The president, who rarely admits mistakes, told The Washington Post last year that he regretted the pressure he and his father had put on Fred Jr. to join the family business when his brother wanted to be a pilot instead.

"It was just not his thing. ... I think the mistake that we made was we assumed that everybody would like it. That would be the biggest mistake. ... There was sort of a double pressure put on him," Trump told the paper.

Yet as her father lay dying alone, Mary Trump claims, "Donald went to the movies."

AP



## Banned for life by FIFA, soccer officials line up to appeal

GENEVA

THE first of a number of appeals by former soccer officials banned for life by FIFA was heard Tuesday at sport's highest court.

FIFA said Ariel Alvarado - a former member of its ethics committee - challenged its verdict at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Alvarado is one of at least 29 officials banned for life by soccer's governing body in the last five years.

The kicked off a monthly series of upcoming appeals at CAS brought by Latin American soccer officials removed from soccer after being indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice on various charges of racketeering, money laundering and wire fraud conspiracy.

The sports court has scheduled an appeal in August by disgraced former, who has questioned if the U.S. federal evidence is accurate.

Next up in September is Juan Ángel Napout of Paraguay who was convicted at a 2017 trial in Brooklyn. The

on appeal last month.

Another Brazilian, Marco Polo del Nero, is expected to have an October date with CAS, and an appeal is pending for Manuel Burga who was banned by almost two years after the Peruvian was acquitted by the same jury which convicted Napout.

CAS said Tuesday that Alvarado's hearing was conducted by video link from the court in Lausanne, Switzerland - a process made routine by travel restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic.

Still, other remote hearings are likely simply because the appellants - such as Teixeira and Del Nero - risk arrest in Switzerland since their

by the Justice Department in December 2015.

Del Nero fled Zurich in May 2015 in the aftermath of early morning raids at luxury hotels in the city to arrest top soccer officials attending FIFA meetings and a presidential

election.

Those arrests revealed the sprawling - and ongoing - American and Swiss investigations of bribery and corruption worth tens of millions of dollars linked to marketing deals and hosting votes for the World Cup and other international competitions.

The American case developed over years from early targeting of Chuck Blazer, the most senior elected American at FIFA for more than a decade who became a cooperating witness.

Blazer's life ban, was the first of around 30 so far arising from the Justice Department evidence. Blazer was seriously ill at the time and died in 2017.

Alvarado was, relying on American evidence, of getting at least \$230,000 in bribes linked to commercial contracts World Cup qualifying games and the CONCACAF Gold Cup from 2009 to 2011. At the same time, he sat in judgment of other soccer officials summoned before the FIFA ethics panel.

At his own FIFA ethics hearing, Alvarado argued he was a victim of double jeopardy because the North American governing body, CONCACAF, has previously banned him from soccer in the region.

Teixeira, however, disputed the U.S. evidence in a wider federal investigation that has seen guilty pleas, convictions and indictments from dozens of soccer and marketing officials.

The FIFA allegations against Teixeira,

"are no more than assumptions made by U.S. attorneys, without any evidence to support the indictments."

Teixeira, like many others, was also fined 1 million Swiss francs (\$1.06 million) by FIFA ethics judges.

The first verdicts from CAS judges are likely late this year and should continue into 2021.

AP

## Brazil's World Cup humiliation that became an expression

RIO DE JANEIRO

SIX years after Brazil suffered their most humiliating experience on a football pitch, the 7-1 World Cup thrashing on home soil at the hands of Germany has become a joke, an expression and even a meme.

That infamous scoreline has taken on a meaning of its own to describe any kind of defeat or a heavy blow - physical or figurative.

"They gave us a one-seven" or "that was a one-seven" has entered into common parlance in the land more accustomed to stunning victories and brilliant achievements.

It was July 8, 2014 when World Cup hosts Brazil took on Germany in the semi-final at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte with an expectant nation behind them.

But the five-time champions suffered the worst defeat in their history and the biggest ever loss by a team that has won the World Cup.

The scoreline is not the only thing from that game to have become a cultural reference in Brazil. Now, when describing something that happens repeatedly, Brazilians will say "and a German goal" or "was that another German goal?"

The reaction, and dark humor

that has accompanied that humiliation, is in stark contrast to the national trauma that met Brazil's other footballing catastrophe.

In 1950, the nation went into mourning after losing 2-1 to Uruguay in the decisive match at the only other World Cup hosted by Brazil in an incident forever immortalized as the Maracanazo - a play on words on the Maracana stadium where the game took place.

This time around, hundreds of memes have been created mocking the unfortunate protagonists of Brazil's defeat: coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, center-back David Luiz, midfielders Fernandinho and Oscar, and forwards Hulk and Fred.

Germany had the match all but wrapped up within the first half hour as they led 5-0 through goals by Thomas Mueller, Miroslav Klose, Sami Khedira and a Toni Kroos brace.

Andre Schuerrle added two more after half-time and Oscar's 90th minute consolation wasn't even that.

Five days later, Germany lifted with World Cup for a fourth time, beating Argentina 1-0 in the final at the Maracana.

AFP

## Virus fears linger as MLS returns

MIAMI

MAJOR League Soccer returns from its coronavirus shutdown on Wednesday when Orlando City take on Inter Miami in the opening game of a comeback tournament which has been disrupted by team and player withdrawals.

Four months after the league was forced to suspend its season as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across North America, 25 MLS teams are in Orlando, Florida for the league's month-long "MLS is Back" competi-

tion.

Like the NBA, MLS chiefs elected to launch the league's return to competition inside a protective "bubble" at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Games will take place without spectators, while players and coaches will be required to adhere to strict safety protocols designed to mitigate the risk posed by the coronavirus.

AFP

# Chelsea cling on to win five-goal thriller, Leicester held at Arsenal

LONDON

CHelsea moved up to third in the Premier League table after holding out to win a 3-2 thriller at Crystal Palace, while Leicester could only manage a draw at 10-man Arsenal on Tuesday.

Frank Lampard's men edged closer to sealing a place in next season's Champions League as a seventh win in eight games takes them one point ahead of Leicester and opened up a five-point lead on fifth-placed Manchester United.

The Blues were fortunate when opening the scoring at Selhurst Park as former Chelsea captain Gary Cahill fell to the ground clutching his hamstring to allow Willian to tee up Olivier Giroud for his fourth goal in six games.

Christian Pulisic's form since the Premier League's restart has led to comparisons with Eden Hazard, the man he replaced at Stamford Bridge, and the Belgian would have been proud of Chelsea's second as the 21-year-old American skipped past Joel Ward and hammered in off the inside of the near post.

"Christian is hugely important," added Lampard. "You look at the top attacking players in the world and they score goals and make assists regularly that win games and at the moment he is doing that, so I am delighted with him."

As so often this season, Lampard's men failed to capitalise on their dominance and were suddenly on the back foot when Wilfried Zaha thundered a shot high past Kepa Arrizabalaga from long range for Palace's first goal in four games.

Chelsea looked to have sealed the



Danny Welbeck's overhead kick gave Watford victory over Norwich (AFP Photo)

three points again when substitutes Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Tammy Abraham combined for the latter to restore a two-goal cushion 19 minutes from time.

Just over a minute later, though, Palace were back in the game when a brilliant move culminated in Patrick van Aanholt squaring for Christian Benteke to tap in just his second goal of the season.

Questions remain over whether the Chelsea defence will be strong enough to maintain a title challenge next season and they were left clinging on in stoppage time as Kepa turned Scott Dann's head-

er off the inside of the post and only a last-ditch challenge from Kurt Zouma denied Benteke a second.

- Vardy matches Aubameyang -

Leicester have now won just one of their six games since the restart to see their lead over the chasing pack for a place in the top four whittled away, but were grateful for a 1-1 draw at the Emirates after a slow start against in-form Arsenal.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang swept home the opener for the Gunners as Kasper Schmeichel kept Leicester in the game with a stunning save to deny Alexandre Lacazette.

"In the first half we should have gone 3 or 4-0 up and kill the game against this type of opposition," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta.

Lacazette also saw a goal disallowed for offside after the break before the game turned when Eddie Nketiah was shown a straight red card after a VAR review for a high challenge on James Justin.

Leicester made the man advantage count as Vardy pounced to slot home Demarai Gray's cross and regain his two-goal advantage over Aubameyang in the race for the Golden Boot.

"I was really pleased with

how we managed the game 11 v 10. We got a deserved goal and if we had made the final pass we could have gone on and won the game," said Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers.

Arsenal's hopes of reaching the top four now appear over as they remain nine points behind with just four games to go.

- Welbeck makes Watford mark -

At the other end of the table, Danny Welbeck's first Premier League goal for Watford was as valuable as it was spectacular as the Hornets beat Norwich 2-1 to move four points clear of the relegation zone.

Defeat pushes Norwich ever closer to the drop and the Canaries could be relegated at the weekend if they fail to beat West Ham.

Like so much of his career, Welbeck's first season at Watford has been blighted by injury, but the former Manchester United and Arsenal forward showed his class by adjusting his body to hook home the winner after Craig Dawson cancelled out Emiliano Buendia's early opener for Norwich.

"I am speechless after the goal," said Welbeck. "It means a lot to me and means a lot to the whole team. It is one that puts us on our way now. We will give it our all from now."

AFP

## Zlatan fires Milan comeback as Juve miss chance to stretch lead

MILAN

JUVENTUS wasted the chance to move 10 points clear at the top of Serie A as the defending champions blew a two-goal lead to lose 4-2 at a Zlatan Ibrahimovic-inspired AC Milan on Tuesday, after second-placed Lazio's shock defeat at Lecce.

Maurizio Sarri's men led through goals from Adrien Rabiot and Cristiano Ronaldo early in the second half, but were then blown away by a brilliant Milan display as Ibrahimovic scored and had an assist.

Milan coach Stefano Pioli, who could reportedly be sacked at the end of the season, saw his side boost their hopes of European qualification by moving above Roma and Napoli into fifth.

"I am not remotely thinking about August 3 or the future. I am thinking of the next game," Pioli told DAZN. "There have been some tough moments, but I love what I do."

Juve remain on track for a ninth straight title, sitting seven points clear of Lazio with seven matches remaining, but could have rendered the race all but over with a victory.

The loss snapped the Turin giants' seven-game winning run in the league.

Juventus dominated the first half without finding a breakthrough as the closest they came was when Leonardo Bonucci glanced Miralem Pjanic's free-kick wide when unmarked only three yards from goal.

Ibrahimovic had a couple of speculative efforts easily held by Wojciech Szczesny at the other end and also saw a goal ruled out for offside.

The reigning champions burst into life after the interval though, as French international Adrien Rabiot drove forward and fired a fine left-footed shot from the edge of the area into the top corner to score his first Serie A goal.

Ronaldo doubled the advantage less than eight minutes into the second half, netting for the fifth consecutive game and for the 26th time in Serie A this term with a cool finish.

But Milan were handed a lifeline out of nowhere on the hour mark as Bonucci was penalised for handball, and Ibrahimovic stepped up to score his sixth goal since returning to the San Siro from LA Galaxy in January.

The 38-year-old made it back-to-



AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic in action with Juventus' Leonardo Bonucci during a Serie A match at the San Siro in Milan on July 7 2020. REUTERS

back games with a goal and an assist in the 66th minute, teeing up Franck Kessie to score with a deflected strike.

Incredibly, Milan completed the turnaround with their third goal in five minutes as Rafael Leao beat Szczesny at his near post.

Ante Rebic had an excellent chance to make it 4-2 with 12 minutes remaining,

but Szczesny did well to save with his boot.

The Croatian international wrapped up the points two minutes later though with his 10th league goal of the season.

- Lazio stumble again -

Earlier, Lazio, who lost 3-0 to Milan at the weekend, slumped to a second straight loss, beaten 2-1 at relegation-threatened Lecce.

Defender Patric added to Lazio's problems in injury time as he was dismissed for biting Lecce's Giulio Donati and could face a lengthy ban, especially with the strict COVID-19 regulations in place.

"Our dream must continue, which is to qualify mathematically for the Champions League," Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi told Sky Sport Italia.

"We hope to achieve it as soon as possible, but that is our only objective."

Lecce ended a six-match losing streak in dramatic fashion to climb out of the relegation zone.

Lazio were without strikers Ciro Immobile and Felipe Caicedo through suspension against Milan, but both played a part as the latter gave the visitors a fifth minute lead, shortly after Lecce midfielder Marco Mancosu's strike was ruled out by VAR for a handball in the build-up.

But the hosts grabbed a deserved equaliser on the half-hour mark when Senegalese forward Khouma Babacar nodded home Filippo Falco's cross.

Lazio survived a massive scare on the stroke of half-time as Lecce were awarded a penalty for a controversial handball against Patric, but Mancosu spooned his spot-kick over the crossbar.

Lecce centre-back Fabio Lucioni headed in a corner to give the home team a shock lead early in the second half.

Patric's moment of madness came in the third minute of added time when he bit Donati on the arm.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Chelsea cling on to win five-goal thriller, Leicester held at Arsenal**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18

## Firm launches personal hygiene campaign at Majaliwa Stadium

By Somoe Ng'itu, Ruangwa

SPECIAL clean water supply machine was officially launched at the Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa District, Lindi yesterday in an effort to fight the coronavirus disease.

The launch took place before the Vodacom Premier League's game pitting league winners Simba SC against hosts Namungo FC.

Kemilembe Mutahaba, Public Relations Manager for Project Clear Company, which oversees the campaign known as 'Nyumba ni Choo', stated they have conducted the launch in an effort to remind Lindi residents that they need to uphold personal hygiene, which includes washing hands severally with running water and soap.

Mutahaba pointed out the campaign's motto is known as 'Usichukulie Poa, Unategemewa' (Don't Take Personal Hygiene Lightly, You are a Reliable Person).

The drive, he insisted, gears towards seeing to it people value their health for the sake of their respective dependants.

"Every person has dependants, he or she has a person who looks up to him or her. There are children, parents, husband, or wife, this forces us to understand we need to live healthily and life must go on despite the presence of coronavirus," he disclosed.

He said Lindi is the second region in the list of areas where the campaign has been launched.

The campaign was earlier launched in Dar es Salaam and, according to the official, the initiative will thereafter be launched in other 16 regions.

The official mentioned the regions as Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Mbeya, Iringa, Dodoma, Singida, Tanga, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Coast Region.

The initiative, as noted by the official, operates under the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

The company has sealed an agreement with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to implement the initiative in all venues which host the top flight.

## Development athletics race wins plaudits

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S athletics legend, Filbert Bayi, has described the just ended development athletics meet as an important opportunity for athletes to prepare for this year's National Championships scheduled for September in Dar es Salaam.

The athletics meet involved athletes from Coast Region and Dar es Salaam, aiming at preparing them for the championships, which will be held at the National Stadium in the city from September 5-6.

He said athletes from the two regions have been preparing for the National Championships by competing regularly.

"The just ended developmental athletics meet was good, it helps athletes stay fit and in shape before any event," he said.

Bayi said the developmental meet has also helped the coaches assess their athletes.

He also disclosed that the next developmental meet will be held at National Stadium next week.

Bayi who is also Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) Secretary General urged athletes from Morogoro and Zanzibar, who stay close to Dar es Salaam, to take part at the next weekend's meet.

# Vodacom Tanzania hails Simba SC for lifting VPL trophy



Simba striker, Meddie Kagere, holds the 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League silverware his outfit has clinched shortly after the club's top flight clash with Namungo FC, which took place in Lindi yesterday. PHOTO: SOMOE NGITU

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

VODACOM Tanzania PLC, main sponsors of the Vodacom Premier League (VPL), have congratulated Simba Sports Club for lifting the 2019/20 season's top flight trophy.

The company has also heaped praises on the rest of the top flight clubs which competed in the tournament.

"We feel proud to have been part of the domestic top flight, given it keeps on improving every year," Linda Riwa, the firm's Commercial Business Unit Director, disclosed at a ceremony the firm hosted for the club in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"Kudos should also go to officials of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), all outfits,

sports journalists, co-sponsors and all Tanzanians for effectively participating in the top flight."

"Soccer commands great following and it is a very important game in our country and in the other parts of the world."

"This sponsorship gears towards offering entertainment to Vodacom customers and the rest of Tanzanians, offering employment opportunities to players and other attendants, and maintaining better relationship among people in the community," Linda,

who represented Vodacom Tanzania PLC Managing Director Hisham Hendi at the ceremony, stated.

"Vodacom has been in the fore-

front of efforts to connect people and bringing Tanzanians together through the telecommunications firm, Vodacom is famed for offering the best services in accessing data, making calls, using short message service and mobile money transaction 'M-Pesa'."

"Soccer is the biggest employment opportunity for domestic youths and we are happy to have been part of the success we are witnessing because of our firm's sponsorship."

"The sport's success in Tanzania has helped such players like Mbwana Samatta and Simon Msuva to land opportunity to play professional soccer outside the country, with Samatta ultimately

getting opportunity to play in Europe."

"Vodacom Tanzania has motivated all outfits to serve as good ambassadors and has expressed its plan to keep on motivating the squads and fully cooperate with the latter to develop the sport in the country."

Linda further disclosed Vodacom expresses gratitude to Tanzanians for turning up at the venues to cheer their clubs, given fans are the number 12 player in any of the soccer club.

"We also thank sports reporters for their tremendous contribution in presenting details on the top flight to the game's followers in and outside the coun-

try and promoting the VPL," she stated.

Meanwhile, Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, is adamant although his squad's Federation Cup semi-final against Simba, slated for Sunday in Dar es Salaam, is extremely important to his outfit, he and his players do not fear their opponents.

Yanga will confront Simba in the match, which will take place at National Stadium from 5pm.

Eymael pointed out he has asked his players to opt out of developing fear for the match, insisting it is simply like any other clash.

The Belgian tactician disclosed he is keeping on implementing his tactics ahead of the clash.

"It will be a good game on the basis of the sides' status but I do not have pressure. We have prepared well for it and we are keeping on seeing to it we grab victory and book a place in the final," he disclosed.

He disclosed they gear towards seeing to it they garner chance to participate in continental competition next season, given they have missed out on this season's VPL silverware.

"Competing in next season's CAF Confederation Cup lies in our ability to lift the Federation Cup trophy, we have two fixtures left which I think if we will come out victorious in, we will have the continental tournament's ticket in our hands, the coming duel with Simba, and the final, are quite important," he noted.

Yanga are expected to make their way to Dar es Salaam tomorrow after facing Kagera Sugar in a VPL clash, which was expected to take place in Kagera yesterday.

## TTA set to receive wheelchair tennis equipment

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TEN wheelchairs from world tennis governing body, International Tennis Federation (ITF), are expected in Tanzania at the end of this month.

Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) chairman, Dennis Makoi, yesterday said ITF has agreed to send the wheelchairs which will help in the development of the sport in the country.

"Yes we are looking for a clearing agent, the wheelchairs are expected in the country on July 25," he disclosed.

"We are happy that it has been confirmed that they are coming, the wheelchairs will help to improve and develop tennis among tennis players with disability in the country, we thank the ITF for the donation," he said.

"The wheelchairs, which are of modern standard, are in three sizes, small, medium and big, and will be used by wheelchair tennis team's players and



National wheelchair tennis team's players pose for picture with their coach, Riziki Salum, before a recent training session at Dar es Salaam's Kijitonyama tennis courts, targeting to prepare the players for an international competition.

small-sized will be donated to Salvation Army Center at Kurasini, Dar es Salaam for the development of junior players."

In a previous interview, he said the Salvation Army Kurasini Center has a steadfast junior tennis development program, hence

the need for the center to have the modern small-sized wheelchairs.

He pointed out the remaining equipment (medium and big size wheelchairs) will be used for training and tournaments only, insisting no individual player is to own them.

Makoi expressed his gratitude to ITF for the donation, saying cash strapped TTA would not have managed to purchase them on their own as they are very expensive.

He said the wheelchairs will help the country produce many wheelchair

tennis starlets who can represent the country at international events.

He said TTA has a number of projects for wheelchair tennis, a situation which is giving him confidence that the country will produce many top wheelchair tennis players.

"It is always possible to produce good wheelchair tennis players. It is just about having the right structures in place, having the right support in place and making sure that there are a good number of players and also a good number of local tournaments to give the players a chance to play the game," he disclosed.

"The players also have to play a lot of local and international competitions," he said.

Tanzania's national wheelchair tennis squad is among the top 10 teams in the continent, the team has represented the country at many top international events where the side's players performed well.

Tennis is a great sport that allows able-bodied players and their counterparts with disability to play with and against each other. The court, racquets and balls are the same for both. The only difference is a wheelchair tennis player gets two bounces.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW COME YOUR CAR INDICATES THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE INDICATORS?

