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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 11 JULY, 2020

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Debt relief tops China, Tanzania high-level briefings

By Guardian Reporter

DEBT relief took centre stage in discussions yesterday between the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge and China's Ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke (pictured), which also touched on a number of bilateral issues.

A ministerial statement said Ibuge and the envoy discussed the friendly country's plan to cancel debts for Tanzania as an economic



The talks dwelt on a number of issues including how to implement debt relief for Tanzania to counter effects of Covid-19 as discussed earlier by presidents Xi Jinping and John Magufuli

stimulus to address adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The talks dwelt on a number of issues including how to implement debt relief for Tanzania to counter effects of Covid-19 as discussed earlier by presidents Xi Jinping and John Magufuli," the statement noted.

Apart from debt relief plan, the discussion touched on trade and investment matters, including the planned construction of 25 residential housing units intended for senior health sector personnel at Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam.

Ambassador Wang applauded the government's efforts that led to the country

TURN TO PAGE 2

Dr Mwinyi urges unity after nomination win

By Correspondent James Kandoya



CCM'S CHOICE FOR ZANZIBAR PRESIDENCY: Defence and National Service minister Dr Hussein Ali Hassan Mwinyi addresses members of the ruling CCM's National Executive Committee in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after being endorsed as the party's candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency in the General Election lined up for late October. At the high table are CCM national Chairman President John Magufuli, Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) and Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice Chairman (Mainland) Philip Mangula, and Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ali Kakurwa. Another photo on Page 2. Photo: State House.

THE Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) presidential candidate for Zanzibar, Dr Hussein Ali Hassan Mwinyi, has appealed for unity within the party after winning the nomination to bear its flag in the October General Election.

Speaking after his nomination in Dodoma yesterday, Dr Mwinyi (born in Zanzibar on December 23, 1966) called on the losing aspirants to work together with him during and after election campaigns.

The formalised candidate reminded his colleagues in the Isles CCM ranks that they together have a general election ahead, declaring: "The most important thing now is unity."

Dr Mwinyi, who is Defence and National Service minister, promised to serve the nation diligently and patriotically enough to improve the living standards of the Zanzibar people.

TURN TO PAGE 2



Our duty ahead is heavy and needs joint efforts to win the polls with a large number of votes

CCM brings Kinana to the fold ahead of polls

By Guardian Reporter

CHAMA Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) yesterday forgave and welcomed back to its fold erstwhile estranged former secretary general and presidential election campaign manager Abdulrahman Kinana.

National chairman President Dr John Magufuli led members of the National Executive Committee (NEC) policy marking organ converging in Dodoma in welcoming Kinana back to its ranks.

Kinana who served as campaign manager for two CCM presidential candidates seeking their first terms of office towards the third and fourth phase, comes as the party readies for the fifth phase president's reelection campaign.

Several senior CCM cadres were last year implicated in an audio clip said to speak unfavourably of the party's chairman but two months ago the former secretary general formally apologized to the president.

In his forgiveness declaration, the president recalled that Kinana was penalized not to engage in any party or political activities for 18 months. "He has served four months so far; he deserves to be forgiven as he apologized publicly," Dr Magufuli affirmed.

He proceeded by asking the NEC delegates convened to nominate the party's presidential candidate for Zanzibar whether or not Kinana should be forgiven, asking those who agree to raise their hands.



I am sure that CCM national chairman John Magufuli will accept my apology and extend a forgiving hand

An overwhelming majority raised hands in support of the motion, and the party chairman immediately pronounced the verdict.

"Through this forum, I declare that Kinana is now free to engage in political and party activities," he told the cheering delegates.

The audio clips fiasco also involved former CCM secretary general Lt. (rt) Yusuf Makamba and his son January Makamba, then minister of State (Union

Affairs and Environment), former CCM department head and briefly cabinet minister Nape Nnauye, and Sengerema MP and ex-minister William Ngeleja.

Kinana had earlier appeared in public in Arusha and asked President Magufuli to forgive him for uneasiness and discomfort from what he had done.

Kinana, who led presidential campaigns in 1995 and 2005 as well as 2000 and 2010 then proceeded to serve as secretary general from 2012 to 2018. In his apology remarks, he said he wants to remove bad feelings "so that he can retire from politics in peace."

Kinana served as Minister for Defence during the second term of the second phase presidency, holding the Arusha Urban parliamentary seat for 10 years according to an online chronicle, unseated by the thrust of opposition politics in the 1995 general elections.

"I am sure that CCM national chairman John Magufuli will accept my apology and extend a forgiving hand," stated Kinana, who was also the first Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), serving from 2001 to 2006.

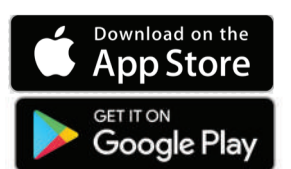
The former military officer rose in cabinet rank with deputy minister portfolios up to the Defence portfolio. The video clips saga was an expression of dissent at high CCM ranks that was captured by a freelance blogger with close links to upper levels of government. It led to diplomatic controversy and finally the blogger called it quits.

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Dr Mwinyi urges unity after nomination win

FROM PAGE 1

"Our duty ahead is heavy and calls for joint efforts if we are to win the polls with a large number of votes," he said, expressing his reliance on the support of all aspirants and other members of the party.

Dr Mwinyi - a son of Alhaj Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who served as second-phase Union President and briefly as Zanzibar President - sent assurances on his readiness to work with his erstwhile political rivals when he forms a new government, insisting that he would not sideline them.

The candidate was selected after an internal nomination process where the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) delegates led by CCM chairman Dr John Magufuli announced his candidature after winning 129 votes of the close to 170 NEC members in attendance - equivalent to 78.65 per cent of the total.

The committee nominated Dr Mwinyi as its candidate for the Zanzibar presidency while also endorsing Dr Magufuli as CCM's sole contender for the Union presidency, his second consecutive and constitutionally last term.

Dr Mwinyi is expected to replace Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, who is wrapping up his second and last consecutive five-year term.

Chairing the meeting temporarily in Dodoma after the nomination of Dr Mwinyi through votes, Dr Shein took the delegates through the President Magufuli's performance record in the past four years and asked the members to endorse him as sole candidate, to which the delegates agreed in unison.

The names of Dr Mwinyi and Dr Magufuli as Zanzibar and Union presidential candidates, respectively, are expected to be approved today by delegates to the party's general congress in Dodoma.

The meeting will bring to an end the nomination of names for the country's top leadership, which began with the collection of nomination forms on June 15 and ran up to June 30, simultaneously with the collection of guarantors' signatures in the regions.

Tanzanians go to the polls in October to elect the Union and Zanzibar presidents alongside legislators, members of the Zanzibar House of



CCM national Chairman President John Magufuli and (from-L) Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) and Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ali Kakurwa and Vice Chairman (Mainland) Philip Mangula in celebratory mood at the party's National Executive Committee meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

Representatives and councillors.

Dr Mwinyi contested against former Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, who got 16 votes (9 per cent) and Dr Khalid Mohamed (19 votes or 11.59 per cent) of the total number of votes.

The Ethics Committee of the party's secretariat had earlier submitted five names out of 31 aspirants to the central

committee, which then picked three names for final screening by the NEC. The five also included Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa and Khamis Mussa Omar.

Aspirants who picked up forms for nomination to contest the Zanzibar presidency included Musa Aboud Jumbe (son of former Zanzibar president Aboud Jumbe Mwinyi), Ali Karume (son of founder

president Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume), and Mohammed Hija Mohammed.

Others were Mbwana Bakari Juma, Abdulhalim Mohammed Ali, Hamis Mussa Omari, Mwantumu Mussa Sultani, Haji Rashid Pandu, Abdulhalim Mohammed Ali, Jecha Salum Jecha (who formerly chaired the Zanzibar Electoral Commission), and Dr Khalid Salum Mohammed.

Yet other aspirants were Rashid Ali Juma, Khamis Mussa Omar, Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri, Hamad Yussuf Masauni (Union Home Affairs deputy minister), Mohammed Aboud Mohammed (Zanzibar cabinet minister), Bakari Rashid Bakari, Hussein Ibrahim Makungu, Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud, Hashim Salum Hashim and Hasna Attai.



Chief Justice of Tanzania Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma addresses the 62nd ceremony for newly admitted advocates in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Tanzania, China consult on debt relief prospects

FROM PAGE 1

achieving the status of a lower middle income economy which is likely to be maintained despite biting impact of Covid-19.

"I commend Tanzania for its various development endeavours as well as its response to the Covid-19 pandemic," the envoy stated, with the ministry saying the two sides agreed to strengthen bilateral relations for mutual benefits of their people.

Bilateral cooperation with China is strong in agriculture,

trade and investments, concessional loans and grants, information and communication technology, transport, health, tourism as well as culture, it said.

Earlier in April, President Magufuli called upon international financial institutions to consider extending debt relief to poor countries so that they can use the funds to fight effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The World Bank set up a fast-track financing facility for Covid-19, which the president said was a good gesture, "but debt

relief would make better economic sense than loan facilities creating a new repayment burden in future."

Tanzania currently spends about 700bn/- per month on debt repayment, he told a State House audience.

The World Bank's 14th Tanzania Economic Update released last month forecasts economic growth as headed for a drastic fall in 2020 to 2.5 percent. This compares badly with 6.9 percent growth the government reported for 2019, with substantial uncertainty on various out-

comes as the pandemic continues to unfold globally.

"The report recognizes mitigating steps the government has already taken, and this forecast assumes the authorities will take additional health and economic policy measures to mitigate negative impacts. However, there are downside risks for even slower growth if additional policy response is delayed or not well-targeted, or the external environment does not markedly improve this year," it cautiously noted.

But new projections released

this week by the African Development Bank (AfDB) indicate that Tanzania's economy is still fast growing and forecast to lead in East Africa at 5.2 this year. The other five East African Community member states are likely to experience even slower growth or plunge into recession due to devastating effects of Covid-19.

AfDB projections affirm that Tanzania's growth will beat 12 other Eastern African countries this year, but the government predicts that the economy will grow by 5.5 per cent this year.

Kenya's Covid-19 cases pass 9,000 mark with new daily high of 473

NAIROBI

The total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Kenya has risen to 9,448 as 473 more people have tested positive for the virus.

Health Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mutahi Kagwe made the announcement in a tour of Kilifi County yesterday, noting that this was a new daily high for Kenya. Four hundred and fifty seven cases of the virus were reported on Thursday.

While touring Kilifi County yesterday Kagwe reiterated his warning to the public - that the number of infections will continue to increase, especially with the lifting of the movement ban, if the public downplays the disease and disregards measures for preventing its further spread.

CS Kagwe, who has been touring counties to assess their levels of preparedness, also reported that 76 more patients had been discharged, raising the total to 2,734.

The number of fatalities also increased, following the deaths of eight other patients, raising the total to 181.

CS Kagwe began his address by honouring Dr Doreen Adisa Lugaliki of Nairobi South Hospital, who died of the virus on Thursday night.

She was the first Kenyan doctor to succumb to the virus.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of a medical doctor. She contracted the virus while working and was admitted to Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi where she passed away," he said and asked

the public to observe a minute of silence in her honour.

In a message on Twitter following the doctor's death, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) said, "We reiterate and remind GoK and all private health facilities that the welfare, occupational safety and health of frontline workers is a non-negotiable minimum."

The ministry reported that a total of 292 health workers have been infected with the disease since it was first reported in Kenya in March.

Dr Patrick Amoth, the Health ministry's acting director-general, said 160 of them were female and 132 male, the reason being that most of the nurses in the country are female.

Dr Amoth also said that out of the active cases of Covid-19 in Kenya, 44 were being treated in intensive care units (ICU).

He said 22 of the patients were on ventilator support and the other 22 on supplemental oxygen.

He also said that Kenya's fatality was 1.9 per cent as of July 10, compared to a global average of 6.7 per cent.

CS Kagwe also reported that Kenya now has 25 testing laboratories across the country and that 42 out of the 47 counties have confirmed cases of Covid-19.

He said that the capital, Nairobi, remained in the lead with 5,188 cases and that Mombasa followed with 1,720.

Kilifi county was ranked 10th with 71 infections.

AGENCIES

'TASAF' beneficiaries soon expected to get their payments electronically

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

BENEFICIARIES of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) will now start receiving their payments electronically; a move which is aimed to curb ghost recipients.

TASAF's programme manager, Shaban Abdumalick said here during the capacity building training for heads of departments of Mbarali District.

According to him, the implementation of the second phase of the TASAF's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) is going to phase out the cash payment system to poor households whereby the beneficiaries will be receiving their monies through mobile phones or bank accounts.

Abdumalick demonstrated strong interest in the adoption of the e-payment, pointing out that the initiative is going to address several challenges encountered during the cash payment system.

He said that: "In the previous phase, the cash transfer process required TASAF beneficiaries to attend a community meeting prior to receiving payment; rural women spend hours waiting for receipt to the cash...so the electronic option is going to address all the challenges."

According to him, with the new system, a beneficiary will be required to register one sim card number to receive the payments.

The TASAF's manager further said that the implementa-

tion of the programme since its commencement in 2000 has contributed highly to the decline of household poverty in the country.

He said that the implementation of the new phase is aimed to reach over seven million people living in abject poverty.

Acting district executive director (DED) for Mbarali Aswege Kaminyoge commended the government for implementing the anti-poverty programme which has benefited millions of poor Tanzanians for years.

Zabron Abel, TASAF's district coordinator said that the capacity building exercise on the new phase is expected to benefit 75 villages whereby 1,317 poor households will be inspected and verified to join the programme.

Launching the second phase PSSN programme in Dar es Salaam in February this year, President John Magufuli directed authorities to make sure that they supervise well and control enrolment of 'phantom' beneficiaries.

Dr Magufuli said that in the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghost and illegible households being enrolled in the programme.

"The involved people who are not poor and leaders being enrolled in the programmes, this should be addressed, the next phase has to ensure that all these challenges do not exist," he said.



Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Patrick Mfugale (R) and CCECC executive director Zhang Jun Le exchange documents in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after signing a 100.8bn/- contract on the construction of 52 kilometres of outer ring roads in the city. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Malaria rise in Zanzibar linked to improper mosquito nets use'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE increase in malaria cases in Zanzibar has been linked to improper use of mosquito nets by the residents which currently stand at 59 per cent only.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Zanzibar's malaria evaluation officer, Mohammed Haji Ali said that most of the residents do not know how to properly use the mosquito nets.

He said that a total of 8,869 Isle residents tested positive for malaria from January to June this year. He said that out of the number 5,500 were reported between January and March 2020 while 3369 others were reported from April to June this year.

According to Ali, a total of 3,635 people suffered from the disease in the Indian Archipelago in between October and December 2019.

The official highlighted that the increase in malaria cases was due to increased malaria breeds caused by

recent rains that hit the Isles.

"We are now educating people on proper use of mosquito nets. Effective use of the mosquito nets would bring down the number of malaria cases," said the official noting the government has already started putting in place measures to protect citizens from being affected further.

He named the strategies that have been put in place to protect the citizens from the disease as the distribution of mosquito nets to residents in the most affected areas as well as educating citizens on the importance of using the nets properly.

Other strategies include tracing of patients to ensure the continue using the mosquito nets after being treated. Authorities have also directed hospitals and health centres in Zanzibar to present reports on recorded malaria cases after every certain period.

Getting reports from hospitals and health centres would enable the government to plan accordingly, he

noted. Tanzania has made significant gains in the fight against malaria, with prevalence decreasing by half from 14.4 per cent recorded in 2016 to 7.3 in 2018, survey by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) according to the 2017 Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey.

The report further indicated that new infections for under-five children have dropped to 7.3 per cent.

The 2017 Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey (TMIS) names the councils with high malaria prevalence and their percentage in brackets as Kakonko (30.8), Kasulu DC (27.6), Kibondo DC (25.4), Kigoma DC (25.1), Buhigwe (24), Geita DC (22.4), Nanyamba TC (19.5), Muleba DC (19.4) and Mtwara DC (19.1).

The survey also named the 14 councils with malaria prevalence of less than 0.1 per cent as Mbulu TC, Mbulu DC, Hanang, Siha, Hai, Moshi MC and Mwanga DC. Others are Kondoa TC, Meru DC, Arusha, Arusha DC, Moduli, Ngorongoro DC and Rombo DC.

Small traders urged to turn out en masse for new IDs

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

MISSENYI District Commissioner Col. Denice Mwila called upon petty traders turned out in big numbers to register for special identification cards. The petty traders being registered are those whose details are recorded in their respective municipal databases. The situation, however, posed a challenge to those who are not identified anywhere.

Many failed to meet the requirements for registra-

tion because their credentials were not registered in the municipal's database

For them to obtain their IDs so that they are identified by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and be able to conduct their businesses without paying other levies.

The DC made the remarks when addressing journalists recently. He said the 20,000/- worth ID cards are available

at offices of the ward and village executive officers across the district.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

On behalf of AZANIA BANK LTD Headquarters we shall sale by public auction various properties of the defaulted clients who have failed to pay outstanding debts with the bank as per loan agreement requirements. Details of properties to be auctioned are stipulated in the schedule herein below.

NB: The auction will start at 10:00am onwards at the respective premises.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES TO BE AUCTIONED

SN	NAME OF THE DEFAULTERS	PROPERTY	LOCATION	DAY AND DATE
1	THE COPY CAT LIMITED	Plot no.1401, Block C with CT NO. 41508	MSASANI PENINSULA DAR ES SALAAM	Sunday 26 th July 2020
2	THE COPY CAT LIMITED	Plot no. 39A, CT NO. 186156/32	URSINO SOUTH ROAD KINONDON DAR ES SALAAM	Sunday 26 th July 2020
3	THE COPY CAT LIMITED	Plot no. 29/2, Block 'F', With CT NO. 49535, DSM	BEACH AREA, KIGAMBONI	Wednesday 29 th July 2020
4	THE COPY CAT LIMITED	Plot no. 30, Block 'F' with CT NO. 49874 DSM	BEACH AREA, KIGAMBONI	Wednesday 29 th July 2020
5	THE COPY CAT LIMITED	Plot no. 399, Apartment No. 007, With CT NO. 186018/26/12	SAMORA AVENUE DAR ES SALAAM	Saturday 01 st August 2020
6	THE COPY CAT LIMITED	Plot no.643, Block A, Apartment IIA, 11 th Floor with CT NO. 186172/3/21	Upanga Area Dar es Salaam	Saturday 01 st August 2020
7	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 63/27 Apartment 'E' (1404), 10 th Floor Ilala with CT NO. 38083/29	Upanga Area Dar es Salaam	Sunday 02 nd August 2020
8	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 63/27 Apartment 'C' (1103), 11 th Floor Ilala with CT NO. 38083/09	Upanga Area Dar es Salaam	Sunday 02 nd August 2020
9	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 63/27 Apartment 'C' (1403), 14 th Floor Ilala with CT NO. 38083/27	Upanga Area Dar es Salaam	Sunday 02 nd August 2020
10	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 63/27, Apartment 'C', 18 th Floor, Uhuru Height, with CT NO. 38083/83	Upanga Area Dar es Salaam	Sunday 02 nd August 2020
11	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 928-930, Block D, with CT NO.49058	UKONGA AREA DAR ES SALAAM	Wednesday 05 th August 2020
12	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 2051, Block D, with CT NO. 95104	KARAKATA AREA ILALA DAR ES SALAAM	Wednesday 05 th August 2020
13	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no 931, Block D, With CT NO. 79036	KARAKATA AREA ILALA DAR ES SALAAM	Wednesday 05 th August 2020
14	COSMOS DEVELOPERS LTD	Plot no. 2016, Block 'D' with CT NO. 86923	KARAKATA AREA ILALA DAR ES SALAAM	Wednesday 05 th August 2020
15	ITALFRAME LIMITED	Plot No 13A with CT NO. 186073/1	NYERERE ROAD DAR ES SALAAM	Saturday 08 th August 2020
16	NSK OIL&GAS LIMITED	Plot no. 50, With CT NO. 104447	VIJIBWENI INDUSTRIAL AREA DAR ES SALAAM	Tuesday 11 th August 2020
17	NSK OIL&GAS LIMITED	Plot no. 76 Block "H" with CTNO. 45851	KARATU URBAN AREA	Saturday 15 th August 2020
18	NSK OIL&GAS LIMITED	Plot no. 311/23, Block "KK" with CT NO. 6256	OLORIEN AREA ARUSHA	Sunday 16 th August 2020
19	SELCOM BROADBAND LTD	Plot no. 252 Block 'B' with CT NO. 86440	RAS DEGE AREA KIGAMBONI	Thursday 20 th August 2020
20	ABDALLAH RASHID MALIMA, RASHID G.A MALIMA	Plot no. 400, 402, 403/1 and 438 Block G with CT NO. 49191	MSASANI VILLAGE DAR ES SALAAM	Sunday 23 rd August 2020
21	D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD	Plot no. 42 Block I CT NO. 19061	MTWARA	Saturday 29 th August 2020
22	D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD	Plot no. 43 Block I CT NO. 19065	MTWARA	Saturday 29 th August 2020
23	D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD	Plot no. 34 Block 9 CT NO. 17733	MTWARA	Sunday 30 th August 2020
24	D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD	Plot no. 33 Block 9 CT NO. 17208	MTWARA	Sunday 30 th August 2020

CONDITION OF THE AUCTION

- The auction shall be conducted at the respective premises where properties are located starting on 26th July 2020 onward.
- The successful buyer will be required to deposit 25% of highest auction price promptly after the fall of hammer while the remaining balance of 75% shall be required to be paid within 14 days from auction date without failure.
- Failure by the buyer to pay the remaining balance within a given grace period will lead to forfeiture of any amount paid earlier and the auction will be repeated again.
- Transfer of ownership fee together with other associated costs shall be borne by a buyer.

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Council of Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania chairman Bishop Peter Konki (2nd-L) pictured in Dodoma yesterday issuing a statement praising President John Magufuli for appreciating the importance of relying on God in leading the nation. He is with CPCT executive committee member Bishop Deo Lubala (R), vice chairman Bishop Shegga Batholomayo (2nd-R) and Dodoma district commissioner Patrobas Katambi. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Admit that coronavirus is airborne, WHO urged

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday said it is reconsidering emerging evidence indicating that Covid-19 can be transmitted through the air.

This is after 239 scientists wrote an open letter pushing it to recognise evidence that the disease can be airborne. The scientists say that Covid-19 can be transmitted through breathing out, talking and coughing and poked holes in WHO's assertion that aerosolised transmission is limited to hospital settings.

WHO has usually maintained that this form of transmission is limited to aerosol generating procedures such as endotracheal intubation, bronchoscopy, open suctioning and administration of nebulised treatment. Others are manual ventilation before intubation, turning the patient to the prone position, disconnecting the patient from the ventilator, non-invasive positive-pressure ventilation, tracheostomy, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The agency agrees with two forms of transmission of Covid-19 - through saliva droplets from an infected person and touching of contaminated surfaces.

But the scientists argue the virus can also be transmitted through the air. In the letter published on Monday by the Journal Clinical Infectious Disease (Oxford Academic), the scientists said it is time to address airborne transmission

of Covid-19.

"There is a significant potential for inhalation exposure to viruses in microscopic respiratory droplets at short to medium distances (up to several metres, or room scale)," they wrote.

They argued that studies they carried out "demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that viruses are released during exhalation, talking and coughing in micro-droplets small enough to remain aloft in the air and pose a risk of exposure at distances beyond one to two metres from an infected person."

The experts explained that retrospective studies conducted after the Sars-CoV-1 epidemic showed that airborne transmission was "the most likely mechanism explaining the spatial pattern of infections".

They therefore undertook retrospective study on Sars-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, and established the same pattern.

The experts cited a Chinese restaurant where people got infected despite having no direct or indirect contact between them.

Another study on the same issue published on Tuesday in the Journal Emerging Infectious Diseases of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), experts argued that the most probable route of the virus transmission was droplet diffusion "prompted by air-conditioned ventilation."

Child rights project promotes opportunities for women empowerment in Mufindi District

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

THE implementation of Women Empowerment and Child Rights Project (WECRP) and other interventions in Mufindi district, Iringa region had supported hundreds of women to initiate income generating activities that contributed to the fight against households poverty.

This was said recently by the

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania, National Director David Mulongo during a meeting to evaluate the project.

According to him, the project which commenced in January 2017 and ended in June, 2020 has recorded several achievements while also bringing smiles to the society.

He said that during the implementation of the project which was implemented jointly by SOS

Tanzania and the government, majority of disadvantaged women was linked to financial institutions, hence combating poverty alleviation among women in the rural villages.

He said that the project has also worked hard to fight Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the district.

He said since the SOS's programme entered the village, a number of women are now living a happier life and they are no longer

facing violence challenges in the community.

Mulongo commended the good cooperation among the government, SOS Tanzania and other stakeholders, which has led to the reduction of violence against women and children and pregnancies in schools in Mufindi district through a project to empower women economically and children's rights.

He also noted that Mufindi Dis-

trict is one of the districts in the country that had the highest rates of violence, but through the project, the acts have been reduced.

The director also visited various project groups for women supported SOS, including a tomato project at Uyela Village, a maize group project for women at Ukeleli Village as well as Community Based Organization (CBO) called Okoa Maisha ya Jamii (OMAJI) at Ikweha Ward, Mufindi district, Ir-

inga Region.

He said that due to the successful implementation of the project in Mufindi district, they are considering expanding the project across the whole region to be able to spread education to the entire Iringa region community.

"Instead of managing only two districts we recommend that the project become a whole region of Iringa in order to reduce GBV and pregnancies in schools," said Mu-

longo.

However, Mulongo has the program for empowering men in all aspects of violence against women are perpetrated by men.

He said that as we build capacity for women, men should not left behind in the context of violence against women and children and its consequences so that it becomes a positive interaction in the family and ultimately reduces violence.

Kaliua District Council combating crippling shortage of classrooms in primary and secondary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati yesterday applauded authorities in Kaliua District Council for ending the shortage of classrooms in primary and secondary schools.

Dr Sengati made the remarks during his visit to inspect various development projects implemented in the district including construction of the office of the District Commissioner and three additional buildings for the district hospital.

"I congratulate the staff as well as residents of Kaliua District for coming with plans that enabled improvement of learning infrastructures in schools and construction of classes and teachers' houses," he said.

According to him, authorities in the district have been innovative in ensuring they find solutions to the problems facing public schools.

He called upon other districts to emulate the Kaliua district's spirit to make sure they improve the learning environment at both primary and secondary schools. He urged the districts to also construct houses for teachers.

Reading a projects' implementation report, Kaliua District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Simon Nyahinga said that the district has since 2016 decided to invest and put more efforts in adult education so as to improve education, health and agricultural sectors by using the community.

Nyahinga said that through the adult education programme, they have managed to strengthen unity and development in society.

He also said that community participation in development projects including building schools and purchasing equipment.

"The public has participated to produce a total of 1.9 million bricks, built 93 classrooms, 69 latrines and eleven teachers' houses in various primary schools. On the side of secondary schools, the public engaged in producing over 600,000 bricks, built 56 classrooms and 36 latrines," he added.

Meanwhile, the Regional Commissioner commended staff and leaders in Kaliua for supervising well the implantation of development projects including the hospital's buildings as well as DC's office.



Karatu district commissioner Abbas Kayanda (in glasses) assists a Karatu Town resident in carrying a bucket of water yesterday shortly after launching a Tom's Basin water project worth more than 600m/- expected to supply a daily 4,700 litres of the precious liquid. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

TARI: Take research findings to farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

DIRECTOR General of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Geoffrey Mkamilo has called on the country's research centres to ensure they take their search results to the farmers.

Mkamilo issued the directives

recently at a function to launch farmers Day at the TARI-Kibaha centre for sugar cane research.

He said the aim of the researches is to ensure they help farmers and other various stakeholders to have training on better agricultural production hence it was essential for the results to reach farmers

in time.

"If the search results will not reach farmers then there would be little importance of the research centres in the country as there wouldn't be any change in the farming practices," he said.

Mkamilo further said his office will make sure it strengthens the

research centres to make the technology reach farmers for positive agricultural production.

He thanked the phase v government under President John Magufuli for solving some challenges facing the research centres.

TARI-Kibaha manager Dr Helde-

litha Msita said in the past five years the centre has attained significant achievements.

He said during the period they have produced 31 new kinds of seeds including seven for sugar cane, 12 for cassava and sweet potatoes and continue to provide education to the stakeholders on better use of the seeds.

The public has participated to produce a total of 1.9 million bricks, built 93 classrooms, 69 latrines and eleven teachers' houses in various primary schools. On the side of secondary schools, the public

Work hard, Mbeya city council workers urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

STAFF and workers of Mbeya City Council have been urged to work hard and in teamwork to attain the targeted development goals.

Speaking on Wednesday at a meeting with staff and workers of the council since his recent appointment by President John Magufuli, Mbeya City Executive Director Elias Amede said he was a believer in adherence to the time factor in the performance of duty saying every worker must observe punctuality and perform his/her duties diligently.

"I am the same person who worked closely with other staffs when I was a Treasurer in this council, but what has changed is only the position, I want you to adhere to all that we had agreed upon in the past," he added.

He called upon the council workers and staff to submit their performance reports to ensure whether their work performance was rising or dropping and must therefore fathom the consequences of their mistakes.

Amede stressed the need for strict supervision on the council's revenue

collection and expenditure thereof to enable the city to get a clean certificate compared to what it used to be.

Earlier, Mbeya district commissioner William Ntinika congratulated Amede for his work performance which made him trusted by President Magufuli.

He called on Mbeya city council's staff and workers to emulate Amede's example as well as the former Planning Officer Saad Mtambule who has also been appointed as the Arusha District Executive Director.

Ntinika said that Mbeya city has various challenges needing solutions by high level cooperation and that they should not come to disregard Amede simply because they were working with him in the same office.

When swearing in regional commissioners, district commissioners and Councils Executive Directors recently at the State House in Dodoma, President Magufuli said he appointed the two officials from Mbeya city council to become directors because of their good performance especially in revenue collection whereas they attained 103 percent of the target.



Earlier, Mbeya district commissioner William Ntinika congratulated Amede for his work performance which made him trusted by President Magufuli



Public Service Social Security Fund director general Hosea Kashimba (L) attends to a member of the Fund who visited the Fund's pavilion at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday, with PSSSF chief public relations officer Abdul Njaidi (C) close by. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Utilise internal airports to airlift horticultural products - Nditaye

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

DEALERS in horticultural products have been urged to use internal airports to export their products to foreign markets instead of using airports from neighbouring countries.

The appeal was given by the Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Eng Atashasta Nditaye, who said if producers of the fresh prod-

ucts will decide to use internal airports; the country will save US \$ 4,000 that is lost every year.

The Deputy Minister was speaking on Tuesday at the Kilimanjaro International airport (KIA) in Hai District, Kilimanjaro region when inspecting export of goods via the airport.

"In April this year, I came here to inaugurate Ethiopian Airlines cargo flights for our goods des-

tined to foreign countries. You will notice that in the period of three months, we have exported 590 tonnes of cargo to European Union (EU) countries," he said. Eng Nditaye said as of now the government is having talks with one shipbuilding firm for the construction of a vessel in the Indian Ocean that will alleviate transport costs to exporters.

He said the government has removed challenges facing Dar

es Salaam, Mtwara and Tanga ports, and citing Tanga port as example, he said it has been expanded and now the ships can anchor at the berth instead of far from the port.

Earlier, Acting Managing Director of Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) Mary Kimambo said they have expanded a special area for storage of perishable cargo especially horticultural prod-

ucts. She said the three flights a week by Ethiopian Airlines have increased cargo exports, especially in regard to horticultural products as compared to passenger flights.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira asked the government to seek permission for converting passenger planes to cargo planes during the intervening period. "We have been informed that

Ethiopian Airlines converted one of their passenger planes to cargo plane, we should also seek permission to do the same as it will enable us to airlift all the cargo using our planes.

Agriculture Deputy Minister Hussein Bashe said recently that the government plans to revive farms to boost horticultural production and realise export potential of US \$ 3 billion by 2025. Bashe said the government

will revive the leading farms to bolster horticultural production and realise its annual export value from the current US \$ 779 million. The eight prime plantations with huge potential in flower and vegetable production which have been closed include Kiliflora (under receivership), Kombe Roses, Shiraflores, Allua Flowers, Zanziflora, Finlays, Flamingo and Arusha Blooms Ltd.

COVID-19 education greatly needed for PWD ahead of General Election

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

PEOPLE with different disabilities particularly with spinal cord injuries in Kilimanjaro region have appealed for more training on the outbreak of COVID-19 and how to protect themselves from the pandemic due to their disabilities.

They also appealed to the government to improve infrastructures in the voting stations ahead of the October general elections so that they can be able to participate fully in the crucial voting event.

Speaking with this paper in an exclusive interview during a special training on how to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 to the people with disabilities organised by the non-profit making organisation called Songambebe Initiative Organisation, the founder and Director of the organisation, Faustina Urassa explained that, people with different disabilities are at high risk of COVID-19 spreading due to their disabilities.

Urassa who is also a victim of spinal cord injuries further explained that, sometimes there are some people who help them to pull their wheelchairs from one place to another, the situation that keeps them at high risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic spreading.

Meanwhile, Urassa appealed to the government to improve infrastructures in the voting stations ahead of the October general elections so that they can be able to participate fully in the crucial voting event.

"As you know we are going to have general elections in October this year, my appeal to my fellow people with different disabilities is to participate fully the crucial voting event as well as vying for various positions," she insisted.

For his part, the district coordinator of non-government organisations from Moshi district council, Penison Lema applauded the role played by Community-based organisations (CBOs), Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the Faith-based organisations (FBOs) in various community development projects.

"You are doing a very laudable work in various community development projects, my appeal to you is to abide with the institutions that govern your non-governmental organisations to avoid unnecessary contradictions with government," he advised.



As you know we are going to have general elections in October this year, my appeal to my fellow people with different disabilities is to participate fully the crucial voting event as well as vying for various positions



Nyota Shine Liquid director Nyota Timotheo (L) has a word with a visitor at the firm's pavilion at the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Mbeya, Songwe regions venture into malaria eradication programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA and Songwe regions are set to venture into a programme aimed at eradicating malaria, which involves spraying mosquito breeding grounds with disinfectants.

The programme was launched mid this week by Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila.

Coordinator of the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) Jackson Stephano said the programme will last for five years and its certain that the disease that has been costing many human lives will be completely eradicated.

He said the National Development Corporation (NDC) owned factory producing the disinfectant is the only factory in the African continent that produces the chemical and that after eradicating the disease in the country arrangement will be made to sell the disinfectant to other countries.

Stephano said the disinfectant has been tested and showed great success hence they believe if used properly it will eradicate malaria by 100 percent.

NDC Quality Manager Samuel Mziray said the disinfectant is harmless both to humans and other animals, it only kills mosquitoes

and their breeding grounds.

He said the fight against malaria using mosquito nets or other types of disinfectants only aim to fight a few mosquitoes leaving others to continue breeding as the parasites have a high breeding rate.

"Using other kinds of disinfectants and kill one mosquito, you leave 1,400 progenies, and that is why the war against malaria has been going on for many years without tangible success," Mziray said.

He said the war against malaria in the country began in 1890 and started in Dar es Salaam but 130 years later the war still goes on.

RC Chalamila instructed all local councils in the region to allocate budgets for the purchase of the disinfectant to ensure the programme is implemented effectively.

He said the mosquitoes spreading malaria - anopheles have been mutating all the time hence many efforts to exterminate them have not been effective, but this time the new disinfectant will eradicate them," he said.

Mbeya City Medical Officer Dr Jonas Iulandala said malaria infection in Mbeya Region is only 3 percent and that the programme will ensure the region's residents and visitors live free of the disease.



AMREF Health Africa coordinator Gaspary Misungwi (2nd-R) an assortment of items worth 23.7m/- to Simiyu regional administrative secretary Mariam Mmbaga in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Looking on (L) is Shinyanga Regional Medical Officer Dr Khamis Kulemba. Photo: Correspondent Happy Severine

Africa called on to test more as Covid-19 cases exceed 500,000

NAIROBI

AFRICAN countries must carry out more coronavirus testing and make people use masks, a regional disease control body said on Thursday as cases topped half a million in the continent.

New cases in Africa were up 24% over the past week, with data from governments and the World Health Organization showing it had 512,499 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 11,930 deaths.

"The pandemic is gaining full momentum," John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), told a virtual news briefing from Addis Ababa.

Nkengasong said African countries, many of which do not have reliable data, must adopt an aggressive approach to encourage the wearing of face masks and ramp up testing and tracing.

"This will save lives and the economy," he stated.

Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, and Algeria account for 71% of infections on the continent, Nkengasong said.

Some governments have been reluctant to acknowledge epidemics or to expose crumbling health systems to outside scrutiny, while others are either too poor or conflict-ridden to carry out significant testing.

Nkengasong said it was inevitable that

as cases rise, hospitals will become overwhelmed.

"That is something that is happening already. We will continue to see it as the pandemic expands," he added.

Although many have also started gradually easing lockdowns to reopen hard-hit economies, governments are conscious that opening up too quickly could lead to a spike in new cases.

The African Union Commission said on Thursday it had launched a consortium for vaccine clinical trials to be headed by the Africa CDC, which aimed to secure more than 10 late stage vaccine clinical trials as early as possible.

South Africa and Egypt are already running human trials for a potential vaccine.



The pandemic is gaining full momentum," John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), told a virtual news briefing from Addis Ababa

Ethiopia ratifies AU protocol on rights of older people despite Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in Ethiopia has ratified the African Union protocol on the rights of older people and thus becomes the third country after Lesotho and Benin.

The decision is commendable due to the fact that its capital city—Addis Ababa hosts the African

Union Commission headquarters and is the country with the second highest population of older people in the continent.

A press statement by HelpAge International said the ratification comes in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic which has exposed and deepened the violation of older people's rights.

The decision will help the country make deliberate and systematic efforts towards protecting the dignity and rights of older people as well as contributing to collective actions needed by the AU Member States.

HelpAge International Ethiopia Country director, Sisay Seyoum, congratulated the government

saying the move demonstrates a sustained positive political will towards the wellbeing and dignity of its older women and men.

"We have had fruitful engagements with the government who has an open-door policy to listen to the needs of older people. On behalf of the older people and the HelpAge network in Ethiopia, I wish to thank the government and look forward to a continued collaboration during the imple-

mentation of the provisions of the Protocol," said Seyoum.

Africa Regional Director at HelpAge International, Carole Agengo said the signing of the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa signals called on other African government to follow the example set by Ethiopia and show the same commitment to the rights and

welfare of their ageing women and men.

Although Ethiopia is a young country with 46 percent of the population under the age of 14, over five percent of the 100 million Ethiopians are aged 60 years or more. The proportion of older people is anticipated to nearly double to nine percent by 2050.

Adopted in January 2016, the Protocol on the Rights of Older

Persons is the product of many years of consultation and brought to the fore commitments made by African States in the 2002 African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing and the African Charter for Human Rights.

The ratification by Ethiopia means that 12 more countries need to ratify the Protocol for it to come into force and be binding for all Member States of the African Union.

Help communities to profit from renewable energies, CSOs urged

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

CIVIL Society Organisations (CSOs) in the country have been challenged to come up with a workable financial model which will help communities to benefit economically with the use of renewable energy resources.

A private energy consultant, Roy Namgera said the private sector and CSOs should design the best and friendly approach of making renewable energy more friendly to users in order to support the ongoing initiatives to develop the sector.

He made the comment in an exclusive interview last week in Dar es Salaam during the stakeholders meeting to discuss the available opportunities and challenges for using renewable energy resources.

"So far there is no enough investment allocated to develop renewable energy in the country, therefore, if the public will be educated on how to invest in it, it will yield more positive results," he explained.

"Political will and technological investments are the main component if the government wants to benefit from the resources," the consultant said.

He added that application of renewable energy in the country is still at minimal rate despite presence of plenty resources of energy available in the country.

Lack of prioritisation and low investment in the sector are the main causes, he said.

According to him, the government is supposed to take control on the qual-

ity of energy products imported in the country in order to save the local market and to discourage the initiative toward renewable energy.

The stakeholders meeting which brought together representatives from different CSOs and private sector was organised by the FORUMCC under the support of Netherlands based organisation called Hivos, together with Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

The expert applauded the government effort to expand sources of renewable energy in the country, like the Julius Nyerere hydroelectric power project which is designed to produce 215MW.

"Legal framework guiding renewable energy needs to be visited to make sure they provide the necessary environment to let the sector prosper," he added.

Executive director of the FORUMCC Rebecca Muna emphasized on the CSOs, private sector and the government to come up with best solutions to end deforestation.

"We need to have a constructive mechanism which will provide alternative means to do with people who cut down trees to get energy," she said.

"More budgets are needed to make infrastructures for utilisation of renewable energy more effective in order to provide enough energy for domestic and industrial activities," she insisted.

The forum is implementing a two-year project seeking to influence the government to invest more in the generation and use of renewable energy because it is one of a clean and safe source of energy to the environment.



Dr Qasim Sufi (L), the International Organisation for Migration's Chief of Mission to Tanzania, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday presenting two motorcycles to Zanzibar Health ministry deputy permanent secretary Halima Maulid Salum for use in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Wanted: Proper supervision of warehouse receipt system

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Prof Riziki Shemdoe has underscored the need for proper supervision of the warehouse receipt system to end farmers' challenges including fluctuating crop prices and quality.

Prof Shemdoe made the state-

ment in Dar es Salaam yesterday after he visited the Warehouse Receipts Regulatory Board (WRRB) offices located at Veterinary buildings. During the meeting, WRRB staff had a chance to share their challenges with the PS.

He said the warehouse receipt system has largely contributed into revolutionising the country's agriculture and boost economic

growth. Prof Shemdoe urged workers of the WRRB to continue cooperating with other government institutions doing similar activities taking into consideration that farmers and manufacturers of different commodities depend on the board in ensuring better prices for whatever they produce.

According to the PS, the WRRB should work closely with the Tan-

zania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) and other stakeholders to find solution to the challenges facing farmers.

Executive Director of the WRRB, Odilo Majengo informed the Permanent Secretary on the board's responsibilities noting the ware-

house receipt system has assured farmers of better crop prices.

Majengo said that establishment of a strong farmer's cooperative union system as well as the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) has enabled farmers to open bank accounts whereas all the payments to farmers are done through banks.

He said all these efforts have

managed to remove the challenges of crop theft through the use of unverified weighing scales. He said farmers are also producing quality crops that can be sold within and outside the country.

The Ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ludovick Nduhiye commended WRRB for a job well done especially supervision of the warehouse receipt system in stra-

tegrated crops including cashew nut.

WRRB was established under the Warehouse Receipts Act No. 10 of year 2005 and Act No 3 of 2015 as amended and Regulations 2016. It was meant to regulate and promote the warehouse receipts system that ensures a fair and sustainable accessibility to formal credit and commodity marketing systems.

Climate change, conflict stalk world's most vulnerable

By Guardian Reporter

COUNTRIES affected by conflict are also disproportionately impacted by climate change, a double threat that pushes people out of their homes, disrupts food production, cuts off supplies, amplifies diseases and weakens health-care services, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a new report yesterday.

The report – When Rain Turns to Dust – is based on research in southern Iraq, northern Mali and the interior of the Central African Republic. It explores people's experience with conflict and climate risks, their ways of coping and adapting and how, in the absence of adequate support, they may be forced to drastically change their way of life, diversify their livelihoods or move away from their homes.

Of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change, the majority are at war. By 2050, 200 million people could need international humanitarian aid every year, double the number in need now. "Climate change is cruel. While it will be felt everywhere, its most crippling effects will be borne by the world's most vulnerable. We witness every

day the impact of climate shocks and environmental degradation on conflict-affected communities.

Their ability to adapt is being radically eroded by violence and instability. These shocks cost lives," said Catherine-Lune Grayson, ICRC's in-house expert on climate change.

In places like Mali or Iraq, people made it clear that environmental and climate factors are making their lives harder by threatening their access to water and food, their economic security and affecting their sense of dignity as they struggle to meet their families' needs.

In the Central African Republic, people spoke of tensions between farmers and herders due to changing human movement patterns and the authorities' limited capacity to regulate it.

They asked for help in managing tensions as well as support to chart changes to agricultural calendars, as they can no longer read the weather and traditional crop calendar are no longer reliable.

In northern Mali, pastoralists and farmers described how their ways of coping with repeated droughts and occasional intense

rains have been disrupted by the conflict and are accelerating changes to their way of life, forcing some to move south or to cities.

In northern Mali and CAR, people have recently lost homes, livelihoods and harvests to flooding and ask for help to recover and ensure that the next floods do not make them homeless again.

In Iraq, between 1950 and 1990 sandstorms occurred less than 25 times a year; in 2013 there were some 300. One Iraqi ICRC staff member mused: 'Before, rain was falling. Now, dust is falling.'

"Unmitigated climate change will cause the number of people in need to grow exponentially – and humanitarian organisations are already unable to meet humanitarian needs. Climate risks can lead to development reversals and systemic breakdown, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected states, which are currently most neglected by climate action," Grayson said.

The ICRC is calling for mobilisation from within and beyond the humanitarian sector so that climate action and finance reach conflict zones and to ensure that communities hit hardest get the support they need to adapt to a changing climate.



WHO calls for equitable access to future COVID-19 vaccines in Africa

BRAZZAVILLE

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) in Africa joined immunisation experts in urging the international community and countries in Africa to take concrete actions to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, as researchers around the world race to find effective protection against the virus.

"It is clear that as the international community comes together to develop safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics for COVID-19, equity must be a central focus of these efforts," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "Too often, African countries end up at the back of the queue for new technologies, including vaccines. These life-saving products must be available to everyone, not only those who can afford to pay."

WHO and partners launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to speed up the development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. It brings together leaders of government, global health organisations, civil society groups, businesses and philanthropies to form a plan for an equitable response to the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO is collaborating with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to ensure a fair allocation of vaccines to all countries, aiming to deliver 2 billion doses globally for high-risk populations, including 1 billion for low and middle-income countries.

The African Union has endorsed the need for Africa to develop a framework to actively engage in the development and

access to COVID-19 vaccines. Countries can take steps now that will strengthen health systems, improve immunisation delivery, and pave the way for the introduction of a COVID-19 vaccine. These include: mobilizing financial resources; strengthening local vaccine manufacturing, and regulatory, supply and distribution systems; building workforce skills and knowledge; enhancing outreach services; and listening to community concerns to counter misinformation.

Globally, there are nearly 150 COVID-19 vaccine candidates and currently 19 are in clinical trials. South Africa is the first country on the continent to start a clinical trial with the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg testing a vaccine developed by the Oxford Jenner Institute in the United Kingdom. The South African OxiCov-19 Vaccine VIDA-

Trial is expected to involve 2000 volunteers aged 18-65 years and include some people living with HIV. The vaccine is already undergoing trials in the United Kingdom and Brazil with thousands of participants.

According to the African Academy of Sciences only 2% of clinical trials conducted worldwide occur in Africa. It is important to test the COVID-19 vaccine in countries where it is needed to ensure that it will be effective. With more than 215 000 cases, South Africa accounts for 43% of the continent's total cases. Clinical trials must be performed according to international and national scientific and ethical standards, which include informed consent for any participant.

"I encourage more countries in the region to join these trials so that the contexts and immune response of populations in Africa

are factored in to studies," said Dr Moeti. "Africa has the scientific expertise to contribute widely to the search for an effective COVID-19 vaccine. Indeed, our researchers have helped develop vaccines which provide protection against communicable diseases such as meningitis, Ebola, yellow fever and a number of other common health threats in the region."

Earlier, this month WHO Africa's principle advisory group on immunization policies and programmes – the African Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG) – also noted the need to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 and other vaccines in the region.

"As the world focuses on finding a vaccine for COVID-19, we must ensure people do not forget that dozens of

lifesaving vaccines already exist. These vaccines should reach children everywhere in Africa – no one can be left behind," said Professor Helen Rees, Chair of the RITAG.

Initial analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on immunization in the African Region suggests that millions of African children are likely to be negatively impacted, as routine immunization services and vaccination campaigns for polio, cholera, measles, yellow fever, meningitis and human papilloma virus have been disrupted.

Despite these challenges, RITAG members also noted significant milestones and markers of progress. For example, there have been tremendous gains in the fight against wild poliovirus, and the African Region is expected to be of-

ficially certified free of wild poliovirus in August 2020. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also announced the end of its 10th Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, which was the worst in its history. An effective vaccine was a key tool in the response.

Dr Moeti spoke about COVID-19 vaccine development in Africa during a virtual press conference today organized by APO Group. She was joined by Professor Shabir Madhi, University of Witwatersrand, Principal Investigator of Oxford Covid-19 Vaccine Trial in South Africa; and Professor Pontiano Kaleebu, Director of the MCR/UVRI and LSHTM Ugandan Research Unit. The briefing was streamed on more than 300 African news sites as well as the WHO Regional Office for Africa's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Conservation research shows lemurs, whales are nearing extinction

GENEVA

NEARLY all of Madagascar's much-loved lemurs are under threat, and almost one-third are just one step away from extinction, largely due to deforestation and hunting on the giant island off eastern Africa, conservationists said Thursday.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, updating its "red list" of threatened species, said the lemurs are increasingly imperiled – a key finding in a broad warning about the impacts of human activity on fauna and flora across the globe.

The Swiss-based conservancy also warns that North Atlantic Right Whales are nearing extinction: Not only are they increasingly ensnared in fishing gear but they're colliding more with ships, possibly a result of climate change that drives their migratory patterns northward into shipping lanes.

The "red list" highlights the plight of some 6,000 species that are in the most danger, but also notes that of the 120,000 species of plants, animals and fungi assessed, more than a quarter are threatened with extinction.

"It just helps underline the fact that we are moving into a sixth extinction era. It is all due to human activities," said Craig Hilton-Taylor, the head of the IUCN red list in a video interview from Cambridge, England. He cited human impacts like the introduction of species to places where they don't belong; the overuse of species; clearing of forests to make way for agriculture; urbanization; pollution; "and of course, climate change."

The red list breaks down threatened species into vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered categories, the last involving those closest to extinction. Some 33 of the species of lemurs, which live only in Madagascar, are critically endangered – and 98 per cent are threatened.

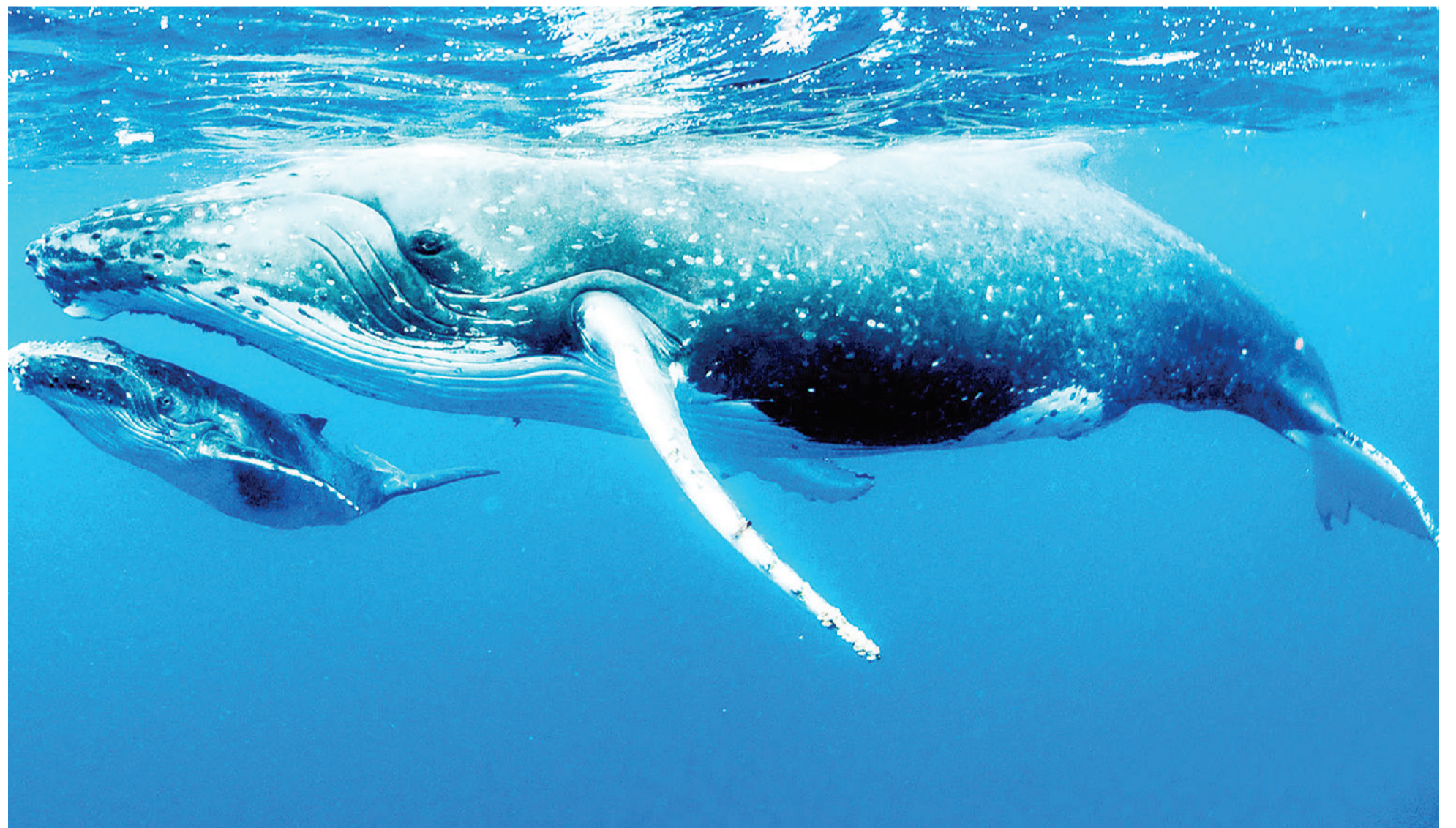
"We now have less than 10 per cent of the original forest in Madagascar left. So naturally, this has a huge impact on species that are dependent on those forests, like lemurs," Hilton-Taylor said, alluding to "slash and burn" agriculture there. He said more lemur species are being hunted for their meat, too.

He recommended efforts to help improve farmers' livelihoods so they can avoid forest-depleting agricultural techniques.

IUCN also said fewer than 250 mature North Atlantic Right Whales were believed to be alive in 2018, marking a 15-per cent drop since 2011. Nearly all of the 30 confirmed human-caused deaths or serious injuries to the whales between 2012 and 2016 were due to entanglement.

Hilton-Taylor said the whales' reproduction rates are falling, and cited a theory that warming sea temperatures could be driving the whales northward into the shipping lanes of the Gulf of St Lawrence in the northern hemisphere summer.

He said the Canadian and U.S. governments have presented recovery plans for the whales, such as by warning ships when the creatures are present in the area and devising fishing systems that run a lower risk of entanglement.



Coastal Aviation resumes operations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AS Tanzania reopens its skies for local and international flights, Coastal Aviation will resume operations with its first flight launch to Serengeti on July 15th 2020.

The company's marketing executive, Dixita Patel told The Guardian that the decision came after the government resumed tourism operations.

Patel said that the route to Serengeti National Park will later be followed by the Mafia route on August 1st this year and Selous/Ruaha on August 15th 2020. The move is part of its plans to attract tourists back in the country.

"This shows that we are now ready to welcome visitors for an adventurous safari in Tanzania. We provide services by adhering to all the safety procedures to ensure our passengers feel safe while flying with us," she said.

She said that travelers to Serengeti National Park can enjoy their trip at 30 per cent reduction of air ticket to enable all those who want to watch animals especially the wildebeest's movement.

She added: "It is our responsibility to ensure safety and successful arrival of passengers at their final destination. We work to ensure our passenger's flights are safe, reliable, comfortable and memorable."

According to her, safety, just like quality, cannot be compromised and there were no shortcuts. The flight carries 5000 tourists per annum travelling to various destinations including remote areas in the country's national parks.

Mid-March this year, Tanzania reopened its airspace to both scheduled and non-scheduled international flights following its closure in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The decision came a day after President John Magufuli directed Works, Transport and Communication Minister Isack Kamwelwe and his Tourism counterpart Hamisi Kigwangalla to allow aircraft to come into

the country from outside.

In a swift response, Kamwelwe said commercial passenger flights, diplomatic flights, aircraft in emergency and operations related to humanitarian aid, medical and relief would be allowed into Tanzania without any restrictions.

"I direct the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) to inform the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) about the decision, and ensure that the directive is fully implemented," said the president.

Coastal Aviation, with its over 30-year legacy can undoubtedly be considered one of Tanzania's oldest and most reliable domestic carriers.

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Gender equality decisive in elimination of poverty

THE United Nations' focus on the development goals strongly aligns women's empowerment and gender equality with women's leadership in economic development. Commonwealth heads of government have affirmed the importance of women's leadership, including in enterprise, and have urged the acceleration of gender mainstreaming efforts to promote the holistic empowerment of women as a driver of gender equality, economic growth and inclusive sustainable development.

The case for decisively tackling the obstacles that prevent women from accessing leadership positions equally with men and for nurturing the pipeline of women leaders has been made in global research. The presence of women leaders has a positive impact on governance, reputation, financial success and encouraging other women to become leaders. Governments and the private sector in a growing number of countries are introducing decisive measures to drive up women's share of leadership positions, including through legislation, regulation, governance arrangements, new policies and approaches, consciousness-raising on bias and empowerment programmes.

Positive action measures are slowly making a difference in some countries in relation to women's share of political leadership and positions on private and public boards. However, there is little change evident in women's executive leadership or in investment to sustain the women's talent pipeline. The priority now is to focus on agreeing and implementing strategies and actions that speed up the pace of change and make a substantive difference. Change is more likely to be successful when it is led from the top; focuses on institutional, structural and cultural change; and is accompanied by a results framework with robust accountability.

Timely reporting on the basis of comprehensive sex-disaggregated data is es-

sential; and this needs to be comparative across the Commonwealth for benchmarking, lesson sharing and mutual support. International organisations, national women's machineries and equality and human rights commissions need to extend the debate on women's leadership into the public and private sectors more consistently in addition to the political sphere as well as explicitly integrate women's public and private sector leadership into the concept of and strategies for women's empowerment and agency.

Various global data sources map the progress of women in politics and in the private and public sectors. Each source uses its own definitions and carries limitations, often making it difficult to make comparisons across countries. In 2015, the Commonwealth undertook a study of women in government and in leadership in member countries across the private and public sectors, including in state-owned enterprises.

The progress of women into political roles has been positive but slow, and based on current trends the UN Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality in political representation is likely to take another half century to achieve.³ Similarly, women's progression into senior executive positions in the public and private sectors remains sluggish. An increasing number of countries both within the Commonwealth and elsewhere have introduced, or are in the process of introducing, legislation to boost women's participation in strategic roles. Emerging data from across the globe are beginning to show the impact of legislation and regulation.

Doubting the business case for gender diversity you don't need more proof, you need a small leap of faith. Studies have demonstrated that boards on which women are represented are more likely to be financially successful, have less likelihood of governance scandals and are less likely to operate in tax havens.

Let's heed experts' advice on need to protect seagrasses

SEAGRASSES not to be confused with seaweed, are flowering plants which grow in marine environments. There are 60 species of marine seagrasses. Seagrasses evolved from terrestrial plants which migrated back into the ocean about 75 to 100 million years ago.

Many species with long and narrow leaves and often spread across large meadows resembling grassland; many species superficially resemble terrestrial grasses.

Seagrasses most occur in shallow and sheltered coastal waters anchored in sand or mud bottoms. Most species undergo submarine pollination and complete their life cycle underwater.

Seagrass beds/meadows can be either made up of a single species or in mixed beds.

Seagrass beds are diverse and productive ecosystems, and can harbour hundreds of associated species for example juvenile and adult fish.

Few species were originally considered to feed directly on seagrass leaves partly because of their low nutritional content, but scientific reviews and improved working methods have shown that seagrass herbivory is an important link in the food chain, feeding hundreds of species, including green turtles, dugongs, manatees, fish, geese, swans, sea urchins and crabs.

Some fish species that visit/feed on seagrasses raise their young in adjacent mangroves or coral reefs.

Seagrasses trap sediment and slow down water movement, causing suspended sediment to settle out. Trapping sediment benefits coral by reducing sediment loads, improving photosynthesis for both coral and seagrass.

The United Nations Environment Programme has warned that fishing trawlers, seaweed farming, and tourism on the coasts of Tanzania and Kenya are threatening the survival of seagrasses.

The UN body wants countries to include seagrass protection and restoration in their nationally determined contributions to help reduce the amount of heat-trapping carbon in the atmosphere.

In its new report titled 'Out of the blue': The value of seagrasses to the environment and to people, launched on World Oceans Day on June 8, UNEP blames these unsustainable activities for a deteriorating coastal ecosystem, a decline in coastal productivity, and affected certain supportive functions performed by the marine plant leading up to loss of critical fisheries habitat.

Known as the "lungs of the sea" due to their role in producing oxygen in the water, the flowering plants that grow entirely underwater perform numerous functions, including stabilising the sea bottom, providing food and habitat for other marine life, and provide numerous other services to coastal communities. East Africa's coast has 12 known seagrass species.

Seagrass ecosystems are biologically rich and highly productive, providing valuable nursery habitats to more than 20 per cent of the world's largest 25 fisheries and filtering pathogens, bacteria, and pollution out of seawater.

The Out of the Blue report showcases the many ways that seagrasses help people thrive and sustain the healthy natural environment that we all depend on.

Seagrasses can help us solve our biggest environmental challenges. They purify water, they protect us from storms, they provide food to hundreds of millions of people, they support rich biodiversity, and they efficiently store carbon.

UNEP said new data suggest that seagrasses are among the least protected coastal habitats. In a recent census it was estimated that seven per cent of seagrass habitat is being lost worldwide each year.



The UN's failure to act on race

By Kwame Akonor

RACISM is not only an American problem but a plague that people of African descent have had to endure since time immemorial.

Rather than seizing this historic moment to act decisively, the United Nations, the world's highest platform for human rights, dithered on the issue when it was called on to establish a full commission of inquiry on race following the outrageous killing of George Floyd on May 25 2020.

That the African countries on the 47-member UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) were cajoled by more powerful UN member states to soften its demand for such a commission should come as no surprise. African states are the largest regional group at the UN, yet it continues to play a peripheral role in global affairs.

In 1945, four African countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, and the Union of South Africa) attended the San Francisco Conference and signed the UN Charter. Since then the number of African countries has increased, mainly due to decolonization, to 54 (28% of UN members).

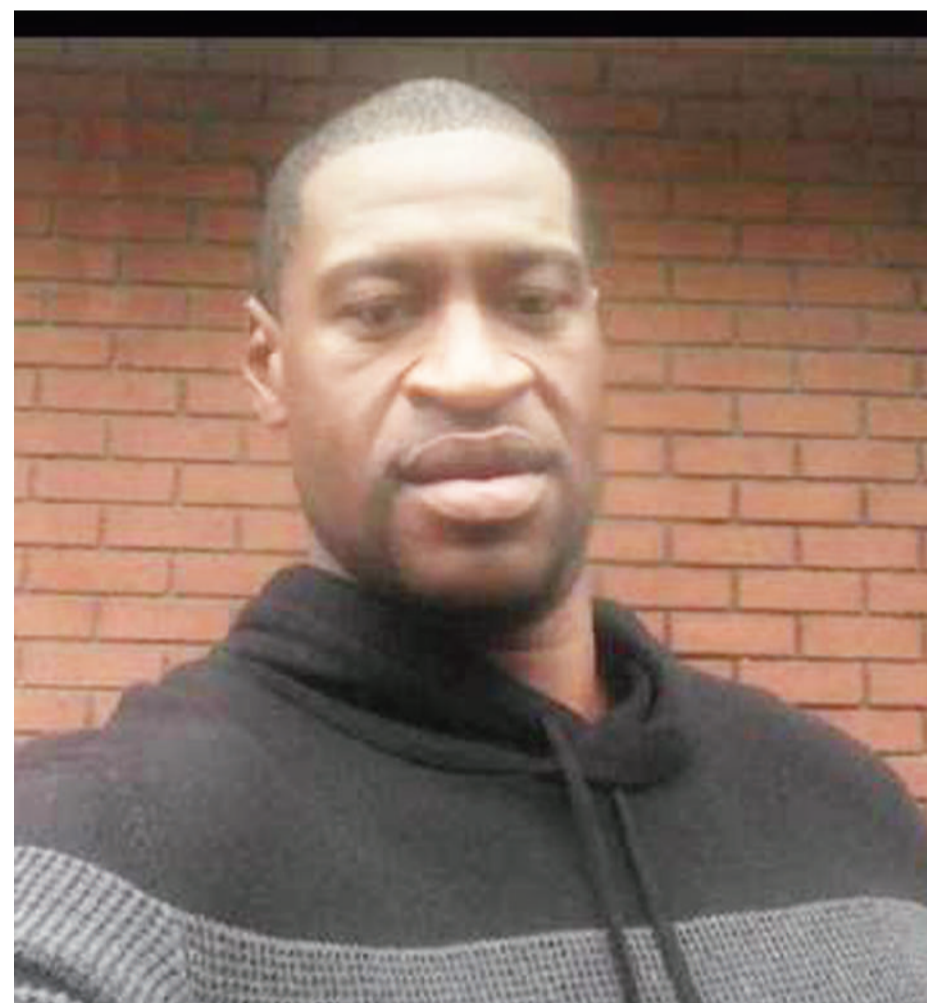
Despite its current representation, Africa remains marginalized and powerless in the world body. As any student of international relations knows, real power in UN lies with the veto-wielding five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

African countries have a common vision for inclusion and expansion for two permanent and five non-permanent security council seats for Africa. Though it is not wedded to idea of a veto and would prefer its abolition, the African group maintains that for the sake of efficiency and equitable distribution of power all admitted permanent members should possess it.

The collective, however, cannot agree on which countries to recommend for permanent seats let alone those to be assigned veto powers. The three potential candidates mentioned as permanent members with veto rights are South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt.

The inability of Africans to agree on the composition and mandate of its reform proposals have made it susceptible to the dictates and influence of western donor countries.

Be that it is, one can make the case that a meaningful structural



reform of the Security Council that accords agency to Africa at the UN will not only be a pragmatic reflection of contemporary geopolitical realities but more importantly it will serve as a correction of the historic injustice done to Africa.

The UNHRC urgent debate opened in Geneva on June 15, 2020 and discussion on the Africa resolution began in earnest on June 17, 2020. The original proposal by the Africans specially called for an international investigation into the unarmed killing of blacks in America and the lack of accountability of police violence that results from such crimes, including police brutality against protesters.

In the end, a watered-down version of the resolution was adopted unanimously on June 19, 2020. Mention of the creation of full-fledged commission of inquiry was dropped and the scope of inquiry was broadened to go beyond America.

The final resolution recommended a mere fact-finding report on systemic racism and discrimination against black people to be prepared by the UNHRC chairperson and other experts and delivered in a year's time.

Though the US withdrew from the UNHRC in 2018, the final resolution passed because the US, the UN's biggest financial donor,

was "the elephant in the room" calling the shots. The US argued that while it was not above scrutiny, the UNHRC's attempt to single it out was hypocritical since authoritarian regimes in the world like Cuba, China, and Iran have systemic racial disparities in countries.

The western allies on the UNHRC, including Australia, Germany, Poland, and the European Union, were swayed by the US argument and thwarted the Africa efforts.

The adopted resolution is a disingenuous face-saving outcome: how can the UNHRC back away from its most intrusive scrutiny mechanism, the creation of commission of inquiry, to that of a report.

To make matters worse, the UNHRC assigned itself a full year for the completion of the report. It took just a week (June 22, 2020) for the reputable advocacy group Amnesty International to put together a comprehensive report "USA: End unlawful police violence against Black Lives Matter protests" on police brutality and the protest movement in America following the death of Mr. Floyd.

Credit however must be given to the African states for initiating the "urgent debate" on Mr. Floyd's murder and racial injustice and police impunity in the

United States.

It is only the fifth time in the UNHRC 14-year history that such a debate has been convened: the first one against Israel over the flotilla incident in June 2010; and the other three on Syria, in February 2012, May 2013 and March 2018.

For a moment, it appeared the debate might not happen despite worldwide protests. First, UN activities had been suspended since the Covid-19 pandemic first struck in early March 2020.

Second, senior UN leadership vacillated on how to respond and sent conflicting messages to UN staffers on what role, if any, they could play.

Beyond using tweets, António Guterres, the current UN Secretary-General made no media appearance or formal remarks on the subject. Through his surrogates some guidance was provided.

On June 3, the UN effectively banned UN staff from engaging in peaceful protest stating that UN staff regulations makes the "participation in public demonstrations in the current circumstances may not be consistent with the independence and impartiality required of... international civil servants."

The contradiction between the UN ideals for civil rights and the prohibitive guidance that discourage action toward such ideals became evident.

Sensing the civil rights disconnect and dissatisfaction of the UN staff, the UN reversed course. Secretary-General Guterres on June 9, sent a letter to the UN staff and maintained that the earlier guidance was not a prescription for neutrality or impartiality on the matter at hand but rather that "the guidance was meant to emphasize the need to balance [protest] activities with one's best judgement as international civil servants and our official duties."

In order words, protest engagements could be carried out but in a solely private capacity. The guidance provided is quite timorous and stands in stark contrast to efforts by UN staffers who participated in protest movements of yesterday.

One such person is Ralph Bunche, a co-drafter of the UN Charter, the first African-American Nobel Peace laureate, in 1950, and an UN Under Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs who joined several civil rights protest marches, sometimes donning the UN flag and publicly pledging the UN support for the movement.

While not a panacea, a formal international investigation would have served as a clarion call to end and repair racial injustice and projected the UN as an agent of change to institutional racism.

It also would have signaled a firm commitment by the world organization to the promotion of fundamental freedoms for all persons as enshrined in the UN charter, the organization's constitution which was signed some seventy-five ago this month.

Mundi villagers unhappy about 3m/- fines withheld by police bureaucracy

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

LIVELIHOODS of more than 15,000 villagers in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region are in peril following over grazing that has ended up destroying village forest reserves and water sources in their localities.

In separate interviews, villagers from Mindu, Namakambale and Songambebe villages said livestock grazing in village forest reserves and shifting agriculture are the main factors for deforestation, accounting to a reduction of the reserves by close to 90 per cent.

Right now water sources that flow directly into rivers are in danger of drying up especially due to livestock grazing and shifting agriculture.

So far three rivers, Misenjele, Lukumbuko and Muhesi in Songambebe village are dwindling and could soon be drying up.

The three rivers are major water sources that feed Ruvuma river, and villagers across the district depend on those rivers for domestic water needs and farming activities.

The forest ecosystem and water sources that feed rivers and then flow directly into Selous Game Reserve are extensively damaged at Liwina, Songambebe and Ipapa village forest reserves because livestock keepers cutting down trees for grazing land for their livestock.

The villagers raised these concerns recently when speaking to journalists from different media organizations in a meeting conducted by the Village Natural Resources Committee.

While in those villages, we met with the committee members, the chairmen of the village committees, village executive officers (VEO), village chairmen and activists of the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) members for discussion on challenges they face and what they need from the government.

Speaking on behalf of Mindu residents, the resources committee chairman, Angelelus Macha said that villages have developed a number of strategies such as forming resources committees for forest management. But cattle ranching is the principal driver of deforestation that destroys village forest reserves and water sources in their localities.

Highlighting the main challenges in Mindu village, he says overgrazing within the village forest reserves and fines charged on livestock keepers invading and grazing their livestock inside the village forest reserve are the main challenges that affect them to implement village development projects.

He said in 2018, two livestock keepers from Mindu village were arrested for invading and grazing their livestock inside the Liwina Forest Reserve without permission.

The village has booked a case against them at Nakapanya Police Station and they confess to pay 3m/- in fines charged on their cattle.

He says the livestock keeper entered the forest reserve with a herd of 300 cattle with intention of grazing in the area.

"As villagers we noticed the incident when conducting patrols on the forest reserve to keep encroachers at bay. They invade the forest for livestock grazing, timber production, cattle pastures, agricultural activities and other human activities," he says.

Right now hundreds of villagers in Mindu village are demanding government intervention over fines charged on livestock keeper so that the village obtains the funds.

Although village leaders have been struggling to make a follow-up on the issue at Nakapanya Police station to help them access those funds from the livestock keepers since 2018 and to date nothing had been paid to the village government.

The payment dispute, which already poses a threat to the peace in the area, had been there for three years, affecting 1867 villagers in Mindu ward.

"We call for government support to help us access those funds so that we can construct a ward secondary school as well as implement at least one planned village development project," he said.

Villagers called for government authorities to arrest the livestock keeper again and file a criminal complaint to



The chairperson of the Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) in Songambebe village, Mwanahawa Hassan explains how Misenjele, Lukumbuko and Muhesi rivers which are the main water sources that feed Ruvuma river are being destroyed through overgrazing.

the court to allow the village government get their money.

"We need support because when we ask him when he will pay our 3m/- he says he has already paid 500,000/- to the forest officer. As villagers we are not quite sure of what he is telling us as so far nothing has been paid to the village government," he insisted.

After discovering that they are struggling to access those funds, right now the village leadership has written to the Tunduru District Executive Officer (DED) to inform him about this issue. The letter was submitted on June 15th and a copy delivered at the office of the Tunduru District Commissioner and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Tunduru district.

For his part, Mindu Village Executive Officer (VEO), Mohamed Said affirmed that Liwina Forest Reserve, located at Mindu village 40 miles from Tunduru district urban centre, has 3713 hectares of land endowed with forests that is suitable for timber harvesting and other activities if conducted in a sustainable manner.

Mindu village was officially established in 1974 and so far the village has 1867 residents.

According to him, in 2017, the village was able to sell timber worth 5.2m/- and using the funds they were able to construct a warehouse while the remained amount was used for forest management.

He however expressed need for 3m/- that in turn will help them to construct ward secondary school and other village development projects for 2020/2021.

So far the village has been able to build five classrooms, one teachers offices building and six pit latrines.

He says despite all their effort, they still need three classrooms and another building for teachers' office to help students learn in a conducive environment that in turn will help them to get best academic result.

Edmund Komba, a Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC)'s member confidently said that the forest help villagers to get rainfall and reduce climate change impacts.

If encroachers continue to invade Liwina Forest Reserve for livestock grazing and other human activities illegally, they will not benefit from it.

"Right now we are struggling to obtain 3m/- from the livestock keepers that's why we are looking for government's intervention so that we can obtain funds to construct a ward secondary school and other projects," he said.

An environmental activist in the village located 40 miles from Tunduru district council, Christina Zuberi said the village has already benefited from Liwina Forest Reserve.

With the support from Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), WWF and other stakeholders, villagers were trained on the importance of forest management and governance.

These efforts have changed people's mindsets and in turn, save the Liwina forest reserve from extinction, help the village government to construct a warehouse as well as pay allowance fee for villagers who conduct patrol to prevent encroachers

who invade the village forest reserve for illegal timber production although livestock keepers are still invading the forest.

"VNRC's members normally do patrols in the forest twice per month but right now there is a huge area in which the forest is being degraded."

According to him, they don't know where the livestock are coming from, they just see them around the village.

For his part, Namakambale Village's chairman, Hassan Likambale said livestock grazing has brought huge effects in Namakambale village because right now majimeupe and Mtipula water sources have been destroyed due to overgrazing and caused deforestation at Ipapa forest reserve.

Apart from that ecosystem of Ipapa Forest Reserve has been damaged by livestock keepers, Ipapa Forest reserve is located in Namakambale village with 4491 hectares of land.

Mtipula water source is a very important source of water for people living in Nakapanya and Namakambale villages especially during dry seasons as people depend on Mtipula water source for domestic use and other agricultural activities.

The village has been trying to keep cattle out of the water sources but the livestock keepers don't obey regulations and as more livestock keepers continue to damage water sources, people will start to suffer to access water.

Namakambale village was officially established in 1974 and so far the village has 10,158 residents.

In February 2019, the villagers arrested a livestock keeper for entering Ipapa forest reserve with a herd of 200 cattle with the intention of grazing them there.

Upon arrest he was sent to court where he was required to pay 2m/- and among those funds, 1m/- was for Namakambale village government and the remained 1m/- as court fine.

Among those funds, 370,000/- had been paid to the village government account without submitting any document to the village government.

Right now the village is still making a follow up on the matter that's why we call for government's intervention.

Tunduru Livestock officer Faraji Swale, said right now the livestock keepers are invading the forest reserves and other areas within the district due to lack of pasture suitable for grazing their cattle.

So far, Tunduru District Council has been allocated with a total of 279 new grazing plots fit for livestock grazing to keep livestock keepers from invading the village forest reserve and farms for cattle grazing.

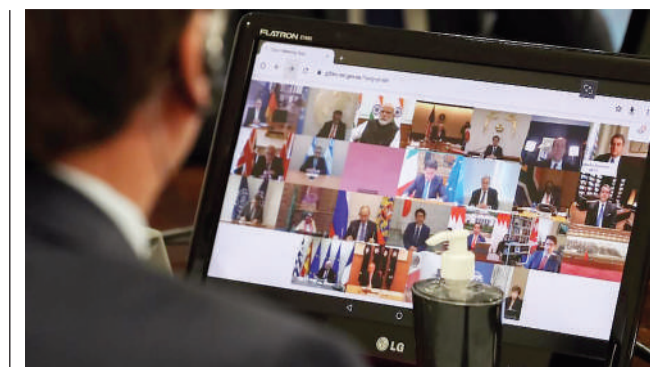
Among those plots, 191 plots have been offered to the livestock keepers as grazing areas.

The livestock keepers have obtained grazing plots in accordance with the zones and 200 hectares of land can accommodate 200 cattle.

According to him, currently the district has 279 livestock keepers and about 62,357 cattle.

Tunduru District has suitable land for livestock grazing but only few ha are currently being utilised.

Majority of livestock keepers in Tunduru district are from Mbeya and Morogoro region.



Should more creditors consider suspending debt servicing, and for longer? File photo

The G20's COVID-19 debt relief plan needs to do more

BY PETER FABRICIUS

THE G20 is taking a lot of flak lately. It's a global club of the world's richest and most significant economies, but its reputation has diminished since its heyday when it successfully managed the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis.

Now seriously hobbled by centrifugal international forces, particularly the increasingly hostile standoff between the United States and China, it struggles to make any meaningful contribution to addressing global problems.

It has also been criticised for its failure to muster a coordinated and coherent global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the group did produce one concrete result, at its 15 April virtual summit. It decided to suspend the debt service payments of the world's least developed countries to official (government) creditors from 1 May until the end of 2020. It gave them three years to pay off these amounts, after a one-year grace period.

This, the G20 leaders declared, would release considerable funds for countries to fight COVID-19, both directly in terms of health measures and to ameliorate the economic fallout. But will it?

The G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) is being managed jointly with the Paris Club - the informal forum of 22 mostly Western creditor countries for restructuring bilateral debt. However G20 leaders also appealed to non-Paris Club creditor governments as well as private sector creditors and multilateral banks to join in.

Seventy-three countries are eligible for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, of which 37 are African.

According to the World Bank, 73 countries worldwide are eligible for DSSI, of which 37 are African. These 37 together have debt service obligations of US\$5.275 billion for 1 May to 31 December 2020. The biggest by far is perennially over-indebted Angola, with US\$2.645 billion in debt service obligations in that period - or 3.1% of its total GDP.

If African governments could divert US\$5.275 billion from servicing debt this year, that would certainly help them fight COVID-19 and its repercussions. But the reality is rather fuzziy. So far only the Paris Club creditors are fully committed to the DSSI. And as Brookings Institution Senior Fellow David Dollar tells ISS Today, Paris Club creditors account for only 5% of Africa's external debt.

So it's important to get non-Paris Club creditors on board, particularly China, which holds 17% of African debt; and private sector lenders, who account for 31% of it, Dollar says.

China is something of a wildcard here. China is in the G20 and President Xi

Jinping has explicitly committed it to the DSSI in principle. But as South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) National Director Elizabeth Sidiropoulos points out, the country hasn't offered any specifics, including figures.

The reason, she says, is partly that China hasn't yet clarified which lending banks it considers public and which it considers private. Westerners tend to regard all Chinese development banks (and perhaps all businesses per se) as official. But China chooses not to.

Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda have chosen not to participate in the DSSI initiative.

And Sidiropoulos says Beijing seems to be struggling to collate all the foreign loans from its various state banks. China also prefers to renegotiate loans bilaterally, not multilaterally. All this makes it impossible to predict how much money China might release.

There are other factors detracting from the full potential benefits of the DSSI initiative in Africa. Several countries with greater market access, like Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda, have chosen not to participate apparently because they fear doing so will damage their creditworthiness. Others may be staying out because one of the conditions of participation is that countries may not take on further non-concessional loans for the duration of the DSSI.

It's also unclear whether many private creditors will climb on board. The Institute of International Finance, the global association of the financial industry, has promised support. But Dollar suspects that 'private investors ... are extremely unlikely to provide any significant debt relief.'

Some DSSI-eligible countries are reluctant to ask their private creditors to join the DSSI because credit rating agencies have warned that they may downgrade them if they do. Moody's for example has already placed Ethiopia and Pakistan on negative watch for this reason, the World Bank says. Meanwhile the World Bank itself and the International Monetary Fund still appear to be mulling participation, but also seem concerned that they'll lose their triple-A credit ratings if they do.

Some official creditors are evidently concerned that if private creditors don't join in, debtor countries will use the money released from servicing official debt to pay off private debt.

Is this a once-in-a-generation calamity that demands that caution be thrown to the winds?

The G20 has tasked the World Bank with monitoring the DSSI to ensure that debtor countries really do use the money to fight the pandemic and its aftermath, but it's unclear how it intends to do that effectively. In light of these difficulties, many are urging more generous relief.

Digital news publishers weather the storm after Covid-19 (Part 2)

MANY of the largest cities in the US have tragically taken the brunt of Covid-19. E&P spoke with three big-city newspapers to find out how the pandemic has transformed the way they gather and distribute news. The following is excerpted from conversations with Miami Herald managing editor Rick Hirsch; Detroit Free Press editor and vice president Peter Bhatia; and San Diego Union-Tribune publisher and editor-in-chief Jeff Light.

Gretchen A. Peck

As E&P was putting together the finishing touches on this article, protests were raging across the nation, where police brutality on protesters and the press became unconscionably rampant and hard to keep track of - and journalists still had to contend with the unpredictable coronavirus that had already killed more than 100,000 Americans alone. It was crisis on top of crisis on top of crisis for newsrooms across the country and abroad.

Since March 2020, news organisations have had to take an all-hands-on-deck approach to publishing. It is not just traditional print publications dealing with the ramifications of Covid-19. Digital news outlets and nonprofits have also had to weather the storm, but they are rising to the challenge.

Long Beach Post

From early March to the first week of June, Melissa Evans, managing editor at Long Beach Post in Southern California, estimated 80 per cent of the site's content was related to Covid-19.

"One of the things we noticed immediately was that people were looking for 'explainer stories.' What's open? What's closed? What can we do this weekend? What does the newest health order say? Real practical content. They just wanted nuts-and-bolts information," Evans said. The most popular story with readers - logging more than 100,000 page views - was published when the first Covid-19 case was recorded in Long Beach.

Evans noted that at least a third of the staff began working remotely early on, which allowed for physical distancing in the office. The newsroom began holding daily planning meetings via Zoom, and some of the staff was re-tasked to new types of assignments. For example, one of the columnists took charge of producing video content that captured human interest stories around the community (feel-good pieces that showed how neighbors were rallying and helping one another).

"It is a challenge to shoot video because you can't get too close to people...I believe most people are well intentioned, but we had some video shoots were peo-



ple weren't six feet apart, they weren't wearing masks, and we had a lot of internal debates about how to present that," Evans said.

The site also launched a daily live chat. "The mayor wanted to do a live chat with us," Evans said. "We invited reporters from competing newspapers to moderate it with us, and then we decided, let's do these chats every day." The chats have been an opportunity for the newsroom staff and viewers to ask questions of ER doctors, child psychologists, the fire chief, the director of the local port authority and a Covid-19 survivor.

To financially manage during the pandemic, Long Beach Post leveraged a loan through fundraising, the federal Paycheck Protection Programme and tapped into grants, including a grant from Facebook to produce livestream events.

"Our donations have gone through the roof," Evans said. "The audience appreciates our coverage, but on the flip side, our advertising cratered, like everybody else. We really scraped and scrambled... We're going to have a challenge moving forward because some of our biggest advertisers may not come back for a while or at all."

Aspen Journalism

"It's difficult not to write any story that isn't shaped by the virus in some way," said Brent Gardner-Smith, editor of Aspen Journalism, an independent, non-profit digital news source in Aspen, Colo.

And yet, Gardner-Smith had to make

an editorial decision not to shift the site to a Covid-heavy publication. The reason for that had to do with the news market in and around Aspen, where there are two newspapers and a public radio station in play. All three news sources have been providing the regional audience with news about the virus, and Aspen Journalism has a cooperative relationship with the newspapers.

"We don't compete with them directly," he explained. "For example, they cover city hall; we don't." The site does offer an aggregate of local news under the heading, "The Bucket," including content related to the virus, but the newsroom team isn't expressly writing about the pandemic.

In addition to Gardner-Smith, there are just two full-time reporters - one who covers local water issues and one on the environment beat.

"One of the more difficult decisions for small non-profit journalism organisations is what not to cover, especially when...the virus is shaping everything we write about today - from public health and safety articles to the economy, business, legislation, you name it," he said.

As a non-profit, Aspen Journalism's fiscal worries differed from for-profit outlets. An annual grant landed in March, which helped sustain them, and they also applied for a federal Paycheck Protection Programme loan.

The loan was used just as it was intended - to sustain the full-time employees on payroll without any pay cuts or furloughs (layoffs).

Aspen Journalism relies heavily on freelance contributors. About \$50,000 a year is spent on freelancers, he estimates, and fortunately, with the grants, those relationships have carried on.

Gardner-Smith noted that the two local newspapers started up fundraising campaigns beyond their subscription appeals, asking readers for donations.

"That was interesting because that was sort of our market niche; we're the non-profit," he said, adding: "I tried to find the silver lining here, and thought, 'I guess we're all non-profits now', but at least the papers are driving home the message that local journalism is worth people's direct financial support."

The Berkshire Edge

The Berkshire Edge also leveraged a Paycheck Protection Programme loan to help mitigate some of the financial harm it felt as a result of the pandemic. Launched in April 2014, the digital community-focused news source based in Pittsfield, Mass. has a small team, yet competes with larger newspapers in the region - one that recently folded after 31 years of publication.

Marcie Setlow is the Edge's publisher. There is also an editor, and both of these positions are unpaid, while two other staffers draw a salary.

"We ramped up our membership campaign right at the beginning," Setlow said. "But we've never been able to cover our costs. As advertisers began cancelling because of Covid-19, I really ramped up the kind of anemic membership campaign I'd launched a couple of years ago, and we got tremendous response."

The publication greatly relies on freelance writers, whom they cut back on as advertising began to dry up, as well as readers' contributions.

"We are almost entirely Covid-19," she said of the content, adding: "It seems to be what everybody is interested in...We are very conscious of trying to satisfy the community and keep the community informed."

Setlow offered some examples of how the virus influences content, citing not just public health and safety stories, but local business and economics, food, culture, events, housing and real

estate, and much more.

The information they publish tends to be practical. For example, when stay-at-home orders were announced, the Edge provided readers with a list of restaurants offering takeout and local farms that were selling their goods directly to the public.

"We started a little column called 'The Stuck at Home Handbook,' written by a freelancer who is a teacher, a mother and a creative person," Setlow said, adding: "She wrote tips on what to do when you're stuck at home with your children."

Another popular series covered the issues of second-home owners who came and decamped from New York and Boston. It was a highly charged topic that inspired lots of comments, many of them quite passionate.

The Edge launched a quarterly print companion about a year and a half ago (a 72-page glossy magazine). Naturally, the May 1 issue was cancelled this year, but Setlow was able to creatively save much of the advertising revenue derived from the magazine by creating an "online magazine" section on the website and offering advertisers compelling exposure there at an attractive rate.

The Edge's pandemic coverage resonated with readers. An average 85,000 unique visitors each month spiked to approximately 125,000, Setlow estimated.

Several months into the pandemic coverage, content was beginning to return to more conventional local-interest stories. The publisher said that approximately 30 percent to 45 percent of the editorial content was still Covid-related by the last week of May 2020.

IowaWatch.org

IowaWatch.org recently celebrated its ten-year anniversary. As the site's executive director and editor (and only full-time employee), Suzanne Behnke's responsibilities extend far beyond news gathering and production; she's also a mentor to a newsroom team of student journalists who write for the outlet.

Prior to the pandemic, the site focused on four facets of coverage: education, environment, healthcare and government. The site is entirely supported by grants, foundation endowments and fundraising.

"Non-profit or for-profit, lots of people are struggling right now, but we did take some steps to ensure that we were running as lean as possible," she said.

That meant shuttering an office and establishing a new one in the home she shares with her husband and son. She enlisted her husband to help with IT, and her father-in-law, a retired accountant, to counsel her on bookkeeping.

All of the operational changes presented obvious challenges for Behnke, who - like so many parents - were juggling a full-time workload, home schooling and a stay-at-home lifestyle.

"I think the date was March 16 when the enormity of the situation slapped me across the face. I realised that we weren't going to host several fundraisers that we normally did between March, April and May," Behnke said.

She added: "I realised that some of the projects I had been working on disappeared, and that the college students we were working with were all going home to distance learning...so, I had no fundraising. Every piece of content I'd been planning for three months was gone, and I knew that I was going to have to change to a home office. It was like the theoretical dry-erase board in my mind was wiped clean."

Behnke recalled indulging in a half-hour of emotional turmoil and lots of coffee. "And then, I thought, I can either sink or swim. So far, we're swimming," she said.

She rebuilt what she calls "an army of journalists" - a virtual newsroom of about 30 student contributors.

"I did not expect to do reporting myself, but here I am writing a story or two," she said, noting that the pandemic reignited her

Covid-19 may lead to spike in AIDS deaths, warns UNAIDS

By Ufieda Ho

SIX months more of pandemic-related disruptions could result in a spike of an additional 500,000 AIDS-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa alone by the end of 2021, warns UNAIDS.

Speaking at the launch of the 2020 UNAIDS Global AIDS Update on Monday, executive director Winnie Byanyima said the agency's modelling shows that a continuation of severe disruptions from Covid-19 response measures has the potential to push up the AIDS death rate by devastating numbers. It's a scenario that would amount to a 72% increase on the estimated 690,000 HIV-related deaths globally in 2019.

The "alarming figures" from the UN's monitoring and modelling, Byanyima said, are as a result of access to treatment and prevention programmes for HIV/AIDS falling through the cracks, as the world's attention has this year been almost singularly focused on fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

"If disruptions remain so severe for another six months, we could also see a reversal in mother-to-child transmission that will take us back to 10 years ago," she said.

"Our report shows that Covid is a disease that is threatening to throw us more off-course, it is claiming resources like labs, scientists, healthcare workers away from HIV work - we are saying that we need to find creative ways to fight both of these diseases at

the same time," she said, speaking on a webinar in Geneva.

Key UNAIDS targets will be missed. The executive director confirmed that the world will fall short of the 2020 target to have 90% of all people living with HIV know their status; 90% of people with diagnosed HIV infection to be on antiretroviral (ARV) therapy; and for 90% of all people receiving ARV therapy to have achieved viral suppression.

The missed 2020 target comes against the backdrop of more intersecting crises brought on by the coronavirus.

"We know that girls were not safe at home with the lockdown, violence increased... and we know that violence is linked to higher infections among women and girls," Byanyima said.

Covid-19 has also impacted drug manufacturing and distribution. The world has witnessed what Byanyima slammed as a "profit over lives" agenda, as some companies have looked to cash in on the global crisis by diverting manufacturing capabilities and resources to the Covid emergency, only to maximise returns.

"Any epidemic thrives on inequalities and unless you target these inequalities, you only will make the situation worse for the most vulnerable groups," she said.

Byanyima pointed to some solutions and strategies to bring the world back on track for the target of eradicating HIV by 2030.

A starting point, she said, is for the HIV/AIDS epidemic to be seen not as a health issue, but a human rights issue.

"Rights matter; we need to stop stigmatising and criminalising. Some of the world's vulnerable groups of gay men, sex workers, people who use drugs, transgender people, those in prisons and migrants, cannot be left behind without access to services and then end up continuing to transmit the disease," she said.

Communities also need to be at the centre of the fight, she said, as grassroots campaigns can drive behavioural change. She said longer-term debt relief for developing countries is essential too, as is better tax compliance from companies that should pay their dues to ensure there is money for health responses.

"We need to keep fighting the inequalities between girls and boys and men and women. We know there are millions of girl children who will not return to school after this pandemic, and this is one of the structural barriers in society that need resolution," she said.

Treatment gap of over 12 million. The UNAIDS report, titled, "Seizing the Moment - tackling entrenched inequalities to end epidemics", contained updated epidemiological estimates for the world, various regions and countries.

There were an estimated 1.7 million new HIV infections around the world in 2019. "Not acceptable", is what By-



anyima called this number, as it is three times higher than the target of no more than 500,000 new cases per year.

An estimated 38 million people around the world are estimated to have been living with HIV in 2019. Of these, 25.4 million are on antiretroviral therapy and 12.6 million are not. Antiretroviral therapy is recommended for all people living with HIV.

The report acknowledges that the introduction of dolutegravir-based treatment combinations as first-line treatment in some countries is a significant advance. Dolutegravir is a still relatively new antiretroviral medicine that has very few side effects, and resistance to it is very rare.

Annual HIV-related deaths have dropped from about 770,000 in 2018 to 690,000 in 2019, but 95,000 of these deaths are of children and teens, and the total is still 190,000 more deaths than the UNAIDS 2020 target of no more than 500,000 deaths. It is also estimated that only 53% of children in the world living with HIV receive treatment.

Progress in Africa

In Africa, it is estimated that there are still 4,500 girls or young women who become infected with HIV every week. This, even as sub-Saharan Africa, which

has the highest HIV burden, reflected the best progress with new infection rates down by 38% over 10 years.

South Africa's neighbour, Eswatini, has reportedly surpassed the 2020 goal as of the end of 2019, achieving a 95-95-95 milestone. Also on track on the continent are Namibia, Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, according to the report.

While infection rates are coming down in sub-Saharan Africa, they are going up in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and to a lesser degree in the Middle East and North Africa.

Another key concern has been a drop in funding and investment to the HIV/AIDS response. Byanyima said there is currently a \$7.6-billion gap in funding globally, and a 7% drop between 2017 and 2019.

That South Africa is almost self-sufficient in funding its national AIDS response programme is a resource allocation that Byanyima lauded. She warned that the temptation to divert funding from a priority like HIV/AIDS to Covid-19 would invite dire future consequences for any country.

Byanyima said despite the setbacks reflected in this year's report, there is progress to build on.

"There is much to do to remove the structural barriers, but we have made huge progress globally. We have treatments that make HIV a manageable disease, we also have prevention programmes. And with innovation and more technology we can bring the science to meet people where they are, so we can start to reach everyone and so that those with the weakest rights do not remain our most silent."

"The 23rd International AIDS Conference (AIDS2020 virtual) is taking place this week.

Agencies

Africa looks to build food self-sufficiency as COVID disrupts global supply chain

By Joseph Gakpo

AS Africa grapples with disruptions in the global supply chain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, some see it as an opportunity for the continent to become self-sufficient in food production.

The continent currently is a net food importer, spending between US\$35 billion and US\$50 billion annually on the importation of foods, the majority of which can be grown in Africa.

"The Covid-19 pandemic provides a golden opportunity for Ghana to optimize our potential for food production to meet domestic needs, grow our agricultural exports and create jobs for the youth of this country," Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Ghana's Minister for Food and Agriculture, told a media briefing in the capital Accra.

"In the wake of export bans in countries from where we import a large chunk of our food items like rice and poultry, it provides a compelling situation for us to put strategic measures in place to ramp up production for all our key staples," the minister added. "It also gives us the opportunity to intensify agro-processing, thus reducing post-harvest losses and ensure year-round food availability, whilst creating the needed jobs."

Vanessa Adams, vice president of Strategic Partnerships at Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), agrees that the worldwide slowdown of agricultural activities caused by the pandemic provides a great opportunity for



Africa to feed itself.

"I'm a firm believer that a crisis is also an opportunity. We should use this crisis as an opportunity to build more resilient food systems," she said in an interview with Devex.com.

Why can't Africa feed itself?

Africa has more than 60 percent of the globe's arable uncultivated land. But the continent imports a lot of rice, maize, poultry products, sugar and other food products

from the United States, China, South America and other parts of the world.

Africa's poultry industry, for example, has struggled over the years because imported products are usually less expensive than those that are home-produced. This has led to the local poultry industry collapsing in many African countries.

Isn't it curious that poultry products produced in France and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean, all the way to Togo, could cost about 50 percent less than chicken meat produced in the capital city of Lome?

This is mainly because producers in advanced economies benefit from government subsidies, lower production costs and economies of scale from managing larger operations. Additionally, poor road and railway infrastructure can make it more expensive to transport foods from Africa's rural areas to urban centers than to ship in products from overseas.

In the rice sector, for example, a lot of consumers shy away from local produce on the claim that imported ones from the US and Thailand have better taste and aroma. For some food products like maize, Africa's capacity to produce enough and process it for long term storage is simply non-existent, thus encouraging importation.

With COVID-19 making it more difficult to produce, process and move food across the world, a report published by the World Food Program (WFP), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), USAID and 13 other organizations has called for scaled up support for local food markets, as well as local processing and transport systems to help cushion the global food supply chain from the pandemic.

African farmers agree now is the right time to give farmers increased support so they can produce and distribute food in their localities without having to transport products over long distances.

"There can be more than enough food here that can feed us without importation," Opambour Oboadie Bonu, president of the Concerned Farmers Association in Ghana Nana, told the Alliance for Science. "In this era of

COVID-19, everywhere is on lockdown. It is now time to stop the importation of food and consume local food. More investments are needed in roads and other areas to transport the food."

Role of quality seeds in improving productivity

According to Ghana's minister for food and agriculture, the government is committed to increasing investment in the agricultural sector to help the country cut down its annual \$2.4 billion food import bill, almost half of which is spent importing rice.

Ghana already has increased annual local production of rice from 150,000 metric tonnes in 2016 to 655,000 metric tonnes in 2019 as part of its plan to become self-sufficient in about three years through investments in better seeds, among other approaches.

"This year, we expect to grow even more," Afriyie said. "And it's all hinging on the quantity of improved seeds of rice we are distributing. The Ghanaian farmer has proven beyond doubt that with the right support from government, they will deliver. And they are delivering."

Dr. Yemirach Melkie Abebaw, an Ethiopian scientist with the Plant Biotechnology Research team at the Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute, said one sure way to make the continent less dependent on imported food is to take advantage of genetically modified (GM) seeds.

"Genetically modified crops represent one of the modern biotechnology approaches with the capability of changing the fate of agriculture in the new millennium," she said. "The creators of GM crops emphasize the potential of genetic engineering to benefit society by increasing crop yields, improving food quality and developing environmental stress tolerant crops."

"GM crops have the potential to contribute to current effort to address the major agriculture challenges in Ethiopia, including low productivity, pest and diseases, drought, malnutrition, climate and environment change, and post-harvest-losses," she added. "It provides new tools to develop abiotic and biotic stress tolerant varieties."

Need for Africa to rethink foreign partnership

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA has been bled for years on end, sating from the slave trade that deprived it of its labour force to the plundering and looting of its resources that persists to date.

Hitherto, monopolies have continued to increase their influence in Africa through bi-lateral and multilateral economic co-operations, foreign aid, trade and foreign direct investments.

Such a historical process has put African countries at a disadvantaged position. Industrialized nations have continued to put in place policy measures that would ensure Africa remains dependent. Due to the centre/periphery relationship, Africa still suffers from power imbalance in the international system.

Poverty, frequent armed conflicts, low income per capita and low production capacity are some of issues that for decades dominant states have been exploring to strengthen their grip.

To some extent, African countries have been blaming their poor development to colonialism and its impact it had in socio-economic development of the continent. In most cases, Africa has been crying for scarcity investment flow from the centre while at the same time failing to firmly take decisive actions to control its abundant wealth in natural resources.

On the other hand, developed

nations know for sure that when the periphery countries become economically stable, they will gain more voice, strengthen their autonomy and hence end dependency. That's why funds to projects that would make Africa become more competitive are wanting.

It safe to state that it is a matter of police that foreign assistance and programs to African countries are not tailored to make Africa develop to match with the economic growth of other parts of the world.

That is why most political scientists and even economists have for decades dubbed the cooperation between Africa and developed countries as unhealthy.

Developed countries have been claiming that they have and still are contributing much to the development of individual African countries and the continent at large. However, the reality proves different.

Permanent political interference in internal affairs of African states has been one of the characteristic features of the relationship. Imposition of policies and direct meddling with internal political matters of individual African countries is commonplace.

There has been much pressure in separate cases to either reform African country's political landscape, interfere in elections or demand a regime change. Although not openly done, for decades, puppet regimes have been

installed by industrialised nations



after the overthrow of those who defied their orders. What is currently happening in Libya is a clear example.

We have seen how a country Burundi has been criticized over its decision to hold general elections amid Covid-19 pandemic, calling for postponement of the election. However, after the smooth running of the vote, the same countries congratulated the East African Community member for smoothly running of the ballot.

It has been trend of double standard policy of the West that whenever the ruling party in an African country won the election, then the vote was not free and fair while it has been the opposite in case the Opposition won the poll.

On several occasions, promotion of democracy has been used as an excuse to meddle with internal affairs of developing countries, contrary to international law.

Their willingness to help Africa fight Coronavirus pandemic is also doubtful. While little support has been offered so far, developed

nations put much pressure on African countries to frequently announce the number of people tested, infected cases, deaths and recoveries, while at the same time discredit their official government statistics issued by relevant authorities.

The issue of military cooperation in fighting terrorism in African countries is also of interest because despite the huge presence of foreign, peace still rings hollow in many parts of the continent.

Al-Shabaab still operates in Somalia, exporting its terror to neigh-

bouring Kenya. Some countries such as Nigeria and Mali have been experiencing frequent attacks by extremist groups. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, armed groups are still operating, reportedly while multinational corporations continue to benefit from the conflict.

The time has come for African countries to redefine their relationship with their former colonial masters. It has been difficult indeed for the continent to break the chains of the sphere of influence cemented within the

current international system. However, it is absolutely possible to do it and start exploring alternative opportunities for a win-win situation with their counterparts.

Africa countries should also rethink their policies with each other in the continent, focusing more on their geographical proximity. Inter-African cooperation would enhance bilateral relations, boosting trade and economies of countries more close to each other under the current regional platform such as the EAC, SADC, ECOWAS and the likes. Strengthening relationship with BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) can provide alternative to ulterior intentions of, say, the World Bank and IMF.

Building an independent course to foster political, economic, defence and security as well as trade and investment cooperation would help African countries in diversifying their bilateral ties wider with other parts of the world.

The China-Africa Summit as well as the Russia-Africa Summit have opened the door for further fruitful cooperation between African countries on one hand and Russia and China on the other. When the grips of Covid-19 pandemic are over, it is a good chance for African countries to make a good start, putting new impulse into their relations with the other parts of the world.

New UN report outlines major ways of curbing growth in spread of animal-to-human diseases

NEW YORK

AS the battle against COVID-19 rages, the world can expect to see other diseases that pass from animals to humans emerge, according to a new UN report launched on Monday, which maintains that there is still time to head off potential zoonotic pandemics.

Preventing the Next Pandemic

Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission identifies seven trends driving the increasing emergence of zoonotic diseases, including a growing demand for animal protein, unsustainable farming practices and the global climate crisis.

It also sets out 10 practical steps that nations can take right now, including expanded research into zoonotic diseases, improved monitoring and regulation of food systems, and incentivizing sustainable land management practices.

In particular, the report recommends that governments adopt a "One Health" approach that brings together public health, veterinary and environmental expertise to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks.

Preventing the Next Pandemic is a joint effort by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), both based in Nairobi.

Zoonoses Day

The report was published on World Zoonoses Day, which

commemorates the work of French biologist Louis Pasteur who, on 6 July 1885, successfully administered the first vaccine against the zoonotic disease rabies on a nine-year-old boy who had been badly mauled by a dog.

"The science is clear that if we keep exploiting wildlife and destroying our ecosystems, then we can expect to see a steady stream of these diseases jumping from animals to humans in the years ahead," said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen.

"Pandemics are devastating to our lives and our economies, and as we have seen over the past months, it is the poorest and the most vulnerable who suffer the most," she added. "To prevent future outbreaks, we must become much more deliberate about protecting our natural environment."

COVID-19, latest in line

As the report explains, COVID-19 is only the latest in a growing number of disease, which - including Ebola, MERS and West Nile fever - whose spread from animal hosts into human populations has been intensified by anthropogenic pressures, or human impact on the environment.

Excluding the spiraling cost of the coronavirus pandemic that has so far claimed more than 500,000 lives - every year some two million individuals, mostly in low- and middle-income countries, die from neglected zoonotic diseases.

Tackling outbreaks

While zoonotic diseases are on the rise worldwide, Africa



has the potential to leverage its experience to tackle future outbreaks through approaches that incorporate human, animal and environmental health, according to the report.

"The situation on the continent today is ripe for intensifying existing zoonotic diseases and facilitating the emergence and spread of new ones,"

said ILRI Director-General Jimmy Smith. "But with their experiences with Ebola and other emerging diseases, African countries are demonstrating proactive ways to manage disease outbreaks".

UN chief weighs in

Welcoming the report, UN Secretary-General António Guterres

called on Monday for a new ambitious framework to protect and sustainably use biodiversity to be adopted. "To prevent future outbreaks, countries need to conserve wild habitats, promote sustainable agriculture, strengthen food safety standards, monitor and regulate food markets, invest in technology to identify risks, and curb the illegal trade in wildlife," he said.

What's false and what's true on China-related human rights matters (Part 4)

Prologue

FULL 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!

26. False: The "Pair Up and Become Family" programme is designed to monitor ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

True:

Since 2016, an extensive ethnic unity campaign has been conducted among government officials and people of different ethnicities in Xinjiang. Some 1.1 million officials have paired up and made friends with 1.6 million local people, treating each other like family members. They have respected and helped each other, and forged deep bonds through close interactions. The officials leveraged their expertise to help local people explore ways to shake off poverty and address difficulties in their lives, such as access to medical services, job opportunities and education. The campaign, with its real, substantial benefits to the public, has been well received by the people of all ethnic groups.

27. False: The local government sends Uyghur children to boarding schools and separates them from their parents.

True:

The boarding school system is an effective means to improve education in China's remote areas and ease the burden on students and their families. In Xinjiang, students of all ethnicities attend schools closest to their homes. Those living near the campus can be commuter students. For those living further away, schools provide them with free accommodation, plus free meals for those from rural families. It is up to the students and their parents to decide whether to live on or off campus.

28. False: The Chinese government forces sterilization, abortion and birth control on Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

True:

The Chinese government protects the lawful rights and interests of all Chinese without distinction of ethnicity. Over the years, the Uyghur people and other ethnic minorities have enjoyed a preferential population policy. In the four decades between 1978 and 2018, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang increased from 5.55 million to 11.68 million, accounting for 46.8% of the total population of the autonomous region.



Locals chat with each other in a renovated house in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region, on Aug 18, 2019. [Photo/Xinhua]

To put things into perspective, let's look at the situation in the United States. Racial and ethnic minorities in the US have long been the targets of bullying, exclusion, and widespread and systemic discrimination in the political, economic, cultural and social aspects of their lives. Take Native Americans as an example. For quite a long period of time, the US government had been enforcing a policy of genocide, segregation and assimilation against Native Americans. For nearly a century after its founding, the US was uprooting and killing American Indians in its Westward Movement. The Native American population plunged from 5 million in 1492 to 0.25 million in the early 20th century. It now accounts for a mere 2 percent of the US population. Another example, African Americans. African Americans have a COVID-19 infection rate five times that of white Americans, and a much higher mortality rate as well. This highlights the racial inequality in the US. The recent death of an African American George Floyd and the massive protests that followed once again shows that the systemic racial discrimination in the US has reached a point where racial and ethnic minorities "can't breathe". It calls for an urgent solution.

29. False: The Chinese government's brutal crackdown on Muslims is a human rights violation not seen since World War II.

True:

One of China's five ethnic minority autonomous regions, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is home to 25 million people of different ethnic groups who live and work in harmony. Among them, ten ethnic groups, including Uyghur and Hui, consist mainly of Muslims. The Muslim population has been growing steadily, accounting for nearly 60% of the total local population. Under a system of ethnic regional autonomy, China treats all ethnic groups equally and pursues prosperity and development for people of all ethnicities. It ensures that ethnic autonomous areas exercise the power to self-govern in accordance with law, and protects the legitimate rights and interests of ethnic minorities. In Xinjiang, every chairperson of the People's Congress, the autonomous regional government, and the CPPCC regional committee is from ethnic minority groups. Ethnic minorities take 64.2% of the seats in the 13th Xinjiang People's Congress, and 46.7% of the seats in the 13th CPPCC Regional Committee of Xinjiang. Xinjiang fully implements the policy of freedom of religious belief. The freedom of religious belief of all people, regardless of their ethnicity, is fully protected in accordance with law. Believers and non-believers enjoy the same political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. On 25 May, George Floyd, an African American, was killed in Minneapolis in a brutal assault by a white police officer. His death triggered massive demonstrations and protests across the country, throwing into sharp relief the public outcry and anger over the systemic racism long in existence in the country. The UN Human Rights Council held an urgent debate and adopted a resolution voicing strong condemnation and urging concrete measures from the US to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent.

30. False: The Chinese government uses COVID-19 to "wipe out" Muslims.

True:

Thanks to the joint efforts of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, COVID-19 has been effectively contained in the region. As of 29 June, a total of 76 confirmed cases had been reported in Xinjiang, including 73 cured cases and three deaths. With no new confirmed cases for over 130 days, Xinjiang has resumed full normalcy in economic and social activity early on and is back on track for economic and social development. On 9 December 2019, Shohrat Zakir, Chairman of the Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, announced that all the trainees at the vocational education and training centers had completed their studies. There is no risk of cluster infections at these centers.

31. False: In media reports or social media posts about "missing persons", overseas Uyghurs tell stories about their "families" and "friends" in Xinjiang who have "lost contact" or "gone missing".

True:

Xinjiang has never curtailed the freedom of travel of Uyghur people or people of any other ethnic groups. Nor is there any restriction on communication with relatives abroad. It has been verified by the relevant authorities that the so-called "missing persons" mentioned by overseas East Turkistan elements are either living a normal life or simply non-existent. In an ABC News (Australia) report, Azmat Omar, a Chinese citizen living in Australia, claimed that he had lost contact with his family members in Xinjiang, including his father, stepmother, three brothers, two sisters and over 20 nephews. It later became clear that all his family members in China are living normal lives and enjoy full personal freedoms. During a UN Human Rights Council session in February 2020, the World Uyghur Congress put up photos of the so-called "Uyghurs persecuted by the Chinese government" in the square with the Broken Chair in front of the Palace of Nations in Geneva. The photos have proved to be fake. Separatist groups got hold of the pictures and personal information of Uyghur officials and residents living normal lives in Xinjiang and misrepresented them to spread rumors.

32. False: China uses denial of passport renewal as a weapon to force overseas Uyghurs to return to China, where they face extrajudicial detention.

True:

In China, a country governed by the rule of law, the citizens' personal freedom and right to leave and enter the country are protected by law. Chinese diplomatic missions abroad protect the lawful rights and interests of overseas Chinese, including ethnic minorities from Xinjiang, in accordance with laws and regulations including the Exit and Entry Administration Law of the People's Republic of China and the Passport Law of the People's Republic of China. Anyone who holds the Chinese nationality, recognizes oneself as a Chinese national, and has not violated Chinese laws and regulations can apply to the Chinese embassy or consulate in the place of residence for passport renewal or re-issuance. Xinjiang follows a fact- and law-based approach in managing exit and entry affairs and cracking down on crimes of violence and terrorism and activities of religious extremism. Most applications for passport renewal or re-issuance from Xinjiang natives have been received and approved by Chinese embassies or consulates. The very few who have their applications rejected are suspected of involvement in terrorist activities in violation of Chinese laws and regulations.

33. False: The research paper titled The Karakax List: Dissecting the Anatomy of Beijing's Internment Drive in Xinjiang

True:

The so-called research paper was produced by Adrian Zenz, a key figure in the so-called Xinjiang's Internment Camps Research Group set up and controlled by US intelligence agencies. The paper is based on a name list of "students sent to re-education who are family members of those who went abroad and have not returned." The list itself was cooked up by ETIM members from inside and outside China. The majority of the 311 people on the list live in Bostan Street in Moyu (Karakax) County. They live and work just like most other people do, and have never received vocational education and training. Only a very small number of those on the list have been sent to vocational education and training in accordance with the law for being influenced by religious extremism and committing minor crimes. Only 19 out of the 311 people have relatives abroad, but none of them have received the vocational education and training.

34. False: 30 relatives of Rebiya Kadeer have been detained without trial.

True:

No one from Rebiya Kadeer's family has been implicated. All her relatives live and enjoy freedom in Xinjiang. They want her to stop spreading lies and disturbing their peace.

35. False: Family members of Furqat Jawdat, Arapat Arkin, Zumrat Dawut and other so-called "activists" have been "harassed, imprisoned or arbitrarily detained."

True:

Both Furqat Jawdat and Arapat Arkin are members of the World Uyghur Congress, an organization notorious for its violent, terrorist and separatist agenda. They make a living by fabricating stories and splitting their motherland. Their relatives, who are leading a normal life in Xinjiang, feel ashamed of having people like them in the family. Furqat Jawdat's mother is living a normal life in Xinjiang and has regular contact with him. Arapat Arkin's father was sentenced for taking part in violent and terrorist activities, but his mother and younger brother and sister are all living a normal life. None of them have been taken into custody. His mother has repeatedly urged him not to follow his father's path, "Your father did harm to our society. He is being punished for his wrongdoing. He is very sorry for what he has done. So please stop telling lies and leave the World Uyghur Congress before it's too late." Regarding the claim that "Dawut's elderly father, who had been detained and interrogated multiple times by the local authorities in Xinjiang, recently passed away under unknown circumstances", here is what really happened: Dawut's father had been living with his children all these years, without ever being "interrogated" or "detained". Suffering from a serious heart condition for many years, the octogenarian passed away in hospital in October 2019 after all medical treatment had failed. During his last days in hospital, the old man was attended by Dawut's older brothers and other relatives who stayed by his bedside. Mutallip Nurmamat died nine days after his release from an internment camp. Prominent Uyghur writer Nurmamat Tohti died in an internment camp. Sayragul Sawutbay saw people tortured in a detention camp before fleeing China. Uyghur musician and poet Abdurehim Heyit was sentenced to eight years in prison and died in the second year of imprisonment. Mutallip Nurmamat never studied in a vocational education and training center. In December 2018, he died from acute alcohol poisoning, alcoholic encephalopathy, respiratory failure and acute upper gastrointestinal hemorrhage triggered by alcohol abuse. Nurmamat Tohti never studied in a vocational education and training center. He had had coronary artery disease for over 20 years and spent most of his time receiving treatment in hospital or recuperating at home. On 31 May 2019, after suffering an acute myocardial infarction at home, he was taken to hospital but passed away despite emergency rescue efforts. Sayragul Sawutbay is suspected of fraud. To flee justice, she crossed the border illegally into Kazakhstan. She never stayed in any vocational education and training center in China, and was never detained before her illegal escape. Her words about seeing people tortured cannot be true. Abdurehim Heyit, arrested on suspicion of endangering national security, is in good health. On 10 February 2019, Heyit said in a published video, "I am under investigation for suspected violations of law. I am in very good health, and I have never been abused."

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 105 00--

WORD-FIT

3 letters: GOD, AOR, ACT, SAD, ARE,
4 letters: FREE, ROOM, EVEN, AMEN, HIDE RARE, ORES, STUD,
5 letters: UHURU, EVOKE, ASHET, GRAPE PLATE, ATTAR, TAMED, REACH
6 letters: UNESCO, ELEVEN, ENDEAR, SEVERE SCREAM,
7 letters: CURIOUS,
8 letters: UN EARNED

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- the first black president of S. Africa
- flightless bird in New Zealand
- Islamic canonical law
- the star
- make a bleating sound
- citrus fruit
- a small restaurant
- a minister incharge of a Christian church
- an instrument for writing
- an American
- a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff
- citrus fruits
- celebrity
- an official order or proclamation

Down:

- Russia's capital
- Former name of Malawi
- an open area of grassy
- a woman's loose sleeveless cloak
- flee
- Valletta is her Capital
- flee
- gather in or together
- the deep-freezing of the bodies of people who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure
- an act of urinating
- a rich fabric of silk, cotton
- blood that has been shed
- a habitual drunkard

SOLUTIONS

U H U R U F R E E

D R O U G H I C N Y E R E R E D
R H A A E L E B U Y
M M U N I I Y N W E E K M R U N
V M A L O E O S C A I D E A
E J E C T O M E N P A T E N I E L M
R I S L E T I A Q I G D I
L E A V E N O W A R O M O T E C
F R E H E A R E N I L E A
A E B R A I D R N A M A N G A
C A N A D A A R O Y O P O A R
T D S W I N E W R L N I T
S O W S P E N S I E M O N

BUSINESS

COMPENSATION

Big win for restaurants as judge orders insurer to pay for losses over lockdown



Kenyan Education Cabinet Secretary minister George Magoha.

FALLOUT

Nursery schools face admissions crisis after 2020 calendar dumped

NAIROBI

Millions of children face a pre-primary school admission crisis next year after the Education ministry scrapped the schooling calendar for this year, citing uncertainty about rising cases of coronavirus.

Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha said Tuesday schooling will resume in January 2021 when the Covid-19 infections are expected to have stabilised and schools reached a level of preparedness.

"All learners in Grade 1 to 4, Standard 5 to 7 and Form 1 to 3 in 2020, will remain in their current classes in 2021," Prof Magoha told journalists at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Education (KICE) headquarters in Nairobi.

The decision means that children who shall have attained the school-going age of four years in January 2021 as required under the Basic Education Curriculum Framework (BECF) may not get admission slots due to double intake.

According to the 2019 population census report released last December, there were 2.5 million children aged between three and four years – an indication of the large number of children who join pre-primary school annually.

Kenya has about 46,530 pre-primary schools, mostly owned by private investors who are not expected to make additional investments to meet the one-off spike in demand. Analysts reckon that Kenya will live longer with the problem as the high number of pupils in next year's baby class progress to upper levels.

Most schools across the country are already overstretched in terms of

facilities and teaching staff following the sharp enrolment increase with the introduction of free primary education and affordable day secondary schools.

By delaying transition to higher classes, many institutions might not cope with the demands of increased pupil numbers. The changes to the school calendar by the government also mean that the rollout of the competency-based curriculum (CBC) to Grade Five will delay by a year after.

The rollout of the CBC to Grade Five was scheduled to start in January when pupils currently in Grade Four were to transition to the next class. The ministry shelved plans for phased reopening of schools starting September after parents expressed reservations following a rising Covid-19 infection curve towards the date.

Kenya had by yesterday confirmed 8,250 cases of the coronavirus and 167 deaths, as infections continue to climb. Prof Magoha announced that all basic learning institutions will re-open in January next year when the virus curve is expected to have flattened.

National examinations will not be administered this year as the Covid-19 pandemic has rendered the school calendar lost. The 2020 Standard 8 and Form 4 pupils will now sit their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) respectively later in 2021.

Prof Magoha further announced that technical and vocational education and training (Tvet) institutions as well as colleges will re-open in September but only with strict adherence to the Ministry of Health's guidelines for containing the virus.

CAPE TOWN

After being unable to do business for months, restaurants, bars, hotels and guesthouses are demanding that their insurers pay out business interruption claims for the financial harm they suffered while being under lockdown. Some business interruption policies include cover for contagious diseases.

However, some big insurance companies, like Santam and HCL, are hesitant to pay out, claiming that the income losses stem from the government-induced lockdown, and not from the disease itself. Some insurers are willing to pay out for localised outbreaks of Covid-19, such as the forced closure of a restaurant due to coronavirus cases, but don't want to pay out for the general loss of income due to the lockdown.

A restaurant in the northern suburbs of Cape Town, Café Chameleon, brought legal action against Guardrisk, a specialist insurance provider owned by MMI Holdings. Café Chameleon has been forced to close its business in lockdown, and suffered huge financial losses. It is now struggling to pay employee salaries. It says that Guardrisk should settle its claim because it was insured for business interruption coverage if there was an outbreak of a "notifiable disease" – the type of disease outbreak that authorities need to be notified of, such as Covid-19 or smallpox.

But the insurer argues that losses stemming from the national lockdown didn't fall under any clauses insuring companies against infectious diseases – it was the lockdown that caused the damage, not the disease.

It also argued that if they did have to pay out for general Covid-19 losses "it



Customers can be seen inside Café Chameleon in Cape Town before closing down mid this year.

may have the potential to destabilise the global and the South African insurance market." Judge Andre le Grange, however, was not convinced. In fact, he said that "the gloomy predictions of industry collapse are...nothing more than speculation."

And even if insurers did receive a flood of claims, that's no defence for reneging on a contract. "It cannot be a defence for an insurers to say that it must be excused from honouring its contractual obligations because its business has unexpectedly incurred greater debt than had been expected," the judge found.

The big win for the tourism industry is that the judge also rejected the argument that it was lockdown, and not Covid-19 which caused the economic harm to the business – a key argument that the insurance industry has been relying on. "It is difficult not to accept

that there is indeed a clear nexus between the Covid-19 outbreak and the regulatory regime that caused the interruption of [Café Chameleon's] business," he ruled. "The suggestion therefore that the regulatory regime was only introduced to "flatten the curve" and had little to do with the Covid-19 outbreak is misplaced."

Insurance Claims Africa, which is leading hundreds of policyholders in potential class-action lawsuits against the insurance industry, said "this is a significant win for the tourism and hospitality sector." "Of critical importance, is the fact that Judge Andre le Grange rejected the insurers' argument that the losses suffered by the claimant was due to the lockdown, and not the Covid-19 pandemic," said Ryan Woolley, CEO of Insurance Claims Africa.

"This argument has never made any

sense, as the insurers chose to insure a notifiable disease which would have contemplated government intervention and restrictions or quarantine. It is clear that without Covid-19, there would be no lockdown, so to attempt to separate the two is nothing short of disingenuous," says Woolley. The attorney for Café Chameleon's attorney, Ren Dunster, told Business Insider that he and his client "aren't celebrating yet. There's still a very long road ahead, and we're expecting an appeal."

In a written response to questions from Business Insider Guardrisk says the company is "in the process of engaging with our legal team to study the judgment and consider the next steps". The company added that they "have been paying and will continue to pay claims in line with our policy wordings."

TECH SAVVY

Kagame to host Instagram session with local social media influencers

NAIROBI

President Paul Kagame was yesterday expected to hold a first live Instagram session with social networking influencers, a conversation that will focus on Rwanda's 26-year journey after liberation that himself led.

Kagame considered one of the most active Heads of State on social media, already has a huge following on Instagram with more than 600,000 followers. He also has some 1.9 million followers on Twitter. The Head of State will interact with 20 influencers in a discussion that will be streamed live on his Instagram account, and be aired live on the national broadcaster, Rwanda Television.

The discussion comes a few days after Rwandans officially marked the 26th Liberation Day anniversary, which was held in Gikoba, Tabagwe sector in Nyagatare district where Kagame inaugurated several projects.

The President will hold conversation with influencers from different industries, including radio and television personalities, comedians, and photographers, among others. People like Arthur Nkusi, a renowned radio presenter and a comedian, who will be among the influential figures to interact with Kagame, have invited their followers to follow the conversation. Nkusi has 357,000 followers on Instagram.



An extract from Rwandan President, Paul Kagame's Twitter account.

"I will be interacting with our President @PaulKagame tomorrow at 3pm," the Kiss FM presenter posted on his Twitter account where he has some 12,700 followers. Rwandans have already started to field their questions to the President, even beyond the liberation with many ask-

ing him about his thoughts on addressing youth unemployment post-Covid-19 pandemic, rebuilding a new nation, and teenage pregnancies, to name but a few.

The role of social media and internet influencers in the internet age cannot be ignored, as many have been

seen to drive different agendas at home and beyond. In the West, influencers are already being used to advance political agendas despite some of them not having a great deal of knowledge about politics.

Presidential hopefuls in the United States are now

seeking endorsements beyond the standard political figures, Hollywood stars, and editorial boards with many spending more on social media campaigns. Jackie Lumbasi, a Kenyan media personality currently working in Kigali, says gone are the days when mainstream media was the only way to communicate.

"This interaction is an indication of social media influencing being embraced. It also helps that some of us serve and communicate to the masses through both media," she told this publication. Lumbasi, who has more than 32,000 followers on Twitter, will be part of the conversation.

"We are acting as middlemen, people share their thoughts with us and wish we could task policymakers and leaders to respond to them," she argued. She sees the presidential session as an opportunity for influencers to ask questions for themselves and on behalf of people that listen or do follow them.

ACTIVISM

This Nigerian-born artist explores black skin through her work

NEW YORK

Nigeria-born US-based painter Toyin Ojih Odutola creates floor-to-ceiling portraits that hum with vibrancy and colour. And for the artist, showing the texture and diversity of black skin is key, writes Design Indaba's Taahirah Martin.

In the texture of skin, the

detailed architecture and the characters themselves, visual artist Toyin Ojih Odutola playfully but provocatively explores power and representation in conventional art. Born in Nigeria and raised in Alabama, US, Ojih Odutola's latest collection – Testing the Name – is the next chapter in a fictional story about two Nigerian aristocratic families

who are joined together by the marriage of two men.

Now showing at the Scad Museum of Art in Georgia, previous works from this continuing story have been shown at the Whitney Museum in New York. Scad's website said: "The artist's unusual approach to the rendering of skin and its textures is an acute and

considered comment on the representation of blackness. Her velvet, seductive surfaces claim territory within the art historical canon of portraiture, which historically favoured whiteness."

Combining traditional portraiture and modern techniques, Ojih Odutola builds an interesting narrative on personal observations, basing

the characters on people from her inner circle. She depicts her scenes in pastel, pencil and charcoal, creating layered drawings that explore the construct of skin colour. Instead of a subject that is either black or white, Ojih Odutola transforms skin into complex shaded strands. "What does my skin feel like?" she questions. "We have enough

about what my skin looks like but what does it feel like? So a lot of the layers and the scale is to really press down and get a feel of the texture. Another evocative aspect of Ojih Odutola's work is the scale. Known for her floor-to-ceiling, elaborate style, her portraits command attention.

She was recently honoured by Amref Health Africa at the ArtBall

in New York where she received the Rees Visionary Award. ArtBall is a contemporary African art auction and philanthropic event that raises funds and awareness for Amref Health Africa. Her next exhibition – The Firmament – starts in June 2018 and ends in September. The exhibition will take place in New Hampshire.

FEMINISM

Short films picked for African Women in Time of COVID-19

LAGOS

A total of 10 short films have been selected for the African Women in the Time of Covid-19 Short Film Competition - which is being held by the Ladima Foundation, in partnership with DW Akademie. The 10 selected films will premiere via a live stream on 10 July 2020 and then be available for viewing on various platforms from 11 July.

The short film competition invited African women to share their stories about the personal, economic, and social impact of Covid-19 in Africa. The brave and powerful films that were submitted sadly have reflected the extremely difficult circumstances that many African women are facing. The stories have shown how in too many cases that the pandemic has indeed impacted women harder and in different ways than on their male counterparts.

An overwhelming response saw just under 200 women from 18 African countries sharing their moving and honest stories on a diversity of topics with dominant themes of domestic violence, altered access to opportunities, increased burden of care, although also of resilience and hope.

The following films and filmmakers were selected:

'Being' - Malak El Araby (Egypt)

Malak is a 21-year-old film major graduating senior at The American University in Cairo. Malak is passionate about filmmaking and photography, winning third place UIFF in South Korea and working on multiple movies in Egyptian cinema. Malak's short films are always inspired by women empowerment, portraying their struggles and stories.

Being - Short film from Malak El Araby on Vimeo.

'Being' is about how everyone took everything for granted before the pandemic. How the little things in life are what matters most. How we never realise what we have until it is lost. What we miss and what we should appreciate in life after all of this is over.

'Blunder' - Fezeka Tholakele (South Africa)

Fezeka Shandu is a 26-year-old aspiring filmmaker who grew up in the dusty streets of Umlazi, KZN South Africa. Growing up she always had a love for films and theatre. She has always wanted to tell stories in a simple way, but meaningfully and realistically.

'Blunder' is about a couple who planned to get married before the lockdown



An African Women in Covid-19 shortlisted films promo leaflet.

was introduced, with all the rules and regulations everything has paused, however, the girlfriend's (Naledi) uncles decided to show up for lobola negotiations because they believe that culturally such things can't be postponed as it will upset the ancestors.

'Moyo' - Hellen Samina Ochieng (Kenya)

Hellen Samina Ochieng is a 22-year-old creative based in Nairobi Kenya and an undergraduate student at Taita University. She has always had a strong passion for the feminist cause as she has seen first-hand how the inherently patriarchal Kenyan society affects women and young girls. Moyo tells the story of Achieng, a young single mother working as an underpaid nurse in Mbagathi Hospital, Nairobi. She struggles with the grim financial, mental and physical realities of being a single mother and the pressures of being a front-line, essential worker in a country crippled by a pandemic. When Achieng is called into the hospital at midnight to attend to a Covid-19 emergency, she must turn to Mike, her abusive ex-boyfriend, to take care of her daughter Waridi.

'My Sunshine' - Chioma Divine Favour Mathias (Nigeria)

Chioma Divine Favour Mathias is a writer, cinematographer/filmmaker, and actor. She is a graduate of statistics and the last of four kids. This short story is about the struggle of a single mother with a disabled child, trying to fend for herself and her baby at the same time surviving the effect of the pandemic.

She did all she can to stay strong and sharp even in the face of tribulations. This story depicts the true strength of an African woman.

'I'll Call You Later' - Aurelie Stratton (South Africa)

Aurelie Stratton is an actress, writer, director and producer who graduated from Wits Drama School and moved to the United Kingdom shortly after graduation to further her study, career and experiences. After her return, she then co-founded a production company, You Kicked My Dog Productions with Emmanuel Castis and they produced the acclaimed short film 'Sides of a Horn', which qualified for the 2020 Oscars. In 'I'll Call You Later', Jo and Bec are sisters and can only communicate through video calls during the lockdown. Jo has not been taking Bec's calls because she is hiding something. Lockdown has been more dangerous for Jo than Bec realises

Love, Zawadi - Wambui Gathe (Kenya)

Wambui Gathe is an emerging director/producer rising steadily in the African film scene. She is a firm believer of artistic visual storytelling and her work voices and represents the true African narrator. With the lockdown measures being enforced, vulnerable women and young girls are put in a position where the life-threatening outside is safer than their own homes and at times forced to make difficult choices.

'Worlds Apart' - Yehoda Hammond (Ghana)

Yehoda Adukwei Hammond is a 19-year-old and third-year film directing student at the National Film and Television Institute in Ghana. She is currently interning as a second assistant director with Esse Productions. Growing up in Ghana and Accra, she gained a keen interest in social issues occurring in her country, with a soft spot for girl child education.

Rhema and Erica are junior high school students whose education has been interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. The differences in their economic situations have directly altered the course of their education and how they cope with the current times.

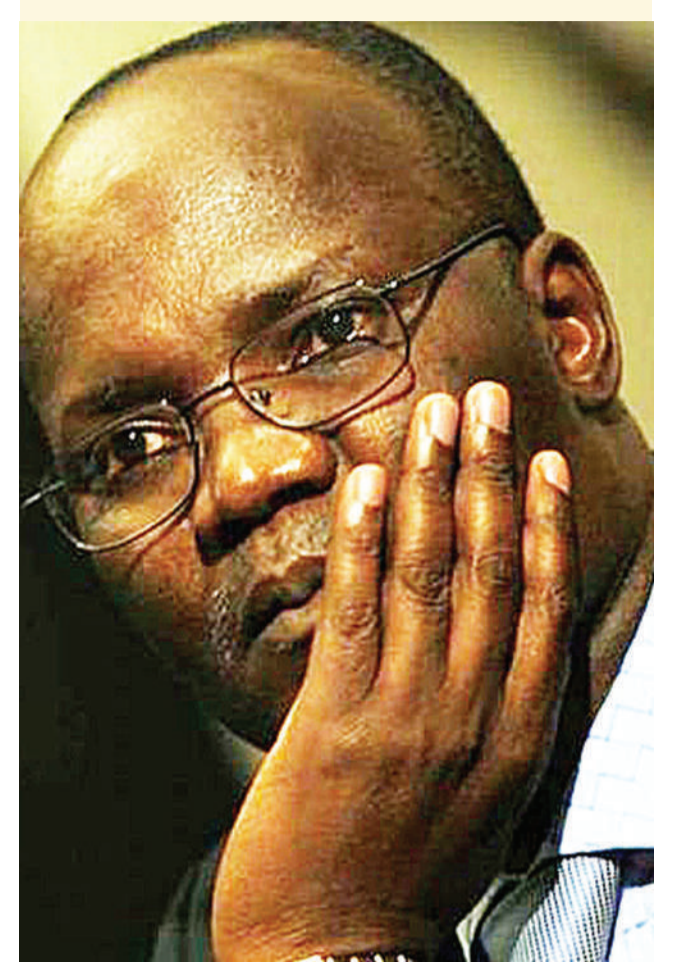
'The Tempest' - Skinnor Davillah Agello (Kenya)

Davillah is a professional dancer and choreographer and a filmmaker based in Nairobi Kenya. Born in K'ogello Siaya county, an area rich in culture and dance, which played a major part in her love for dance and storytelling. She has taken part in numerous dance performances i.e. One Africa Music Fest in Dubai, Dance for Sale in Germany, 'I Can Dance' finalist aired on KTN. She was nominated at the Sondeka Awards 2018 in the story through dance category. Safaricom Twaweza, Chapa Dimba.

'The Tempest' is a short film about a dancer Davillah, S expressing how Covid-19 has changed her family and personal life, as well as millions of other lives across the globe. The dance performance is devised to reflect Davillah's challenges and solutions for coping with the pandemic while encouraging those who view the piece to stay positive and safe.

'Face Mask for Sale' - Neha Manoj Shah (Kenya)

Neha is from Nairobi and has worked in film and advertising since 2006. She is a skilled communicator who specialises in production design and has written and directed seven short films. Neha's stories revolve around challenging social constructs and bringing awareness to the audience through film. Neha has won two awards in media (Kalasha International Film and TV and Oshwal Award) and three of her short films have been showcased in film festivals in Kenya and the UK. They say this is the new norm, that things will be okay. At first, it's all fun and games, but time has a way of draining you. This is the story of a single mother in the time of corona, stuck, with no choice but to survive.



Ex-Zimbabwe minister Jonathan Moyo.

DIPLOMACY

Send away ex-minister Prof Moyo, Zimbabwe asks Kenya

MAPUTO

Zimbabwe has asked Kenya to expel a Mugabe-era cabinet minister amid claims that he is organising mass protests against the southern African country's government.

Prosecutors have approached Kenya seeking the extradition of Jonathan Moyo, who fled during the 2017 coup that saw Robert Mugabe toppled from power and Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa installed as Zimbabwe's president.

Prof Moyo, a former Higher Education minister, was charged with fraud involving over \$400,000 in public funds, but he argues that the case is politically motivated.

Mr Moyo is believed to have been the brains behind G40, which was a faction within the ruling Zanu-PF party that was scheming to propel Grace Mugabe to take over power from her husband, at the expense of then VP Mnangagwa. Now, a top Zanu PF party official has said that Zimbabwe wants Mr Moyo expelled to stop him from mobilising against President Mnangagwa's government.

"We take note and welcome the prosecutor general's efforts for the extradition of Professor Jonathan Moyo from Kenya as he is the figment of the external demonisation of our leadership and extorting mass uprising in the country," said Zanu PF secretary for administration Obert Mpofu.

However, Zimbabwe and Kenya do not have an extradition treaty, but Harare says there is a provision for the two countries to facilitate the politician's return to face criminal charges. Mr Moyo claims that there has been an assassination attempt against him even after he fled to Kenya.

However, government spokesperson Ndabaningi Mangwana said President Mnangagwa had no intentions to kill the former minister. "Zimbabwe does not assassinate people," he said. "We have a lot of faith in our criminal justice system and we believe everyone should have their day in court, (Prof) Jonathan Moyo included," he added.

The former minister has a controversial past, both in his home country and Kenya. In Kenya, Mr Moyo once worked for an international NGO in Nairobi in the 1990s which he was accused of defrauding of thousands of dollars. He was implicated in a corruption scandal involving about \$6 million (about Sh620 million) while he was the programme director in Nairobi for the US-based charity organisation, Ford Foundation.

The money was meant for a Nairobi-based NGO, the Series on Alternative Research in East Africa Trust, which was founded by political scientist Mutahi Ngunyi. Kenyan officials have previously denied harbouring Mr Moyo.

VICTIMS

80% of South Africans who contracted coronavirus disease at work are women

JOHANNESBURG

Female workers represent more than 80% of all Covid-19 claims received by the Compensation Fund from employees who contracted the disease on the job, the department of employment and labour said in a statement.

"We are aware that our frontline workers like nurses and other medical staff have been affected by the pandemic. We would like to send the appeal for employers to ensure that workers are adequately protected and are given the necessary protective gear to do their jobs. Our figures show that most affected employees are nurses who are paying the ultimate price so that we get a second chance and survive the pandemic," said Employment and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi.

The Compensation Fund has received a total of 941 claims to date with the highest number coming from the Western Cape. The province



SA's Employment and Labour Minister, Thulas Nxesi.

recorded 657 claims, of which 533 were from women. In the Eastern Cape, 99 claimants were received and in KwaZulu-Natal, 98 claims.

Some 54 claims were recorded in Gauteng, while in Limpopo and North West only two claims each were re-

ceived. All employers must register with the Compensation Fund, and pay it an annual fee based on their workers' earnings and the risks associated with the type of work being done.

What happens if you contract Cov-

id-19 at work?

By law, you don't have to take sick days - the Compensation Fund will pay out these days to your employer. Covid-19 has been declared an occupational disease in terms of the Compensation for Occupational Injuries

and Diseases Act (COIDA). This means that if an employee is absent from work due to contracting the virus during the course and scope of his or her employment, the Compensation Fund will pay out the leave days - up to 30 days - to the employer

COIDA stipulates that sick leave does not apply to an inability to work caused by an accident or occupational disease. An employee therefore doesn't have to use their sick leave allocation. In suspected or unconfirmed cases (where there is no positive diagnosis), a medical practitioner may recommend self-quarantine. According to the COIDA notice the employer is responsible for remunerating the employee in these circumstances.

The fund will also pay out medical aid costs for a period of no more than 30 days from the date of diagnosis. To date, the fund has paid out more than R200,000 in medical aid costs for people who contracted the disease at work. If a person who contracted Covid-19 at work dies from the disease, the fund will pay out "reasonable" burial expenses and pensions for widows and dependents.

CHARITY

This is what 11 international fashion brands are doing for Covid-19 relief

PARIS

The Covid-19 outbreak has caused a global shortage of important products like personal protective equipment and hand sanitiser for healthcare workers. The fashion industry was one of the first to step up and offer its resources to help fight these shortages and combat the pandemic - from Chanel to Canada Goose.

Here's how some of your favourite brands are helping:

LVMH

LVMH, alongside other cosmetics groups including L'Oréal, has been using some of its perfume factories to make hand sanitiser. LVMH also ordered 40 million masks from a Chinese supplier to combat the mask shortage.

The COVID-19 outbreak

has caused a global shortage of important products like personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer for healthcare workers. The fashion industry has been using its resources to help combat the pandemic.

Christian Siriano Christian Siriano was one of the first designers to publicly volunteer to help make masks for healthcare workers in New York. Since his pledge, Christian and his team have produced over 50,000 masks.

Canada Goose

Canada Goose reopened two factories in Toronto and Winnipeg to make hospital scrubs and gowns. The company will be donating the PPE to hospital workers in Canada. Their CEO will also be donating his salary for the next three months to fund employees impacted by store and factory closures.

L.L. Bean

L.L. Bean has shifted from



LVMH, owner of brands such as Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior is controlled by France's richest man, Bernard Arnault.

making products like boots to 10,000 masks a day using fabric

from its dog bed liners. According to the company, it's

working with MIT and other labs to see if these masks

can be used as medical masks. To combat food and security, the company's fulfillment center employees are now working with Feeding America to pack 80,000 food boxes.

Ralph Lauren

Ralph Lauren says he's producing 250,000 masks and 25,000 gowns in the U.S. The Ralph Lauren Corporate foundation also committed a 10 million dollar donation towards Covid-19 relief.

Prada

Following the news that the coronavirus death toll in Italy had increased by nearly 400 in 24 hours, rising from 1,441 to 1,809, Prada co-CEOs Patrizio Bertelli and Miuccia Prada, and chairman Carlo Mazzi personally donated six intensive care and resuscitation units to three hospitals in Milan - San Raffaele, Sacco and Vittore Buzzi (a children's hospital).

Hanesbrands

Hanesbrands revealed in an Instagram post that it will be committing to making FDA-approved cotton masks. The company says it's looking to increase production to 1.5 million masks a week, and then up to five to six million masks a week.

Chanel

Chanel says that it's working with partners and volunteers from its workshops to

make protective masks and gowns. Chanel also pledged to provide its workers in France with eight weeks of salary. And to help the French Government, the company donated 1.2 million euros to an emergency fund for Paris' public hospital system and French emergency services as well as 50,000 face masks.

Kering Group

French luxury conglomerate Kering, which owns Gucci, Balenciaga, Saint Laurent and Bottega Veneta has made a 2 million euro (over R38 million) donation to help fight against the coronavirus. Additionally, the Paris-based company will give the French health service 3 million surgical masks which it plans to import from a Chinese supplier, and Gucci will produce and donate 1.1 million masks and 55,000 medical overalls to Italy.

Neiman Marcus

Neiman Marcus teamed up with Joann's store to produce PPE for frontline healthcare workers.

Armani

Armani announced that it would be converting all four of its Italian production sites to male single-use medical overalls for healthcare workers. Armani has also donated \$1.43 million dollars to four hospitals in Rome and Milan, as well as to the Civil Protection Agency.

OPTIMISM

Users of TikTok send value of 'joke' cryptocurrency soaring

BEIJING

As TikTok users spend more time at home, their priorities appear to have shifted from whipping up the perfect Dalgona coffee to manipulating the crypto market. Enter, the Dogecoin Challenge.

Dogecoin is a cryptocurrency jokingly established in December 2013 that features the bygone Doge meme as its logo. Among the latest in an endless series of TikTok trends, users are encouraged to invest in the currency, acting under the assumption that there is serious money to be made if the coin's price hits \$1. It currently sits at \$0.0039.

According to OnChainFX, a site that tracks cryptocurrencies, Dogecoin has surged by over 40% in the last 24 hours, but even the owner of the Dogecoin Twitter account is warning investors to be cautious, tweeting: "Be mindful of the intentions people have when they direct you to buy things. None of them are in the spot to be financially advising." The token's market capitalization has reached almost \$500 million.

Videos proselytizing Dogecoin have been popping up for days on the platform known for its short but quirky and catchy video compilations. Some Dogecoin fans say the whole phenomenon might be a "crazy thought" while others have been more blunt,

prodding users to "all get rich," and to "tell everyone you know". One user slowly zooms onto a paper prototype of the coin with "Fly Me to the Moon" playing in the background. Another says that "if this keeps trending on tiktok this might actually be my saving grace."

Justin Litchfield, who is the chief technology officer at Texas-based ProChain Capital, a crypto hedge fund, says there are two trends at play: One is the hordes of people stuck at home who have been buying stocks on apps like Robinhood and who might now also be dabbling in crypto. The other is the repeat phenomenon of Dogecoin investors getting together to do a "pump and dump for kicks". Take, for instance, April 2019, when the currency saw double-digit gains in a similar fashion.

"This has a strong history of having done this," said Litchfield. "The whole currency was started as a joke to make fun of the financial system, which is bizarre to think about." Though Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency, has traded in a narrow range over the past month, many alternative coins, or altcoins, have ripped higher, prompting calls of another "alt season" when smaller tokens see an increase in attention. Zcash, for instance, has gained more than 100 per cent since mid-March.



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

Day	Time	Program
TUESDAY 07 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
WEDNESDAY 08 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
THURSDAY 09 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Shamba lulu rpt
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
FRIDAY 10 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Usafiri wako rpt
	11:00	The Base
	12:00	Al Jazeera
	12:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00	Jagina rpt	
13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	
14:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	
15:00	Meza huru	
16:30	Watoto Wetu	
17:00	The Base	
17:30	ibada ya kislamu	
18:00	Jiji Letu	
18:15	Mizengwe rpt	
19:00	Shamba lulu	
19:30	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii	
19:30	Isidíngo	
19:30	Korean drama rpt: The Great queen Seonduk	
20:00	Habari	
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi housing	
SATURDAY 11 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Usafiri wako rpt
	11:00	The Base
	12:00	Al Jazeera
	12:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00	Jagina rpt	
13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	
14:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	
15:00	Meza huru	
16:30	Watoto Wetu	
17:00	The Base	
17:30	ibada ya kislamu	
18:00	Jiji Letu	
18:15	Mizengwe rpt	
19:00	Shamba lulu	
19:30	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii	
19:30	Isidíngo	
19:30	Korean drama rpt: The Great queen Seonduk	
20:00	Habari	
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi housing	
SUNDAY 12 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
MONDAY 13 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
TUESDAY 14 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
WEDNESDAY 15 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
THURSDAY 16 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
FRIDAY 17 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
SATURDAY 18 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
SUNDAY 19 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
MONDAY 20 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
TUESDAY 21 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
WEDNESDAY 22 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
THURSDAY 23 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
FRIDAY 24 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	Habari za saa
	11:00	The Base rpt
	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	
SATURDAY 25 July	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00	HABARI
	6:40	Kumekucha
	7:30	HABARI
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55	Habari za saa
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30	Isidíngo
	9:55	Habari za saa
	10:00	Watoto wetu
	10:30	Uchumi na biashara
	10:55	

WORLD

US Supreme Court rules over revealing president's financial records, President Trump says 'not fair'

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday blocked for now the Democrat-led House subpoenas on President Donald Trump's financial records while granting Manhattan prosecutors access to obtain them.

"Not fair to this Presidency or Administration!" Trump claimed on social media shortly afterwards.

Meanwhile, many Democrats feel disappointed since the decision probably means the president's financial records, including his tax returns, will be shielded from public scrutiny until after the November general elections.

The U.S. Supreme Court now has five conservatives and four liberals. Both rulings were voted 7-2. Trump's two high court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, joined the majority in both cases.

The court ruled that Trump cannot block a subpoena for his financial records from Democratic Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance since the president is not immune from criminal investigations and it's not a must for prosecutors to show a greater need than normal to obtain the records.

"President is neither absolutely immune from state criminal subpoenas seeking his private papers nor entitled to a heightened standard of need," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion in the New York case.

The president "may raise further arguments as appropriate" in lower courts in an effort to keep Vance from obtaining his documents, Roberts added.

Meanwhile, the court declined to issue a definitive ruling on whether congressional committees can have access to Trump's financial records, throwing the issue back to lower courts.



President Donald Trump

"Without limits on its subpoena powers, Congress could 'exert an imperious control' over the Executive Branch and aggrandize itself at the President's expense, just as the Framers feared," Roberts wrote in the House case.

"The Supreme Court sends case back to Lower Court, arguments to continue. This is all a political prosecution. I won the Mueller Witch Hunt, and others, and now I have to keep fighting in a politically corrupt New York. Not fair to this Presidency or Administration!" Trump tweeted shortly after the court announced the rulings.

"Courts in the past have given 'broad deference'. BUT NOT ME!" Trump claimed on social media.

Following the ruling, Vance said his investigation, which was delayed for almost a year by the lawsuit, will now resume.

"This is a tremendous victory for our nation's system of justice and its founding principle that no one - not even a president - is above the law," Vance said. Jay Sekulow, Trump's personal lawyer, said he was pleased that the "Supreme Court has temporarily blocked both Congress and New York prosecutors from obtaining the President's financial records. We will now proceed to raise additional Constitutional and legal issues in the lower courts."

Vance had subpoenaed Trump's records as part of a criminal probe into potential wrongdoing by the president and his organization. Multiple House

committees had subpoenaed Trump's records as part of an effort at oversight and to inform potential legislation.

Trump's lawyers had asked the court to block both sets of subpoenas, which had sought records from Trump's accounting firms and bankers, not from the president himself, arguing that the president was immune from all criminal proceedings and investigations so long as he remained in office and that Congress was powerless to obtain his records because it had no legislative need for them.

House Democrats and Manhattan prosecutors said the records may shed light on Trump's foreign entanglements, possible conflicts of interest, whether he has paid his taxes and whether his hush money payments violated campaign finance laws.

On the 2016 presidential campaign trail, Trump repeatedly promised to release his tax returns after audit. Shortly after Trump's inauguration in January, 2017, Kellyanne Conway, senior counselor to Trump, told U.S. media that Trump would not release his tax returns, claiming U.S. voters were indifferent to the issue.

While U.S. presidents are not required to release their tax returns, nearly all U.S. presidents had voluntarily released them since 1970s. Many tax experts have said Trump is not barred from releasing the information during the audit. **Xinhua**



Shijingshan district in Beijing sends an emergency team of 100 medical workers to help conduct nucleic acid tests at testing stations in Fengtai district according to the city's unified plans on June 26. (People's Daily)

Over seven million receive nucleic acid tests in Beijing

BEIJING vowed to stay focused and strictly implement COVID-19 prevention and control measures to prevent risk points, and the spread and resurgence of the epidemic.

The Chinese capital reported 14 new confirmed COVID-19 cases on June 27, bringing the total of confirmed cases related to the Xinfadi wholesale market to 311. The new confirmed cases were mainly found at quarantine sites, showing an uptick for two consecutive days.

Although the outbreak is controllable by and large, efforts shall never be slackened.

Beijing has adjusted the quarantine measures promptly and placed key groups of people as its top priority for epidemic prevention and control.

Twenty-three cases found at the MGM International Hotel, one of the quarantine sites, were staff at the ground floor of the beef and lamb trading hall at the Xinfadi market, according to Chu Junwei, deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Fengtai District Committee in Beijing and acting head of the district.

People who had close contact with this area are now labeled by health experts as extremely high-risk groups.

Fengtai district is conducting both nucleic acid tests and serum antibody tests on people in collective quarantine. Besides, the district decided to extend the quarantine to 28 days from the previous 14 days for those who had close contact with the market's beef and lamb trading hall, and will conduct another round of nucleic acid tests and serum antibody tests on them after the 28 days' medical observation.

The capital city has basically completed nucleic acid testing, an effective method of early detection, reporting, quarantine and treatment, for all key groups. More than half of the confirmed cases in Beijing were found through testing and screening.

Based on the list of priorities, the city has tested all key groups in four batches. As of June 28, it had collected about 8.3 million nucleic acid samples and conducted tests for about 7.7 million people, basically clearing all key groups of people in a timely manner.

After conducting nucleic acid tests on key groups of people from key areas, Beijing will continue to make nucleic acid testing compulsory among all key groups of people and available for those who ask to be tested, said Zhang Qiang, a member of the city's epidemic-control office who oversees nucleic acid testing and deputy head of the Organization Department of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee.

Besides, the city will take random tests on residents in areas newly designated as medium-and high-risk ones.

Beijing continues to expand its testing capability. A mobile container laboratory for conducting COVID-19 tests has been established in the city's Zhongguancun Life Science Park and put into operation. After the lab is upgraded, its maximum daily testing capacity will exceed 20,000 samples.

At the Tiantan Sports Center, a nucleic acid sampling station developed by an institute under the Academy of Military Sciences has enabled medical staff to work without having to put on heavy protective clothing.

Beijing is also expanding the inflatable laboratory for COVID-19 tests at a sports center in Daxing district, which will increase the average daily tests to 100,000 samples.

Since June 11, Beijing has established a working group for nucleic acid testing at the earliest possible time and mobilized forces to improve testing capacity.

According to Zhang, the number of nucleic acid testing institutions in the city has increased to 144, and 413 medical workers of 20 medical teams from 12 provinces had been sent to Beijing to help conduct nucleic acid tests.

As a result, the city's daily testing capacity has increased to 458,000 samples, and the maximum daily testing capacity reached 1,084,000. **Zhang added.**

Agencies

People's Daily

Kenya plans to kick off 2nd phase of hygiene programme amid COVID-19 pandemic

NAIROBI

KENYA said yesterday it has stepped up plans to ensure the timely kick-off of the second phase of the National Hygiene Program (NHP) dubbed Kazi Mtaani early next week.

Charles Hinga, principal secretary for State Department of Housing and Urban Development, said an inter-ministerial team has already developed grassroots work plans that will see more than 270,000 Kenyans absorbed in the national program

with a 10 billion shillings (about 94 million U.S. dollar) budget outlay.

"The Kazi Mtaani national technical committee has prepared robust work plans that will see more than 270,000 Kenyans earning a 455 shillings daily wage and engaged in more community and infrastructure development projects," Hinga said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Hinga said the national government through Kazi Mtaani will underwrite the labor costs while county governments will provide



resources for the project's development including materials and technical designs.

In the first phase set to close at the end of this month, Hinga confirmed that 31,689 Kenyans in eight counties worked on the national initiative de-

signed to cushion the most vulnerable but able-bodied citizens living in informal settlements from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hinga said that from eight counties, the initiative which is expanding to all 47 counties will employ workers primarily drawn from the informal settlements in urban and rural settings. Targeted initiatives such as Kazi Mtaani, he noted, provide employment opportunities to under-represented groups and provide platforms to mitigate the

negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The objective of the Kazi Mtaani program is to provide a form of social protection for workers whose prospects for daily or casual work has been disrupted by the containment policies put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19," said Hinga.

"This benefit cannot be overlooked as it is essential to the resilience of informal settlement dwellers during this time and after," he added. **Xinhua**

'Epic failure': U.S. election officials warn of November chaos due to budget crunch

WASHINGTON

A MICHIGAN town wants machines to speed up counting of absentee ballots. In Ohio, officials want to equip polling places so voters and poll workers feel safe from the coronavirus. Georgia officials, rattled by a chaotic election last month, want to send voters forms so they can request absentee ballots more easily.

In all three cases, the money is not there to make it happen, say local officials responsible for running elections in the states - any one of which could determine who wins the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Presidential nominating contests held this year in states from Wisconsin to Georgia have exposed massive challenges in conducting elections during the worst public health crisis in a century. Closed or understaffed polling venues led

to long lines, there were problems delivering absentee ballots, and the votes took days, even weeks, to count.

But instead of receiving more money for the all-important contest between Republican President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, officials face budget cuts after tax revenues plunged in the virus-stricken economy, two dozen election officials across several battleground states told Reuters.

The consequences, they warn, go beyond practical headaches to the risk voters' faith in the process will be undermined.

"What kind of price tag are you going to put on the integrity of the election process and the safety of those who work it and those who vote?" said Tina Barton, the city clerk and chief elections official in Rochester Hills, Michigan, a state where Trump beat Democrat

Hillary Clinton in 2016 by fewer than 11,000 votes. "Those are the things at risk."

This year's nominating contests have shown that voting in the pandemic age costs more. Officials have to buy masks, face shields and other equipment to virus-proof polling places. They also must spend more to mail and count ballots.

Many officials say they don't have the funding to do either job properly. Election experts say Americans are likely to vote in record numbers in November, when control of Congress will also be up for grabs along with state governorships and legislatures.

A funding shortfall could lead to "widespread disenfranchisement," said Myrna Perez, director of the elections program at New York University's Brennan Center for Justice, a non-partisan public policy institute. "We run the risk of people

really questioning the legitimacy of the election."

Congress approved \$400 million in federal funding to help states hold the elections as part of the CARES Act coronavirus aid package passed in March - that's just one-tenth of the \$4 billion that experts at the Brennan Center have estimated will be needed this year to hold safe and fair elections during the pandemic.

Introducing a vote-by-mail system in new locales will require officials to pay for new paper ballots and thick security envelopes, and to buy expensive new machines to sort and tabulate them. Postage alone will cost nearly \$600 million, the center estimated.

A fresh coronavirus aid bill passed in May in the Democrat-led House of Representatives includes \$3.6 billion in new election funding for state and local governments. Some

Republicans said they were open to considering more election funding, but opposed planned rules to make states boost mail-in voting, and the bill has no chance of passing the Republican-controlled Senate.

Trump and his Republican allies say mail voting is prone to fraud and favors Democrats, although independent studies have found little evidence of those claims. Democrats say efforts to discredit mail balloting, coupled with a possible fall in polling venues, could depress turnout.

Hans von Spakovsky, a former Republican member of the Federal Elections Commission who works at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said officials could cut costs by focusing on keeping polling places safe, rather than trying to ramp up voting by mail.

Agencies

CanSino's recombinant COVID-19 vaccine approved as special military drug

CHINESE biopharmaceutical firm CanSino Biologics Inc announced recently that a recombinant novel coronavirus vaccine (Ad5-nCoV) the company developed with a military research team has received special one-year military drug approval.

The approval for the military use of Ad5-nCoV was granted by the Health Bureau of the Logistics Support Department of the Central Military Commission on June 25, for one year, the company said in a statement sent to the Global Times on Monday.

Ad5-nCoV is currently limited to military use and cannot be expanded to a broader vaccination range without the approval of the Logistics Support Department, the statement said.

Ad5-nCoV is being jointly developed by CanSino and a team led by military infectious disease expert Chen Wei from the Institute of Biotechnology under the Academy of Military Medical Sciences.

The vaccine was approved for clinical trials in March. Phase one and two clinical trials for Ad5-nCoV have been conducted in China, with phase two trials were unveiled on June 11, 2020, according to CanSino.

Data from the clinical trials showed a good safety profile and high levels of humoral and cellular immune responses. The overall clinical results indicate Ad5-nCoV has the potential to prevent diseases caused by SARS-CoV-2. According to regu-



lations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) covering drugs, special military drugs are

those that the military uses to prevent and treat war injuries and diseases in special military

environments.

Such drugs are limited to military use. Local medical institutes

have to obtain the approval of local provincial-level governments and the military logistics support department to use such drugs, according to the regulations.

Li Daguang, a professor at the National Defense University of the PLA, told the Global Times on Monday that the approval process for Ad5-nCoV to become a special military drug followed the normal procedures.

The move is mainly intended to encourage and promote COVID-19 vaccine research and development (R&D) amid the current tough pandemic situation, according to Li.

Global infections reached 10,180,816 as of press time after the number topped 10 million on Sunday, according to Johns

Hopkins University's tracking of the data.

Li noted that the status of "special military drug" would not affect the normal R&D procedure and marketing process of the vaccine.

Special military drugs have to obtain the approval of the military logistics support department and China's national drug supervision department before being used for civilians, according to the regulations.

CanSino announced in May that it had obtained approval from the Canadian National Research Council to conduct clinical trials for Ad5-nCoV, though it didn't disclose further details.

Global Times

More evidence needed on airborne transmission - WHO

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday released new guidelines on the transmission of the novel coronavirus that acknowledge some reports of airborne transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, but stopped short of confirming that the virus spreads through the air.

Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said there is not a lot of solid evidence yet on airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2, but added: "I think it's a reasonable assumption that it does occur."

In its latest transmission guidance, the WHO acknowledged that some outbreak reports related to indoor crowded spaces have suggested the possibility of aerosol transmission, such as during choir practice, in restaurants or in fitness classes.

But the WHO said more research is "urgently needed to investigate such instances and assess their significance for transmission of COVID-19."

The report follows an open letter from scientists who specialize in the spread of disease in the air - so-called aerobiologists - that urged the global body to update its guid-

ance on how the respiratory disease spreads to include aerosol transmission.

Based on its review of the evidence, the WHO said the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 spreads through contact with contaminated surfaces or close contact with infected people who spread the virus through saliva, respiratory secretions or droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings.

The new guidelines do, however, suggest people should avoid crowds and ensure good ventilation in buildings, in addition to social distancing, and encourage masks when physical distancing is not possible.

"This is a move in the right direction, albeit a small one. It is becoming clear that the pandemic is driven by super-spreading events, and that the best explanation for many of those events is aerosol transmission," said Jose Jimenez, a chemist at the University of Colorado who signed the letter, which was published on Monday in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

In a press briefing on Thursday, Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said there is not



a lot of solid evidence yet on airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2, but added: "I think it's a reasonable assumption that it does occur."

Although incomplete, Fauci said the evidence so far is "the fundamental basis for why we are now so intent on getting people - particularly people without symptoms - to wear masks. To be able to see if we can mitigate against that," he said.

Only a very small number of diseases are believed to be spread via

aerosols, or tiny floating particles. These include measles and tuberculosis - two highly contagious pathogens that can linger in the air for hours and require extreme precautions to prevent exposure.

Prior WHO guidance only acknowledged airborne transmission of the novel coronavirus during specific medical procedures. Linsey Marr, an aerosol expert at Virginia Tech who contributed to the WHO letter, said in an email that she is

encouraged the agency is now acknowledging that airborne transmission may occur.

READ MORE: COVID-19: WHO urges travelers to wear masks on planes

But she said the WHO is using an "outdated definition of droplets and aerosols" and is too focused on the size of the droplets and the distance they travel.

WHO defines aerosols as being under 5 microns because only particles that small could float in the air long enough to be inhaled. However, Jimenez and Marr said a much larger range of particle size has been shown to contribute to infection.

Rather than size, they said the differences between droplets and aerosols should be based on how the infection occurs: If a person inhales the virus and becomes infected, it's an aerosol. If the infection occurs by contact, they are droplets.

Although WHO has been focused on airborne transmission at long distances, Marr said breathing in aerosols "is of greater concern at close contact and when people are in the same room."

Agencies

Russia providing maintenance for India's aircraft carrier despite pandemic

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN specialists continue providing maintenance for the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier *Vikramaditya*, despite the coronavirus pandemic, the country's largest defense news portal, *Indian Defence Industries*, reported on Thursday.

A group of Russian technical specialists, which is assisting India in providing maintenance for the aircraft carrier *Vikramaditya*, has not left the country amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite the delays with the carrier's acceptance for service, the *Vikramaditya* offers considerable possibilities for India's Navy and allows the country to keep its supremacy in the Indian Ocean, the news portal said in its article.

Russia has become the sole country that can offer India an aircraft carrier and without its participation the Indian Navy would have been unable to get a warship of this class. As the news portal said, no other country has been able to offer India such major armaments as S-400 air defense missile systems and stealth frigates. The aircraft carrier *Vikramaditya* is a heavy upgrade of the Russian aircraft-carrying cruiser *Admiral Gorshkov*. The work on the ship's heavy upgrade was carried out at the *Sevmash Shipyard*. The flatter was delivered to the Indian Navy on November 16, 2013.

Under a package inter-governmental agreement signed in New Delhi in 2004, India received the *Gorshkov's* hull for free but on condition of its upgrade at the *Sevmash Shipyard* and its outfitting with Russian-made aircraft.

After its upgrade, the *Vikramaditya* displaces 45,000 tonnes and features a modern flight deck and a ski-jump for aircraft take-offs, navigation and radar systems, communications and aircraft control technology and also other special equipment and assemblies.

Agencies

UN report calls for more efforts to end gender bias

THE world is still struggling in its fight against practices that harm women and girls, especially amid the pandemic, said a newly released United Nations report that calls on nations and individuals to take actions to end the harm.

Every year, millions of girls are subjected to practices that harm them physically and emotionally, according to the report. An estimated 4.1 million girls will be subjected to female genital mutilation in 2020.

The report, called *Against my Will: Defying the Practices that Harm Women and Girls and Undermine Equality*, focuses on three harmful practices against women and girls: female genital mutilation, child marriage and preference for a male child.

It is an annual report on the state of the world's population launched by the United Nations Population Fund to raise awareness of population issues and

call for the full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Each day more than 33,000 girls under the age of 18 are forced into marriages, usually to much older men, while an extreme preference for sons over daughters in some countries has fueled gender-biased sex selection or extreme neglect that leads to their death as children, the report said.

To make it worse, the report indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed countries' implementation of programs that are designed to end child marriage and female genital mutilation. Pandemic-related economic disruptions are also increasing the vulnerability of girls to harmful coping mechanisms, including these harmful practices.

"These harmful practices

against girls cause profound and lasting trauma, robbing them of their right to reach their full potential," Babatunde Ahonsi, representative of UNFPA China, said on Wednesday during a launch event in Beijing.

Ahonsi suggested addressing the problem by tackling the root causes, especially gender-inequitable norms, as the UNFPA report stated that decades of experience and research show that bottom-

up, grassroots approaches are better at bringing change.

"We must also do a better job of supporting communities' own efforts to understand the toll these practices are taking on girls, and the benefits that accrue to the whole of society by stopping them," he said.

In China, a preference for sons still exists in some places, said Tang Mengjun, a researcher from the China Population and Development Research Center.

Agencies

Poor countries borrowed billions from China. They can't pay it back

A SIMPLE question arises to which nations of the world can give an immediate answer. Why can't all those countries, mostly underdevelopment and developing countries, refuse to return all loans and aid that China has given with a view to creating debts, as part of the BRI or otherwise? A cursory glance at South Asia itself shows the manner in which China has spread its tentacles using debt diplomacy. Be it Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Maldives and several others in Africa, China has used and assistance as tool of neo-colonialism. It is time the world came together, and told China to back off and refused to return all the money that countries individually owe Beijing.

The fact that as individual nations, China may have the clout to arm twist nations, but as a collective entity, this may set off a fresh counter to countries wanting China to answer for its role in spreading the corona virus across the world. A survey of the world map shows that several countries have already approached Beijing with the request that their loan repayments be deferred or forgiven.

Recently, Pakistan's foreign minister had dialed Beijing with an urgent request. The message was that Pakistan's economy is nose-diving, and government needed to restructure billions of dollars of Chinese loans. According to the report in the *New York Times* (May 18, 2020) similar requests have come in to Beijing from Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka and a number of African nations, asking to restructure, delay repayments or forgive tens of billions of dollars of loans due this year. These are clear indications that China's efforts to become the banker to the developing world are no the retreat.

Pertinently, debt diplomacy by China pre-dates the grand Belt and Road Initiative and is a function of the Chinese state's aim to export surplus to other countries. The objective was to create a parallel lending system to that of the World Bank and US financial institutions which have dominated global finances since the end of the World War. In the last two decades, China unleashed a wave of lending across the globe, generously giving countries with hundreds of billions of dollars, with a view to expanding

its influence and became a political and economic superpower. The 'Middle Kingdom' thus becomes the next neo-colonizer. Countries which borrowed were forced to put up their assets in the form of physical infrastructure such as ports, mines and other strategic assets as collateral.

Since the coronavirus pandemic has gravely impacted the global economy, countries with huge debts especially owed to China are telling Beijing they can't pay the money back. This has an impact on China, both directly and indirectly. Restructuring or forgiving loans will strain China's financial system and complicate the domestic economy, which is anyway in a slowdown.

Despite China's growing wealth, its households still have incomes less than a quarter of those in developed countries. Its economy has also been shaken by the outbreak, leading it to shrink for the first time since the Mao era. However, if China demands repayment now, at a time when many countries would like to stick a knife into China's back for its handling of the pandemic, Beijing's quest for global power will be at risk.

At this point in time, China is politically on the back foot and its aggressive posture in diplomatic and military terms is a reflection of this pressure. As of now precedence shows that if China forecloses on these loans, the only they can do is take over strategic assets in countries that can't even to feed its people. This has been the case in several countries including Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month hit out China, claiming that the Communist Party of China is a danger to the United States and global democracy. He added Beijing was 'reacting' to distract from what he says was China's poor handling of Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, China's global reputation is on the line. Nations are openly questioning its role, after authorities initially downplayed the severity and contagiousness of the disease in January 2020. Subsequently, the virus spread across the world, aided by liberal Chinese travel regime to the US and Europe. This combined with 'mask diplomacy' to help its battered image and its negative fall-

out has only compounded the problem. For China, the financial stakes are huge. One assessment informs that China's lending to the developing world is around US\$ 520 billion. That makes China a bigger lender than the World Bank or around International Monetary Fund. The Belt and Road Initiative, President Xi's US\$ 1 trillion programme to finance infrastructure projects across the world has seen China loan up to US\$ 350 billion to countries, about half of whom are high-risk debtors.

However, while China cannot afford to initiate mass debt forgiveness, it has shown a willingness to negotiate. In April 2020, the Kyrgyzstan government announced that China had agreed to reschedule US\$ 1.7 billion of debt repayments. Similarly, Sri Lanka has asked all its lenders to restructure its loans. In the meantime, China Development Bank widened a credit line by US\$ 700 million to help Sri Lanka cope, lowered the interest rate and delayed the repayment time line by two years.

The pressure on China will only increase as the global economic crisis deepens. Many countries are demanding China provide debt relief or forgiveness, including a number of Africa countries. Ethiopia, Africa's fastest-growing economy, has asked China to cancel part of its debt load and is taking a lead role on behalf of African nations in negotiations. But Ghana's finance minister, Ken Ofori Atta, has stated, China needs to do more and "come on strong". Within China, there is limited debate on debt relief and mostly relates to how best Beijing can take advantage of the present situation.

An article in the *Global Times* by Song Wei, argues that China could bring projects funded by loans back to life and realize sustainable profits, instead of measures as simple as offering write-offs. This is easier said than done, as experience in many parts of the world has demonstrated. There is another aspect of China's lending that requires attention. The loans it gives differ from other loans to developing countries provided by rich nations or by institutions like the World Bank. Chinese loans tend to carry higher interest rates and shorter maturities, requiring re-financing every couple years. This is precisely why countries fre-

quently resort to using national assets as collateral. This gives Chinese state-controlled banks the confidence to lend to poor countries.

The challenge for many countries today is that taking loans has become a habit and consequently, domestic economic growth suffers. For instance, the dramatic increase in Djibouti's debts to China by more than 80 per cent of its annual economic output is a case in point. Ethiopia's debt to China today totals 20 per cent of its annual output. In Kyrgyzstan, the amount is about 40 per cent. Simply put, "debt trap diplomacy" is lending more money than poor countries could afford with the objective of seizing strategic assets and expand China's military and economic footprint.

But in recent years, an anti-China backlash has grown domestically in countries as they realize the cost of Chinese loans and are faced with the challenge of paying off debts. Belt and Road projects have often proven to be unprofitable, leaving nations with hefty bills. For example, when China seized Hambantota port in Sri Lanka as collateral, debtor nations in South Asia and Africa watched with concern. The other problem with debt diplomacy is that it increases corruption in the nations so invested in China relied on a secretive web of bilateral negotiations, to line officials pockets or get them to agree to unreasonable terms, has happened in Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Perhaps Beijing underestimated the risk that severe credit problems might afflict and in the case of developing countries, in a near simultaneous manner. However, the results are there for all to see and this is precisely why it is easier today for leaders in these countries to call for a broad global effort to help with their problems.

Ultimately, if China strikes hard bargains, debtor nations band together and try to forge a united front. They could reveal the extent of their Chinese loans and their terms and conditions, which could put even more focus on the problem. Other countries could shift how they lend, which could force China to change its ways or ease back. This it is hoped will help open another front in war against China in the coming weeks and days. **Agencies**

DPRK leader's sister says summit with US unlikely

SEOUL / PYONGYANG

KIM Yo-jong, the sister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) leader, said another summit with the United States would only be useful for Washington at this point, but added that her country had no intention of "threatening the US," according to state media.

Kim (pictured), the first vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said in her personal opinion, there is unlikely to be another summit between leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump this year but "a surprise thing may still happen," news agency KCNA reported on Friday.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday he was "very hopeful" about resuming talks with the DPRK about denuclearisation and appeared to leave open the possibility of another summit between the countries' leaders.

Kim Yo-jong's comments came a day after the US point man for the DPRK, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun, wrapped up a three-day visit to Seoul where he rejected speculation he was seeking to meet DPRK officials during his trip, but said the United States was open to talks.

Recent DPRK statements have rejected the idea of new talks, and Kim reiterated Pyongyang's objections to what it sees as hostile and self-serving policies of the United States.

"Let me assume that the DPRK-US summit talks does occur. The thing is that, in this case, the US would have a sigh of relief by means of dialogue alone with our leadership, buying time to be assured by the personal relations between the top leaders again. But, we have nothing to gain from a negotiation with the US, and we do not even harbor any expectation about it," Kim Yo-jong said.

"The US only wishes to buy time, keeping the door open to dialogue and calming us down. There is no need for us to sit across with the US right now, who is obsessed with the thoughts on what and how it can get more from us over the negotiating table, and I think it is the issue to be decided when the major changes are made in the attitude of the US," she added.



Kim said Pyongyang would remain optimistic about a change in the US attitude.

"We would like to make it clear that it does not necessarily mean the denuclearization is not possible. But what we mean is that it is not possible at this point of time," she said.

"I remind the US that the denuclearization on the Korean peninsula can be realized only when there are major changes made on the other side, i.e. the irreversible simultaneous major steps to be taken in parallel with our actions," she added.

Her comments were couched in a somewhat softer tone than previous statements, and she even noted she had received special permission to view recordings of the recent Fourth of July Independence Day celebrations in the United States.

"We do not have the slightest intention to pose a threat to the US... Everything will go smoothly if they leave us alone and make no provocation on us," she said.

Kim said it was unclear if mixed messages of engagement and pressure from Trump and his aides are an "intentional scheme or a result of the President's loose grip of power."

She said her brother had instructed her to pass on greetings to Trump and send him wishes for success in his work. But even if the relationship between the leaders is good, Washington will return to being hostile and the DPRK needs to shape its policies in preparation for leaders other than Trump, Kim said.

Kim Jong-un and Trump exchanged threats and insults in 2017 as the DPRK rapidly advanced its missile and nuclear weapons technology, before ties warmed in early 2018.

The two leaders have met three times, but failed to find a compromise over the DPRK's nuclear weapons program, or the international sanctions imposed on Pyongyang.

Agencies



Kenyan music group Mbogi Genje. From left to right are Malaka Yuen aka Militan, Teddy Ochieng aka Guzman and Antony Odhiambo aka Smady. (PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY)

The beat goes on in Africa despite pandemic

BY OTIATO OPALI, NAIROBI, KENYA

THE coronavirus pandemic has had significant effects on the art market across the African continent among both established and emerging artists. Most artists in the music industry have now found themselves without commercial outlets for their work, since restrictions introduced by most African governments to curb the spread of the virus have left most music venues and art fairs closed.

Mbogi Genje, a music group in Kenya made up of Antony Odhiambo aka Smady, Malaka Yuen aka Militan and Teddy Ochieng aka Guzman, is an emerging outfit that had just started taking over the Kenyan airwaves before the coronavirus pandemic struck.

"Last year was a good year for us, and things were looking up for us because we were on high demand to perform in live shows and during events. But with the coronavirus, we have had to cancel many shows which we depend on to make a living," Smady said. "For example, a concert like Nai-Fest is a good platform for us to expand our fanbase and meet other artists, including international ones, but it was cancelled."

Among its measures to help fight the virus, Kenya's government created a fund to alleviate the strain of the pandemic on the country's artists. Through the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage, the government announced it will award more than \$940,000 from its Sports Fund to artists, actors and musicians during the pandemic so they may continue to entertain through TV, radio and the internet. However, most artists feel left out and have not benefited

from the fund.

"We heard the announcement about the money that was supposed to be given to artists, but we have not received even a cent. Since the pandemic started, we have been on our own and surviving through our own means," Guzman said.

"This pandemic might be here for longer and as artists, we cannot depend on government aid which might not arrive in the long run. That is why we have to develop our own means of surviving during the pandemic," he added.

According to Smady, the group is hopeful it will survive the pandemic. They have been recording their songs and sharing them through online platforms and other channels despite the fact they cannot hold concerts.

"We have managed to continue recording and shooting videos for our music but we ensure we maintain social distancing, we wear masks and we sanitize as frequently as possible. We have also collaborated with people in our community and donated masks and sanitizers because our fans also look up to us," Smady said.

Militan said as artists they have no option but brave the virus, because it has affected almost every aspect of life – not just musicians alone.

"Our art is interactive in nature because we perform at gatherings and our fans always want to interact with us. As artists, we want to encourage people not to give up and to maintain hard work, especially during these times. We should always maintain a positive attitude and things will work out for the better," Militan said.

(Agencies)



Vodacom Tanzania's employees, led by the firm's Commercial Business Unit Director, Linda Riwa (in black T-shirt), in group picture with Simba SC players after the latter had been presented with 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) trophy at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruungwa, Lindi on Wednesday. The squad locked horns with Namungo FC in a league clash prior to presentation ceremony, with the two clubs settling for 0-0 draw. Vodacom Tanzania are the top flight main sponsors. PHOTO: COURTESY OF VODACOM TANZANIA

Can Mbao FC pull off great relegation escape?

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

MBAO Football Club seems to be heading for the drop to the First Division League (FDL), but a recent resurgence means they are not down just yet. Four straight wins have kept their survival dream alive when almost everybody has written them off as a sure candidate of relegation alongside Singida United.

The Mwanza-based side restarted their 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League campaign with an emphatic defeat at the hands of Azam FC.

As they attempt to stave off relegation, they would have hoped the break in play means a change of fortunes. However, what seemed a near-impossible task anyway, can still become a great escape.

With four rounds of matches remaining, they are still capable of pushing for another miraculous relegation escape. While they still look a side without hope they have still managed to keep within touching distance of other relegation candidates.

Former Young Africans SC player Fred Felix 'Minziro', has taken over the coaching responsibilities at Mbao FC for the remainder of the season - which was essentially just filling the gap in the dugout.

But he has done his chances of getting the job full-time no harm at all, overseeing a somewhat miraculous turn around in recent rounds.

He has surely come too late to prevent relegation, but the caretaker has done what his predecessors, Hemed Morocco and Abdulmutik Haji, failed to do this season - and that is getting results.

In five games in charge, Minziro's side lost to Azam FC in his first game in charge, before beating a revenge-seeking Coastal Union side at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza the following week.

He then oversaw 1-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania. Last weekend he pulled off a convincing 2-0 victory

over relegation rivals Lipuli FC.

A hard fought 1-0 victory over another relegation threatened side, Mtibwa Sugar, has had even the most skeptical of fans thinking maybe they can pull off another miracle.

That recent run has produced 12 points - some 33% of their total for the whole season - and could be the start of something that keeps them up against the odds.

When soccer fans look at the remaining fixtures and the points gap it is easy to understand why Mbao FC seems to be overwhelming favourites for the drop with the bookmakers.

Three points off the play-off place with four games to play

paints a bleak picture for them because their relegation rivals have not really taken their foot off the gas.

They face Simba in Dar es Salaam next week before a trip to JKT Tanzania in Dodoma, and they need to win at least one of these games.

A loss to Simba on Thursday could be penciled in, but their remaining home fixtures against Ntanda FC and Namungo FC are still a good opportunity to fight for their status in the promotion/relegation playoffs.

Their penultimate home game against Ntanda FC can become the mother of all six-pointers this season.

Defeat for either side there and things will be very, very bleak.

Ntanda FC, placed 15th on 37 points, are two points behind 19th-placed Mbao FC. Both sides have been in this situation before and survived.

After four years in the top flight, Mbao FC's luck might finally run out but they could take solace from the performances of Waziri Junior Shentembo, who has tried his best to keep them in the Vodacom Premier League.

Waziri has racked up 11 league goals this season. All told he has scored nearly a half of the team's goal total.



Mbao FC forward, Waziri Junior Shentembo (R), jubilates with team mate, Babilas Chitembe, after the former has scored for the outfit in a Vodacom Premier League clash with Mtibwa Sugar, which took place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBAO FC

Practices begin at Disney, as teams begin restart routines

BY TIM REYNOLDS

NIKOLA Vucevic had to raise his voice a bit to answer a question. He had just walked off the court after the first Orlando Magic practice of the restart, and some of his teammates remained on the floor while engaged in a loud and enthusiastic shooting contest.

After four months, basketball was truly back.

Full-scale practices inside the NBA bubble at the Disney complex started Thursday, with the Magic - the first team to get into the campus earlier this week - becoming the first

team formally back on the floor. By the close of business Thursday, all 22 teams participating in the restart were to be checked into their hotel and beginning their isolation from the rest of the world for what will be several weeks at least. And by Saturday, all teams should have practiced at least once.

"It's great to be back after four months," Vucevic said. "We all missed it."

The last eight teams were coming in Thursday, the Los Angeles Lakers and Philadelphia 76ers among them. Lakers forward LeBron James lamented saying farewell to his family,

and 76ers forward Joel Embiid - who raised some eyebrows earlier this week when he said he was "not a big fan of the idea" of restarting the season in a bubble - showed up for his team's flight in what appeared to be a full hazmat suit.

"Just left the crib to head to the bubble. ... Hated to leave the (hashtag)JamesGang," James posted on Twitter.

Another last-day arrival at the Disney campus was the reigning NBA champion Toronto Raptors, who boarded buses for the two-hour drive from Naples, Florida - they've been there for about two weeks, training at

Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers - for the trip to the bubble. The buses were specially wrapped for the occasion, with the Raptors' logo and the words "Black Lives Matter" displayed on the sides.

Brooklyn, Utah, Washington and Phoenix all were down to practice Thursday, along with the Magic. Denver was originally scheduled to, then pushed back its opening session to Friday. By Saturday, practices will be constant - 22 teams working out at various times in a window spanning 13 1/2 hours and spread out across seven different facilities.

Exhibition games begin July 22.

Games restart again for real on July 30.

"It just felt good to be back on the floor," said Brooklyn interim coach Jacque Vaughn, who took over for Kenny Atkinson less than a week before the March 11 suspension of the season because of the coronavirus. "I think that was the most exciting thing. We got a little conditioning underneath us. Didn't go too hard after the quarantine, wanted to get guys to just run up and down a little bit and feel the ball again."

Teams, for the most part, had to wait two days after arriving before they could get on the practice floor.

Many players have passed the time with video games; Miami center Meyers Leonard, with the Heat not practicing for the first time until Friday, has been giving fans glimpses of everything from his gaming setup to his room service order for his first dinner at Disney - replete with lobster bisque, a burger, chicken strips and some Coors Light to wash it all down.

The food has been a big talking point so far, especially after a handful of players turned to social media to share what got portrayed as less-than-superb meals during the brief quarantine period.

Henry kneels for 8 mins, 46 secs in BLM protest

MINNESOTA

MONTREAL Impact head coach and France legend Thierry Henry took a knee for the first eight minutes and 46 seconds of his team's MLS is Back Tournament opener against the New England Revolution on Thursday in memory of George Floyd, who was killed in police custody in Minnesota in May, causing mass protests.

Henry, wearing a T-shirt with "Black Lives Matter" emblazoned on it, knelt inside his technical area as the game got underway, in another show of solidarity with the BLM social justice movement over the first two days of play in the MLS tournament.

"I sat down for 8 mins and 46 seconds, I guess you guys know why," Henry said after the match. "It was just to pay tribute and show support to the cause. That was basically it. [It's] pretty simple."

Henry's protest reflected the amount of time it was initially reported that Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, knelt on Floyd's neck, and 8:46 has become a symbol of police brutality. Minnesota prosecutors said after an investigation that the exact time the police officer had his knee on the neck of Floyd was 7 minutes, 46 seconds.

The former Arsenal legend and World Cup winner has previously been outspoken on racism, launching the Stand Up Speak Up campaign along with other players. He has also been a supporter of Show Racism The Red Card.

"We all have stories that we can tell, but for the first time other ethnicities are involved," Henry told ESPN's Taylor Twellman on Wednesday.

"I always say back in the day, when stuff like that was happening, that I get insulted on the field for the colour of my skin ... I would like other ethnicities in my team to walk out before I walk out, then that would be pretty powerful."

"Because at the end of the game, I don't want the journalist to ask the question to the Black guy. Ask the question to everybody and see if they feel our pain. That will have an impact."

Philadelphia Union players came out for Thursday morning's MLS is Back Tournament match against New York City FC at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex in Florida with the names of Black victims



of police brutality on the backs of each of their jerseys.

"It was to continue the conversation that needs to be had. We first and foremost asked our team if they were OK with it, because solidarity is key and we want to make sure everybody feels comfortable," Union defender Ray Gaddis said after the match, which his team won 1-0.

"Actions are louder than words. Again, it's to further the conversation and to continue to use our platform to be a voice for the voiceless. It was a collective group effort."

Ahead of the opening game of the tournament between Orlando City and Inter Miami on Wednesday evening, more than 100 Black MLS players raised their right fists and took a knee. Some players wore T-shirts over their jerseys with the words "Black and Proud" and "Silence is Violence," and both teams' starting players, as well as the referees, took a knee before kickoff.

The kneeling protest garnered national and worldwide attention in 2016, when former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick in 2016 carried it out during the national anthem. The fist raising mirrors the protest against racial inequality by Americans John Carlos and Tommie Smith at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico and came to be associated with the Black Power movement of the 1960s and '70s as well as the current Black Lives Matter movement.

The MLS tournament is being held inside a biosecure "bubble," with MLS the first major North American men's team sport to return to action since the coronavirus pandemic suspended the sports calendar in mid-March.

(Agencies)

Man City to face Real Madrid at Etihad in UCL

LONDON

MANCHESTER City will play the second leg of their Champions League round-of-16 tie against Real Madrid at the Etihad after UEFA cleared the game to take place in England, the governing body confirmed on Thursday.

UEFA had been concerned about the viability of playing round-of-16 games in different countries, before the winners of the ties then have to fly into Portugal for the knockout rounds, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

But the clubs who were due to be at home -- City, Bayern Munich (vs. Chelsea), Juventus (vs. Lyon) and Barcelona (vs. Napoli) -- insisted they should be able to play on their own grounds if at all possible having already played the first leg away from home.

All games will be played behind closed doors, UEFA said.

City lead Real Madrid 2-1 ahead of the return leg and felt it would be unfair if they had to surrender home advantage. All ties will now be played as scheduled, with Bayern Munich hosting Chelsea (first leg 3-0), Barcelona playing Napoli at the Camp Nou (1-1) and Juventus at home to Lyon (0-1).

UEFA had considered moving all four remaining round-of-16 games, scheduled for Aug. 7 and 8, to Portugal to be played in Porto and Guimaraes, before the

later rounds are played in Lisbon with the final scheduled for Aug. 23. Benfica's Estadio da Luz and Sporting's Estadio Jose Alvalade will be used for the quarterfinals onward, with the draw for all remain rounds taking place at 11 a.m. BST on Friday, July 10.

Manchester United will also be able to host LASK Linz in the second leg of their Europa League round-of-16 tie, which the Red Devils lead 5-0 from the first leg, while Wolves will take on Olympiakos at Molineux (1-1).

The ties Internazionale vs. Getafe and Sevilla FC vs. AS Roma will be played as one-legged matches in Germany, with the first legs not having taken place due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Europa League quarterfinals, semifinals and the final will be played as an eight-team knockout tournament in the German cities of Cologne, Duisburg, Dusseldorf and Gelsenkirchen between Aug. 10-21.

UEFA has confirmed that teams in both competitions can add three players to their squads for the remaining matches, though the players must have been registered at the club before football was suspended.

The UEFA Super Cup, between the winners of the two European competitions, takes place in Budapest on Sept. 24.

(Agencies)

Premier League's Golden Boot race hots up

LONDON

WHILE the Premier League title has already been won by Liverpool in record time, the battle to finish as the top-flight's leading scorer is set to go down to the wire.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah could add the Golden Boot to his Premier League winners' medal, but he has work to do to catch Leicester's Jamie Vardy, who sits top of the goal charts with four games left.

Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang is also in contention to get his hands on the prize after sharing it with Salah and Sadio Mane last season when the trio each scored 22 goals.

Southampton's Danny Ings is the dark horse after an unexpectedly prolific campaign.

Jamie Vardy

With 22 league goals to his credit so far this term, Vardy is in pole position to take the prize, especially after rediscovering his peak form over the last week.

Vardy failed to score in Leicester's first four games after the coronavirus hiatus, but the 33-year-old netted twice against Crystal Palace to pass 100 Premier League goals and struck again at Arsenal.

"He's a legend here for the rest of his time at the club, it's just what he adds to that status over the rest of his career," Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers said after Vardy became the 29th player to join the Premier League 100-goal club.



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

Winning the Golden Boot would be another landmark moment for Vardy, who has defied the odds throughout his remarkable rise from non-league journeyman to Premier League champion four years ago.

Vardy's next opportunity to increase his grip on top spot comes against lowly

Bournemouth on Sunday.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

The Arsenal forward has scored three times in his last three appearances to move into second place in the goal race.

Aubameyang has netted 20 times this season, his prolific form increased

Arsenal's desire to get the Gabon international to extend a contract that expires at the end of next season.

The 31-year-old is yet to agree a new deal amid reported interest from Barcelona and Paris Saint Germain.

His value to Arsenal comes not just in his goals but in his ability to play wide on the left as well as up front.

Sunday's north London derby at Tottenham and a home game against Liverpool in their following game give Aubameyang a chance to put pressure on Vardy when the spotlight is brightest.

Mohamed Salah

Having won the Golden Boot in 2018 and finished in joint first place last year, the Liverpool forward needs a late goal spree to make it three successive seasons on top of the leaderboard.

Salah's brace in a 3-1 win at Brighton on Wednesday took him to 19 goals and, with Liverpool chasing a new Premier League points record, the Egyptian is likely to remain in the team even with the title won.

With nine assists this season, compared to

four for Vardy, two for Aubameyang and two for Ings, the 28-year-old all round value to Liverpool is arguably higher than any of his Golden Boot rivals.

Next up for Liverpool is Saturday's clash with Burnley followed by games against Arsenal, Chelsea and Newcastle to round off a memorable campaign that could finish on a high for Salah on a personal note as well.

Danny Ings

The Southampton striker bagged his 19th goal of the season in Thursday's 1-1 draw at Everton.

After a blistering run during the winter, the goals had dried up a little for Ings, but the 27-year-old has been back in predatory form since the restart.

Ahead of Monday's trip to Manchester United, Ings' four goals in his last five matches have underlined the former Liverpool forward's case for a possible England call-up when international football resumes.

First, Ings will focus on becoming the first Golden Boot winner to play for a club outside the Premier League's 'big six' since Sunderland's Kevin Phillips in 1999-2000.

AFP

Man Utd are good again but will the Glazers spend to get them to next level?

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

THERE is something beginning to stir at Manchester United. After seven years of decline and drift since Sir Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013, Thursday's 3-0 victory at Aston Villa was just the latest example of the upward trajectory of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team.

Back in January, Solskjaer was fighting for his future as manager after back-to-back defeats against Liverpool and Burnley, but six months on, United are now 17 games unbeaten in all competitions and are heading for Champions League qualification. At this rate, with opponents being beaten out of sight on a regular basis, they will not need to rely on the back-door pass of fifth and taking Manchester City's place in the competition -- if their neighbours have their two-year UEFA ban upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

In this kind of form, with teen sensation Mason Greenwood scoring again and Paul Pogba back on the scoresheet for the first time since April 2019, United could even finish as high as third if they continue to rack up the victories. But with the sun beginning to shine again at Old Trafford, the onus is now on United's owners, the Glazer family, and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward to seize the momentum and not allow the opportunity to return to the top slip through their fingers.

For all of the progress United have undoubtedly made in recent months, especially since the arrival of January signing Bruno Fernandes, there is still work to do to turn this squad into one capable of dethroning Premier League champions Liverpool and competing among the elite in the Champions League. But will the Glazers recognise the chance they now have to cut the gap and accelerate United's return to the top table? Or will they allow the moment to pass and leave Solskjaer to take the long road back to where the club used to be?

With Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp admitting that his club are unlikely to make significant signings and City's recruitment plans dependent on the outcome of their appeal to CAS, Chelsea have seized this summer's rare opportunity to get closer to the top two by signing Hakim Ziyech from Ajax and Timo Werner from RB Leipzig. They might yet sign Bayer Leverkusen's Kai Havertz, too.



Standard set: Paul Pogba has called on Manchester United to maintain their form of recent weeks (AFP Photo)

United are favourites to sign Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho, but even if they land the England international, they will still need at least two, and maybe even three, key additions to be genuinely competitive next season. Because make no mistake, this United team still has flaws to correct.

The recent run has raised morale and belief, but since the resumption of football following the COVID-19 enforced shutdown, Solskjaer's team has beaten only Sheffield United, Brighton and the three teams on course for relegation:

Villa, Bournemouth and Norwich. Thursday at Villa Park, United were never in danger of surrendering their unbeaten run, with Fernandes, Greenwood and Pogba all scoring in an easy win. In fact, United could and should have won by more. Yet even during their five-game winning streak, United have looked vulnerable at the back, with goalkeeper David De Gea and captain Harry Maguire showing their frailties more than once.

United's defensive record is the third best in the Premier League, with 33 conceded, but a centre-half with real pace could

shave off maybe 8-10 goals a season and that would put them in the bracket of title challengers. That kind of player doesn't come cheaply, but having invested £80 million on Maguire, they might need to spend a similar sum on a complementary centre-half to play alongside him.

In midfield, United were always in control against Villa, even though Nemanja Matic was caught in possession too often. Against better teams, the 32-year-old would have been punished, and although Scott McTominay is waiting in the wings, the addition of a defensive

midfielder of the ilk of N'Golo Kante would instantly make United more formidable. Prior to this game, speculation surrounding Villa's Jack Grealish with a move to United had intensified, but on this evidence, the midfielder is not the answer for Solskjaer's team.

With Fernandes and Pogba, United are already blessed with world-class creators in midfield and, while Grealish has promise, he is still some way short of being a player capable of making a difference at the highest level. Thursday was the perfect case to that point, as in a game his team desperately needed to win, Grealish failed to make any impact.

Villa, on this display, are heading for relegation, but the picture is so much brighter for United. Qualifying for the Champions League will increase Solskjaer's transfer budget and make United even more attractive to prospective signings, so they should be pushing at an open door when it comes to making themselves better.

But it is down to the Glazers now. Solskjaer has given United a platform on which to build a winning team again. Now is the time to take advantage and get back to the top.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Simba SC seeks revenge against Yanga

SPORT

Premier League's Golden Boot race heats up

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC fullback, Shomari Kapombe (C), negotiates his way past Yanga's fullback, Jaffary Mohamed (L), and midfielder, Feisal Salum, in the Vodacom Premier League's second phase clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam in March. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League Champions, Simba SC, want to end Young Africans SC (Yanga)'s dominance over the former this season, when the two giants clash in the semi-finals of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

This year, the two age-old rivals have met twice in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL), with Yanga winning one game while the other ended in a 2-2 draw.

In the first phase game which ended in the 2-2 draw, played at the same venue on January 4, Yanga came from

behind to equalize all two goals through Mapinduzi Balama and Mohamed Issa while Meddie Kagere and Deo Kanda netted for Simba.

In the last meeting, winger Bernard Morrison scored the goal for Yanga.

Simba SC chairman, Mwina

Kaduguda, said they are eyeing victory on Sunday, maintaining the win will be double celebration for his side.

"We are the champions of Vodacom Premier League and to celebrate that championship, we want to beat Yanga and that is what we will do on Sunday,

the team is in good shape, I'm asking our supporters to come in big number because it will be double celebration," he said.

He said the mission of his side is to as well win the Federation Cup silverware this year. Kaduguda also clarified that the team management

supported the decision by head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, who insisted the squad's players should not have a championship parade on Thursday when they arrived from Lindi after having been officially crowned 2019/20 VPL winners.

"We supported our head coach for deciding that after the team had arrived in Dar es Salaam from Lindi it should go straight to camp instead of parading the trophy, that was a good decision as we have a big match on Sunday," he said.

Simba SC head coach Vandenbroeck said he is preparing his charges well as the aim is to beat Yanga on Sunday.

"After today (Wednesday)'s game against Namungo FC our focus now is on Yanga, our aim is to win that match, what I want is good preparations for the game," he said on Wednesday.

Yanga's mobilization officer, Antonio Nugaz, said his team is well prepared for the encounter.

"This is the game which we want to win at any cost, it is important that we beat Simba so that we can have a ticket for CAF Confederation Cup and on top of that it's a derby and as you know beating our rivals brings a lot of pride to the team," he said.

Yanga arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday from Kagera where they had a brief camp after their VPL encounter with Kagera Sugar, which had the former winning 1-0.

Yanga information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said all of their players are in shape for the game.

"The team is in Dar es Salaam now, all of the players who include Haruna Niyonzima and Bernard Morrison are with the team," he said.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MIADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tarfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Swimming outfit set to organize life saving, diving course

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Kimimba Swimming Promotions (KSP) will next month host life saving and diving course at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, organizers disclosed.

The KSP founder Geoffrey Kimimba said the course is expected to take place on August 15 and they expect many people to attend.

"All is set for the life saving and diving course, it will be held on August 15 at Marine in Kigamboni, we ask those interested to register, it is very important as we will cover many topics," he said.

He said the aim of the course is to train people in life saving and diving lessons.

Kimimba said the course is in line with their missions to dedicate itself to nurturing and advancement of hidden skills, training the community on general water skills and life saving skills that will enable trainees to either rescue or survive from water dangers.

The KSP is one of the leading agencies which promote life saving and swimming, and offer diving course.

Other KSP aims are educating the community and bringing awareness in life saving skills.

Organizing regular swimming events for different groups and categories and acting as legal representatives (hence agent) for professional sports figures such as athletes and coaches is as well in the list of the objectives.

The KSP aims also include procuring and negotiating employments and endorsement contracts for the athletes and coaches or any other professional figures in water sports industry.

The center further offers young boys and girls opportunity to be inventive and creative in water sports activities.

Participation in designing water sports or activities including publicizing, promoting and organizing events is moreover the center's aim.

The center gears towards provision of an outlet for advanced participation and competition in water sports, dealing with all aspects of swimming industry client's finances from investments to all aspects of financial management.

Identifying barriers and challenges to water sports promotion in various communities is also in the list of the center's aims.

The KSP was previously known as Tanzania Marine Swimming Club and it has provided its services to many local and international companies and organizations.

Veteran Dar musician passes on



Iqbal Varda

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's dance music has one again been dealt a blow as veteran musician, Iqbal Varda, passed away in Dar es Salaam on June 26.

Varda, also a prominent poet, was a pioneer of renowned music group, Varda Arts, which enjoy great following in domestic music scene from 1980s right up to the 1990s.

Varda Arts Band leader, Aziz Varda, disclosed Iqbal had suffered acute jaundice. He passed away aged 73.

Aziz stated his brother's death turns out to be a big blow to Varda Arts Band given he was one of the top most musicians in the band, which was entirely made up of the Varda family members.

"His contribution to music in the country was immense, he served the country via his musical talent performing in countless charity shows for the less privileged the country," Aziz disclosed.

Aziz said Iqbal, as a result, won plenty of prizes. He pointed out that Iqbal was a pious person who always separated his income from

his earning to spend in a good cause.

Aziz also stated that Iqbal was not addicted to either any type of drugs or drinks.

The Varda Arts Band leader noted as the eldest brother in the band, Iqbal always guided his younger brothers to fear God and show humility, compassion and give service to the society through the talent bestowed by God.

Aziz said Iqbal was barely seven years old when he won the top prize in the children singing competition at Mnazi Mmoja in Dar es Salaam during Eid celebration in June 1954.

"Since then he decided to turn into a musician and learned the art of playing such musical instruments like Harmonium and Tabla from the family's father," Aziz noted.

"The family's father and uncles too were notable musicians with their band known as Varda Brothers during the 1950s and 1960s."

Aziz further said Iqbal inspired many youths of that era including his brothers who later on turned out to be prominent musicians in the 1980s.

He said they rose to

prominence after Varda Arts had been formed and registered in 1980.

The group, he noted, is still active, performing at various hotels in the city.

Aziz disclosed Iqbal's phenomenal success is having been honoured to entertain 2000 Members of Parliament during the first party election at Kizota, Dodoma in 1985.

The band leader disclosed Iqbal's lifetime achievement is to have performed in the presence of the Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the second President, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the third President Benjamin William Mkapa, the fourth President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, and the former Organization of Africa Unity (OAU)'s Secretary General, Salim Ahmed Salim.

"Iqbal leaves behind a widow and daughters. One of his daughters has married in South Africa and the other lives with her spouse in Indonesia," Aziz stated.

IPP Limited, via the firm's official Innocent Njovu, offered its heart felt condolences to the family of the deceased and pray to God that He may grant His nearness.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

