



Canara Bank
(Tanzania) Ltd
"Together, we can build a better life"

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Rate of interest on Savings Accounts
W.E.F 01 / 01 / 2021

TZS	USD
3%	1%

Contact us T: (D) + 255 222 112532
Email: cbtl@canarabank.co.tz

TRAGIC



RAS KWITEGA TO BE BURIED IN SENGHEREMA TODAY PAGE 3

ECONOMY



GEPG DOUBLES REVENUE COLLECTIONS PAGE 4

HEALTH



KARATU TO SCALE UP HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY PAGES

EMPOWERMENT



WOMEN IN HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS PAGE 11



Happier times approach for King'ongo Primary School in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality, with the construction of a line-up of extra classrooms nearing completion - as found yesterday. The school was recently in the news as it faced such a critical shortage of classrooms that some pupils had no option but to study under trees. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

MPs agree TARURA be given more road funds

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament were yesterday up in arms over the poor state of roads in their areas, asking the government to increase funds allocated to the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA). Currently, the agency receives around 30 percent of total road construction resources, with 70 percent being allocated to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads), held by the Road Fund Board (RFB).

Debating President John Magufuli's 12th Parliament inaugural speech, the lawmakers were concerned that the road network in both rural and urban areas is in a poor condition, blaming the situation on the limited budget for TARURA. The agency is mandated to facilitate improvements of non-highway urban and rural roads. Mtama MP Nape Nnauye affirmed the necessity for the government to look for alternative funding for TARURA instead of solely depending on allocations from RFB.

TURN TO PAGE 2



Ex-Nigerian minister closing in as the first woman to head WTO

GENEVA

THE path was yesterday cleared for Nigerian former minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to become the first woman and the first African to lead the World Trade Organization after South Korea's candidate pulled out of the race for the job.

Yoo Myung-hee, the South Korean trade minister, announced her decision to withdraw in a televised briefing on Friday.

Okonjo-Iweala, an economist and ex-finance minister, already enjoyed broad support from WTO members, including the European Union, China, Japan and Australia.

However, the United States, under the Trump administration, had favored Yoo, complicating the decision-making process since the selection of a new leader requires all WTO members to agree. Okonjo-Iweala's formal selection may have to wait until after the United States appoints a new trade representative.

Yoo said that her decision had been reached after "close consultation" with the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Contractor sued over Beit el-Ajaib collapse

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE contractor who was undertaking restoration works at Beit el-Ajaib (House of Wonders) when the iconic building partially collapsed two months ago now faces legal action from the government of Zanzibar for doing a shoddy job that led to the accident.

Speaking after receiving a probe report on the matter here on Thursday, Zanzibar Tourism and Heritage minister Lela Muhamed Mussa, said the government is now out to compel the Italian company Construzioni General Gilardi (GGG) to pay compensation.

The amount should cover the loss and damages caused by the poor job and negligence as it led directly to the partial collapse of the building, she said.

"We are also going to take legal and disciplinary action against officials of Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority and the then



By the time of collapse, the contractor had spent 80 per cent of the time on the site but implemented only 10 per cent of the work

Ministry Information, Tourism and Heritage," she further stated.

Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Housing as well as Water and Energy are also lined up for legal or disciplinary action, she stated.

The ministry has formally recommended to the appointing authority to dissolve the board of the Stone Town conservation body to form a new one, along with reviewing laws governing its work and appointment of its members.

"We have also agreed to disband the team that oversaw the implementation of the project. We will also hire a new competent consultant," she said.

The minister said the probe report established that the first consultant failed to properly advise and supervise the contractor despite having pocketed millions of shillings in fees.

She said the government will

TURN TO PAGE 2

New Bugando cancer wing to ease admission for Lake Zone

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

BUGANDO Referral Hospital is putting up a state of the art oncology wing meant to expand and ease access of treatment among the Lake Zone population, said to have the biggest number of cancer patients countrywide.

Having laid the foundation stone in the place of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday, Health minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (pictured) said the government



has set aside 1bn/- for the project whose total cost stands at 5.4bn/-.

The facility owned by the Catholic Church is run in partnership with the government and provides services as a referral and consulting hospital for the Lake Zone, which has eight regions.

The wing saves residents of the Lake Zone and neighboring regions the trouble of having to travel all the way to Dar es Salaam to receive cancer

TURN TO PAGE 2

ASSURANCE

Page 2



IMMIGRANTS

Page 4



INDUSTRIES

Page 5



9 770856 542009 >



Arusha regional commissioner Idd Kimanta leads mourners in paying their last respects Arusha regional administrative secretary Richard Kwitega at Arusha city's Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium yesterday. The body was later transported to Ngoma village in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region, for burial lined up for today. Next to Kimanta is Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Anna Mghwira. The RAS died in a road crash earlier this week while travelling to Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

FROM PAGE 1

treatment at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), she said.

Construction has been going on under force account, a payment method for construction works where no agreement has been reached on costs, the minister noted, affirming that this has reduced the cost which would have shot to upwards of 7bn/-.

The three storey facility will have a 120-bed capacity, a radiotherapy centre, consultation rooms and resting sections.

Recent statistics show that a disproportionate portion of the country's cancer burden is from the Lake Zone. In July 2019, President John Magufuli tasked the ministry to carry out a study

New Bugando cancer wing to ease admission for Lake Zone

and establish the factors behind the high numbers of cancer cases in the zone.

"Most cancer patients are from the Lake Zone. Why?" he queried, citing official data indicating that 50 per cent of cancer cases countrywide arise from the zone. "I'm talking from experience," the president affirmed on a regional tour.

Scientists later linked the surge in cancer case in the zone to chemical substances emanating from mining sites, consumption

of local brews, unhealthy fishing methods and other factors.

Scientists at the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences said at the time that in the past 10 years, over 50,000 patients in the Lake Zone were diagnosed with various forms of cancer at the Bugando facility.

The laying of the foundation stone event coincided with this year's World Cancer Day whose theme is 'I Am and I Will,' "meant to serve as a reminder

of the enduring power of cooperation and collective action." The day is observed to raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding the disease that is the second leading cause of death globally.

The occasion reminds Tanzanians to embrace healthy lifestyles such as eating balanced diets, avoid smoking and excess alcohol and engaging in regular exercise to effectively keep away non communicable diseases, the minister added.

MPs agree TARURA be given more road funds

FROM PAGE 1

"Given the fact that the agency has a lot of activities and it receives a smaller budget from the RFB, the government needs to come up with alternative sources to raise funds that will be channeled to TARURA to enhance its performance," he said.

National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai underscored the need for the government to increase funding to the agency to 40 percent of the total road fund for it to execute its tasks properly.

"We cannot continue this way, all MPs are complaining over bad state of the roads. We need to make bold decisions to reduce budget allocations for TANROADS," said Ndogai, noting that legislators have been lamenting over poor road networks for many years.

Ndogai cautioned that if the roads are not improved, this will affect many MPs as they issues assurances to fix the problem in their campaign promises.

In the coming national budget for the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the lawmakers should jointly deliberate to increase budget for the road agency, he urged.

Kawe MP Josephat Gwajima said that TARURA which is responsible for upgrading upwards of 130,000 kilometers of roads in all districts has far fewer funds compared to TANROADS which oversees 40,000 kilometers of major roads.

"Why should TARURA get 30 percent funding from the RFB? We need to revise these rates for the agency to implement all the projects properly," he said, acknowledging that the agency faces a serious shortage of funds.

Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam has a 1,663 kilometer network of which 200 kilometers are in Kinondoni constituency and 1,463 kilometers in Kawe

constituency, he pointed out, icing his remarks with an observation that the road network in Kawe constituency "is equivalent to the distance from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma."

"When I recently visited TARURA offices, they said that available funds can only construct 120 kilometers, meaning that 1,300 kilometers cannot be improved in Kawe constituency. This is unacceptable," he declared.

If action isn't taken to beef up funding for TARURA, most roads will not be improved, he said.

Dr Festo Dugange, the Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) told the House that the government is working on extra sources of funding for TARURA.

Apart from looking for alternative sources, the government is also reworking next year's estimates to increase budget for the agency.

For example, in the year 2019/2020 the budget for TARURA was 241bn/- but in the current year the allocation was raised to 275bn/-, he said.

As TARURA is mandated to rehabilitate a network of 108,496km of road in all districts, the government is aware of the need for a budget increment for the agency and it is already working on it, he added.



We need to make bold decisions to reduce budget allocations for TANROADS

Contractor sued over Beit el-Ajaib collapse

FROM PAGE 1

also take legal action against the consultant for breach of contractual obligations.

The partial collapse on December 25 killed two people and injured several others, as the building was undergoing restoration at a cost of 10bn/- with funds from the government of Oman.

The works started in November 2019, with the contract having provided that the building was to be handed to the government by the contractor this month.

"By the time of collapse, the contractor had spent 80 per cent of the time on the site but

implemented only 10 per cent of the work," the minister asserted.

The Italian firm had already pocketed USD 621,389.07 out of the total project cost of USD 5,931,770.70 meanwhile as the partial collapse of the House of Wonders or Beit Al Ajaib, was a huge blow to the Isles' tourism industry.

Constructed in 1883, Beit Al Ajaib is the largest and tallest building in Zanzibar, located at the UNESCO World Heritage Site or the old city known as the Stone Town section. It attracts tourists from all corners of the world and is a key source of generating foreign exchange earnings.

Ex-Nigerian minister closing in as the first woman to head WTO

FROM PAGE 1

United States. The WTO has been without a leader for too long, she remarked.

The Geneva-based body, tasked with promoting free trade, has been without a permanent director general since Roberto Azevêdo stepped down a year earlier than planned at the end of August - after the WTO was caught in the middle of an escalating trade fight between the United States and China.

The Trump administration was highly critical of the WTO and undermined its standing by imposing tariffs on Canada, Mexico, China and the European Union. Okonjo-Iweala will thus assume control of an organization that has struggled to prevent trade spats between its members.

While US President Joe Biden has already taken steps to restore support for multilateral institutions, he is expected to proceed with caution when it comes to signing any new trade deals.

In a speech to the State

Department Thursday, Biden pledged to put diplomacy back at the center of US foreign policy, but was also careful to emphasize that foreign policy should benefit middle-class Americans.

Okonjo-Iweala, whom the international media say her country is free trade ascendent, told CNN in August that trade would play an important role in the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

"The WTO needs a leader at this time. It needs a fresh look, a fresh face, an outsider, someone with the capability to implement reforms and to work with members to make sure the WTO comes out of the partial paralysis that it's in," the declared aspirant had attested.

Okonjo-Iweala spent 25 years at the World Bank as a development economist, rising to the position of managing director. She also chaired the board of Gavi, which is helping to distribute coronavirus vaccines globally, stepping down at the end of her term in December.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment yesterday with legislators Priscus Tarimo (Moshi Urban, L) and Dr David Mathayo (Same West, 2nd-L) at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma city, where the legislative body is in ordinary session. Photo: PMO

Hospitals aren't full of Covid-19 patients as social media claim, PS assures public

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government has refuted reports on social media that some hospitals in the country are currently full of COVID-19 patients, calling on the public to ignore them and be free to visit health facilities whenever they need services.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Prof Mabula Mchembe, made the statement yesterday here when he visited Bugando and Sekou-Toure Regional Referral Hospitals.

The visit meant to oversee the

hospital's operations and inspect if the reports were true or not.

"The reports are totally untrue and those who are spreading the information aim to inject fear among members of the public with others failing to visit health services fearing that they may contain the virus, those admitted are facing breathing challenges and not Covid-19," he said.

He urged the public who were not feeling unwell to visit health facilities to receive appropriate medical services instead of staying home where they may develop more health complications.

"I have been at Bugando hospital and here in Sekou Toure. In total, the Sekou-Toure hospital has 315 beds, but there are five patients

who have been hospitalized and diagnosed with diabetes and heart diseases, so breathing complications can be caused by several factors including cardiac or diabetic challenges, it is not true that those who face breathing complications have Covid-19," he said.

He further said that the government will continue distributing more oxygen systems in hospitals so as to support patients with breathing complications and other diseases.

On the issue of vaccinations and masks wearing, he said: "There are guidelines that the government has issued and it has not been repealed. So, it is important for people to take precautions and

we've told all people to wear masks, but they should at the environment where they are."

For his part, acting Director-General of Bugando Referral Hospital Dr. Fabian Masaga said the hospital provides services to eight regions and they receive a wide range of patients and provide services in accordance with national procedures.

He also denied information circulating on social media that the health facility is overwhelmed with patients with respiratory complications, saying the hospital admits all patients with different diseases including asthma, hypertension, stroke, and diabetes that contribute to respiratory failure.



Morogoro regional commissioner Loata ole Sanare opens a three-day workshop for rice processors. It was held at Ifakara town in Kilombero District on Thursday. Others are Kilombero district commissioner Ismail Mlawa (L), Rice Council of Tanzania executive director Winnie Bashagi (2nd-R) and Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) programme senior communication officer, Godfrey Kalagho. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Ifakara

Morogoro sees rice business opportunity from Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR businessmen will no longer have to spend much to import rice from Asia and other countries after being assured of steady supply of the produce from Morogoro Region.

Loata Ole Sanare, Morogoro Regional Commissioner (RC) said this at the opening of a three-day workshop for rice processors held at Ifakara town in Kilombero District.

He said the move would also boost income for local rice processors as well as save costs for the traders. "I recently met with the Zanzibar's Second Vice-President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah and requested him to ask rice businessmen in Zanzibar to stop importing rice from other countries because the produce is available in Morogoro," he said.

In response, he said the Second Vice President would encourage buyers to come to Morogoro Region to meet with rice processors and establish business ties between them.

Regional Commissioner asked rice processors to also list down challenges facing them so that he can make a follow up and address them to improve the quality of the rice produced in the region.

Participants requested the

Regional Commissioner to address the challenge of power cuts and power rationing which is rampant in almost all districts in the region.

The other challenge includes poor roads to which the RC promised to meet with both Tanzania Rural roads Agency (TARURA) and the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to address it.

Earlier, the Kilombero District Commissioner Ismail Mlawa urged participants to share the knowledge they got from the workshop with their fellow rice processors who were not able to attend so that all of them should benefit from the experience.

Winnie Bashagi, the executive director of the Rice Council of Tanzania said that the Morogoro Region is contributing immensely to the national tonnage of rice.

On behalf of REPOA's executive director, the organisation's senior communication officer, Godfrey Kalagho the training was part of the research programme which aimed at building the capacity of policy makers, producers and processors to assess policy and contribute towards achieving competitiveness of local products

within and outside the country.

The programme is funded by the European Union under Secretariat of the organization of Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific (OACPS). It is implemented by REPOA in collaboration with the University of Erasmus Rotterdam (ISS).

Morogoro is among the two major regions for rice cultivation. Recently, the government decided to convene the task force for the National Rice Development Strategy II (NRDS II) in Morogoro, which aimed at scaling up the rice production to such an extent that it meets the growing regional and even continental demand for rice and double the production from two tonnes per hectare to four tonnes per hectare.

The workshop was organised by REPOA in collaboration with the Rice Council of Tanzania. It brought together rice processors from Malinyi, Ulanga, Mvomero, and Kilombero districts. It was also attended by representatives from Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) from Ifakara District, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Weights and Measures Agency (WMA).

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

Former Arusha RAS Kwitega to be buried in Sengerema today

FORMER Arusha regional administrative secretary Richard Kwitega will be buried today in Sengerema District, Mwanza Regional, today after a farewell mass held here.

The deceased body was flown from Arusha Airport at 3.00 pm yesterday aboard a government plane, Fokker Friendship F50, with the Regional Commissioner, Idd Hassan Kimanta heading the delegation of various other state officials to Mwanza.

"The late Richard Kwitega had built himself a home in Buswelo, Mwanza where his body is to spend a night before being taken to Sengerema for burial ceremony," stated the Arusha Regional Commissioner, Idd Kimanta whose tears-jerking earlier speech sent stabs of painful memories among majority of people who attended the public funeral mass.

Kwitega has left behind a widow, Janet Kwitega and four children. The former Regional Administrative Secretary was killed in a tragic highway accident, which occurred last Wednesday evening at Mdori section of Babati Rural District of Manyara region.

The government official was traveling from Arusha, heading to Dodoma where he was to attend an official meeting, when his car, a Toyota Land-Cruiser VX, collided head-on with an oncoming passenger vehicle, a 'Makara Bus' which was traveling from Singida to Arusha via Babati.

It was reported that five other people were badly injured during the tragic accident, including the drivers of the two vehicles as well as three passengers that were traveling in the Mitsubishi Fuso Bus christened 'Makara.'

Speaking during the funeral

mass here, the Chairperson of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party in Arusha, Zelothe Stephen, said shortly before the accident, he had waved to the late Kwitega when their vehicles passed each other along the road that evening.

The Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Loata Ole Sanare and Kilimanjaro RC Anna Mughwira were among the government officials who paid last respects to the late Kwitega during the farewell mass in Arusha.

Others were the representative of the Arusha Business Community, Walter Maeda, Chairperson of Parastatals in Arusha, Elishilia Kaaya, religious leaders, and representatives of non-government organisations.

The Arusha Regional Commissioner closed with these words; "Richard Kwitega; I will never forget you!"

the department was working day and night to fight the crimes.

Angela said that the suspects will be brought before the court to face their charges.

Immigration in Morogoro detains 46 illegal immigrants enroute to S. Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Mvomero

IMMIGRATION officials in Morogoro Region have arrested 46 Ethiopian nationals who have entered the country illegally on their way to South Africa.

The immigrants were caught at Bwage village in Mvomero District on February 4, this year travelling in a fuso truck together with cement and empty gallons.

Angela Shija, regional immigration officer said that the Ethiopian nationals were coming from Mombasa, Kenya enroute to South Africa.

"Our immigration officers were on a special patrol when they caught these suspects; they were informed by a good samaritan about the presence of the immigrants who entered Tanzania through Tanga Region and set a trap to catch them," Angela said.

In the exercise, three Tanzanians including the truck's driver escaped but efforts to find them are ongoing in close cooperation with other security organs.

She applauded the citizens for their cooperation to facilitate the arrest of the immigrants calling upon members of the public to continue unearthing immigrants who enter or live in the country against the law warning that stern measures will be taken against those who will be caught.

"We should all as members of the public create a culture of reporting to security bodies whenever we notice something unusual in our areas for the country's peace," she added.

The official further sent a stern warning to all people engaging in human trafficking business and those taking illegal immigrants into their homes to stop doing so as

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on Member States and donors to invest more in combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and to include the management of health complications from female genital mutilation in the list of essential health services for both development and humanitarian programmes.

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa made the call in her message to commemorate the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation which is observed today.

She said: "In this way, we can protect girls, women, and communities from the dangers of female genital mutilation."

This year's theme is "No Time for Global Inaction: Unite, Fund, and Act to end FGM." The theme highlights that accelerated action is needed to save girls from this intentional disfigurement that violates their human rights and adversely affects their health and well-being.

WHO urges African states, donors to invest more in combating FGM

Reports show that globally one in three girls aged 15 to 19 years has undergone FGM.

"The short-term health risks of FGM include severe pain, infection, haemorrhaging and may lead to death. The long-term risks include chronic genital, reproductive health and urinary infections, menstrual problems, infertility, and obstetric complications. In countries affected by this practice, seven out of ten girls and women feel that FGM should be abandoned," she said.


In the WHO African Region, FGM is practiced in 26 countries. FGM has been banned in 22 of these countries. However, in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Sierra Leone FGM has yet to be banned.

"Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis has increased the risk of this harmful practice. School closures and stay-at-home orders have disrupted programmes resulting


in reduced access to prevention messages and services. Families facing financial crisis may also be under more pressure to have their daughters get married, and FGM is often a precursor to marriage," she noted.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimate that two million additional cases of FGM may occur in the next 10 years in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Dr Moeti noted that some countries are making good progress in ending FGM. "For example, Burkina Faso has incorporated prevention of FGM and care for women and girls affected by it, into the midwifery curriculum. They have developed an FGM surveillance model based around documenting FGM in the context of antenatal care. This experience shows it is possible to measure FGM prevalence through the health sector."



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

COUNTRY: TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: SECOND WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT

CREDIT NO.: IDA/59490, IDA/59500

CONTRACT TITLE: Construction of Offgrid Water Supply Distribution Networks at KIGAMBONI & TEMEKE Municipalities

REFERENCE NO.: TZ-DAWASA-91685-CW-RFB **06/02/2021**

- The United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Second Water Sector Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Construction of Offgrid Water Supply Distribution Networks at KIGAMBONI & TEMEKE Municipalities.**
- The Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Construction of Offgrid Water Supply Distribution Networks at KIGAMBONI & TEMEKE Municipalities.:**

ZONE	SCOPE OF WORK
Distribution system Ferry Area	Supply and Installation of offtakes, pipeline, distribution points, house service connections and allied works
Distribution system Buyuni & Chamazi	Supply and Installation of offtakes, pipeline, distribution points, house service connections and allied works
Distribution system Mianzini, Mwanamototi and Butiama	Supply and Installation of offtakes, pipeline, distribution points, house service connections and allied works

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: *Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, dated January 2011, revised in July 2014* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, Procurement Management Unit, and inspect the bidding document during office hours i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours, Monday to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays at the address given below.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **TZS 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Tanzanian Shillings) or its equivalent amount in freely convertible currency.** The method of payment will be by Direct Deposit or Telegraphic Transfer made to; Name of Bank: CRDB BANK; Account Name: DAWASA; Account Number: **01J1042996201**; SWIFT code: CORUTZ TZ. **Pay in slip should be submitted to be able to collect the bidding document** from the Secretary; DAWASA Tender Board; DAWASA Building; Dunga/Malanga Street, Opposite Mwananyamala Hospital; Dar es Salaam. The bidding document may also be delivered to interested bidders as a digital version (PDF) through e-mail upon payment of the aforementioned fee.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **11th March, 2021, 14:00 hours local time.** Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **11th March, 2021, 14:00 hours local time.**
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **TZS 250,000,000.00 or any equivalent amount in freely convertible currency** in form of irrevocable Bank Guarantee.
- The address referred to above is: Secretary, DAWASA Tender Board, Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, DAWASA Building, Dunga/Malanga Street Opposite Mwananyamala Hospital, P.O. Box 1573 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Telephone: +255222760006, /+255222760015. Fax: +255222762480

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

JAMUHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAMBO YA NDANI YA NCHI
IDARA YA UHAMIAJI

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
AMIT PRAVINBHAI PATEL
P.O.BOX 64
MWANZA.

Whose photograph provided above is applying to the minister of home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. His nationality at present is INDIA, country of origin is INDIA. He is an employee. Employers address is NYANZA COMMERCIAL FARMING NYANZA COMMERCIAL WORKS) PO BOX 64 MWANZA. He has been living in Tanzania since 2008.

Any one, who knows any reasons why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send us written and signed statement of facts to the commissioner general of immigration, P.O.BOX 1181 Dodoma. Use reference DN, Mz/DN/404/VOL 1.

FOR: COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION

Technical college, water agency and Tanapa admit GePG behind rise in govt revenue collections

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Finance and Planning has managed to double revenue soon after introducing the use of the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG), where so far more than 670 institutions have joined the system.

This was revealed on Thursday after a visit by editors from different media outlets when they visited the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Arusha Technical College (ATC), and the Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (AUWSA).

Juma Kuji from TANAPA said since the introduction of the GePG system, the agency had saved a large amount of money that was being used to pay service providers from various banks.

Kuji said TANAPA was paying one percent of all the revenue they collect from the banks, which is between 1bn/- and 3bn/- yearly.

"But, now this remains a story of the past due to the use of the GePG system," Kuji said, adding that TANAPA started with one national park—Serengeti in 1959 and so far they have 22 parks across the country.

Commenting on TANAPA's success after its integration with the GePG system, head of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) unit, Boniphase Mariki said that before the agency started using the system each security gate had its own account thus causing the agency to have close to 100 accounts, which was delaying access to bank reconciliation.

Maliki added that after joining the GePG, TANAPA has only eight accounts of which four are for Tanzanian shilling currency, and four accounts belong to the US dollar currency, which enables the agency to solve many revenue collection challenges since all collections are managed by the

GePG system.

Ndaki Titto, head of ICT unit at AUWSA told the delegation that after joining the GePG system in the 2017/18 financial year, the authority increased revenue collection from 1.2bn/- to 1.6bn/- per month.

Titto said that apart from the organization increasing its revenue, customers have also benefited greatly because the system has allowed them to make payments through various channels including mobile networks, hence reducing inconvenience to its customers.

ATC registrar Dr Baraka Kichonge said that the GePG system has been a savior of public spending as the system has put transparency in collections and thus increased integrity in the use of public funds.

Dr Kichonge has asked the editors to make a strategic visit to the college to see for themselves the great technology used in teaching at the college and to pass the information to the public so that they can invest in technology through their young people who will send them to train at the college.

Senior ICT officer and in-charge of GePG from the Ministry of Finance, Basil Baligumya said in the two-day seminar for editors the ministry has found more to learn about the operation of the system. Basil added that the government will continue to provide support to its institutions to ensure that any systemic challenges are resolved in a timely manner.

"As the ministry, we're ready to continue to support you and we are grateful for your cooperation as well and we continue to encourage your billing systems to continue to improve so that we can continue to provide services in a way that is easier for people who pay for our services."



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald makes remarks at yesterday's launch of Kisarawe Ushoroba Festival, an event meant 'sell' tourist attractions available in the Kazimzumbwi natural forest reserve, Zaramo culture and the recently established Mwalimu Nyerere National Park. The event is scheduled to get going from February 19 in Kisarawe District, Coast Region. Others include Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (C) and Seth Mihayo (R), a senior conservator with the national park. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt: We are finalising plans on investor for Kidabaga tea factory

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

AS part of efforts to revive dead factories, the government is finalizing plans to get an investor for the Kidabaga tea factory in Kilolo District, Iringa Region.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the government is preparing a cabinet circular on all the factories that were repossessed by the government after remaining dormant for a long time.

Deputy Minister, Exaud Kigahe told the House yesterday that the government is aware of the

importance of the revival of the tea factory in Kilolo District, adding the plans include finalization of the proposal on the structure of the factory and the modality of operation that would promote welfare and interest of tea farmers and the country at large.

"The ministry remains committed to ensure the factory gets a proper investor who would protect and put forward the national interest and that of the farmers," he said.

The deputy minister was of the view that revival of the factory, apart from creating employment,

would also guarantee a reliable market for tea farmers in the surrounding area and contribute to national development.

He was responding to the question posed by Kilolo Member of Parliament, Justine Nyamoga who sought to know when the government would finalize the process of getting an investor of the Kidabaga factory.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister for Water, Maryprisca Mahundi said the construction of a water project in Njombe town council will commence in April this year.

Mahundi said the project will be

undertaken at a cost of US \$ 500 million which is a soft loan from Exim Bank of India to be spent on water projects in 28 councils in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

"The projects will be undertaken in a period of 24 months, implementation of the project would play a great part in the government's efforts to end shortage of water in the country and improvement of social services delivery," said Mahundi when responding to a question from Njombe-Urban legislator, Deodatus Mwanika.



Manyara regional commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti (2nd-R) has a word with Mati Super Brands Ltd officials (L and R) during a tour of investment centres in the region earlier this week. The Babati-based firm deals in hard drinks. Looking on is Babati district commissioner Lazaro Twange. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Mwinyi hails immigration department

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has hailed the immigration department for its deliberate efforts which have in-turn, reduced queues and other challenges especially for foreign arrivals at the Abeid Aman Karume International Airport.

In his meeting with the commissioner general of the Immigration department Dr Anna Makakala at Zanzibar State House, Dr Mwinyi said that the airport had a number of immigration challenges but the department has taken deliberate measures which have brought relief to the visitors most of them being tourists.

He commended the department for increasing serving desks to 28 thus facilitating smooth provision of services as well as reducing

queues to the visitors.

"As we are aware that, the airport is an international gateway for tourists from various countries, having quality and smooth services is vital," he said.

Dr Mwinyi said that the government will continue taking deliberate efforts to ensure that all the challenges are addressed and especially after the new airport building (Terminal III) commences operations.

He stressed that since Zanzibar's economy largely depends on the tourism industry, it is important for every stakeholder to contribute to achieving the vision.

Earlier, Dr Makakala said that the department will continue strengthening its systems so as to provide quality services to customers.

"We have invested much in digital systems so as to enable customers to access the department's services online to simplify processes, currently several services are available online such as application of VISA, travel passport and working permits," she said.

According to her, through the investments and improvements done in the department revenue collection in the Isles increased from 10bn/- in 2015, 17.7bn/- in 2016 to 23bn/- in 2017.

In 2018, the department collected 28.9bn/-, 31bn/- jumping to 33bn/- collections in 2020 despite Covid-19 impacts.

Dr Makakala acknowledged that Zanzibar airport had several challenges but majority of them have been addressed providing

relief to both workers and visitors.

"Due to several initiatives taken by the department with support from the government, serving desks at the Zanzibar airports have increased to 28 and we can now serve up to 400 arrivals per hour," she added.

The commissioner general described the efforts taken at the airport; passengers now do not need to go through four sections of desks as it was previous because even payment of various processes have been lessened as passengers can pay through bank cards.

She said apart from fighting illegal immigrants in the country, the deferment also works hard to ensure that it contributes to the country's economic growth.

'Govt ready to receive applications for setting up administrative areas and serve people better'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Government) said yesterday that it is ready to receive applications for establishing new administrative areas to bring services closer to the people.

The Ministry's Deputy Minister, Festo Dugange told the National Assembly in Dodoma that the government is committed to ensuring better services to its citizens, calling upon district councils wishing to establish new administrative areas to follow proper procedures and guidelines. He said the procedures require involvement of citizens, district and regional leaders.

Deputy Minister Dugange was responding to a supplementary question from Mtama Member of Parliament, Nape Nnauye (CCM). In his question, Nnauye wanted to know when the government would start implementing its promise to establish new administrative areas that are cost-effective after it stopped doing so for some time.

Responding to the question, the Deputy Minister assured legislators that the government is determined and committed to move social services closer to the people.

"We are determined to improve provision of social services to the people; district councils must follow procedures in applying for the new administrative areas, but there shouldn't be any added cost. Applications should be brought to the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government," said Dugange.

In his basic question, Mlimba Member of Parliament, Godwin Kunambi (CCM) sought to know when the government will upgrade Mlimba district council into a district taking into consideration that residents have been working for over 200 kilometers in search of various social services. He also wanted to know the government's plans to construct new council buildings and improvement of existing structures including roads.

Responding, the Deputy Minister added that applications for establishment of new administrative areas are submitted to the District Consultative Committees (DCC) and Regional Consultative Committees (RCC) before they are officially presented to the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.

"We have not received an official application from authorities in Morogoro Region requesting for the upgrade of Mlimba district council into a district," said Dugange urging authorities to follow the laid down procedures.

He said that in the 2020/2021 financial year, the government allocated 1.1bn/- for construction of an administrative building at Mlimba district council. He added that on road infrastructures, the government repaired 54 kilometers and constructed 22 culverts and four bridges worth 545.87m/- in the 2019/2020 financial year.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the government set aside 517.56m/- for improvement of road infrastructures within Mlimba district council.

1bn/- spent financing development projects in 36 villages in five years

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 1,67bn/- has been spent in executing different village development projects in five years in Tunduru, Kilwa, Rufiji, Kilosa, Morogoro, and Mvomero districts.

The money was raised through sustainable Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFR) and the projects implemented during the period include the construction of village offices with land registries, construction of dispensaries, paying public health insurance for local communities, and construction of water wells. Others are rehabilitation of village road infrastructure, procurement of agricultural inputs and machines such as tractors, and construction of school toilets and classrooms.

According to a report from the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), the funds are those raised between 2014 and 2019.

The report indicated that a total of 67 out of 105 Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) villages served by the government in collaboration with Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), National Community Forestry Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA), and Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI), prepared business plans and sustainable harvesting plans of forest products covering more than 330,000 hectares of the Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFRs).

"A total of 18,947 cubic meters of wood has been harvested sustainably for timber and charcoal, generating more than 3.54 billion mostly between 2014 and 2019 in 54 villages. In Kilosa, Mvomero, and Morogoro districts in Morogoro Region, 30 villages demarcated about 18,409 ha of woodland which is about 13 percent of 141,610 hectares - their total VLFR sizes, for sustainable charcoal production," read part of the report.

While between 2015 and 2019, more than 10,400 tonnes of sustainably produced charcoal was sold and led to over 1.7bn/- revenues to village governments and local charcoal traders.

Through CBFM, the report said that village governments re-invested an average of 40 to 50 percent of the revenue generated from the sustainable VLFR trade for conservation activities.

In the financial year 2018/19, a total of 20 villages from Rufiji in Coast Region, Kilwa in Lindi Region, Tunduru and Namtumbo districts in Ruvuma Region, invested about 280,900,000/- for forest management activities, of which over 400 VLFR patrols

were conducted.

It is estimated that 105 villages were supported by the government in collaboration with TFCG, MJUMITA, and MCDI, there are more than 1,500 Village Natural Resource committees' (VNRCs) members including 500 women who conduct forest patrols at least twice a month.

This justifies how CBFM creates more human resources at the local level for managing forest resources especially within the village land as well as enhancing sustainable forest management.

In 2019, the government in collaboration with development partners had established 589 VLFRs, covering about 1.4 million hectares.

"Between 2014 and 2019, the government collaborated with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) including Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), MJUMITA, and MCDI to serve 105 village governments managing more than 610,000 hectares of forest cover," the report said in part.

The village governments are in Liwale, Nachingwea, Kilwa, Mtama, Rufiji, Tunduru, Mvomero, Morogoro, Namtumbo, Handeni, Ruangwa, Nachingwea, and Kilosa districts and this is an average of 5,800 hectares per village.

On VLFR trade, the report shows that VLFR trade stimulates the development of small-scale industries for processing forest products at the village level.

"Between 2017 and 2019, three villages in Kilwa District (Likawage, Ngea, and Liwiti) processed about 421 cubic meters of timber using modern machinery and woodworking which resulted in total revenue of 223,442,200/- for the village governments," the report noted.

The achievement came up as a result of the efforts by the Kilwa District Council in collaboration with other stakeholders such as WWF and MCDI to enable the villages to purchase modern machinery for processing logs.

"The modern machine has a higher recovery rate of about 50-65 percent as compared to 30 percent of the current famous local machines used for pit-sawing in Tanzania. There is a high recovery rate because the machine has sharp teeth, which produce less volume of dust, hence increases the chance of having more timbers per unit volume of logs," it further stated.

The use of modern technology has improved the quantity, quality, and value of the timber produced per unit cubic meter of wood, compared to pit-sawing.

Karatu unveils measures to curtail maternal and infant mortality rate

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

EXECUTIVE Director of Karatu District Council, Waziri Moris has unveiled plans aimed at scaling up health service delivery in the district including district hospital.

Speaking to reporters shortly after the council meeting, Moris said the move will also help to address maternal and infant mortality rate due to the fact some pregnant mother delivers at home due to unavailability of healthcare facilities and distance to the facilities.

He said that the District Council has a total of 14 wards, and only five have health facilities, and the government's directive is to ensure that every ward has a health facility, "and we're working hard to ensure this move is realized."

"We're currently building a district hospital, whereby the central government has provided 1bn/- for the purpose, while the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), gave us 600m/- for the same project," he revealed.

The hospital is expected to start providing services to the public by July this year, according to Moris.

He however called on expectant mothers to inculcate a culture of delivering in healthcare facilities for their own safety and children.

He said that women who give birth at home are seeking problems, and instead they should access the health facilities in the district.

"When a mother gives birth at home there is a lot that can happen to her due to health care neglect, especially bleeding and causing death to the mother and even the baby, so it is better to attend the healthcare facilities, where they can get all the services needed," the official said.

Commenting on drug theft claims in public health facilities, the official said the council has dispatched our internal inspectors in the health centres to ascertain the truth of the matter, and they are going to go through almost all medicine selling outlets.

For his part, council chairman, John Lucian, said that the council is working on the possibility of establishing an education fund that will spearhead education development in the drought-stricken district.

He tasked the District Council Executive Director to form a special team that will facilitate the establishment of the fund.

Lucian also revealed that the council is set to build an ultra-modern bus terminal, conference hall, and sports grounds as new sources of revenue for the council.



Ubungo Municipal HIV and AIDS coordinator Dr Neema Mpanduji has a word with Hubert Kairuki Memorial University students yesterday shortly after closing a four-day free health screening camp held at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam. The hospital organised the event in remembrance of its founder, the late Prof Hubert Kairuki. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

A ginger processing factory at Mamba Myamba ward in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region is now functioning properly, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

The factory which was installed by the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) in October 2012 had once suspended operations before it was repaired and resumed production in February 2015.

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigaha said that SIDO had continued to purchase processed ginger from the factory to ensure a reliable market for Mamba Myamba ginger growers. He said the factory is currently fully owned by ginger growers through their cooperative union.

Kigaha told legislators that SIDO

'Factory for processing ginger in Same District operates smoothly'

had continued to manufacture ginger processing factories which are sold to ginger growers in Same-Kilimanjaro, Tanga, and Dar es Salaam regions.

He however urged SIDO, ginger growers, and Same District Council to meet and discuss a better way of operating the factory to avoid challenges especially when it comes to maintenance of the machines.

Earlier, in her basic question, Special Seats MP, Nagenjwa Kaboyoka (CHADEMA) wanted the government to compensate ginger growers who injected their money in the establishment of the factory. She was concerned that

farmers incurred losses when the factory temporarily suspended operations.

In another development, Same East legislator, Anna Kilango (CCM) claimed to be among the first people who engineered the establishment of the factory in partnership with the Public Services Social Security Fund (PSSSF) which invested about 1.2bn/-.

Kilango informed that PSSSF has now signed an agreement with Same district council for the installation of new machines.

"I was the one who championed processes for the establishment of the factory; it was me who

convinced PSSSF to inject money at the factory," she said.

PSSSF invested the money intending to improve production for the lucrative markets in the European Union countries.

PSSSF owns 40 percent shares and that the 1.2bn/- was for the installation of modern for the processing of ginger in slice-form, instead of powder form as it has been demanded in various international markets. PSSSF was formed after the merger of the PPF Pension Fund, Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF), Local Authorities Pension Fund (LAPF), and Government Employees Provident Fund (GEPF).



Dr Leonard Akwilapo, Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the National Science, Technology and Innovation exhibition scheduled for March 20 to 26. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

JUBA

AfDB and WHO to put up Phase II of Public Health Emergency Operations Centre in Juba

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and WHO are to build the second phase of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) in Juba, South Sudan.

The groundbreaking ceremony was presided over by Honorable Hon. Elizabeth Acuei Yol, Minister of Health, in the presence of the African Development Bank Country Manager for South Sudan, the Head of Cooperation in the Embassy of Japan, the Undersecretary and Directors General in the Ministry of Health, WHO South Sudan Staff and the media.

The project comprising infrastructure, furniture and equipment will strengthen preparedness and response capacities of the country for public health emergencies, in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.

South Sudan continues to

experience recurrent epidemic-prone diseases, and other public health and humanitarian emergencies.

"By putting our collective efforts into a PHEOC project, the Ministry of Health will be better placed to respond promptly and effectively to public health risks and public health emergencies of international concern", said Elizabeth Acuei Yol.

The ability of the PHEOC to effectively function depends on appropriate design and infrastructure, staffing and command structure, and plans and procedures developed prior to the event. Multi-sectoral coordination will be required and PHEOC should be positioned with such authorities.

In her remarks, Minister Acuei Yol highlighted the tremendous

and ongoing commitments of the Government of South Sudan, the contributions of the African Development Bank and the commitments of WHO and other partners to strengthen mechanisms for delivering more integrated public health response during emergencies.

Speaking during the ceremony, Mr Benedict Kanu AfDB Country Manager for South Sudan underscored that "the support provided by the Bank is yet another testimony of the Bank's growing commitment to closely work with the Government of South Sudan, and other partners, to assist to build health system capacity for emergency preparedness in the country." Mr Kanu assured the government of the significance the Bank attaches to human

development in its partnership with South Sudan and its donors, and indeed, all other African member countries of the Bank to promote inclusive growth and development on the continent.

Since the inception of the US\$4.2 million AfDB grant-financed project to support the emergency response for COVID-19 and strengthen the health system capacity for emergency preparedness in South Sudan, considerable progress has been made including delivering a wide range of essential medicines, lifesaving biomedical equipment and personal protective equipment to support the ongoing COVID-19 response.

In addition, WHO is procuring an oxygen plant and vehicles to support the government's ongoing COVID-19 response.

'Prices of food rose sharply in January'

By Guardian Reporter

Global food prices rose in January for the eighth consecutive month, led by cereals, vegetable oils and sugar, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

FAO's Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly-traded food commodities and was released yesterday, averaged 113.3 points in January, marking a 4.3 percent increase from December 2020 and reaching its highest level since July 2014.

The FAO Cereal Price Index showed a sharp 7.1 percent monthly increase, led by international maize prices, which surged 11.2 percent and are now 42.3 percent above their January 2020 level, reflecting increasingly tight global supply amid substantial purchases by China and lower-than-expected production and stock estimates in the United States of America as well as a temporary suspension of maize export registrations in Argentina.

Wheat prices rose 6.8 percent, driven by strong global demand and expectations of reduced sales by the Russian Federation when its wheat export duty doubles in March 2021. Robust demand from Asian and African buyers underpinned strong rice prices.

The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index increased by 5.8 percent in the month to its highest level since May 2012. Drivers included lower-than-expected palm oil production in Indonesia and Malaysia due to excessive rainfall and ongoing shortages in the migrant labour force, and prolonged strikes in Argentina reducing export availability for soy oil.

The FAO Sugar Price Index was 8.1 percent higher than in December, as robust global import demand spurred concerns about lower availabilities due to worsening crop prospects in the European Union, the Russian Federation and Thailand, as well as drier-than-normal weather conditions in South America. Rising crude oil prices and a stronger Brazilian Real also provided support to international sugar prices.

The FAO Dairy Price Index increased by 1.6 percent, underpinned by China's high purchases ahead of the country's upcoming New Year holiday festivities amid seasonally lower exportable supplies in New Zealand.

The FAO Meat Price Index was up 1.0 percent from December, led by brisk global imports of poultry meat, especially from Brazil, amid avian influenza outbreaks that have constrained output and exports from several European countries.

FAO also issued today the Cereals Supply and Demand Brief, a regular update on global production, consumption, trade and inventory trends.

On the production side, FAO's new estimates for 2020 point to record wheat and rice production. Looking ahead to 2021 cereal output, early prospects indicate a likely modest increase for winter wheat crops in the northern hemisphere, buoyed by acreage increases in France, India, the Russian Federation and the U.S.A. Maize output in the southern hemisphere is expected to decline somewhat in Argentina and Brazil from record highs but remain above average levels. The production outlook in South Africa and neighbouring countries is favourable.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson Mwansasu (R) has an audience with Prof Mohamed Janabi, Executive Director of Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, at National Assembly offices in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

ATU and AFRINIC in new partnership to pave the way for secure and efficient internet connectivity in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC) have entered into a partnership that paves way for secure and efficient internet connectivity for African countries.

The agreement by the two industry leaders hopes to realize enhanced broadband development in the continent as the focal approach that will support this development.

IPv6 is the latest version of the IP address standard which

represents a numerical Internet Protocol (IP) address that aids devices connected to the Internet to communicate. Its rollout is designed to supplement and eventually replace IPv4 making the case for more efficient and secure connectivity. IPv4 in Africa is presently becoming more burdened which makes the adoption of IPv6 vital for reliable and stable connectivity.

For Africa to keep pace with the rest of the world, the ATU and AFRINIC project that aims at hastening the pace of replacing IPv4 with IPv6 must be made a priority. This, as recognized by

the MoU, calls for leveraging the skills and experiences of African Regulators and engineers in its deployment in order to accelerate the development of a resilient digital transformation infrastructure in the continent. Their agreement in part is hinged on research and capacity building efforts aimed at tightening the migration strategy and policies that are intended to stimulate effective deployment at national level across all African states.

To ensure that consumers of internet in Africa receive value for their money, the ATU-AFRINIC

MOU also provides for the development and implementation of tools for Internet performance measurements in Africa. This is important in determining whether the internet speed provided by local service providers is compliant with the speed value indicated in relevant customer's Service Level Agreement (SLA).

With interactions moving more and more towards the online space, the significance of this MoU cannot be wished away, and neither can the endless possibilities that are likely to stem from the realization of promising digital infrastructure in Africa.



Prof Mabula Mchembe (in specs), Permanent Secretary (Health) in the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, pictured yesterday consoling a patient with respiratory problems admitted to Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza city. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

ROME

New project seeking to better sustainable wildlife management and food security in southern Africa

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the French Development Agency (AFD) has launched a new 3.5 million Euro project to improve sustainable wildlife management and food security in the world's largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation area.

Southern Africa's Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, which straddles Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, each year experiences large scale migrations of megafauna, in particular elephants, where 50 percent of the total population of African elephants can be found.

However, the area is also home to poor rural communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture, and

fishing and hunting and who are not always able to meet their basic needs due, in part, to erratic rainfall and frequent droughts.

Under the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, the new project will partner with the governments of Botswana and Namibia to address threats from unsustainable levels of wildlife hunting in some areas, habitats closure and fragmentation, which prevent animals from reaching the resources they need to survive, as well as poaching and killing of animals as a result of human-wildlife conflicts.

"The focus of the project is to benefit both the wildlife and ecosystems in the Transfrontier Conservation Area and the

resilience of local communities that rely on them, at least in part, for food and income," said Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, FAO.

The project will focus on supporting the development of a network of community conservancies and community-based organizations that help manage community-owned land to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of local livelihoods.

Namibia already has an impressive network of 86 community conservancies, which collectively cover 20 percent of the country and are home to nearly 230,000 people.

"This project aims to establish an effective network of community conservancies since they have proven to be a powerful means to combat rural poverty," said Gilles Kleitz, Director of the AFD Ecological Transition and Natural Resources Department. "In Namibia, for instance, conservancies contributed more than \$10 million in benefits such as income, employment remuneration, and in-kind, for example meat, to conservancy members in 2018. The overall economic contributions from these benefits amounted to more than \$62 million, including the creation of over 5,300 jobs from conservancy related operations and enterprises."

Record rainfall linked to surging methane emissions in East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

SCIENTISTS have long warned the public about compound climate events when climate change drivers combine with climate disasters. One occurrence may already be happening in East Africa, a study found.

In 2018 and 2019, East Africa experienced unusually wet seasons, provoked by warmer ocean temperatures in the western Indian Ocean and cooler temperatures in the eastern Indian Ocean. Together, the seasons caused widespread flooding and rising water levels.

At the same time, scientists also noticed a dramatic increase in methane emissions in the same region. The two events could be linked, the scientists warn.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that traps heat 28 times more effectively over a 100-year period than carbon dioxide, according to NASA. About 50 percent of methane emissions are produced from human activity, like agriculture, waste management, rice cultivation, as well as oil, gas and coal extraction.

An additional 30 percent of methane emissions are produced by ponds, lakes, rivers and wetlands, which cover over 131 million hectares in Africa alone, according to Wetlands International.

Wetlands are a necessary ecosystem for small-scale farmers in East Africa, providing purified water and healthy soil, and thus improving food security in the region, Wetlands International noted. Wetlands are also a reliable "buffer" against climate-caused disasters, Adrian Wood, a professor of sustainability at the University of Huddersfield wrote in *The Conversation*.

"The best known example of wetlands for disaster risk reduction is probably the mangrove swamps in the tropics," Wood wrote. "On the east and west coasts of Africa these areas

provide a buffer against storm surges, cyclones and tsunamis, as well as providing breeding grounds for fish and storage of carbon."

But despite their ability to support economic livelihoods and safeguard communities against extreme weather, wetlands may also reach a breaking point. When wetlands in East Africa became flooded from extreme rainfall, methane emissions in the region were substantially higher than in past years, the study found, causing a 10 percent and 37 percent increase compared to previous years with average rainfalls.

"The extra emissions were equivalent to the UK's annual total emissions of methane in just a three-month period," Dr. Mark Lunt from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences told the Institute of Physics, according to Phys.org.

As climate change grows more severe and extreme weather becomes the norm, surges in previously unaccounted for emissions should be expected, the scientists warn.

A similar effect may be occurring in New York City's sewage systems, another study performed by Riverkeeper found. When sewage systems overflowed, high concentrations of methane were released, linking rainfall to surges in greenhouse gas emissions.

"When setting goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, cities aren't accounting for emissions that result from raw sewage releases to estuaries," Riverkeeper reported.

These findings could play an important role in setting future climate mitigation strategies and emissions limits, informing policymakers of additional sources of greenhouse gas emissions that were previously unknown. But these limits will also have to account for increases in severe weather events.

AU chair admits failures in first term as he seeks second chance

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat says the continental body failed to attain some of its goals, including ending violence as a result of “emerging threats”, which overwhelmed member states.

In a speech to African Union's group of Foreign Ministers on Wednesday, Mahamat said Africa will have to address old and new problems at the same time, if at all the continent can end continual violence.

Ahead of the virtual Assembly of Heads of State today, Faki listed the continental free trade area agreement (AfCFTA) launched last month, launch of protocol on free movement and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), concerted efforts to fight disease outbreaks as well as counter-terrorism measures among his successes.

When he took power of the continental body in April 2017, the African Union intended to end conflicts by 2020, through a programme known as “Silencing the Guns”. The Programme itself is part of a 50-year Vision called Agenda 2063, passed in 2013 to help the continent sustain peace, develop infrastructure, grow internal trade, integrate more and prosper.

But Faki who is seeking his second and final 4-year term as the AU Commission Chairperson said the results have been mixed.

“The year 2020 was initially scheduled as a cut-off year to silence the guns on the Continent, the year from which democratic peace would function as a powerful lever for justice and socio-economic development. Looking at the state of affairs, I note that we have moved only half way,” he told the Foreign Ministers during a virtual sitting of the African Union Executive Council, the second highest organ

of the African Union.

Faki named the rise of violent extremism, religious radicalism, post-electoral conflicts, recurrent attacks by terrorist groups, “the violent awakening of communitarianism, various socio-political expressions of the public governance deficit” as challenges member states “must take up to place the Continent on the irreversible trajectory of political modernity.”

Faki's argument had been lifted directly from this year's End-Term Report by a team of Commissioners he has chaired since taking power in 2017.

Though they cited cases such as peace deals in South Sudan and Sudan, as well as concerted efforts to beat back terrorism in the Sahel and Somalia, they did admit that violence on the continent continued to change form, challenging all member states to think ahead.

“Silencing the guns will require enhancing state-society relations and addressing structural causes and triggers of conflict and emerging threats in a sustained manner and should therefore become a rallying call for the Union beyond the current term of this Commission,” the Report published on Tuesday said.

Faki is contesting unopposed for the seat that technically places him as the CEO of the continental body, even though he must still garner at least two thirds of the vote to take second term. But the positions of deputy Chairperson as well as eight other departments headed by commissioners are up for grabs in a race whose campaigns are being run virtually due to Covid-19.

In his pitch for second term, Faki said the Covid-19 pandemic, dwindling resources, the growing global challenges, “national egoism and the decline of multilateralism have hampered our forward march.”



Ecobank Tanzania managing director Charles Asiedu (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the bank's support to the fight against cancer through education and awareness activities, as World Cancer Day 2021 was being marked. He is with the bank's head of marketing and communication, Furaha Samalu. Created by the Union for International Cancer Control in 2000, the Day is held every February 4 to raise awareness, improve education and inspire action worldwide, with a view to creating a world where cancer deaths are prevented, and cancer care is equal for all. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

SADC chair underscores need to intensify cooperation against new wave of Covid-19

By Special Correspondent

SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) Chairperson Filipe Nyusi has called on the bloc to intensify cooperation and collaboration in the fight against the second wave of COVID-19.

Nyusi said, in a statement shared through the SADC secretariat Friday, that increased data sharing, policy harmonisation and

standardisation, pooled procurement of essential medical and non-medical equipment will help the region address the pandemic in a more effective way.

“We must also reinforce our health systems so that they remain ready to deliver other life-saving services and better withstand future pandemics,” said Nyusi.

Nyusi's plea comes as the national daily statistics show a steep increase in the spread of the

virus and in the number of deaths across the region, which shows the region is deep into the second wave of the pandemic.

“There is a growing concern that infections are being driven in part by a new strain of coronavirus known as 501V2 which has so far been reported in three SADC countries according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control,” said Nyusi, noting that more than 50 percent of all new daily infections of COVID-19 on African continent

have been reported in the SADC region.

He also beseeched the bloc to continue to build on strategic alliances and take additional measures that will assist SADC countries in addressing the growing challenges posed by the second wave of the pandemic.

The SADC has also been urged to enhance vaccine research capabilities and develop regional manufacturing capacity for vaccines in the future.



Various items including soup and sugarcane on sale at a roadside 'open market' at Magomeni Kagera in Dar es Salaam yesterday - with the least care for hygiene. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Africa may take years to access enough vaccines

ISTANBUL

AFRICA might have to wait for years to access enough COVID-19 vaccines for its population until richer countries' orders are met by vaccine producers.

GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance has announced that it would provide COVID-19 vaccines to almost all countries in Africa under the framework of the COVAX facility that aims to facilitate low- and

mid-income countries' access to the COVID-19 vaccines. However, the amounts indicated in the GAVI's announcement are not sufficient to vaccinate even 5% of the population covered by the COVAX facility.

Of the Sub-Saharan countries in Africa, only Seychelles and Mauritius commenced mass-vaccination campaigns while Guinea is still testing Russian Sputnik V vaccines. Furthermore,

Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt of North Africa also started mass-vaccination campaigns.

The number of COVID-19 related fatalities in Africa exceeded 93,000 while the number of cases is over 3.6 million.

Experts argue that at least 60% of Africa's 1.3 billion people should be vaccinated in order to have mass immunization.

Though African Union (AU) seems to have ordered enough

vaccines, the delivery date of vaccines remains uncertain.

To date, AU ordered at least 670 million doses of vaccines from vaccine producers. Additional 700 million doses of vaccines are expected to come to the Continent within the framework of the COVAX facility.

To finance the cost, AU will utilize the COVAX donation initiative, World Bank, Afreximbank, and various donors.

Gift supplements varsity's Tanzanian cassava efforts

NEW YORK, USA

AN anonymous gift of \$2.65 million to support Cornell University and partner research in Tanzania will improve distribution of new and more resistant varieties of cassava while empowering women and marginalized groups in the East African nation.

Cassava is a fundamental staple and basis of food security for 500 million people across Africa and a major source of employment and income for millions of farmers. In Tanzania alone, more than 2 million smallholder farmers - 81% of whom are women - rely on cassava for their income.

The gift will launch a three-year project called Muhogo Bora - a Swahili phrase meaning “better cassava.” The new initiative in Cornell's Department of Global Development will create a fully integrated cassava seed supply chain and will improve linkages between farmers, seed entrepreneurs and markets among the nearly 3 million people in the country's Western Zone, Southern Highlands and Central region.

Led by researchers Chiedozie Egesi and Hale Ann Tufan in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with support from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Muhogo Bora will reinforce existing scientific efforts like Cornell's NextGen Cassava project with the aim of improving livelihoods and quality of life for rural farmers.

“Better quality cassava feeds many more people and provides income-generating opportunities for agricultural entrepreneurs, with positive ripple effects on millions of people,” the anonymous donor said in a statement. “Cornell's demonstrated commitment to scholarship and the improvement

of people's lives for the past 150 years, with the experience to manage complex and multiyear research programs with outstanding international faculty, positions it well to promote transformation in these Tanzanian communities. We are delighted to provide the financial resources to achieve such meaningful objectives.”

Despite women's important role in cassava production in Tanzania, restrictive gender norms often exclude them from key farm decisions. Muhogo Bora will create an effective and more inclusive cassava seed system working with women cassava farmers.

“By working with women farmers to support them to become successful seed entrepreneurs, we hope to attract young people to farming and build the next generation of cassava farmers in Tanzania,” said Tufan, who leads NextGen's survey division and is a leading voice on gender issues in agriculture and crop improvement.

“Focusing on women benefits all,” Tufan said. “Fostering greater inclusion and creating more equitable outcomes for women farmers can help close a destructively large economic and empowerment gap between men and women and drive change in the food system.”

Muhogo Bora researchers plan extensive market research in Tanzania to better understand prevailing social structures, farmers' needs, and opportunities to introduce new and more resistant cassava varieties. That improved understanding will then drive outreach efforts to provide farmers with education about the new varieties, skills development and access to credit and markets. The project will develop and test gender-transformative seed system development approaches to ensure a focus on supporting women farmers.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Yes, indeed, women can't throw out the idea of merit

THOSE who still remember some of Mwalimu Nyerere's iconic aphorisms were lately elated to see a gem of that sort come out of a senior civil servant, definitely of the younger generation. This is none other than Zanzibar Chief Secretary Zena Ahmed Said.

She says she is such a strong believer in meritocracy that she wants women to earn leadership positions based on their qualifications and little else besides, and thus to do so, they must run while men walk. It is plainly evident that not all women can do as much, but many will try.

It is undeniable that women often have to work harder to earn recognition and trust. Traditionally, it used to be said that there are stereotypes about women which men could hardly give up.

However, in a country like Tanzania where women cabinet ministers have always been fairly numerous, this kind of suspicion cannot be over-emphasized. Rather, what may count is the natural wish to feel out easy things.

It is definitely in that direction that the Zanzibar chief secretary was aiming at - namely, that a woman has to first overcome a minimum of prejudice, but this isn't an institutional feature in an open society.

It is also likely to be the case that a woman has to show that she has what it takes to lead, just like any other person, but it is definitely true that maybe in the case of women the feeling percolates a bit slowly.

That kind of assertion can be garnered in any socially vibrant

communicative environment, whether it is a radio talk show or a management lecture of sorts, but testimony from the very top of the public service can inspire quite a few women.

Those of the college generation are the ones more likely to benefit from such testimony, as they are still being formed in terms of attitudes, with competing views and visions of society, the place of women in public organisation, etc.

They need to believe in their own abilities, and not pay much attention to activist skepticism that the door is virtually closed to women.

CS Zena Ahmed Said is the first woman to hold that position as meanwhile her fellow islander Samia Suluhu Hassan is the first woman to occupy the position of Vice President. Not so long ago, Anne Makinda was the first woman to occupy the position of National Assembly Speaker.

Evidently there are a series of top level public posts yet to be occupied by women, but as the adage goes, 'Rome was not built in a day'.

It is such that even in the United States, with a particularly vibrant democracy and heightened gender awareness, the first woman to occupy the post of Vice President has just been sworn in.

And as the Zanzibar CS underlined, the key to her elevation as well as others we just signalled is - singularly - merit.

The top civil servant is right in saying that she has no problem with affirmative action but finds it more fitting when women fight for and earn leadership positions. PRECISELY.

Prisons Department can stretch its tradition of quality goods, services

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has tasked the Prisons Service Department with an unenviable assignment, being a centre of excellence in relation to seed production in the country.

The key parameter is to stop importation of seeds using up relatively scarce foreign exchange whereas seeds can amply be grown in the country.

An auxiliary parameter is to stem the proliferation of genetically modified seeds as an alternative to lack of availability of improved seeds in the market, or cheaper than imported seeds.

The seed production assignment will be building upon an experimental phase where the Prisons Service Department embarked on the production of palm oil seeds for the domestic market. It implies that the department has already a credible framework of agricultural expertise and working relationships with agro-sector research institutions.

This capacity makes it possible for the department to use its outlays in terms of land resources and labour, its first assignment being to feed itself, before commercial pursuits.

The Prisons Department has always prided itself with being a centre of excellence in one or other line of production, from wood furniture to woven artifacts.

During the heyday of the May Day parastatal organisation exhibitions, followed by the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (that for years has a heavy local bent, the Prisons Service Department was never far from the top).

The fact that the president had to intervene to recover debts of up to 10bn/- owed by public institutions shows its being a major goods supplier. It is a first choice producer of goods for state institutions, among others.

Launching the new headquarters for the Prisons Department in Dodoma, Dr Magufuli said better managed prisons' farms can be a tool to preserve local seed varieties which are resistant to diseases, while saving up on importing seeds.

He thus directed the Agriculture ministry to collaborate with the department in producing seeds for distribution to farmers countrywide.

He cited the expansion of the palm oil seed project by embarking on the production of other seeds, expressing belief that this can be done.

Looking at the data the president highlighted to stakeholders on the issue, it can be demanded if it is necessary or appropriate for Tanzania to import up to 20 percent of our seed needs, apart from the more disturbing 55.5 per cent of edible oil requirements.

This is the situation despite having vast land with production potential for sunflower and palm oil, as these gaps in the manner that land is used lead to the need to plug domestic needs through imports.

The president said imports gobble up over 600bn/- in foreign exchange simply for seeds and edible oil, which can be corrected by organised effort.

There is a regional dependency environment where Tanzania sells grain to some neighbouring countries and imports seeds, given the fact that they have a more developed agro-processing industry and scarce land outlays.

This situation is in economics positive but planning is something else, as the reasoning is incomplete as to the persistence of a dependency structure.

Intervention can alleviate such dependency, lessening unnecessary use of foreign exchange on importation of goods that can be produced right here.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

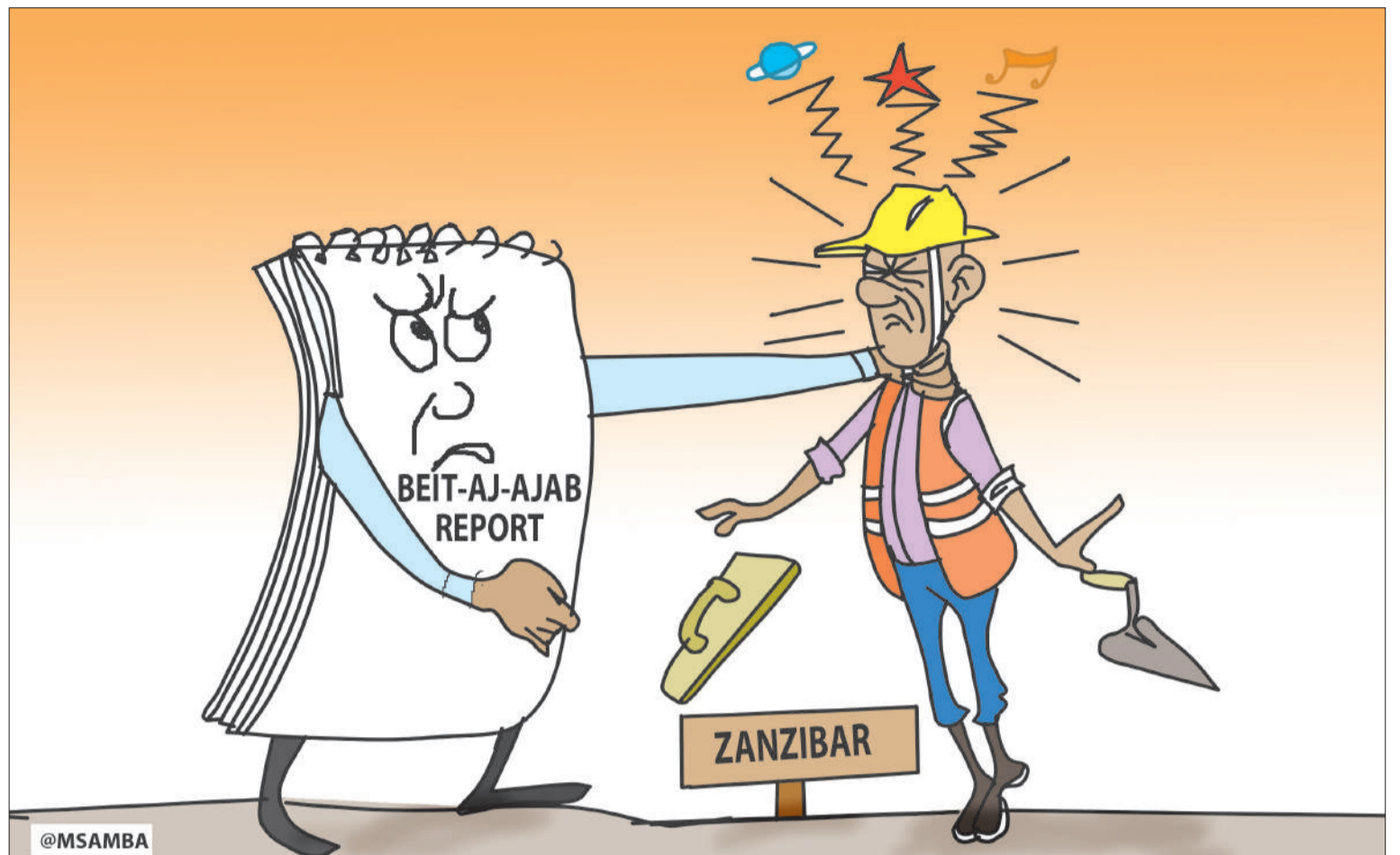
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



Journalists carry the responsibility of covering complex stories accurately

By Priyanka Shankar and Inbar

Preiss

THE year 2020 was filled with polarising events - a (Covid-19) pandemic, fervent protests from Belarus to Hong Kong to Venezuela, Black Lives Matter, the US elections, conflict in the Central African Republic and Brexit.

When it comes to reporting on such complex stories, journalists carry the responsibility of covering them accurately. But often, controversial stories do not have a two-sided reality, making it challenging for journalists to communicate every aspect of the conflict to their readers, listeners or viewers.

Analysing the coverage of the 2016 US elections, which was rooted in polarisation, misinformation and contention, American journalist Amanda Ripley was keen to discover how journalists could cover such difficult topics better.

She spoke to people with experience navigating conflict in creative ways - lawyers, conflict mediators, psychologists and religious leaders - to collect the best practices for journalists to adopt while reporting such stories.

"The lesson for journalists (or anyone) working amidst intractable conflict: complicate the narrative," says Ripley, adding: "Complexity leads to a fuller, more accurate story."

Ripley's research was developed into the "Complicating the Narratives" (CTN) training programme by The Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) and has been helping journalists around the world cover controversial stories differently.

But just how can you 'complicate the narrative'? According to Ripley, the main idea is for journalists to embrace the story's complexity and portray nuance, contradiction and ambiguity wherever possible.

Hélène Biandudi Hofer, the manager of SJN's CTN training programme, explains that when it comes to covering controversial issues using CTN, the goal should be to listen deeply while conducting interviews and also to provide empathy and transparency to your sources.

CTN provides concrete, practical tools that allow



journalists to listen better, understand the underlying motives behind their sources' views and counter confirmation bias.

By doing so, journalists can begin to overcome the habit of believing news that supports their pre-existing beliefs and to open up to information that may challenge them.

The CTN programme includes hints for interviews, questions for sources, tools for active listening and an all-round approach to handling divisive topics.

"Looping" is one CTN technique that encourages better listening during interviews, increasing the accuracy of the source's information. The idea is to repeat back to the source the core message of what they have shared with you in order to make sure that you have understood it correctly.

This technique ensures that you have noted the correct information and that, perhaps more importantly, the source will feel heard and encouraged to share more.

The CTN training programme also includes a set of 22 questions that journalists can use in their interviews to get a wider view of a story. Some questions offer guidance on how to approach a source in a way that amplifies contradictions rather than hides them.

This helps reporters counter confirmation bias. For example, asking: "What do you want the other side to think of you?" can reveal valuable, complex information.

After the June 2020 murder of George Floyd (in the US), protests emerged condemning police brutality and racism around the world. In Europe, statues of high-ranking colonial leaders were vandalised or torn down,

propelling conversations about race, slavery and colonialism.

Europe is intricately interwoven with colonialism, but the issue is seldom found in public discourse. As editors at the pan-European magazine *Are We Europe*, we decided to embrace this complex challenge and open a conversation about Europe's relationship with its colonial past and present - by dedicating our quarterly magazine to the topic.

As we took on such a controversial and complex topic, we knew we needed guidance. CTN manager Nina Fasciaux, the European manager and international coordinator of SJN and Hofer, offered support to our editors at *Are We Europe*. Editors and contributors were trained in CTN, which empowered all our contributors to listen and think differently.

Are We Europe commissioned contributors from around the world to share how European colonialism has shaped their worldview, identities and communities - for better or for worse. Personal stories from countries like Namibia, The Philippines, Pakistan, Ireland, Australia and Hong Kong exposed different lived experiences and amplified the underreported angles on colonialism.

Our editorial team felt that too often the burden of these difficult conversations is left to the victims of colonialism, so we also gave a platform to Europeans to openly discuss their continent's colonial past rather than run away from it.

The stories in the issue ranged across topics and places - from land grabbing battles in Zimbabwe and the status of the English language in Pakistan to decolonising university curriculums in Belgium and uncovering the diversity problem in the development sector.

Through it all, CTN helped writers unpack their white saviour complex, write about the impact of colonial rule on their identities and report on how Europe could commemorate its darker moments in history.

"Learning about CTN while working on my story encouraged me to ask questions, even when there may not be straightforward answers," says Teresa O'Connell, one of the contributors of the magazine. Through a personal story, she wrote about how after nine centuries of British colonial repression, the Irish have begun reclaiming their language and heritage.

"Embracing complexity made me more conscious of my bias talking to interviewees," notes O'Connell, adding: "This took the story in unexpected directions."

For the first time through this magazine, contributors also applied CTN to visual journalism. Acknowledging the stereotypical portrayal of former colonies as seen through "the white man's gaze", we selected photos series based on their ability to challenge these narratives.

Historical photographs, paintings, drawings and texts from public archives were remixed with contemporary elements in an effort to decolonise the lens and lend a certain reality and viscerality that the subject deserves.

At *Are We Europe*, CTN helped us listen more deeply with the pure intention of understanding our sources. It encouraged our team and contributors to challenge and acknowledge our inherent biases, and embrace complexity in a way that has enticed our readers.

"No matter how polarising or contentious a topic is, when journalists complicate the narratives there is a melody that emerges from the silence that has existed for far too many years," say Hofer and Fasciaux, adding: "It is the voices of those who desperately want and need to be heard."

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Priyanka and Inbar are freelance journalists based in Brussels and were the chief editors of Are We Europe's magazine entitled: Unsilencing: The Colonialism Issue.

Delivery workers offer lifeline to Kenyans amid COVID-19

By Naftali Muigai and Yang Zhen, NAIROBI

Moses Otieno has been grateful to his Boxer motorcycle, which enabled him to relocate from a shabby slum room to a decent one-bedroom flat that is both spacious and elegant in the suburb of Kenyan capital Nairobi.

"After buying a motorbike and working for some months, my life has been changing step by step. This job helped me to cater for my bills, to pay for my rent, to pay for my children's school fees," said the 37-year-old father of three who bought the motorbike three years ago.

Speaking to Xinhua after escorting his children to school and navigating the early morning traffic to cruise his China-made Boxer motorcycle to one of his clients in downtown Nairobi, Otieno said that switching from a sales job at a clothing store to a deliveryman has been a blissful experience.

"At least my former job at the clothing line enabled me to save enough money and buy a motorcycle. I ferried passengers for almost one year and later switched to ferrying goods," said Otieno.

His towering height and amiable personality have endeared him to clients who include retail chains, bookshops, wholesale school uniform dealers and gift shops.

Moses Otieno prepares to send his children to schools in Nairobi, Kenya, on Jan. 22, 2021. (Xinhua/John Okoyo)

"This is my third year as a deliveryman and I have cherished this rewarding though often grueling vocation," Otieno said at the entrance of Nairobi's largest retailer of school uniforms and a loyal client.

He said that soon after becoming a delivery man, he relocated from one of the largest Nairobi's informal settlement where he lived for several years to his current one-bedroom flat.

"Even my children are proud of the new living quarters that has ambience, round-the-clock security and ample space to play after completing their homework," said Otieno.

He belongs to a growing army of Kenyan deliverymen who found a silver lining at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Otieno, his motorcycle became a prized possession during the early phase of the pandemic when orders for delivery of essential household goods skyrocketed.

"During the pandemic, our job picked up very well and we were able to do so many deliveries -- foodstuffs, shaving machines, sanitizers, masks. I played a very big role, because people were not moving, the town was empty, people needed food and things that they used on a daily basis," he said.

Moses Otieno collects the goods to be delivered in Nairobi, Kenya, on Jan. 22, 2021. (Xinhua/John Okoyo)

"During the lockdowns, I was able to make 15 to 30 deliveries a day. Some of the clients who procured my services include e-commerce firms, supermarkets, restaurants and coffee shops," he added.



Moses Otieno, a deliveryman, carries goods to be delivered in Nairobi, Kenya, Jan. 22, 2021. (Xinhua)

He said that his China-made Boxer 150 motorcycle withstood the grueling trips across Nairobi and its environs thanks to its sturdy features and ability to consume less fuel.

"My motorcycle is fuel-efficient, can survive rough terrains and is easy to maintain since the spare parts are locally available," said Otieno.

His day usually starts at 5 a.m. when he freshens up, takes breakfast in the company of his wife and school-going children and later embarks on the journey to downtown Nairobi where most of his clients are based.

He said that navigating Nairobi's treacherous terrain with his motorcycle while on his way to deliver items has provided him with free tutorials on grit, resilience and mental agility.

Otieno said that he was optimistic the delivery job which he has taken up with gusto will fulfil his dream of owning a car and venture into nascent

markets in the countryside.

"I don't want to spend all my life riding bikes because I'm aging. I want to buy a small car and then a big car, to do delivery in another capacity or level because I have decided to do deliveries and I love it," he said.

Moses Otieno prepares to send a delivery to his client in Nairobi, Kenya, on Jan. 22, 2021. (Xinhua/John Okoyo)

BIG BUSINESS

Kenyan deliverymen became a cog in the fast moving wheels of the country's digital commerce industry when the pandemic was at its peak amid seamless linkage between retailers and clients.

They have used the two-wheeled machine to revolutionize transport of goods and passengers in Kenya, East Africa's largest economy.

Statistics from motorcycle assemblers association of Kenya indicate

that 50 percent of an estimated 1.4 million of motorcycles that patronize the country's roads and highways are Chinese brands.

The most prominent Chinese motorcycle brands in Kenya include Boxer, Jingchen and Haojin that are prized by riders owing to their resilience.

Kevin Mubadi, chairman of Boda Boda (motorcycle) Safety Association of Kenya said the industry is booming against a backdrop of youth bulge, changing lifestyles and growth of electronic commerce in the country.

Moses Otieno sanitizes his hands before he set off to deliver the goods in Nairobi, Kenya, on Jan. 22, 2021. (Xinhua/John Okoyo)

"The country is grappling with an unemployment crisis affecting the youth and the easiest option for them is to purchase a motorcycle and ferry passengers or goods for a fee," said Mubadi.

With an average daily earning of 700 shillings (6.35 U.S. dollars), the sector's annual earnings are estimated at 357 billion shillings, said Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in October 2020 when he launched the Boda Boda Investment Scheme to enhance their financial security amid COVID-19 related shocks.

"Every single day, boda boda operators collect 980 million shillings," said Kenyatta.

"Some riders earn more than office workers and have a very flexible working culture," said Mubadi, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic offered a silver lining for riders amid surge in orders to deliver essential goods.

According to Mudabi, motorcycle riders partnered with the government to ensure that face masks, hand sanitizers and soaps were delivered to underprivileged communities.

"We felt some tremors when the pandemic hit the country but later reaped from contracts by retail and e-commerce giants to deliver essential commodities to households," said Mubadi.

Mubadi said that motorbike riders have been providing a cheaper and efficient mode of transport in rural areas and urban slums where mobility is hampered by poor road network and insecurity.

"Majority of the rural villages and urban slums are inaccessible due to lack of paved roads hence making the motorcycle an essential mode of transporting passengers and goods," said Mubadi.

He said that Kenya's digital commerce industry that ranks among the fastest-growing in Africa, has provided a lifeline to motorcycle riders whose median age is 27 years.

"Local electronic commerce giants like Jumia have signed contracts with riders to deliver goods to customers. Even traditional retail chains have a formal working partnership with riders," said Mubadi.

In Saddam strongholds that fought America, Iraqis fear a US departure

FALLUJAH, Iraq

ABU Arkan Ibrahim picked up a rifle and joined the Iraqi insurgency against U.S. troops when they occupied his hometown of Fallujah in 2003. He was badly burned in the fighting. Now, he fears the departure of the Americans he once battled.

Over the past 17 years, the municipal employee has watched his city fall to the United States, al Qaeda, Islamic State and, most recently, Iraqi forces fighting alongside Iran-backed paramilitaries. Ibrahim said the presence of U.S. troops in recent years helped suppress remaining Islamic State militants and rein in the Iran-backed militias - mutual foes accused by Iraqi officials of attacking locals. The U.S.-led military coalition is creating a security vacuum, Ibrahim said, making Fallujah more dangerous.

"I'd rather have the Americans here than the alternatives," the 37-year old said.

Ibrahim's assessment is shared by many security officials, former fighters and residents in north and west regions of the country that comprise up to a third of Iraqi territory, former insurgent strongholds once loyal to Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

They say Islamic State and the Iran-backed paramilitaries stand to gain most from Washington's troop reduction. They point to an increase in attacks by Islamic State, and fear the Iran-backed militias will use this violence to justify entrenching themselves.

Last month, the United States completed a reduction of its forces in Iraq to 2,500 troops. That's about half the level of less than a year ago.

Recent months have witnessed more than 25 deadly attacks that Iraqi officials attribute to Islamic State militants. Last month, the group staged its biggest attack in years with a suicide bombing in the capital Baghdad that killed more than 30 people.

The U.S. embassy in Baghdad declined to comment.

The U.S.-led military coalition of 80 nations battling Islamic State in Iraq said it carried out 10 strikes against militant targets in Iraq in December alone.

A coalition official said there were no plans to reverse the drawdown and said Iraqi forces were capable of handling the ongoing Islamic State insurgency with current levels of coalition support.

Washington's contingent is the largest in the coalition force, which includes 900 troops from other countries. Still, the U.S. presence in Iraq is tiny compared to the 170,000 troops it stationed in the country after its invasion.

Parts of Iraq's 300,000-strong military operate across the country's western and northern areas. The paramilitaries number at least 100,000, with a significant portion in the north and west. Security officials and analysts estimate there are thousands of Islamic State fighters.



A building destroyed during past fighting with Islamic State militants is seen in Fallujah, Iraq February 3, 2021. REUTERS

One U.S. official acknowledged the withdrawal over the past year has reduced American military capabilities in Iraq but stressed that U.S. assistance has continued. "We're still working hard to enable and support our Iraqi partners," said the official, adding the Iraqis were already operating more independently.

The official conceded Islamic State remains a determined enemy. "So it's not a bloodless future," the official said. The administration of President Joe Biden has given no indication it intends to significantly reverse the drawdown started under predecessor Donald Trump. The Pentagon said the Biden administration is conducting a review of numbers and position of troops, including in Iraq.

An Iraqi government spokesman said the drawdown hasn't affected its ability to contain Islamic State. "There is ongoing coordination" with the U.S. forces that remain, he said.

Most Iraqis oppose foreign influence. Some welcome the U.S. withdrawal. But many, especially in Sunni regions, say they would choose a small American military

presence over increased power for the pro-Iran militias.

Paramilitaries aligned with Iran say the Islamic State insurgency against the Iraqi military requires them to stay in the Sunni-majority regions to fight the militants. They vow to drive foreign forces out of Iraq if Biden does not commit to a full withdrawal. The Iran-aligned paramilitaries deny involvement in any attacks or human-rights abuses.

Islamic State fighters controlled nearly a third of Iraq between 2014 and 2017. They now occupy remote desert areas and mountain ranges. They regularly claim attacks that kill soldiers and Shi'ite militiamen in Iraq.

EMBOLDENED ISLAMIC STATE

Fallujah and other major cities in Sunni regions once held by Islamic State have begun to revive. Newly paved main roads run past busy shops and restaurants. But outside urban centres, buildings flattened in battle remain in ruins. Thousands of displaced families have not yet returned.

Accompanied by his young son, Ibrahim spoke at a

crowded Fallujah intersection that in October saw the city's first motorcycle bomb in two years. Iraqi officials blamed Islamic State. There has been no claim or denial of responsibility from the group.

"In recent months, we've seen more Daesh attacks across all these areas," said Salah al-Essawi, a Sunni paramilitary commander in the area, using an alternative term for Islamic State. The attacks include an assault that killed two security personnel after the Fallujah bombing in October. Essawi and other Iraqi security officials attribute the killings to Islamic State, which hasn't commented.

Some Iraqi military officials say the rise in violence is due in large part to the reduced American presence.

An Iraqi army officer who works with the U.S.-led coalition cited an example of the Iraqi military's reliance on America: a recent airstrike that killed a top Islamic State leader. It was a joint U.S.-Iraqi effort, he said.

"Our troops were pursuing him, but would have struggled to find where he was hiding if not for the U.S. air support," the officer said. He said the coalition carries out fewer air strikes against Islamic State targets than it used to.

The coalition official said U.S.-led forces provided air support to Iraqi special forces for that operation. The Iraqi government spokesman said the operation was led by Iraqi forces.

IRAN-ALIGNED GROUPS

Shi'ite paramilitaries say that as Islamic State intensifies its insurgency, Iraqi forces need their help. The Iran-aligned groups are part of a Baghdad-run paramilitary umbrella that works alongside Iraqi security forces to police remote former Islamic State areas.

"Many threats still exist and the duty of the factions is to deal with Daesh or any other foreign threat," Nasr al-Shammari, a senior official in the Harakat al-Nujaba paramilitary, told Reuters weeks before Biden's inauguration.

Shammari wants the United States out, saying the presence of its troops fuels instability. Iraqis who want U.S. forces to stay are a politically-motivated minority, he said.

Many residents of Fallujah and nearby towns fear being caught up in reprisals for the increasing Islamic State attacks - both from Iraqi security forces and even more so from Shi'ite paramilitaries.

Ibrahim said he has been detained by both over the years on suspicion of links with al Qaeda and Islamic State, which he denies.

Essawi, the Sunni paramilitary leader, said the Shi'ite militias have been emboldened by talk of the U.S. drawdown. The Iran-aligned forces, Essawi said, have put their flags back up at some checkpoints they had planned to abandon.

"We hope Biden won't leave us in their hands," he said.

Countdown to 'catastrophe:' Inside Europe's fight for COVID shots

BRUSSELS

In a meeting last week in the Europa building in Brussels, home of the European Union's political leadership, diplomats for the 27 member states were desperate.

The EU had paid billions of euros toward shots to curb a pandemic that was killing thousands of Europeans every day. Now vaccine-makers had cut back deliveries, and the EU was trapped in a public fight.

"This is a catastrophe," French ambassador Philippe Leglise-Costa told the Jan. 27 meeting, according to a diplomatic note seen by Reuters.

It was a crucial moment in nearly two weeks of confusion and anger over the EU's vaccine supply, which were to plunge the bloc into its deepest crisis since Ursula von der Leyen took over the executive European Commission just over a year ago.

A week earlier, the EU had set a target to vaccinate 70% of adults against COVID-19 by the end of summer, a potential ticket out of lockdowns that have cost countries billions. As the impact of the vaccine shortfall became clear, the bloc embarked on a campaign to shame drugmakers hit by production delays into releasing more supply.

But the tactic wasn't working and details of confidential deals were leaking out, casting doubt on the EU's ability to enforce contracts it had agreed on behalf of its members.

Reuters has obtained exclusive details of internal EU talks over the past month in diplomatic notes, and interviewed four people present at key meetings to verify them. The notes reveal how the EU's top executives lurched from satisfaction about the vaccination programme to panic.

Some EU officials were already aware in December of delays in vaccine production, the notes show, but the Commission announced ambitious targets nonetheless. The EU initially kept no track of companies' vaccine doses leaving the bloc, only realising after its own supplies were delayed it could not trace the millions of doses that had already been exported. And as its attempts to win ground by legal means failed, the Commission faced sharp attacks from EU governments on its public communication strategy.

In a pandemic that has killed over 700,000 people in Europe alone, the delays announced by the companies producing coronavirus vaccines - AstraZeneca PLC and Pfizer Inc. - risked leaving millions in Europe unprotected deep in the winter, just as new, more transmissible, variants were circulating and hospitals were being overwhelmed. Vaccination centres from Madrid to Paris had closed for lack of supply.

The EU Commission declined comment for this story. So did AstraZeneca, which has said it is focused on boosting supplies to the bloc after the manufacturing glitches. The Commission has often said it expects an exponential increase in the availability of vaccines from April. Pfizer's Chief Executive Albert Bourla told Reuters production is back on track in Europe after the company made changes at its Belgian manufacturing site to increase supply.

The vaccine squeeze was not just a public health nightmare. It was also a political crisis.

Britain, freshly divorced from the EU's single market after five years of bitter negotiations, was inoculating people at a much faster pace than any EU country, public data show.

Diplomats feared the Commission was losing the battle against a "narrative of ... big failure," a senior EU diplomat who was present at the Jan. 27 meeting told Reuters. They urged the Commission to cool a row with British company AstraZeneca for the sake of getting drugs as soon as possible, the notes show and people present said.

The Commission's dilemma underscores the power of big drugmakers as governments scramble to vaccinate their citizens, and the geopolitical tensions that can result.

Eventually, the notes show EU diplomats recognised the bloc may not benefit from arguing about contracts with AstraZeneca. Instead, the Commission turned up the heat on the United Kingdom - which AstraZeneca said was preventing British-made vaccines from reaching Europe - only to swiftly step back after realising it risked disrupting a border agreement in the Brexit accord which London and Dublin said could have serious consequences for security in Northern Ireland.

The damage to the EU's image was visible on the front pages of Britain's eurosceptic popular press, with headlines declaring "EU vaccines war explodes" and "EU chiefs behaving like the mafia."

A spokesman for the French ambassador said he had urged the EU "to communicate in an orderly and strategic manner."

A British government spokesperson said, "We are in constant contact with the vaccine manufacturers and remain confident that the supply of vaccine to the UK will not be disrupted." The UK government declined to comment on AstraZeneca's claim it was preventing vaccines from reaching Europe, but said it does not prohibit any export of COVID-19 vaccines.

"GLITCH-FREE"

The month started calmly for member states, who had agreed at the start of the pandemic to form a steering group with the EU executive to negotiate with drugmakers, to support smaller states and prevent internal squabbling.

EU Commission officials and diplomats involved met in the Europa Building's S7 Room, a windowless chamber where delegates assembled at a round table beneath a ceiling decorated with dozens of squares in pastel colours. The Commission was represented by the EU's top vaccine negotiator, Sandra Gallina, an Italian national who started working for the EU Commission more than three decades ago as an interpreter. She declined to comment for this story.

The EU was about three weeks behind Britain in launching a vaccine - largely because it opted against issuing emergency regulatory approval as Britain had done. But the EU had announced deals with six vaccine-makers to secure nearly 2.3 billion doses for its population of 450 million.

Pfizer, working with German partner BioNTech, was one of only two firms whose shots had approval. It was the only one supplying the EU, which had announced deals for up



A meeting room in Europa, the new European Council building in Brussels, as appeared on REUTERS December 9, 2016.

to 600 million Pfizer doses. The roll-out began immediately after Christmas.

"Deliveries are so far mostly glitch-free," Gallina told diplomats in a Jan. 8 briefing, according to a note from the meeting.

Gallina told the briefing the EU was receiving 3.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine a week. She underscored that the UK, by contrast, had reserved only 4 million doses of the Pfizer shot until February. Pfizer declined to comment, saying delivery schedules are confidential.

Gallina told diplomats some countries were passing on their share of Pfizer doses in anticipation of securing drugs from AstraZeneca, which was due to launch deliveries to the EU once its vaccine won regulatory approval there in late January. Both companies' vaccines are made and exported from plants a short drive from Brussels. AstraZeneca also makes vaccines for the EU at factories in Germany and Britain, according to the EU Commission.

Gallina told the meeting member states saw AstraZeneca as a "star" for its low prices and big numbers.

The companies have declined to comment on prices; AstraZeneca's vaccine costs about 2.5 euros (\$3) per dose, against 15.5 euros for Pfizer's, two EU negotiators directly involved in talks with vaccine makers told Reuters. AstraZeneca committed to deliver at least 80 million doses through March, or up to 120 million, an official involved in the talks told Reuters.

EU negotiators were aware AstraZeneca was scaling back its planned supply because of production problems. The company had told the EU's steering group on Dec. 4 that it would reduce its targets for the first quarter to two-thirds of the 120 million maximum, according to a diplomatic note.

At a public hearing on Jan. 12 in the European Parliament, Gallina

told EU lawmakers that she had heard only three instances of "relatively minor" complaints about deliveries.

REALITY CHECK

Three days later, on Jan. 15, Pfizer too said it had trimmed production and would temporarily cut supplies to the EU from its Belgian plant.

There was an immediate public outcry across Europe. Italy's special commissioner for COVID-19, Domenico Arcuri, said Italy was considering legal action against Pfizer.

Despite these delays, the EU Commission went ahead and announced an ambitious vaccination goal.

On Jan. 19, when just over 5 million vaccines had been administered in the EU, the Commission published targets to inoculate at least 80% of health workers and the elderly above the age of 80 by March, and 70% of the EU's adult population by the end of the summer. It also proposed a way to donate excess doses to poorer countries.

The next day in the S7 Room briefing, EU diplomats told Commission officials those goals were too bold. "We have only about 2% vaccinated. How did you come up with the 70% target?" a representative from Lithuania asked. "We prefer to under-promise and over-deliver," the Dutch delegate said. A spokesman for the Dutch ambassador confirmed the Netherlands had raised concerns about the ambition in the Commission proposal. A spokeswoman for the Lithuanian ambassador declined to comment.

Three days later, the notes showed Gallina telling diplomats that Pfizer's sudden cut had "savaged" member states' vaccination plans. But she reassured them shipments would resume the following week.

"SHOCKED"

Worse was to come. On Friday Jan.

22, AstraZeneca, due to start EU deliveries on Feb. 15, said it would cut supplies further over the first three months. A senior official involved in the talks told Reuters this would mean a roughly 60% fall - to 31 million doses instead of 80 million.

The European Commission went on the offensive. A few hours after the announcement, Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides tweeted about her "deep dissatisfaction." The following Monday the Commission summoned AstraZeneca's executives to meetings to pressure the company to lift deliveries.

The Commission won concessions - AstraZeneca sweetened its offer to add 8 million doses from an earlier date of Feb. 7.

It was not enough. Aware of production problems at AstraZeneca's Belgian site, the EU Commission asked for drugs from Germany and Britain. But AstraZeneca offered no clarity on whether doses could be diverted from Britain, an EU official who attended the meeting said.

The next day, the company's Chief Executive Pascal Soriot told European newspapers AstraZeneca was not legally required to deliver doses to the EU on a precise timeline, because its contract only stated it would make its "best efforts" to deliver.

He also said Britain had signed up for its vaccine earlier than the EU and had asked to be served first from UK-based plants. The UK government declined to comment.

Soriot's remarks infuriated the EU Commission. On Jan. 27, according to the notes, Gallina told diplomats she was "shocked" by "the level of incorrect statements" that she said Soriot had made about AstraZeneca's commitments. AstraZeneca declined to comment.

The Commission, saying it was confident of the strength of its legal arguments, publicly demanded AstraZeneca publish the contract they had agreed. A heavily redacted ver-

sion was eventually made public on Jan. 29.

"BACK AGAINST THE WALL"

At the Jan. 27 meeting, Gallina told delegates around the S7 Room table that some of the problems with AstraZeneca had already been known, but the new cut was "a big blow."

She also said the EU had no breakdown of who was exporting vaccines where. "We have some information but we need more," she said.

Rough customs data showed millions of COVID-19 vaccines had been exported in past weeks from the EU to Britain, Canada, Israel and China, she said. The EU Commission did not respond to a request for export data. Britain, Israel and Canada have said they received Pfizer's vaccines from the EU; Britain has also said it received AstraZeneca's vaccine from the EU. Fosun, the China-based company which has exclusive rights to sell Pfizer's vaccine in China and Hong Kong, had no comment.

Gallina added the EU would set up a new mechanism to track and licence exports. The EU's lawyers could use several legal arguments to pressure AstraZeneca into releasing more doses, she added.

The briefing did not go well. At least five diplomats told the meeting the Commission had pushed too far in its public fight and urged it to calm the dispute, at least privately. Legal action would not produce more vaccines quickly, they said.

"The Commission has its back against the wall," French ambassador Leglise-Costa told the meeting, according to the notes. He urged an immediate change in the communication strategy.

Later that day, on another call with the Commission, Soriot told the EU not to expect doses from AstraZeneca's factories in Britain because London was using a clause in its contract that gave it priority over doses made in the United Kingdom, two EU officials told Reuters.

"ACT OF HOSTILITY"

Seeing that diplomats wanted to tone down the fight with AstraZeneca, the Commission set its sights on Britain's government. The next day, EU officials publicly threatened to block vaccine exports - a move likely to hit Britain's imports of vaccines from Pfizer's Belgian plant. And the Commission said it wanted to set up a mechanism that would require companies to seek authorisation before exporting vaccine doses.

On Friday Jan. 30, it took a further step, threatening to trigger a clause that would block vaccines from reaching Northern Ireland - a British-run province that remained part of the EU internal market after the Brexit divorce.

Imposing restrictions on that border was potentially explosive: The Brexit talks had agreed to keep it open, to preserve the central plank of a 1998 peace deal ending 30 years of armed conflict in the province.

Northern Ireland's First Minister Arlene Foster called the EU proposal "an incredible act of hostility," and EU officials soon admitted it was excessive.

By Sunday, the Commission had retreated on both fronts.

Commission President Von der Leyen announced in a tweet the bloc had achieved a "step forward on vaccines." AstraZeneca had offered to increase deliveries, she said.

After a week of fighting and diplomatic confusion, the EU had secured just 1 million doses more than the firm's initial sweetened offer, her tweet revealed.

Agencies



Italy has begun vaccinations against Covid-19

Counting elephants from space: Using computer algorithms in conservation of endangered wildlife

Bath, UK

SATELLITE images processed with the help of computer algorithms are a promising new tool for surveying endangered wildlife.

For the first time, scientists have successfully used satellite cameras coupled with deep learning to count animals in complex geographical landscapes, taking conservationists an important step forward in monitoring populations of endangered species.

For this research, the satellites Worldview 3 and 4 used

high-resolution imagery to capture African elephants moving through forests and grasslands. The automated system detected animals with the same accuracy as humans are able to achieve.

The algorithm that enabled the detection process was created by Dr. Olga Isupova, a computer scientist at the University of Bath. The project was a collaboration with the University of Oxford and the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

Dr. Isupova said the new surveying technique allows vast areas of land to be scanned in

a matter of minutes, offering a much-needed alternative to human observers counting individual animals from low-flying airplanes. As it sweeps across the land, a satellite can collect over 5,000 km² of imagery in a matter of minutes, eliminating the risk of double counting. Where necessary (for instance, when there is cloud coverage), the process can be repeated the next day, on the satellite's next visit.

The population of African elephants has nose-dived over the past century, mainly due to poaching and habitat frag-

mentation. With approximately 415,000 African savannah elephants left in the wild, the species is classified as endangered.

"Accurate monitoring is essential if we're to save the species," said Dr. Isupova. "We need to know where the animals are and how many there are."

Satellite monitoring eliminates the risk of disturbing animals during data collection and ensures humans are not hurt in the counting process. It also makes it simpler to count animals moving from country to country, as satellites can orbit the planet without regard for

border controls or conflict.

This study was not the first to use satellite imagery and algorithms to monitor species, but it was the first to reliably monitor animals moving through a heterogeneous landscape - that is, a backdrop that includes areas of open grassland, woodland, and partial coverage.

"This type of work has been done before with whales, but of course the ocean is all blue, so counting is a lot less challenging," said Dr. Isupova. "As you can imagine, a heterogeneous landscape makes it much harder to identify animals."

The researchers believe their work demonstrates the potential of technology to support conservationists in their plight to protect biodiversity and to slow the progress of the sixth mass extinction - the ongoing extinction event triggered by human activity.

"We need to find new state-of-the-art systems to help researchers gather the data they need to save species under threat," said Dr. Isupova.

African elephants were chosen for this study for good reason - they are the largest land animal and therefore the

easiest to spot. However, Dr. Isupova is hopeful that it will soon be possible to detect far smaller species from space.

"Satellite imagery resolution increases every couple of years, and with every increase we will be able to see smaller things in greater detail," she said, adding: "Other researchers have managed to detect black albatross nests against snow. No doubt the contrast of black and white made it easier, but that doesn't change the fact that an albatross nest is one-eleventh the size of an elephant."

CABI study updates safer options on fall armyworm control in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

CABI scientists have updated the first major study of potential biological controls that could be used in the fight against the devastating fall armyworm in Africa. The research offers new insight into evidence of their efficacy in the field and increased availability as commercial products.

Indeed, the review, published in the *Journal of Applied Entomology*, includes many biocontrol products which are now featured in the CABI BioProtection Portal - a free web-based tool that enables users to discover information about registered biocontrol and biopesticide products around the world.

The fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) attacks around 100 species of plant but favours maize. It has already caused substantial damage to staple crops grown by smallholder farmers in many parts of Africa.

Lead researcher Dr Melanie Bateman, together with other CABI colleagues and scientists from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, Kenya, and Lancaster University, UK, reveal the revised list of biopesticide active ingredients (AI) - which have been registered in one or more of the 30 study countries for fall armyworm management - now stands at 41.

The current paper builds on the first assessment (Bateman et al, 2018) by profiling four additional AI.

These are *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Autographa californica multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus* (AcMNPV), *Spodoptera littoralis nucleopolyhedrovirus* (SpliNPV) and thyme oil.

Dr Bateman said: "Many smallholder farmers continue to resort to pesticides to tackle the fall armyworm but we believe that safe, sustainable and effective interventions such as biopesticides should be a key element of Integrated Pest Management plans.

"This is particularly important when you consider that many farmers are using highly hazardous pesticides without personal protective equipment and the use of broad-spectrum pesticides can negatively impact natural enemies to help manage fall armyworm."

The scientists add that since the first assessment field trials demonstrating the efficacy have been carried out for eight AIs (*A. oryzae*, *azadirachtin*, *B. thuringiensis* subsp. *aizawai*, maltodextrin, FAW sex pheromones, spinosad, *Spodoptera frugiperda* multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus and *Spodoptera littoralis nucleopolyhedrovirus*) which has led to products being registered across some countries in Africa.

Dr Steve Edgington, co-author of the paper and who is responsible for product data on the CABI BioProtection Portal, said, "The findings of this update are encouraging. In the relatively short time since the last assessment, the number of biopesticide AIs



registered per country that could potentially be used to manage FAW has more than doubled, and there have been similar increases in the numbers of products registered. But of course, at the farm gate knowledge is still needed of what products are actually available and how to use them correctly."

"I would recommend farmers and extension workers to keep up to date with the latest biopesticide products available in their region to fight the

fall armyworm, and a range of other pests for that matter, by using tools such as the CABI BioProtection Portal."

The researchers added that further studies could include, for many AIs, looking at establishing the most cost-effective method of use to fight the fall armyworm.

UN body wants more space for women in high-level leadership positions

By Guardian Reporter

NEW analysis from UN Women shows that, despite women's increased engagement in public life, equality remains far off.

For example, women serve as Heads of State or Government in only 21 countries and 119 countries have never had a woman leader; at the current rate, parity will not be reached for another 130 years.

Additionally, just 14 coun-

tries have achieved 50 percent or more women in Cabinets.

The data, prepared for a UN Secretary-General's report in advance of the upcoming UN Commission on the Status of Women, demonstrate global trends, persistent barriers and opportunities for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.

"These data really bring home the handicap so many

countries are struggling with when they don't have a balanced decision-making process. We've seen all too clearly how the lack of women in the public sector leaves governments desperately ill-equipped to respond to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic," said UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

When more women are elected and appointed to office, policymaking is better

able to meet the needs of society as a whole. Underrepresented groups such as rural women, women with disabilities and indigenous women are also better served when they are in decision-making positions. According to Mlambo-Ngcuka, transforming the balance of power is essential for solving the urgent challenges of our age, from deepening inequalities and polarization, poverty, the climate crisis and the COVID-19

pandemic.

However, violence against women in public life is being used as a deterrent to keep more women from gaining access to power.

Cyberviolence is increasingly common and is being used to silence women in government, as well as women rights defenders and members of feminist groups. More than 80 percent of women parliamentarians surveyed globally experienced on-the-

job psychological violence; 1 in 3 economic violence; 1 in 4 physical violence; and 1 in 5 sexual violence.

Women parliamentarians recently reported experiencing nearly twice as much exposure to ill treatment and acts of violence compared to men, with the COVID-19 pandemic potentially exacerbating violent threats.

The analysis and the recommendations for action in the report are part of UN Wom-

en's commitment to responding to the complex problems of gender equality.

This also includes the Generation Equality Forum, that aims to accelerate gender equality actions and enable the participation of all groups of women, especially young women.

The Generation Equality Forum is hosted by UN Women, along with the governments of Mexico and France, and in partnership with civil society.



Hanging rhinos upside down is vital for their conservation

By Special Correspondent

SUSPENDING rhinos from their feet is an important part of conserving the species, a new study has found.

The black rhino is critically endangered, predominantly due to significant demand for rhino horn. Conservationists have been finding ways to better protect them for a number of years and often find themselves having to think outside the box.

Sometimes the rhinos need to be moved from inaccessible, wilderness areas by helicopter, to bring them to safety. But as transporting the enormous creatures can be a tricky manoeuvre, the rhinos need to be tranquillised. This allows them to be airlifted by their feet, which saves time and is thought to be kinder to the animals, according to WWF.

While this transportation method has been used for ten years now, there has been debate over whether the anaesthetic drugs can be dangerous when the rhinos are hung upside down, as opposed to lying down on their side.

A new study has now concluded that rhinos "actually fare[d] slightly better when slung up in the sky," in a positive step towards conserving the species. The research was published in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, led by Cornell University in New York, US.

"SAFER THAN WE THOUGHT"

The team travelled to Waterburg National Park in Namibia, where they examined 12 rhinoceroses.

"We found that suspending rhinos by their feet is safer than we thought," says Dr. Robin Radcliffe, senior lecturer in wildlife and conservation medicine and first author of the study.

While this finding might sound comical, it is "vital information" for conservationists working to save these vanishing creatures.

"To keep rhinos safe from poaching and to distribute individuals across habitats so their gene pools stay healthy, management teams often must move rhinos in remote areas that cannot be accessed by roads or automobiles," the study states.

Despite the fact the tranquilliser drugs are potent opioids, with side effects which can "impair rhinoceros health and even lead to mortalities," researchers found that the risks reduced when they were air-lifted by their feet.

"Hanging rhinos upside down actually improved ventilation (albeit to a small degree) over rhinos lying on their sides," adds Radcliffe.

While this is good news for conservationists working with black rhinos in rugged terrain, more information is still needed and there is more work to be done.

Elisa Allen, Director of animal rights charity PETA agrees. "The study brings to light important information about safely transporting rhinos for conservation purposes," she says.

"But, of course, the results of this research must be used in tandem with other efforts, which include habitat protection, stronger laws to prevent trophy hunting and poaching, and adequate enforcement of these laws."

Europe in battle to overcome economic lag vs US, Asia

LONDON

EUROPE'S slow vaccine roll-out means its economic recovery could lag behind upturns in the United States and Asia unless it can get the programme back on track in the weeks ahead.

The International Monetary Fund last month hailed the strong China rebound and forecast that the U.S. and Japanese economies would return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year, but the euro zone won't catch up until next year.

While President Joe Biden's administration aims to provide even more stimulus in a \$1.9 trillion U.S. package, EU capitals are still negotiating which projects will get funding from a 750 billion-euro joint recovery fund.

Delays to the European Union's vaccine roll-out and concern about new coronavirus variants, meanwhile, make it harder for European governments to ease current pandemic restrictions.

"It remains a race between mutations of the virus and the vaccination, and euro zone countries are lagging on the vaccination process, that's for sure," said Sylvain Broyer, chief economist EMEA at S&P Global Ratings.

Data this week showed the euro zone's downturn deepened in January as renewed restrictions hit the region's dominant service industry hard.

Existing lockdowns in many countries are set to last into March and beyond. A German survey on Thursday showed that companies in the zone's biggest economy expect restrictions of some kind to be in place until mid-September.

LOST OUTPUT

Much of the concern lies with the EU vaccination programme, launched with much fanfare on Dec. 27 but since struggling with slow rollouts and shortages of vaccine.

According to calculations by trade insurance group Euler Hermes, average daily vaccination rates across major EU economies stand at just 0.12% of the population - four times lower than in Britain and the United States.

EU countries have so far given



Staff wear protective masks at the Volkswagen assembly line in Wolfsburg, Germany, April 27, 2020. REUTERS

first doses to about 3% of their populations, compared with 9% for the United States and 14% for Britain, according to Our World in Data.

Euler Hermes estimated that represented a five-week lag on the vaccination front. If left uncorrected, that would cost close to 90 billion euros in output this year, equivalent to two percentage points of lost quarterly GDP growth.

"Economies that finish the race first will be rewarded with strong positive multiplier effects supercharging consumption and investment activity in H2 2021, whereas vaccination laggards will remain stuck in

crisis mode and face substantial costs - economic as well as political," it said in a note.

European Commission Chief Executive Ursula von der Leyen defended the EU's effort this week, saying the EU lagged rivals by three to four weeks because of a more rigorous approvals process. She said supply problems should start to ease but acknowledged that increasing production remained a challenge.

If Europe's recovery is slow in coming, the risk is that it suffers more so-called "scarring", or longer-term damage to its economy. A big concern is long-term and youth unemploy-

ment, which has only started improving in recent years after the 2008/09 financial crisis.

"COVID-19 threatens to undo the last decade of progress: policymakers must act to avoid Europe's youth suffering the scarring effect," Guntram Wolff at Brussels-based economic think-tank Bruegel said.

Bruegel estimates unemployment in EU countries for workers aged 15-24 increased in the second quarter of 2020 to 16.4% from 14.9% in the same period a year before. Unemployment among those aged 55-64 even fell slightly to 4.8% from 5.1% a year earlier.

CENTRAL BANK DIVERGENCE?

A delayed recovery could make things harder for the European Central Bank as it seeks to keep policy ultra-loose even as a stronger U.S. economy pushes up borrowing costs globally.

Signs of a disconnect are starting to play out in markets: U.S. 10-year Treasury yields are up 20 basis points so far this year. In contrast, Germany's borrowing costs remain deep in negative territory at -0.46% - a sign that investors expect aggressive ECB stimulus for some time.

"If you get this outperformance of the U.S., you get

more chatter about Fed tapering, pushing rates higher in the market, and making the ECB's role harder," said Jefferies European economist Marchel Alexandrovich.

"Right now they (central banks) are all doing the same thing, but in 2022 there will be many more questions about policy divergence with the ECB still being more accommodative."

On the plus side, some of the policy choices made in Europe mean the continent should see less of an overall lag emerging from the virus-induced recession than it saw after the 2008/09 financial crisis.

While European governments cannot match the stimulus put in place by the United States - packages already approved there provide support worth a colossal 19% of U.S. GDP - eurozone fiscal and monetary stimulus has been aggressive.

Furlough schemes have meant most euro economies ended 2020 in better shape than expected, while pent-up demand from the lock-downs could still deliver a powerful boost to growth later this year.

Berenberg analysts predict the euro area will take roughly nine quarters to return to pre-pandemic levels and the United States six quarters - a lesser divergence than that after 2008/09, when the euro zone economy took seven years to recover its losses and the United States bounced back in just three and a half years.

If EU capitals use resources from the EU's 750 billion-euro joint recovery fund to address weaknesses in their economies, the hope is that future divergences will be smaller. But Europe's patchy reform record means that is far from a given.

"If we manage to use this big pot of money to get some countries to do the necessary adjustments and reforms and investment they need to tap long-term potential, then this recovery fund would have served a very good purpose," said Christian Odendahl of the Centre for European Reform think tank.

"But if the implementation of that recovery fund is weak - and there is a risk that it might be, because spending that much money quickly and well is difficult - then we may have squandered that opportunity."

China revitalises world's confidence to recover economy

By He Yin

CHINA'S economic performance over the past year triggered broad discussion and commendation across the world. The country was the only major economy that secured positive growth in 2020, whose GDP for the first time crossed the 100 trillion yuan mark, rising 2.3 percent from a year ago.

International observers commented that China has consolidated its position as a key driver of global growth, and the country's economy is likely to keep acting as a "locomotive" that fuels the recovery of global economy this year.

As the Davos Agenda of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is about to kick off and the world is seeking cooperation to fight COVID-19 and recover economy, China's economy is injecting positive energy into the world, revitalizing the confidence of the global community to recover economy.

Hans-Paul Burkner, chairman of the Boston Consulting Group remarked that China's v-shaped bounceback was not by accident or luck, and it represented the arduous efforts made by the Chinese people, enterprises and government departments.

The strong resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy came from the country's efforts to coordinate pandemic prevention and control and economic and social development, which offered important experiences for the world to win the battle against the disease and secure economic performance.

The V-shaped recovery was engineered by getting Covid-19 under control and deploying fiscal and monetary stimulus to boost investment, said Bloomberg in a recent article. Experts from the International Monetary Fund also noted that China's practices proved effective control measures could promote economic recovery, which is a great example for other countries to follow.

"Integration into the global economy is a historical trend. To grow its economy,



A worker manufactures products to be shipped overseas at an auto parts company in Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, Jan. 13, 2021. File photo

China must have the courage to swim in the vast ocean of the global market." The remarks made by Chinese President Xi Jinping when addressing the Opening Session of the WEF Annual Meeting four years ago

in Davos, Switzerland, well explain why China secured outstanding economic performance last year.

Protectionism was on a rise after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. China

took a series of new measures to expand opening up, stabilize global industrial and supply chains and safeguard the open environment for international cooperation, which further improved its capability to

achieve win-win results with the rest of the world.

In 2020, China's foreign trade of goods went up by 1.9 percent from a year ago, and the freight trains running between the country and Europe made 12,406 trips, 50 percent more than those in 2019. Behind these figures is the energy China has injected to the world for the latter's recovery. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme noted China not only achieved its own development, but also build a new vision of future international cooperation and economic development.

In the new year, China has both the foundation and conditions to maintain economic recovery, and is bound to make greater contribution to global economic recovery and development.

By further enhancing innovation, expanding domestic demand and comprehensively implementing reform and opening up measures, it is injecting confidence into the international society for economic development.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecasted that China will contribute to over 1/3 of global growth this year.

Japanese news outlet Nikkei reported that thanks to China's rapid economic recovery and thriving market demand, Japan's manufacturers have constantly lifted their expectation for performance. Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC) said almost all members of the council saw China's huge contribution to the world economy and were expanding their investment in the country.

Embarking on a new journey, China is accelerating the building of a new development paradigm, releasing market potential and opening wider to the world.

It will definitely create more opportunities to share development with the rest of the world and strive for win-win cooperation.

ANGEL

Come meet the Cape Town doctor who gives women free breast cancer surgery

CAPE TOWN

THE surgeon who practices in Cape Town believes equal access to quality health care is a sign of a healthy democracy. Dr Roodt's Project Flamingo, a non-profit company, provides surgeries to breast cancer patients, with an aim to reduce the surgical waiting time in public health care.

In addition to this, the psychological support needed to go through this challenging period is included in the free treatment. Project Flamingo currently services patients at Tygerberg Hospital and Groote Schuur Hospital where the waiting time for breast-conserving or mastectomy surgery is between 10 and 12 weeks.

"The obvious solution was that we needed theatre time, so it was just how to go about creating the theatre time," says Dr Liana. "The solution was to buy more theatre time, which is really how it started. I brainstormed with friends on how to raise the funds, to recruit volunteers, etc." She says while women are the majority of those affected by breast cancer, project Flamingo does help anybody

with breast cancer.

"When you know that something is wrong and that you can't get the help that you need, it's got a massive impact not just on the physical level but also psychologically it is terrifying walking around with something that you know needs to be sorted out and you can't access care," says Dr Roodt.

She adds that not having access to quality health care has a great impact on women and their families, because women have children and are often the sole breadwinner. By extension, the community is affected as well. Six patients and survivors of breast cancer show how to perform a breast self-exam on a commercial flights over the Andes of Ecuador, displaying their mastectomy scars covered by colorful mandalas.

If you're worried about something, seek care and if you can't find it, demand it! You and your health are important, you have the right to care and you've got the right to be looked after.

"The impact is massive and we have a very long way to go in terms of making care accessible to patients... that



Dr Liana Roodt, founder of Project Flamingo

whole process really needs to be looked at," she adds.

The model of Project Flamingo has been used in a few projects already but Dr Roodt hopes health care professionals in other parts of the country can follow her example to help catch up the public health care system.

She says it may not be a very complex idea but the process is quite complicated and she'd be open to assisting anyone who would like to replicate it. In a broad summary, Dr Liana relays the steps to achieve an initiative with a model similar to Project Flamingo:

"First of all, [get] a group of volunteers who are committed to the cause because you're asking of them to give

their skills and be kind for free, and it's a huge commitment. Secondly, tell the story of the patients and get as much word of mouth to help raise funds. And of course, get all the role players on board, from the government health care sector to other role players in health - your medical aids, your private hospitals - all of those role players could potentially be mobilised."

There are two things that are a sign of a healthy democracy for me, it's equal access to healthcare and to education. I feel very strongly about it, I think all of us do. Dr Roodt believes providing access to health care falls on everybody's shoulders and that's the ethos behind Project Flamingo. "At Project Flamingo

we're trying to do our tiny bit to help and we hope that by the example we are setting other people will follow suit and that all of us will realise that healthcare is everybody's problem," she says.

"It's not just government's responsibility, it's not just private healthcare's responsibility, it's everybody's responsibility because if you're in a situation [where you need] help, you would want other people and the society around you to step up. So that's the premise in which we work."

Offering a message to women Dr Roodt says, "The one thing I would want [women] to know is that it [breast cancer] is beatable and it doesn't have to be a death sentence.

If you're worried about something, seek care and if you can't find it, demand it! You and your health are important, you have the right to care and you've got the right to be looked after."

BOOK

'We are all birds of Uganda' by Hafsa Zayyan

LONDON

IT WAS 2019, and Hafsa Zayyan was enjoying all the trappings of a fledgling professional career; a first-class education at both Cambridge and Oxford, training in Singapore and finally a great job working as a dispute resolution lawyer in the City of London. But, she admits, there was a part of her brain that was "dusty and completely unattended to". On a night off, she went to the launch of Stormzy's new publishing imprint, Merky Books, and, it's fair to say, it was life-changing.

The British grime artist was also asking for submissions from unpublished and unrepresented 16 to 31-year-old writers, looking for "stories that are not being heard, and the stories that deserve to be read". Zayyan immediately remembered the experience of her husband's family, expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin in 1972, simply because they were of South Asian heritage.

"There were almost 30,000 people who had to come to the UK," says Zayyan of a forced migration that is estimated to

have affected 55,000 people in total. "Incredible, and yet it felt to me that I didn't know anything about it; it seemed to have been erased from history. I started thinking about what it was like to lose everything, how the trajectory of people's lives could be completely changed."

So Zayyan set about piecing together her 2,500-word entry for the competition, which initially comprised a poetic, reflective letter written by a successful Indian-Ugandan business owner, Hasan, to his late wife. The Merky Books New Writers' Prize judges saw it and immediately asked for the rest of her manuscript, in the next seven days. The problem was, Zayyan hadn't written any of it.

It was at this point that Sameer, a young, high-flying lawyer living in present-day London, was woven into text, his coming-of-age tale and family story dovetailing intricately with the historical elements of Hasan's experiences in Uganda. "Like me, he's a product of his culture," says Zayyan, "and I know exactly where he came from and how he came to be."

This combination of con-

temporary and historical cultural insight from a hitherto unknown writer was almost too good to be true for Merky. Zayyan won the prize in June 2019, and then was asked for a full finished version of her novel to be delivered that same year. "I spent many a night after work in the British Library researching refugee camps in multicultural Britain," she says.

The result - *We Are All Birds of Uganda* - was finally published last week, although it could have seen the light of day earlier if Covid-19 hadn't got in the way. The pace and urgency with which it was written is evident in the story itself, which races through decades of racial tension, immigration and generational ties in Kampala, Leicester and London.

The Ugandan experience is certainly enjoying something of a moment in literary fiction. Last year, Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi's *The First Woman* explored the aftermath of Amin's reign of terror, and next month, Neema Shah's *Kololo Hill* will explore similar territory to *We Are All Birds of Uganda*.

What's interesting is that

among these three, Zayyan is the only writer without Ugandan heritage. When we talk it's the day after the presidential election in the country, and she won't really be drawn on the current situation, but the shared experience and effects of mass migration on future generations (Zayyan's parents are Pakistani and Nigerian and spent some time in Saudi Arabia) means the story takes on an allegorical feel, too.

"It's interesting, a lot of the time my generation don't know about the experience of our parents and grandparents because they don't like to talk about the trauma of it," she says. "I didn't grow up listening to my grandparents discuss the Partition, or my parents tell me stories of the prejudice they suffered. Maybe that's natural given we were children; these were painful episodes in their lives. But as you get older as an immigrant child, that journey of discovering more about where you come from comes at the same time as you start to question what you're doing with your life."

Which is a neat way of surmising Sameer. He starts out as



Hafsa Zayyan is author of 'We are all birds of Uganda' novel.

something of a wide boy, living life to the full in London. It's only when he realises something is missing, that he is searching for his own identity, that he starts to look again at Uganda, setting himself on course for conflict with his own family and finding succour in a contemporary reading of Islam.

"When you're young, and living that fast life, it can feel quite empty," Zayyan says. "Sameer's faith journey is part of the way he discovers elements of himself he'd not considered before. More generally, it was also important to me to write a book that had a positive depiction of Islam because you don't really see that in literature."

Zayyan is a practising Muslim and is really keen to emphasise that the book is not meant to preach, rather reflect how Islam has been positive for her. It does so sensitively, highlighting all the doubts, fears and worries of any young person on a faith journey. "It is meant

to be a subtle portrayal," she says. "To be honest, I just wanted to counter the thousands of stories that get published about Islamic terrorism. Something positive."

Whether the book ends on a positive note, though, is intriguingly unclear. Its cliffhanger conclusion is possibly the most literary device in an otherwise relatively straightforward expository novel. It'll certainly make for interesting book club discussions - which Zayyan is happy to encourage; she actually wrote the "reading group questions" herself.

"I just wanted to make sure that people who finished the book, who were probably feeling all these emotions, really got some direction about the parallels across the decades, the way that the issues facing migrants back then can still affect migrants today. We all have that intergenerational trauma I think, and we all try and let it go," she says.

Stories across the generations continue to intrigue Zayyan. As the Merky Books Prize underlines, there are still so many that remain untold. "I feel I have to say something about my next book," she says with a nervous laugh.

After all, she's still intending to continue her day job. "But it'll be something written from the perspective of someone who's a bit older. I just find they have so much to tell, and they never get to tell it because nobody cares. We really should. Because once they've died, the stories are gone."

CRIME

Attacks on albinos resurface in Malawi, UN offers to help

LILONGWE

MALAWI police say fresh attacks against albino people have left one person dead and a girl traumatized. The United Nations in Malawi on Wednesday called on the government to address the root causes of the attacks, which have killed over 170 albinos over the past seven years.

Police records show that two people have been attacked within the past week in southern Malawi. The latest is an attack on a 12-year-old albino girl in Machinga district who narrowly survived abduction Tuesday night when two unknown assailants broke into her bedroom.

The assailants, police say, fled after the girl's mother shouted for help. The incident came three days after police in Mangochi district arrested three people in connection to the death on a 26-year-old man, Saidi Futon Dayton, who went missing January 27.

According to police, the attackers confirmed killing Dayton but said his body was

taken in a bag for sale by their accomplice, who is still at large. Boniface Massa is country director of Standing Voice Malawi, an international NGO on rights for people with albinism.

"It's very emotional. I never expected that attacks to the level of someone being killed will happen again. I am aware there have been threats but I never expected that in 2021 we will register a case of someone being killed. So, it's really a shocking moment for me. As also a person with albinism, it brings me back all memories of my brothers and sisters whom we have lost," said Massa.

Albinos in Malawi have been facing attacks because of false beliefs that concoctions mixed with their body parts brings wealth and good luck. Statistics show over 170 albinos have been killed since 2014, with others missing and graves exhumed.

Malawi's government has tried various means to end these attacks. In 2019, it distributed mobile personal security alarms to the country's estimated 10,000 albinos. But



This girl survived an abduction in April 2019 the night when her albino brother Goodson was abducted in Dedza district in central Malawi.

Massa said the introduction of the security gadgets hasn't changed anything. "That's a very good clear indicator of a

failed system because the program needs to be monitored; the program needs to be evaluated to see how successful it has been. But

unfortunately, in the recent attacks that we have seen in Malawi, we haven't seen these alarms working," said Massa.

In a statement released Wednesday, the United Nations called on Malawi's government to allocate adequate funds toward addressing the root causes of the attacks. Maria Jose Torres is U.N. resident coordinator for Malawi. "This is not an isolated incident. It is related to causes that go from harmful practice to poverty towards discrimination and required comprehensive approach. And this approach is embedded in (the) National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism. So actually the plan is there and it is a matter of appropriate implementation," she said.

Malawi's Minister of Gender and Social Welfare, Patricia Kaliati, told reporters this week the government is disturbed with the renewed attacks. She said government has stepped up interventions to end the attacks which include sensitization campaigns involving police, traditional and religious leaders.

ENTERPRISING

Young woman entrepreneur comes up with software for tracing coronavirus contact

KIGALI

A YOUNG Rwandan lady, a software engineer by profession, Jeanne Bovine Ishemaryayo has developed a software programme dubbed "E-Rinde" loosely translated as "protect yourself" that helps frontline workers trace persons who may have come in contact with a Covid-19 positive person.

The 26 year old said the development of the software was inspired by the current challenge of Covid-19 that has ravaged Rwanda and the world in general as the number of cases continues to rise unprecedentedly. So far Covid-19 patients have exceeded 15,000 cases out of over 875,000 tests in only 11 months since the first Covid-19 case broke out in March, 2020.

According to the Ministry of Health figures, 46 per cent of the total cases and 60 per cent of Covid-19 fatalities had been recorded only in the consecutive 50 days that preceded the January 18 date before imposing another lock-

down for 15 days. Despite the second lockdown, deaths and covid-19 cases are still being daily recorded.

"The surging cases are putting a toll on front line workers in the fight against Covid-19. That is why we developed the E-Rinde software programme as an easy, innovative and effective approach to trace the contacts as the best way to reduce the virus transmission in the community," she said.

The programme uses E-Rinde cards with individual's information that is tapped on a reading-card machine installed at the entrance of public places such as churches, markets, banks and others. "When a person taps the card on the installed machine, it registers them with their identification," she explained.

The system helps frontline workers to easily trace Covid-19 contacts wherever they have passed through and thus reduce covid-19 community transmission. "The system helps to come up with quick intervention to treat the covid-19 patients and reduce the wide transmis-



Jeanne Bovine Ishemaryayo

sion in the community," she added.

The software development journey

Ishemaryayo said she is committed to seeking solutions to problems that the community faces by using software engineering skills she acquired from school. When the first covid-19 pandemic broke out in Rwanda, the young female entrepreneur committed to search for solutions that can help countries with limited capacity to trace covid-19 contacts.

"To reach this level of developing the programme in tracing Covid-19 contacts, I also acquired knowledge and skills about contact tracing from Johns Hopkins University through coursera platform where I succeeded well with 92.8 % marks as a contact tracer and got a certificate," she said.

So far, the E-Rinde software programme has been taken up by some Christians in different churches including Anglican Church in Rwanda and Catholic Church on Kibeho Holy land. "One card costs Rwf1,000. The cards have so far reached about 4,700 individuals," she said.

Challenges

However, the ICT entrepreneur said that due to the effects of Covid-19 on many people's income, some might not afford to buy the cards. "The idea is the need of financial support to contribute to government efforts in reducing Covid-19 transmission in the community where the cards can be subsidized in order to scale up the use even among vulnerable communities," she said.

The cards are timely especially as not all Rwandans have smartphones and feature phones that can help them to adopt other solutions used in tracing covid-19 contacts such as Safe2go, trace together and others, she noted.

Who is the entrepreneur?

Ishemaryayo, an orphan, is a 26-year Rwandan young woman who studied Software Engineering at the University of Rwanda's College of Science and Technology. She graduated in software engineering in 2017. She also designed and launched software dubbed 'e-Saving' that seeks to help vulnerable youth, especially those in rural areas to save in Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS)

"My interest in developing ICT solutions began as part of group work with my colleagues at the university which I later transformed into a company starting with about Rwf25,000 capital saved from our monthly bursary allowance since 2016," she said.

The graduate has designed other software programmes including e-Vuze, a health facility management system that enables health centres, pharmacies, clinics and hospitals create connections with their patients, keep medical records of patients as well as receive payments. She also developed e-Farming, which enables farmers to access farming information on aspects such as market information and access to inputs.

ABNORMAL

Man fighting for child custody with in-laws

NAIROBI

WHAT happens when your wife dies and leaves you with an infant? Do you raise the child or you give him or her to relatives?

In a society where few men take up a supportive role in raising children, the death of a wife means handing over a child to in-laws. But this can haunt you years later. A man and his ageing parent-in-law are embroiled in a bitter fight for the custody of a six-year-old minor, who is currently under the care of her maternal grandparents in Embu County.

As the matter is waiting to be resolved by the Court of Appeal, the judges will be grappling with who between the opposing sides should be granted full custody of the girl, whose mother died at childbirth in 2014.

The matter has been in court corridors since 2017 when the father, identified as OGM to protect the child, filed a case before a Kerugoya magistrate to compel his in-laws—FG and PGM—to release his daughter.

The magistrate granted the grandparents custody of the girl until she attains 11 years when the order can be reviewed. But the decision was reversed by a High Court judge last year, saying there is no provision in the law, which provides that custody of the child be granted to grandparents.

The decision was, however, over-

turned by the Court of Appeal and the grandparents handed the minor, pending the determination of the appeal. The Court of Appeal judges said since the minor has been living with the grandparents for six years, it was best that they continue staying with her, pending the hearing and determination of the case.

Evidence presented before court was that the child's mother died after giving birth on July 8, 2014. Soon after learning of their daughter's death, FG and PGM rushed to the hospital and offered to stay with the infant as the father cleared the medical bill and arranged for burial.

After the burial, he requested his in-laws to continue taking care of the minor as he made arrangements to welcome the newborn daughter home. The in-laws promised to give him the baby once he settles down. Meanwhile, he was granted unlimited access to the minor.

Although the grandparents were accommodating the minor, he provided all the financial support to cater to her needs; food, medical expenses, clothing, and all other necessities. When he thought he was ready to take the baby one year later, the in-laws refused, forcing him to go court.

The man argues that he is in gainful employment, capable and willing to cater for the minor, and he is the only living biological parent. He argues that it was his wish to provide a stable loving home to his daughter, but the grandparents



A Kenyan father with his daughter.

have refused to release the child.

He told the court that at first, his in-laws advised him to look for elders, as they ascertained that there were certain cultural customs including payment of dowry, that he had to fulfil before he was allowed to take the minor. He did as advised, paid the requested dowry of Sh20,000, but they again refused to give him the minor, allegedly barring him from their home.

After hearing the case, a Kerugoya magistrate dismissed his application and handed the grandparents custody of the minor. The court said he could still access the girl and provide for her needs. The magistrate observed that if the child is given to the father, who remarried, then the child will be placed in the care of a 'stranger' and her safety cannot be guaranteed.

He appealed to High Court Judge Lucy Gitari who overturned the decision, saying grandparents have no right to assume parental responsibility for a child when his parent is alive and have the means and is willing to take up parental responsibility voluntarily.

"The child has a right to parental care and denying the child the right cannot be in his best interests. The (Children) Act provides that even where the father and mother were not married, the father shall acquire parental responsibility," the Judge said.

She observed that OGM had bonded with the child, because of the ac-

cess and even called him dad. "The best interests of the child is that she should be brought up by her only surviving parent who is ready and willing to take his responsibility for the child," she said.

But no willing to give up easily, the grandparents moved to the Court of Appeal.

They argue that the Judge failed to appreciate that the minor has lived for six uninterrupted years with them and that change of environment (Nairobi) would impact negatively on her minor.

They said it was not proper for the Judge to grant custody, care, and control of a young girl to the father without demonstrating the existence of any exceptional circumstances as opposed to allowing them to continue performing that role subject to visitation rights. "We find this point arguable notwithstanding that they may not ultimately succeed," Justices William Ouko, Roselyn, and Hannah Okwengu said.

According to the Children's Act 38, of 2005 in Section 9, a child's best interests are of paramount importance in all matters concerning the care, protection, and well-being of a child.

They directed the girl to be returned to Kerugoya, pending the determination of the appeal.

INDUSTRIOUS

Two Singaporean women pioneering in the rise of hand-poked tattoos

SINGAPORE

NORMAL tattoos are made with machines, tattoo guns that are automated to be fast. But hand-poked tattoos are slow because artists are doing it manually.

Hand-poked tattoos have gained popularity in Singapore over the past year. A small group but growing group of artists have picked up the craft. Some have moved from home studios into rented spaces to cope with the demand. The Straits Times speaks to two artists who share a studio.

Vivien Su, of Funky Lane, says, "I started during the circuit breaker. Before then, I had always been interested in hand-poked tattoos, but I never had the time or opportunity to get into it. I went online, bought all the supplies and then one day, I poked myself."

"As I started to gain more followers and clients, who wanted to get my tattoos, it began to make sense to move into an external space. I rented a room because I could have more freedom in decorating and creating my haven for tattooing. There is a feeling of solidarity where I can ask Celestine tips, talk to her about some difficulties in client management or even just tattooing itself. Most of my art comes from my life."

"Having grown up in Shanghai, a lot of my artwork is inspired by Chinese culture. My surname stamps are a common thing in China, and it's always been a tattoo that I wanted to have so when I became an artist, I started to do this design. If I work full-time, I can make between \$5 000 to \$6 000 a month. I'm a final-year student at Yale-NUS."

"During the earlier part of the Covid-19 pandemic, I was very anxious about my job search prospects. As a liberal arts student, it can feel like you don't know your place in the world during this difficult time. So, tattooing has been a blessing, because even though it started as a passion, it has now presented itself as a viable career after I graduate."

"Growing up, I have always had a strict sense of what would be next for me, from primary school to secondary to high school and then college. And then, after college, I find a job. I think tattooing is exciting because it showed me that there is no path that I have to follow."

Body art and dance meet at Paris tattoo fair

Hundreds of tattoo artists from around the world gathered in the French capital for the annual tattoo fair. Celestine Teo, also of Funky Lane, says, "I came across a video and found it interesting, so I did more research."

SKINTELLECTUAL

I declined a job offer after months of unemployment the only explanation being their comment on my afro'

JOHANNESBURG

THE South African economy shed 2.2 million jobs in the second quarter of 2020 and many South Africans are stressed about finding a new job in the current economic climate. Sethu, 29, was among the many South Africans who experienced retrenchment in 2020 due to the pandemic.

After job-hunting for almost four months, the social media manager had finally landed an interview with one of the country's leading advertising agencies and received the job offer after a strenuous interview process. However, Sethu declined the job offer solely because of a comment they made about her hair.

This is her story: I know a lot of people are going to think I'm ungrateful - given our current economic climate - but I just want to put it out there that no amount of money or benefits can buy you a good state of mind. Your mental health is important and it should be top priority.

When I got retrenched, I was obviously disappointed and stressed a bit but I wasn't devastated. I knew a greater opportunity would come my way and that everything happens for a reason. When I was job hunting, I was very specific about the type of company I want to work for and the type of people I wanted as colleagues.

I've worked in extremely toxic



Woman in afro-hairs. workplaces and it affected my mental health to a point where I was diagnosed with clinical depression. At the

last stage of the interview process, both potential line managers made a slight remark about my 4C kinky afro, saying: "Is that your hair? It's so big. Does it take long to brush? How will you manage to be on time for work everyday?"

They said this giggling and thought it was a joke, but it was at that moment I knew that I wouldn't want to expose myself to workplace microaggressions. My response to the racial micro-aggression was: "my hair is not a reflection of my punctuality and my work ethic. I've worn my hair like this for years and it has never been a problem."

I received my job offer a week after but I knew I had to decline it. This may appear as an 'on the surface' comment, but black women have had to assimilate to white standards of beauty and professionalism for a very long time.

Racial microaggressions at work not only affect your self-esteem but your mental health as well. They are usually subtle, yet the intentional racial biases and stereotypes make it hard for black people to get jobs on merit or advance their careers.

And I've noticed that black women who wish to succeed in the workplace feel compelled to undertake costly, time-consuming, and harsh measures to conform their natural hair to a stereotyped look of professionalism that mimics the appearance of white women's hair.

I am currently freelancing, but I don't regret my decision. As I said, my mental health is important to me and I can't afford to be exposed to triggers which could potentially lead to being diagnosed with clinical depression again.

CELEBRITIES

Joe and Jill Biden appear on cover of 'People' magazine for first interview

WASHINGTON DC

JUST two weeks after taking up office, Joe and Jill Biden have graced their first magazine cover together as President and First Lady of the US. Appearing for a joint interview with People magazine, the couple spoke about their marriage, their return to the White House and the unexpected furniture item they brought with them.

It is a bed set for the president's youngest grandchild, Beau Biden Jr, located upstairs in the family residence. The baby was born last year to Biden's son, Hunter, brother of Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015 at age 46. The president spoke candidly about his 43-year marriage, saying: "Jill came along at a really important point and put my family back together. She's the glue that held it together, and I knew that I wanted to marry her shortly after I met her ... It's not that we don't fight

and argue sometimes. I'm just lucky." The president also said the Senate must put former president Donald Trump on trial since the House had impeached him over last month's riot at the US Capitol, which left five people dead.

"Otherwise it makes a mockery of the system," Biden said in his first White House interview since his swearing-in as president on January 20. A former senator himself, Biden has avoided saying whether or not he thinks the Senate should convict Trump, but he told People: "I'm not looking for retribution." "My job is to try to heal the country and move us forward, because I think we have so many opportunities as a country," he said in interview excerpts released on Wednesday, February 3. Biden also once again pledged that no family member will work in the administration.

"We're going to run this like the

Obama-Biden administration," he said. "No one in our family and extended family is going to be involved in any government undertaking or foreign policy. And nobody has an office in this place." Biden also told the magazine a story about rejecting the advice of an accountant who had told him years ago that he could bill the Senate for some of the fuel he pumped into the family car.

Biden said he told the accountant: "Here's how I look at it: The foul line is 15 feet away from the basket. Never get me closer than 17 feet, because it really is a matter of the public trust." "And we need to rebuild that trust in government," added Jill, who joined her husband for the interview featured in the magazine's February 15 issue, which will hit newsstands across the US on Friday, days before Trump's impeachment trial is set to open in the Senate.



The President and First Lady appear on the cover of the February 15 issue of 'People' magazine.

RECOGNITION

Mattel Inc: Our brand has earned a top global award



Mattel's Barbie brand dolls.

NEW YORK

MATTEL Inc. announced that its iconic Barbie brand has been named the 2020 top global toy property of the year by the NPD Group, a leading global information company in recognition of its diversity efforts.

A world where children can see their limitless aspirations reflected in the plastic they handle is a world we also want to play in, and as such, Barbie has been a film director, entrepreneur, robotics engineer, video game developer and a judge.

"Barbie has had over 200 careers. We like to say, 'there isn't a plastic ceiling that Barbie hasn't broken,'" Barbie global brand manager Lisa McKnight, said when they released the Barbie judge doll in 2019.

The company had created the Barbie Fashionistas line in 2015 - different to their Barbie Career Dolls range - after years of drawing criticism for promoting a slim, white, domestic image. And in 2021, Barbie is continuing its journey to represent global diversity and inclusivity in the fashion doll aisle with a new Fashionista lineup, including Ken in a wheelchair, Ken with rooted hair reflecting an afro and Barbie with lighter skin with vitiligo - all for the first time.

The brand is also rolling out new product packaging that includes a reusable bag for kids to carry their dolls and improve portable play.

The Barbie Fashionistas line is where the brand delivers the most diversity and inclusion and, since its inception, Barbie has introduced more than 175+ looks, offering girls a variety of skin tones, eye colours, hair colours and textures, body types and fashions to choose from.

Lisa McKnight, Senior Vice President and Global Head of Barbie and Dolls at Mattel, says:

"As Barbie accelerates to new heights as the No.1 global toy property, the message is clear that the Barbie brand is more relevant than ever. As the most diverse fashion doll line on the market, we take great responsibility in better reflecting the world around us and know there are many positive benefits to exposing children to dolls with different skin tones, hair types, abilities and more. "We are proud to offer an even wider range of diverse choices with the latest Barbie Fashionistas line so more kids see themselves reflected in our doll line."

Mattel then expanded its range last year by adding a doll with a prosthetic limb and another in a wheelchair. The line also introduced the first Barbie to wear a hijab in 2017. They have also since added pioneers and global icons to their collections, including Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Katherine Johnson and Ella Fitzgerald. The Fashionistas line already features over 170 "diverse dolls."

Over the past five years, the line has evolved to be more reflective of the world girls see around them by introducing more than 170 new looks, including: More skin tones, hair colours and textures, eye colours and facial structures (sculpt); Body diversity including tall, petite, curvy and a doll with a smaller bust, less defined waist and more defined arms; Dolls reflecting permanent disabilities, including a doll with a prosthetic limb and doll with a wheelchair and ramp; Updated Ken looks with a variety of skin tones, bodies, eye colours and hairstyles; Mattel now offers Barbie dolls that come in five body types, 22 skin tones, 76 hairstyles, 94 hair colours and 13 eye colours; and Ken dolls are available in four body types, 18 sculpts, 13 skin tones, nine eye colours and 22 hair colours.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 30 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20	Igizo: Mtego
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Art and lifestyle
21:30	ITV TOP 10
22:10	Isidingo rpt
00:30	DWTV

SUNDAY 31 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo rpt
11:40	Mjue zaidi
12:35	Movie: Wajanja wa Mjini rpt
14:00	Tamasha la michozo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Mtego
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:14	Bongo Movie: Kivuli
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 1 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
19:00	Jjue Sheria
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum
22:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

TUESDAY 2 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:30	Jungu kuu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	DWTV: Kesho leo rpt
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Tanzania yetu
21:30	Chetu ni chetu
22:15	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

WEDNESDAY 3 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
19:00	Jjue Sheria
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum
22:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

THURSDAY 4 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
9:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto
10:30	Shamba lulu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:30	Tanzania yetu
13:55	Habari za saa
14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi rpt
18:30	Jajina
19:00	Usafiri wako
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Malumbano ya hoja
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

FRIDAY 5 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
9:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Jajina rpt
13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kisilam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

SATURDAY 6 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha

SUNDAY 7 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo
11:40	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00	Movie rpt: Kivuli
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Mtego
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:14	Bongo Movie: Pumba
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

CAPITAL

Sat 30 Jan

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30	Eco@Africa rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
14:30	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
17:15	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Korean Drama: The Slave hunter
21:00	Out n'About
21:30	Movie: Eden
23:00	Series rpt: Itohan
01:00	Al Jazeera

Sun 31Jan

08:00	Aljazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
12:00	Jajina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	Series rpt: Itohan

Mon 01 Feb

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Itohan
16:30	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00	Eco@Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Shamba lulu
20:00	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
00:00	Al Jazeera

Tues 02 Feb

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Innovation
19:30	Jajina rpt
20:00	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30	Capital Prime
22:00	Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30	Eco@Africa
23:00	Al Jazeera

Wed 03 Feb

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Dakika 45:
22:45	The Décor
23:15	Al Jazeera

Thurs 04 Feb

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Business edition rpt
17:00	In good shape
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Turning the spotlight
19:30	Tanzania yetu
20:00	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Capchat rpt
23:00	Al Jazeera

WORLD

US Senate passes budget plan to advance Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID aid package

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's drive to enact a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus aid bill gained momentum on Friday as the U.S. Senate narrowly approved a budget blueprint allowing Democrats to push the legislation through Congress in coming weeks with or without Republican support.

At the end of about 15 hours of debate and votes on dozens of amendments, the Senate found itself in a 50-50 partisan deadlock over passage of the budget plan. That deadlock was broken by Vice President Kamala Harris, whose "yes" vote provided the win for Democrats.

This was a "giant first step" toward passing the kind of comprehensive coronavirus aid bill that Biden has put at the top of his legislative agenda, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

Shortly before the final vote, Democrats flexed their muscles by offering an amendment reversing three earlier votes that Republicans had won.

Those had used the coronavirus aid battle to voice support for the Canada-United States Keystone XL pipeline that Biden has blocked and support for hydraulic fracking to extract underground oil and natural gas.

Also overturned was a Republican amendment barring coronavirus aid to immigrants living in the United States

illegally.

With Democrat Harris presiding, she broke a 50-50 tie to overturn those Republican victories.

It marked the first time Harris, in her role as president of the Senate, cast a tie-breaking vote after being sworn in as Biden's vice president on Jan. 20.

Before finishing its work, the Senate approved a series of amendments to the budget outline, which had already passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday. As a result, the House must now vote again to accept the Senate's changes, which could occur as early as yesterday.

For example, the Senate added a measure calling for increased funding for rural hospitals whose resources are strained by the pandemic.

Senate Democrats and the Biden administration have said they want comprehensive legislation to move quickly to address a pandemic that has killed more than 450,000 Americans and left millions jobless.

They want to spend the \$1.9 trillion to speed COVID-19 vaccines throughout the nation. Other funds would extend special unemployment benefits that will expire at the end of March and make direct payments to people to help them pay bills and stimulate the economy.

They also want to send money to state



President Joe Biden

and local governments dealing the worst health crisis in decades.

But as the hours wore on and dozens of amendments were offered, exhausted senators mainly spent the night disposing of Republican ideas, such as ending all U.S. foreign aid and prohibiting Congress from expanding the U.S. Supreme Court beyond its current nine justices.

RANGE OF ISSUES

Senators voted on issues ranging from immigration and abortion to energy and taxes. But none of the approved amendments will carry the force of law in a budget blueprint and mainly are guidelines for developing the actual coronavirus aid bill in coming weeks.

More importantly, the budget plan unlocks a legislative tool called reconciliation that is designed to let Democrats approve Biden's \$1.9 trillion proposal by a simple majority.

Most legislation must get at least 60 votes in the 100-seat Senate to advance. But the chamber is divided

50-50 and Republicans oppose the Democratic president's proposal. Reconciliation would allow the Senate's 48 Democrats and two independents who align with them to approve the relief package, with a tie-breaking vote from Harris.

Republicans have countered the budget plan with proposals that would be less than one-third the cost. While their plan dovetails with the Democrats' in some respects, Biden has deemed it as too anemic to put the country back on its feet after a year of suffering through the pandemic.

A group of 10 Republican senators who met with Biden at the White House on Monday sent him a letter on Thursday saying that significant amounts of money already appropriated by Congress have not yet been spent.

Last year, Congress passed emergency bills totaling around \$4 trillion to deal with the health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus.

In early voting on Thursday, senators delivered a message to the Biden administration that direct payments should be tailored to those who need the money the most, as it voted 99-1 to recommend that high-income earners not qualify for a new round of government checks that could amount to \$1,400 for individuals.

Senators did not specify income limits. But an earlier round of direct payments placed thresholds of \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for married couples before the money would start scaling down.

"The decent compassionate thing is for us to target the relief to our neighbors who are struggling every day to get by" during the coronavirus pandemic, said Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, author of the proposal.



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga

Japanese PM promises to do everything to resolve territorial dispute with Russia

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has promised to exert every effort to get closer to the solution of the issue of the Northern Territories (the Southern Kuril Islands - TASS). The head of Japanese government stated this during a debate of the budgetary commission of the national parliament on Thursday.

"I will exert every effort in order to get closer to the solution of the issue of the Northern Territories by at least half a step," he said in response to a corresponding question by one of the lawmakers.

The prime minister also emphasized that further talks with Russia directed at resolving the territorial issue and concluding a peace agreement will be conducted on the basis of all agreements previously reached by the two countries, including the agreements concluded in Singapore in 2018 on accelerating the pace of peace negotiations based on the 1956 Joint Declaration.

Since the middle of the last century, Moscow and Tokyo have been intermittently negotiating a peace agreement following World War II.

The main obstacle to its conclusion was the question of the ownership of the southern part of the Kuril ridge.

In 1945, the entire archipelago was incorporated into the Soviet Union, but the Japanese side disputes the belonging of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan, and the group of now uninhabited islands, which in Japan is called Habomai.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly stressed that Russian sovereignty over them, which has the appropriate international legal form, is beyond question. **Agencies**

Google launches paid-for news platform in Australia

CANBERRA

TECH giant Google yesterday launched a platform in Australia offering news it has paid for, striking its own content deals with publishers in a drive to show legislation proposed by Canberra to enforce payments, a world first, is unnecessary.

Only rolled out previously in Brazil and Germany, the News Showcase platform was originally slated for launch last June. But Alphabet Inc-owned Google delayed plans when Canberra moved to make it a legal requirement for Google and Facebook to pay Australian media companies for content, unprecedented anywhere else in the world.

The tech firm, still lobbying the Australian government in private meetings, has previously said was the legislation was "unworkable" and would force it to pull out of the country altogether if implemented.

With the legislation now before a parliamentary inquiry, Friday's launch of News Showcase in Australia will see it pay seven domestic outlets, including the Canberra Times, to use their content.

Financial details of the content deals weren't disclosed, and Canberra Times publisher Australian Community Media didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Google said yesterday in a statement it looked forward to striking agreements with more Australian publishers, whose position has been bolstered by Canberra's aggressive push back against Facebook and Google.

"This provides an alternative to the model put forward by the Australian government," said Derek Wilding, a professor at the University of Technology Sydney's Centre for Media Transition.

"What remains to be seen is if larger publishers sign on to the product," said Wilding.

Last month, Reuters said it had signed a deal with Google to be the first global news provider to Google News Showcase. Reuters is owned by news and information provider Thomson Reuters Corp. Google declined to add further comment when contacted by Reuters.

Google and a French publishers' lobby agreed to a copyright framework last month for the tech firm to pay news publishers for content online, in a first for Europe.

Under Canberra's proposed legislation, Google and Facebook would have to pay Australian publishers and broadcasters for content included in search results or news feeds as well. If they failed to strike a deal with publishers, a government-appointed arbitrator would decide the price. **Agencies**

China willing to share nuclear technology for peaceful use - expert

BEIJING

CHINA will further promote international cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, sharing technologies from its new third-generation reactor, which has just gone into commercial use, according to a senior expert on Sunday.

The No. 5 unit in the city of Fuqing, in east China's Fujian Province, China's first nuclear power unit using Hualong One, a domestically designed third-generation reactor, began generating electricity for sale on Saturday.

"We are willing to provide to other countries worldwide with the Hualong technology, including main components, personnel training, as well as our experiences in global cooperation," said Xing Ji, chief designer of Hualong One, in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

"We also expect wider cooperation with other countries in

developing new technologies on nuclear energy," said Xing, who is also chief engineer of the China Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation.

China has actively participated in international organizations in the field of nuclear energy, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, to promote international technological exchanges.

It also plays a significant role in ITER, the world's largest nuclear fusion experiment, and works with other countries to tackle challenges in this regard.

Boasting 716 national patents and 65 international ones, over 200 overseas trademarks, and 125 software copyrights, Hualong One is China's homegrown model of the safer and more efficient third-generation reactor.

Safety is usually a massive concern for nuclear plants, only sharpened by Japan's 2011 Fukushima disaster. Hualong One has a designed life of



60 years and meets the strictest safety standards in the world.

Hualong One's reactor core contains 177 fuel assemblies. The design can increase the unit's power while making it safer, according to Xing.

The reactor comes complete with a combination of active and passive safety systems. The passive safety system, which relies on natural forces like gravity, provides an extra safety net for the reactor when all power supplies shut down in emergencies, Xing said.

The Hualong One is de-

signed to resist damage from the equivalent of a 9-magnitude earthquake or an aircraft impact, Xing said.

It can avoid nuclear leakages and quickly restart operations, even in extreme circumstances like those of Fukushima, where an earthquake was coupled with a tsunami. Nuclear power is considered a clean energy source, promoted for global low-carbon development. Hualong One's step forward in commercial operations demonstrates China's commitment to green development as a responsible country, Xing

said.

China has vowed to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Xing believed that these goals call for much more reliance on low-carbon alternatives like nuclear power. The No. 5 unit will likely generate nearly 10 billion kWh of electricity each year, potentially reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 8.16 million tonnes in annual terms, according to the China National Nuclear Corporation data.

Hualong One has also extended the refueling interval to 18 months, making it more cost-effective, according to Xing.

He also mentioned that China has achieved fruitful results in the research of fourth-generation nuclear-energy technology for commercial use. It has made breakthroughs in the technologies of fast neutron reactors and high-temperature gas-cooled reactors. **Xinhua**

BY LIA ZHU

Yale admissions lawsuit dropped

THE US Department of Justice (DOJ) dropped its lawsuit accusing Yale University of discriminating against Asian and white applicants in undergraduate admissions, as the debate over affirmative action in higher education heads for a possible showdown at the Supreme Court.

Wednesday's voluntary dis-

missal of the lawsuit, which had been brought by the administration of former US president Donald Trump, followed a Nov 12 decision by a federal appeals court that Harvard University's use of race in undergraduate admissions complied with federal civil rights law. In a letter to

Yale's lawyer, Gregory Friel, deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights, said the Justice Department dropped the Yale case "in light of all available facts, circumstances, and legal developments", including the Harvard case.

He said the department, now under the administration

of US President Joe Biden, will review the matter through its administrative process.

In an open letter, Yale President Peter Salovey welcomed the department's decision.

He said the university was committed to an academic environment "built on a wide range of strengths and back-

grounds", and confident its admissions process "complies fully with decades of Supreme Court decisions". But Yukong Zhao, the president of the Asian American Coalition for Education, said: "I am totally shocked by the Biden DOJ's hasty decision to drop the Yale lawsuit, only eight days after President Biden signed an executive order claiming to combat anti-Asian discrimination."

India sees significant drop in daily cases, progress in vaccinations

NEW DELHI

INDIA is making progress in battling COVID-19, seeing declining cases and increasing vaccinations coupled with low mortality but high recovery rates.

Counting 160,057 active COVID-19 cases as of Feb 3, India still has the second-highest number of confirmed infections in the world at more than 10 million, but over the past four months it has seen a steady and steep decline in new cases, according to the country's Union ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Health Organization.

After reaching a high of 95,735 on

Sept 10, India's daily new COVID-19 cases dropped to 8,635 - the lowest in 8 months, the ministry stated on Feb 2.

Recovery and case fatality rates for India are 96.94 percent and 1.44 percent respectively. Compared to similarly placed countries, the cases and deaths per million people in India is among the lowest (7,778 cases and 112 deaths per million people), India's junior minister of health and family welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey said.

In light of the lower infection rate, the government lifted remaining restrictions, allowing swimming pools, cinemas and exhibition halls to operate at full capacity from Feb

1. Restaurants, bars and shops have been opened across the country. Schools have opened partially.

"COVID-19 cases have fallen very rapidly," said Sudhanshu Bankata, a doctor at a private hospital in the national capital. Patients have been declining since December; the hospital where he works has only four COVID-19 patients whereas the number was more than 100 just three months ago, he added.

A larger part of the population develops antibodies and becomes immune to the virus, the chain of transmission is broken, and this reduces the spread of the disease and this is called herd immunity, according to the fifth serological

survey report carried out by Delhi government.

As part of the survey, blood samples of people of different age groups were collected and found that about 56 per cent of the over 28,000 people have developed antibodies against COVID-19.

According to the WHO, between 60 per cent and 70 per cent immunity is needed to break the chain of transmission.

Government's strategy of focusing on testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine-containment, combined with physical distancing, hand hygiene, use of mask or face covers, closure of schools, work places and containment strategy

helped in preventing the disease from spreading, Choubey said in the Parliament.

Countering the government, Shahid Jameel, a virologist and director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University said, "All data suggest that sufficient numbers of people in India have been exposed to the virus. This is the only logical explanation why India did not see a surge after the festive season in October and November."

India has confirmed 10.8 million COVID-19 infections, the most anywhere outside the United States, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Wednesday.

About one in four of India's 135

crore people may have been infected with the coronavirus, said a source with direct knowledge of a government serological survey.

It suggests that the country's real caseload was many times higher than reported, which puts India's actual cases well above 30 crore.

The state-run Indian Council of Medical Research, which conducted the survey, said it would announce the findings very soon.

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said last Saturday that India's COVID-19 recovery rate was 97 per cent while its 1.44 per cent fatality rate was the lowest in the world. **Agencies**

Facilities in Wuhan get visit from WHO team

AN international expert team from the World Health Organization has visited a number of key facilities in Wuhan, Hubei province, in recent days, including food markets, disease control centers and a research institution, as their scientific research into the origin of the novel coronavirus makes progress, the National Health Commission said on Thursday.

Commission spokesman Mi Feng said the team had visited Wuhan Baishazhou Agricultural Market, Huanan Seafood Market, Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Hubei Provincial Center for Animal Disease Control and Prevention, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"The WHO team has talked with relevant administrative personnel, experts, business owners, residents and media representatives there," he said during a news conference.

Mi added that team members have also had talks with experts from the Wuhan Blood Center and Huazhong Agricultural University.

The visiting team arrived in Wuhan on Jan 14 and began field visits on Jan 28 after completing the mandatory 14-day quarantine required for inbound travelers.

Previously, the team had visited two local hospitals - Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine and Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital - where some of the earliest COVID-19 patients were treated.

Peter Daszak, a British zoologist and a team member, said on social media on Wednesday that the team had an "extremely important meeting" with researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including the leading scientist Shi Zhengli, who had firmly dismissed conspiracy theories that the virus was leaked from the institute in Wuhan.

"Frank, open discussion. Key questions asked and answered," Daszak said in a social media post that described the meeting.

In a video interview with British television news channel Sky News, Daszak said that China's openness and willingness to cooperate with the international expert team is being felt every day.

"They are sharing data with us that we've never seen before, that no one has seen before. They are talking with us openly about every possible pathway," he said, adding that any scientific inquires concerning people's lives are sensitive worldwide and appropriate constraints are necessary.

He stressed that on-site visits in Wuhan had enabled team members to directly pose significant questions.

"We do not just wander around and take a few pictures. We look into things and ask questions. We talked to people who collected the samples from the market that tested positive," he said.

In China, the virus has been largely brought under control despite a number of outbreaks in recent weeks.

As of Wednesday, the country had administered over 31.23 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to people deemed at higher risk of catching the virus, including public service employees, and coldchain and port workers, according to commission spokesman Mi.

Kremlin dismisses Biden's demand to release Navalny as aggressive rhetoric

MOSCOW

THE demand of US President Joe Biden to release blogger Alexey Navalny comes down to "aggressive and unconstructive rhetoric," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated.

"This is a very aggressive and unconstructive rhetoric, unfortunately," the spokesman told reporters on Friday. "Any hints of an ultimatum are absolutely unacceptable to us." The spokesman stressed that Moscow would not pay attention to such statements.

According to Peskov, Russia hopes that the US will show political will towards further cooperation, as despite many differences, there is a basis for cooperation. "We still expect the Americans to show political will to continue communication in the areas beneficial to us," he added.

In his speech on Thursday on foreign policy issues, Biden accused Russia of suppressing freedoms and demanded that Navalny be freed.

"The politically-motivated jailing of Alexei Navalny and the Russian efforts to suppress freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are a matter of deep concern to us and the international community," Biden said. "He should be released immediately and without condition."

Agencies

US climate envoy Kerry calls new Chinese counterpart 'leader'

WASHINGTON

US climate envoy John Kerry said on Thursday he expected to speak to his new Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua soon and called him a "leader" and a "capable advocate" for his country on the issue of global warming.

Kerry, who reports directly to US President Joe Biden and will represent the United States in future climate talks, said he got word on Wednesday of China's selection of Xie for the job of special climate envoy.

"We haven't spoken yet. We will at the appropriate moment. Shortly, I'm sure," Kerry told Reuters in an interview. "I know him very well because I've worked with him for ... 20 years or so."

Xie led the Chinese delegation in global climate negotiations from 2007 to 2018. Biden brought the United States back into the international Paris climate accord that tackles global warming after his predecessor, Donald Trump, withdrew the country from the pact.

Agencies

People-to-people exchanges indispensable to stable China-US ties

BEIJING

SINCE Beijing and Washington established diplomatic ties 42 years ago, people-to-people exchanges between the two sides have worked as a bridge and lubricant key to the improvement of the bilateral relations.

Such exchanges, once supported by the leadership of both sides, have thrived in various fields with fruitful results.

Yet regrettably, the previous U.S. administration launched a China-bashing campaign in the past four years, casting a chill over those building the bridge from both ends.

The fact that such bonds have withstood the headwinds should not be taken for granted. Beijing has expressed its readiness to restore normalcy to the bilateral relations, while for the U.S. administration taking office two weeks ago, fostering the bonds will help it better get along with China.

When "Ping Pong Diplomacy" thawed China-U.S. relations in the 1970s, the Chinese and American people developed an awareness that the two sides can make way for cooperation thanks to the sports spirit.

After the test of the 2008 financial crisis and the launch of the U.S.-China High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE) in 2010, the people-to-people bonds between the two sides, together with political mutual trust and business ties, formed the three major pillars of bilateral relations.

Forty-two years on, such exchanges in areas of education, science and technology, culture, sports, women, youth and health have helped both sides better understand each other, gluing them together tighter and tighter.

America itself has been a big beneficiary of those exchanges. As individual visits between the two countries increased from only thousands in the 1970s to over 5.3 million in 2017, many U.S. companies, such as Procter & Gamble, Corning glass and General Motors, recorded their biggest boom in China.

During the prime time, more than 400,000 Chinese students studied in the United States and about 20,000 U.S. students in China.

According to U.S. statistics, Chinese students studying in America during 2018-2019 accounted for about



Graduate students from China attend the Columbia University Commencement ceremony in New York, the United States, May 22, 2019. (Xinhua)

a third of international students, contributing about 15 billion U.S. dollars to America in a year.

The reciprocal exchanges encountered "cold spells" as the last U.S. administration moved to restrict Chinese journalists, suspend Chinese students' visas, shut down Confucius Institutes and suppress Chinese companies.

The acts of sabotage by some China hawks disrupted normal bilateral interactions, instigated hatred among the public, and undermined the all-round relations.

Those ill-willed acts were so unpopular that 100 U.S.-based experts, including Ezra Feivel Vogel, the late professor emeritus at Harvard University, wrote to then U.S. President Donald Trump in 2019, stressing that "China is not an en-

emy."

People-to-people exchanges between China and the United States are indispensable not only because the two sides are so interdependent but also because the world calls for diversity and cooperation instead of isolation and confrontation.

This is why despite the onslaught of COVID-19 and Washington's relentless blows to China-U.S. relations, the Chinese and American people are reaching out to each other.

Local governments, businesses, civil groups and individuals in the United States rendered their support to China's anti-pandemic fight and likewise, many cities, companies, institutions and ordinary people in China stood out to facilitate U.S. purchases of Chinese medical

supplies.

Mountains do not meet, but people do. "A review of history and reality points to one thing: cooperation between China and the United States is desired by the people in both countries, and such trend cannot be reversed," senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi said in an online conversation with board members of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

About six years ago, when welcoming a Chinese delegation in Washington for the sixth U.S.-China CPE, Joe Biden, then U.S. vice president, said "the (people-to-people) exchange has led to concrete progress in our relationship." Now, as one of the most important bilateral relations in the world stands at a crossroads, removing the blocks to people-to-people exchanges can be a good start for the Biden administration. The two peoples' bonds can consolidate the foundation of bilateral ties and mitigate the risk of confrontation in adverse times. They definitely deserve to be enhanced for the benefits of the two peoples and countries.

Xinhua

Patron of Myanmar's National League for Democracy arrested

YANGON

U Win Htein, patron of Myanmar's National League for Democracy (NLD), was arrested late Thursday, an official from the Myanmar Police Force told Xinhua yesterday.

The 80-year-old patron, who is believed to be a trusted confidant of the party's chair, Aung San Suu Kyi, was taken to a district police station in Nay Pyi Taw, soon after his arrival in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. Kyi Toe, a member of the party's information committee, wrote on his social media account earlier.

Meanwhile, President U Win Myint and Suu Kyi, who is also state counselor, are remanded in custody for violating the National Disaster Management Law and Import-Export Law until Feb 15, according to a senior military official.

The two were detained by the military, along with other NLD officials early Monday.

The NLD recently posted a statement



This photo shows police vehicles parked on Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon, Myanmar, Feb 1, 2021. (AP)

on its social media page demanding the military release the detained leaders,

acknowledge the results of 2020 general election and stop any disturbances

which are hindering the process of convening the third parliamentary session.

The United Nations Security Council called for the release of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi and others detained by the military and stressed the need to uphold democracy.

The 15-member UN Security Council said in a statement agreed by consensus on Thursday that they "stressed the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes, refrain from violence, and fully respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law."

The Biden administration is considering an executive order in response to the military takeover in Myanmar and potentially targeted sanctions on individuals and military-controlled entities, national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Thursday.

China's UN mission said Beijing hoped the key messages in the statement "could be heeded by all sides and lead to a positive outcome" in Myanmar.

Agencies

Xiong'an New Area in China provides model for high-quality development

BEFORE the arrival of the year of 2021, the Beijing-Xiong'an intercity railway linking China's capital city Beijing with Xiong'an New Area, a state-level new area in north China's Hebei province, opened to traffic.

It has shortened the travel time between Beijing West Railway Station and Xiong'an New Area to 50 minutes, and made it possible for passengers to reach the newly-built Beijing Daxing International Airport from the new area in 19 minutes.

Since April 1, 2017, when China announced its plans to establish Xiong'an New Area, the new area has witnessed how a blueprint has been turned into road maps, project schedules, and construction drawings within a few years.

As the first large-scale transport facility that broke ground since the establishment of the new area, Xiong'an Railway Station was completed on schedule and stared to serve travelers from all directions thanks to two years of hard work of constructors.

On nearly 300 construction sites of the new area, more than 100,000 builders are working tirelessly according to schedules of projects while ensuring strict measures for the prevention and control of the COVID-19, striving to make their own contributions to the high-quality development of the Xiong'an New Area.

In the first more than two years after its establishment, Xiong'an New Area had focused its efforts on planning, as it didn't want to rush into construction before it had a clear plan.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's call for



Photo taken on Dec. 19, 2020, shows construction workers busy with the final construction of the west square of the Xiong'an Railway Station in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei province.

"global vision, international standards, distinctive Chinese features, and future-oriented goals" in the planning and construction of Xiong'an New Area has served as an important guideline for the development of the area.

So far, top-level design for the new area, including planning and policy systems, has been basically completed.

At present, construction of key districts and projects are in full swing in the new area, which has witnessed changes with each passing day as builders devote themselves to the construction of infrastructure including transport, water

conservancy, and public service facilities, a close-to-nature forest system, and resettlement housing.

While major construction projects make Xiong'an New Area more beautiful, various other projects and schemes are also underway across the area, creating positive changes in the area in a gradual and orderly manner.

In the construction of the Xiong'an Railway Station, builders adopted building information modeling (BIM) technology, which enable engineers to provide an accurate description and calculation for the use of every inch of

steel in the facility.

Resettlement buildings in Xiong'an New Area have been delivered after strict quality inspection. Construction supervisors have made sure that every little detail of the houses met relevant standards before they were accepted, including the exposed screw threads at the mechanical joints of reinforcement bars in walls.

The efforts to explore smart building and ensure strict quality control have laid a solid foundation for high-quality and high-standard construction of projects in the Xiong'an New Area.

Not long ago, the administrative committee of Xiong'an New Area issued measures for the trial implementation of residence permit and points-based household registration system in the new area, marking an important step in the new area's endeavor to deepen the reform of its population management system and services.

In recent years, builders have come to Xiong'an New Area from various parts of the country to chase their dreams, and have created a brand new area which is praised as China's "city of the future".

Some recalled that when they first came to the new area, the high-standard modern Xiong'an Railway Station was still quiet wilderness.

As wave after wave of builders diligently strive for excellence and realize their own value in the development of Xiong'an New Area, the new area is expected to maintain its fast growth momentum, and finally amaze everyone with a spectacular look in the new era.

People's Daily

SPORT



Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)'s Executive Director, Anna Henga.

Human Rights Centre organizes marathon

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 1000 human rights stakeholders in Tanzania are expected to participate in a race, known as 'Haki Marathon', organized by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), to increase awareness on the importance of protecting human rights.

The LHRC Executive Director, Anna Henga, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the event will take place at Farasi ground at Oysterbay, Kinondoni.

Anna disclosed that the 'Haki Marathon' also gears towards increasing accountability and transparency in the community in protecting human rights across the country.

She said over 1000 participants have already confirmed to attend, adding they will participate in three categories.

She noted runners in one of the categories will feature in 21km race, the second category will bring together the 10km race participants, there will also be the 5km race category.

"In order to strengthen unity and solidarity among human rights stakeholders, LHRC through the 'Haki Marathon', brings together participants from private, public sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and human rights clubs across the country," Anna stated.

"Therefore, it is our hope that event will play a big role of reminding the society on the importance of uniting to have rights and equal community," she said.

The LHRC's Executive Director pointed out that according to the 2019 Human Rights report released by LHRC last year, women harassment has increased, a situation that

needs solution.

She stated the report moreover revealed that in a period between January and June 2019, a total of 3709 cases related to women and children's rape were reported in different police stations across the country.

"LHRC believes that this year's 'Haki Marathon' will help to increase awareness on the impact of gender harassment and the importance of protecting and respecting human rights," she insisted.

According to her, if human rights will be protected, the community will be sustainable.

She said the approach will also warn men against harassing women, children and people with disabilities.

She asked all human rights stakeholders to unite and realize the Sustainable Development Goal including eradicating poverty and having equal society by 2030.

The 2019 Human Rights report, among others, recommended to the government, through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, to spearhead the enactment of the law on rights and protection to complement the National Age policy.

It further recommended to the CSOs and social welfare departments within local governments to increase awareness on violence against women and children and encourage community members to report incidents to relevant authorities so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice.

The report further revealed recommendations to the community members to perform their duties of protecting and safeguarding children's rights, and refraining from conducting acts of abuse to children.

Youthful Osaka, Barty stand in way of Serena's path to 24th Slam

MELBOURNE

SERENA Williams continues her long quest for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam when the coronavirus-delayed 2021 Australian Open begins on Monday, four years since her last major triumph in Melbourne.

It may be this season or never for Williams, who turns 40 in September and will have to conquer a field bursting with young talent headed by US Open champion Naomi Osaka, defending champion Sofia Kenin and the home favourite, world number one Ash Barty.

The tournament was put back three weeks to allow all players to quarantine for 14 days, but a coronavirus case at a hotel saw all play shelved Thursday in warm-up events with hundreds of players and officials ordered back into isolation for Covid tests.

Williams says she had benefited from the delays, using them to recover fully from the nagging Achilles injury sustained during her run to the semi-finals at the US Open, which subsequently caused her to withdraw from Roland Garros.

"I needed time. I don't think I would have been here if it was during the regular season," she said this week. "I definitely was pushing the limits, but I'm here." Williams won her 23rd Grand Slam singles title at the Australian Open in January 2017, then revealed she had been pregnant with daughter Olympia.

She has reached four major finals since, twice at Wimbledon and twice at the US Open, but

left empty-handed each time and coronavirus-disrupted 2020 was the first year since 2006 that she failed to reach a Slam final.

Osaka comes into Melbourne as US Open champion, as she did two years ago before battling past Petra Kvitova in an epic final to lift the Australian Open's Daphne Akhurst Cup.

- Osaka's rise -

The Japanese icon last year overtook Williams to become the world's highest paid female athlete, according to Forbes magazine, and arguably the face of the sport after campaigning for diversity and social justice.

Osaka won widespread praise for her outspoken support of the Black Lives Matter movement during the coronavirus shutdown and at the US Open, where the 23-year-old wore a different mask each round emblazoned with the name of a victim of systemic racism or police brutality.

"I feel like the last year changed me a lot," she said. "There was a lot of things I was struggling with, and I feel like during quarantine I really had to dig deep in myself and try to figure it out for myself."

The 2019 French Open winner and top seed Barty will carry the nation's hopes of a first home champion in more than 40 years, having come close last year when agonisingly losing a tight semi-final 7-6 (8/6), 7-5 to eventual champion Kenin.

Barty had been in unrivalled form pre-pandemic, winning an Australian Open warm-up in Adelaide to add to four WTA titles in 2019, including her maiden major at Roland Garros.

SPORTS

Dar cycling outfit ready for Zanzibar race

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM's Matambuu cycling outfit's riders have promised to perform well at the Zanzibar tourism event which gets underway at Gambiani in the Isles today.

Matambuu Cycling Club manager, Geoffrey Mhagama, said the outfit's eight riders are ready for the event which is organized by Zanzibar Tourist Commission.

He said this is the first time that Matambuu Cycling Club is competing at the event.

Mhagama said Duathlon is the format to be used in the cycling event.

He said Duathlon involves cycling for 78 kilometers and then competitors participate in running in 1km race.

He stated: "It will be a difficult event especially to us because it will involve 78 kilometers of cycling and one kilometer running."

"The running event will be difficult to us as we are not good in that aspect, we will do our best in cycling because that is where we are the best," he said.

He mentioned riders set to represent his club as Gerald Konda, Hassan Shariff, Masunga Duba, Kisibo Ndakama, Boniface Ngwate, Pastory Musa, Noel Solomon, Sameer Rashid and Adam Mabby.

He noted that Mauled Amaan and Aman Munishi are the officials set to head to Zanzibar with the riders.

Matambuu Cycling Club was formed last year and it is made up of many cyclists who are members of the national team.

Mhagama who is also National Cycling Association (Chabata) Secretary General said the club is aiming at promoting the sport in the country.



A section of riders from Team Matambuu feature in a recent race, held in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TEAM MATAMBUU

Club officials should adhere to FIFA rules, says Rage



Ismail Aden Rage

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Simba SC Chairman Ismail Aden Rage has disclosed many football officials in Tanzania regularly ignore rules set by the world soccer governing body, FIFA, and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and changes applied to the rules.

Rage's comments have come in the wake of a payment row, which had domestic soccer giants, Yanga, being asked by FIFA to pay their former forward, Amissi Tambwe, his unpaid sign-on fees and other payments.

According to him, the officials' refusal to adhere to the rules lead to their failure to know how to enter into contracts with players.

Tambwe sued Yanga for failure to settle the debt of more than 40m/-, which had to be paid before he left

the club three seasons ago.

Rage said many soccer leaders in Tanzania ignore debts their respective sides have after the officials come to power.

He noted such officials feel they are not supposed to settle such issues.

He disclosed: "Most Tanzanians do not like to read, we do not read the rules, FIFA and CAF rules, we do not follow the new changes through FIFA News and CAF News, we are just eager to argue against such rules."

He stated: "In Tambwe's issue, it is sad and this has been caused by our club leaders tendency to disregard contracts."

"I advise Yanga to pay the debts, I hear they also owe a Zambian player and a coach, they should pay them," he disclosed.

"Once they pay the money the penalty will be lifted, in football there is

something called 'fair play' and FIFA do not want to hurt people, so if the money is paid they will not face punishment."

"Our problem is that we do not read, if you ask many leaders right now I do not know if they know the rules of FIFA contracts," he noted.

Yanga's spokesman, Antonio Nugaz, made it clear that after FIFA had issued the order, they have already started addressing the issue.

He pointed out it is true that they were aware of the matter but they were late to act on it because they went to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in search of more justice.

"Every institution has debt, this though was delayed because it was presented to CAS, but now under FIFA's instructions, payment will be finalized within five days and there is no doubt our team will not face punishment," Nugaz noted.

SPORT

Soccer and AI: Could an algorithm really predict injuries?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Azam Football Club

Azam FC still in pursuit of VPL silverware, says official

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) giants, Azam FC, say they are still hopeful of winning this year's league trophy.

Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdulkarim Amin, in an interview, said although his team are placed third in the VPL's table, they can still win the tournament's trophy.

The outfit has posted 32 points from 17 games, 12 points adrift of the VPL leaders Yanga.

He said he is confident that they have a squad and technical panel which has hunger to win this season's silverware.

Amin said it has been the wish of his club to clinch the silverware, saying for the past 10 seasons, Azam FC has been in the top three spots in the Premier League table.

"We are placed third, but I'm sure we still have a chance of winning this season's trophy," he insisted.

He disclosed: "I have said so because we have a squad and technical panel which is hungry for winning it." Azam FC will tomorrow will play away to VPL defending champions Simba SC in a league clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Amin said the game will show football lovers how determined his side is to win the Premier League.

"On Sunday (tomorrow) we will play against Simba SC, that will be a game which will give people opportunity to see how determined we are to win this season's Premier League silverware," he said.

Azam FC last lifted the domestic top flight's trophy in 2012/13 season, the outfit started this season well, giving its followers hopes of winning the title.

However, they started losing games, a development which saw their Romanian coach Aristica Cioba being sacked and replaced by Zambian George Lwandamina.

Lwandamina started on a bad note as the team were registering draw in many games.

Commenting on the Sunday game, Lwandamina was reported in the press as saying that his side is ready for the game.

"We are ready for the game against Simba, of course it is a game which comes with tension and pressure but we are ready for them," he noted.

Azam FC will welcome back the team's leading goal getter, Prince Dube, who missed some of the squad's first phase games due to injury. He is expected to partner upfront with Ayoub Lyanga, who is enjoying good form.

Simba SC on Thursday beat Dodoma Jiji FC at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma and after the game the eventual winners' head coach, Didier Gomes, said his squad is focusing on the next tie.

"We have won today, but now the focus is on our next game against Azam FC, it will not be an easy clash as our opponents are also looking for points," he said.

All set for Dar-Moro cycling race

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Dar es Salaam-Morogoro cycling tour, hosted by the Twende Butiama Cycling Club, is expected to be held this weekend.

The tour, slated for February 6-7, will start in the city and head to Morogoro before the riders return to the city via the same route tomorrow.

Gabriel Landa, one of the event's organizers has confirmed that preparations for the event are almost complete.

Landa said that the tour, set to start at Ubungo early today, will take the Morogoro road, passing Chalinze in Coast Region before reaching Morogoro the same day later in the afternoon.

The tour, according to Landa, will be conducted in average pace of 25kph for all riders.

"I call on riders to come in big number to participate in this important tour, they should remember road bikes will be used during the tour," he said.

Landa added that all necessary arrangements, including an escort car, are in place for the event to take place as planned this weekend.

He stressed that the tour aims to, among others, promote cycling and local tourism of the three regions, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region and Morogoro.

Landa added that since riding is a game that keeps distances, it is necessary for them to organize such a tour for well-being too and support government's move to deal with coronavirus disease.

"Minister for Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dorothy Gwajima, has recently encouraged Tanzanians to do physical exercises as one of measures for protecting the body against coronavirus," he said.

He said they have already received good response from riders and he is optimistic many more confirmed by Friday (yesterday).

He said the race is also one of the preparations for this year's Twende Butiama race, which the longest cycling challenge that covers over 1,300 kilometres.

The Twende Butiama race is now organized annually to honour former President, Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

The Twende Butiama race is scheduled to take place in October this year.

According to Landa, this weekend's tour aims at keeping every rider fit and ready for over 1300km distance challenge.

Florent Ibenge lauds Simba SC's preps for CAF Champions League



AS Vita Club's head coach, Florent Ibenge.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FLORENT Ibenge, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club's head coach, has revealed that their first CAF Champions League's group stage match against Tanzania's Simba will be tough, given the latter have had many friendly matches.

The DRC giants and Simba are in Group A of the CAF Champions League, they will meet in the first clash on February 12 in Kinshasa.

Ibenge said that Simba's friendly matches against Al Hilal of Sudan and DRC's TP Mazembe are good preparations for their coming fixture.

The tactician stated he believes the next week's duel will be tough due to the clubs' quality.

"Simba are well prepared for the game against us, they played against Al Hilal and TP Mazembe and they notched good results, it shows how competent they are and they have good goals," he stated.

Simba hosted a special event, known as 'Simba Super Cup', in Dar es Salaam last week, with Al Hilal and TP Mazembe taking part in the event.

"For us, winning is important because we will be at home where it is important for us to emerge as winners, I know it will not be easy because if you look at Simba you will see that they are a good team but we will do our best to emerge as winners," he noted.

Simba won the 'Simba Super Cup' tournament, walloping Al Hilal 4-1 and notching 0-0 draw with TP

Mazembe. This season's Vodacom Premier League, on Thursday, saw Simba edge Dodoma Jiji FC 2-1 in Dodoma.

Simba will tomorrow play Azam FC in the domestic top flight at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In another development, Ibenge, who is also the head coach of DRC senior national team, is blamed by soccer fanatics in DRC for the team's exit in this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN) hosted by Cameroon.

The DRC national team crashed out of the quarterfinals, suffering defeat to hosts Cameroon.

The DRC soccer followers lamed Ibenge for that what is termed as his preference for mostly fielding players from AS Vita Club in the national team. Ibenge opted to start seven players from AS Vita Club in the national squad which confronted Cameroon, with a view to giving them match fitness heading into the CAF Club Champions League group stage.

However, Ibenge stayed positive and dashed those claims, insisting he did that due to missing key players who were out because of having tested positive for COVID-19.

Ibenge also praised his players for putting out wonderful displays.

"If we could play a whole match like that, we would be able to do better, obviously with a little more punch from our strikers who we missed a lot because they were still in quarantine," he disclosed.

"So, this is what has taken away from us a little bit in this competition. But in spite of everything the group is high quality so I'm not sad about it and I think there are some who will be able to play well in the country's senior team," he said.

Jean-Florent Ikwange Ibenge, aged 59, was born in Léopoldville on December 4, 1961. He was manager of Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua from April to May 2012, and of DRC national team and AS Vita Club from February 2014. He became manager of the DRC national team in August 2014, combining this role with his job at AS Vita Club to this very moment.

He led DRC national team to the 2016 CHAN title in February 2016, which took place in Rwanda, after beating Mali 3-0 to achieve the glory.

In March 2017, he announced that he intended to step down as national team's manager in 2018.

He resigned in August 2019, a situation which did not last long until he returned last year.

He also led DRC national team to three Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournaments.

He also made AS Vita Club as regulars in CAF Champions League every year, making it into the group stage.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

east africa RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Plane! Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

