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Students build self-charging electric vehicle



National Pg4

RC warns officials behind tobacco smuggling



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Firm opens new filling stations in Bagamoyo



BUSINESS Exim Bank donates 100 desks to schools in Shinyanga Region

Koica donates assorted items to Sisters of Mary Secondary School in Mkuranga

M-Pesa partners with local banks to extend credit services to Tanzanians

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ACT: Political Parties Act too harsh

Zaipuna is Africa's top banking CEO for this year

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc. CEO Ruth Zaipuna has won this year's African Banking CEO of the Year, climbing a series of high level recognition and awards since she took over as CEO on September 1, 2020.

The bank said in a statement yesterday that the awards were part of the 8th African Bank 4.0 Summit meant exclusively for CEOs, organised by BII World, an event management company which promotes innovation, technology and extensive networking through conferences and training.

At the ceremony in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi at the weekend, the organisers lauded the CEO for her individual credentials in spearheading the bank's operations and for playing a pivotal role in uplifting the banking industry in Tanzania generally.

Kenya Institute of Bankers CEO Julius Alengo handed the award to NMB Treasurer Aziz Chacha standing in for the CEO, who then remarked that the recognition was dedicated to all the bank's stakeholders.

"In Ruth's words, this award is dedicated to one of our greatest assets, which is our people and our staff, without whom this would not have been possible," he stated.

During Zaipuna's tenure, NMB has maintained its position among the most profitable banking entities in Tanzania, with its latest annual report showing that its profitability rises from strength to strength, chalking up an after-tax profit of 290bn/- in 2021.

"NMB's clients crossed the five-million mark in 2021 as the lender capitalised on digitalisation to reach an expanded segment of the country's unbanked popula-

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IPP Media journalists, mainly from The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers, in a group photo with Nipashe managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (6th-R) shortly after being feted as outstanding performers in 12 categories of last year's edition of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT). This was at a grand event held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday, with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa filling in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan as chief guest. Seventh left is ITV's Masekpa Masekpa, who emerged the Overall Winner.. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

IPP Media journalists top in 2021 EJAT event

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

The Guardian Limited (TGL) has this weekend outshined after many of its journalists emerged winners in the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2021.

During the ceremony, 12 journalists from The Guardian and its sister newspaper-Nipashe won awards in categories of education, health, investigation, tourism and conservation, human rights; oil/gas and mining, best photographer and cartoons, among others.

The contest involved 61 shortlisted entries from various media houses, drawing attention due to the quality of the presented works which the panel of judges shortlisted and accorded awards.

The winners include Francis Kajubi who emerged winner in the data category and first runner up in economics, business and finance reporting, while Beatrice Philemon won the tourism and conservation reporting category. Muhidini Msamba emerged best cartoonist.

Sanula Athanas of Nipashe emerged win-

ner in 'human rights reporting along with and science and technology category, Sabato Kasika (best photographer print) and Halfan Chusi (human rights, sharing the honour with Sanula Athanas).

First and second runner ups were Elizabeth Zaya - second runner up in oil/gas and mining reporting, Mary Geoffrey - second runner up in gender and children category.

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Kenya Institute of Bankers CEO Julius Alengo (L) pictured at a ceremony held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, at the weekend presenting the Best African Banking CEO of the Year Award for this year to NMB Bank Plc treasurer Aziz Chacha. The latter collected it on behalf of the bank's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zambian MPs want drugs be manufactured in Africa

By Henry Mwangonde

AFRICAN governments need to engage the private sector more fully in the production and distribution of pharmaceuticals, particularly on account of global pandemics. A ten-member delegation of Zambian legislators just through a visit to Tanzania made this appeal after a tour of Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Ltd (KPIIL) at Zegereni in Kibaha, Coast Region, at the weekend.

Heading the team was Dr Christopher Kalila, acting chairperson of the standing committee

for Health in the country's legislature, who remarked shortly after the tour that a strong private sector has immense potential of playing a decisive role in helping make the pharmaceutical subsector more high-tech. This would fast-track investments, improve the production and distribution of drugs while cutting production costs, he stated. "If African countries can produce medicinal drugs locally, they will have greater capacity to transport and reach their people faster and

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By Guardian Reporter

THE opposition ACT-Wazalendo has recommended wide-ranging changes in the Political Parties Act aiming at an even playing field for all parties, without government interference.

Party secretary general Ado Shaibu unveiled the proposed changes yesterday at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam, saying the recommendations submitted to the working group (presidential taskforce on democracy) were endorsed by the ACT central committee in Unguja recently.

We've come with 25 issues for big improvements in the Political Parties Act. We aim to reduce the responsibilities of the Registrar and remove crime from politics,

The party examined changes made in the law in 2019 which he said they disadvantaged opposition political parties and benefited the ruling party, citing the recommendation that party registration be conducted by an independent commission. Civic education prepared by political parties should not be controlled by the Registrar, he stated.

The office of the Registrar and his deputy from both sides of the Union, as per Sections 4(5)(f) and 5A is aimed at controlling training events organised by political parties, so these provisions should be removed so that parties are free to provide training. Immunity of the Registrar and his officials for any decisions they make also needs to be removed, the ACT intoned.

Other recommendations submitted include suggestions on Union issues and gender parity which should be adhered to in appointing the Registrar and his deputy.

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ACT: Political Parties Act is too harsh

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he stated. "Section 8(7) should be amended to expressly state the period of time the Registrar issues interim and permanent registration of parties. Section 8E should also be amended to enable parties to have security units for their leaders and party property, he further noted.

ACT proposals on gender equality demand that parties put a condition to at least have 30 per cent of their leadership positions offered to women, along with an additional stipulation (c) to Section 10(1) (c) to demand that state-controlled media be used by all political parties. Existing system of subsidies to political parties needs to be changed to include all parties that satisfy condition to participate in elections. The parties would not have received a poor audit certificate (from the Controller and Auditor General), and set to vie for parliamentary, district council or village representation, an also featuring 30 per cent of women in its leadership, to obtain subsidy funds.

"We've come with 25 issues for big improvements in the Political Parties Act. We aim to reduce the responsibilities of the Registrar and remove crime from politics," the party administrator intoned.

ACT-Wazalendo deputy chairperson, Doroth Semu said the party had looked in depth into the issue of gender equality in political parties, urging that the election system be amended to make the parity formula applicable in all positions being contested.

Ismail Jussa Ladhu, a ranking central committee member, said the party wishes to spell out the procedure for getting a new constitution that starts simultaneously with putting up an independent Electoral Commission.



Livestock and Fisheries ministry (Fisheries) permanent secretary Dr Rashid Tamatamah (R, gesturing) shows Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (L) in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, at the weekend an area set aside for the construction of a fisheries port. The minister said the government has allocated 100bn/- to the project, whose implementation will begin early next month. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

Zaipuna is Africa's top banking CEO for 2022

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tion," the organisers noted, elaborating that commendable growth rates were registered across various performance parameters, including assets size, loans and advances as well as customer deposits.

The level of non-performing loans

(NPLs) has been contained to within the regulatory thresholds. BII stated at the premium event that drew policymakers and high-profile authorities from Africa's banking and financial and technological tech sectors.

Participants attended a series of workshops and forums on the way forward for progressing Africa during

uncertain times by advancing digital inclusion, officials noted.

Alongside senior officials from the financial services sector, it attracted ministerial officials from relevant government bodies as well as regulators who participated in charting Africa's digital banking future.

BII said on its website that those being honoured were pioneers and visionaries "going the extra mile towards transforming the fintech industry and making access to finance in Africa more accessible, innovative, convenient and affordable.

"We admire the great brains who are coming up with breakthrough

technologies in every aspect of fintech to provide better and enhanced digital inclusion," it enthused, adding that technologies from startups, banks and technology solution providers have ground-breaking research needs to grab the centre stage.



Halima Ally Mbabe (L), a peer educator with a Tanga Region cluster, briefs Ummu Nderiananga (R), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), yesterday on the cluster's activities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

IPP Media journalists top in 2021 EJAT event

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Marco Maduhu coming second runner up in the open group and third runner up in human rights, all from Nipasha.

Other runners up were Christina Mwakangale (health reporting) and Jennifer Gilla (tourism and conservation) from The Guardian., with ITV journalist Masekepa Masekepa emerging as overall winner, upholding the IPP Media trend to bag top awards.

In 2009 the former ITV journalist Jerry Muro, currently Ikungi DC in Singida Region received overall EJAT top honour, while in 2018 veteran Nipasha reporter Salome Kitomari collected the trophy.

ITV journalist Jackline Silemu emerged best health reporter while Peter Rodgers also of ITV was second runner-up as best television photographer.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, officiating at the event, presented a lifetime award in journalism to journalism veteran Ndimara Tegambwage; urging journalists to ensure they all the time adhere to professional ethics.

They must continue informing the public by prioritizing patriotism and issues of national interest, he said, urging media practitioners to invest in conducting in-depth investigations. This will help to avoid confusing or insulting information, undermining the media industry, he stated.

"Well qualified journalists who consider the nation's interests in order to boost the country's development are crucial the sector," the premier added.

Zambian MPs want drugs be manufactured in Africa

FROM PAGE 1

more easily, especially during pandemics like Covid-19," he asserted. He remarked that Tanzania was leading the way in the Southern

African Development Community (SADC) zone in "laying the ground" for enhanced local production of pharmaceuticals. During the tour, the MPs saw that it is quite possible for African countries to produce drugs locally, he declared, underlin-

ing that what is required is to mobilise enough of the necessary resources by involving the private sector. Hellen Magita, site manager at the factory, said that the firm had started producing medical drips, having obtained a one-

year contract with the government to supply drips to hospitals across the country. The firm has invested 47bn/- "in the latest technology facilitating the production of intravenous infusion using polypropylene bottles and euro-caps," she

elaborated. The plant has installed capacity for 55m bottles of nine types of intravenous infusion to begin with, she stated, affirming that for the future, the firm is focused on making tablets, capsules, suspension drugs and

medical devices. The company is working on repackaging their products in small units for the retail market, including low level health centres, she added.

High school students build self-charging electric vehicle

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

STUDENTS at the new Arusha science high school have successfully designed and assembled a solar-powered truck capable of covering 160 kilometers in a single charge.

The vehicle was displayed during the high school's maiden graduation ceremony at the weekend.

"We nurture future scientists who move away from theory into practical productivity," said the school's Founder and Director, Prof Nuhu Hatibu.

But the rear axle driven car is self-charging, a giant 300 watts solar panel serves as both the roof on the driver's cabin as well as the sun energy trapper to power the four batteries with a total output of 48 volts.

Despite being on a trial stage, the vehicle can accelerate at 60 kilometers per hour while carrying more than 500 kilograms on its flatbed.

Walter Tairo and Glenyce Amani, both Form Five Students at Arusha Science High School, take awed visitors around the prototype.

The Solar-Powered electric vehicle is among the 26 applied science projects at the new school.

A team of five environment conscious students intending to change the way people travel devised the pick-up vehicle.

Walter, Glenyce and Kennedy Jackson, Eli-sha Emmanuel and Dorcas Vincent started working on the prototype vehicle in 2021.

At the moment, the car is working well,

doing errands inside the large school compound, and students as well as teachers proudly drive it.

But the industrious inventors are not yet through with it.

"We are still working on it," says Walter Tairo.

As it seems, they plan to further convert the truck into a self-driving vehicle.

The students want to computerize the model, feed it with digital maps, some artificial intelligence set-up and you can summon the vehicle from anywhere in the world through cloud computing.

Electric vehicles are now new; Tesla, Nissan, Apple, Google and Sony have been working on them.

Even in Tanzania, Safari Vehicle converters, such as Hanspaul Automech have been swapping diesel engines in Toyota Land-cruisers with electric motors.

However, where the students of Arusha Science shine is the fact that they build their prototypes from scratch using very minimal and extremely cheap materials.

For instance, the entire solar-powered vehicle cost less than USD 1300 to build.

And it works perfectly. In fact, the world inventor of motor vehicles Karl Benz and the electric car mogul, Elon Musk would have killed to be able to produce such a working prototype on the thrifty budget.

Arusha Science, established in 2020 may be a new institution, but the technological brains filling its classrooms are enough to make Nicola Tesla proud.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango's wife, Mbonimpaye Mpango (3rd-R, seated), follows a briefing by facilitators at a safe menstruation laboratory at World Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28) celebrations held in Kigoma Region on Saturday. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Reporter, Manyara

Govt to promote 999 retiring public servants

THE Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has supported 300 primary school pupils in Haydom, Mbulu District of Manyara Region with the reusable sanitary products and the special training on the proper way to handle menstruation.

The NCA extended the support as part of the commemoration of the International Menstrual hygiene Day which is marked on May 28 annually.

Speaking after receiving the hygiene products, Bettina Gadela, a14 years old and standard six pupil at Haydom primary school commended NCA for remembering them as she

was using pieces of clothes to cover herself during menstrual days.

"In my life I have never used a sanitary pad because my family cannot afford to buy them, I thank NCA now I have these new pads," she explained.

Berte Marie Ulveseter, Country Director NCA Tanzania said: "The day marks the importance of menstrual care and raises awareness about the issues faced by those who don't have access to sanitary products and safe toilets."

She said that NCA in Tanzania is a part of the "Period with dignity campaign" that works to ensure that all

girls and women have the opportunity to handle their menstruation in a dignified way.

"We work to give more people access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. We have distributed sanitary products and give women and girls access to safe toilets and provide training in how to handle menstruation in a good and safe way," Berte said.

The country director noted that more than 500 million women and girls worldwide lack access to adequate information, sanitary products, and facilities to manage their period.

Berte said, too many girls drop out

of school after their first period, 48 percent of girls miss classes during menstruation for example 36 percent stay home during days of heavy flow and 12 percent attend school at all.

She said NCA Tanzania want to change this, because everyone should be able to speak openly about menstruation and because the needs of millions of women and girls must be addressed and prioritised to uphold human dignity and basic human rights.

Speaking when providing education to pupils from various primary schools in Haydom, Maria Tsere, a Reproduc-

ive Child Health Service (RCHS) nurse at Haydom Lutheran hospital, asked pupils to not remain silent when facing difficulties during their menstrual days.

Communication and Advocacy officer of NCA Tanzania Nizar Utanga said during the commemoration NCA with their partners have conducted discussions for young boys and girls in primary and secondary schools in Kigoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Kilwa and Lindi so as to identify the understanding, challenges, and opportunities to end menstrual stigma and end menstrual poverty.

The discussion also involved child caretakers, schoolteachers, health service providers, paralegals, and agronomists.

The Officer added that they have also engaged high level religious leaders who are GBV champions by sharing pictures of religious leaders from different districts, holding posters with "Period with dignity" and developing a short film conveying a unified appeal to break the taboo.

Utanga added that in order to break the period stigma, NCA also engages boys in schools to make them understand the importance of respecting girls and especially when they are in menstruation days.

Norwegian Church supports 300 primary school pupils in Haydom

By Guardian Reporter, Manyara

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TENDER No. TSHIRTS/ 05/2022 /2023

Supply of Printed and Branded T-shirts for students in 30 primary schools



WaterAid is an International Non-Governmental Organization, with a vision of ensuring Safe Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Everyone, Everywhere by 2030. WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organisation in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.S0.7557). WaterAid Tanzania (WAT) operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

WaterAid has been funded by JICA to implement a project called data collection survey on the improvement of hygiene behavior. This project aims at collecting the information on WASH status and current situation of hygiene behaviors in schools and health care facilities, conduct pilot activities on hygiene improvement in schools and health care and based on the results of the pilot activities, compile the findings and knowledge on hygiene improvement give the outcomes internationally including the within the pilot countries. This survey will take place in 135 institutions (90 schools and 45 healthcare facilities) across 3countries: Tanzania, Madagascar and Nepal. This project will also focus on improving WASH services and integrating hygiene behavior change (HBC) interventions primarily targeting school students and teachers; and healthcare facility (HCF) staff and clients. WA, together with local partners and in collaboration with the respective country Governments, will reach approximately 31,500 students and 1,800 teachers in schools and 450 health staff and 90 cleaners in HCFs across the three countries. For Tanzania, this project target 30 schools and 15 health care facilities in Kisarawe, Pwani Region

This is a full task of supplying 24,720 T-shirts to students from 30 primary schools in Kisarawe. Each T-shirt will have its unique ID number placed at the back and front to be used during the baseline activity.

Water Aid Tanzania invites bids/quotations from interested suppliers and the following documents should be submitted:

- A valid Business License.
- A valid VAT (Value Added Tax) and TIN certificate.
- Company profile stipulating work of the same nature

The terms of reference can be found on the below link:
<https://www.wateraid.org/tz/work-with-us>

Eligible interested bidders should send their bids to WaterAid Tanzania Office before **17th June 2022 by 10:00am** East African Time; through ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org, Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org. Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director - WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked "**Bid for the supply of Printed and Branded T-shirts for students in 30 primary schools**". The bids Opening will be on **17th June 2022 from 10:30am** at WaterAid Country Program Office.

Note: WaterAid has a Mandatory Operating Procedure (MOP) and therefore for those who will visit our office for, submission or tender opening will not be allowed to enter office premises without properly wash their hand and wearing masks

African leaders say terrorism, bad governance, coups d'état aggravate the humanitarian crises

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN heads of state closed the two extraordinary summits in Malabo on Saturday, with leaders pointing out at terrorism, bad governance, and coups d'état could have causal links and aggravate the humanitarian crises that plague the continent.

"The current conflict in Europe teaches us that security issues are always at the center of international cooperation, in the first place, each continent must have its own common defense strategy. This conflict also confirms the deep inequalities in the treatment of countries and peoples in the face of wars, pandemics and natural disasters," said João Lourenço, President of Angola.

Angolan President João Lourenço echoed the AU commission president Moussa Faki Mahamat's sentiment to reorganize and re-group an African military. He also called upon the inclusion of African countries as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

"This unjust and shameful situation once again raises the need for a reformulation

of the United Nations Security Council that does not only circumscribe the victorious great powers of the Second World War, but that considers the entry of representatives of countries from Africa and Latin America, the Indian subcontinent of the Middle East as permanent members with full powers," said João Lourenço, President of Angola.

Representatives from Mali, Sudan, Guinea and Burkina Faso were excluded from the summit. The military has overthrown civilian regimes in these countries over the past two years and the AU has suspended them from its proceedings and imposed sanctions, in line with other African and international organizations and Western capitals.



The current conflict in Europe teaches us that security issues are always at the center of international cooperation



KOICA director (Tanzania Office) Kyuchool Eo (4th-R) presents equipment worth 50m/- to Sisters of Mary School's Clinic Incharge Sr Sylvia Park (3rd-L) at Makuranga District at the weekend. The items include a water filtering machine, a sewing machine and sanitary pads. Photo courtesy of KOICA

Tech firms launch equipment to detect neonatal jaundice

By Getrude Mbago

HATCH Technologies in collaboration with NEST360 and Anudha Limited-Tanzania have launched modern, quality and affordable equipment aimed to help detect neonatal jaundice for immediate treatment.

Dubbed: BiliDx-bilirubinometer, the innovative device has capacity to quickly detect jaundice in infants as well as support and monitor treatment for effective results.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam during the weekend Hatch Technologies executive director, Dick Oranja said a number of supply chain bottlenecks prevent newborn health products from reaching babies in low-income

countries during critical moments of life and death.

"BiliDx is a low-cost, diagnostic device designed to immediately quantify serum bilirubin levels from a small drop of whole blood offering a faster and more cost-effective means to detect neonatal jaundice in under-resourced settings and determine when phototherapy is needed," he said.

Infant jaundice is a condition where a baby's skin, and the white part of their eye, appears yellow. Jaundice is a common condition in infants, affecting over 50 percent of all newborns. It is caused by an excess of bilirubin. Bilirubin is a waste product, produced when red blood cells are broken down.

Oranja said the device-BiliDx provides

an important tool to monitor the efficacy and progress of phototherapy, ensuring appropriate treatment dosage and duration.

"Severe jaundice may not be readily evident to the naked eye until already at dangerously high levels. Additionally, jaundice may not present until several days after birth when an infant has already left the hospital. Thus, early monitoring of bilirubin in at-risk infants is critical in order to prevent the challenge, which may result in permanent neurological damage," he noted.

Hatch Technologies (Hatch) is a non-profit organization that originated from NEST360, and shares its bold commitment to reducing facility-based neonatal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa by 50

percent.

"After a medical device has been installed within the Hatch network, we work with NEST360 to train clinical staff on how to use the technology appropriately and also to train hospital technicians on how to service and maintain the device. This training partnership ensures that staff have the know-how to use and repair equipment, making it useful for saving the lives of small and sick newborns," he added.

Assistant director of Reproductive and Child Health Services Programme in the Ministry of Health Dr Ahmad Makuwani commended the firms for coming up with the new device which will further strengthen newborn live-saving initiatives in the country and reduce neonatal

deaths.

He said the government is committed to continue improving infrastructure, human resource and equipment so as to support provision of quality health care and reduce disease burden in the country.

"I have been informed that Hatch Technologies in collaboration with NEST360 programme implemented by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) and the Ministry of Health are working to reduce neonatal deaths through innovation and supply of modern and affordable devices," he said.

Dr Makuwani said the devices have already been supplied in Muhimbili National hospital, Mwananyama and Te-

meke hospitals. Others are Mbeya zonal and referral hospital and KCMC in Moshi.

Reports show that infants born in sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia are 10 times more likely to die during the first month of life compared with those born in high-income countries, due in part to a lack of access to medical devices. About 75 percent of babies born prematurely can be saved with the right medical care.

Catherine Paul, NEST360 country director and liaison said the programme works to help reduce newborn mortality in sub-Saharan Africa through distributing newborn health technologies, educating clinicians and technicians on how to maintain these tools, and supporting local innovators to build the technologies that work best for their contexts.



Oliva Kilyenyi (in white helmet), an assistant manager with the Morogoro-Makutupora project, in a group photo with Transport sector staff who visited the Kilosa (Morogoro Region) section of the project at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC warns officials, AMCOS leaders who are behind tobacco smuggling

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera has cautioned to take stern measures against government officials and those from the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) who will be found involved in tobacco smuggling in Chunya District.

RC Homera issued the warning over the weekend here as he launched the new tobacco purchasing season in Chunya District. The event was held in Kambikatoto Ward in the district.

The RC also banned tobacco buyers from going directly to farmers on the grounds that the practice was exploiting farmers, pledging to take action to any company that will be found doing so.

Homera said apart from dragging them to court, the government will also confiscate the seized tobacco and vehicles used in the smuggling to cover the incurred losses.

He said in recent years the problem of tobacco smuggling has been on the rise in Chunya district which is depriving the government of revenue as well as causing losses to grassroots parties due to the tobacco production of loan inputs.

"Leaders of all wards of the Kipembawe Division have to be careful, you have borrowed more than 7bn/-, now if tobacco is smuggled, what will you repay the loan for," he

noted.

Chunya District Commissioner Mayeka Simon said last season they arrested some farmers smuggling tobacco and brought them to justice bodies.

He said this year they intend to increase patrol in various areas so that smugglers do not exist and urged farmers to stop the practice, stressing that they will go bankrupt.

Presenting a report on tobacco production in the district, Acting Manager of the Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU), Juma Nshishi said this year, harvests have dropped due to climate change.

He said the production estimate was 9,000,000 kg but they produced 8,000,000 kg and that the biggest problem was the delayed rains and the early rains which caused farmers to fail to keep up with the season.

However he said next season they intend to increase production due to the rise of another procurement company, a situation which he said will lead to an increase in demand.

"We also hope to increase the registration of farmers in the grassroots associations we have to increase production, we aim to achieve production of more than 10,000,000kg," Nshishi added.

Meanwhile, some farmers complained to their party leaders that this season they had bought them some inputs that were fake, something which increased production costs.

Germany, Tanzania set strategies to reduce the number of illiterates

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

GERMANY through its Institute of International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (DVV International) and the government have come up with a special programme to reduce the number of illiterates.

Data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicates that the illiterate rate increased to 25 per cent in 1991 compared to 9.5 per cent in 1986.

DVV International Regional Director East and the Horn of Africa, Frauke Heinze made the revelation over the weekend in Morogoro Region during a function to hand over two study re-

ports on the Integrated Community Based Adult Education Programme and learning Needs Assessment of Adult learners and the booklets of the Adult Learning and Education System Building Approach (ALESBA) conducted as a pilot in Coast and Dodoma regions.

The reports were handed over to Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Prof Carolyne Nombo at a function which was attended by stakeholders from UNESCO, Tanzania Education Network (TENMET) and Karibu Tanzania Organization (KTO).

Heinze said the program will strengthen the friendship between the two countries, particularly in economic areas because a stable nation

economically is built with literate people.

He said the program has been taking place in the East horn of Africa region for over 20 years but in Tanzania it started in 2020.

"Since we started implementing the program in the Dodoma and Coast regions, we have witnessed an increase in enrolment from 1,063,078 in the year 2000 to 131, 204 in 2020," he added.

Prof Nombo said: "Our education specialists will go through the report and give us recommendations. We commend your efforts in reducing the number of illiterates in our country."

She supported the idea of introducing and improving community learning centers (CLCs) and training professional teachers on it. The CLCs

will be introduced as a pilot in four councils—Kisarawe, Kibaha, Kongwa and Mpwapa.

"The government will allocate funds to ensure a conducive learning environment to adult groups," she said.

Dr Michael Ngu'mbi from the Institute of Adult Education said provision of adult education is done through various programs like MUKEJA and MEMKWA, which according to DVV international, MUKEJA is an effective programme as a good number of people opt for it.

DVV International has found that people are also interested in entrepreneurship training and language skills, hence the need for the government to consider offering the courses, he stated.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Dr Charles Msonde called upon the councils' management to cooperate with stakeholders to ensure effective operation of the teaching and learning centers.

"District executive directors should construct classrooms and improve the learning environment at schools to make sure the program is properly implemented," said the Deputy PS.

Prof Eustella Bhalalusesa from Dar es Salaam University said Tanzanians should expect changes from the program because the report will be translated to Kiswahili to enable everyone to read its content.

Charge affordable school fees, Makalla tells private schools

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, has urged private schools to charge affordable school fees to enable low incomes families to send their children to school.

RC Makalla made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the 14th Form Six graduation ceremony at St Anne Marie Academy Mbezi Kwa Msuguri.

He said if the private schools will charge affordable rates many Tanzanians will get access to education and contribute to the government's efforts in improving the education sector.

"St Anne Marie you are doing better academically but make sure school fees is moderate because we need many Tanzanians to afford to join your school," RC Makalla said, noting that the success of the school is the result of restless efforts by teachers, the school founder and director Dr Jasson Rweikiza, Dar es Salaam education office and the Ubungo District education office.

"I would like to take this chance to salute Dr Jasson Rweikiza for this investment in our country because you have helped the government efforts in improving education sector and

am told that you have employed over 200 staff this is good to our country and people should learn from you," said Makalla

RC also lauded parents and guardians who have continued trusting the school and paying the school fees on time something which he said has helped the school to run smoothly.

"I would like also to urge you students to continue with learning spirit like you have been doing here at St Anne Marie, you must also continue to behave well like what you have been taught and behave here it is my hope that you will all be selected to join different universities inside and outside Tanzania," he said.

He also urged the school to help the surrounding community access essential services like roads, access to water, electricity, security, and other services the move which will help them to be on good terms with society.

The School director, Dr Jasson Rweikiza said no student will be packed home after the death of the parents because the school will take all responsibility until they finish their studies, pledging to continue improving school infrastructure to create enabling environment for the school to continue shining in all national examinations results.

He also urged the school to help the surrounding community access essential services like roads, access to water, electricity, security, and other services the move which will help them to be on good terms with society.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla (L) pictured at the weekend presenting a leaving certificate to an outgoing Form Six student of the city's St Anne Marie Academy. This was at graduation ceremony held at the school's Kimara Mbezi kwa Musuguri premises. To his left is the school's director, Dr Jasson Rweikiza. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

African lender in new drive to raise food yield on continent, seek new supply routes

By Special Correspondent

SECURING better local yields and resuming supply channels for food will form part of Africa's next programmes to prevent famine on the continent, according to a plan announced by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and partners.

In a series of announcements, the AfDB and partners separately said they

are targeting to ensure the continent produces more food by the end of this year, but also arrange for alternative ways in which grain from the troubled source markets reaches the poor.

Under the Emergency Food Production Facility, the AfDB says it will release up to \$1.5 billion to tackle a looming food crisis on the continent, by supporting local production. The lender will raise \$1.3 billion, with partners such

as Canada and Germany helping to fill the gaps in the planned budget. The money will go to purchasing of certified seed, fertilizer and better farming technology, for 20 million farmers across the continent.

The Canadian government has announced a \$78 million contribution to a funding kitty of the AfDB to aid local food producers improve their yield.

The money to be disbursed as con-

cessional loans will target small and medium enterprises involved in agribusiness, especially those founded and run by women.

The funding was announced this week as the bank launched its Emergency Food Production Facility, a \$1.5 billion project aimed at raising African yield of food production to 38 million tonnes by end of 2022.

Canada's Minister of International

Development Harjit Sajjan said Tuesday his country will disburse \$78 million through the AfDB, from the Assistance Innovation Programme, to support private enterprises involved in SDGs such as fighting hunger or climate change, through soft loans.

Canada, the fourth largest shareholder of the AfDB's non-African members, says the \$78 million will be crucial as Africa seeks alternative sources of food

after the war in Ukraine curtailed one of the biggest sources of grain for the continent, earlier this year.

Seven in 10 food items in Africa are produced, processed or moved to consumers by small or medium enterprises including smallholder farmers, according to the AfDB. But Ukraine and Russia have been cumulatively Africa's biggest source markets for grain, or more than half of all wheat continent imports.



Boniface Nkakatisi (L), Secretary General of Tanzania Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers (TUICO), presents an award in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to Kioo Limited human resources manager Jacob Msuya after the firm emerged 'Best Employer'. This was at a ceremony to award employers deserving special mention for outstanding performance. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Dar glass container manufacturers named best employer of the year

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Union of Industry and Commercial Workers (TUICO) has been declared glass container manufacturers-Kioo Limited, the best employer of the year 2022 in Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam.

TUICO secretary general, Boniface Nkakatisi presented the award over the weekend in Dar es Salaam after assessment from various industries and good relationship between employer and employees, working environment and how employers consider workers welfare.

Speaking after receiving the award, KIOO Limited Human Resource Manager Jacob Msuya commended TUICO for the initiatives to award best employers the move which he said encouraged employers to continue with best practices in their daily operations.

Msuya said the initiatives to award best employers encourage employers to continue with best practices in their daily operations.

He said the award is the result of company best practices in attending to its workers and how it is concerned about their well-being.

He said the company has created an enabling and safe environment for its employers and that is why they have managed to emerge the best employer for a consecutive year.

Msuya added that KIOO Limited has been addressing amicably internal challenges that arose among workers and management that's why there is good relationship between the two sides.

"We care a lot about our employees and we have created a friendly and safe environment for them to work comfortably to achieve the company and the country's economic development goals," said Msuya.

TUICO Secretary in Temeke Region, Magwe Muyaga, said among the achievements they have made is to solve many disputes among its members and employers.

He said TUICO has managed to solve 247 disputes between employers and their employees and bring mutual understanding among them.

On challenges, Muyaga said there are some employers who do not allow their employees to join workers unions like TUICO, something which denies their right.

He added that there are also some employers who restrict their workers to participate in their normal meetings where they discuss their challenges and wellbeing.

By Special Correspondent, Harare

Lobby groups push for legalisation of ivory trade

A Group of delegates at the African Elephant conference in Hwange, Zimbabwe have pressed for the legalization of Ivory to help in the control of their population.

At least 60 people have been killed by elephants in Zimbabwe since the start of the year, compared with 72 overall in the 2021 year.

Zimbabwe's conservation success story has had the unfortunate side-effects of heightening jumbo-human conflict.

With some 100,000 elephants, Zimbabwe has the world's second-largest population after Botswana and about one-quarter of the elephants in all of Africa.

More than half of those pachyderms live in and outside the unfenced Hwange, a wildlife park nearly half the size of Belgium, with some

14,600 square kilometers (5,637 square miles) of vegetation. Elephants roam freely from Zimbabwe's sprawling and unfenced game reserves and it is common to find herds crossing or resting along the main highway from Hwange to the nearby prime tourist resort of Victoria Falls.

A collection of 50 anti-ivory trade organizations issued a statement warning that opening the ivory market would decimate the African herd, which in some regions is near extinction.

"The conference is sending a dangerous signal to poachers and criminal syndicates that elephants are mere commodities, and that ivory trade could be resumed heightening the threat to the species," they said.

But growing elephant herds pose real dangers

to nearby communities.

Zimbabwe says 60 people have been killed by elephants so far this year, compared with 72 in all of last year.

"Governments of elephant range states are faced with social and political pressures on why elephants are prioritized over their own lives and livelihoods," Ndhlovu said.

Zimbabwe's elephant population is growing at about five percent a year, reaching unsustainable levels.

"Our conservation methods are working and I believe that instead of being punished we should be rewarded," Fulton Mangwanya, the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority director said.

He spoke on the sidelines of a conference in Hwange where the government is this week lobbying allies to push for legal ivory trade.

Zimbabwe, along with Botswana, Namibia and Zambia, wants the UN Convention on International Trade Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, commonly referred to as CITES, to lift the ban on the trade in ivory.

They argue that scrapping the ban can help to better preserve the animals and bring economic benefit to local communities who live close to the animals.

Zimbabwe has a huge \$600-million stockpile of ivory which it recently showed to ambassadors representing various countries including the European Union, China and Japan. It has

urged EU diplomats to allow a one-off sale of the ivory.

The country's last official elephant census in 2014 counted more than 80,000, a figure now estimated at 100,000, which authorities say is three times more than capacity.

But some conservationists doubt the accuracy of the statistics and fear that lifting the trade ban would pose a threat to elephant populations.

America, along with EU countries and Britain remain opposed to lifting the ban while China and Japan are some of the countries in support.

International trade in ivory and elephants has been banned since 1989 under the CITES. One-off sales were allowed in 1999 and 2008, despite fierce opposition.

The Harare government has threatened to pull out of the convention if it doesn't have its way on ivory trading.



TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited Director general Jean Francois Schoep (L) cuts the ribbon to launch a TotalEnergies filling station at Mapinga in Bagamoyo District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kilosa DC hails KSL for factory expansion

By Guardian Correspondent

KILOSA District Commissioner Majid Mwanga has hailed Kilombero Sugar Company on the expansion project at the factory which is aimed to double sugar production and supply.

He said the statement here during the weekend when he visited and witnessed the start of the 2022/23 crushing season at the Kilombero Sugar Company's second factory in Kidatu - Morogoro Region.

"I am impressed with the progress made on the expansion project. I urge the company to increase its efforts to cover gaps caused by slow progress during the rainy season," Mwanga said.

He said the company produces sugar at its two mills located within the estate in Kilombero Valley. K1 is the oldest mill built in the 1960's before the K2 mill came into operation in the 1970's. Together, the two mills produce an average of 126,000 tonnes of sugar per year.

Ephraim Mafuru, the company's head of corporate affairs, stated that despite operating two mills, the company sees the need to enhance sugar production in order to meet Tanzania's increased sugar demand.

In response, the company embarked on an expansion project in which a new, state-of-the-art factory dubbed K4 will greatly con-

tribute to maintaining a sufficient supply of locally produced sugar in the country.

"We are very pleased that both our K1 and K2 factories are now operational, as this will boost the country's sugar supply as production gains momentum. Meanwhile, our expansion project is continuing on schedule, and the upcoming K4 factory will take the country one step closer to sugar sufficiency," said Mafuru.

The K4 factory, whose construction is expected to be completed in July 2024, will double the company's sugar processing capacity by producing an additional 144,000 tonnes of sugar per year. The new factory will be able to process more than double the amount of cane sourced from growers.

"Our goal is to support the government's efforts in ensuring self-sufficiency in sugar through local factories. Apart from strategies for internal efficiency, we are working with various stakeholders to provide growers with education on best farming practices and other technical and financial support to improve their yield per acre," Mafuru said.

He further explained: "We source sugarcane from growers in Kilombero and Kilosa Districts. Our current operations and expansion project will continue to touch the lives of communities, not only in the two districts but also other neighbouring areas."

Fuel firm opens new outlets in Mapinga under DODO programme to attract users

By Guardian Reporter

THE TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited has launched a 14th fuel station in Mapinga area, Bagamoyo District in Coast Region in efforts to give quality products and services to fuel users.

The new fuel station is operated under the Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (DODO) programme and is along Bagamoyo road—the major highway that vehicles use to travel to up-country regions—Tanga, Moshi and Arusha.

Speaking during the launch-

ing event in Bagamoyo District over the weekend the firm's managing director Jean Francois Schoep said the launch of the station was a milestone towards reaching every Tanzanian with TotalEnergies services and welcomed potential partners to franchise with the company.

"We are very happy to extend our partnership with Jackson Swai who is the dealer and owner of the station, with this collaboration; we look forward to supplying Mapinga and its neighbouring communities with our products and expand-

ing our footprint further," the MD said, adding:

"We hope that such partnership and developments will entice even more businessmen & women to franchise with TotalEnergies and join the network of the leading fuel marketing company in Tanzania. For this I would like to invite all potential businessmen and women to franchise with TotalEnergies."

He extended his appreciation to the customers for their loyalty to the company making TotalEnergies the number one fuel company in the country.

"We're filled with gratitude

for our customers' loyalty and genuine support. We promise to always serve you with the best quality products and services as well as keep striving to reach out to every Tanzanian and we welcome you to share your opinions with us so that we can serve you best," he said, expressing his excitement to franchise with TotalEnergies through the programme.

For his part, Swai said: "I have been a partner with TotalEnergies as a distributor of lubricants for some years and today I am so grateful for the opportunity to expand our partnership by

becoming the company's dealer through the DODO programme.

"I am proud to own a TotalEnergies service station, being part of the number one fuel company in the country and a brand that is well recognized and trusted by customers. Since we started rebranding the station with the TotalEnergies logo, customers have been eagerly stopping by to know when we would start operating and that showed me the strength of the brand," he stated.

Network Development Manager, Adam Msangi said the DODO programme produces a lot of benefits to businessmen and

women in the country.

"TotalEnergies Mapinga service station is adding to our footprint in Tanzania, serving the people of Mapinga and neighbouring communities with all fuel products."

According to him, TotalEnergies is constantly finding ways to become more innovative in order to create better experiences for our customers and such efforts have built a well-recognized and trusted brand in the country which directly benefits dealers to a 40 percent increase of sales within the first year of operation. "These are the innovation

practices that Swai will be able to benefit from franchising with TotalEnergies along with our brand's recognition, a huge fuel card customer base with more than 15,000 companies and a team with significant technical and marketing expertise which will be at his disposal at all times," he asserted.

He added: "As we launch this station today, we invite our customers to enjoy an offer of 50/- discount for every litre of fuel which will be purchased at TotalEnergies Mapinga Service station as well as gifts and giveaways."



Amit Ben Ami (L), marketing & operations manager of the International Division of Israeli firm RB Doors, showcases international-standard security doors to senior architects and Architectural Association of Tanzania (AAT) members at a meeting held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NCA to continue supporting HLH's high quality health services provision

By Guardian Reporter, Manyara

THE Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has expressed its commitment to continue collaborating with the Haydom Lutheran Hospital (HLH) to support provision of high quality health services.

NCA Country Director in Tanzania, Berte Marie Ulveseter made the promise during the weekend at Haydom hospital in Manyara Region, when NCA celebrated 75 years of saving lives and seeking justice.

"We are very proud of the work that HLH is doing, it is high quality work and is really interesting, we look forward to continue collaborating for many more years to come," the NCA country director said.

She said: "We have been supporting Tanzania since 1960s, during this time, we have built strong partnerships and nurtured an inter-faith civil society movement to work together to empower people for positive, active citizenship so they can climb out of poverty and participate fully in society; to build inclusive and peaceful communities and hold leaders accountable."

She added that, in marking 75 years of service, they have also visited various water projects implemented by NCA in villages, commenting that they are happy to see people have access to safe and clean water.

"We have also commemorated the anniversary by participating in the Haydom hospital marathon and supporting some visibility materials like the finish and start arc, t-shirts, flags," she added.

Communication and Advocacy Officer of NCA Tanzania, Nizar Utanga said that in line with the celebration, they have also made

documentation of success stories related to the work of NCA through short video and radio clips as well as photo documentaries will generate evidence on work of NCA and make this information widely available to key stakeholder in Tanzania and outside Tanzania through electronic and social media campaigns as necessary to influence development practice and promote cross-learning among NCA country offices.

Speaking during the celebration, the Managing Medical Director of HLH Dr Paschal Mdoe, acknowledged the NCA support to the hospital, saying that they are proud for continuing providing good health services and improving hospital infrastructures.

"Our goal is to reach a point that we do not refer the patients to other referral hospitals instead get the entire medical services here at HLH," he said.

CRDB Manager in northern zone David Peter who was among the sponsors, said that they have joined NCA Tanzania to support the hospital as health is one of the bank's priorities.

"The bank cannot do well in operations if the country has people who are not healthy, so it is our responsibility to work with all stakeholders to support improvement in the sector," he said.

The NCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Mbulu diocese have been partners for many years and the Haydom Lutheran hospital is owned by the ELCT, Mbulu Synod, but for decades, HLH has relied primarily on financial support from the Norwegian government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2015 NCA has been managing NORAD funds and providing technical support to HLH on the implementation of subprojects.

Increase VC investments to start-up companies for SMEs to grow, govt told

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE government has been challenged to increase Venture Capital (VC) investments to start-up companies and small businesses to significantly improve technological innovation, profitability, and growth ability of small scale enterprises (SMEs).

Salum Awadh, Chief Executive Officer at SSC Capital made the statement over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a meeting with the Ministry of Finance and Planning on the Status of financing for SMEs and start-ups in Tanzania.

The conference was organized by Tanzania Start up Association (TSA) in partner-

ship with Tanzania Venture capital Network. Awadh said the government need to invest into SMEs with less VC condition. He underscored the need to review and amend the Companies Act and other related legislations to facilitate operationalization of SEMs and start-ups.

TSA Chief Executive Officer Zahoro Muhaji said the event's theme is unlocking the innovative and alternative financing for SMEs and start-ups in Tanzania, which communicates the current need for financial products and instruments that accommodate modern businesses throughout the entire growth cycle.

A recent study by the world bank indi-

cates that the Tanzania start-up ecosystem has had positive growth, with a 33 per cent compound growth rate in SMEs and start up creation since 2009 and yet, many of those businesses lack access to appropriate early-stage, growth stage, and scaling stage financing to validate their business models further and scale-up where financing SMEs and start-ups in Tanzania is still a big challenge.

He said the government has been supporting small businesses led by youth and women, through empowerment funds available under the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

He said the funds are structured to work better for groups of between 5 and 10 members

and not necessarily high growth SMEs and start-ups.

Besides, these funds are mostly being offered in the form of grants, thereby impeding the sustainability of such initiatives and like many other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania lacks local funding schemes for the early-to middle stage of investment that is critical to graduating its SMEs and start-ups into scalable businesses.

Muhaji said that by the end of December 2021, 64 per cent of SMEs and start-ups financed their operations with personal savings and support from family and friends, while grants from development partners and other sources come next at 21 per cent, leav-

ing institutional investors like governmental funds, banks, and venture capital firms with 7 per cent for loan investments and 7 per cent for equity investments.

Only 14 per cent of those businesses finance operations by governmental funds, banks, venture capital firms, and other institutional financiers in Tanzania, he commented.

"Tanzania lacks financial policies and regulations that incentivize investments in small and growing businesses, lack of risk-tolerant funding schemes targeting early-to-middle stage of investment of between \$20,000 and \$250,000. At this stage, most SMEs and start-ups cannot find investments they need to grow," he remarked.

Pemba activists raise 39 GBV cases in 5 months

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THIRTY-NINE cases on gender based violence (GBV) in Mkoani and Wete districts in Pemba have been raised by the network activists that fight gender based violence in these districts in the period January to May this year.

Submitting its follow up report on these incidents from among the communities to the Tanzania Media Women Association-Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar), the GBV network activists said their network has helped in raising awareness in the community and that some people have begun reporting GBV incidents to relative authorities for appropriate steps.

Haji Shoka, the Chairman of the network activists from Mkoani District, Pemba said in executing their duties, they have been able to make follow ups on ten cases that are in various stages.

"Beginning January to May this year we have raised ten cases on gender based violence out of which, four are police stations for investigations, four are in courts one the suspect absconded and another one was settled by the families," he said.

He explained that efforts done by the network activists including educating the community against acts of gender based violence has

changed the concept of members of the community thereby reducing the number of cases being settled at home.

Shoka added that during the same period the activists conducted meetings to educate members of the community against acts of gender based violence and child abuse through schools and madrassas.

He added: "For this year we have reached a total of 1,374 people including 748 women and 626 men in various schools and madrassas."

For her part, Siti Faki Ali, the Chairperson of network activists in Wete District said they followed up on 29 GBV cases out of which 14 were rape cases.

Speaking about education on GBV, she said some 2,115 people were reached, including 1,270 women and 845 men.

Earlier, TAMWA-Zanzibar Coordinator for Pemba, Fathiya Mussa Said called on the activists to educate the community to enable them to protect themselves against acts of gender based violence and child abuse.

The meeting for the submission of GBV network activists report is part of the implementation of the project against acts of gender based violence and child abuse through the media platform in collaboration with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).



Farmers in a Mbarali District village weed their onion farm, as found at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Girls cautioned against family planning without medical advice

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

GIRLS have been advised to shun family planning practices without advice from medical experts in order to avoid maternal health effects that are said to be rising fast in the community.

They are also called on to keep away from indulging in sex at a young age to avoid pregnancies

and sexual diseases that affect their health.

The advice was given here by Mbeya city Council health experts at a special training seminar for Mbeya Region based journalists on the maternal health organised by the region's team of medical experts in collaboration with Jhpiego, an NGO through "Tupange Pamoja Project" (TCI).

Celina Kayange, one of the experts and a nurse said there are various ways in regard to family planning that have been endorsed as safe by WHO but which have to be administered with care.

She said some girls have been using family planning pills, especially the P2 without expert's advice, adding that it is hazardous for them.

"We are stressing to the youth to stop indulging themselves in sex or using family planning pills without medical advice at a young age as it is dangerous for their health," Celina added.

Head of the Police Gender Desk in Mbeya region, Insp. Loveness Mtemi said acts of gender based violence in the region were fast increasing endangering youth's lives.

She added that many GBV cases reported at the Desk concern sexual abuse especially sodomy and child abuse and called on parents to take care of their children.

However, Insp. Loveness said some parents destroy evidence of sexual abuse cases regarding their children after they settle the cases among the parties involved.

Earlier, opening the seminar,

Mbeya Regional Medical Officer, Dr Salum Manyatta called on journalists to use their pens to sensitize the community on maternal health and disclose acts of gender based violence and child abuse.

He said young people aged 15 to 24 years are more prone to contract maternal health problems including HIV/Aids and child pregnancies.



Neema Mwambo (in cap), an officer with the World Vision Girl Empowerment Project in Karatu District briefs the district's administrative officer, Jacqueline Rwezaura (L), on sanitary pads made by female students. This was at a World Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28) exhibition held at Endabash Primary School grounds. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

Northern zone tribes told to abandon misleading customs on menstruation

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

SOME tribes in the country's northern zone have been required to abandon traditional customs that prevent girls to attend school or go out of their homes during menstrual periods, saying the practices amount to gender based violence.

The remarks were made at the weekend by Bugeri Ward Education Officer in Karatu District, Arusha Region Remtula Mollé at the event to mark World Menstruation Hygiene Day held in Endabash Village that was organised by World Vision Tanzania (WVT), an international NGO under its Endabash AP Project whose slogan is "Menstruation is the Intended Health Foundation of Health in All Fields."

"In the northern zone, tribes that have these practices are Iraqws and Maasai. They believe if a girl roams out of home during menstruation period and throws away her trash can get lost, the misleading belief that must be ignored," he said.

He appealed to these tribes to accept that menstruation is just a normal occurrence to any girl and cannot interfere in her studies or other activities.

He added: "Some of these tribes believe that if sanitary pads are burned, it can make a girl barren, and this must be ignored, as it is not true."

He said since WVT started educating communities about menstruation hygiene, parents and students have started understanding and attendance at school has gone up to satisfying

levels. For her part, Happiness Eliufo the Director of GAESO, an NGO called on the government to reduce the prices of sanitary pads in rural areas to make them affordable to rural girls.

Tasiana Henry, a Endabashi Primary School student thanked WVT for the education provided, saying now they can make safe sanitary pads with fasteners.

WVT Coordinator from Endabashi Village, Denis Kweka said the organisation has provided education on menstruation hygiene to 5,835 boys and girls.

"Over 3,000 girls have also been provided with sanitary pads that can be reused and this has reduced school truancy," he said.

Kweka added that the project, in collaboration with Karatu Girls Empowerment Project has built 31 pit latrines for girls that also cater for students with disabilities.



Tasiana Henry, a Endabashi Primary School student thanked WVT for the education provided, saying now they can make safe sanitary pads with fasteners

TaFF dishes out 38.6bn/- in ten years to 738 projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA Forest Fund (TaFF) has dished out 38.6bn/- in subsidy towards 738 projects for security, conservation and the development of forest resources in the past 10 years.

The fund's administrative secretary, Dr Tuly Msuya made the remarks here at the weekend

and added that TaFF was established in 2009/10 and officially began operating in July 2011.

He said TaFF has empowered people economically through subsidies in conservation activities, supervision and the sustainable development of forest resources in the country.

Dr Msuya said beginning 2020/21, the fund established a special programme in giving sub-

sidies to primary and secondary schools for establishing of tree seedlings planting blocks in school areas.

He explained that in that fiscal year the Fund dished out 299.9m/- to 60 schools in 25 districts of six regions with drought environment towards the establishment of the seedling planting blocks.

He said in FY 2021/22 TaFF dished out 315m/- to 63 schools in four regions including Dodoma in its two districts, Chamwino and Dodoma.

Others were Singida, Shinyanga, Kagera, Man-yara, Arush, Kilimanjaro and Simiyu.

"In FY 2022/23 TaFF is expected to dish out 370m/- to 74 school projects in 37 districts of 12 regions," said der Msuya.

For his part, Chamwino district ERxpert education Officer in Dodoma region, happiness Mgomngongo said the district has benefitted by the subsidies in four schools each given 19m/- for establishing tree seedlings blocks.

She named the schools as Idifu, Loje, Mvumi Mission primary schools and Makangwa secondary school.

BRELA list of 5,600 companies says a lot about business start-ups, failures

REGULATORS are poring over data relating to 5,676 companies reported to be due for deregistration after having failed to furnish annual tax returns and financial statements - some for over a period of 15 years.

The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) says that deregistration is being conducted in accordance with section 128 of the Companies Act.

It says that the law requires annual tax returns for local firms, with foreign ones obliged to submit financial statements.

Up to 5,284 local firms are said to have failed to meet these requirements, while 392 foreign ones with operations in Tanzania aren't in compliance with the law either.

Failure to submit tax returns or financial statements may not necessarily be sufficient indication of failure, as at times it relates to anonymity especially with respect to the premises the business is conducted and in the services offered.

Again it has to do with how much a company needs the name it originally registered to enable the making of personalised contracts, service deliveries and payments. What is evident is that a non-formalised company or one that fails to operate in line with the law and slips into the briefcase firm category shuts itself out of formal sector services.

Indeed, this will be a mark of failure, but not by definition tax evasion as might at times be suspected.

Keeping records of companies that are dormant is clearly not that much of a viable activity for regulators, so invoking powers for deregistration isn't surprising. Indeed, if a company that hasn't submitted tax returns for 15 years running it will have long since deregistered itself. It only lacked the courtesy of putting the regulator in the know, rather than tasking public offi-

cial to find out for themselves whether he is still in business.

There are still other chores to attend to in the wake of deregistration, as other regulatory and service delivery institutions must be informed because they may have more active contacts or connections with those firms.

What the notice of deregistration thus means for a regulator or service provider depends on the respective portfolio and interest.

Where therefore it would need a legal follow-up on some issues but it is not on public notice or board orders that this and that should take place, just someone coming across such or such data, it becomes an issue of discretion.

That is where what is known as an enabling environment comes up, meaning that so long as no criminality is involved but merely failure to operate as a formal sector enterprise, such issues are trashed as a sort of tort - that is, misdemeanours for which no written law exists.

There is a tort in the sense of failing public expectations to conduct business and deliver tax returns. However, in that such a scenario also cripples the prospective entrepreneur, the public authorities just strike out the firm. There is no follow-up on cheating or sabotage. BRELA is in a sense entrusted with seeing to it that firms, most especially start-ups, put up their feet without much ado from the public authorities charged with overseeing them. And this is as it should often be.

BRELA has been exemplary in playing the parenting role, sometimes being particularly "lenient" with firms and other institutions it oversees dragging their feet too much for comfort in complying with the law.

The institutions concerned ought to use this "leniency" by shaping up instead of seeing it as a loophole for continued wrongdoing.

World No-Tobacco Day: Campaigns can only help

OBSERVATION of World No-Tobacco Day - May 31 - is, in the main, meant to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco, where initially the problem raised was the business practices of tobacco companies.

One key aspect was tobacco advertising, associating smoking with an air of relaxation and success, without the slightest hint on what lies underneath this seemingly charming atmosphere of fun or merry-making. Those with some decades under the belt readily recall older advertisements of that sort.

This international day of commemoration is a brainchild of the World Health Organisation (WHO), a higher stage in public appeals and postures by national organisations, especially in the United States.

The way tobacco products are advertised changed, plus court rulings compelling admission that smoking is intensely associated with cancer, lung cancer in particular. The rest of the world followed suit, some rapidly, some gradually.

The WHO activism day adds up on emphatic rejection of tobacco as something to counsel the youth to entertain, take and, even less, 'enjoy'.

Fighting the use of tobacco was soon brought around as an aspect of the worldwide struggle for rights, this time being the right to health, as the use of tobacco is a lifelong threat to the health of the user, towards middle age and definitely in old age.

Healthy living and protecting future generations was the key slogan as the WHO moved to create World No-Tobacco Day in 1987 to draw global attention to the 'tobacco epidemic' and the preventable death and disease it causes. Earlier debates had long since ended.

Arguments were undeniably settled long ago, and tobacco product covers now show in clear and almost overpowering capital letters the dangers involved in smoking.

However, the habit still overpowers the imagination of millions of teenagers around the world. After they are hooked to the practice, dropping it is usually difficult.

Surveys on the matter are few and far between, though, and medical records often relate to disease, not to smoking.

But progress has been made, where presumed role models including film actors and musicians take care not to show off a smoking habit. Earlier it was really a king-size element in the conduct of a hero or heroine smoking big.

What perhaps is especially vexing is that governments have struggled to strike a balance between 'no tobacco' as a firm commitment and using the crop as a cash earner both for farmers and for governments and other agencies.

Tobacco farming eats up swathes of tree cover on open lands each year and its effects contribute to rising levels of prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Yet smoking isn't the villain in the piece when it comes to the rather amorphous category of non-communicable diseases.

At times it is much like relates to objects of popular consumption like sugars and meats, for which no regulations have ever been mooted but which account for more of NCDs trouble than do smoking and alcohol consumption put together.

This some to a public health conundrum, but taking smoking by the horn will surely make a modest contribution to better health.

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Why are youngsters hurting themselves, and what could be done to stem the tide?

By Jennifer Margulis

KATIE Meyer had her whole life ahead of her. A senior at one of the most prestigious universities in the world - Stanford - the 22-year-old was also a soccer star.

Meyer was her team's goalkeeper and captain, and her excellence on and off the field helped Stanford defeat North Carolina 5-4 to win the women's College Cup national championship in 2019.

But this March 1, Meyer was found dead in a residence hall on Stanford's campus. A few days later, her parents, in a tear-filled interview on "The Today Show", told the world that their daughter had died by suicide.

A Global Problem

Nearly 46,000 people died by suicide in the US in 2020 and there were an estimated 1.2 million attempts, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Worldwide, more than 700,000 people take their own lives each year. World Health Organisation records show.

According to a March brief from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths by suicide increased from 2000 to 2018, but declined slightly in 2019. For both men and women, suicide rates were lower in 2020 than in 2018 and 2019.

While it seems that suicide rates in females aged over 25 went down during that time, the rates of suicide among girls and women in the 10 to 24 age bracket - like Meyer - have increased.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among children and adults of ages 10 to 34, and the fifth-leading cause of death in adults aged between 35 and 54, the CDC brief explained, noting: "It is a major contributor to premature mortality."

These numbers, however, are likely to be underestimates. Experts say social stigma, deaths that are attributed to drug addiction but may actually be suicides, and deaths from car crashes, firearm accidents, and other tragic incidents (such as drowning and poisoning) that may have actually been intentional but are counted as accidents may all lead to underreporting.

Indeed, in one 2015 study, researchers at Bournemouth University in the United Kingdom found that in 18 of the 20 countries they analysed, a large number of suicides were wrongly classified as undetermined deaths.

"We are masking the loss from suicide and failing to prevent these family tragedies..." Dr Colin Pritchard, a research professor in psychiatric social work who directed the research, lamented in a statement.

While it is not clear yet how the global response to Covid-19 has affected suicide rates, the mental health professionals I've spoken to over the past month - among them a middle school guidance counsellor, several medical doctors and two child psychologists - have said that they have seen that more young people are more troubled than ever before.

Even conventional media outlets, includ-

ing an NBC News investigation and a report from NPR, are reporting that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a rise in suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts and self-harm in young people.

"Children are not rubber bands," wrote Paul Thomas, MD (with whom I have co-authored two books), a paediatrician based in Portland, Oregon, on his Facebook page in reference to yet another young person who has died. Sarah Schultz, a track and field star at the University of Wisconsin, took her own life this April 13.

"They're not resilient. They are suffering in untold ways," said Dr Thomas.

Impulsive Suicides

Some suicides are a result of sudden inclination that may not be connected to anything beyond a present situation, like the break-up of a relationship, for example, or a public or even a private humiliation.

That may be what happened to Jordan John DeMay, a 17-year-old who took his own life on March 25. The Michigan teen was being exhorted by a cyber stalker after he sent a sexually explicit picture of himself to a cyber-extortionist, as reported by the Daily Press.

"Imagine: You're 17 years old, you're embarrassed," Marquette County Sheriff Greg Zyburt told a journalist, adding: "You're scared to death, and what do you do? And ultimately, he took his own life."

According to Maria A. Oquendo, MD, impulsive attempts may account for the majority of attempted suicides. One survey of over 48,000 adults found that 64 per cent of the attempts were impulsive.

Difficult Childhoods and Suicide Risk

Meanwhile, people who have experienced ongoing childhood trauma are also at increased risk of dying by suicide.

We now know that an adverse childhood experience, which researchers call an "ACE," can compromise the person's health in adulthood in many ways, including putting the person's at higher risk of dying by his or her own hand.

In that first study, scientists found a strong correlation between the number of ACEs a child experiences from birth to age 18 and future health issues.

These findings have since been replicated.

Then, in 2017, researchers in Texas and California discovered that grown-ups who had experienced ACEs were more likely to have attempted suicide than those who had not.

Yet another study, published in January 2019 in Child: Care, Health, and Development, sampled the health outcomes of nearly 9,500 people over a 13-year span. It also found that the more difficult and traumatising experiences people had in childhood, the more likely they were to seriously consider suicide or make an attempt.

"Compared with those with no ACEs," the researchers wrote, "the odds of seriously considering suicide or attempting suicide increased more than three-fold among those with three or more ACEs."

In addition, a meta-analysis of the existing literature, published the same year, similarly found a strong connection between suicide and childhood trauma and abuse.

What Are ACEs?

Starting in 1994, researchers began studying the effects of bad childhood experiences on the physical and mental health of more than 17,000 adults. The study identified ten Adverse Childhood Events or ACEs.

These include psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, and witnessing violence against one's mother or another adult woman.

The others are substance abuse or overuse by a parent or other household member, mental illness, suicide attempt, or suicide death of a parent or household member, jailing of a parent or other household member, and parents' separation or divorce.

Stemming the Tide

Dr Paul Thomas, whose oldest son has openly struggled with both addiction and suicide and was once put on a 24/7 suicide watch, argues that it's important to talk honestly and openly with people - especially young people - about suicide.

A cousin of mine died by suicide, as did the only child of one of my closest friends. As a mother of three young adults and a 12-year-old, I believe that talking openly is very important.

But, at the same time, there's so much shame and awkwardness around this subject that it is difficult to know where to start. It makes it even harder that conventional media outlets tend to ignore or gloss over suicide. This is partly out of a fear that publishing details about people who die by their own hands might encourage more suicides, especially among teens and young adults.

"People are often afraid of the word (suicide) and they won't bring it up," Dan Reidenberg, executive director of the Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, told the Huffington Post for a 2018 article headlined "How to Talk About Suicide in a Way That's Actually Helpful."

Still, silence is the wrong approach, according to Reidenberg - who added: "The best way to talk about suicide is openly and honestly."

Hard as this is, try to get in the habit of telling your children and other loved ones that they can talk to you about anything, even their darkest and most shameful secrets.

If someone in your life is feeling suicidal right now, do your best not to let them self-isolate. Arrange to have someone be close to them at all times while they are in crisis.

Don't be ashamed to enlist the help of family members, friends and community members so that your loved ones are surrounded by emotionally and mentally stable helpers. Just being present with them may save their lives.

And once you are together with them, face to face, you can help get them into a treatment or rehabilitation programme or make an appointment with a clergyperson or therapist. You can also help them dial a suicide hotline - if available - and/or dial it for them and hand them the phone.

An Epoch Health dispatch. Jennifer Margulis, PhD, is an award-winning journalist and author of "Your Baby, Your Way: Taking Charge of Your Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Parenting Decisions for a Happier, Healthier Family." She is a Fulbright awardee and mother of four who, among other things, has worked on a child survival campaign in West Africa.

Samia's international recognitions good for development of our country

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has made a name for herself in the world stage, for good reasons, which can catapult our country to new levels of development.

Last week, she was recognized by popular American publication Time Magazine, appearing on its coveted list of The 100 Most Influential People of 2022.

The only other African leader on that list is Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. That speaks volumes about what it takes to be recognized by the publication. It must be something outstanding.

A fortnight ago, president Samia was named the 2022 winner of the Africa Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy which is sponsored by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The accolade is organized by Acturoutes, an information platform on infrastructure and roads in Africa and Media for Infrastructure and Finance in Africa (MIFA), a network of African journalists specializing in road infrastructure.

These recognitions present an opportunity for Tanzania to make strides in her development endeavours. This can happen in three ways. First, the accolades make the president and by extension the country known far and wide.

Being known is one thing and being known for good reasons is completely different. That is why someone or something can be notorious and another notable. The former with negative connotation can be easily achieved but the latter is not a child's play.

One of the major headaches for tourism and investment promotion agencies and companies is to make their countries and destinations stand out namely notable and not notorious. President Samia is doing just that for destination Tanzania.

This notability is likely to help boost the image of Tanzania as a country of hardworking leaders hence a destination of choice for investors whose first and foremost criterion before making final investment decision is the credibility of the national leadership.

Secondly, these recognitions will have a positive impact on the president as a person. It is natural that anyone recognized is challenged to work even harder and prove to naysayers and doubters that such accolades were actually deserved.

This means that President Samia will consciously or subconsciously work harder than she would have done under normal circumstances and that will benefit the country more.

Third, the people president Samia has trusted with various duties in her government will change for the better. This positive change amongst public and civil servants can also happen in three ways.

First, if you know—and the whole world knows—that your boss is working hard, you'll be challenged to up your game or feel guilty of letting her down. Very few, unscrupulous employees can let that happen.

Secondly, the president's appointees will naturally be motivated that they are part of a winning team hence improved performance. If the team is winning, not only the players feel motivated, even the fans feel good.

Third, there will be that good fear amongst pres-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (right) receives Africa Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy from Solomon Quaynor, the African Development Bank vice president for private sector, infrastructure and industry at a ceremony held last week in Accra, Ghana. Photo/State House

idential appointees that because of the achievements recorded so far, the boss may not tolerate any underperformance or negligence going forward. The result of this kind of fear is increased performance and productivity.

Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, writing for Time on the 100 influential people list, described president Samia as a leader whose presence at Tanzania's helm has opened a door for dialogue between political rivals towards rebuilding trust in the democratic system.

"Efforts have been made to increase press freedom, and women and girls have a new role model," writes Sirleaf.

Time also commends President Samia, who has led the country since March last year, for her "tonic" leadership style.

Announcing the winner for Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy through a statement, AfDB said that the prize is awarded to leading figures in Africa, demonstrating intense commitment to the development of the transport infrastructure on the continent.

The selection committee for the award commended President Samia for her "personal leadership, huge investments and commitment" to extending roads and the railway network in Tanzania. "We send our warm congratulations to President Sa-

mia and the people of Tanzania," the committee intoned.

The committee noted the \$290m loan provided by the AfDB to support the revitalization of road, rail and air transport in Tanzania, along with the \$172.2m contract signed with the China Corporation Limited to supply 1,430 freight wagons for the Tanzania Railways Corporation standard gauge railway programme.

The construction of an outer ring road in the city of Dodoma was cited for praise by AfDB, a project launched by the president on 11th February in the presence of AfDB Group president, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

The president added that the construction of infrastructure requires time; from feasibility studies to finding funds for the projects - a herculean task to achieve within a year.

"Projects take many years, it is a continuous process. From the first to the fifth phase government, a lot was done including expanding the road network and connecting various parts of the country in the fourth phase regime led by Jakaya Kikwete," she said.

"But in these efforts, one person has always been there and this is the late John Pombe Magufuli, my predecessor, who served in the third and fourth phase governments as Minister of Works and Transport before becoming the President to continue such efforts," she said.

Last week, the National Assembly passed a resolution to congratulate president Samia for the infrastructure development trophy as well as Time's 100 most influential people recognition.

The resolution read by Zainabu Katimba Special Seats (CCM) was titled 'The Parliament's resolution to congratulate President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being among 100 most influential people in the world and receiving a trophy in recognition of the government's commitment to improving transport infrastructure in the country.'

Katimba said that President Samia deserves the accolades as she becomes the 12th president and the first female president in the country to receive the award since the trophy recognition began in 2016.

"The people recognize her initiatives to develop transport infrastructure such as roads and railways in the country. She has been recognized to be among the most influential people in the world by Time Magazine. Therefore, through the parliament in its seventh meeting and 31st session, resolves to congratulate President Samia Hassan," she said.

"The resolution also aims at encouraging initiatives she makes to develop the country in different sectors." Speaking on behalf of other law makers, Zahoro Mohammed, Mweru MP (CCM) commended the president for various efforts meant to develop the country.

"There is a saying that no one is a prophet in their own land but let me assure you the president that we members of parliament do love you and appreciate your efforts," he said.

Zahoro added that its time the MPs and the country at large stopped waiting to be appreciated by outsiders when good things happen at home.

Tunisia's Arab Spring champion straying into authoritarian territory

By Peter Fabricius

FOR a while, optimists could hope that President Kais Saied hadn't abandoned Tunisia's turbulent but exhilarating democratic project - even after he suspended parliament and fired the prime minister last year, invoking a 'state of exception' that allowed him to rule by decree.

That hope now seems largely to have dissipated after Saied this month replaced the independent electoral commission with one he appointed entirely himself. The move appears designed to ensure the electoral body rubberstamps the outcome of a 25 July referendum on radical constitutional changes that will create some sort of grassroots democracy. The new constitution would come into effect after elections planned for December.

Saied's scrapping of independent electoral observation sparked large public protests in the capital Tunis, with demonstrators chanting for democracy. Many also complained that "Saied has led the country to starvation." This is a worrying sign that sustained political turbulence

is aggravating an already deteriorating economy, with food prices in particular spiralling because of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Tunisia is the country that sparked the Arab Spring in late 2010 and until recently was widely regarded as its only surviving success story. But Saied's series of undemocratic actions may have buried that trophy irretrievably - though some still hope that the referendum might somehow save the day.

Since 25 July 2021, the president has proceeded steadily down the path of authoritarianism, increasingly monopolising power. He proclaimed a decree governing the state of emergency on 22 September and appointed his own de facto new prime minister. On 12 February, Saied dissolved the Superior Council of the Judiciary, which hired and fired judges, and effectively assumed its powers himself. He dissolved the parliament on 30 March.

Public freedoms largely remain intact, though some politicians and officials - especially from the main Islamist party, An-Nahda - have been arbitrarily detained. Such actions against the Islamists appear to have buoyed Saied's



Tunisian president Kais Saied announced on 30 March the dissolution of the Parliament, which was frozen since 25 July 2021, under Article 72 of the penal code. File photo

popular support in a highly polarised polity. The International Crisis Group recently wrote that polls indicated that 70%-80% of the populace still back him.

This is a reminder that it

was in the context of rampant graft, conflict, turbulence and violence among various political factions that he assumed almost sole power on 25 July last year. His move enjoyed the support of many ordinary

people, especially anti-Islamists and others who believed a corrupt and self-interested political class was driving Tunisia to ruin.

These sorts of accusations against politicians have

often been the pretext for an authoritarian leader to step in and seize power in a coup. This might be explicit and brazen as in the case of a military putsch. But Tunisia's opposition and some

analysts have also labelled Saied's more implicit unilateral transfer of democratic powers to himself, as a coup.

Matt Herbert, senior expert at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crimes' North Africa and Sahel Observatory, was cautiously optimistic after Saied's gambit last year that he'd remain within the bounds of the constitution. But Herbert has lost that hope now.

He notes that Saied's move to create his own 'rubberstamp court' to endorse elections undermines the perceived legitimacy of whatever new constitution the referendum is supposed to validate. More broadly, Herbert notes that "the argument that he is still following a constitutional path has become strained to the point of impossibility."

Saied insists that he is still acting constitutionally as he has invoked provisions governing emergency powers that allow him to rule by decree in certain circumstances. But even if that is so, he seems to be using the constitution to dismantle it, by giving himself more and more powers. And this is happening at a dangerous moment.

"As Saied advances into this new referendum and attempts to create new political powers and structures in Tunisia, he's doing so in a situation which is degrading rapidly," Herbert says. And Saied has done nothing to remedy the dire economic and social problems that existed before 25 July last year, including high food prices, unemployment and corruption. "If anything it's gotten worse," he says, noting that staples such as bread are even less available.

And because of Tunisia's high dependence on grain imports, the shortages caused by the Ukraine war are pushing the country into a state of acute risk, even outside of Saied's actions. With the president's activities in the mix, the threat of social, economic and political volatility this summer is high.

Is this a permanent goodbye to the Arab Spring, considering Tunisia was the only country keeping that flame alive, even if only flickeringly? Herbert says not, believing the Arab Spring should be regarded as a process not a fixed time period. But with its champion in grave jeopardy, it's hard to see where one should look for new hope

DM

Hard work and a leg up pay off for Café Societi's first franchisee

By Bianca Coleman

DAMON got the training, got the knack of the milk, and along with that, the confidence. It was her attitude - hard working and always enthusiastic - that brought her to Weetman's attention, and she had been on his radar for the café for a while. Suddenly being the boss of her own place is overwhelming, she admitted, what with the business side of things like advertising, marketing and admin - for which she is supported by Societi Bistro. Damon is also overcome with gratitude (there were even some happy tears) for the trust that has been handed to her. "I just want to tell Peter again how grateful I am for the opportunity," she said, dabbing her eyes with a tissue.

We've both known Weetman for years and agreed he is tough but fair, and has provided many opportunities for hard workers along the way. "To get Peter's trust, that is a very big thing," reiterated Damon.

The location is significant as well: you'll recognise it immediately - it is where the foyer of the Fugard Theatre used to be, the building rebranded as the HCC: Homecoming Centre, owned by the District Six Museum Foundation, which administers all matters pertaining to the District Six Museum and the Homecoming Centre, including a vast number of community based projects.

In November 2021 the foundation put out a tender which went to Neighbourgood, an organisation which is repurposing city properties that were left vacant due to the pandemic and is creating community driven, co-working and co-living spaces for young professionals and digital nomads.

The partnership sees Neighbourgood driving the "day to day" property management, maintenance, events and later on, permanent tenants. When Neighbourgood was looking for a tenant to take over the former theatre foyer space for food and beverage, a mutual connection (a lawyer) put it in touch with Weetman. That was less than two months ago, if you need more indication as to how quickly this all happened.

"All the history comes together and here I am in the middle, making something new," marvelled Damon, who gets up at 6am to travel from Westlake into town by taxi to open the café at 7am. It trades seven days a week, until 7pm. A bonus is the reintroduction of events in the theatre spaces - like the Shakespeare Schools Festival this month - as well as the adjoining hall (part of a bigger working and living space) where an art exhibition opens next week, and including church services on Sundays. Everyone who walks through there is a potential customer, which is an enormous boost for a fledgling pursuit.

The Café Societi concept is not an on-site consumption model. Yes, you can walk in off the street and order coffee, pastries, meals like pastas and Societi Bistro's famous mushroom risotto or lemon tart, and soups for cold days and nights. However, it was designed to be app-based, which is super convenient, and part of what impressed Neighbourgood. You download it and create an account from which you can select what you want, pay through the app, and collect. Quick and easy. You can mark your favourites, and make "bundles", for example a pain au nemesis (croissant filled with chocolate nemesis, a Bistro dessert staple) and a cappuccino would be a superb breakfast, or afternoon treat. It's just as well I don't live around the corner or I'd probably shrug and say who cares anyway and have that every day and never wear anything with a zipper again.

If you do stumble through the door, you'll be



Olivia Damon and her team at Café Societi in the Homecoming Centre. From left, Shameema Siwayo, Shaqael Abrahams, Olivia Damon, Anesu Mubandu, Faseegah Najjar. (Photo: Supplied)

welcomed, probably by Damon herself, who will also tell you more about the app to streamline future visits into a digital experience.

The idea for Café Societi germinated before Covid when Weetman and Johan van Heerden (who, among other things, was the one tasked with telling Damon her life was about to change almost overnight because he's the sweet one and deals better with emotions) were looking at ways they could successfully and ethically scale the business. "Franchising the bistro was never going to be an option; it has too many moving parts, and is very personality driven," said Weetman.

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looking at ways they could successfully and ethically scale the business. "Franchising the bistro was never going to be an option; it has too many moving parts, and is very personality driven," said Weetman.

Having percolated and distilled the concept, Covid provided the time necessary to work on developing the app, and to wade through the massive amount of documentation that comes with franchising. "Then things opened up and we had to refocus. We are slightly behind in terms of everything, Olivia has been very patient with us," said Weetman. "Neighbourgood and I started talking about four, five weeks ago and I said 'listen, I've got a launch and a change of menu and a new chef - I want to do it; it's an amazing opportunity'. I was part of the design team for the original foyer so the kismet is insane. Neighbourgood asked if I could consult for the hospitality area.

"Then everything happened really fast; two weeks from offer to lease to operation. It was a juggling act; we had been talking to private entrepreneurs, had to find and polish talent - and find investors at the same time - and then the big trick is to find the right venue.

"Olivia used to open the restaurant, had keys, ran her own petty cash; all these little skills add up. I'm really proud of her, she's done an incredible job, and I'm not saying that in a patronising or paternalistic way. She's ahead of the curve. We said to her 'these are things that need to start moving in your direction'; yesterday she interviewed and employed two people."

Weetman said there are other employees, female, at Societi Bistro he has his eye on for future possibilities. "If you want to get shit done, ask a woman," he said.

Being early days, and such a fast opening, there are plans to offer flowers, a homeware range - linen, tableware, glasses - all supporting local artisans, and an extension of Curated. Africa, another facet of the Societi Bistro enterprise.

"We have a dream of hitting 300 franchises around the country - from cities to the Winelands; it might take seven years, it might take three months," said Weetman, half-joking in reference to the speed at which this took place. "Yes, there are high traffic areas one must look at but, like Societi, my preference is always going to be for old beautiful buildings with history and character.

"I think what will stay after Covid we can all debate until we are blue in the face - will people work at home? Will they come back to offices? That's very situational. I think the one thing that will definitely stay is convenience, and that's what Café Societi offers."

Now I wonder... how bad can a daily pain au nemesis be for the figure? **DM/TGIFood**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Conflict, weather extremes and Covid-19 risks decades of progress, summit warns

By Guardian Correspondent

THE world is seeing unprecedented levels of humanitarian crises, conflict, weather extremes and the economic impact of COVID-19 are a toxic triple combination that threatens to undo decades of progress in health and social development for the world's poorest and most vulnerable women, children and adolescents.

Delegates who attended the Lives in the Balance summit: Delivering on Commitments in Humanitarian and Fragile Settings on May 19th, 2022 called for urgent multi-sectoral investment to ensure continuity of health services and supplies during the pandemic response and recovery, with additional support for those caught up in humanitarian and fragile settings.

The war in Ukraine is just the latest in a succession of devastating conflicts and crises affecting the world. More than two billion people, including half the world's poorest populations, currently live in humanitarian and fragile settings.

These crises are being driven by multiple factors. Conflict, political fragility, COVID-19, food insecurity, a recessionary global economy and climate change are affecting the health and opportunities of the world's poorest and most vulnerable citizens, including many in East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Such crises particularly exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities for women, children and adolescents and broaden the rift between the world's richest and poorest communities.

Dr Margaret Agama-Anyete, Acting director, Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development at the African Union said: "Unfortunately, Africa today has 80 per cent of the global humanitarian burden. And situations such as those in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa in Eastern and Southern Africa make this situation worse."

She added: "External situation like what is happening in Ukraine also contribute to undermining progress which has been made around nutrition and indeed on sexual and reproductive health. The continent broadly is unprepared and has weak preparedness systems in place to deal with many of these issues which result in humanitarian situations. And of course, we cannot forget the issue of climate change and climate driven humanitarian situations."

The Lives in the Balance virtual summit was co-hosted by PMNCH, the largest global alliance for women's, children's and adolescents' health and CORE Group, bringing almost 900 participants from more than 90 countries together to discuss the challenges to protecting the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents in the context of COVID-19 and increasing instability across the world, and the policies and financial investments required to provide continuity in vital services.



Helen Clark, PMNCH Board Chair, and Former Prime Minister of New Zealand said: "The question we need to ask ourselves and our political leaders is what kind of a world order we are building for our children."

"Is it a world marred by global health emergencies, climate disasters, famine, war, gender inequality and increasing poverty? Or a world as envisioned by the Sustainable Development Goals where universal health coverage, and a better and more sustainable future is the reality for not some, but all," she said.

The Lives in the Balance series of e-summits has served as an innovative and inclusive platform for partner-led dialogue and action on COVID-19 and women's, children's and adolescents' health (WCAH).

The first Summit in 2020 saw the launch of the PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19, which outlined seven, asks to protect and promote WCAH and serves as basis for PMNCH's on-

going advocacy.

To date, 21 commitments have been made pledging USD 32.1 billion. This fourth summit in the series focused on delivering on commitments in the context of COVID-19 and the growing number of crises in humanitarian and fragile settings.

Approximately one-fifth of the world's population of women and children live in countries experiencing armed conflict, with a record 56 active conflicts documented in 2020. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview for 2022, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance globally has increased to 274 million people this year, breaking the record high of 235 million people set in 2021. Maternal mortality increases by 11 per cent on average and 28 per cent in relatively more intense conflicts, relative to conflict-free periods.

Fragile regions with already high poverty rates and precarious economic structures have been hit much

harder than others by the COVID-19 pandemic. About 97 million more people are living on less than \$1.90 because of the pandemic, increasing the global poverty rate from 7.8 to 9.1 per cent.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated child hunger and malnutrition. In 2022, COVID-19 disruptions and supply chain challenges may push an additional 9.3 - 13.6 million children into acute malnutrition.

Climate change and natural disasters place immense stress and pressure on governments and societies, especially in fragile settings that are already struggling to cope with other socio-economic and political pressures. The last 10 years were the hottest on record and the number of climate-related disasters has tripled in the last 30 years. Today, over 400 million children live in areas of high or extremely high-water vulnerability.

If the global community is serious

about leaving no one behind, it must implement a rights-based approach and equity enhancing strategies that fully address the needs of the most marginalized, who too often live in humanitarian settings.

They should be properly funded, preferably with multi-year, unmarked and diversified funds. Programmes should enable and equip local actors in decision-making to ensure that necessary and appropriate services are being delivered to women, children and adolescents in humanitarian settings.

The full spectrum of essential health services (in particular, sexual and reproductive health services) for women, children and adolescents should be provided in humanitarian and fragile settings, with designated funds for such programming and services to continue, or even expand.

Lisa Hilmi, Executive Director, CORE Group said: "Lives in the Balance provided an opportunity for all of us to learn, to listen, to jointly reflect and to share and identify ways to collaborate for a fairer and a more equitable world, where all are able to realise their human rights." "Our aim and effort with each of these Lives in the Balance summits have been to listen to what others in the community have to say, so that our collective response is targeted and fit for purpose, especially in crisis situations where the stakes are so high," added Hilmi.

Seaweed farming in Pemba is chance for real growth, alternative livelihood

By Felister Peter

IT wasn't an easy start for Fatuma Machano Ally, a seaweed farmer in Micheweni District, Pemba North Region to achieve all the successes she has after practicing the agricultural activity for over seven years.

Fatuma is proud of her recorded successes whereas she has been able to establish a tailoring business and improve her welfare.

"It is through seaweed farming that I am now owning a modern sewing machine; my life has improved and I can provide for my family," said Fatuma, insisting to continue cultivating the crop because of its economic benefits.

According to her, the government in collaboration with stakeholders and some seaweed buying firms have been training them on environmental conservation and providing them with farming tools and protective gear.

"We are thankful to the government and some seaweed buying companies (Milele Foundation) for training us on snorkeling and swimming so that we can save ourselves during hides in the sea," she said, appealing to the government to consider setting indicative prices for the crop.

She said prices are lower at between 600/- and 700/- per kilogram as it is decided by buyers she suggested for a review of prices so that a kilo of the crop is sold at between 1,000/- and 2,000/-.

Fatuma added: "When practicing our agricultural activities we also preserve the coastal



A student of Mringa primary school in Arusha Region demonstrates hand washing in a new facility at their school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

environment as we normally collect all the used tools such as ropes and pegs and destroy them at our homes. We are doing this to protect the environment and the sea."

Seaweed has the unique ability to improve ocean health by providing benefits to water quality and providing habitat for wild fish, in addition to providing a low impact form of jobs in rural coastal communities.

Commenting, Asha Khamis Sultan, a Seaweed Officer, Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries in Pemba said they always emphasize farmers on the importance of preserving the coastal environment by practicing sustainable farming.

The official said farmers have been prohibited from using plastics and bottles and make sure they plant the crop in deeper waters to ensure quality products.

"We are doing all these because most of the residents in Zanzibar depend on the ocean; the government is also promoting a blue economy to ensure all the potentials are tapped accordingly," said Asha, adding used tools are destroyed by fire to protect the environment.

She said that under the seaweed value chain, farmers are trained on value addition which includes production of various products such as body soaps, cream and scrub that are sold within and outside the country.

"It is a beneficial crop; most farmers have their welfare improved, they have constructed better houses and have joined the Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (SACCOSS)

where they can access funds for expansion of their farms."

Juma Khamis Omar, Seaweed Officer, Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries in Pemba said the government is planning to start providing farmers with subsidies as well as modern operating tools including boats.

Ormary said the government is also planning to conduct a seaweed farmer's census to get the exact number of people engaging in the activity.

He said the last census was conducted in 2010, but there are indications that more people in both Unguja and Pemba have opted to venture into agricultural activity due to its economic benefits.

"More people are now cultivating the crop as the government is taking measures to support farmers with modern farming tools and boats; completion of the seaweed processing factory will also see an increase in price as the Zanzibar State Trading Corporation (ZSTC) will be the main buyer. The global demand for raw seaweed and its products have gone up, hence the need to intensify its farming," Ormary remarked.

Seaweed farming is Pemba's second largest agricultural activity after cloves and Zanzibar's largest export business, employing thousands of people, 85 per cent of whom are women.

Micheweni District in Pemba North Region produces between 50 and 70 per cent of all the seaweed in Zanzibar, according to data from the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries in Pemba. Over 8,000 women in the district are engaging in the seaweed sub-sector.

African governments urged to support plastic pollution solutions

NAIROBI

ENVIRONMENTAL experts gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, have urged African governments to take advantage of 'circular plastic opportunities' to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stop environmental degradation. They were speaking to IPS on the sidelines of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

The key approach to a circular economy for developing countries in Africa and elsewhere, according to experts, should focus on addressing plastic pollution by reducing the discharge of plastics into the environment by covering all stages of the plastic life cycle. Plastic waste would be reduced through restorative and regenerative projects using the material without allowing leakage into the natural environment.

Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), outlined critical steps on halting plastic pollution, stopping harmful chemicals in agriculture, and deploying nature to find sustainable development solutions by 2024.

"Ambitious action to beat plastic pollution should track the lifespan of plastic products - from source to sea - should be legally binding, accompanied by support to developing countries, backed by financing mechanisms, tracked by strong monitoring mechanisms, and incentivizing all stakeholders - including the private sector," Andersen said.

The main challenge is how countries should move towards a more circular economy that benefits from reducing environmental pressure. Scientists stress the need for most African govern-

ments to strengthen the science and knowledge base on plastic pollution and improve their policies.

Mohammed Abdelraouf, chair of Scientific and Technological Community Major Group UNEP, told IPS that while there are many solutions to plastic pollution, research should complement these efforts by developing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

"It is important for governments to make decisions that stimulate innovations," he said.

According to the draft resolution being debated at UNEA, signatories to an internationally legally binding agreement would commit to reducing plastic pollution across the entire lifecycle of plastics, from preventive measures in the upstream part of the lifecycle to downstream ones addressing waste management. Rwanda and Peru drew up the resolution.

For a smooth implementation and compliance by stakeholders, the UN agency in charge of environmental protection is engaged with stakeholders, including governments, the business community, researchers, and civil society. The engagement aims to understand priorities, challenges, what's needed to foster a plastics circular economy that works for industry, economies and meets environmental and social objectives.

Experts describe private sector support as crucial in managing plastic waste. Some business community members will benefit during implementation from grant financing to encourage the move towards the circular economy.

With different industries across the plastic value chain now facing a shifting



Negotiators at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Kenya. African countries have been encouraged to adopt circular plastic policies which will lower greenhouse emissions. File photo

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 292 00--

3 letters: IMP, YEN, ANT, RIA
 4 letters: OVER, NENE, ENOS, UNIT, MINT, OVEN, IRON, DEMI, AIDE, DEER, EDEN, LOME
 5 letters: ASIDE, ENEMA, ANNOY, RENTA, MONEY, ESTOP, NEEDY, AMMAN
 6 letters: MONKEY, ENDURE, NEEDLE, DEODAR, YEMENI, NENETS
 7 letters: TLINGIT, KREMLIN

WORD-FIT
 MODERN HOSTI TOURISM A S
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 N M D R E A M V I S R A E L Y I L R
 I M A G E F I M O D E T C A M B O D I A
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 G R A B A B U T A F O U R E R O O
 E S S L O G R A B S R I V E R D O E T E N
 E S S E K L K O S L O O E D
 E C O A S T E R D A D A E M A L S

CROSSWORD
 1. general weather conditions
 6. tiny Island in Pacific ocean
 7. land surrounded by water
 9. can be seen in the sky at night
 11. a genus of flowering plants in the family Lamiaceae
 12. a dull brownish-gold colour
 15. inlet formed by the partial submergence of a river valley
 17. blessed with gas in Tanzania
 19. fresh invigorating air
 20. Potatoe
 22. to fall as water in drops from the sky
 24. Bolivia's Capital
 25. a planet's orbit intersects the plane of the ecliptic or the celestial equator
 26. sixth planet from the sun
 27. Longest river in Africa

Down:
 1. the scientific study of climate
 2. away from the shore
 3. on one's own
 4. Berber people of the western and central Sahara
 5. star at the center of the solar system
 6. birth rate
 8. farthest planet from the sun
 9. a period of high winds
 10. the rise and fall of sea level
 13. village in India with Latitude 34.09 and Longitude 74.79
 14. a rowler
 16. avoiding indecency 18. river in South America
 21. fraternity
 23. Christmas

dynamic, Andersen noted that company shareholders and consumers are increasingly paying attention to the pollution challenges arising from their investments and purchasing decisions.

For example, one waste management initiative has supported public-private investment projects in three African countries, including Algeria, Ethiopia, and Rwanda, to advance sustainable waste management and the circular economy.

Margaret Munene, a Kenyan woman entrepreneur and chair of Business and Industry Major Group of UNEP, told delegates that the successful reduction of plastic pollution requires testing solutions.

"The private sector remains critical to creating innovative and technological solutions to address plastic waste," she said.

Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment, Espen Barth Eide, has initiated a project to identify requirements and options for designing a science-policy interface. The project aims to develop different proposals on how to create the interface to operate as effectively as possible, especially for developing countries.

"Plastic pollution has grown into an epidemic of its own. Paradoxically, plastics are among the most long-lasting products we humans have made - and frequently, we still just throw it away. Plastic is a product that can be used again, and then over and over again, if we move it into a circular economy. I am convinced that the time has come for a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution," Eide said.

Bérangère Abba, French Secretary of State in charge of Biodiversity is convinced that for increased recycling of plastic waste to be legally enforceable, it is important to negotiate to bring contentious parties together to address emissions.

"There is still a need to have an independent science-policy interface that would help monitor the progress and priorities of this ambitious goal dedicated to enabling a circular economy for plastics," she told IPS.

Beyond plastics, experts say other major interventions needed concern the design of buildings that make efficient use of limited materials and use building processes that are less energy-intensive to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stop environmental degradation.

Official estimates show that Africa is the second most populous continent globally, and its urban population is expected to nearly triple by 2050 to 1.34 billion.

It's estimated that between 60% and 80% of the built environment needed by 2050 to support this growing population has yet to be laid



Experts describe private sector support as crucial in managing plastic waste. Some business community members will benefit during implementation from grant financing to encourage the move towards the circular economy

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME						
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 HRS DJ SHOW 12.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 12.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12.35 HRS HOJA YA LEO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 13.35 HRS HOJA YA LEO 13.40 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.45 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKYO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS

Koica donates assorted items to Sisters of Mary Secondary School in Mkuranga

By Beatrice Philemon

KOREAN government through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has donated a water filter machine, sewing machine, sanitary pads and dental chair all worth 50m/- to Sisters of Mary Secondary School in Mkuranga District, Coast Region.

KOICA Country Director Tanzania Office, Kyuchool Eo said yesterday that the support is part of implementation of a five months programme—Project for Promoting Girls Right in Sisters of Mary School’.

He said the school will need to seek permission from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children before starting to use the dental chair for dental check-ups.

“We have donated a sewing machine to facilitate vocational training for girls as they might want to become tailors after their studies. The water filter will enable students and teachers to get clean drinking water,” he said.

KOICA has decided to donate the equipment to promote gender equality programmes in Tanzania and the fact that the school receives girls and orphans from poor households across the country.

“If you invest in girls they become

good mothers, thus making more impact on their children,” he said, adding that girls are important in families and if they get a chance to study or work they can change society.

The school’s clinic in-charge, Sister Sylvia Park, expressed thanks to KOICA, saying the equipment will benefit a total of 693 students from poor households across the country.

Representing students, Oliver Elirehema—Form Three, lauded KOICA for their support that in-turn will help the school to get safe and clean drinking water as well as use it for cooking and other uses.

“As students we normally use water which has salt for cooking and other needs but through KOICA, everyone in our school will drink soft water. We are thankful to the Korean government for their support to our school,” she said.

Also she expresses thanks to KOICA for donating sewing machines that in turn will help every student to have their own machine for sewing learning sessions.

Tony Park who accompanied the KOICA Country Director noted that they will continue to donate sanitary pads to keep students healthy during their menstrual cycle, feel confident and focus on their studies in school.

Exim Bank donates 100 desks to schools in Shinyanga Region



Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Sophia Mjema (L), Shinyanga Municipality Mayor, Elias Ramadhani Masumbuko (C) and Exim Bank’s Head of Branch Network, Agnes Kaganda sit at one of the 100 desks donated by Exim Bank Tanzania as part of the bank’s efforts to address the challenge of shortage of desks in the region during a brief handover ceremony held at the RC’s Office over the weekend. Others include the Regional Education Officer Neema Mkanga (L), senior regional officials and staff of the bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

EXIM Bank Tanzania has donated 100 desks worth 20m/- to Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Sophia Mjema to support the region’s efforts in addressing the challenges facing the education sector including the shortage of desks.

Speaking at a brief handover ceremony held at the RC’s office, Exim Bank’s Head of Branch Network, Agnes Kaganda said the move was a continuation of the bank’s ‘Exim Cares’ CSR program aimed at distributing more than 1000 desks in various regions in the country and is only part of the efforts the bank has been making to help the community.

She said that the bank has been

at the forefront in cooperating with the government in achieving various initiatives, especially in improving the education sector in the country, a move she described as the catalyst for development for all sectors, including banks as well.

“Our ambition to support the education sector in the country stems from our belief that without an educated society even the banking services we provide would be shattered due to the fact that our business is highly dependent on the success of the society around us... the success we believe will be brought about through education,” she said.

She said since the begin of the program launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa late last year, a total of 500 desks have already been handed over in Lindi, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mbeya

and Shinyanga regions. The support is expected to benefit more than 300 children a year within an estimated 10 years.

Speaking after receiving the support, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Sophia Mjema thanked the bank for the support and said the donation was timely as the region continues with its initiatives to improve education sector by improving the learning environment for students.

“The support will help combat the challenge of shortage of desks in some of our schools... we are very grateful to Exim Bank for this support and we ask you to continue supporting us in other areas as well including the health sector. Madam President is struggling to raise funds for major ongoing projects in the country so it is encouraging for her to see other stakeholders including banks

continue to support her to achieve her goals” she said.

Expressing their gratitude to the bank, Elias Ramadhani Masumbuko, Mayor of Shinyanga Municipality and the Regional Education Officer Ms. Neema Mkanga expressed satisfaction with the quality standards of the desks while noting that the support will further improve the teaching environment for schools that will benefit from the desks.

“We are very grateful to Exim Bank for this support and we hope that other stakeholders will continue to emulate this example so that together we can overcome this challenge. Currently the region is facing a shortage of 2500 desks while efforts to make more desks continue. So the doors are still open for other stakeholders as joint efforts are more important,” said Mkanga.

“As students we normally use water which has salt for cooking and other needs but through KOICA, everyone in our school will drink soft water. We are thankful to the Korean government for their support to our school”



KOICA country director Kyuchool Eo (4th R) handing over equipments worth 50m/- to the School’s Clinic In charge, Sister Sylvia Park (3rd L).

M-Pesa partners with local banks to extend credit services to Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania has launched an awareness campaign dubbed “Maishayanaendana M-Pesa” aimed at educating users about the digital lending services available to customers and agents via the M-Pesa Platform.

The ‘maishayanaendana M-Pesa’ campaign will feature activations and promotions across the country for 3 months.

The M-Pesa director, Epimack Mbeteni, explained how M-Pesa has grown from just a basic service to send and receive money to a robust platform that is now—a platform that offers an array of micro-finance services to all Tanzanians.

“We have built a great platform for advancing access and use of basic digital financial services like remittances, bill payments, savings and loans, and merchant’s payments. The Vodacom M-PESA’s strategic focus is to drive Tanzania into a cashless economy through its various digital offerings,” Epimack said.

Epimack went on to explain how mobile payment solutions such as Vodacom M-Pesa have contributed to an increasing

number of adults in the formal financial systems, from 58% - 2013 to 65% - 2017 thus driving the country’s financial inclusion index.

“The exponential growth and expansion of mobile money services in Tanzania demonstrated an unfulfilled demand at the low-income segment which can only be met through innovation and partnerships. Vodacom M-Pesa has banked on innovation and key partnerships with banks such as NCB Bank, TCB and FINCA to economically empower Tanzanians by offering micro-loans to users of M-PESA and M-PAWA and M-PESA network agents nationwide”

Vodacom Tanzania has been at the forefront to offer its users innovative credit facilities and was the first mobile operator to introduce M-PAWA—a Saving and loan product, first to launch SONGESHA—an overdraft service for M-PESA users as well as M-Koba—a digital group savings facility. For businesses and agents, Vodacom is also first with Wakala Songesha and Wakala Wezesha, overdraft and term loan for M-PESA agents.

All this has been possible

through partnerships with local banks. We have leveraged on their expertise to facilitate these micro-finance products: NCBA which is backing the M-Pawa product; TCB which is backing Songesha, and Finca which is providing backing for Wakala Songesha & Wakala Wezesha products,” Epimack explained.

These credit facilities are all simple and hassle-free that are handled directly through the user’s phone and do not require an in-person visit.

Furthermore, these are secure loans and advances backed by reputable financial institutions that make use of the wide reach of the Vodacom Tanzania network. For the promotion period, there will be increased limits on these offerings as well as free LUKU tokens for SONGESHA users.

The promotion period will also focus on getting users basic financial literacy and awareness that will allow them to utilize these products and services for maximum benefit. Vodacom and the partner banks aim to promote a culture of responsible financial behavior among all Tanzanians.



CRDB Bank now set to raise savings culture with new 9pc interest rate product

By Guardian Reporter

THE CRDB Bank Plc is offering up to nine percent deposit interest rate on its new product in its deliberate move to promote a culture of saving among its clients.

Known as 'Mzigo Flexi', the two-month campaign markets a special deposit mobilisation product that enables clients to keep their money in the bank for a predetermined fixed time.

"It is basically a time deposit with fixed terms where a certain

amount of money is kept in the account for predetermined fixed time. It offers investment duration of three, six, 12 or 24 months and an interest rate of up to nine percent per annum," CRDB Bank Director of Retail Banking, Boma Raballa said at the weekend, noting that those willing to participate can get the application forms online, download them, fill in and submit to branch for further processes.

'Mzigo Flexi' targets individuals, including sole proprietors, employees, retirees and also groups, institutions and businesses so long

as they are aged 18 and above and can invest at least Sh1 million.

Available in the local currency, 'Mzigo Flexi' is opened as sub-reference account of a customer's main savings or current account.

"Customer can have more than one 'Mzigo Flexi' and invest in multiple contracts. Every contract will be an independent contract... the product does not have any monthly or withdrawal fees... the nine percent interest per annum is payable to customers' personal account as per the agreed interest liquidation period (Monthly,

Quarterly, Semi-annual, Annually or on maturity)," Raballa said.

Should a customer decide to cancel the 'Mzigo Flexi' arrangement, he will have to forfeit 50 percent of the interest earned and proceed with depositing the money under the bank's other normal arrangements.

'Mzigo Flexi' is arranged in such a manner that it also helps customers to grow their money so they can meet their business and personal obligations. It is also an opportunity for those who are looking for regular income through short investments.

Almost 500 youth job opportunities in ICT sector created

By Special Correspondent

ALMOST 500 young South Africans will be given an opportunity to break into the workforce, learn skills in the ever-growing ICT sector and contribute to their communities.

South Africa has become a leading hub on the continent for the growth of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, as the sector is one of the biggest employers in South Africa. The sector contributes about R93 billion (2.7%) of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), according to Stats SA.

As a major player in the ICT sector, Telkom has partnered with Youth Employment Service (YES) to give 455 young people a critical opportunity to break into the workforce and learn future-fit skills in the sector.

"Youth unemployment in South Africa is currently at 66.5%. Through Telkom's partnership with YES, we are increasing job opportunities for youth, and injecting critical skills into our economy that will enable innovation, and a digital future," said Telkom chief human resources officer, Melody Lekota.

"Telkom is committed to addressing inequalities and the socio-development challenges of our country. The partnership with YES is critical to supporting community-led programmes and advancing their impact."

The telecoms company said it opted to place youth externally through the YES turnkey solution as a way to capacitate non-government organisations working in the digital space all over South Africa.

This allows companies to sponsor the

placement of unemployed youth for 12 months in vetted implementation partners within their own communities.

The youth do not have to travel far for work and can rather contribute to building their hometown economies in Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo, Telkom said.

"The youth were placed with YES implementation partners operating in positions that offer crucial in-demand skills such as data capturers, cybersecurity agents, digital artisans, content creators and software developers. This offers them a year of work and up-skilling while earning a salary," the company said.

The five implementation partners hosting the youth are Cape Innovation and Technology Initiative, South Africa's oldest tech incubator which promotes the inclusive growth of the digital economy; the National Financial Literacy Association, which provides ongoing consumer financial education using various platforms; Reconstructed Living Lab, a non-profit which provides empowerment through hope, technology, innovation, training and economic opportunities; Youth Content Collective (YCC), where talented black content creators are connected with business and Youth@Work, where unemployed young people are given work experiences in non-traditional work sites.

"The ICT sector desperately needs more skilled workers. Telkom's partnership with YES will contribute to building an equipped workforce in South Africa, and indeed the rest of Africa, that will have the right skills to deal with the growing ICT demands of the world," said YES chief executive, Ravi Naidoo.



Africa's female entrepreneurs battle 'tomato seller' stereotype to secure funding

By Samuel Gebre and Bella Genga

AFRICA'S female entrepreneurs, such as their US and European counterparts, are underrepresented when it comes to raising funds.

Their start-up journeys are also often a lot more arduous, say investors such as Polo Leteka, co-founder of Alitheia IDF, the continent's largest gender-led fund.

The issues are "probably more pronounced here because we have more underlying problems", said Leteka, pointing to her own experience with tapping investors for funds.

"There was this mentality that African women are just supposed to sell tomatoes on the side of the road."

While surmounting such stereotypes is getting easier, huge barriers remain. For every \$1 (R15.21) invested in women, \$25 goes to men in the African start-up space, according to the World Bank.

Companies founded or cofounded by African women – many with international alliances, networks and operations – drew 16% of the total \$5.2bn raised on the continent by start-ups, according to data from Partech. That compares with 14.7% of the pie in the US and 13.6% in Europe, Pitchbook data show.

The numbers, however, don't capture the challenges of purely home-grown companies

started by African women and the cultural barriers they face, entrepreneurs and fund managers say.

One research showed that when start-ups make pitches, men get asked to speak about the opportunity of their business while women are asked about the risks and their plans to have children.

The men usually get the funding. Take Jihan Abass, the founder and CEO of Lami Insurance Technology, a digital platform for financial services in Kenya and parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. Abass grew up in Mombasa and worked as a commodities trader in London for Toyota before starting her firm.

"I had to show a lot more compared to what I heard my male counterparts were expected to show," she said in an interview. "During the fundraising process, you see other people who have less revenue, fewer partners or whatever metric it is, but they raise more money at a higher valuation; of course it is offensive."

Lami, which announced a year ago that it had raised \$1.8m, is doing a new round of funding – relying primarily on women investors.

"The lead investor who found us and invested in us last year was a woman and the person working with her on the deal was also a woman," Abass said.

"The same thing this time. The more women you have, the more likelihood of them finding

other women to invest in."

The push to groom more women entrepreneurs has spawned a new breed of gender-focused funds in Africa. When Leteka started out in 2007, she was the first and only women-owned private equity firm in SA, and was partly able to raise money because of the government's drive to include more women in the economy.

Since then other such funds have sprouted across Africa.

"I recognised it was really difficult for women to access capital," said Lisa Thomas, who is raising \$35m for a gender-lensed African fund called Samata Capital.

She and other female fund managers have come together to create a pan-African network of more than 70 women to seek out deals and support entrepreneurs.

"If women or half of the founders are being left out, then that is an arbitrage opportunity for me because we will find those diamonds in the rough, we will support them and they will outperform everybody else," Thomas says.

Governments are trying to do their bit, with countries such as SA, Tanzania and Kenya prioritising women suppliers in some of their public procurements.

But broader hurdles to funding projects often drive women away, especially if they are just starting out.

"There are fewer women coming through the ecosystem," said Natalie Kolbe, managing partner of Norrsken22, an Africa-focused fund started by a Swedish tech start-up, which expects to raise \$200m or more this year.

"There is capital available but the ecosystem is not producing women entrepreneurs." Consider Anna Njoroge in Nairobi, founder of an African skin and hair products start-up called Ythera Beauty, who says "accessing long-term financing is a struggle" for entrepreneurs like her.

"A lot of private equity want to fund deals starting maybe from about \$3m," she said. "You have a lot of small businesses that may need \$15,000 or \$100,000, half a million dollars until they get to the next level." Njoroge, who expanded into the US in December, is having to self-fund her business.

One issue hurting women founders is the investor focus on the tech space, which is where a majority of African unicorns are emerging, says Jessica Espinoza, CEO of the 2X Collaborative, an industry body for gender-focused investing.

"This isn't necessarily the sector where female founders are," she said. "As an investor, if you want to fund women-led start-ups, you might need to look to other sectors such as healthcare and reproductive care."

Still, when they are in a tech-related sector,

women entrepreneurs thrive. Last year, Gro Intelligence, a Nairobi and New York-based provider of artificial-intelligence driven real-time agriculture and climate updates raised \$85m.

"Women are judged by what they've done in the past solely while men are being judged by what they say they'll do in the future," said Tokunboh Ishmael at Alitheia Capital, who launched a \$100m gender-investment fund.

"Even in cases where I've trained male colleagues in this industry, I would be judged as less capable than those same colleagues."

Marie Stavelot, a Belgium-born Congolese luxury resale aggregator based in Dubai, tells a similar tale. Stavelot, who founded her company, Reluxable, in December 2020 and launched her platform this year, is looking for about \$1m for the next 16 months to expand her business. The luxury second-hand market is growing, and her sales have been rising. After self-funding operations through her savings and help from her mother, she reached out to more than 200 venture capitalists globally – with no success.

"There are always suggestions saying you want to try an accelerator programme, mentorship and things like that, but why? I am an entrepreneur like any other male entrepreneur," said the London-educated former bank credit analyst.

'No amount of wealth can reverse the nature's vengeance; it will punish even the innocent'

THE world gathered in Kisumu, Kenya for the 9th Africities Summit, which contributes to the integration, peace and unity of Africa starting from the grassroots. It brought together 11,000 delegates from 100 countries 53 of which were African to contribute to the 180 sessions during the five days, an average of at least 36 sessions per day. Our Correspondent ROSE MWALONGO attended various sessions of the summit and had a one-on-one interview with advocate of environment and biodiversity conservation DR BESSY EVA KATHAMBI and here is the excerpt:



QUESTION: Can you please give us the difference between environment and climate as more often than not people tend to confuse the two?

ANSWER: There is a difference between climate and environment because climate is the weather conditions for a certain place for a period of time such as 40 years or 30 years, while the environment comprises the air, water, land which includes living and non-living things. There is climate change which denotes the changes that have been recorded for those 30 years or 40 years in a particular place. Interestingly, what we do on the environment also has an impact on the climate, which further affects the environment.

Q: The AU recently convened its 9th Africities Summit in Kisumu with several concerns raised over the increasing population, how does that affect the environment and climate in general?

A: Increase in population means there will be a need for food, housing, basic commodities which the environment provides. For instance, there will be a need to increase food production which could mean that we have deforestation to get more land for agriculture to produce food. Also it could mean that we have forest degradation or encroachment because an increased population needs land for housing. In the recent past,

the quest for modern infrastructure such as roads has led to further deforestation so that roads are built. All these activities affect the environment and when not done sustainably, they ruin the environment which further affects the climate from carbon emissions arising from deforestation, air pollution from motor vehicles, greenhouse gases from increased agricultural production. All these emissions wear off the ozone layer making it easy for dangerous sun rays to penetrate which contribute harmfully to climate change. As a result, you will find there is an increase in floods, droughts, famines, invasive species such locust, fall worms as indicators of climate change which comes from the activities we are doing on the environment. Having proper systems to manage population increase helps with sustainable planning thereby reducing the negative impacts on the environment.

Q: In recent years, we have seen most countries issue a ban on plastic bags yet we still have plastic bottles in use. In your views do you think enough has been done in terms of making sure that its disposal does not affect the environment?

A: In my opinion, we have not paid attention to dealing with plastics. In June 2018, the world environmental day, the commitment was to beat plastic pollution but it remained just that on paper. Covid 19 made the situation worse by the return of single use plastics in form of face masks, PPEs and gloves which were and are still

needed as we face the pandemic. The number of years that plastic takes to degrade is approximately 100 years, thus we are producing more 8.3M tonnes of plastics daily globally, what will happen to the environment? The IPCC report of 2021 paints the doomed reality if we do not address the plastic pollution and this time we put action to it. In the just concluded UNEA 5.0 conference in Nairobi in March 2022, nations signed an agreement to ban plastics completely and the actions are yet to pick pace. If we do not deal with the plastic pollution, a contributor to climate change effects, life on earth is headed to extinction. I believe we can do more in beating plastic pollution and have urgency in doing so as we did with Covid 19. My desire is that we need to move from declarations to real action and commitment.

Q: Can you imagine a world without plastic bottles?

A: Yes, I can. Our biggest pitfall is the dwindling environmental ethics where the assumption is that the earth will restore itself eventually and we can do as we please. Plastics will outlive us so those plastic bottles that we throw everywhere have the potential of living to one's third generation and causing more harm than good. If we can do more environmental ethics education on disposal more so on the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle then we have a world without plastic bottle pollution.

Q: What measures do you think Africa ought to

ignore the environment. The Bruntland Commission defined sustainable development as that which takes economics, social and environment as important. For Africa to have sustainable development, the environment has to have a place on its agenda without which it may as well know that its future will be truncated. Nature is unforgiving therefore if we treat it well, it will in return treat us and vice versa. For instance, when we have increased tsunamis, I wonder if we will be able to remind tsunamis how much we spent on building roads or houses if it can give you time to pack your lovely belongings. If droughts are the order of the day, where will all the investments go if you have no food? Africa should

focus on environmental sustainability in all its economic and social strategies. Over exploitation will ruin the potential of Africa thus sustainability becomes imperative. Adoption and implementation of SDGs will guide Africa on the right path to sustainability, what I call 'thinking the future now for the future tomorrow!'

Q: In your view, do you think enough has been done in terms of the legal framework on the environment specifically in East Africa?

A: In East Africa, there is a legal framework for the environment, for instance all East African countries have an environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) with a

national body to implement environmental laws. However, the enforcement, education and collaborations in environmental governance and management remains a wanting situation. Implementation of sound sustainable environmental frameworks needs wholehearted commitment and resolve to fully realize the potency of these legislations and frameworks. All East Africa countries suffer almost similar environmental degradations such as deforestation, plastic pollution, air pollution, water pollution, all emanating from prohibited activities that are harmful to the environment. The question I keep asking is until when do we need to follow up to keep our environment clean and healthy?

Q: One last message

to those reading this article in regard to the environment.

A: We have no other Earth to live in, do your best to maintain it for the future generation, you owe that much. There is no amount of wealth that can reverse nature's vengeance and it does not remember that it was one person who was responsible but will punish even those who are innocent. Collaboration and partnerships will accelerate the fight to beat plastics and enhance environmental stewardships through training and education. Just like the late Nobel laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai said, I as Bessy want to be the little humming bird doing my little thing of calling on environmental governance and consciousness in our developments.

EAC armed forces exercise to steer joint conflict resolution

By Guardian Reporter

East African Community-EAC member states are expected to use the ongoing joint field training exercise, to strengthen joint operations within the region.

The joint exercise dubbed "Ushirikiano Imara, 2022," which is being conducted in the three districts of Mazyge, Jinja, and Buikwe, has attracted 1,533 participants from six EAC countries.

The exercise, which was last conducted in Tanzania in 2018, is in fulfillment of Article 2 of the EAC's protocol on cooperation in defence affairs.

The participants comprised military personnel, police, prisons, and selected civilians. Uganda has con-

tributed 362 participants, both Kenya and Tanzania have contributed 244 members each, Burundi with 227, Rwanda with 231, and South Sudan with 225 members. The DRC, a new member of the EAC has assigned 10 observers to oversee the joint process before fully embracing it.

The exercise's director, Maj. Gen. Don Nabasa stresses that their joint training will foster an opportunity for participating member states to brainstorm on the EAC integration efforts.

Nabasa also notes that members will share tips on joint operations while executing peace support operations and fighting piracy within the EAC region.

Nabasa adds that participating countries will

expedite the role of media in the successful execution of peace support operations and related security attributes within the EAC region.

Brig. Richard Karemiri, the EAC's Defence Liaison Officer says that the inclusion of DRC in the EAC block is paramount in addressing the maritime security threats across her border points shared with other EAC countries.

Karemiri argues that the 10-member observatory team from the DRC is instrumental in fostering ways of acquiring knowledge from the longtime EAC armed forces participating countries, to improve the security wellbeing within their country and the region as a whole

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MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>MONDAY 30 May</p> <p>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 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top Ten 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: NSSF 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:15 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo 19:00 Alya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW 22:15 Soap: I Plead Guilty 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 31 May</p> <p>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 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 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<p>CAPITAL</p> <p>Mon 30 May</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: Lake Hill 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Frid 03 June</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev</p>	<p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 31 May</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 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WORLD

Prince William holds future of British monarchy in his hands

LONDON

WHILE nearly all attention will be focused next week on Queen Elizabeth as she celebrates her 70th anniversary on the throne this year, for those with eyes on the future of the British monarchy, attention is switching to her grandson Prince William.

The British royals have suffered a bruising couple of years with the US sex abuse lawsuit against Elizabeth's son Andrew, Prince Harry, William's younger brother, quitting duties to move to the United States in 2020, and police investigating alleged wrongdoing at the main charity of son and heir Prince Charles.

With the health of the popular 96-year-old queen an increasing source of concern, forcing her to pull out of public engagements, her Platinum Jubilee will mark not just a time to reflect on her past, but to look ahead.

Most polls show a majority of the British public support the monarchy, and, while his 73-year-old father commands less popularity, William – the second in line to the throne – and his wife Kate are the most liked royals after the queen.

But, surveys also suggest those aged under 50 are far more ambivalent about the institution.

"The future does rest on Prince William," Matthew Dennison, a biographer of the queen, said. "And we all know that public opinion can be unkind."

A decade ago, amid celebrations for Elizabeth's then Diamond Jubilee, there was a notable moment when she greeted crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace accompanied by Charles, his wife Camilla, William and his wife Kate, and Harry.

It reflected the long understood plan of Charles to slim down the monarchy effectively to his immediate family when he became king.

But the shock exit of Harry and his wife Meghan to the United States has put paid to that, placing even more pressure on William, 39, and his young family to maintain the institution's long term viability and popularity while navigating a rapidly changing society.

'Last of the Mohicans'

"William is the key person because William is going to be king one day," said Charles Rae, a former royal correspondent at the Sun newspaper. "He's the last of the Mohicans, basically. I think an awful lot rests on William's shoulders for the future of the monarchy."

William and Kate, 40, have enjoyed highly positive media coverage over the last five years as one of the world's most glamorous couples with Hollywood star appeal. The prince has shaken off the "work-shy Wills" nickname British tabloids gave him in the last decade when they suggested the couple were lazy.

"To be honest I'm going to get plenty of criticism over my lifetime and it's something that I don't completely ignore but it's not something I take completely to heart," he said in a 2016 interview to mark the queen's 90th birthday.

William has also received much praise for his work on mental health, homelessness and the environment, but the couple's recent tour of the Caribbean was a wake-up call after they faced protests over Britain's imperial past and criticism that some of the tour had echoes of a colonial throwback.



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (C) reacts as he leaves after visiting The Royal Marsden hospital in London on May 24, 2022, where he learnt about some of the innovative work that is currently being carried out to improve cancer diagnosis and treatment. AFP

"I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future," William said in a highly unusual statement issued at the end of their visit.

That's the challenge for me is how do I make the royal family relevant in the next 20 years time, and it could be 40 years time, it could be 60 years time... I hope that's something that I can do.

British Prince William

According to the Sunday Mirror newspaper the visit has prompted William and Kate to rethink how the monarchy should look, with the couple saying they wanted to be known by their names and not their titles – the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

"They want to try to avoid the bows and curtsies in public, be more approachable, less formal, less stuffy, and break away with a lot of the tradition

and focus on a modern monarchy," an unnamed source told the paper.

Miguel Head, who was a key aide for the prince for a decade until 2018, said while William did not like ceremony, he understood its importance.

"When he gets the top job he won't do away with it all," Head told the Sunday Times. "He's mindful the monarchy represents something timeless that's above all of us, and many people like the magic and theatre of it."

William accepts the monarchy needs to move with the times to stay relevant, something the queen has been praised for. The prince in 2016 called her his best role model for the job.

"That's the challenge for me is how do I make the royal family relevant in the next 20 years time, and it could be 40 years time, it could be 60 years time... I hope that's something that I can do."

Putin discusses Ukraine, food security with Macron, Scholz

MOSCOW / KIEV

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin held a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday to discuss the situation in Ukraine and the global food security.



Putin (pictured) informed Macron and Scholz of the latest developments of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine, noting that the Russian armed forces strictly observe the norms of international humanitarian law, the Kremlin said in a press release.

As for the peace talks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators, Putin confirmed that the Russian side is open to resuming the frozen dialogue.

The Russian leader criticized the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine, which could further destabilize the situation and aggravate the humanitarian crisis.

When discussing the issue of ensuring global food security, Putin said the difficulties in food supplies are caused by the erroneous economic and financial policies of Western countries as well as their anti-Russian sanctions.

Russia is ready to help find options for the unimpeded export of grain, including the export of Ukrainian grain from the Black Sea ports, he said.

An increase in the supply of Russian fertilizers and agricultural products will also help reduce tensions on the global food market, which will require the lifting of relevant sanctions, Putin told Macron and Scholz.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday that he had discussed defense support for Ukraine in a phone conversation with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"We talked about strengthening defense support for Ukraine, intensifying work on security guarantees," Zelensky tweeted.

The Ukrainian leader added that the parties also touched upon the issue of supplying fuel for Ukraine amid the energy crisis.

Earlier this month, Johnson announced that the British government will provide 1.3 billion pounds (about \$1.64 billion) in military aid for Ukraine. **Xinhua**

Pan-African coffee summit ends with pledge to boost trade in the commodity

NAIROBI

A three-day African coffee summit ended on Friday evening in the Kenyan capital Nairobi with delegates pledging to upscale trade in the commodity across the continent.

More than 500 delegates who attended the summit noted that intra-Africa trade in the commodity would boost growth in the continent, create new jobs and boost foreign exchange earnings.

The delegates urged governments to facilitate and provide a supportive environment for trading in coffee through good policies, extension services, certification of inputs, transport infrastructure and removal of trade barriers. Drawn from 25 African countries, the participants called for harmonization of legislation, policies and quality standards to boost trade in coffee.

Solomon Rutege, Secretary-General of the Inter African Coffee Organization (IACO) called on regional blocs to lead the process of harmonization of policies, processes, and standards to help support regional trade and improve efficiency.

"The business-as-usual approach that has failed us must come to an end as we race towards increasing coffee production that has been dwindling over the last two decades," Rutege said.

He said the coffee sub-sector requires concerted efforts such as the provision of financial facilities and formation of task forces in all countries in order to revive the crop and make it competitive in the local and regional markets. Rutege observed that with value addition, increased domestic consumption and intra-Africa trade, the coffee sub-sector is capable of unlocking growth in the continent.

Fredrick Kawuma, African Coffee Ambassador and former IACO Secretary-General urged farmers to take advantage of opportunities for affordable financing mechanisms.

Kawuma added that farmers must also explore partnerships with manufacturers to break the technological barriers to support investments in the transformation of the coffee value chain in Africa as well as promotion of consumption of coffee grown in the continent.

Francis Owino, Principal Secretary in Kenya's State Department for Crops Development and Agricultural Research urged African coffee-growing countries to strive to sell their commodity after adding value to it in order to attract better prices in the international market.

Xinhua

explorations, and rapid expansion.

When EFY was just founded, it had to share an office with another company, according to Qi, who disclosed that now EFY has moved into its new premises with an area of over 10,000 square meters and become a national-level high-tech enterprise. The company's fast development exceeded his expectations, Qi added.

EFY is based in Tianjin Binhai-Zhongguancun Science Park, which was formerly dominated by industries including the chemical industry.

Now the science park is home to over 40 enterprises in the drone industry and other industries involving intelligent equipment, and has been upgraded to an industrial park for intelligent unmanned equipment.

People's Daily

Wang Yi: China-US relations not zero-sum game

SUVA

VISITING Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Saturday that China-US relations are not a zero-sum game and the US should address the bilateral ties based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

In response to a recent policy speech by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who described China as "the most serious long-term challenge to the international order," Wang said there are major misconceptions in US views about the world, China and China-US relations.

The world is not what the United States has described and the most pressing task facing the international community is to jointly protect human life and health, promote world economic recovery and safeguard world peace and tranquility, which calls for the establishment of a community with a shared future and for the implementation of purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, Wang said.

He stressed that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative have won widespread recognition and support from the international community, and the US obsession with "Western-centrism", "exceptionalism" and the

Cold War mentality, as well as its push for the logic of hegemony and bloc politics, go against the trend of history, which will only lead to confrontation and split the world community.

The US has in fact become a source of turbulence that undermines the current world order and the stumbling block hindering the democratization of international relations, Wang noted.

Stressing that China is not what the US has imagined, Wang said there is a clear historical logic to China's development and revitalization that has a strong endogenous power.

The common pursuit of modernization by 1.4 billion Chinese people represents a great progress for mankind, rather than a threat or challenge to the world, Wang noted, adding that such an achievement is made under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, and a result of the solidarity, diligence and hard work of the Chinese people who find the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

"Our goal is open, fair and square. It is to make life better for our people and to make a greater contribution to the world, not to replace or challenge any others," Wang said.

"We are bringing reform, opening up and win-win cooperation to a higher level. We shall become a better version of ourselves and make the world a better place,"



Chinese and US national flags are seen during an event in Beijing.

he said.

"What we want to tell the US is that China-US relations are not a zero-sum game designed by the US side," Wang said.

Chinese leaders have pointed out that whether China and the United States can properly handle their relationship matters the future of the world, and it is a question of the century needed to be well answered by the two countries, he said.

Before answering the question, the US side should first be aware that a unipolar hegemony will find no support, group confrontation has no future, building small yards with high fences

means self-isolation and backwardness, and decoupling and cutting supplies only hurt others and itself as well, Wang said.

Countries can stage fair competition with each other, and it is natural that China and the United States have some competition between them, but it should not be a destructive one, Wang said. The Chinese people have the confidence and are ready to conduct a fair competition to see who can better govern their own country and who can make more contributions to the world.

"We will never yield to blackmail or coercion, and will firmly defend China's sovereignty, secu-

rity and development interests," he said, stressing that the Chinese people have the backbone and resolve to do it, and any suppression and containment will only make them more united.

The US side should focus its efforts on enforcing the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, so as to find the way for the two major countries of China and the United States to properly deal with each other in the new era, Wang said.

Wang is paying a visit to Fiji, the fourth leg of his current tour to the Pacific island countries.

Xinhua

Innovation facilitates better use of drones in China

A spectacular drone light show staged above the Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City in Sanya, China's southernmost province of Hainan to celebrate the five-day Labor Day holiday has brought viewers a brand new sensory experience.

During the show, 500 drones wowed the audience with different formations, including a farmer working in the fields and a diver planting corals on the seabed.

The drones that performed at the show were piloted by a team from EFY Intelligent Control (Tianjin) Technology Co., Ltd. based in north China's Tianjin municipality.

"These drones, which include consumer drones and those for aerial photography, mapping and plant protection, are all independently developed by our team," Qi Juntong, founder of the com-

pany, told People's Daily, pointing at several hundred drones of different sizes, including one-meter-long and palm-sized ones, that lined up in a plant of the company.

Qi disclosed that compared to the development of a single drone, his team pays more attention to autonomous control technologies for intelligent drone swarms, especially flight control consistency for avoiding collisions of drones with different trajectories.

To ensure that drones can coordinate yet do not interfere with each other, Qi and his team built an integrated and intelligent flight test system for drones after overcoming a large number of technological problems. The system ensures the error in drone swarm control is kept

within centimeters.

"We have made all-out efforts to seek breakthroughs in autonomous control technologies for intelligent drone swarms, which have been widely used in such fields as patrol inspection, security, logistics, and transportation," Qi said.

Last summer, EFY's team took the crown in an individual event of a high-level drone swarm system competition. According to the leader of the team, for a drone swarm to win the competition, it must be able to fly, identify, and locate several moving vehicles, and follow them at close range based on the changing numbers on them autonomously.

By establishing a flying ad-hoc network and using cameras, artificial intelligence algorithms, and intelligent

decision-making algorithms, the team managed to enable its drone swarm to realize whole-process steady tracking of the vehicles.

"Scientific research achievements need to be tested in the market. If they are not well received in the market, it will be difficult to realize the commercialization of innovation outcomes," Qi said, adding that the company has applied for 257 drone-related patents.

Drone swarm performance is one of the most intuitive ways for the general public to understand the application of drone-swarm control technologies, which is why he founded EFY in 2015 to put the technologies into commercial use like drone swarm performance, according to Qi.

Drone swarm performance is also the first step in realizing complex applications of drone-swarm control technologies. Last year, EFY held 277 drone displays with 168,730 successful takeoffs and landings.

"Our company manufactured about 10,000 drones of various types in 2021, and our overall operating income realized a threefold increase from the previous year," said Guo Jing, deputy general manager of the company.

"We are lucky to live in the best of times," Qi said, explaining that governments at all levels in China have given high priority to innovative development, allowing the company to focus on technology breakthroughs, market

Ukraine should demine its ports as soon as possible – Putin to Nehammer

MOSCOW

UKRAINE should demine its ports as soon as possible, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a telephone conversation with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer.

"At the request of the Austrian chancellor, the Russian president assessed the situation in the context of the ongoing special military operation to defend Donbass and informed him about the efforts to ensure safe navigation in the Black and Azov Seas," the Kremlin press service said.

"In this context, it was stressed that the Ukrainian side should demine its ports as soon as possible to ensure free passage of the blocked ships," the Kremlin said.

The Russian president also drew Nehammer's attention to the fact that Kiev is dodging talks with Russia. "It was noted that Kiev is stonewalling the negotiating process between Russian and Ukrainian representatives," it said.

According to earlier reports, Russia opened two maritime humanitarian corridors in the Azov and Black Sea from 08:00am to 19:00 every day. The 80-nautical-mile long and three-mile wide humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea is meant for ships to leave the ports of Kherson, Nikolayev, Chernomorsk, Ochakov, Odessa, and Yuzhny in the southwestern direction off Ukraine's territorial sea.

The Russian defense ministry also reported that Russian Navy specialists had cleared the port of Mariupol of mines.

According to the ministry, more than 12,000 explosive objects were spotted and destroyed during the mine clearance works.

The port was also cleared of sunken ships and other obstacles hampering navigation. Russian specialists also demined an Azov Sea coast section adjacent to the port of Mariupol. **Agencies**

Rwanda calls for release of soldiers being held in DRC

KIGALI

THE Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) on Saturday called for the release of two Rwandan soldiers being held by FDLR rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In a statement, the RDF said the two soldiers were kidnapped while on patrol and accused DRC armed forces (FARDC) together with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) of the attack along the border. FDLR, an armed rebel group active in eastern DRC, has been accused of committing gross human rights violations in eastern DRC and neighboring countries.

FDLR is largely composed of elements widely blamed for the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. RDF added it has located the kidnapped soldiers who are being held by FDLR in eastern DRC.

"We call upon authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo that work closely with these genocidal armed groups to secure the release of the RDF soldiers," said the statement.

This development came after Patrick Muyaya, DRC government spokesperson announced late Friday that the DRC has evidence that the Rwan-

dan army is supporting the March 23 Movement (M23), another rebel group classified by the DRC government as a terrorist group in the DRC. Muyaya also announced that all flights of RwandAir, the flag carrier airline of Rwanda, to the DRC soil are immediately suspended.

The Rwanda Defence Force has denied on different occasions allegations that it involved itself in supporting the activities of the M23 rebel attacks in DRC.

Over the past few days, fighting has raged between the DRC army and M23 rebels in DRC's northeastern North Kivu province, forcing thousands of civilians to flee their homes in the region.

The M23 is a group of former rebels of the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP). The name came from the March 23, 2009, agreement between the CNDP and the Congolese government.

M23, who claimed the DRC government had violated the 2009 peace deal, briefly seized Goma, capital of the North Kivu province, in late 2012 before being pushed back by the army the following year. Since late 2021, M23 has resumed fighting with the army in the region. **Xinhua**

GENEVA / LOS ANGELES / KIGALI

COUNTRIES around the world on Saturday adopted an initial US-led reform of the rules around disease outbreaks, known as the International Health Regulations (IHR), the United States said.

The amendments, adopted at the World Health Organization (WHO) assembly, were agreed at a meeting seen as a once-in-a-generation chance for the UN health agency to strengthen its role after some 15 million deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The breakthrough - amendments to Article 59 of the IHR that will speed up the implementation of reforms - came after early opposition from Africa and others was overcome this week.

The changes sought by Washington, and backed by others such as Japan and the European Union, mark a first step in a broader reform of the IHR, which set out countries' legal obligations around disease outbreaks, expected to take up to two years.

Sheba Crocker, US ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, hailed as "a significant achievement" the initial amendments and an agreement on establishing a working group to consider targeted, substantive amendments.

"An updated, modernized IHR will help all countries and will ensure we have the information, resources, capacity, and transparency needed to address future global health crises," she said in a statement.

Rwanda

In several spots in Rwanda, white tents where COVID-19 tests used to be conducted have disappeared.

The testing site at Camp Kigali was closed on May 20, 2022. PCR testing previously conducted there continues to be performed at Gikondo Rwanda Biomedical Center site, while the antigen rapid tests are now performed at various health facilities.

A return to normality is visible with



A medical worker injects a second dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine to a patient in a COVID-19 (coronavirus) vaccination center in Kigali, on May 27, 2021. File photo

residents moving without face masks for the first time since 2020 in a country that has been praised for strictly enforcing preventive measures since recording its first COVID-19 case in March 2020.

Rwanda has seen COVID-19 infection rates drastically drop since last December, thanks to a high vaccination effort.

More than 79 million Rwandans, equivalent to 61 percent of the country's population, were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of March 10.

"We have been able to keep COVID-19 positivity rate under 1 percent for about four months now. The last time we had over 1 percent was on January 29," Julien Nyingabira, the Ministry of Health spokesperson told Xinhua.

"Even when we had a fourth wave (in December) driven by highly infectious Omicron variant, we didn't have many

severe and death cases because many were vaccinated."

Rwanda has recorded an accumulated case log of roughly 130,000 confirmed cases as of May 25 with related fatalities stagnating at 1,459.

In the past week, 68 cases were recorded with an infection rate of 0.2 percent.

More than 9 million people have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccination while 8.5 million have received the second dose as of May 25, according to Ministry of Health daily updates. At least 4.6 million people had received the booster jab by May 25.

US

The governor of the US state California Gavin Newsom tested positive for COVID-19 and will remain in isolation at least through June 2 and until he tests negative, his office said Saturday.

Newsom said on Twitter that he is "experiencing

mild symptoms" and "following health guidelines and will be isolating" while working remotely.

He has been vaccinated and has received two booster shots, including as recently as May 18, according to the statement.

In recent weeks, COVID-19 transmission rates are steadily climbing in California, home to over 40 million residents.

The state had reported a total of 8,896,174 COVID-19 cases and 90,612 related deaths as of Friday, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Agencies

Chinese vice foreign minister briefs media on visit of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to China

GUANGZHOU

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu on Saturday gave a briefing on the trip of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet to China in an interview with the press.

Ma said that at the invitation of the Chinese government, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet visited China from May 23 to 28. This is Bachelet's first visit to China since she took office as well as the first such visit by a UN human rights chief in 17 years. President Xi Jinping met via video link with High Commissioner Bachelet on May 25. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with High Commissioner Bachelet, and senior officials from the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and All-China Women's Federation held talks with the High Commissioner respectively.

The two sides had extensive, in-depth and candid discussions in the spirit of mutual respect and openness, Ma said, adding that the Chinese side gave the High Commissioner a comprehensive introduction on the path, philosophy and achievements of China's human rights development. The two sides exchanged views on global human rights governance, multilateral human rights work, China's cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other issues of common interest.

In Guangzhou, High Commissioner Bachelet visited projects that reflect China's community-level democracy, poverty al-



leviation, judicial safeguard, environmental protection, people's well-being, rights protection of specific groups, and human rights education, he said.

In Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, High Commissioner Bachelet was presented with the measures taken and achievements made in the region on counter-terrorism and deradicalization, social and economic development, ethnicity and religion, and labor rights protection. She also had field trips in Kashgar and Urumqi where she had conversations with people from various communities, including ethnic minorities, academics, and representatives of different social sectors, Ma said.

He said with the joint efforts of both sides, the visit achieved positive concrete results:

First, it enhanced understanding on China's path on human rights development. Since its 18th National Congress, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has united and led the Chinese people to achieve on schedule the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and made outstanding achievements in human rights development.

In his meeting with High Commissioner Bachelet, President Xi expounded on major issues regarding China's hu-

man rights development in the context of China's history and culture, and reaffirmed the principled position of the CPC and the Chinese government in upholding and protecting human rights in all areas. He stressed that, on day one of its founding, the CPC identified as its mission the pursuit of happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, and has been working hard for the people's interests over the past century. The people's aspiration for a better life is what we are striving for. After decades of strenuous efforts, China has successfully found a path of human rights development in keeping with the trend of the times and China's national reality. We have been advancing whole-process people's democracy, promoting legal safeguard for human rights and upholding social equity and justice. The Chinese people now enjoy fuller and more extensive and comprehensive democratic rights.

In Guangzhou's countryside, High Commissioner Bachelet had a close-up view of China's whole-process democracy at the community level. At the elderly care center and rehabilitation facility for people with disabilities, she saw how high technology helps facilitate the rights protection of specific groups.

Second, it set forth China's proposition for global human rights governance. Under the combined impacts of major changes in the world situation and the COVID-19 pandemic, both unseen in a century, hegemonism, racism, protectionism and parochial nationalism are on the rise. This has dealt a heavy blow to global human rights governance as manifested by numerous practices of double standards.

President Xi pointed out at his meeting with High Commissioner Bachelet that at present, it is most important to work on the following four priorities:

First, putting people front and center. It is important to take the people's interests as the fundamental purpose and goal and strive to deliver a better life to the people.

Second, respecting different countries' paths of human rights development, and supporting countries to explore suitable paths of human rights development in light of national realities and people's needs.

Third, following a holistic approach to all categories of human rights with integrated and systematic measures. More efforts are needed to achieve development of higher quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security, so as to provide strong safeguards for the advancement of human rights.

Fourth, stepping up global human rights governance. It is important to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, advocate humanity's common values, and steer global human rights governance toward greater fairness, justice, equity and inclusiveness.

The Chinese side gave a comprehensive briefing to Bachelet on China's active engagement in global human rights governance. China has earnestly fulfilled its international obligations in the area of human rights.

China has signed 29 international human rights instruments and is widely recognized as a role model in implementing conventions. China has served as a member state of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) five times, one of the most among all the countries.

We put forward a series of proposals on promoting human rights through development, promoting human rights through cooperation, addressing the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights, rejecting racism and racial discrimination, promoting the fair distribution of vaccines and rejecting unilateral coercive measures. This has received wide support from the international community, especially the developing countries. **Xinhua**

Long COVID-19 affects more older adults in US - Study

LOS ANGELES / ZURICH

A NEW US research on long COVID suggests it can happen even after breakthrough infections in vaccinated people, and older adults face higher risks for the long-term effects.

About one-third who had breakthrough infections showed signs of long COVID, according to the study of veterans published Wednesday in Nature Medicine.

The study reviewed medical records of mostly white male veterans, aged 60, on average.

Of the 13 million veterans, almost 3 million had been vaccinated last year through October. About 1 percent, or nearly 34,000 people, developed breakthrough infections.

Another study from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that about one in five adults aged 18 and older in the United States has a health condition that might be related to their previous COVID-19 illness, compared with one in five younger adults.

Long COVID refers to persistent symptoms or organ dysfunction after acute COVID-19, including cardiovascular, pulmonary, hematologic, renal, endocrine, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, neurologic, and psychiatric signs and symptoms, according to the CDC.

Switzerland

Switzerland will destroy more than 620,000 expired doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine, health officials said on Friday, as demand for the shots drops dramatically.

"It was consciously accepted that under certain circumstances too much vaccine was procured for Switzerland's needs," a spokesperson for the Federal Office of Public Health said, confirming a report by broadcaster RTS.

"The aim is to protect the population in Switzerland at all times with sufficient quantities of the most effective

vaccines available."

Switzerland, which has ended public health measures designed to curb the spread of the disease, secured a total 34 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for 2022 for a population of around 8.7 million.

It said in February it would donate up to 15 million surplus doses to poorer countries by mid-year. How many doses can actually be donated is still under discussion.

Switzerland said in March it had secured at least 14 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for 2023 from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, with options to double the order.

It will also buy up to one million doses from another manufacturer.

Just over 70 percent of the population has had at least one shot in Switzerland and tiny neighbor Liechtenstein. Authorities have reported nearly 3.7 million COVID infections and 13,325 deaths.

WHO

The World Health Organization said on Friday it had received 650 reports of probable cases of acute hepatitis in children, but added that the causes remain unknown and are under investigation.

As of May 26, 650 probable cases have been reported to WHO from 33 countries, with 99 additional cases pending classification, according to the WHO study.

Health authorities around the world are probing a mysterious increase in severe cases of hepatitis - inflammation of the liver - in young children that has resulted in at least nine deaths.

US health officials said last week that infection with adenovirus, a common childhood virus, is the leading hypothesis for recent cases of severe hepatitis of unknown origin in children. **Agencies**

Yanga deceptively proud of current squad, Simba SC anxious about players' quality

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PREMIER League sides are casting a fresh look at the respective squads as the season arrives at its climax, preceded by a prestigious game between the city archrivals in another contest, while the league run is, by and large, settled on its results.

Only the ranking is being monitored at present, especially when it comes to those who go through the bottom into the next league pile, ironically a 'first division' category.

There is a scheduled series of outright relegation and playoffs, tied with outright promotions and playoff opponents.

Who is who in all these bits of opportunity is the last minute give and take, and a good number of teams will be in a position to take a firm view of their squads based on outcomes attained in these last-minute encounters.

A team does not ascertain a complete picture of how it looks until the very end, as the image is enhanced with they obtain brave victories in this or that encounter, and marginal defeats especially towards the end alter this image.

A sober, more realistic assessment of team ability comes up, and this is where Premier League sides find themselves, a few will confirm a good image, and other will not.

That is partially why there is a variation of sentiments when it comes to how the two leading city sides will be looking like next season, as Yanga are relatively satisfied with their squad after it is largely settled that they are the winners in this year's Premier League run.



Yanga forward, Fiston Mayele (L), seeks to get the better of Simba SC defender, Joash Onyango, during the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last four's tie which took place in Mwanza last weekend. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

FC shall be able to prove something as well.

Their best international exposure or competitive environment is the Mafingidi Cup early in the year, or the now forfeited Kagame Cup, after CECAFA official Nicholas Musonye left office.

Simba SC wishes for a better squad to be more resilient in continental soccer, not to retake the league title next year.

The way the Jangwani Street side failed to obtain at least a draw in either of its encounters with Nigeria's Rivers United was in stark contrast with the Msimbazi Street outfit's resilience for several years in a row, where one can evaluate its either upward climb or downward slide for instance in being shunted to the CAF Confederation Cup.

But even then it continued on a sound note, winning and then either losing or drawing, thus proving to be no pushover.

There were negative elements in how Yanga was constituted for the Lagos match, but in the final analysis, there is a problem with squad depth which is cannot be said that is being examined.

What may have improved on the Jangwani Street outfit in the outgoing season is the coaching, as for once performance has been consistent at least at the local level, and without either continental engagements or major regional tourneys, it is largely untested at the international level.

At the local level many will say the squad has well performed, which also implies it has potential for good performance on the Africa plane when it goes back there in the new season, but being satisfied with the current squad is a problem for many of their ardent supporters.

Even a top-level fan like the venerable Jakaya Kikwete once said in public that his beloved side had over-invested in nuisance techniques to win the Premier League title, a thing he was brave to admit.

This way to league victory will not be of much use at other tournament horizons, and that is why sitting on league laurels and expecting miracles on Africa-level tourneys might not be a brilliant tactic at the moment.

Still, it will not be easy for Jangwani Street outfit administrators to look into the matter the moment before it becomes reality or comes into full view, as the club is welcomed back to continental soccer at the start of the fourth quarter of the year or slightly later.

The leadership will be far too busy celebrating retaking the local championship from their archrivals despite the gap in financial ability and squad depth but proceeding from that point of focus to say that the issues (differences) do not matter may prove to be costly.

Yanga has a good coach on the stands and a capable squad but whether it can stand intense exposure in continental soccer is a different matter, and that goes without saying.



Berte Marie Ulveseter, Country Director of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Tanzania, hands over the medal to Asha Salum that emerged as champion in the 10 km event of this year's Haydom marathon held at Haydom in Manyara on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Haydom marathon raises funds for community projects

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Haydom Lutheran Hospital (HLH) marathon has successfully collected more than 20m/- set to be used for improving hospital infrastructures for the better provision of health services.

The HLH Managing Medical Director, Paschal Mdoe, said the marathon goal was to not only raise funds but also to celebrate 75 years of service of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), the main sponsor of the hospital.

Mdoe said the marathon's target was to collect 50m/- but the race's organizers failed to meet it due to various challenges.

He said this was the fourth edition of the Haydom marathon to be held, not-

ing they have put in place an annual routine which will see the next year's edition slated for May 27.

According to Mdoe, the HLH marathon has also boosted Haydom residents' desire to do exercises, a situation that helps them overcome non-communicable diseases.

"Through the marathon, we have also had an opportunity to meet various stakeholders who joined the efforts to improve hospital infrastructures," he revealed.

Asha Salum from Tanzania People Defense Force (TPDF), the 10 km winner, called on various stakeholders to come forward and contribute to the next marathon to help the hospital improve health services.

Jury's duty in Depp-Heard trial doesn't track public debate

FAIRFAX, Va.

A SEVEN-PERSON civil jury in Virginia will resume deliberations Tuesday in Johnny Depp's libel trial against Amber Heard. What the jury considers will be very different from the public debate that has engulfed the high-profile proceedings.

For six weeks, testimony focused on details of alleged abuse that Heard says she suffered at the hands of Depp. Heard has outlined more than a dozen specific instances where she says she was assaulted by Depp.

Depp has denied any physical or sexual abuse, and says Heard concocted the claims to destroy Depp's reputation. Depp's legions of online fans have focused on their belief that Heard has been untruthful, and that that will determine the outcome.

But the case itself is a defamation claim. Depp sued Heard for libel – for \$50 million – in Fairfax County Circuit Court over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in *The Washington Post* describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse."

That article never even mentions Depp by name, but his lawyers say he

was defamed nonetheless. Most of the article discusses public policy as it relates to domestic violence, and Heard's lawyers say she has a First Amendment right to weigh in.

In closing arguments, though, Depp lawyer Camille Vasquez argued that Heard's free-speech rights have limits.

"The First Amendment doesn't protect lies that hurt and defame people," she said.

Depp's lawyers point to two passages in the article that they say clearly refer to Depp.

In the first passage, Heard writes that "two years ago, I became a public figure representing domestic abuse, and I felt the full force of our culture's wrath." Depp's lawyers call it a clear reference to Depp, given that Heard publicly accused Depp of domestic violence in 2016 – two years before she wrote the article.

In a second passage, she states, "I had the rare vantage point of seeing, in real time, how institutions protect men accused of abuse." (Depp's lawyers are also seeking damages over a headline that appeared above the online version of the article, even though Heard didn't write it.)

AP

Risasi edges Kahama Sixers in Shinyanga regional basketball league

By Guardian Correspondent

SHINYANGA basketball side, Risasi, has issued a sound warning to opponents in this year's edition of the region's basketball league after commanding a 99-98 victory over Kahama Sixers last weekend.

The match's winners have as a result urged other participating squads to prepare well before taking on the outfit.

Risasi's ballers put spirited showing to garner the hard-fought win in the clash held at Kahama Sixers venue, Kahama Municipal.

One of Risasi's key performers, Yohana William, said the lack of organization in some of the league's clubs could make his side easily hold sway.

"My team is really good, I believe we will do well in Shinyanga regional league as well as this year's National Basketball League (NBL)," William noted.

Shinyanga regional basketball league's technical committee report stated Risasi started the game strongly and led 21-19 in the first quarter.

Risasi kept on having an upper hand in the remaining quarters, posting 22-22, 24-33, and 34-24 respectively.

John, who is also the Chairman of the Shinyanga Regional Basketball Association (SBA), slotted in 58 points, followed by Noah Makanga'a and Andrew Gaba who scored 17 points and 13 points respectively.

Kahama Sixers' Julius George recorded 40 points followed by Francis Nyuki who scored 22 points while teammate Kamara Ponsean notched 20 points.

John said Shinyanga regional league will be played in a round-robin format, with sides taking part in home and away fixtures.

The official revealed that after the conclusion of the round-robin



Risasi Basketball Club's guard, Yohana William (in yellow jersey), attempts to dribble past Kahama Sixers Club's guard during the Shinyanga regional league match held at Kahama Sixers court in the region last week. Risasi Basketball Club won 99-98. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

format, the top two teams will later play in the final that will consist of the best of three matches series.

The participating teams are Risasi Basketball Club, Kambarage Warriors, B4 Mwadui, Kahama Sixers, and King of Kings.

Meanwhile, Young Vita has stretched its impressive run in this season's Mara region basketball league,

cruising to a 59-29 win over Bunda Dribblers at the Tarime Teachers College court last week.

Young Vita had opened its campaign with a 90-67 defeat to Mwembeni, and, in the second game, the former bounced back gallantly after notching a 70-58 victory over North Mara.

The Young Vita team, based in Tarime District, is one of the teams that

are tipped to clinch this year's region basketball league silverware due to the good level shown by its players.

Mara Regional Basketball Association (MARBA)'s report disclosed Young Vita was the better of the two squads in the tie, leading 15-12, 15-11, 19-1, and 18-15 in the four quarters.

Marwa Chacha top-scored for Young Vita,

notching 10 points, followed by Julius John who scored eight points, and Kassim Juma slotted in 13 points for Bunda Dribblers.

Young Vita's baller, Changu, top-scored for his squad, ending the clash with 15 points, followed by Nestor who scored 10 points. Amani was the top scorer for Bunda Dribblers, slotting in 13 points.

SPORT

Klopp defiant after UCL final loss: 'We'll go again'

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Madrid wins Champions League final marred by crowd chaos

PARIS

YET another Champions League title for Real Madrid, the undisputed king of Europe. Yet another showpiece European soccer game tarnished by chaotic crowd issues and disorder.

Madrid became European champion for a record-extending 14th time – double the number of any other team on the continent – after beating Liverpool 1-0 in a final that started 37 minutes late because of disturbing scenes outside the Stade de France on Saturday.

It evoked memories of the violence that marred the European Championship final at Wembley Stadium 10 months ago.

Brazil winger Vinicius Júnior was the match-winner, applying a close-range finish in the 59th minute from Federico Valverde's drive across the face of goal, while goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois took just as many plaudits by making breathtaking saves by Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah.

"Today nobody was going to get in my way," Courtois said. "I was going to win a Champions League no matter what."

It gave Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti a fourth European Cup title, the most ever for a manager in the competition's history, and completed the Champions League-La Liga double for a Spanish giant for whom winning titles is ingrained in its culture.

And this time, there was no need for the kind of stirring comeback that Madrid had to produce in getting past Paris Saint-Germain, defending champion Chelsea and Manchester City in the knockout stage. It might go down as the most grueling run to the title in the long history of the competition.

Liverpool's players finished a season that promised so much – a week ago, it was in contention for an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies – with just the two domestic cups in England to show for their efforts.

They lost out on the Premier League title by one point last weekend and the Champions League to a Madrid team that had one shot on target in the final.

Playing its 64th game of the season, Liverpool just couldn't find a way past Courtois, who tipped Mane's first-half shot onto the post and produced an even better save to turn away Salah's effort in the 81st.

It is unfathomable that Liverpool, which owns one of the most devastating attacks in world soccer, has failed to score a single goal in its three cup finals this season. The Reds won the FA Cup and League Cup via penalty shootouts after 0-0 draws after extra time.

"In the dressing room, nobody feels it was a great season at the moment," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said.

Liverpool's players stayed on the field to watch Marcelo, Madrid's serial winner of trophies who didn't even play a minute of the final, given the honor of lifting the trophy to a backdrop of fireworks and tickertape.

Marcelo is one of a slew of Madrid players to capture a fifth Champions League title, just one off the record held by Francisco Gento, a Madrid great from the 1950s and '60s.

For many, especially Liverpool fans, pre-match crowd problems overshadowed this final, though, and are sure to be the focus of an investigation by UEFA and authorities in the coming days.

Riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray at Liverpool supporters forced to wait in long lines to get into the biggest club game of the European season, whose kickoff was delayed.

UEFA blamed the chaos on people trying to get into the stadium without legitimate tickets.

"In the lead-up to the game, the turnstiles at the Liverpool end became blocked by thousands of fans who purchased fake tickets which did not work in the turnstiles," UEFA said in a statement.

Some fans climbed fences surrounding the stadium to get in. Others barged their way past security and sprinted onto the concourse before getting wrestled to the ground.

Riot police with batons and riot shields ran from gate to gate to prevent pockets of fans forcing their way into the stadium.

AP

Strikers hammer DCC in DC Sisi Cup 40 Overs Div A1 tournament



Strikers cricketers in a group photo before participating in a recent Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Sisi Cup 40 overs Division A1 tournament tie played in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF STRIKERS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

STRICKERS cricketers have tightened their grip on this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Sisi Cup 40 overs Division A1 League's first place, wallopping Dar Cricket Club (DCC) by 56 runs in a duel played recently.

Top-order batsman, Ramesh Aluri, put the man of the match displays at the crease to see to it Strikers notch the emphatic victory.

Strikers went in to bat first in the clash, held at the University of Dar es Salaam ground, posting 183 runs for nine wickets in the allotted 40 overs.

Trushal Jethwa that opened the innings registered 28 runs that turned out to be crucial to the side's pursuit of an imposing score.

They had to somehow endure a setback following an early dismissal of Jethwa's fellow opener, Karim Khan, who ended one run short of a two-digit score.

The DCC's Meet Jetha frustrated Khan's efforts to make his presence felt, dismissing the latter after 9.1 overs.

The experienced all-rounder, Issa Kikasi, laid his hands on the bat and went on to improve Strikers' total after nailing 24 runs whilst clearing the boundary on three occasions.

Alluri then made Strikers' plan to end the innings with a bigger total known, ending one run short of a half-century off 68 balls.

The top-order batsman, in the end, had the best innings which ultimately won him the best player of the match prize.

Top-order batsman, Sanjay Bhatia, and middle-order batsman, Nyenje Hashim, chipped in with 16 runs and 11 runs respectively.

Hiren Sharma had the best bowling figures for DCC, given the cricketer had a four-wicket haul for 40 runs in eight overs.

Dharmin Parmar and Jetha also did all they could to frustrate Strikers' plan to amass an imposing total, recording two wickets apiece in their respective eight-over spells.

In response, chasing Strikers' total happened to be tall order for

DCC, given the outfit's cricketers ended with 127 runs all out in 35.1 overs.

Parmar, captain Adil Kassam, and Gopal Solanki were the performers with meaningful contributions at the crease in what was overall an underwhelming showing by the squad.

Parmar was the team's top run-getter after notching 39 runs, Kassam chipped in with 17 runs and Solanki recorded 15 runs.

Low-order batsman, Hiren Sharma, and Hoze-fa Hussein vainly sought to boost their outfit's chase, recording 12 runs and 11 runs respectively.

Strikers are consequently enjoying the six-team showdown's top position having, posted a 1.4796 net run rate, notching 762 runs and giving away 561 runs in four ties.

DCC performers are placed fifth after the loss, having recorded a -0.9327 net run rate from 794 runs scored and 903 runs given away in five outings.

Entertaining action was expected to be on show in last weekend's

DC Sisi Cup 40 overs Division A's League fixtures, in which four sides were set to take the pitch.

The showdown's group games were set to conclude, with Annadil Burhani, Strikers, and Gymkhana Cricket Club eyeing the top two positions.

The GP Pak Stars were also searching for their first win in the quest to upset Gymkhana Cricket Club in a duel that was slated to take place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue.

In the weekend's other fixture, Annadil Burhani was to lock horns with Strikers at the former's oval.

In DC Sisi Cup Division B, there are still a handful of fixtures remaining with Union SC looking to spearhead a trophy quest as the side confronted last season's best team, Upanga SC B.

Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) performers were looking to find the elusive first win as they came up against Caravans B side.

The MCC had endured heart-breaking last moment defeats in the side's previous two ties.

Swiatek finds focus at French Open amid 31-match run

PARIS

IT has been so long since No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek lost – 31 matches now – and even since she ceded so much as a set – that last happened more than a month ago – that she could be forgiven if she couldn't recall how to react when in trouble on a tennis court.

Which is why it was worth watching as the 2020 French Open champion navigated a couple of tricky spots in the third round at Roland Garros on Saturday.

Turns out Swiatek didn't panic and didn't allow thoughts about this dominant run coming to an end distract her in what would become a 6-3, 7-5 victory against hard-hitting Danka Kovinic of Montenegro.

"Thinking about all these stats, it's not really helpful. So basically I try to be really strict in terms of my thoughts and try to really focus on ... finding solutions," said Swiatek, a 20-year-old from Poland whose last name is pronounced shvee-ON'-tek. "The thoughts are there, but I'm accepting that."

Kovinic also got a too-close-for-comfort look at Swiatek's predecessor atop the WTA rankings, the since-retired Ash Barty, during a 6-0, 6-0 loss at the Australian Open in January.

After Saturday's setback, Kovinic said she was deal-



Poland's Iga Swiatek, who plays with a ribbon in the colours of the Ukraine flag on her cap, clenches her fist after scoring a point against Montenegro's Danka Kovinic during their third round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France on Saturday. AP

ing with a nerve issue in her right shoulder and felt tingling in that arm and two of her fingers. She also said she made sure to deliver a message to Swiatek when they shook hands at the net.

"I told her, 'Keep going.' It's really great for tennis, for our sport, what she's doing. Obviously, she has something extra that the rest of us don't have," the 95th-ranked Kovinic said. "She has something special. What it is, I don't know."

Well, let's try to answer. Swiatek's serve, for example, is solid but not especially speedy, her fastest Saturday was 108 mph, 7 mph slower than Kovinic

produced. Swiatek's groundstrokes are smooth, sure, but as with anyone's are liable to waver; her forehand was particularly problematic on a windy afternoon with the temperature in the low 60s Fahrenheit (teens in Celsius), accounting for 17 of her 23 unforced errors.

Speed guns and statistics, though, can't account for two traits that stand out: an ability to remain in the moment and willingness to think her way out of a corner.

Early on, when a 3-0 lead shrank to 4-3, Swiatek grabbed eight consecutive points to own that set. In the second, she dropped four straight games to trail

5-4. Might have been time to think, "Uh, oh." Instead, Swiatek adjusted to Kovinic's style by using guile instead of attempting to match power with power, and she reeled off the last three games to finish the job.

"For sure," Swiatek said, "played a little bit more smart."

Her next opponent is Zheng Qinwen, a 19-year-old from China who is ranked 74th and in her second Grand Slam tournament.

"I really want to play against her," said Zheng, who was ahead 6-0, 3-0 when Alize Cornet stopped playing because of an in-

jured left leg.

Other women's fourth-rounders are Jessica Pegula vs. Irina-Camelia Begu, who was fined \$10,000 after she threw her racket and it bounced into the stands and brushed a child in the stands earlier in the week; Daria Kasatkina vs. Camila Giorgi, and Madison Keys vs. Veronika Kudremetova.

Pegula and Keys are two of five American women still in the tournament.

The relatively surprise-free men's results continued to pour in, with No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 7 Andrey Rublev, No. 8 Casper Ruud, No. 11 Janik Sinner, No. 12 Hubert Hurkacz and No. 20 Marin Cilic advancing. All won in straight sets, except for Rublev, who required four, and Ruud, who edged No. 32 Lorenzo Sonego 6-2, 6-7 (3), 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 at night.

The top nine men's seeds are into the fourth round, where Monday's matchups will be Medvedev vs. Cilic in a showdown between past U.S. Open champions, 2021 finalist Tsitsipas vs. Holger Rune, a 19-year-old from Denmark ranked 40th; Rublev vs. Sinner; and Ruud vs. Hurkacz.

No. 11 Pegula, whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, and Swiatek are the only two of the top 15 seeds remaining in the women's

bracket.

"She's kind of hit another level than all of us right now. Yeah, it's a little scary," said Pegula, who needed 10 match points to close out her first-round victory, then eight more in her next match, but sealed Saturday's 6-1, 7-6 (2) win over 2021 semifinalist Tamara Zidansek on her initial chance.

One more victory apiece, and Swiatek becomes Pegula's problem in the quarterfinals.

"Her athleticism and defensive skills are really, really good," Pegula said. "And then, I think, she's gotten much more offensive this year. Been more aggressive when she's needed to be."

Swiatek has won her past four tournaments and 48 of her past 49 sets; the exception came against Liudmila Samsonova in the semifinals at Stuttgart on April 23.

The last match Swiatek lost was against 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko back on Feb. 16 in the round of 16 at Dubai.

She's won a total of 15 sets by a 6-0 score this season, but Swiatek showed Saturday she can handle it when things get tight.

"It wasn't surprising, it wasn't weird," Swiatek said. "It's not that I forgot how to play these kinds of sets." AP

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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