



## BUSINESS



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Japan whale restaurants cheer hunt resumption

Online gambling firms will need \$500m to open shop



## Govt steps up efforts to reduce mercury use in artisanal mines

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has stepped up efforts to reduce the use of mercury in small gold mines as substantial amounts of the chemical get into the country irregularly each year, affecting hundreds of thousands of miners.

Speaking in Dodoma recently during the mining stakeholders' meeting coordinated by the Vice President's Office, the Acting Director in the Department of Environment, Faraja Ngerageza said the government has already approved and implementing the national action plan to reduce the use of mercury in the mines by 30 percent by 2024 as part of these

**More than 1.2 million people are involved in mining sector whereby 13.2 to 20 tonnes of mercury chemicals are used in gold processing,**

efforts.

Ngerageza said that mercury is used more by artisanal gold miners and is estimated that 25 to 35 percent of the miners are affected by the chemicals.

"More than 1.2 million people are involved in mining sector whereby 13.2 to 20 tonnes of mercury chemicals are used in gold processing," he stated.

Speaking at the meeting, mining stakeholder Noela Magoche advised the government and stakeholders to consider alternative methods to save the miners, including children working in the mines.

He said children are the biggest victims of mercury while insisting that the law prohibits employment for children, especially in the

# Magufuli, Kenyatta reaffirm East African identity, unity

President Kenyatta cautioned people of the two countries to desist from endless politicking as it is the biggest enemy of development. For the countries to make progress among nations, after every general election people should embark on hard work.



President Dr John Pombe Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta wave to Chato residents and guests shortly after President Kenyatta arrived at Chato Airport in Geita Region yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday declared that the two countries are not just neighbours but friendly nations inhabited by one people, urging citizens to work hard and bring about development.

Speaking at a rally in President Magufuli's home village of Mlimani in Chato district, Geita region, the leaders refuted suggestions that hostility towards each other prevails, underlining lasting friendships on the basis of unifying factors, especially kindred ethnic groups, language, trade and investment.

With the border stretching all the way from Lake from Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro to Tanga on the ocean board, and kindred communities living in both countries, the leaders were persuaded that nothing can cause enmity between Kenya and Tanzania.

"Kenyans are free to live and invest in Tanzania and Tanzanians are also free to do the same in Kenya," the host president emphasized.

President Kenyatta cautioned people of the two countries to desist from endless politicking as it is the biggest enemy of development. For the countries to make progress among nations, after every general election people should embark on hard work.

"Let's reduce politics, let's concentrate on development after elections. Politics from dusk to dawn every year cannot translate into development. It is indeed countering development," he told the gathering.

**Kenyans are free to live and invest in Tanzania and Tanzanians are also free to do the same in Kenya,**

President Magufuli stressed the need to strengthen unity through the East African Community and other regional blocs but insisted that for development to be realised, people must work hard.

"Let's unite but work hard. It is only hard working people who can build a nation," he said.

And the stakes are too high for the countries to allow anything to tarnish the pertain-

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## Singida East seat: NEC sets campaign schedule

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) yesterday announced July 31st as by-election date for Singida East constituency formerly held by Tundu Lissu of the main opposition party, Chadema which opposes his ouster.

NEC Chairman Judge Semistocles Kaijage announced the schedule in Dar es Salaam yesterday, acting in response to the letter by the Speaker of the National Assembly Job Ndogai, informing him that the seat was vacant.

**We have acted in accordance with section 37 (1) of the National Elections Act to inform the public of the pending by-election for Singida East constituency,**

"We have acted in accordance with section 37 (1) of the National Elections Act to inform the public of the pending by-election for Singida East constituency," he

said.

Judge Kaijage said nomination forms for aspirants will be issued by the commission from July 13th to July 18th and the nomination of candidates will be done on July 18th.

Candidate campaigns will commence on July 19th until July 30th and the polling take place the following day, he elaborated.

He reminded the candidates, their parties and supporters to abide by the laws, rules and regulations during the election period to avoid disturbing the peace or invite violence that can derail the process.

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## We are left with only 27pc of business, say shipping agents

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Shipping Agents Association (TASAA) said yesterday that decisions by the government to give exclusive mandate of shipping activities to the state-run Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) leaves them handling only 26.67 percent of the vessels.

However, TASAC said on Tuesday that its exclusive mandate in a number of functions will not push out private sector business, insisting that it intends to maintain a level playing field for competition among stakeholders.

In their response, private shipping agencies expressed fears that the regulator may in



future take over all shipping activities as per the recently endorsed law.

TASAA Executive Secretary Abel Uronu said in an interview that the regulator is not promoting competition. "It has monopolized the industry by taking almost 73.33 percent of all activities."

"TASAC will be an exclusive agent for vessels berthing at 11 berths out of the 15 available," said Uronu, insisting that the move threatens the very existence of private shipping agents and freight forwarders.

Last month, the National Assembly passed the Witten Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, No.3 of 2019 which gave exclusive mandate to TASAC to handle shipping agency functions including tanker ships, car carrier vessels, cruise vessels, exhibition vessels, casual

callers, chartered vessels and military ships.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act (Act No. 14 of 2017) exclusively empowers TASAC to carry out clearing and forwarding functions involving the importation and exportation of minerals, mineral concentrates, mining machinery and some other sensitive cargo categories.

With the new law TASAC operates as sector regulator with exclusive clearing and forwarding functions.

Addressing journalists early this week, TASAC Director General Emanuel Ndomba said that despite the powers given to it

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# Singida East seat: NEC sets campaign schedule

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This announcement comes hot on the heels of Chadema's announcement that it was taking legal action to challenge Ndugai's decision to declare the seat vacant. Chadema Secretary General Dr Vincent Mashinji said last week that the party had tasked its legal directorate to prepare to implement the challenge in collaboration with other lawyers in local and international courts.

"We have also decided to pursue diplomatic and political efforts to address the matter and we will announce as time goes because we want to ensure that justice prevails," he said.



**We have also decided to pursue diplomatic and political efforts to address the matter and we will announce as time goes because we want to ensure that justice prevails," he said.**

Dr Mashinji said the party has written to the Clerk of the National Assembly to share a copy of the statement that was read by the Speaker when he announced the sacking of the parliamentarian.

Ndugai announced last week that he had written to

the chairman of NEC informing him that the Singida East constituency seat had fallen vacant.

He told the National Assembly that his office was not aware, aside from hearsay, of the outspoken lawmaker's progress and whereabouts.

He also said the MP had not signed and submitted the wealth declaration forms for over two years now, contrary to what the law requires. Lissu has been undergoing treatment in Belgium for injuries sustained after a stream of bullets hit him in an assassination attempt in Dodoma nearly two years ago.

He has since appeared on international media saying he would return home once his safety was guaranteed.



Zanzibar President and chairman of Revolutionary Council Dr Ali Mohamed Shein bids farewell to the Isles heads of defence and security at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar yesterday shortly before his departure to the United Kingdom. Photo: Zanzibar State House

# Magufuli, Kenyatta reaffirm East African identity, unity

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ing friendship, he further noted, citing last year's trade levels between the two countries as valued at 1.945trn/- out of which 482.45bn/- was the value of goods that Tanzania sold.

He also quoted the Kenya Tourist Board's 2018 report which showed that more than 200,000 Tanzanians visited Kenya in that year, stating further that currently, there are 504 Kenyan busi-

nesses in the country employing more than 50,000 local people, with scores of Tanzanian businesses in Kenya also employing many people in the neighboring country.

He said they were also friendly at a personal level, such that their speeches were off the cuff, delivered in a jovial way with humour lined up here and there.

"We were friends since we were ministers. I once came to Kenya and paid a visit to your mother

Mama Ngina who offered me a very nice tea," President Magufuli said as Kenyatta nodded.

President Kenyatta's private visit comes less than a fortnight after Starehe MP and musician made inflammatory comments towards Tanzanians living and doing business in Nairobi.

Charles Njagua Kanyi alias Jaguar, speaking at a marketplace political rally threatened to expel foreign nationals doing business in Kenya, and proceed to attack

them if they did not heed the directive.

In the clip widely shared in East Africa and beyond, Jaguar was recorded at Gikombaa market which is popular for second-hand clothes, saying: "When you look at our market, Tanzanians and Ugandans have taken our businesses. Enough is enough. If we will give them 24 hours and they will not leave, we will beat them and we are not scared of anyone."

The MP from the ruling Jubilee Party then repeats the phrase "enough is enough" as people applaud.

On Tuesday, President Kenyatta wrote to President Magufuli, underlining how he was annoyed by the recent outburst, saying in his letter that the sentiments did not reflect the position of the Kenyan government.

The musician-turned-politician was arrested and is facing incitement charges in Nairobi.



Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general Eng James Kilaba briefs journalists shortly after the opening of the 23rd East African Communications Organisation (EACO) Congress and 26th meeting in Mwanza yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Elizabeth Faustine

# Govt steps up efforts to reduce mercury use in artisanal mines

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mining industry.

Mercury is said to be one of the 10 most hazardous chemicals listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and has serious effects on the neurological system. Inhalation of elemental mercury vapours can cause neurological and behavioural disorders such as tremors, emotional instability, insomnia, memory

loss, neuromuscular changes and headaches. They can also harm the kidneys and the thyroid gland.

Tanzania is estimated to have 1.2 million artisanal miners whereby 20 to 30 per cent of them are female and most of them use mercury in the processing of minerals, especially gold.

It is also estimated that a total of 13 to 24 tons are used and are imported in a

non-stop way.

It is used in washing the sand and obtaining the gold, which is later placed in sandy and watery cotton and handled so that the chemical can detach the mineral from the soil.

Along with its importance in completing the chain of operations in making gold available especially for small-scale miners, it is a hazardous

chemical for human health and the environment.

The world's chemical pollution levels continue to increase as a result of the burning of coal and mineral extraction and processing through unsafe means.

Mercury can also get into the human body when people eat fish from waters taking catchment from small scale mines near lakes and rivers, experts assert.

# We are left with only 27pct of business, say shipping agents

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by the law, the agency will maintain a level playing field for competition among stakeholders.

In a recent public notice, TASAC categorically restricted importers, exporters, clearing and forwarding agents, employers and their representatives from carrying out port clearance and forwarding activities of goods stipulated in Section 7(1)(a) of the Act with effect from March 4, 2019.

This rubbed private shipping and clearing agents who protested the move, terming it a plot to edge them out of business altogether.

In its reaction, the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) called for dialogue with the government before the state-run shipping agency became operational, saying that hundreds of jobs were at stake.

TAFFA also complained that it does not understand why the law has allowed the regulator to take the role of a business competitor and at the same time be responsible for formulating guidelines to govern the sector.

# Egyptian firm planning for expansion of fertiliser services in African states

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE Minister Japhet Hasunga yesterday held talks with the big boss of a fertilizer manufacturing company from Egypt, Raouf Bakry during a meeting held at the ministry headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Bakry heads the company known as TOPIC that operates from Cairo. He said the firm is now seeking to expand its services to African countries including Tanzania.

He added that the firm anticipates receiving financial boost (soft loans) from the Exim Bank to expand their services in Africa. He said apart from manufacturing fertilizers, the company also plans to start producing insecticides so as to enhance productivity of agricultural crops.

Meanwhile, Hasunga assured the TOPIC boss that the fifth phase government is committed to facilitate both local and foreign investments.

He said the government welcomes investors in different sectors including construction of processing industries.

"President Magufuli has already made it clear that the government is determined to improve the investment climate for the benefit of Tanzanians", said Hasunga.

The meeting was also attended by director general of the Tanzania fertilizer company, Salum Mkumba.



The Eastern Africa hub director for International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Dr Victor Manyong (R) shows aflatoxin contaminated and non-contaminated maize grain to Belgium ambassador to Tanzania Peter Van Acker (C) when he visited the IITA Tanzania plant pathology laboratory in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Looking on is the institute senior pathologist Dr George Mahuku. The institute works to ensure food safety and plant health through its diverse scientific research works across the sub-Saharan Africa regions. Photo: Courtesy of IITA

## Call for improving infrastructures at Rukwa region's Kalambo Falls

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

THE government has been challenged to invest more at Kalambo Falls in Rukwa region as well as improving its infrastructures to allow a good number of tourists from within and outside the country to visit the area.

Kalambo waterfalls, the second highest uninterrupted fall in Africa after Tugela Falls in South Africa is located on the Kalambo River near the southeastern shore of Lake Tanganyika on the Tanzania-Zambia border in Kalambo district.

The widths of falls is between 3.6 and 18 metres. Archaeologically, Kalambo Falls is one of the most important sites in Africa. It has produced a sequence of past human activity stretching over more than two hundred and fifty thousand years.

Despite the area attracting many local and international visitors, infrastructures surrounding the Kalambo Falls are still poor, such as roads and hotels.

Some interviewed tourists expressed concerns with the poor state of the roads to and from the Kalambo Falls.

Fransista Makoe from the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (social welfare department), said improvement of infrastructures will attract more people hence boost government revenues.

Show Nshurume from Swaziland said "I have been attracted with the

water falls since they are surrounded with a beautiful nature. He called upon Tanzanians and foreign tourists coming to Tanzania to visit the Kalambo Falls.

Kalambo District Commissioner, Msongera Palela challenged Tanzanians to build the culture of visiting available tourist attractions including the Kalambo Falls.

"I have brought my visitors to see the Kalambo Falls and see the beautiful nature surrounding it", said the DC adding the government through Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) has started to implement construction projects which include improving the roads to and from the falls.

Downstream of the falls, the Kalambo Gorge which has a width of about 1 km and a depth of up to 300 m runs for about 5 km before opening out into the Lake Tanganyika rift valley. In the abyss is the breeding ground of the rare, giant marabou stork.

The gorge was first excavated in 1953 by John Desmond Clark who recognized archaeological activity around a small basin lake upstream from the falls. Late Acheulian stone tools, hearths and well preserved organic objects were found there including a wooden club and digging sticks and evidence of fruit consumption.

Tools excavated from Kalambo gorge have been dated to around 300,000 BC, and the hearths indicate people were using fire systematically there some 60,000 years ago.

## WCF paid 6bn/- in compensation to employees

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) has paid 6bn/- in compensation to employees who sustained occupational injuries or suffered from diseases in two years.

This was revealed yesterday by WCF's director of assessment services, Dr Abdulssalam Omary. He said the compensation was paid between the year 2016 and 2018.

Dr Omary called upon workers to submit their accidents and disease reports to the fund for assessment so that they are compensated.

"When it happens a worker is injured in

the course of executing his duties, he or she must report the matter to the employer within 14 days. The employer will be required to submit the report to WCF within seven days", he explained.

He added that early submission of the report will help the fund to make assessment as well as processing medical aid compensation. He said the fund pays compensation of different categories such as medical aid, compensation for temporary and permanent disablement and constant attendance care grant.

The compensation also includes rehabilitation services, funeral grants and com-

ensation to dependants of the deceased employee.

He insisted on employers to comply with the country laws by registering at WCF, the thing would help employees when they got injured at work.

Explaining on the rehabilitation services compensation, he said the fund provides special healthcare services that help a person regain physical and mental abilities that have been lost or impaired as a result of occupational injury, disease or treatment.

"Rehabilitation services are provided to employees for easy recovery and enabling

him returns to work", he noted.

WCF was established under the Workers' Compensation Act 2008 to provide compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the course of employment.

The Act applies to all employers and employees from both the private and public sector in Tanzania mainland.

Under the Act, all employers are required to contribute to the WCF whereby private sector employers contribute 1 percent, and public sector employers contribute 0.5 percent of their annual tax bill for one year. Contributions are due on a monthly basis.

## Construction of \$3bn/- fertiliser plant in Lindi region expected to start 2020

By Henry Mwangonde

CONSTRUCTION of a \$3bn/- fertiliser plant in Lindi region is expected to start next year when negotiations between government and the investors come to an end after delays caused by investment law reforms by Tanzania, an envoy said yesterday.

According to Jorg Herrera, deputy head of Mission for the Federal Republic of Germany in Tanzania the negotiations are in its final stages.

The plant is a joint venture between the government of Tanzania, Ferrestal industrial project of Germany, Danish Industrial Catalyst Producer Haldor Topsoe and Pakistan's Fauji Fertilizer.

The envoy was speaking during a press briefing at the ongoing 43rd Dar

es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

He said the government has shown a new path to implement changes in investment and that this will go a long way to attract more investors hence benefit it's people.

"Germany see Tanzania as a get way to the East African market and by this we want to make use of the opportunity to bring more German companies to Tanzania," he said.

According to him trade volume between Tanzania and Germany stands at \$300 million saying there big room for improvement.

He added that the coming of the blue print will help to facilitate ease of doing business in the country hence encourage investment.

"The blue print set the stage for raft of changes to the way business is conducted in Tanzania," he said.

It is expected that the project which is expected to employ 3,500 workers. The factory will have a capacity to produce 3.8 million tonnes of fertilizer per year.

Annual consumption of fertilizer in Tanzania is 400,000 tonnes, mostly used in agriculture. High transport costs from bulky importers have led to retail sellers increasing the prices of food.

The German envoy said his country has been participating in the DITF for a long time and has been named the best foreign pavilion for four times in row.

## Acacia mining boosts reserves at Tanzania's North Mara mine

By Guardian Reporter

SUCCESSFUL drilling at the North Mara mine in Tanzania has allowed Acacia Mining PLC to upgrade reserves, it said Friday.

As of the end of May, North Mara's Gokona mine had 1.3 million ounces of gold reserves at a grade of 5.5 grams of gold per tonne of ore, 13% higher than before, though at a marginally lower grade.

This, Acacia said, is due to drilling on the east and west extensions of Gokona in late 2018 and early 2019.

Overall, the measured and indicated resources at Gokona have risen 63% to 122,000 ounces of gold, and the grade has also improved.

Acacia's inferred resource has climbed 65% to 849,000 ounces of gold, at a lower grade.


"Acacia plans to continue underground diamond drilling at Gokona and this is expected to further increase confidence in the continuity of the mineralisation of the deposit with the potential for further additions to inventory in the Lower West and Lower East, as well as in the Deep East in the year-end 2019 mineral reserve and resource," added Acacia.

Accordingly, Acacia expects to provide a further update to its mineral reserves and mineral resources as soon as finalised.

This upgrade comes after, in mid-June, Acacia refuted Barrick Gold Corp's criticism of Acacia's mining plans in Tanzania. Barrick has questioned resource uncertainty at Acacia's Bulyanhulu mine, which is currently on care and

maintenance, while it has also cast doubt on Acacia's grade assumptions and throughput targets at Bulyanhulu's Deep West orebody.

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# More events from the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (R) being briefed about the operations of the Tanzania Meat Board (TMB) by marketing officer Nicholai Chiweka at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF). The Trade Fair is taking place at Mwalimu Nyerere grounds, along Kilwa Road. All photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Visitors busy at the ongoing 43rd DITF yesterday.



City residents hold their products after purchase at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday.



An artist paints decoration to children at the 43th DITF yesterday.



Abajuko Enterprises Sales and Marketing officer Alex Chamshama (L) explains a point to visitors on types of crabs at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries pavilion.



Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy IT Diploma student Awena Raju (R) explains a point to visitors at the academy's pavilion.



Visitors admira a familiar fish type locally known as kambare at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries pavilion.



Chemba District Council Executive Director Dr Semistatus Mashimba (R) receives one of the computers from Mkapa Foundation monitoring and evaluation manager Rahma Musoke during the handing over ceremony. The foundation also donated medical equipment, 59 cellular phones worth more than 80m/- on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim

## TFS invites people to visit Magamba nature forest reserve in Lushoto

By Beatrice Philemon

AS part of efforts to promote domestic and nature tourism, the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) has organised a three-day trip to visit the Magamba Nature Forest Reserve (MNFR)—a state owned forest reserve in Lushoto district, Tanga region to see available tourists' attractions.

This was revealed on Thursday by Magamba Nature Forest Reserve (MNFR), Eco-tourism Research and Tourism Officer, Samji Mlemba when speaking at

the on-going 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), he said the trip will be held from July 12 to 14th this year.

"We now invite local and foreign exhibitors to register for the safari at our pavilion. We want them to see what the Magamba Nature Forest Reserve contains", he said adding interested people should be willing to contribute some 171,000/- for adult and 148,000/- for children, which are the cost for accommodation, food and transportation.

Apart from nature tourism, Magamba is home of endangered animal species

and a hot spot biodiversity site, he added. Tanzanians and international visitors who will take part in the trip will get a chance to see a variety of flora and fauna, water falls located at Sungwi and Mkusu, dams, German caves, old saw mills trail, Kigulu Hakwewa, Jiwe la Mungu, and Skyline, Mdanasa viewpoints.

Mlemba added that they decided to arrange the trip to make the Magamba Nature Forest Reserve well known to the people since there are many people including Tanzanians who are not aware of its existence.

"It is one of the nature forest reserve in Western Usambara Mountains with high biodiversity of endemic flora and fauna and high water catchment value. It is managed by TFS under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

According to the official, there will be 3000 tourists expected to visit the nature reserve in Lushoto district this year.

Currently the statistics shows that the number of tourists that toured in Tanzania in 2018 stood at 1.3 million and the Government is targeting to attract 2 million tourists by 2020.

## Leakeys' research camp becomes another tourist attraction site

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

SIXTY years after Dr Leakey discovered, the skull of *Zinjanthropus*, the earliest man dating back nearly 2 million years ago, the camp dedicated to such historical discovery is now being converted into yet another tourist attraction.

The Conservator at the National Museum, Dr Agnes Gidna said the Leakey's camp will be officially be unveiled during the 60th anniversary of the discovery of the cranium of the so-called 'Nut Cracker' man on the 17th of July 2019. The Zinj skull is currently being safeguarded in a special national trophy vault.

"Ngorongoro is globally recognized as cradle for mankind and this fact can be attested at Olduvai where Leakeys' have been working since 1930s and the remains of the researchers' house, laboratory, equipment and vehicles will form yet another museum," Gidna said.

The *Zinjanthropus* skull was also planned to be in public display so as to extend the mass knowledge behind the world's most reliable evidence of human evolution.

In sync with that, a special symposium of scientists, archaeologists, researchers and scholars to be staged in Arusha to mark the 60 years Anniversary of Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Deputy Commissioner

Conservator for Ngorongoro, Hillary Mushi said there will be special transport for local residents to visit Olduvai site and registration will take place at Arusha and Karatu respectively.

*Zinjanthropus* skull was discovered by anthropologist Mary Leakey on July 17, 1959, at Olduvai Gorge, an archaeological site found within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

Dr Mary Leakey who was born in 1913 was a British paleoanthropologist who discovered the first fossilized *Proconsul* skull, an extinct ape now believed to be among the human ancestors.

In 1959 Dr Leakey discovered the robust *Zinjanthropus* skull at Olduvai Gorge and for much of her career, spanning more than 50 years in Tanzania; she worked alongside her husband, Dr Louis Leakey, at the archaeological site located within Ngorongoro Conservation Area, where they also uncovered the tools and fossils of ancient hominines.

This will help crush speculations that the Zinj skull may not be in the country but possibly taken away to overseas as people once thought.

Ngorongoro Conservation was split from Serengeti National Park in 1959 becoming a multiple land use separate entity. It is believed that all mankind originated from the area before spreading out around the globe.

## One in ten children will not complete primary school in 2030 in sub-Saharan Africa - report

By Guardian Reporter

AS countries are almost a third of the way to the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals, one in ten children will not complete primary school in 2030 in sub-Saharan Africa, says a report by UNESCO.

The new UNESCO projections prepared for the UN High-level Political Forum shows that the

world will fail its education commitments without a rapid acceleration of progress.

In 2030, when all children should be in school, one in six aged between 6 and 17 years will still be excluded. It said that by 2030, 40 percent of children will not complete secondary education at current dropping rates in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Without a rapid acceleration,

one in ten children in sub-Saharan Africa will not even be completing primary school by the deadline", the report reads in part.

The new global education goal, SDG 4, calls on countries to ensure that children are not only going to school but also learning, yet the proportion of trained teachers in sub-Saharan Africa has been falling since 2000.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development emphasizes leaving no-one behind yet only 6 percent of the poorest 20 percent complete upper secondary school in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 48 percent of the richest.

The Global Education Monitoring Report calculated in 2015 that there was a \$39 billion annual finance gap to reach the goal and

yet aid to education has stagnated since 2010.

Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Silvia Montoya said: "Currently less than half of countries are providing the data needed to monitor progress towards the goal. Countries need to face up to their commitments. Better finance and coordination are needed to fix this data gap before we get any closer to the

deadline."

Manos Antoninis, Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report said: "Countries have interpreted the meaning of the targets in the global education goal very differently. This seems correct given that countries set off from such different starting points. But they must not deviate too much from the promises they made back in 2015. If countries

match their plans with their commitments now, they can get back on track by 2030."

The report highlights that learning has been prioritized too, with more and more countries introducing learning assessments to look at trends over time. It said many countries have also begun reflecting the new skills called for in the education goal in their curricula and textbooks.



A goat trader at Vingunguti in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam says business is tough as sales were low indicating people had no money. One goat goes for 65,000 / - up to 170,000 / -. Photo: John Badi

## IITA Tanzania commended for introduction of the Aflasafe solution to tame aflatoxins

By Correspondent Crispin

Gerald

BELGIUM Ambassador to Tanzania Peter Van Acker has commended the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Tanzania for innovation of bio-control product technology—'aflasafe' to address toxic chemicals in crops that can cause cancer and suppress body immune.

Aflatoxin is a highly toxic chemical produced by 'Aspergillus flavus' a common fungus which is found in soils and crop debris. The fungus attacks crops in the field and remains even in storage.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam after visiting the institute on Thursday, ambassador Acker expressed satisfaction with the technology due to its functions which are going to address toxic in the crops.

"I am impressed with the technol-

ogy because toxic are dangerous to people's health", said the Ambassador.

Aflasafe is the effective technology developed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Tanzania. It is made up of the *Aspergillus flavus* fungus too, but of strains that do not produce the toxin. It is a revolutionary technology developed by the institute in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture with support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its agriculture department.

Aflasafe solution has now been registered by the Registrar of Pesticides, making Tanzania one of the few African countries where IITA has made a breakthrough in the application of the technology.

The ambassador added that aflasafe solution has come at a right time where Tanzania and other

sub-Saharan African countries are facing the problem which causes huge loss. He said introduction of aflasafe technology will help countries that initially affected by aflatoxin to have safe food and assurance of food security, especially future to poor families.

"The technology will open room for commercial opportunities both, inside and outside the country", he said.

The ambassador also visited the cassava screen house used for studies on cassava mosaic disease (CMD) and cassava brown streak disease (CBSD). He also visited the soil laboratory, molecular lab and pathology lab that all available at IITA.

IITA Director for Eastern Africa, Victor Manyong said the visit by Belgium Ambassador to the institute is of great importance since Belgium is among the countries that funds IITA activities.

## IAEA helps cyclone-hit Mozambique prevent animal diseases outbreak

MAPUTO

THE International Atomic Energy Agency has delivered emergency supplies to help Mozambique fight further outbreaks of animal diseases, such as African swine fever, foot and mouth disease and Rift Valley fever, which could threaten people and livestock in the aftermath of floods caused by recent cyclones.

The assistance will help laboratories apply nuclear-derived diagnostic tests, such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA), to detect diseases quickly and with great accuracy.

"In addition to the tragic human death toll, more than 300,000 farm animals were killed and another six million were put at risk," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said yesterday. Prompt assistance by the IAEA is helping Mozambique to prepare for possible animal disease outbreaks, he added.

The emergency package

will go towards strengthening the Central Veterinary Laboratory in the capital Maputo as well as restoring services in strategic laboratories in the cities of Chimoio and Pemba, located in the central and northern regions most affected by the floods.

"After cyclones Idai and Kenneth, animal movements occurred and with those, diseases like foot and mouth disease and African swine fever may have spread to other provinces," said Sara Achá, head of Mozambique's Central Veterinary Laboratory.

"Water- and vector-borne diseases may also have found new ground for their spread, so early and quick diagnosis can help contain this."

Using PCR, copies of DNA sequences are amplified exponentially to generate thousands to millions of more copies of that particular DNA segment.

ELISA detects the presence of a ligand in a liquid sample using antibodies directed against the protein to be measured.



Dodoma Regional Police Commander SACP Gilles Muroto receives a donation of tires from Bahi district based Nholi mining representative Manyunga Musa at a brief ceremony in the city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

# EAC completes 35 priority infrastructure projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has completed 35 priority infrastructure development projects out of the identified 286 projects.

A statement by EAC stated that the completed projects are now operational.

The EAC Heads of State Joint Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development held in Kampala, Uganda in February, 2018 approved a set of 286 priority infrastructure projects in various sectors for joint promotion and coordinated implementation by the partner states.

The 16th meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication and Meteorology (TCM) held in Kampala this week was informed that the completed projects are in diverse sectors including railways, ports, roads, energy and airports.

The five-day meeting which was opened by Eng Steven Mlote, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure and Planning, was chaired by Eng Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye, Rwanda's Minister of State in-charge of Transport.

The completed projects are, rehabilitation of the 270 km Malaba-

Kampala railway; construction of the 472 km Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway line, development of the Lake Nyasa Ports - Itungi, Kiwira and Ndumbi, construction of the 454 km of 20-inch diameter, Mombasa - Nairobi refined petroleum oil products pipeline, and Taxiways rehabilitation and construction of new semi full parallel taxiway, apron rehabilitation and expansion, refurbishment of Passenger Terminal Building at Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania.

The statement said that 106 projects (36 percent) of all the projects are at advanced stage of

implementation having secured funding for construction or being at tendering and construction stages.

However, 60 projects are still at early stages of the cycle being either at concept or preliminary studies stage.

The EAC Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication and Meteorology further approved a 10-year roadmap for the implementation of the remaining EAC Heads of State priority projects.

On communication, the TCM reiterated its earlier directives to Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania that are yet to imple-

ment the EAC Roaming Framework to do so.

The Roaming Framework which provides for the harmonisation of mobile calling and data charges has so far only been implemented by Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda.

The initial deadline by the EAC Heads of State Summit for the implementation of the roaming framework was 2015.

On the Tripartite Vehicle Load Management Agreement bringing together EAC, SADC and COMESA, the TCM agreed that all partner states maintain zero percent tolerance on Gross Vehicle

Weight. The meeting further directed partner states to enforce the provisions of the EAC Vehicle Load Control Act, 2016 with respect to weigh-bridge standards.

The EAC Vehicle Load Act, 2016 (EAC VLC Act, 2016) has been a core for harmonisation of the Tripartite Road Transport Legal Instruments of Vehicle Load Management Agreement (VLMA) and Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement (MC-BRTA).

Whereas the proposed VLMA to a large extent, addressed most of the contents of EAC VLC Act, 2016, the disagreement remain

on level of tolerances on Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). The EAC VLC Act, 2016 is for the zero tolerance while the TTTTP VLMA recommends for the 2% tolerance.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Aziz Mlima, Tanzania's High Commissioner to Uganda, Burundi's Minister to the Office of the President responsible for EAC Affairs, Isabelle Ndahayo, Uganda's Minister of State for Works and Transport, Edward Katumba Wamala and Julius Kiplangat Korir, Kenya's Principal Secretary for Infrastructure.



Dar vendor displays his merchandise along Nelson Mandela Express Highway in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sale of sharp objects in public is not allowed according to the country's laws. Photo: John Badi

## Over 1,000 teachers benefits from trainings aimed at improving the quality of education

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government through the ministry of Education, Science and Technology has started to offer capacity building trainings to science, mathematics and language teachers.

The trainings that are supported by the government of Canada, are meant to enhance teaching skills of the trainers as well as improve the quality of education in the country.

More than 1,000 teachers are attending the training which equips them with the best teaching skills.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha said this when addressing the

teachers at the opening session of the training held at the Morogoro Teaching College.

He said the ministry through the Teacher Education Support Programme (TESP) has decided to train teachers to improve the quality of education. He added that the government of Canada is also backing the government to ensure availability of text books and various equipment for information and communication technology (ICT) subject.

"We appreciate the support we receive from the government of Canada towards improving provision of education services in our country," said the deputy minister.

He said the fifth phase government

is implementing a number of initiatives including the Education Programme for Results (EP4R) whereas a total of 58bn/- is being spent to renovate school infrastructures at different public secondary schools and 22 education colleges.

According to the deputy minister the government is implementing a programme to renovate 89 old public schools in the country. He said the move is aimed at rescuing the schools, many of which have become badly dilapidated and totally forgotten.

He added: "The government in collaboration with donors, education stakeholders and citizens will continue to improve learning environment at public schools".

Assistant Director in the ministry's Education department, Agusta Lupokela said a total of 1,047 teachers are participating in the trainings. She said the trainings will be conducted in three phases until July 30th 2019.

Lupokela said the first phase was conducted at the Butimba teachers college in Mwanza where 283 teachers benefited. He said the ongoing training in Morogoro region is attended by 447 teachers.

One of the teachers, Bakari Chamu said the acquired knowledge will help improve their teaching techniques hence improve the quality of education.

## China-Africa cooperation in high-gear, powering the global growth

KIGALI

THE China-organised trade expo facilitates the flow of African products to a bigger market, said Gerard Sina, owner of a Rwanda-based food-processing company, after attending the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo last week in central China.

Having returned home from the expo, the entrepreneur said: "I have high hopes of tapping into the big Chinese market for my products".

China remains Africa's largest trading partner over the past decade with bilateral trade jumping by 20 percent year-on-year to 204.2 billion U.S. dollars in 2018.

The strong ties between the world's biggest developing country and the largest developing continent received another boost last week when several events, including the trade fair held in Changsha, capital of China's Hunan Province, yielded more tangible benefits and consolidated their consensus on win-win cooperation.

From June 27 to 29, Sina vended his company's fruit juice and chili pepper sauce as well as banana wine at the Changsha expo, which attracted more than 10,000 guests and traders, including those from 53 African countries.

According to the organizer, 84 deals worth 20.8 billion dollars were reached in trade, agriculture, tourism and other fields during the three-day event, an outcome of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Beijing Summit held last September.

Sina hailed the exhibition as "another opportunity to expand our networks," adding that the trade fair provided a platform for African entrepreneurs to learn more about international brands.

"Such trade fairs are important in supporting existing and startup businesses in Rwanda and Africa in general," he said.

"The expo was a success. The Chinese leadership is keen to provide the best business environment for exhibitors to

showcase their products," he said.

A delegation from Zambia's North-Western Province said it used the expo to highlight the investment opportunities in the province's such sectors as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing.

During the expo, the delegation invited Chinese investors to attend a local expo scheduled for August in the province.

According to the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, the eastern African country reached a strategic cooperation agreement with Hunan Province as 14 Ugandan firms participated in the exhibition.

Over the past few days, African media has been awash with reports on the expo.

Kenya's national broadcaster KBC reported that the nation's agriculture and tourism sectors are set to benefit.

Nigeria's Daily Trust newspaper reported that the Jigawa state government signed a deal with Hunan Province to boost the state's capacity for rice production, while Namibia's New Era newspaper said the expo would provide new prospects of economic and trade cooperation between China and Namibia.

As China-Africa cooperation moves into high gear, airlines started to provide more demand-driven flight services.

In June, Rwanda's national carrier RwandAir launched its first flight service to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, and China Southern Airlines also added another direct flight service between Kenyan capital Nairobi and Changsha, on top of its existing flight service that connects Guangzhou and Nairobi.

Just days before the Changsha expo, over 80 ministerial-level officials gathered in Beijing for a coordinators' meeting on the implementation of the follow-up actions of the FOCAC Beijing summit.

At the FOCAC Beijing summit, China proposed eight major initiatives with African countries, covering fields such as industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, and green development.

# Multi-sectoral approach required to reduce gender-based violence across the country

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE various initiatives from human rights organisations and the government, gender-based violence to women and children has continued to be rampant at different places across the country.

According to the report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published last year, the most dangerous place for women is at home where majority of female homicide victims worldwide are killed by partners or family members.

The report indicate that around 87,000 women were killed around the world in 2017, while 50,000 (58 percent) were killed by intimate partners.

Speaking recently at a meeting towards end-

ing GBV organised by Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Inspector General of Police (IGP), Simon Sirro said the continuation of rape incidences and other forms of GBV in the country shows that the problem is still big and poses a challenge to the police force.

The IGP called upon Regional Commissioner who participated in the meeting to come up with strategies to reduce GBV cases in their particular regions.

Head of Community Police Co-operation, Mussa Mussa talked on the importance of educating the community on the negative impacts of GBV. He was concerned that the police gender desks have yet worked effectively in addressing GBV problems. He said at some police

stations, the desks are left without officers.

Njombe Regional Police Commander, Hamduni Salum said superstitious beliefs are among the factors contributing to the increase of child and women violence.

North Unguja Regional Police Commander, Haji Abdallah Haji said that most of the people do not have enough understanding on how they can deal or address violence cases.

Kigoma Regional Police Commander, Martine Otieno said the region is experiencing a number of violence due to the presence of refugees from neighbouring Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"There is a need to amend some of the law especially the one which allow suspects of rape cases to be bailed. There should be a special court to deal with GBV cases," said Kilimanjaro

Regional Police Commander Hamisi Selemani.

Iringa Regional Police Commander, Juma Bwire, asserted that failure to fill PF3 forms by doctors and delayed reporting of GBV cases are among the challenges that hinders efforts towards ending violence cases in many part of the country.

Meanwhile, Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) Executive Director, Koshuma Mtengeti said that as part of efforts to end GBV, the organisation has trained 270 police officers from Mara, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Manyara and Kigoma regions. Assistant Representative of UNFPA Tanzania, Christine Kwayu, underscored the need for every police station to have the gender desk. She said collaborative efforts between stakeholders and the government was crucial in ending GBV.

Ulf Kallstig, Head of Development Cooperation, Swedish Embassy said: "There is a need to build trust to the police so that public can easily report the incidence without fear".

Recently published Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) report states that a total of 6,376 violence incidents were reported in a period of six months from January to June last year. The report themed 'Sexual Violence: A Threat to Child Rights and Welfare in Tanzania' detailed that rape incidences have increased to 2,365 last year compared to 759 incidences reported countrywide in 2017.

The LHRC report attributes the sexual violence against children to lack of proper care and parental guidance, household poverty, witchcraft-beliefs, low awareness about child rights and family disintegration.



Republic of Korea ambassador to Tanzania Tae-ick Cho shows to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) director general Dr Albina Chuwa (C) a copy of a journal for development projects implemented by his government in Tanzania shortly after their meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (L) is the bureau director of economic Statistics Daniel Masolwa. Photo: Maelezo

## Sudan celebrates end of stand-off between military leaders and opposition

KHARTOUM

SUDANESE citizens took to the streets of the capital, Khartoum, Friday to celebrate a power-sharing agreement that could bring an end to a weeks-long standoff between the ruling Transitional Military Council and the opposition alliance.

Sudan's military leadership and the country's pro-democracy movement have agreed to form a rotating, joint sovereign council that will govern for the next three years or a little longer, Mohamed el-Hasan Labat, the African Union's envoy to Sudan, said early Friday.

"Today our revolution has won and it waves the flags of victory", the opposition Declaration of Freedom and Change Forces (DFCF) said Friday.

Talks between the military leadership and opposition groups collapsed after security forces broke up a protest camp outside Khartoum's military headquarters on June 3. More than 100 protesters were killed in the crackdown.

Ethiopia's government and the African Union mediated talks that led to Thursday's agreement, Labat said. Tens of thousands of protesters flooded the streets of Sudan's cities in the run-up to the deal.

The Transitional Military Council has been in power since the military ousted long-time President Omar al-Bashir in April. The coup followed months of protests that engulfed the country.

Sudan's pro-democracy movement remained on the streets after Bashir's ouster, demanding a transition to civilian rule.

# Armed forces called to defend Glencore mine in Congo

By Special Correspondent

GLENCORE Plc said armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo are in the area around the operations of its Kamoto Copper Co., after dozens of illegal miners were killed in a landslide last week.

"We prioritise the safety and security of our workforce and host

communities," Glencore said in a statement on Thursday. "KCC will continue to engage with all the relevant stakeholders to collaborate on identifying and implementing a long-term, sustainable solution to illegal mining in the DRC."

Glencore estimates that 2,000 unauthorized people enter its open-pit mine on average every

day.

Illegal miners will be removed from the site of the Glencore project where at least 43 died last week, Interior Minister Basile Olongo said on Saturday. Glencore estimates that 2,000 unauthorized people enter its open-pit mine on average every day.

Illegal mining is the result of a

harsh economic divide across Africa, home to some of the world's richest reserves of metals and minerals and some of the poorest people, who are willing to risk their lives in dangerous conditions to eke out a living. Some mining concessions in Congo are vast with perimeters stretching for miles, making them difficult to police.

The workers entered the KCC operation without permission and put their own lives at risk by digging at the site, one of the world's biggest cobalt mines, Glencore said last week.

It's a problem that's affected several companies in the industry. Congo has also deployed troops to protect China Molybdenum Co.'s

Tenke Fungurume mine from illegal miners.

Human rights While General John Numbi, the inspector general of the armed forces, said diggers at TFM were cleared without a shot being fired, Amnesty International has said the presence of troops near the mines risks human rights abuses.

The soldiers chased diggers away from the Glencore site today, said Emmanuel Umpula, director of Afrewatch, a Kolwezi-based human rights group. Police then used teargas to stop diggers from trying to protest outside the local governor's office, and while there was no sign of bullets being used, they were moved in a "violent manner,"

## Poachers resort to locally made guns and wire traps, officials out to strategise security enhancement

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

POACHERS have resorted to using locally made guns and wire traps to kill animals in Tanzania's Saadani National Park located in Coast and Tanga regions along the Indian Ocean coastline, an official said on Thursday.

The park is located in the middle of a triangle of big urban areas, Tanga, Zanzibar and Bagamoyo which are frequented by the tourists.

Gabriel Genda, the Chief of Security in the Saadani National Park, said 60 locally made guns were seized in a special operation conducted by the park authorities in April this year.

"During the operation, four factories for making guns were

discovered," said Genda, adding that owners of the factories were facing court cases for manufacturing guns illegally.

The official told a meeting held in Tanga city to discuss strategies of enhancing security in the Saadani National Park which has seen an increase on the use of wire traps to catch animals, especially for game meat.

However, Genda said the park has been able to reduce poaching by 75 percent while grazing of livestock in the park has been reduced by almost 99 percent.

Martin Shigella, the Tanga Regional Commissioner, urged national parks across the country to strictly control movement of small aircraft in the parks to avoid smuggling of

animals.

Steria Ndaga, the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) Commissioner for the Eastern Zone, called for the need to educate communities on the importance of conserving and protecting the Saadani National Park.

"Some members of the community still do not understand the reasons behind conservation," said Ndaga.

The official said TANAPA cannot protect the park singlehandedly without the full cooperation of government security agencies and communities.

The number of tourists visiting Saadani National Park has increased by more than ten folds after receiving 22,942 tourists in the 2017/18 year compared to 3,758 tourists who visited the park in 2005.



Porridge vendor negotiates her way along Mandela Road hunting for potential customers at Buguruni in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## Globally we can net sustainable future for aquaculture

**A**QUACULTURE is currently the world's fastest growing food industry, and now accounts for over 50 per cent of the total global seafood supply. Sustainable aquaculture growth is key to easing pressure on wild fish stocks, which are globally under stress as a result of overfishing. The industry is challenged with the responsibility of feeding a rapidly growing global population, and as worldwide seafood consumption increases, sustainable aquaculture production has to increase to keep up with demand. However, concerns have surfaced about the environmental repercussions of such growth. Thanks to innovation and technology, however, the focus has shifted towards the longevity and sustainability of aquaculture.

Recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) are used in home aquaria and for fish production where water exchange is limited and the use of biofiltration is required to reduce ammonia toxicity. Other types of filtration and environmental control are often also necessary to maintain clean water and provide a suitable habitat for fish. The main benefit of RAS is the ability to reduce the need for fresh, clean water while still maintaining a healthy environment for fish. To be operated economically commercial RAS must have high fish stocking densities, and many researchers are currently conducting studies to determine if RAS is a viable form of intensive aquaculture.[3]

A series of treatment processes is utilized to maintain water quality in intensive fish farming operations. These steps are often done in order or sometimes in tandem. After leaving the vessel holding fish the water is first treated for solids before entering a biofilter to convert ammonia, next degassing and oxygenation occur, often followed by heating/cooling and sterilization. Each of these processes can be completed by using a

variety of different methods and equipment, but regardless all must take place to ensure a healthy environment that maximizes fish growth and health.

The development of a sustainable aquaculture sector can play an important role in providing livelihoods for people living around Lake Victoria, according to Kyra Hoevenaars, AquaBioTech Group's project manager in the VicinAqua initiative

Lake Victoria in eastern Africa, the second largest freshwater lake in the world, is a vital resource for the surrounding countries, providing communities with water, food and employment. The fishery sector is the main employer in Lake Victoria basin, being a major source of income for the population and an important part of the national economies in the region. However, the lake is under pressure due to overfishing, water shortages and severe pollution.

Promoting the use of more sustainable aquaculture systems, such as recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), in the region is now more important than ever and can provide livelihood opportunities while reducing the sector's environmental impact on the lake.

Currently, the aquaculture sector in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda mainly consists of small-scale farmers using earthen ponds to grow their fish - largely tilapia, but some catfish too. These are low-maintenance, easily managed systems but can only sustain low stocking densities.

Meanwhile, most fish hatcheries in the basin use low-level flow-through culture systems to ensure sufficiently high water quality for egg incubation and larval rearing.

However, in many countries in other parts of the world the adoption of innovative technologies has contributed to the growth of the aquaculture sector. RAS incorporate water treatment and reuse 90 to 95 percent of the water.

## Co-operatives have been important part of the development of Africa

**I**NTERNATIONAL Co-operative Day is an annual celebration of the co-operative movement observed on the first Saturday in July since 1923 by the International Co-operative Alliance.

On December 16, 1992, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed in the first Saturday of July 1995 to be International Day of Cooperatives, marking the centenary of the establishment of the International Co-operative Alliance. Since 1995 the United Nations' International Day of Co-operatives has been observed jointly alongside International Co-operative Day.

Co-operatives around the world celebrate the day in various fashions and each year the organising institutions agree on a theme for the celebrations. The 2010 theme was Cooperative Enterprise Empowers Women, to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is a non-governmental co-operative federation or, more precisely, a co-operative union representing co-operatives and the co-operative movement worldwide. It was founded in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. The Alliance maintains the internationally recognised definition of a co-operative in the Statement on the Co-operative Identity. The ICA represents 313 co-operative federations and organisations in 109 countries.

The Alliance provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives.

The members of the Alliance are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and workers. The Alliance has members from 100 countries, representing close to one billion

individuals worldwide. Around one hundred million people work for co-operatives globally. Co-operatives are values based businesses owned by their members. Whether they are customers, employees or residents, the members get an equal say in the business and a share of the profits.

In 2006 the ICA published the first major index of the world's largest co-operative and mutual enterprises, the ICA Global 300, which demonstrated the scale of the co-operative movement globally.

On the first Saturday of July each year, the ICA coordinates celebrations of International Co-operative Day.

In December 2009, the United Nations declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. In 2013 the headquarters was shifted to Brussels in Belgium

In Tanzania, co-operatives have been an important part of the development of the country for 75 years. While they have seen many successes and failures during this period no other institution has brought so many people together for a common cause. Following the Arusha Declaration, co-operatives became the main tool for building a spirit of self-reliance during the Ujamaa period.

However, following the introduction of free markets, cooperatives have struggled to compete with the private sector and many have not been able to provide their members with services they need.

The government has responded to this problem by introducing a new Co-operative Development Policy (2002) to help cooperatives to regain their importance in the economic lives of the people.

A policy tells us how the government plans to facilitate the development of a particular area of the economy such as agriculture, education or cooperatives.

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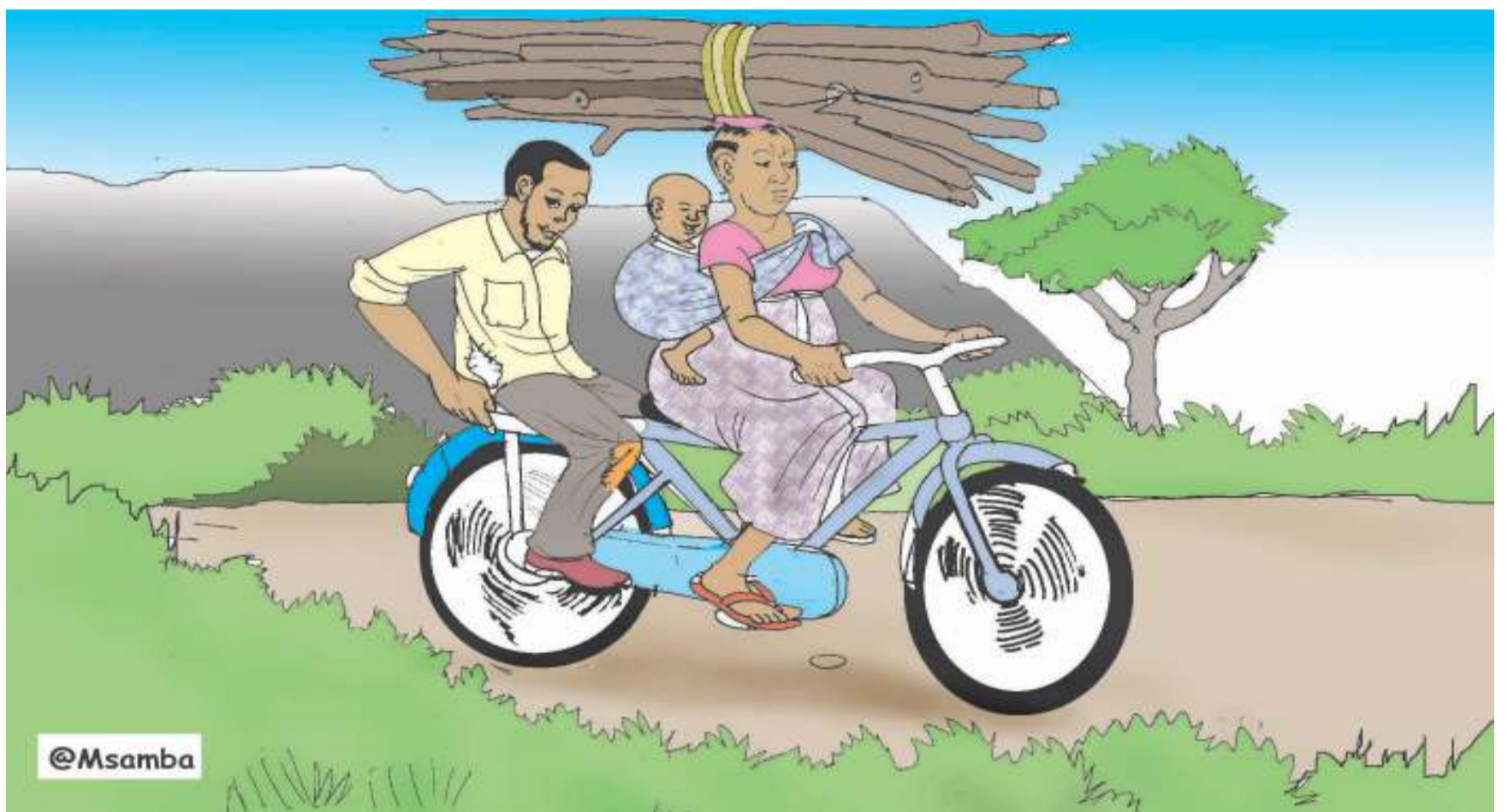
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## Every right thinking Nigerian should be worried about rising insecurity

By Tope Templer Olaiya

**P**RESIDENT, Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) and General Superintendent of Gospel Light International Ministries, Rev. Felix Omobude, in an interview with TOPE TEMPLER OLAIYA calls on the Federal Government to address the escalating insecurity in the country

It is now 20 years of unbroken civilian rule, what's your assessment of the state of the nation?

We thank God for keeping us together. Nigerians are very resilient people. In spite of all the challenges, we are still together. We have a stake in being united and so far, we have worked at it. If God wanted us apart, we would have disintegrated a long time ago. We are not where we ought to be but somehow we are not where we used to be.

Nigeria has come a long way and we wish the president well in his second term. Nigerians are calling on President Muhammadu Buhari to reduce the poverty index in the country. Nigerians are hoping for a nation where our youths would be fully and positively engaged. Nigerians are hoping that in this second term, there would be stable electricity, infrastructure like roads and railways would be improved upon. Nigerians are looking for a just representation in government to address the perceived imbalances. Nigerians are also looking for hope in a dependent economic situation.

**Are you not worried about the rising cases of insecurity in the country?**

Every right-thinking Nigerian should be worried about how fast things are not falling into place despite our prayers and the seeming efforts of the authorities. We are worried that the more we think we have seen the worst and have it under control, the more it seems to escalate. And we are calling on the authorities to get a hold of the state of insecurity because the primary responsibility of any government is the security, safety and wellbeing of its citizens.

We call on government to rise to the challenge. It is unimaginable that criminals can hold major highways in the country for months, despite the fact that we deploy soldiers, call it operation this and that. Yet, they still hold hapless road users hostage and inflict a reign of terror.



**Do you think government is doing enough to address the state of insecurity?**

I am aware that there have been some responses from government. Whether those responses are enough is another thing. Nigerians will continue to hold government responsible until they can sleep with their two eyes closed, until their women and children are safe in the farm, until the roads are safe and citizens can travel to any part of the country without let or hindrance. We call on government not just at the federal level, but also at the state and even the local government to react decisively and stop the tide of rising insecurity.

**What do you think is the cause of the growing insecurity?**

There is bound to be criminal activities in a situation where people can't find jobs to do. The situation is so bad that some people cannot afford to eat just once in a day let alone three meals. Things like this should be expected in this kind of situation because people will always find a means of survival, whether good or bad.

So, government should declare a state of emergency as far as joblessness is concerned. The problem of joblessness should be tackled with all seriousness. Nigeria is blessed with arable land and there are many crops we can cultivate from the North to the South. So, we have to look at agriculture to provide jobs for our youths.

**How can the herdsmen crisis be tackled?**

In this day of civilisation, nomadic cattle-rearing is outdated; it is obsolete and it is even unproductive. Ranching is the way

to go. Those who want to raise livestock should invest in ranching. But it has been difficult to get some states to give up land for ranching.

Cattle-rearing is an occupation just like other aspects of agriculture. There are conditions attached to getting land in different places in the country. If you want to raise livestock including cattle, then approach the owners of the land and negotiate with them; pay them and get the certificate of occupancy. It is a private business just like other businesses. Ranching will make cattle raising to be more productive and will stop destruction of crops and the killings.

**You once said there was no law forbidding Christians from defending themselves. Is still not a call to anarchy?**

I said that and I still maintain it. God created each one of us and gave us two hands and two legs for a purpose. And if anybody wants to throw a sword at you, you have your hands to defend yourself; you have your legs to do the needful. But that does not mean you have to take the law into your own hands. We have the police and other law enforcement agencies to protect the citizens but each one also has a duty to himself.

**Doesn't that mean that you don't have confidence in the security agencies?**

When you build your house, you put doors and even gates and burglar proofs. That does not mean that the security agencies are not there but each one will still try to protect himself. There is nowhere in the world where we have perfect security, but I believe there is a lot that can still be done in terms of se-

curity in this country. There are killings here and there. There are kidnappings and all manner of criminal acts; so, anything you can do to keep yourself alive is worthwhile.

**Former President Olusegun Obasanjo said Boko Haram fighters and herdsmen are fighting to Islamise Nigeria. Do you think he is right in his assertion?**

I cannot fault the former president because he has more information than myself. Secondly, he has Nigeria's interest at heart. Thirdly, indices around us show that the complaints Obasanjo made are overwhelming, especially with Fulani herdsmen. Why this sudden upsurge? Why is it that these people kill and maim and get away with it? Who are the sponsors of these people? Are they faceless? Where do they come from and what is their aim? Why are they evasive? Why do they kill innocent people at will and get away with their crime without being arrested? What we know before now as a Fulani herdsman was a young man with a stick controlling cattle, and not one with AK-47.

It is not enough for government to condemn an act; Criminals strike, we condemn. We want to see them face the wrath of the law. We want to see government act swiftly. The former president spoke out of deep reasoning. We, as the church people, are not afraid because what some people do not know is that no one has the monopoly of violence. But we have been restraining ourselves. You can't force your religion on anybody and I am sure that Nigeria's constitution respects that. That is what we believe.

**So, are you saying Obasanjo's assertion is correct?**

The former president has a right to his own opinion. I have told you the indices that point to that direction. If you answer the questions: who are their sponsors? Who are the ones backing them? It is strange that a major highway was seized and despite that we have the military, the police the Department of State Services and others, the hoodlums were still there. Why were they not arrested? And this keeps recurring. That is an indictment on the government.

**Are you still hopeful of Leah Sharibu's return?**

We will continue to pray and believe that Leah Sharibu will return home. The president has promised to work towards her release. Leah's continued detention is an indictment on religious freedom in this country because she was detained for her refusal to renounce her faith.

**How safe are Christians, especially those in the northern part of the country?**

In all fairness, when Boko Haram started some years back, they were primarily targeting Christians but events that have unfolded have proved that these people are mad. They target people in their mosques, in schools, in churches and those in their homes. But primarily, the Christians are their number one enemies.



## UNITED NATIONS

THE 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, universally adopted in 2015, is a plan to create a better and more sustainable future for all in just 15 years, through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs). It sounds implausible.

And yet, when we work together, across international borders, and social boundaries, we are capable of extraordinary progress. But that progress is by no means guaranteed.

Success will depend on more equal and trusting partnerships between aid donors and recipients; the 'development partners' and 'partner countries' in the jargon of the sector.

How we go about achieving these is one of the key issues for discussion at a senior meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the GPEDC, in New York on 13-14 July.

Development progress and challenges

Take sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1990, maternal mortality has halved, and the mortality rate for children under five has fallen by more than half. In South Asia the risk of child marriage for girls has almost halved. In the poorest countries, the share of the population with access to electricity has more than doubled. Each of these numbers is life-changing, and life-saving, for millions of people.

But the pace of change is still too slow, and too many people are being left behind. A recent special edition of the UN Secretary-General's report on 'Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals' identifies some of the challenges: hunger is rising, due to conflict and climate change; more than half of the world lacks access to managed sanitation facilities, increasing the risks of disease; and more than a million species are facing extinction.

# We can get 2030 agenda back on track – with more empowered, inclusive and equal partnerships



A call for principled collective action

Investing in our common future demands urgent action. The SDGs provide a clear and measurable vision of what we want to achieve. And the Financing for Development process provides a good understanding of what this vision needs.

Now is the time for a concerted effort to work out how we work together: focusing on results and inclusive partnerships; and based on country

ownership, mutual accountability and transparency.

These four 'principles of effectiveness' were agreed by 161 nations and 56 international organisations in Busan, the Republic of Korea, in 2011. They are the basis of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation – a voluntary alliance of governments, civil society, trade unions, the private sector and other development partners,

committed to making development more effective.

They agreed that if we invest in partnerships that are more responsive, inclusive, and transparent – more equal – we will achieve more sustainable development results.

Making development cooperation more effective

During 2018, a record 86 countries and territories that receive aid took part in an exercise

(along with hundreds of civil society organisations, private sector representatives, foundations, trade unions, parliamentarians and local governments) to monitor the extent to which all partners are walking the talk in terms of promises made on development effectiveness.

There's good news and bad. Relationships between development partners are increasingly based on mutual trust. Development planning, led by recipient governments, has improved in quality and in scope.

International development actors are increasingly using local procurement systems, meaning more of the resources intended to support development overseas are staying where they are most needed.

But donor reluctance to fund government activities means that fewer resources are available for the public sector in partner countries. Recipients of aid find that it is now less predictable and long term, undermining countries' efforts to plan.

In some places, state-civil society relations have worsened and space for civil society actors is shrinking. These findings demonstrate that while progress has been made, there is much more to be done.

Particularly so against a backdrop of falling levels of official development assistance (ODA) from major donors from 2017 to 2018: a decline of 3% to the group of least developed countries, and a drop of 4% to Africa.

Looking to the future

To achieve the SDGs, our collective development efforts need to be as effective as possible. We need to protect the space for different development actors to make their contributions, to invest in national capacity to measure progress, to use country systems in ways that can build trust, and to make sure all actors are living up to their commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

These are some of the messages we hope will stick in the minds of decision-makers, as they leave the senior level meeting of the Global Partnership in New York this month. That how we do things matters; that working together on a more equal footing, can lead to better, more sustainable outcomes for us all; and that committed international action can make even the implausible a reality.

Ulrika Modeer also represents the UN Sustainable Development Group on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership. Prior to this, she served as the State Secretary for International Development Cooperation and Climate at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. She has undertaken assignments across Latin America and Africa.

Susanna Moorehead also represents the DAC on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership. She has previously served as British Ambassador to Ethiopia, Djibouti, and the African Union, and as an Executive Director at the World Bank.

IPS

## G20 compact with Africa is a long game

BY PETER FABRICIUS

AFRICA'S 'development partners' still struggle to define and manage their relationship with the continent. This was apparent at the G20 summit in Osaka that ended on Saturday.

The G20 has been accused of treating Africa exclusively as a development problem, thereby excluding it as an equal participant from deliberations about climate change, the future of work, the global trading system and other mammoth issues the G20 presumes to be capable of addressing.

'If one lacks a seat at the table, then one is probably on the menu,' says Cobus van Staden of the SA Institute of International Affairs. Perhaps, although Africa is represented through South Africa's permanent membership and the regular participation of the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development chairs at summits. The developed world clearly dominates, but Africa isn't the only other region that's under-represented.

South Africa does try to drive Africa's case at the G20, though with limited success. It may have helped push for tougher action on egregious tax dodging by multinational companies which has cost the continent dearly. It has failed – along with others – in trying to secure a free and fair global trading system.

The G20 has tried to 'normalise' its relationship with Africa, though not, as Van Staden suggests it should, by inviting more African countries into the charmed circle. Rather it has attempted to evolve the relationship away from the traditional donor-recipient nexus.

At the 2017 G20 summit, the German hosts introduced the Compact with Africa as the latest iteration of the international community's long and often anguished development relationship with Africa. Instead of dishing out dollars for socially uplifting projects in the traditional way, the compact proposed that individual countries enter into compacts with individual G20 states to help improve their environments for mainly private sector investment.

The reward for African countries would be measured not in dollar terms but in increased investment including for infrastructure, to stimulate development through normal economic activity, boosting growth



Expectations must be managed but African states shouldn't lose hope because investment isn't yet pouring in. File photo

and creating employment. So in their compacts the African countries have focused on reforms such as making it easier to start a business, improving contract dispute resolution, reducing import and export time, and strengthening insolvency law.

Two years later, the picture is a little mixed. For one thing, only 12 of Africa's 54 countries have entered into compacts with G20 countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia and Togo.

That list is interesting. West Africa is well represented, so is North Africa and to a lesser extent, East Africa. Central and Southern Africa aren't represented at all. South Africa, which is a G20 member and co-chairs both its development working group and the Africa Advisory Group that manages the Compact with Africa, is absent – perhaps because it feels it is adequate-

ly managing its investment environment alone.

That aside, the progress of these 12 countries participating in compacts has been encouraging, though some warning lights are flashing. In its latest assessment of the Compact with Africa published for the summit, the G20 said the compact countries were 'significantly outperforming global and regional growth projections.'

All 12 compact countries had improved their ease of doing business scores, with nearly all featuring in the group of top 10 reformers globally. All but two had improved their rank among the 190 countries measured by doing business.

Rwanda, which ranked 56th in 2017, now ranks 29th in the world, ahead of such countries as France, Poland and Belgium. Côte d'Ivoire has improved its ranking by 20 places; Togo has moved up 17 places; and Guinea has

moved up 11 places and 1.81 percentage points.'

These worthy efforts haven't always translated into greater investment though, where 'the picture is more mixed', the report says. Seven of the compact countries – Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Morocco, Rwanda and Togo – attracted more foreign investment in 2018 than 2017. 'Across all the Compact countries, however, the trend is downward, with \$30.7 billion in 2018 down from \$54.4 billion in 2017.'

The report attributes this mainly to the fact that in 2017, Egypt and Ghana had US\$38 billion in energy sector investments which distorted the comparison, leading to a predictable drop-off in those two countries in 2018, with Egypt attracting US\$12.4 billion and Ghana US\$840 million in announced investments.

The report cautions that the failure

of reforms to immediately translate into sustained and increasing foreign direct investment 'is a reminder that factors, other than macroeconomic stability and a commitment to business-friendly reforms, drive levels of investment.' Just one of these is the need to boost human capital, mainly through education.

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) warns that the relatively slow flow of investment may be starting to breed fatigue with the G20's approach to compacts. The main cause for concern, it suggests, is that compact countries often don't really understand the 'indirect' development model.

Although there are other development compacts – such as the United States' Millennium Challenge Corporation – these follow the traditional development model where developing countries commit to policy changes

in exchange for pre-defined rewards. The Compact with Africa does not guarantee 'the reciprocal "promise" of investment,' ACET notes. 'The G20 governments have largely not promised direct support.'

'This results in a value proposition that is not clear ... there are high expectations of significant foreign direct investment from G20 countries resulting from [the compact].' ACET blames the G20 governments in part for failing to sufficiently encourage their companies to invest in compact countries.

But the main problem seems to be one of managing perceptions and expectations. African compact countries need to be made aware that reforms put in place under the Compact with Africa are good things in themselves, whether or not they immediately open the taps of investment. This is inevitably going to be a long haul.

# Libya tragedy: Why lock up migrants in the first place?

UNITED NATIONS

**A** MILITARY strike on a detention centre for migrants in Libya that claimed dozens of lives on Tuesday Jul. 2 has reignited a debate over the poor treatment of the mainly African people who transit through the turbulent country.

The United Nations has called for an investigation into the strike on Tajoura detention centre, which held some 600 people in a suburb of the Libyan capital Tripoli – part of a global chorus condemning the attack, which killed at least 44 people and injured 130 others.

But the strike followed repeated warnings about the vulnerability of migrants in guardhouses near Libya's hotspots, and raises tough questions about whether it was necessary to lock them up in the first place.

"This is not the first time that migrants and refugees have been caught in the crossfire, with multiple air-strikes on or near detention centres across Tripoli since the conflict started in the city," said Prince Alfani, a coordinator for the humanitarian medical group Médecins Sans Frontières.

"What is needed now is not empty condemnation but the urgent and immediate evacuation of all refugees and migrants held in detention centres out of Libya."

By one estimate, some 3,800 migrants and refugees are held in government-run detention centres in Tripoli and elsewhere in Libya in what human rights groups and the U.N. say are often inhuman conditions.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called for a war crimes probe into the strike, while condemning the "overcrowding" in Libya's lockups for migrants and the rape and other violations that occur inside them.

"I also repeat my call for the release of detained migrants and refugees as a matter of urgency, and for their access to humanitarian protection, collective



shelters or other safe places, well away from areas that are likely to be affected by the hostilities," said Bachelet.

Libya is one of the main departure points for African migrants, fleeing poverty and war, trying to reach Italy by boat. But many are picked up and brought back by the Libyan coast-guard, in a scheme backed by the European Union.

Two U.N. agencies – the HYPERLINK "https://www.iom.int/" International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, the HYPERLINK "https://www.unhcr.org/" U.N.'s Refugee Agency – said they had relocated 1,500 refugees from lockups in Libya's hotspots to safer areas in recent months.

"Including those victims at Tajoura, some 3,300 migrants and refugees remain arbitrarily detained inside and around Tripoli," the two agencies said in a statement. "Moreover, migrants and refugees face increasing risks as clashes intensify nearby. These cen-

**African migrants in Libya. Libya is one of the main departure points for African migrants, fleeing poverty and war, to try to reach Italy by boat. Some 3,800 migrants and refugees are held in government-run detention centres in Tripoli and elsewhere in Libya in what human rights groups and the U.N. say are often inhuman conditions. A military strike on a detention centre for migrants in Libya claimed dozens of lives on Tuesday. File photo**

tres must be closed."

In May, UNHCR had already called for the Tajoura centre to be evacuated after a projectile landed some 100 metres away, injuring two migrants. Shrapnel from that blast tore through the lockup's roof and almost hit a child.

This week's strike was the highest publicly reported toll from an air strike or shelling since eastern forces under Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive three months ago to take Tripoli, the base of Libya's internationally-recognised government.

The U.N. Security Council was expected to condemn the attack late Wednesday, Jul. 3, though it remained unclear whether it was the fault of Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) force, the U.N.-backed Tripoli-based government's forces or another group.

Haftar's LNA, allied to a parallel government based in eastern Libya, has seen its advance on Tripoli held up by

robust defences on the outskirts of the capital, and said it would start heavy air strikes after "traditional means" of war had been exhausted.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres was "outraged" by the "horrendous incident" and called for an "independent investigation" to prosecute those responsible for what many onlookers call a war crime, said his spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

"This incident underscores the urgency to provide all refugees and migrants with safe shelter until their asylum claims can be processed or they can be safely repatriated," Dujarric told reporters Wednesday.

Haftar's bid to capture Tripoli has derailed U.N. efforts to broker an end to the mayhem that has ravaged the hydrocarbon-producing North African country since the brutal, NATO-backed overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

# Africa's free trade area misses Nigeria

UPPSALA, Sweden

**W**HEN Africa's free trade area launches on 7 July, a key player will be missing. However, Victor Adetula, head of research at Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) in Sweden, predicts that Africa's largest economy, Nigeria, will gradually open up and join the project.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is meant to create a tariff-free continent that can grow local businesses, boost intra-African trade and create jobs. The AfCFTA initially requires members to remove tariffs from 90 percent of items, allowing free access to commodities and services across the continent.

When the agreement's operational phase is launched on 7 July at an African Union summit in Niger, 52 of the continent's 55 countries will be on board. Only Benin, Eritrea and Nigeria have yet to join the project. Nigeria is Africa's largest economy, making it the most notable non-signatory to the AfCFTA deal.

"If Nigeria is not playing along, it is going to affect the progress of the free trade area. Nigeria is needed", says Adetula, who is himself Nigerian.

Nigerian government representatives have claimed they need to consult with domestic economic stakeholders before making a decision. The president of Nigeria's largest labour union Nigeria Labour Congress, Ayuba Wabba, has described the AfCFTA as "an extremely dangerous and radioactive neo-liberal policy initiative... that seeks to open our seaports, airports and other businesses to unbridled foreign interference never before witnessed in the history of the country".

Adetula says that while Nigeria and the whole continent are likely to gain from the creation of the free trade area, some of the country's nascent industries could be damaged as European, Asian and US products enter the market through other arrangements, such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the Euro-

pean Union (EU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

"Africa's industries can't compete with Europe's. For instance, virtually all the industries are small, and generally vulnerable. Africa's comparative advantage is still in the production of primary resources, not in manufacturing goods", Adetula says.

"If their industries are not well protected and secured against all unregulated external influence and risks, uncontrolled trade liberalisation by the African countries will merely open their markets for others to take advantage of. It will kill rather than stimulate industrialisation in Africa. Look at what happened to the textile industry, for example - it is almost dead in African countries due to globalisation."

Adetula says that while some might argue that Nigeria's position amounts to nothing but protectionism, African countries have good reason to be careful and protective of their economies. He points out that even the EU countries are operating with certain degrees of guarantees of protection for their local industries as part of their national interests.

"Is there any country that is not protecting its own industry? There is none!"

Adetula says that Nigeria's position can partially be explained by history. Since the 1960s, the West African nation has always acted carefully before entering regional cooperation deals.

"Nigeria is already operating a trade liberalisation policy within the framework of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme. Already there are concerns within the ECOWAS region and other similar sub-regional integration arrangements that the EU-led EPA will result in multiple trade liberalisation schemes on the continent.

The AfCFTA will likely introduce a new trade liberalisation arrangement. Managing multiple trade liberalisation schemes requires that Nigeria be more careful", Adetula says.

Another concern is about the structure of the economies of African countries. Take, for instance, the structure of their industrial sectors. They do not



**Fishing trade in Orimedu village, Lagos State, Nigeria. File photo**

complement one another perfectly to enhance complementary cooperation between industries on the continent, according to Adetula.

"Also, if you consider the structure of African trade, many countries are producing the same items. So, how then are they going to trade and with what products? It is not just 'Let there be trade and there will be trade' - what do you trade in? How industry and trade are integrated with each other is a question that needs to be addressed."

Adetula takes the case of West Africa.

"Nigeria is producing cocoa, Ghana is producing cocoa, Côte d'Ivoire is producing cocoa - so who is going to trade with what?" Adetula says it is a positive indicator of global development when the right of a country to say yes or no to a proposal for international cooperation is respected.

"For example, Sweden is a member of the EU but does not subscribe to the common European currency. Similarly, Nigeria might find it favourable to

join some parts of the AfCFTA but not others. It is a possibility."

Adetula predicts that Nigeria will opt to become a member of the free trade area through a gradual transition process.

He compares the situation with the development of the EU, which started with a small group of countries, with UK joining in 1973 and eastern European countries much later.

"Nigeria's position is not a definite 'no', but Nigeria will not be rushed by anyone. Generally, Nigeria's policy on external trade can promote international trade and development while supporting regional initiatives towards increased intra-African trade.

Nigeria has persistently cautioned against rushing the agenda of the AfCFTA without extensive consultation with all the stakeholders. Nigeria needs to take into consideration some peculiarities of its political economy, as well as some lessons learned from the EU's recent experience."

**IPS**



## China, US need to press ahead with sincerity and action

By Zhong Sheng

**T**HE outcomes of the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Donald Trump, on the sidelines of the G20 Osaka summit on June 29 have sent a positive signal to the two countries and the world.

At their gathering, the two leaders agreed to restart economic and trade consultations between their countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

They also agreed that the US side will not impose new tariffs on Chinese exports and the negotiating teams on both sides will hold talks on relevant issues.

Only by correctly grasping the fundamental issues concerning the China-US relations can the two countries charter the course for the development of their relations. It is of great significance to jointly advance a China-US relationship featuring coordination, cooperation and stability.

The essence of the China-US economic and trade cooperation is to find mutual benefit and create win-win situations, Xi emphasized.

China and the US have highly integrated interests and extensive cooperation areas. They should become good cooperative partners, which is good for both sides, as well as the world. Xi has repeatedly stressed this point and China's stance has never changed.

The Chinese and American people have a long tradition of friendship. On the 40th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations, people should not forget the profound friendship between the two peoples starting from "ping-pong Diplomacy", and the economic development opportunities delivered to China and the US by the opening-up of the Chinese market.

Responding to the voice of the people and safeguarding the common interests of China and the US requires the two sides to work hard to explore and mobilize all the positive and potential energy. In that way, the cooperation prospects between the two countries will become wider and the momentum for constructive action will become stronger.

Although there are some differences between China and the US, the reality of dominant significance is that the interests of the two sides are highly intertwined and the fields of cooperation are broad.

To deal with the relationship between major countries, we must focus on the big picture, stand on the overall height and rationally weigh the advantages and disadvantages.

Controlling differences is a responsibility China and the US need to jointly assume. It is imperative to avoid making irreparable historical mistakes due to short-sightedness and particularly necessary to be aware not to fall into so-called traps of conflict and confrontation.

The right thing to do is to let real wisdom play a role, choose the path of mutual promotion and common de-

velopment and create conditions for brighter prospects.

For his part, Trump said he values the good relationship with Xi, adding that his country is willing to cooperate with China.

The US side harbors no hostility towards China, hopes for better relations between the two countries and will follow the principles and consensus established by the two heads of state.

Trump's remarks also attracted international attention. By making the decision to restart economic and trade consultations, the two countries have indicated that they are willing to find a mutually acceptable solution to solve problems through dialogue and consultation. The key is to keep the words and take actions.

It is worth noting that only by complying with the will of the two peoples and respecting rules can China and the US maximize common interests. The two sides both benefit from cooperation and lose in confrontation, and cooperation and dialogue are better than friction and confrontation.

Practice has repeatedly proven that key for a healthy China-US relationship is to firmly grasp the correct direction. Without mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, it is impossible for China-US relations to continue developing in a healthy and stable manner.

At present, it is urgent for the two countries to follow the principles and direction set by the two heads of state by maintaining exchanges at all levels and strengthening cooperation in various fields.

At the Osaka summit, China announced measures to expand opening-up, which include further opening up its market, proactively expanding imports, continuously improving its business environment for foreign enterprises, extending equal treatment to all foreign investment and pressing ahead with various trade agreement negotiations.

China is accelerating the formation of a new opening-up landscape and embracing a bright future of high-quality development.

The country has full confidence in following its path and running its own affairs well. It will work in the spirit of peaceful co-existence and win-win cooperation with all other countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind and to tirelessly pursue a brighter future of the global economy.

To explore the future of China-US relations, we should not jump out of the historical and international background.

It is hoped that through restarting economic and trade consultations, the China-US economic and trade relations will go back onto the right track.

The two countries should increase mutual trust with sincerity, make choices with rationality and promote action through consensus building. The process may be a long and arduous effort. We must press ahead with a sense of urgency and perseverance to achieve our goals.

# Botswana, Rwanda forge partnership

GABORONE

AS the Gulfstream 650 presidential jet ascended from the tarmac of Sir Seretse Khama International Airport to navigate its path back to Kigali on June 28 afternoon, signaling the end of Rwandan President Mr Paul Kagame's two-day state visit to Botswana, two of Africa's success stories had just seen their relationship begin to soar to new heights.

Botswana, Africa's oldest continuous multiparty democracy which emerged from colonial rule as one of the world's poorest and least developed states but moved to middle income status and Rwanda, a post-conflict developmental model, had just agreed to forge a mutually beneficial partnership.

Jointly addressing the media before the departure of the Rwandan entourage the two countries' heads of state, President Mokgweetsi Masisi and President Paul Kagame said the two nations had much to learn from each other and would benefit from establishing a solid partnership.

"We went to Rwanda for part of the tour when the National Vision 2036 was put together.

We learnt the importance of embracing ideas and innovation," President Masisi said.

"In Botswana some of the things we still need to learn are to do with reducing bureaucracy, breaking the red tape, dealing with challenges of procurement. We have the budget in healthcare and education, but we seem have a challenge with unlocking that budget so it is efficiently used."

Plagued by internal conflict in the early to mid-1990s, Rwanda underwent one of the modern history's worst human carnage, the Rwandan Genocide in 1994, just a year after 1993 Arusha Accords brokered by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) had ended a three year civil war there.

The genocide ended with the military victory of the Rwandan Patriotic Front led by President Kagame and a process of national healing, including the use of traditional Gacaca tribunal courts to establish the source of the conflict and try perpetrators.

Since the year 2000, Rwanda enjoyed high economic growth and relative peace, with huge strides in physical infrastructure and social development

noted by international agencies.

"Rwanda is important to Botswana. There is a lot that we can learn from them that is virtuous.

As I go to Rwanda soon in remembrance of the atrocities of the genocide, we must recollect ourselves to make sure that we never allow such heinous acts to visit upon us, wherever we are on the continent.

So it is a moral obligation of people even for Botswana, peaceful as it is, that we know what went on and we make sure we keep it at bay, and stand in solidarity with those who went through such a turbulent past," Mr Masisi said.

President Kagame revealed that the country had worked on reintegrating society and forging a sense of common national identity in the aftermath of the conflict that pitted the majority Hutu against the minority Tutsi.

"In Rwanda we were placed by bad politics where we were 25 years ago, and we have seen the worst.

What we had to do to resolve the many issues had to build on political processes of making sure that in our society we



Botswana President Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi and First Lady Neo Masisi with Rwandan President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame. (File photo)

bring back the values of working together even when people are different, focusing on common interest, unity and reconciliation," he revealed.

Part of the success of Rwanda in recent years has been in the upsurge in the use of technology, as the country embraces the use of modern methods with the world moving towards the fourth industrial revolution.

"We embraced the use of technology in all aspects of our economy many years ago. We

had a policy for implementation over the past twenty years. There was criticism coming our way from around the year 2000 for investing in technological investment as we laid out fibre optic networks when others said we should rather focus on investing our funds on education, health and agriculture; areas we did not neglect but felt could be complimented by technology.

We believe technology cuts across sectors, so it covers those other sectors that are im-

portant and we have reaped the benefits," Mr Kagame told his audience.

Before he departed, Mr Kagame committed his government to working with Botswana in different sectors that can be identified by the two countries, and pledged to return for another visit.

"We go back with the satisfaction that the visit has been fruitful, and as we depart we will be looking for a period when we can visit again and interact longer," Mr Kagame said.

## Out of the Shadows: The resilience and courage of people with albinism in Mozambique

NAMPULA

I recently read an article about the abduction of an 11-year-old girl in Nampula Province, Mozambique. She was later found dead with her limbs cut off. Why? Because she had albinism, a genetic condition in which the body produces lower levels of melanin, the pigment in your skin. People with albinism in Mozambique can face extreme violence, including killings, abductions, and mutilations because some believe their body

parts hold magical powers and bring good fortune.

I just came back from Tete, Mozambique, where Human Rights Watch documented the violence, isolation, and discrimination people with albinism in Mozambique experience their entire lives: "From Cradle to Grave." They face difficulties going to school, getting a job, being part of their communities. They endure name-calling, verbal abuse, and the threat of kidnapping and violence. Many wish they were invisible.

Human Rights Watch found children living with albinism in the central Mozambican province of Tete to be widely discriminated against, stigmatized, and often rejected at school, in the community, and, at times, by their own families. Many face challenges and threats their entire lives.

We met people like Cesaria, a teacher with albinism who told me her students are afraid to touch her, but who demonstrated incredible resilience and courage.

We spent time with Josina and her niece Luisa (who doesn't have albinism), 8-year-olds who embody the spirit of friendship, love, and inclusion.

We spoke with Revita, a teacher who has ensured Josina gets an education along with her peers. Revita's gift to Josina and all the children in her classroom goes beyond the lessons in a textbook; she is teaching them about compassion, equality, and human rights.

We shared these examples of courage and inclusion with Mo-

zambique's Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. We brought them to the United Nations in New York, with the UN expert on the rights of persons with albinism, Ikponwosa Ero, a woman with albinism herself.

We also took our report to the albinism community in Tete, Mozambique, printed in large font since many people with albinism have low vision.

Cradle to Grave: Discrimination Against Persons with Albinism in Mozambique  
Children with albinism face

insecurity and significant obstacles to accessing quality education in the Tete province of Mozambique.

We played our documentary in the only movie theater in the city, and I saw tears running down their faces. A singer with albinism sang to the crowd, "If we're Mozambicans, we're human beings too." They no longer wished to be invisible.

The Mozambique government should invest in sensitization programs and teacher training so that there are more educators

like Revita and more communities that accept children like Josina as they are. The government should also implement a series of measures focused on protection, prevention, accountability, and non-discrimination contained in the 2017 Regional Action Plan on Albinism.

While it's essential the government does its part, we all share the responsibility to ensure every human being - with or without albinism - is treated with dignity and included in our communities. Children with al-

## Major increases in yields from genetically modified maize

MAPUTO

MAIZE production could increase by up to 50 per cent with the use of genetically modified seeds, according to a study held by Mozambique's Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM).

Maize is one of the most important crops in Mozambique, but farmers growing maize have been faced with drought in the southern provinces, and insect pests throughout the country. The use of genetically modified seeds, however, can lead to greater tolerance to dry conditions, and resistance to pests, according to Pedro Fato, the IIAM's lead researcher on the study.

Announcing the results of the study in Maputo on Monday, Fato said that the tests, held over two years in closed environments in the southern province of Gaza, showed that, in conditions of drought, the genetically modified seeds could raise maize yields dramatically.

"The study showed great potential for producing drought tolerant maize, which is also resistant to the pests which compromise agricultural production", he said. The purpose of the study "was to test genetically modified maize, and try to mitigate the problems of climate change and of pests that the country and the region are facing".

The maize grown from the modified seeds would be twice as productive under dry con-

ditions than normal maize. As for protection from insect pests, the genetically modified maize proved to produce 10 to 12 per cent more than unmodified maize exposed to the same pests.

This phase was only the first part of the research, said Fato, and had been done under conditions of quarantine. The second phase will take place in open conditions, where the genetically modified plants are in normal contact with the environment, marking the start of the use of genetically modified seeds in Mozambican maize production.

Fato insisted that this will be perfectly safe, since the genetically modified seeds do not present any risk to human or animal life, or to the environment. He said there is no scientific evidence that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) pose any threat.

"In terms of bio-safety, any study involving GMOs is accompanied with a strong study of security measures, and from the work we have done so far, we have not discovered any risk for human beings", added Fato.

As for producing the modified seeds in Mozambique, Fato explained that the studies show that the techniques can be developed on a national scale, and in principle any farmer can use them.

"When the seed becomes available, any producer can have access to it, and produce

genetically modified maize in any corner of the country", he said.

For his part, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Celso Laice, said that publicising the results of activities involving GMOs is one of the aspects covered by the regulations on biosecurity approved in a government decree of November 2014.

The Ministry was involved in all phases of the study, said Laice, since it represents the National Biosecurity Authority, with the task "of ensuring that activities involving GMOs are undertaken in a safe and responsible manner".

He said Mozambique expects that the representatives of the African Network of Biosecurity Specialists, who were present at the IIAM announcement, will share with the country other experiences with GMOs in Africa, including cases both of success and of failure, and the best practices to adopt.



**Publicising the results of activities involving GMOs is one of the aspects covered by the regulations on biosecurity approved in a government decree of November 2014**



## ANC leader calls for stronger African unity

By Eugène Kwibuka

THE visiting Secretary General of South Africa's ruling party, African National Congress (ANC), has urged all African countries to strengthen their cooperation in fighting for their freedom and stability.

Ace Magashule made the call on Monday in Kigali, shortly after touring the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Gisozi, where more than 250,000 victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi are buried.

Magashule said that what happened in Rwanda 25 years ago was the result of Africa's colonisation and is a reminder that African unity is important now more than ever in order to fight for the continent's peace and stability.

"Africa must always stay united. The struggle continues," the official wrote in the guest book shortly after visiting the memorial.

ANC Secretary-General Ace Magashule and his delegation are taken through the history of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi inside the Kigali Genocide Memorial yesterday. Sam Ngendahimana.

Mugashule and his ANC delegation are in the country at the invitation of their counterparts, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF-Inkotanyi), to take part in activities to mark the 25th anniversary of Liberation Day.

Rwandans across the country will on Thursday this week celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Liberation Day, reflecting on the time when Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 was stopped and citizens embarked on a long journey to transform their country and lives.

For Magashule, the Genocide in Rwanda, which claimed the lives of more than a million Rwandans,

shouldn't have happened because there is only one human race in the world and people ought to live together in harmony.

"Humanity is humanity; there is no colour, there is no race, there is no ethnicity, there is no tribalism. We are one world; we are all human beings and we must live in peace and harmony," he said in an interview at the memorial.

But he noted that the genocide in Rwanda and other discrimination policies across the continent, such as Apartheid in his own country, were a result of colonisation and remain a wake-up call that Africans must work together to keep up the fight for their rights.

"It reminds us of what colonialism did to Africa. We must not forget that as Africans we must at all time stay vigilant so that we continue (the struggle) because there is counter revolution. When

our countries are stable, there are those who will try and destabilise and take us further steps backwards," he said.

The official also commented on current frosty relations between Rwanda and South Africa, which is mostly due to the fact that Pretoria still hosts some Rwandans sought by Kigali for criminal cases, and indicated that they will soon be harmonised.

"We know that and are busy with that. I know that the ministers of international relations and the presidents are dealing with those challenges and we are very hopeful that sooner than later things will be fine," he said.

During their stay in Rwanda, Magashule and his delegation also met and interacted with their counterparts at the RPF-Inkotanyi as well as visited the Kigali Special Economic Zone (KSEZ).

# Abandoned by the UAE, Sudan's Bashir was destined to fall

KHARTOUM

ON the night of April 10, Sudan's feared spymaster, Salah Gosh, visited President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in his palace to reassure the leader that mass protests posed no threat to his rule.

For four months, thousands of Sudanese had been taking to the streets. They were demanding democracy and an end to economic hardship.

Gosh told his boss, one of the Arab world's longest serving leaders, that a protest camp outside the Defence Ministry nearby would be contained or crushed, said four sources, one of whom was present at the meeting.

His mind at ease, Bashir went to bed. When he woke, four hours later, it was to the realization that Gosh had betrayed him. His palace guards were gone, replaced by regular soldiers. His 30-year rule was at an end.

A member of Bashir's inner circle, one of a handful of people to speak with him in those final hours, said the president went to pray. "Army officers were waiting for him when he finished," the insider told Reuters.

They informed Bashir that Sudan's High Security Committee, made up of the defence minister and the heads of the army, intelligence and police, was removing him from power, having concluded he'd lost control of the country.

He was taken to Khartoum's Kobar jail, where he'd imprisoned thousands of political opponents during his rule. There he remains. It was a remarkably smooth putsch against a man who had seen off rebellions and attempted coups, survived U.S. sanctions and evaded arrest by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Reuters interviewed a dozen sources with direct knowledge of events leading up to the coup to piece together how Bashir finally lost his grip on power.

These sources, including a former government minister, a member of Bashir's inner circle and a coup plotter, portrayed a leader who was skilled at manipulating and controlling rival Islamist and military factions in Sudan, but increasingly isolated in a changing Middle East.

They described how Bashir mishandled one key relationship - with the United Arab Emirates. Oil-rich UAE had previously pumped billions of dollars into Sudan's coffers. Bashir had served UAE interests in Yemen, where the Emirates and Saudi Arabia are waging a proxy war against Iran. But at the end of 2018, as Sudan's economy imploded and protesters took to the streets, Bashir found himself without this powerful, and wealthy, friend.

The sources recounted how National Intelligence and Security Service head Gosh contacted political prisoners and Sudanese opposition groups to seek their support in the weeks before the generals moved against Bashir. And in the days before the coup, these sources said, Gosh made at least one phone call to intelligence officials in the UAE to give them advance warning of what was about to happen.

The UAE and Saudi governments didn't respond to detailed questions from Reuters for this article. UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote on Twitter in June, after Bashir's removal, that the Emirates were in communication "with all Sudanese opposition elements and the Transitional Military Council" that has assumed power.

"There is no doubt it is a sensitive period after years of Bashir's dictatorship and Muslim Brotherhood," Gargash went on, referring to Sudan's Islamist allies in Sudan.

## A betrayal

Relations between Bashir and the UAE were still warm in February 2017, when Bashir visited Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi. Some 14,000 Sudanese troops were fighting in Yemen as part of a Saudi and UAE-led military coalition against Iranian-aligned rebels.

The prince, known among diplomats as MbZ, was now hoping for Bashir's cooperation in another regard - cracking down on Islamists - said a senior official in the Sudanese government who was briefed on the meeting by Bashir.

The UAE was leading regional efforts to counter political Islam, which it and Saudi Arabia viewed as a direct threat to monarchic rule and the region.

Those efforts gained new urgency from 2011, when the Arab Spring uprisings swept the Middle East. One Islamist group in particular was going from strength to strength: the Muslim Brotherhood. The UAE and Saudi Arabia consider the Brotherhood a terrorist organization. The Brotherhood says it is peaceful.

In 2012, Egyptians elected Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Mursi as their first Islamist president. He was ousted by the army a year later, to the satisfaction of the UAE and Saudi Arabia, which together with Gulf ally Kuwait sent \$23 billion in aid to Cairo over the next 18 months.

In Sudan, the influence of Islamists was more deeply entrenched than in Egypt, and stretched back decades. Bashir seized power in 1989 as the head of an Islamist junta.

## Now Islamists controlled the military, intelligence services and key ministries.

According to the senior government official, Bashir and MbZ reached "an understanding" that Bashir would root out Islamists and, in return, the UAE would provide Sudan with financial support. Bashir didn't indicate how he planned to do this.

In broadcast remarks during the meeting, MbZ thanked the Sudanese leader for sending his troops to support the UAE and Saudi Arabia in Yemen. "I want to say a word of truth about the president. When the going got tough and things got worse, Sudan supported the Arab alliance without asking for anything in return," said MbZ, sitting alongside Bashir.

## Watching officials cheered and clapped.

Billions of dollars from the UAE flowed to Sudan after the Abu Dhabi talks. The UAE state news agency reported that in the year to March 2018, the UAE channeled a total \$76 billion in the form of support to Sudan's central bank, in private investments and investments through the Abu Dhabi Fund For Development.

One of Bashir's most trusted aides, the director of his office, Taha Osman al-Hussein, was charged with handling Sudan's relations with the UAE and with Saudi Arabia. Hussein, a former intelligence officer, was described by colleagues as ambitious and skilled.

But government ministers resented his influence, complaining they couldn't get to Bashir without going through Hussein, and that Hussein effectively controlled foreign policy. In one instance, he made an important foreign policy announcement to Sudan's state news agency and Saudi Arabia's press agency, bypassing the Foreign Ministry.

"He was the man who had a magic hold on Bashir's mind," said Ghamar Habani, a senior official in Bashir's National Congress Party.

Hussein's enemies, including Sudan's then spy chief and leading politicians, publicly accused him of spying for Saudi Arabia. Sudanese intelligence alleged Saudi Arabia and the UAE had deposited \$109 million for Hussein in a bank account in Dubai. Hussein denied these allegations, which Sudanese media reported at the time, in meetings with Bashir, several sources told Reuters.



**Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir was among the Arab world's longest serving rulers. He was toppled in April, after four months of street protests. Here he is pictured in Khartoum in June 2015 after being sworn in for a new presidential term. REUTERS**

ters.

Bashir finally dismissed Hussein in June 2017 when it emerged he'd taken Saudi citizenship, said the former government official. Hussein moved to Riyadh and became an adviser to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, a position he still holds, shuttling between the two states.

Reuters couldn't reach Hussein for comment. The UAE and Saudi governments didn't respond to questions about the matter.

"The issue of Taha (Hussein) left a big scar on Bashir," said Habani, the senior member of Bashir's National Congress Party.

## His sacking was also a blow to the UAE.

"We are Islamists" In the summer of 2017, a diplomatic crisis exploded among Gulf Arab states. The UAE and Saudi Arabia severed relations with Qatar, angered by its continuing support for the Muslim Brotherhood. The rift put Bashir in a difficult position. Qatar, like the UAE, had provided billions of dollars of financial aid to Sudan's impoverished economy.

Bashir's Islamist allies in Sudan pressed him to maintain links with Qatar and not to take sides in the dispute. His message was very clear, said the former government official, "we should keep relations with Qatar."

In March 2018, Sudan and Qatar announced plans for a \$4 billion agreement to jointly develop the Red Sea port of Suakin off Sudan's coast.

## Bashir had chosen not to throw his support behind the UAE and Saudi Arabia in the dispute.

He had also opted not to diminish the influence of Islamists in his government. The senior government official said Bashir was afraid to alienate powerful Islamist figures. Among these power-brokers was Ali Osman Taha, a former first vice president, and his successor Bakri Hassan Saleh, who took part in the coup that brought Bashir to power. Reuters couldn't reach Taha or Saleh for comment.

By October 2018, Sudan was sliding into an economic crisis, with bread, fuel and hard currency in short supply. At a meeting of Bashir's National Congress Party, Habani, the party official, asked the president why the UAE and Saudi Arabia weren't coming to Sudan's aid.

## "Our brothers want me to get rid of you Islamists," she quoted him as replying.

In December 2018, the UAE halted fuel supplies to Sudan, three Sudanese officials said, unhappy that Bashir wasn't meeting his end of the bargain to squeeze out Islamists. "The Emirates and Saudi decided not to support Bashir financially because he refused to get rid of the Islamists and would not give in to pressure to support Saudi Arabia and the Emirates against Qatar," said Habani. "They would not accept that Sudan would not take sides."

In February 2019, Bashir appeared to seal his fate at a meeting of Sudan's Shura Council, composed of the country's top leaders. By now protests at soaring bread prices were raging across the country. Bashir declared: "We are Islamists and proud to be Islamists."

The senior government official said this was the point of no return. It was clear that Bashir wasn't going to take on the Islamists.

Increasingly desperate for money, Bashir travelled to Qatar later the same month for talks with the emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. According to the member of Bashir's inner circle, the emir had offered Bashir a billion dollar lifeline. But Bashir returned home empty handed, the source said, after the emir revealed he was under pressure from "certain parties" to change his mind. The emir didn't specify who these parties were.

Contacted by Reuters, an official at Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Qatar's support for Sudan "is aimed toward the prosperity and well being of its people and is not tied to a certain political party or regime." Qatar wasn't pressured by a third party to stop its aid for Sudan, and development projects in Sudan were ongoing, the official said.

A plot Behind the scenes, the plot to remove Bashir was taking shape.

An opposition leader, who was among political prisoners in Khartoum's Kobar prison, where Bashir is now being held, recounted how spymaster Gosh unexpectedly appeared at the jail in the early days of January 2019 and met with eight opposition figures.

Gosh told the prisoners he had come from Abu Dhabi, with a promise from the UAE of fuel and other economic aid. He wanted

the prisoners to support an outline plan for a new political system in Sudan. A source close to Gosh confirmed the conversation.

Gosh returned to the prison 10 days later. This time he visited 26 cells holding political prisoners. "From then on conditions improved. We were given free cigarettes and a TV and chewing tobacco," said the opposition leader, who is now at liberty along with all the others. "We found it very strange that the intelligence chief would visit opposition prisoners. But when the coup happened I understood why."

According to a senior Western diplomat in Khartoum, the member of Bashir's inner circle and the source close to Gosh, in mid-February the UAE and Gosh proposed a dignified exit for the president. Under the plan, Bashir would stay in power for a transitional period to be followed by elections.

Gosh declared in a press conference on Feb. 22 that Bashir was stepping down as leader of the National Congress Party and wouldn't seek reelection in 2020. But in a televised address shortly afterwards, Bashir made no reference to quitting as party leader, and he told party members later the same day that Gosh had overstated the matter.

## Moves against Bashir began to accelerate.

The UAE made contacts with Sudanese opposition parties and rebel groups who had waged war against Bashir to discuss "the political situation in Sudan post Bashir," said a rebel leader and a person who acted as a liaison between the sides.

When protesters set up camp outside the Defence Ministry, not far from Bashir's residence, on April 6, Gosh's National Intelligence and Security Service did nothing to stop them. "That's when we realized the army was taking over," said Habani, the senior member of Bashir's National Congress Party.

Gosh reached out to top officials including the defence minister, the army chief of staff and the police chief. They agreed it was time to end Bashir's rule. A source close to Gosh said each of the men realized "Bashir was finished." A spokesman for the Transitional Military Council that now rules Sudan confirmed that Gosh took a lead role.

Bashir's long-time ally, militia leader General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, was the last to join

the conspiracy. Dagalo is better known as Hemedti, a name given to him by his grandmother. He leads Sudan's feared Rapid Support Forces, a heavily-armed paramilitary unit that numbers in the tens of thousands and controls Khartoum.

## Bashir's fate was settled and in the early hours of April 11 he was removed from power.

A few days later, Hussein, Bashir's former pointman for relations with the UAE and Saudi Arabia, traveled back to Sudan as part of a Saudi and UAE delegation that met Sudan's new military rulers.

On April 21, the UAE and Saudi Arabia announced they would deliver \$3 billion worth of aid for Sudan. Hemedti subsequently said Sudanese troops would remain in Yemen.

Around the same time, opposition and rebel groups were meeting with UAE officials in Abu Dhabi. Ahmed Tugod, a senior official in Darfur's rebel Justice and Equality Movement, was among those who attended the talks. He said UAE officials wanted to hear their views on reconciliation and stability. "We focused on the peace process and how to resolve the conflict in the war zones," Tugod said.

Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, oversaw contacts between the UAE and the rebel groups, said Tugod and the person who liaised. Reuters questions to Sheikh Mansour, sent via the UAE Foreign Ministry and Media Council, went unanswered.

## An effort by Qatar to send its foreign minister for talks in Khartoum was rebuffed.

In the weeks after Bashir's removal, his old ally Hemedti emerged as the most powerful figure in Sudan, as deputy head of the Transitional Military Council that now runs the country. The former livestock trader gained international notoriety as one of the most ruthless militia commanders in the Darfur war that began in 2003. His militias were accused by human rights groups of atrocities including burning villages and raping and killing civilians. Hemedti has denied the allegations, as did Bashir's government.

Gosh resigned his position on the Transitional Military Council on April 13. The spymaster was reviled by the protesters, and came under huge pressure to

# Work on transportation artery Sichuan-Tibet Railway making progress

CONSTRUCTION work on the final section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway will start shortly, said Southwest China's Sichuan Province Party chief during a press conference at the State Council Information Office (SCIO).

Analysts said the railway will serve as a major transportation artery linking China and South

Asia.

The Chengdu-Ya'an section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway has started operations, said Peng Qinghua, Party chief of Sichuan Province.

"The completion of the railway will not only drive the regional economy and strengthen the link between Tibet with the inland areas, but it also can serve as a major transportation artery linking

China and South Asia," Zhao Jian, an expert on railway economics at the Beijing Jiaotong University, told the Global Times on June 17.

"The Sichuan-Tibet railway will make it possible to build a railway connecting China, Nepal, India and other countries, which will boost the regional economy with convenient transportation," Zhao said.

"Sichuan was the starting point

of the southern silk road in history. Now it is the pivot of the Belt and Road Initiative economy belt, linking land and sea," said Peng.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second line linking Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region to other parts of China after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

The line is designed to start from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan

Province, passing through Ya'an and entering Tibet via Qamdo. It will then go through Nyingchi prefecture and end at Lhasa, capital of Tibet.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi section is under construction, said Peng. "The 1,000-kilometer Ya'an-Nyingchi section is part of the plan. Bridges and tunnels will cover over 90 percent of the line, that is to say, nearly 800 kilometers

of tunnels and 100 kilometers of bridges."

"It is far more difficult to build the Sichuan-Tibet Railway than the Qinghai-Tibet Railway since geological conditions are complex along the Sichuan-Tibet line, with severe geological conditions and disasters such as permafrost, alpine hypoxia, landslides, earthquake zones, and geothermal and rock bursts," Zhao added.

The planned route will go through the Sichuan basin, Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, climbing from several hundred meters above sea level to the "Roof of the World," at an altitude of more than 4,400 meters.

The railway will cut the travel time from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours.

Global Times

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Global food experts call for climate-friendly diets

BONN

On the occasion of this year's UN Sustainable Gastronomy Day, experts gathered at the Climate Change Conference in Bonn (to 27 June) to discuss the need to transform the way we produce and consume food.

More sustainable practices in the food industry and more climate-friendly dietary habits are essential to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Around a fifth of the world's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by agriculture and land use, including forestry, fisheries and livestock production, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. At the same time, the effects of climate change are threatening global food security, as climate change is making it more difficult to grow adequate food for rapidly growing populations.

"The food sector is a strong lever to optimize human health and environmental sustainability", said Ovais

Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, at the event, organized in collaboration with the food industry experts. "It's not about targeting any particular areas of the society, consumption and markets, it's about innovation, raising awareness and taking action", he said.

Science-based targets for healthy, sustainable diets

Keeping the food systems within planetary boundaries can be achieved through the adoption of science-based targets to measure and reduce emissions from the food sector, experts stressed.

"The only way to achieve the goals of Paris is to be able to track and monitor emissions. The tricky thing for food is that we don't have that kind of monitoring process in place," said Dr. Brent Loken, director of Science Translation at Norway-based EAT Foundation, who highlighted the need to integrate food into the solutions to climate change.

In January, a group of 37 leading scientists convened by published the EAT-Lancet Commission Report, the



Swedish company IKEA's eco-friendly products.

first attempt to set universal scientific targets on what defines a healthy and sustainable diet. The report showed that staying within the 'safe operating space' for food systems requires a combination of substantial shifts in dietary patterns, dramatic reductions in food losses and waste, and major improvements in food production practices. Science-based targets are increasingly gaining traction across the world, notably in the business sector. To date, 566 companies have committed to taking science-based climate action. One of them is the Swed-

ish company IKEA, who pledged to increase the amount of plant-based food sold in its stores from the current 14% to 20% by 2022. IKEA also aims to halve food waste in its stores by August 2020.

"We have targets to reduce emissions in Ikea, but we feel this is not enough: we need to become climate positive by reducing more greenhouse gas emissions than the IKEA value chain emits", said Yaw Sasu-Boakye, Climate Lead for Food & Agriculture at IKEA Food Services.

The panel discussion at the event was followed

by a tasting experience to showcase innovative food products which included a climate-friendly version of the classic "burger and shake" menu. Plant-based and nature-friendly food items were provided by Impossible Foods, which is a US-based food-tech company.

"We are putting new tools into the hands of the consumer and giving them options for keeping food within planetary boundaries", said Rebekah Moses, Senior Manager of Impact Strategy at Impossible Foods.

## APPETITE

# Japan whale restaurants cheer hunt resumption

TOKYO

"Two sashimis, three steaks," cries the waitress at one of Tokyo's most famous whale restaurants during a frantic lunchtime service where Japan's resumption of commercial whaling has cooked up new hope.

Mitsuo Tani has spent 46 of his 64 years preparing and cooking whale meat and hosts a mixed clientele at his restaurant. Salarymen in white shirts gulping down a quick lunch before heading back to the office, single women, retired couples.

Whale steak is the most popular dish at 980 yen (\$9). A thin rectangular piece of meat with as much rice, miso soup, vegetables and iced tea as the customer can eat. Also flying out of the kitchen is whale sashimi - raw slices of whale flesh, skin or liver.

Japan's resumption of commercial whaling has prompted fury from other countries and campaigners, with activists saying that one of the three species targeted is threatened with extinction and sub-populations of the other two are depleted.

But veteran whale chef Tani is keen to promote the health benefits of whale meat. "It is five times lower in calories than beef, 10 times lower in cholesterol, two times less fat than chicken. It's packed with iron. But abroad, people do not



A chef holding a whale meat at a restaurant in Tokyo.

know this," he told AFP.

Not all would agree with Tani's health based sales-pitch, however. In 2015, when the Environmental Investigation Agency tested the mercury levels of whale meat sold in Japan, they found it riddled with the substance.

Whipping up a "whale roast beef" at the pass, Tani explained that he had to move from the

northern city of Sendai after the 2011 tsunami and the price of whale meat soared amid a significant drop in supply.

In Tokyo, he has never had any problem procuring meat. While Japan was still part of the International Whaling Commission, the whales caught in Antarctic waters for "research" purposes still ended up as sashimi and steak on plates around

the country.

Ironically, with Japan leaving the IWC and resuming commercial whaling off its own coast, the quantity of meat may decline. Japan set an annual quota of more than 600 whales while in the IWC. The cap now stands at 227 until the end of the year - 52 minke, 150 Bryde's and 25 sei whales.

It is not the only country carrying out hunts, with Norway and Iceland conducting them in recent years and indigenous people from Alaska to Greenland allowed exemptions to the moratorium.

Hitting back at those who fear the resumption of commercial whaling further endangers whales, Japanese authorities say the quotas have been set carefully "to keep the whale population at a sustainable level." "I'm scared that the quantity of whale meat will go down," admitted Tani.

"Well cooked"

Another whale restaurant boss, Sumiko Koizumi, hailed the resumption of whaling as "an excellent thing" and said it was down to chefs to promote the meat and dream up new recipes. Removing the stigma around whale meat will make it easier for consumers, she said, "first because supermarkets will be more inclined to offer it and wholesalers will listen more to our needs and be in a position to meet them."

Kenta Yodono, sales manager at the Kyodo whaling firm that operates Japan's flagship whaling boat, said the commercial hunts would catch different species of whales, which would taste slightly different.

"The commercial species will be different and certain people might be concerned that they will not have the same taste. But in general, I think the quality will improve and we can respond to restaurants' needs," Yodono told AFP.

He acknowledged activists' concerns over the cruelty of the whale hunt and said "the fishermen are conscious of the fact that the time the animal suffers should be reduced." Tani does have some fears however over the immediate future of his industry, with few chefs training to acquire the specialised cooking skills required. "With commercial whaling halted for more than 30 years, no one has got into the business and that will not happen overnight," he said.

"Even if some people get into it now, it will take 30 years. And if they find the work too hard, they will stop. Whale needs to be well cooked otherwise no one will start to eat it again," added Tani. Japan has defended the controversial whale hunt as a key part of its tradition and rich culinary heritage. And Tani agreed. "A country that does not preserve its food culture has no future."

## RESTRICTIVE

# Online gambling firms will need Sh500m to open shop

NAIROBI

Setting up an online betting business will cost an investor up to Sh500 million under a proposed gaming law that seeks to curb gambling and entry of more players. Proprietors of companies will be required to pay Sh100 million in licensing fees if the Gaming Bill 2019 is enacted into law.

The Bill, which seeks to repeal the current gaming law, is currently before the National Assembly. Online betting firms will also be required to deposit a Sh200 million refundable cash security with the regulator and provide proof of Sh200 million capital to sustain operations under the proposed law, which provides more clarity on the financial requirements for operating a gaming business in Kenya.

The current Betting, Lotteries and Gaming Act is silent on rates and gives the Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) the leeway to set permit fees with approv-

al from the relevant ministry, currently the Interior docket.

An investor in a non-online gaming business will, for instance, be required to pay Sh30 million each for licence and security, with the regulator given powers to prescribe minimum capital.

Those starting a casino will be required to pay Sh50 million each in permit fees and cash deposit as security to cater for any liabilities and show proof of Sh100 million capital. "Each licensee shall provide proof of adequate gaming capital to set up the operation for which a licence has been applied," the proposed law says.

"Security deposited ... may be used by the board to defray a licensee's liability which may arise from the licensed activity."

The Bill also seeks to impose tighter checks and controls on online betting that has become an instant hit largely among the youth who place stakes and receive



A football fan participates in online sports betting.

winnings via mobile phones, helped by speed and convenience which comes with access to mobile money platforms such as M-Pesa.

Official data shows unemployed youth spend an average Sh5,000 on betting per month. The gaming industry in Kenya has grown rapidly over the last five years to Sh200 Billion from Sh2 Billion, employing 5,000 people, official data shows.

The BCLB on Monday refused to renew operation permits for 19 betting firms, setting the stage for a fierce survival battles. Online gaming activities will be monitored real-time through a system to be installed by the proposed National Gaming Authority, and will be accessible to telecommunications sector regulator, the Communications Authority of Kenya, to facilitate remote tracking of transactions.

To achieve this, online gaming firms will be required to provide a website platform as well as all visual and audio communication channels, including particulars and location of servers and operator's system.

## TRIBUTE

# Life and times of Bob Collymore: The passing of an all-rounded icon

Stephen Mutoro, NAIROBI

On July 1, 2019, Kenyans woke up to sad news of the demise of a great man with a great heart - Robert William Collymore, 61, better known as Bob Collymore.

Born in Guyana, the soft-spoken but fearless corporate manager at East Africa's leading telecommunication company, Safaricom second CEO cut his corporate teeth in the UK. The man who loved flying helicopters, reading, art and music has left behind his wife Wambui Kamiru, four children and a big legacy.

When he succeeded the pioneer CEO Mr Michael Joseph, there were loud murmurs from the public on whether he could grow or strangle it altogether. In response, he introduced what he named "Safaricom 2.0" on which he targeted change and new focus; firm's structure, culture, and mindsets and delivering superior customer service.

His boldness came at a time he took a business decision no one would dare have taken during fierce price wars with competitors - he increased the prices and risked it all! His new strategy and gamble on higher tariffs worked - and possibly surprised himself. Within no time, the company had a new structure and enough resources to re-coup.

Under his reign, perhaps two words that would best describe his success at Safaricom would be - innovation and re-investment. I recall his predecessor, Michael Joseph, tell me that his success could be narrowed to attaining "lowest convergence point between quality and pricing" of services.

On the occasions I met Bob and poked holes (like a consumer advocate would do) in his strategy especially what he called "smart" strategy - he laboured to explain to me the tens of billions he was re-investing (and perhaps I wasn't appreciating) - I challenged him, and indeed on one occasion he agreed with me that it was not about how much the firm spent - but what experience the customer felt as a result of investment.



Stephen Mutoro, Secretary General, Consumers Federation of Kenya.

I recall him saying "the big box had failed fatally". He added "we will compensate affected customers and make it better". I couldn't doubt such honesty. Bob wasn't excited talking much about voice - other than quality of it. You could, however, see his excitement when he talked of M-Pesa, data, on-demand videos, and innovations including the Safaricom TV he left before regulatory approval.

Many things will be said about Bob. But his respect for people. His strong belief in himself and the need to touch people who genuinely need support - through Safaricom Foundation - was key to him.

He had no regret to politely but firmly tell anyone "I don't grant favours. But I help genuine cases" that came in our personal discussion when I asked him about how many times he receives requests for

cash and employment from politicians. "I simply mark them ROY", he scribbled the 3 letters and laughed.

The vicious fight that Bob had against cancer must have transformed his life. He kept a low profile. He hardly took sides. He hardly wanted a discussion around him. But he had hearty laughter and jokes whenever he met up with friends in secluded places - for a drink.

Bob was never excited about his net worth or his position. He had a "peculiar habit" like Michael Joseph would say - and I can only in hindsight conclude he wanted a quiet life but a loud legacy. You could read his excitement, for instance, when he announced the huge traction "Fuliza" product had generated within days of its' innovation.

Fast forward, we planned to meet on June 12 at 10 am. Unusual of him, the meeting was cancelled without an alternative date. I suspected he had developed some health complications but I never imagined I wouldn't see him alive again. Sad.

There lies a great man with an accomplished mission on earth. Like Sully H.W. Bush, a yellow Labrador service dog who worked with the late US former president Senior Bush and even guarded his gasket in death - its "mission accomplished" for Bob.

For the contributions Bob has done for Safaricom and revenue to the exchequer, a national mourning befits the man who loved Safaricom that it will not be asking for too much for his coffin to be covered with Safaricom flag - in his honour. Go well, Bob. To the family and friends, may you stand strong at this very difficult moment. To his colleagues at Safaricom, the biggest respect you can give Bob is a 'strategy 3-0' tha would make nonsense of his "Safaricom 2.0"

## DISTINCTIVE

## Five things to know about the first black woman deputy vice chancellor at Rhodes University

JOHANNESBURG

Dr 'Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela has been appointed as the new Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs (DVC) at Rhodes University. According to the Grocott's Mail, local newspaper in Makhanda, Dr 'Mabokang succeeds Dr Chrissie Boughey who retired at the end of June 2019, making her the first black woman to serve in this position.

While Dr 'Mabokang keeps a low profile online, her academic credentials speak for themselves. She has a wealth of work experience in academia and has a number of qualifications with a couple of distinctions under her belt.



According to Rhodes University, Dr 'Mabokang has also worked as a visiting professor in the Executive Directorate in education administration programme at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

These are the five things to know about Dr 'Mabokang:

A Rhodes University alumnus  
Dr 'Mabokang holds a postgraduate diploma in higher education from Rhodes University. This diploma is, however, accompanied by many more qualifications.

Excellence runs through her veins  
Dr 'Mabokang's postgraduate diploma in higher education was awarded with exceptional distinction.

She also holds a PhD in Higher Education Studies and a Masters degree in Education, both from the University of the Free State. She also has two undergraduate degrees - one in education from the University of the Orange Free State and another in science from the University of Lesotho.

More than 19 years in academia  
Dr 'Mabokang previously held the position of dean for academic development and support at the Central University of Technology in the Free State, as well as the senior director position for the centre for innovation in learning and teaching within 10 years.

Before this, Dr 'Mabokang was an associate professor at the University of the Free State where she held a number of other academic positions in the nine years she spent there.

International experience  
Apart from this extensive track record, according to Australia's University of the Sunshine Coast, Dr 'Mabokang has presented scholarly papers in South Africa and internationally, and has published more than 25 research papers and chapters in scholarly books.

According to Rhodes University, Dr 'Mabokang has also worked as a visiting professor in the Executive Directorate in education administration programme at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Best suited for DVC academic and student affairs role

Dr 'Mabokang is certainly more than qualified for her new role as a DVC in academic and student affairs not only because of her admirable work experience, but also because it aligns with her research; while at the Central University of Technology, Dr 'Mabokang presented her case



Dr 'Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela.

study on "Students' perception of own preparedness for higher education."

According to a statement made by Dr 'Mabokang to the university, "first year students from non-English speaking backgrounds are not confident in expressing themselves, which becomes a challenge as

their entire course offerings are in English" and stated that these students also face other academic challenges that results in them completing three year diplomas in six years. This is why she also expressed the following: "We have to find new ways of teaching, facilitating and learning."

## Brazil cooperates with Mozambique in the development of oil and natural gas

MAPUTO

Brazil will cooperate with Mozambique to stimulate the country's industrial development and support local companies to provide services to oil and gas projects, said the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy.

Speaking at the opening of the 2nd Brazil-Mozambique Seminar on Oil, Gas and Correlative Sectors, Alfredo Nampete also said that the two countries will outline agendas to develop business opportunities and cooperation, "and this meeting is a platform that can contribute to maximising the benefits of the oil and gas industry for Mozambique."

"If, on the one hand, the start of gas production in the Rovuma Basin will bring Mozambique to the attention of world markets, on the other hand the opportunities that will result from these projects bring many expectations for us all, as they are a space for Mozambicans to use their intelligence in leveraging business opportunities," Nampete said, quoted by the AIM news agency.

Nampete recalled that the seminar was taking place a few days after the final decision on investment for the development of the "Golfinho" and "Atum" fields was taken on 18 June in the Area One block, a key mile-

stone in making the country's dream of becoming an important player in the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry a reality.

With an annual output of 12.88 million tonnes of LNG, the project will have an estimated investment of about US\$23 billion and could generate about US\$61 billion in revenue for the State, an unprecedented investment both in Mozambique and in Africa, which could turn the country into the continent's largest producer and exporter.

Another milestone was the approval, last May, of the Mamba project development plan for the production of 15.2 million tons of LNG onshore. The three projects (Coral Sul, Mamba and Golfinho Atum) will have an estimated total investment of more than US\$50 billion and production in excess of 30 million tonnes per year, thus consolidating Mozambique's position as one of the largest producers and exporters of LNG in Africa and in the world.

"With institutions such as the National Petroleum Agency, Petrobras and the Brazilian Petroleum Institute, with extensive experience in the oil and gas sector, Brazil is undoubtedly one of the countries with which Mozambique should seek to establish alliances," said the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy.



EXTRAORDINARY

# Meet three women of the region changing the world through business

SAN FRANCISCO

"Awards are a time to reflect on where we are and where we want to be, by saying these ideas will help create the world we want to see," the Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o said at the recent Cartier Women's Initiative Awards in San Francisco.

As a guest speaker at the event, Nyong'o's words neatly encapsulated the mood of the evening: we were all there to witness dynamic entrepreneurs pitch ideas that could make the world a better place.

This year, the initiative received a record 2,900 applications from 17 countries, whittled down to 21 finalists. And although there are countless awards open to entrepreneurs around the world, what makes the Cartier Women's Initiative so interesting is that it was unapologetically conceived to support women-led businesses. As Cyrille Vigneron, president and chief executive of Cartier says: "Cartier started this because we have mainly women customers.

"We discovered that women were having more trouble than men starting a business, with many having difficulties getting financing. Only three per cent of start-ups run by women get funding. So there was a big imbalance, and for us to help support the redressing of this inequality made sense."

Since it was launched 13 years ago, the Cartier Women's Initiative has had 219 winners from 51 countries.

The globe is divided into seven regions, with three finalists selected from each. The seven winners each receive a \$100,000 (Dh367,250) cash injection and 12 months of guidance and mentorship from industry leaders who offer expertise in the fields of business, marketing, management and finance. Partly thanks to this vital support, an impressive 80 per cent of the winning businesses are still going, despite a grim US start-up failure rate of 50 per cent within five years, and 70 per cent within 10.

The finalists for 2019 are a dazzling bunch. Take Ran Ma from America, for example. The founder of Siren has developed smart socks that detect fluctuations in the wearer's temperature, pre-warning diabetes sufferers of potentially serious health issues. Or the investment platform InvestEd, set up by Carmina Bayombong when she realised that low-income students in the Philippines were being denied access to universities. The three finalists from the Mena region are equally inspiring, with each tackling pressing - and locally relevant - social issues.

Here, the three female entrepreneurs talk about their projects in their own words: NaTakallam, Arabic for "we speak", was co-founded by US-born Lebanese national Aline Sara in 2015. Using Skype, it connects students eager to learn Arabic in one country, to Syrian refugees who are able to teach them in another. Students

get private lessons, while refugees gain an income and a sense of purpose. "I don't think any of us grasp what it is to be a refugee today. One in four people in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee, and 65 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes," Sara tells me.

"The overwhelming majority of these are stuck in limbo. They are stuck at border crossings and refugee camps, often in countries bordering the violence they fled, but don't have any form of work permit. They have no way to restart their lives.

"I graduated from Columbia in human rights, social justice and conflict resolution, at the same time as the Syrian refugees were crossing into Lebanon, an already fragile state plagued with religious tensions and complexities. I realised this combination was catastrophic, because without economic opportunity, people turn to radicalisation and violence.

"Looking for a job, I knew I had to brush up on my Arabic, and then it hit



The seven CWIA laureates with Cyrille Vigneron, Cartier CEO.

me. I had always wanted to go to Damascus to study Arabic, but

now all of these Syrians were in Lebanon. I realised I could hire

them as my tutors and pay them informally. It would be win-win:

I would get access to affordable, flexible language practice and they would get an income and dignity.

"When I first explain this to people, though, they assume it is the refugees being tutored, because we are so used to thinking of them as passive recipients. We are trying to flip that around. The rest of the world didn't wake up to the refugee crisis until Alan Kurdi, the little Syrian boy who drowned. Suddenly, our website went viral and we had 300 people signing up for Arabic classes.

"It is typically men fleeing because they have either been drafted to fight by Assad or by the militia. The regime keeps their passports, so when they flee, they have no way of proving who they are. They have been uprooted and have lost everything. We help a lot of middle-class refugees who aren't served by the NGOs. Students get private lessons, while refugees gain an income and a sense of purpose.



## ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

PERSONALITY

### Who is Christine Lagarde? The woman who rolled her eyes at Ivanka Trump

NEW YORK

She might be better known to Americans as the woman who acting visibly irritated by Ivanka Trump at the G20 summit last week. Now, she's set to become the first woman to head the European Central Bank.

Who is Christine Lagarde? The current managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Lagarde's nomination came after weeks of discussion with top EU officials and was largely unexpected, given she has no prior experience in monetary policy and is not an economist.

European Council President Donald Tusk said on Tuesday that she would make "a perfect president of the European Central Bank," according to the Wall Street Journal.

Last week during a meeting at the G20, Lagarde was filmed speaking to French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Theresa May and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau, while being visibly annoyed that President Trump's daughter was attempting to get in on the conversation.

Lagarde has become known for alliance building and negotiating skills in global finance circles as well as a champion for female empowerment. She has fans across Europe - as head of the IMF she built a strong relationship with Germany. In France and southern Europe, her French Treasury past and activist monetary policy thinking will give hope across the eurozone.

In her time at the IMF, she rebuilt confidence in the fund, after the problems that

came with bailing out the Greek economy, and later coming to the aid of Argentina in the form of a \$57 billion bailout. She would be taking over from the man known as "Super Mario" in Brussels, Mario Draghi, who has risen as a dominant figure himself in the global economy during his nearly eight years at the ECB.

Luckily for Lagarde, she has a knack for exceeding expectations - something she will need to continue the legacy of her predecessor, noted for his "whatever it takes policy" that investors have said lead to an impressive reign as head of the ECB. She has also become a figure of women's empowerment, becoming the first female head of the IMF when she took the role in 2011. Then, like now, there were doubts whether a former lawyer could successfully run the Washington-based organisation.

On Twitter, Lagarde said: "I am honoured to have been nominated for the ECB Presidency," adding that she would be temporarily stepping down as managing director of the IMF during the nomination process. On a recent appearance on the Daily Show, Lagarde spoke about how investing in education, infrastructure and health boosts economic growth.

Formal approval of her appointment will take place in the coming months, as EU officials will decide officially who takes the role through a number of procedural moves. German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen was also nominated president of the European Commission, which would make her the first woman in that role.

**SATURDAY 29 June**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt  
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:30 Usafiri wako  
12:00 Mapishi  
12:30 Series rpt: Iris  
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko  
15:15 Igizo rpt: Ahadi  
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe  
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele  
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt  
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Igizo: Ahadi  
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii  
19:30 Jungu Kuu  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele  
21:30 Kesho Leo  
22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:00 Isidingo rpt  
01:30 CNN International

**SUNDAY 30 June**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
09:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:00 Isidingo  
11:45 Aibu Yako  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mkwe  
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
15:00 Mwangaza  
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk  
16:45 Mjue zaidi  
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Mizengwe rpt  
18:45 Matukio ya wiki  
19:30 Igizo: Mtego  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Mizengwe  
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mkwe 2  
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

**MONDAY 01 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 Habari  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI

8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Igizo: Ahadi  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kimya Milele  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jungu kuu rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Mjue Zaidi  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)  
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 rpt  
18:30 Kesho Leo  
19:00 Afya ya Jamii  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Dakika 45  
21:50 Kipindi Maalum: Ukoma  
22:00 Insta Bet  
22:15 Series: Iris  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 CNN International

**TUESDAY 02 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 Habari  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Shamsham za pwani  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Shamsham za pwani  
11:25 Igizo: Mtego  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Uchumi na biashara  
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TFDA  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Series rpt: Iris  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu

18:15 The great queen Seonduk  
19:00 Jarida la wanawake  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Tanzania yetu  
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Watoto jiti  
22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 CNN International

**WEDNESDAY 03 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Korean: The Great queen-Seonduk  
11:15 Jagina  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
13:00 Dakika 45  
14:00 Series rpt  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mizengwe rpt  
18:30 Ijue Sheria  
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?  
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Uongozi  
21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco  
22:15 Series: Iris  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
2:00 CNN International

**THURSDAY 04 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Igizo: Kivuko  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Igizo: Kivuko  
11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Uongozi

11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Ijue Sheria  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii  
13:30 Tanzania yetu  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Series rpt: Iris  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Jagina  
19:00 Usafiri wako  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 CNN International

**FRIDAY 05 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
11:30 Usafiri wako  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Jagina rpt  
13:30 Kipindi Maalum: Watoto Jiti rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
14:15 Series rpt: Iris  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto wetu  
17:00 The Base  
17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe  
18:30 Shamba lulu  
19:00 Uchumi na biashara  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipima joto  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 CNN International

**SATURDAY 06 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt  
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:30 Usafiri wako  
12:00 Mapishi  
12:30 Series rpt: Iris  
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko  
15:15 Igizo rpt: Ahadi  
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe  
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele  
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt  
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Igizo: Ahadi  
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii  
19:30 Jungu Kuu  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele  
21:30 Kesho Leo  
22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:00 Isidingo rpt  
01:30 CNN International

**SUNDAY 07 July**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
09:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:00 Isidingo  
11:45 Aibu Yako  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mkwe 2  
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
15:00 Mwangaza  
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk  
16:45 Mjue zaidi  
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Mizengwe rpt  
18:45 Matukio ya wiki  
19:30 Igizo: Mtego  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Mizengwe  
21:00 Bongo Movie: More than pain  
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

WORLD

Defying critics, Trump salutes military in pomp-filled July 4 celebration

WASHINGTON

With U.S. fighter jets flying overhead, President Donald Trump praised the military and reveled in a show of pomp and patriotism on Thursday in a celebration of Independence Day that critics accused him of turning into a political event.

Trump, a Republican who was inspired to stage the flashy affair after seeing a similar display in France, dismissed concerns ahead of the ceremony about the expense and militaristic overtones of the event outside the 97-year-old Lincoln Memorial, a symbol of national unity.

"Our nation is stronger today than it ever was before. It is its strongest now," Trump said from a platform in front of the famous memorial, echoing a theme he uses at campaign rallies.

Flanked by Bradley fighting vehicles, Trump otherwise steered clear of divisive political rhetoric, in a departure from the majority of his speeches. At times, an enthusiastic crowd could be

heard chanting: "USA! USA! USA!"

Trump, 73, praised American military might despite having himself avoided the draft during the Vietnam War with bone spurs in his feet. With well-planned choreography, he told stories about each military branch before separate, dramatic flyovers of their respective military aircraft.

"We celebrate our history, our people, and the heroes who proudly defend our flag: the brave men and women of the United States military," Trump said. "For over 65 years, no enemy Air Force has managed to kill a single American soldier. Because the skies belong to the United States of America."

Not all the choreography appeared to go off as planned.

A flyover by Air Force One, which Trump had teased earlier in the day on Twitter, occurred unannounced and without fanfare. But a low and spectacular flyover by six F-18s known as the "Blue Angels" at the conclusion of Trump's speech thrilled the crowd. Some people shouted "Four More



President Donald Trump watches a flyover on Thursday in Washington, DC. President Trump is holding a "Salute to America" celebration on the National Mall on Independence Day this year with musical performances, a military flyover, and fireworks. AFP

Years!" in support of the president.

Trump paid tribute to the U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, two agencies that have played leading roles in carrying out his tough immigration policies.

He cited as great Americans both Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, African-Americans who campaigned for the abolition of slavery more than 100 years ago. That praise could draw criticism as Trump's administration in May decided to keep Tubman's image off the \$20 bill. He previously raised doubts about his knowledge of Douglass by speaking of the former slave in the present tense as "somebody who's done an amazing job."

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, WORRIES ABOUT CROWDS

Earlier in the day thousands of supporters wearing Trump's signature "Make America Great Again" hats, along with opponents questioning the cost of the event, poured into the U.S. capital despite scorching temperatures and intermittent rain, while a diapered "Baby Trump" balloon sat next to a banner calling Trump a traitor.

Protesters burned a U.S. flag in front of the White

House. Ahead of the speech, Democrats accused the president of staging an out-of-place campaign rally, aware he has a history of veering off script with sharp partisan attacks even at events that are not meant to be overtly political.

Trump supporters and opponents carried American flags and wore red, white and blue outfits. "I think what Trump's doing with the tanks, all the flyovers, I think it's great," said Brandon Lawrence, his face painted with the colors of the American flag.

Some at the White House had worried about the crowd size, according to an administration official. In January 2017 Trump fumed about reports that the crowd at his inauguration ceremony in front of the Capitol was smaller than it was for President Barack Obama.

Perhaps with the crowd size in mind, Trump sent out tweets urging people to attend and saying the event would be "one of the biggest celebrations in the history of our Country." As it happened, the crowd lined both sides of the reflecting pool in front of the memorial, and Trump later called it a "great crowd."

Agencies

Iranian oil tanker crew being interviewed as witnesses in Gibraltar

LONDON

THE crew on a giant Iranian oil tanker detained in Gibraltar are being interviewed as witnesses, not criminal suspects, in an effort to establish the nature of the cargo and its ultimate destination, a spokesman for the British territory said.

British Royal Marines abseiled onto the Grace I tanker on Thursday and seized it for trying to take oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions. They landed a helicopter on the moving vessel in pitch darkness.

The move could escalate a confrontation between Iran and the

West that saw the United States call off air strikes minutes before impact last month. Tehran summoned the British ambassador to voice "its very strong objection to the illegal and unacceptable seizure" of its ship.

The Gibraltar spokesman said the 28-member crew, who have remained on board the supertanker, were mainly Indians with some Pakistanis and Ukrainians. Police and customs officials remained on board the vessel to carry out their investigation, but the Royal Marines were no longer present.

Gibraltar said on Thursday it had reasonable grounds to believe that the Grace I was carrying crude oil to



the Baniyas refinery in Syria.

The European Union has had sanctions in place for years that prohibit sales of oil to Syria. Europe does not have broad sanctions in place against Iran, but the United States does, driving Tehran off of

mainstream oil markets in recent months and forcing it to seek unconventional outlets to sell its oil.

Shipping data reviewed by Reuters suggests the tanker was carrying Iranian oil loaded off the coast of Iran, although its documents say the

oil is from neighbouring Iraq.

Iran's complaint about the seizure dispelled any doubt over the ownership of the vessel, which is registered as managed by a company in Singapore.

It was impounded in the British territory on the southern tip of Spain after sailing around Africa, the long route from the Middle East to the mouth of the Mediterranean.

If officials in Gibraltar have not fully established the nature of the cargo or the final destination, they could in the coming days ask a court for permission to hold the vessel for longer.

Agencies

US must lift all additional tariffs for agreement with China - commerce ministry

BEIJING

BECAUSE the Sino-U.S. economic and trade frictions were triggered by the U.S. imposition of additional tariffs on Chinese goods, all those tariffs must be lifted if the two countries could reach an agreement, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Thursday.

On the sidelines of the recently concluded G20 summit in Osaka, the heads of state of China and the United States agreed to resume economic and trade consultations on the basis of equality and mutual respect and the United States said not to impose new tariffs on Chinese products.

Currently, negotiating teams of China and the United States have kept communicating, MOC spokesperson Gao Feng told a news conference.

"It is China's consistent position that Sino-U.S. economic and trade frictions should ultimately be re-

solved through dialogue and consultation on an equal footing," Gao said. "China welcomes the fact that the United States will not impose new tariffs on Chinese products to avoid further escalation of economic and trade frictions."

Commenting on the U.S. side's argument that the future trade agreement should tilt in the direction favourable to the U.S. side, Gao said the essence of Sino-U.S. economic and trade cooperation is mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

China has always stressed that consultations should be conducted under the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, he said.

"If an agreement could be reached, it should be balanced, equal and mutually beneficial, and China's core concerns must be properly addressed," Gao said.

Commenting on the U.S. side's recent claim that China agrees to purchase large quantities of U.S. agricul-



Gao Feng, spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce, attends a news conference in Beijing on Thursday. Because the Sino-U.S. economic and trade frictions were triggered by the U.S. imposition of additional tariffs on Chinese goods, all those tariffs must be lifted if the two countries could reach an agreement, the Ministry of Commerce said. (Xinhua)

tural products, Gao said China and the United States are strongly complementary in agricultural trade and have huge room for cooperation.

"Affected by Sino-U.S. economic

and trade frictions, agricultural trade between the two countries has taken a blow, which is something we do not want to see," Gao said.

"Trade in agricultural products is

an important issue that needs to be discussed between the two sides," Gao said. "We hope that the two sides will proceed from the fundamental interests of the two peoples and find a solution to the problem on the basis of equality and mutual respect."

Gao expressed the hope that the two sides will follow the important instructions given at the meeting of the heads of state of the two countries, accommodate each other's reasonable concerns on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and seek mutually beneficial and win-win solutions to create a stable and predictable trade and investment environment for enterprises of the two countries and the rest of the world.

"This is not only in the interests of China and the United States and their peoples, but is also the common expectation of the international community," he said.

Xinhua

Indian govt unveils budget to boost growth, plans reforms

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's government yesterday proposed giving foreign investors a bigger role in India's giant insurance and aviation sectors to help reverse weakening growth and investment that threatens to take the shine off its recent landslide election victory.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the proposals while presenting the budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 to parliament, the first since the Hindu nationalist-led government was re-elected in a vote in April and May.

Modi (pictured) has set a target of growing India into a US\$5 trillion economy by 2024/2025 from US\$2.7 trillion that a government report on Thursday said will be done on the back of higher investment, savings and exports in the way China's growth was propelled.

"The government will examine suggestions of further opening up FDI (foreign direct investment) in aviation, media, and insurance sectors in consultations with stakeholders," Sitharaman said.

She said 100% foreign ownership will be permitted for insurance intermediaries and local sourcing norms will be eased for FDI in retailers selling a single brand.

India currently allows foreign direct investment in single-brand retail but mandates investors to source locally 30 percent of the value of good purchased.

At present, India allows 49% foreign ownership through the automatic route in the insurance sector, which is worth billions of dollars and has been tightly controlled for decades for fear of a backlash from the unions.

"It is high time India gets fully integrated into the global value chain of production of goods and services but also becomes part of the global financial system to mobilize global savings mostly institutional in insurance, pension, and sovereign wealth funds," she said.

But economists say scaling up Asia's third largest economy in rapid fashion will need bold reforms including freeing up land and labour markets, which Modi shied away from in his first term for fear of political backlash.

Capital Economics said in a note on Friday that reaching that target "is dependent in large part on achieving real GDP growth of 8% a year, which we think is unlikely."

Land and labour reforms are difficult in a democracy like India and it seems unlikely Modi will risk drawing the ire of his Bharatiya Janata Party voters that re-elected him with a huge mandate.

During the budget speech, Indian markets were down. The broader NSE index was down 0.37% while the benchmark BSE index was trading 0.29% lower at 39,793.46.

The 10-year benchmark government bond yield was at 6.72%, compared to 6.75% pre-budget. The rupee had weakened to 68.73 from its 68.70 pre-budget.

"Nothing concrete has been announced so far, that disappointment is reflecting in markets," Saurabh Jain, assistant vice-president research, SMC Global Securities said.

India's economy is also running into global headwinds with growth weighed down by trade wars and protectionism.

Agencies

Italian PM says Russia can play a key role in solving regional crises

MOSCOW

MOSCOW can play a crucial role in ironing out various regional conflicts, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte wrote on his Facebook page yesterday after his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed that there is the need for an inclusive approach and an open dialogue in order to start solving key regional crises ranging from Libya to Syria, from Ukraine to Venezuela. I'm convinced that Moscow can play a fundamental role in resolving these crises," (pictured) Conte wrote.

The Italian prime minister also noted that during the talks the sides had a chance to "discuss in detail a lot of issues and enhance strong relationship between the two countries." According to him, the leaders raised various international issues "in a hearty and very fruitful working atmosphere."

Conte also stressed that Italy and Russia "are proud of great cooperation in cultural and scientific fields" and "interaction between research centers and universities."

Friendly relations between Italy and Russia "have a huge potential, which [the countries] should develop day by day for the sake of tomorrow, security, well-being and equality," he said.

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin paid a one-day visit to Rome, during which he met with Pope Francis, Italian President Sergio Mattarella and also held talks with Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

Agencies

Yemeni pro-gov't forces continue fighting against Houthis in southern Yemen

DHALEA CITY, Yemen

FIGHTING between pro-government Yemeni forces and the Houthi rebels continued on Thursday, as both warring sides attempt to seize more military sites in the country's southern part.

The pro-government forces launched a series of military operations within weeks that succeeded in pushing the Houthis back to position on the northern outskirts of Dhalea province.

Military officials told Xinhua during an exclusive interview near the

frontlines in the northern parts of Dhalea that "anti-Houthi offensives will not be ceased in the upcoming period."

"We decided to continue the military offensives because the Houthis didn't prefer to stop attacking our territories," said Mohamed Welay, a pro-government army officer.

"Houthis are bringing more reinforcements to Dhalea's outskirts and on the other side, we will continue in targeting them," he said.

Other army officers stationed in Dhalea's northern part said that the battles will not see an end until liber-



ating all the areas in neighboring central province of Ibb that is controlled by Houthis.

Sporadic fighting and exchange of artillery bombardment continued to escalate between the two warring sides in areas near Dhalea's district of Qataba.

Scores of houses were left abandoned and partially damaged as a result of rockets, mortars, artillery shells fired by the two warring rivals or Saudi-led airstrikes.

The fighting also forced many families to flee their villages and head to stay in temporary displacement

camps in Dhalea, without adequate food assistance.

The Houthis advanced rapidly and seized key districts in Dhalea but failed to stay longer or proceed advancement further into other government-controlled provinces as they planned previously, according to pro-government army officials.

They said that the Houthi rebels resorted to sporadically fire rockets and artillery shells that land randomly on residential neighborhoods of Dhalea city.

In April, the Iranian-allied Houthi fighters launched a series of intense

armed attacks on the positions of government forces and succeeded in seizing the district of Al Husha in the west of Dhalea.

The areas in the north and west of Dhalea, 138 km north of Aden, have been witnessing the non-stop fighting between government forces and Houthi fighters for about four years.

Yemen has been plagued by a civil war since late 2014 after Houthi rebels revolted and forced the internationally-recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi into exile.

Agencies



## Australian freed in DPRK keeps mum about detention

TOKYO

AN Australian student yesterday thanked Swedish and his country's diplomats for securing his release in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) but kept mum about what led to his weeklong detention.

"I intend now to return to normal life but wanted to first publicly thank everyone who worked to ensure I was safe and well," Alek Sigley said in a statement released by his family's spokeswoman in Australia, a day after he was flown from Pyongyang to Beijing and then Tokyo to be reunited with his Japanese wife.

He asked media to respect his privacy and said he has no plans to hold a news conference.

Sigley, 29, had been studying at a Pyongyang university and guiding tours in the capital of DPRK before disappearing from social media contact with family and friends on June 25. He had posted about his experiences in the DPRK and boasted about the extraordinary freedom he had as one of the few foreign students living there.

"I just want everyone to know I am OK, and to thank them for their concern for my wellbeing and their support for my family over the past week. I'm very happy to be back with my wife, Yuka, and to have spoken with my family in Perth (Australia) to reassure them I'm well," he said in the statement.

He specifically thanked Sweden's special envoy to the DPRK, Kent Rolf Magnus Harstedt, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne for his release.

Swedish diplomats had raised concerns about Sigley with the authorities of DPRK in Pyongyang, where Australia does not have an embassy.

Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said Sigley was lucky to be free, and suggested he should never return to the DPRK.



"It could have ended up very differently," Dutton told the Nine Network television.

He also had some words of advice for Sigley and other Australians who were thinking of visiting DPRK.

"My advice would be pretty clear. I'd stay in Japan, I'd go back to South Korea, I'd come back to Australia. All of those would have to be better options before he returns to North Korea and we've got advisories out to that effect, warning people," he said. "So there needs to be an application of common sense here and I don't think he'd put himself back in that situation."

The ROK is also referred to as South Korea and DPRK as North Korea.

Despite such advice, Michelle Joyce, Sigley's Sydney-based partner in their guided tour business, Tongil Tours, said on Friday she wanted to lead the next tour to the DPRK as early as August.

"I would like to take that tour, but I'm not 100% sure yet. I want to see what Alek thinks first," Joyce said. "We have to do some crisis control because we've had to cancel two tours."

Joyce said it wasn't profit that drove the former university friends to run the tours for Westerners since 2013.

"Even if we have episodes like this, the gains are so much greater than the losses really. It's a peace project, it's an engagement project, it's a bridge between North Korea and the rest of the world – that's why I want to keep going, no matter what other people say," Joyce said.

Joyce, who is the Australian-born daughter of a Korean mother and speaks Korean, said she was one of the last people from outside the DPRK to speak to Sigley before his family reported they had lost contact on Tuesday morning last week.

Agencies

## Rail route serving Beijing's new airport starts trial operations

THE first phase of Beijing rail transit's new airport line, as one of the support facilities for the Beijing Daxing International Airport, launched trial operation on Saturday, June 16. It's scheduled to start official operations at the end of September, according to media reports.

With a top speed of 160 kilometers per hour, it only takes 19 minutes to make the entire 41.4-kilometer trip, the Xinhua News Agency reported on June 16.

Hailed as a "new milestone in Beijing's rail transit program, the new airport line adopts the world's highest standards of autonomous driving ... including the whole process of automatic starting, self-inspection, operations and dormancy," according to Xinhua.

The line, which is also an important factor in driving the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-

Hebei region, the new airport line will accelerate economic integration of the area, according to Xinhua, citing comments of Yang Guangwu, chief engineer at the Beijing Major Projects Construction Headquarters Office.

Located in the center of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei triangle area, the Beijing Daxing International Airport aims to boost economic vitality of areas surrounding Beijing and cultivate a world-class airport cluster together with other airports in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province, according to People's Daily in May.

The airport's terminal complex has a total area of 1.42 million square meters. The airport aims to handle 72 million passenger trips and 2 million tons of cargo and mail by 2025, with 620,000 aircraft movements by 2025, reported CCTV.com in February.

Global Times

## Putin, Pope exchange gifts after meeting in Vatican

VATICAN CITY

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Pope Francis have exchanged gifts following their 45-minute conversation that took place in the Vatican Apostolic Library.

Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov told TASS that the Pope received an icon depicting Apostles Peter and Paul, as well as a CD version of Russian director Andrey Konchalovsky's film *Sin* about Michelangelo Buonarroti as a gift from the President. "This is a very good film," the Russian President told Pope Francis. He also expressed hope that the Pontiff will find time to watch it.

In turn, the Pope presented Putin



with a personally signed Message for the World Day of Peace 2019, an official medal of the sixth year of Pope Francis' pontificate, marking 100th anniversary of the World War I end and a 1774 etching art piece depicting the view of the St. Peter's Square by Giuseppe Vasi.

The medal has a quote from the August 24, 1939 radio address of Pope Pius XII engraved on it, which reads "Noth-

ing is lost with peace, everything may be lost with war".

Speaking about the etching piece, the Pope pointed out that he was giving it as a gift for Putin so that he "wouldn't forget Rome." "And so that you don't forget Rome, I present to you the artwork from the 18th century," he said. Putin promised to find the worthiest of places for it.

In the end of the meeting, Putin introduced the members of the official Russian delegation to the Pope, which included Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov, presidential aide Yuri Ushakov, Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky, Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova and Russian Ambassador to the Vatican Alexander Avdeyev.

Agencies

## UN: 5,287 killings in Venezuela security operations in 2018

GENEVA

VENEZUELA'S government registered nearly 5,300 killings during security operations last year linked to cases of "resistance to authority," the UN human rights chief reported on Thursday, denouncing a "shockingly high" number of extrajudicial killings.

Michelle Bachelet's report focusing on the last 18 months follows her trip to the troubled South American country last month and draws upon over 550 interviews conducted by her office with rights defenders, victims, witnesses of rights violations and other sources.

She and her teams held nearly 160 meetings with state and other stakeholders. Bachelet, a former Socialist president of Chile, herself met with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro last month.

Authorities in Maduro's government tallied 5,287 killings during security operations that were classified as cases of "resistance to authority," plus another 1,569 this year through May 19, the report said.

It also cited separate figures by the Venezuelan Violence Observatory of at least 7,523 such killings of that type last year, plus at least 2,124 from January to May this year.

"The incidence of alleged extrajudicial killings by security forces, particularly the special forces (FAES), in the context of security operations has been shockingly high," Bachelet's office said.

Interviewees consistently referred to FAES as a "death squad" or "extermination group." NGOs say the FAES is responsible for hundreds of killings.

Among more than 20 recommendations on issues like ensuring media freedom and providing proper health



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, left, chats with Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, as they walk out of a meeting at Miraflores Presidential Palace, in Caracas, Venezuela, June 21, 2019. (AP)

care, she called for disarming and disbanding pro-government armed groups known as "collectivos."

The report from an ostensibly impartial observer like the United Nations comes as Venezuela's internal turmoil of recent years has divided the international community. Over 50 countries, including the United States, many South American neighbors of Venezuela and European nations, have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate leader, even though Maduro remains in power.

Maduro's government blasted an "openly biased" account that presented a "distorted version" of actual conditions.

"There are countless inaccuracies, errors, facts taken out of context and false assertions," it said.

Venezuelan officials insisted the report overlooked visits by UN observers in March to jails, hospitals, public housing programs and distribution

centers for medicine and food, and said it "omits in its entirety the achievements and advances achieved" by the country in the field of human rights.

Maduro's government has been struggling to regain control of the international narrative about the oil-rich country, notably through its recent overtures to international groups like the Red Cross and UN agencies – many of which are trying to help beleaguered civilians.

The UN says that more than 4 million people have left the country in recent years, putting strains in particular on neighbors Brazil and Colombia, as well as Peru.

Many findings of the report highlighted well-worn themes during Venezuela's continued economic and political crisis: the impact of international sanctions against Maduro's government, a wobbly health care system, rising disease, food shortages and the strains caused by runaway inflation.

Agencies

## China-Africa meet on vocational education opens in Uganda

KAMPALA

EDUCATION experts from China, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and host Uganda are meeting in here to discuss how vocational education can fast-track Africa's development.

The event, China-Africa Vocational Education Academic Exchange Seminar 2019, was opened on Thursday by John Chrysestom Musingo, Ugan-

da's minister of state for higher education.

Musingo said Uganda is now prioritizing skills training and education to create employment for the youths who compose two-thirds of the country's population.

"It is this desire to equip our people with skills that has climaxed in today's occasion," Musingo told the meeting held under the theme, "Build

a community of shared future for mankind and build a bright future for China-Africa vocational education."

Musingo said the government is upgrading six institutes across the country into Centers of Excellence, equipped with modern training tools and human resource.

Ma Bo, the principal of Sunmaker Oil and Gas Institute, a Chinese skills training school

in Uganda, said there is an urgent need for skilled personnel in the labor market in Africa.

Ma said African countries are making efforts to reform the vocational and technical education and training system to meet the market needs.

Yang Xiaochun, deputy director-general of China Center for People to People Exchange, ministry of education, in

a letter to the meeting said he hoped that a mechanism would be set up and explore the model of vocational education cooperation between China and East African countries.

Yang said China has taken vocational education development as an important part of its economic and social development plan and incorporated it into its national development strategy. **Xinhua**

## Ship with 54 migrants being barred from docking in Italy

MILAN

AN Italian humanitarian group barred from docking in Lampedusa said yesterday that it is refusing to bring 54 migrants rescued at sea to Malta because of the distance and psychological conditions of those on board one of its ships.

Mediterranea Saving Humans tweeted that its ship was off Italy's southernmost island of Lampedusa, just outside Italian territorial waters, and that it has been banned from entering Italian jurisdiction by ministerial decree. The migrants were rescued from a rubber dinghy Thursday off Libya.

The NGO said the decree is illegitimate because it can't be applied to a ship carrying people rescued at sea, and because Italy can't ban an Italian-flagged ship from entering its waters.

Malta says it will take the migrants in a deal with Italy to take an equal number already in Malta. The deal, announced

by Malta late Thursday, appears aimed at avoiding what would be the 21st standoff since Italy's populist government has begun refusing any port access to humanitarian groups rescuing migrants at sea. Italy has insisted that the Libyan coast guard intervene and the migrants be brought back to Libya, which NGOs

say is against maritime law since Libya is not a safe harbor, as emphasized by the bombing of a migrant center this week that killed dozens.

Italy argues that the presence of the ships encourages smugglers and that Italy has been unfairly stuck with the burden of managing arrivals from northern Af-

rica for the rest of Europe.

The new at-sea drama follows a 17-day standoff between Italy and a German rescue ship that ended when the captain defied orders and forced her way to a dock in Lampedusa's main port. She is under investigation for disobeying orders and allegedly aiding illegal immigration.

## Mid-year shopping festival shows China's huge potential in consumption

By Chi Jingyi

June 18 or 618, another online shopping gala like the double 11, ended on Tuesday for 2019, June 18. Analysts say massive orders show great potential in China's consumption market.

The accumulated order amount of JD.com, an online shopping platform, had reached 179.5 billion yuan (\$25.9 billion) by 2.5 pm Beijing time Tuesday. In the first hour of Tuesday, the

transaction amount increased by 65 percent year-on-year, according to data released on JD's official account on Sina Weibo.

Its rival Tmall, online B2C platform of the giant Alibaba Group, said trading volumes of hundreds of brands had surpassed that of double 11 last year, with the highest increase being more than 40 times, according to news released by Alibaba Group.

"The huge number of online

orders shows that China has great potential as a consumption market," an industry insider who asked to remain anonymous told Global Times. "A lot of international brands participated in the shopping feast this year. They are optimistic about Chinese market."

The 618 mid-year campaign is another big online shopping festival initiated by JD since its competitor Alibaba founded the Double 11, or Singles' Day, which

is the largest online shopping festival in China.

Retailers are doing everything to compete in the campaign. JD offers discount and Tmall offers payment by installments with zero interest. Pinduoduo, a newcomer gives subsidies worth billions of yuan.

It's worth noting that Apple flagship store on Tmall joined the 618 e-commerce festival for the first time. The ranking list of sales of the 618 shows that mo-

bile phones, digital and 3C products are in the lead with mobile phone at the top.

A middle-aged engineer told Global Times that his wife bought televisions, intelligent speakers and other intelligent home appliances during the shopping spree.

"Pinduoduo offers group purchases and I can make orders with friends at a very low price," a 64-year-old retired woman surnamed Li told Global Times

Tuesday. "I like dancing after retirement. I often buy dance dresses on Pinduoduo with other ladies in the dance group. And then the group buying expands to daily consumption like fruits, oil, etc."

"I want to see if I'm lucky enough to snag Tmall's offer on the iPhone XR at 618 yuan, 90 percent off," 27-year-old office lady Cai who works for private equity told the Global Times.

"China is seeing an increase

in the consumption market and people's purchasing power," said the industry insider.

Retail sales of consumer goods reached 3.3 trillion yuan in May, up 8.6 percent year-on-year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

China's consumer market still has huge potential, said an official from the Department of Market Operation of MOC on June 17.

Global Times

The  
Guardian

# SPORT



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after beating Australia's Nick Kyrgios in a Men's singles match during day four of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Thursday, July 4, 2019. (AP Photo)

## Plenty of dramatics as Nadal tops Kyrgios at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND

RAFAEL Nadal was up near the Centre Court net when Nick Kyrgios smacked a booming forehand directly at the guy's midsection – right at him, on purpose – and earned a lengthy staredown in return.

Kyrgios didn't apologize, at the time or at his news conference – for that or for berating the chair umpire or for spending time at a local pub the night before the match.

Rarely does Kyrgios offer regrets, for much of anything. Instead, he tends to double down. He is nothing if not fascinating. He is talented, too. And yet it was Nadal who emerged from all of the tumult Thursday at Wimbledon to beat Kyrgios 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) in a second-round match boasting plenty of dramatics, a dose of animosity and delightful play by both men.

"I'm always willing to go out there and try and put on a show. I know people that bought a ticket today probably had a great day," said Kyrgios, a 24-year-old Australian who is ranked 43rd. "At times today, I was looking around. This is Wimbledon, playing Rafa. ... But I'll probably wake up tomorrow (and) there will be something negative about it, for sure."

Kyrgios is capable of being as entertaining and befuddling a player as there is and showed why throughout this 3-hour-plus contest that overshadowed everything else going on around the grass-court Grand Slam tournament on Day 4.

Defending champion Angelique Kerber was upset by Lauren Davis, an American who lost in qualifying but got into the main draw when someone else withdrew. Seven-time champion Serena Williams needed a comeback to win in three sets against an 18-year-old qualifier.

Williams' partner for mixed doubles, two-time Wimbledon singles winner Andy Murray, won his first-round match in men's doubles as he returned to the tournament for the first time in two years following two hip operations. Marcos Baghdatis, the 2006 Australian Open runner-up and a fan favorite, played what he says will be the last match of his career. Marin Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion and a 2017 Wimbledon finalist, lost, too.

None of that really mattered, in the end.

Everything was rendered secondary to Nadal vs. Kyrgios.

Part of that is because a 19-year-old Kyrgios beat then-No. 1 Nadal at the All England Club in 2014.

Part of that is because they traded barbs away from the court recently in a spat that also involved Nadal's uncle, Toni.

In the leadup to this meeting, Kyrgios joked that he didn't think "me and Rafa could go down to the Dog & Fox and have a beer together," referring to a nearby bar where

Kyrgios was spotted Wednesday night. The 33-year-old Nadal, meanwhile, observed that he was "too old for all this stuff."

They could hardly be more different, something Kyrgios underlined after he lost despite producing a 58-44 advantage in winners, including 29 aces – one a second serve at a tournament-high 143 mph and a pair that he hit with an underarm motion.

These two couldn't even agree on whether Kyrgios is capable of winning major championships.

Nadal's take? "With his talent and with his serve, he can win a Grand Slam, of course."

And Kyrgios' self-assessment? "I know what I'm capable of. Just depends. I'm a great tennis player, but I don't do the other stuff. I'm not the most professional guy. I won't train day in, day out. I won't show up every day. So there's a lot of things I need to improve on to get to that level that Rafa brings. ... But, no, at the moment I don't think I can contend for a Grand Slam."

He is ranked 43rd, and hasn't been past the quarterfinals at a major. But against Nadal, he displayed boundless power, guile, touch and athleticism.

Kyrgios, his shirt collared popped just so, seemed to act at times as if it were more important to look cool than to play well. The between-the-leg shots, the unnecessary leaping backhands and all the rest. On the initial point of the pivotal fourth-set tiebreaker, he jumped high for a showy overhead instead of making a safer putaway. The result? He deposited his shot ball in the net, then rolled his eyes and chucked away a ball. Soon, the match was over.

Much earlier, he had several loud arguments with chair umpire Damien Dumusois, complaining about all sorts of things, including how long Nadal took between points and whether the official was seeking too much attention. During the match, Kyrgios earned a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct after calling Dumusois a "disgrace." At his news conference, Kyrgios' insults of choice were "horrendous" and "terrible."

In the third set, there was that "dangerous" ball – Nadal's word – he sent toward the Spaniard, who blocked it with his racket at the last second. Perhaps startled, Nadal double-faulted on the next point. But he wound up holding serve, then celebrating like he'd won the match, leaping and yelling and punching the air. When he eventually did seal the victory, Nadal wagged a finger and shouted and fist-pumped some more.

Asked by a reporter why he didn't say sorry at the time, Kyrgios replied: "I didn't hit him. Hit his racket, no? Why would I apologize? I won the point. ... I mean, the dude has got how many Slams, how much money in the bank account? I think he can take a ball to the chest, bro."

AP



Former Everton FC players Leon Osman (C) and Steven Pienaar (L) speak to the press in Nairobi, Kenya on Thursday on the international friendly match pitting the English side against SportPesa Cup winners, Kariobangi Sharks of Kenya, which will take place at Kasarani Stadium in the city tomorrow. Sitting (R) is SportPesa Marketing Director, Kelvin Twissa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

## SportPesa Cup match preparations hot up

GUARDIAN REPORTER & AGENCIES

FORMER Everton FC great and the outfit's ambassador, Steven Pienaar, touched down in Nairobi early on Thursday to watch a historical match pitting the English side against Kariobangi Sharks of Kenya at the Kasarani Stadium tomorrow.

Everton are set to lock horns with the SportPesa Cup champions in the game which will climax the competition that was played in Tanzania from January 22-27.

Much as he has met cold weather in Nairobi and had faced change in flight timetable which delayed his trip for one hour

Pienaar, the former Bafana Bafana skipper enthusiastic about the match, which is set to be entertaining.

"I'm very happy to be here on behalf of Everton. I hope to experience a pleasant day here and meet Kenyans," Pienaar, who played 161 matches for Everton, disclosed.

"With the side set to come soon, I expect to have a good weekend here."

Pienaar will join fellow former Everton great, Leon Osman, with the latter having arrived in the city a day before for several social activities aiming at developing sports in Kenya.

Everton are set to confront Kariobangi Sharks in an international encounter that will see the English side visit Kenya for the first time.

It will as well be a second visit by the club in East Africa in three years.

Everton had toured Tanzania in 2017 to lock horns with the then SportPesa Cup winners Gor Mahia of Kenya at the National Stadium on July 13.

Kariobangi Sharks got the opportunity to confront Everton after the Kenyan outfit has emerged as champions of SportPesa Cup, edging compatriots Bandari FC 1-0 in the final that took place this year.

## Local ticket demand exceeds 2020 organisers' expectations

TOKYO

TOKYO 2020 organisers said on Friday they had underestimated Japanese demand for tickets after 3.22 million briefs were sold during the first domestic sales phase last month.

The unexpected demand prompted organisers to re-evaluate their Japan-based sales going forward and there will now be a second ticket lottery in August for those who missed out the first time around.

Organisers say hundreds of thousands of tickets will be available in the second lottery.

The exact format of the second phase has yet to be decided but will only be open to those who failed to obtain tickets the first time around, when results were announced on June 20.

The window will close by Aug. 22, when the application process for Paralympics tickets is scheduled to begin.

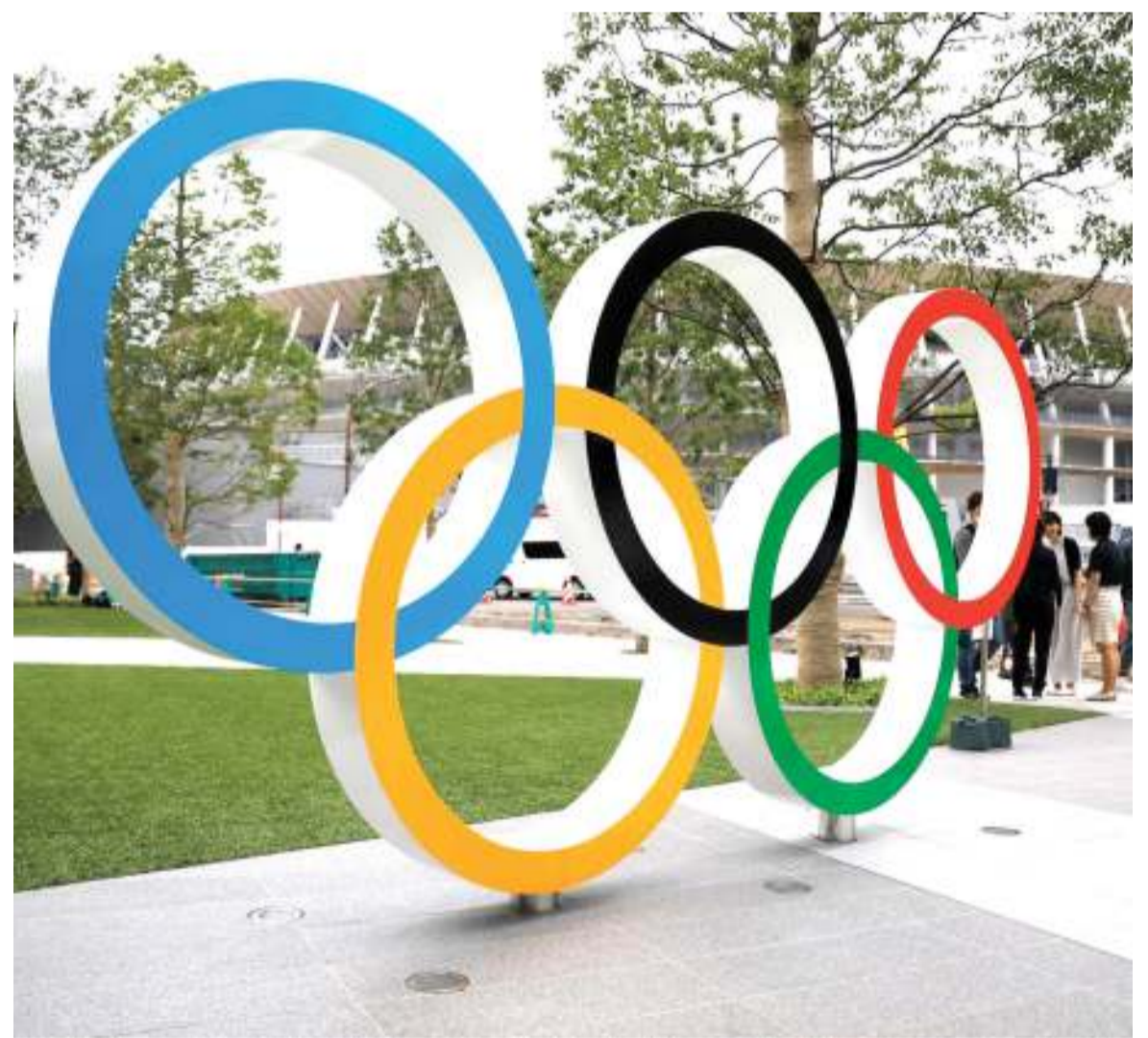
"There was a massive amount of applications received in the first wave and this absolutely exceeded our expectations," Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya said on Friday.

"So in that respect, we are pleased to see such huge excitement being built up amongst people across Japan."

Organisers have also ditched plans to offer further unsold tickets on a first-come, first-served basis later in the autumn, as had been originally proposed.

There is now likely to be a third lottery phase instead, only open once again to Japan-based residents.

Those wishing to purchase tickets outside Japan must do so through country-specific Authorised



Olympic rings are displayed in front of the construction site of the New National Stadium, the main stadium of Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, during a media opportunity in Tokyo, Japan July 3, 2019. REUTERS

ized Ticket Resellers.

Between 70-80 percent of all tickets have been reserved for domestic sale with the remainder allocated to international customers and sponsors.

"As far as we know, the reaction from the public to this second chance is being well

received ... and by those who participated in the first wave," added Takaya.

"So, we are right on track but we want to continue making our best effort."

Organisers say that over 7.5 million people had registered for the Tokyo fan ID needed to

make a ticket application.

Although the total number of tickets available has yet to be announced as many venue designs are still being worked on, organisers said in their bid for the 2020 Games that 7.8 million tickets would be made available.

REUTERS



## Nations Cup serves up old-school refereeing

CAIRO

THE Africa Cup of Nations, with VAR only due to be introduced in the quarter-finals, has offered a trip back to the old days of refereeing with some crunching tackles allowed and an absence of contentious handball penalties.

The absence of the VAR system has led to a different style of officiating than seen in the Champions League, the Nations League and the women's World Cup.

In contrast to those competitions, where the merest hint of contact or the most innocuous-looking handball can lead to a match-deciding penalty, AFCON referees have given defenders more leeway and generally greeted theatricals with disdain.

They have often avoided penalties that might have been awarded in other parts of the world, as Wilfried Zaha found out in Ivory Coast's 4-1 win over Namibia.

The Premier League-based player went down following a challenge by Larry Horaeb and made the most of it, but unimpressed referee Peter Waweru of Kenya waved play on.

Similarly, Senegal forward Sadio Mane was denied a penalty when he was sandwiched between Algeria defenders -- a decision which would almost certainly have gone in his favour if he had been playing for Liverpool in the Premier League or Champions League.

Of the eight penalties awarded in the 36 group matches, all were for obvious fouls and none were for handball.

There has been a general absence of theatrical behaviour by the players who have generally avoided going to ground at the slightest contact.

Apart from a few exceptions, the tournament has also been happily free of the so-called "mobbing" of referees, where players bully the official by surrounding him, shouting and gesticulating.

An unhappy side-effect, however, is that, with referees producing yellow cards for only the roughest of tackles, the foul count has been very high.

Teams have been able to use so-called tactical fouling in midfield

to disrupt their opponents' rhythm and prevent them stringing passes together.

Algeria, who won their group without conceding a goal, clocked up a remarkable 28 fouls in their 1-0 win over Senegal, yet received only two yellow cards. Senegal also received two yellows for 18 fouls in a stop-start match.

Cameroon's 0-0 draw with Ghana produced 28 fouls but only one yellow card, Ghana's 2-0 win over Guinea-Bissau featured 44 free kicks as did Morocco's 1-0 win over Ivory Coast -- 27 of them from Morocco -- but only two bookings.

### ECCENTRIC DECISIONS

There have been eccentric decisions such as the sending-off of Ghana defender John Boye against Benin -- one of only three red cards in the group stage.

Already booked, Boye stepped up to take a free kick inside his own half, moved away to let goalkeeper Richard Ofori take it and was given a second yellow card by Youssef Essrayri of Tunisia.

Still, there has barely been a post-match interview or news conference where refereeing has been the main issue and it will be intriguing to see what happens when VAR comes into play especially given the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) unhappy recent experience with the new technology.

In the second leg of the CAF Champions League final last month, Moroccan side Wydad Casablanca refused to play on against Tunisia's Esperance after having a goal disallowed and walked off the pitch when the decision was not referred to the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

Esperance were immediately declared champions but CAF later backtracked and awarded a replay which has yet to take place.

In the meantime, participants seem happy with what they have got. "When we come to different parts of the world, it's exactly what we like," said Cameroon coach Clarence Seedorf after the Ghana match. "To be diverse, and not expect the same thing in every country."

REUTERS

## Lampard never spoke to Abramovich in Chelsea return

LONDON

FRANK Lampard revealed he did not speak to Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich prior to being appointed the club's new head coach, adding that director Marina Granovskaia instead led the recruitment process.

Chelsea unveiled Lampard to the media on Thursday after securing him on a three-year contract from Derby County as the replacement for Maurizio Sarri, who left to take over at Juventus last month.

Lampard has a long-standing relationship with Abramovich dating back to his illustrious 13-year stint as a Chelsea player, but said the conversations that ultimately sealed his return to Stamford Bridge were held with Granovskaia, who oversees the day-to-day running of the club on the billionaire's behalf.

"I haven't spoken to him at the minute," Lampard said of Abramovich. "I have spoken a lot to Marina. We have spoken in detail and in depth because it is about how I want to work with the club and how they want me to work with them."

"I will be speaking with the owner in pre-season. I know he is a busy man and I know he is a very private man and I respect that completely so it won't be one where I come out explaining what has been said."

"I do think one of the benefits of me being here is that I don't need huge amounts of conversation. The conversations I had with Marina were exactly as I expected. We want to be competitive, yes we want to bring young players through but that is something I should look to do

anyway -- it isn't a major part of the conversation and we want to win.

"I felt that from the minute the owner came in years and years ago. I remember him landing at Harlington, coming and speaking to us and for me the landscape of the club changed in an instant because of the desire for excellence."

"A desire for excellence in training facilities at the time, standards on the pitch at the time and I don't think the levels have dropped since then."

"It is not easy every year. Nobody can win the league year in, year out and have complete success. But for me that hasn't changed, so when I do speak to the owner I expect him to demand the same things I demand of myself and the team."

Lampard's return to Chelsea, with former academy coach Jody Morris as his assistant, has raised hopes that the club may finally be prepared to give their most talented homegrown prospects an opportunity to shine in the first team. But while he views it as a key part of his job to create a pathway for talented youngsters, Lampard was also keen to stress opportunities to play in his Chelsea team will need to be earned.

"The reality is we should be competing no matter what and my job is to try and find a balance between the players that think they are in the first-team squad and the players breaking through," he added. "There is no use me sitting here and saying I'm going to play all the young players. They have to show individually they can do it so the balance from me will be to remain competitive and bring them through." (Agencies)

# Goal-shy Cameroon now bank on Ekambi in mega clash with Nigeria

CAIRO

CAMEROON coach Clarence Seedorf wants forward Karl Toko Ekambi to rediscover his La Liga form when they meet Nigeria on Saturday in an Africa Cup of Nations last-16 blockbuster in Egypt.

Ekambi was the leading Villarreal scorer in the Spanish top flight last season with 10 goals, but has failed to find the net for the Indomitable Lions in three group matches.

Seedorf tried various attack combinations, all including Ekambi, but after a 2-0 win over Guinea-Bissau, the defending champions were held to 0-0 draws by Ghana and Benin.

Former Dutch star Seedorf deflected media criticism away from his misfiring forwards, saying: "Sometimes teams do not score for weeks and forwards do not score for months."

"Karl and the other forwards have to improve a few details, be smarter and create more chances," added the four-time UEFA Champions League winner.

"We pushed forward in each group game, we introduced attacking players off the bench, but we dare not try crazy stuff. We have to respect our opponents."

Here, AFP Sport looks at the Saturday matches with the clash of Cameroon and Nigeria in Alexandria too close to call, while hosts Egypt are expected to defeat South Africa in Cairo.

### Cameroon v Nigeria

In 2004, the last time Cameroon



were Cup of Nations defending champions, they were eliminated in the first knockout round by Nigeria.

The great rivals have met six times in the biennial tournament, including three finals that Cameroon won, one

after a penalty shootout.

Only once did more than one goal separate the sides and the latest episode at the 20,000-seat Alexandria Stadium looks evenly balanced.

After single-goal victories over Burundi and Guinea, Nigeria came a cropper against minnows Madagascar, losing 2-0 to finish second in the group and get tougher last-16 opponents.

Captain and former Chelsea midfielder John Obi Mikel put a positive spin on the setback, saying: "It is better this (losing) happened now than in the knockout stages."

### Egypt v South Africa

Unlike the showdown between Cameroon and Nigeria, this match appears easy to call with record seven-time champions Egypt overwhelming favourites to defeat poorly performing South Africa.

While the Pharaohs won all three group games without conceding a goal, Bafana Bafana (The Boys) sneaked into the last 16 as the lowest of the best four third-place qualifiers.

Prolific Liverpool scorer Mohamed Salah and Mahmoud "Trezeguet" Hassan have been constant threats in attack for Egypt while Aston Villa right-back Ahmed Elmohamady netted twice. In stark contrast, South Africa did not have a single goal attempt on target in losses against the Ivory Coast and Morocco.

But South Africa coach Stuart Baxter sees a glimmer of hope, telling reporters: "If we can improve our attacking game by 10 to 15 percent, we

will give Egypt problems."

Meanwhile, Marco Ilaimaharitra of fairytale Africa Cup of Nations last-16 qualifiers Madagascar will miss the match against the Democratic Republic of Congo in Egypt on Sunday because of a suspension.

The midfielder, who played the full 90 minutes in wins over Burundi and Nigeria and a draw with Guinea, was yellow-carded in two of those matches, resulting in a one-game ban.

Ilaimaharitra, of Belgian club Racing Club Charleroi, scored the only goal of the match against Burundi direct from a free-kick and then helped stun three-time former champions Nigeria.

Should Madagascar eliminate the Congolese in Alexandria, he will be eligible for a quarter-final against Ghana or Tunisia.

South Africa midfielder Themba Zwane and Benin forward Steve Mounie have also been ruled out of last-16 matches due to one-match bans after being yellow-carded in two games.

Zwane will have to watch his country play hosts Egypt in Cairo from the stands Saturday and Mounie has been sidelined when Benin face Morocco in the Egyptian capital 24 hours earlier.

Players yellow-carded once during the group stage have had them cancelled, meaning they all start the four-round knockout phase with clean slates.

Ghana defender John Boye was the only player red-carded in the first round and has already served his one-match ban.

AFP

# Will Lampard sink or swim as Chelsea boss?

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

WHEN Frank Lampard took his first steps in management and landed the job at Derby County in May 2018, the fairytale scenario was that the former Chelsea and England midfielder would end up back at Stamford Bridge at some point, only this time in the seat previously occupied by the likes of Jose Mourinho and Carlo Ancelotti. But nobody, not even Lampard himself, could have imagined he would be fast-tracked into the job of his dreams just a year after starting out as a manager.

Despite one season in the Championship with Derby that saw the 41-year-old achieve only the bare minimum of what was expected of him, a place in the end-of-season playoffs, Lampard now finds himself with the title of Chelsea head coach. For that he can thank the unique situation in which Chelsea find themselves this summer, with the club starting a two-window transfer ban that undoubtedly helped Lampard secure the post made vacant due to Maurizio Sarri's departure for Juventus.

Any experienced manager or coach with anything like the CV that Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich once demanded of his appointments wouldn't risk their reputation by taking on a team that had just lost its best player, Eden Hazard, and was unable to add any reinforcements for at least 12 months. It left Chelsea with few credible options, and Lampard, as a Stamford Bridge legend, was never going to reject the opportunity to take charge of the team.

Chelsea have taken a similar approach to Manchester United following the sacking of Mourinho last December in appointing a universally popular former player as manager, but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's up-and-down spell in charge at Old Trafford has already highlighted the positives and negatives of the emotional pull when hiring a club legend to run the team.

In many ways, Chelsea have taken an even bigger gamble on Lampard than United did by handing Solskjaer a three-year contract.

Solskjaer could at least point to six months in charge of Cardiff City in the Premier League, as well as two spells with Norwegian outfit Molde, as proof of his experience. Lampard has had only one year in management, outside the Premier League, and he did the bare minimum. His return to Chelsea has more to do with his time as a player than his brief résumé as a manager.

At Derby, Lampard won fewer than



Lampard was a Chelsea icon as a player but it remains to be seen if he's ready for the Stamford Bridge dugout. (Agencies)

half of his 57 games in charge, posting 24 victories, 17 draws and 16 defeats. Those are hardly the statistics of a manager likely to force Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp to suffer sleepless nights next season.

His Derby side played on the front foot, attacking opponents and scoring 69 league goals in the process, but they also conceded 54 in 46 games. If Chelsea are looking for some kind of continuity, they can probably expect

a similar approach from Lampard that Sarri adopted last season in terms of an emphasis being placed on attacking. Without Hazard, however, it will be asking a lot of U.S. international Christian Pulisic to fill the void regardless of how Lampard sends his team out to play.

Despite the hurdles that Lampard must overcome, those who have worked alongside him attest to his drive for perfection and ability make

those around him better. Vincent Kompany, who played alongside the former midfielder for a season at Manchester City, spoke earlier this week about how Lampard raised standards following his arrival at the Etihad, bringing with him the winning mentality that had been ground into him by the likes of Mourinho, Ancelotti and even Abramovich at Chelsea.

Having been controversially released by Chelsea at the end of his playing contract in June 2014, Lampard's determination to prove a point saw him enjoy an impressive swansong at City before moving to New York City FC in MLS, and he will return to Stamford Bridge with that same drive to prove his doubters wrong.

There are, undoubtedly, many who will believe that this job has come too soon for him and that he risks souring his association with Chelsea by taking it on now after just a year in management. But Lampard will do it his way, and his decision to bring Derby assistant Jody Morris with him to Chelsea is a pointer to that. Morris, another former Chelsea player, was a key figure in the club's successful youth set-up before leaving for Derby 12 months ago, and he will know which of the many emerging stars at Stamford Bridge will be capable of making the step up to the first team. It's hoped that in doing so, the pair can turn Chelsea's transfer ban into an opportunity rather than a hindrance.

If Lampard and Morris can tap into the Chelsea production line and transform the team into one that relies on homegrown talent rather than expensive acquisitions, this appointment can prove to be a success story. But Lampard is now embarking on the toughest challenge of his football career, whether he is ready or not.

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Union cricketers target Jaat Blasters scalp in GP Gymkhana Shield opener

## SPORT

Goal-shy Cameroon now bank on Ekambi in mega clash with Nigeria

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Ellis praises introduction of COSAFA U-20 Women Championship

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa senior women's coach Desiree Ellis led her side to the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup and has praised the work of COSAFA in helping the team to get to the showpiece competition in France.

Ellis is especially excited about the introduction of COSAFA women's Under-20 and Under-17 competitions this year, which she says will be a major boost to all teams in the region in their bid to compete on the African stage.

Eight sides will take part in the inaugural COSAFA Women's Under-20 Championship that will be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay from August 1-11, when the next generation of young stars will be able to test themselves against their peers.

"For the Under-20 teams it is fantastic that the competition is being played. It will help the profile of the teams and the profile of the region. Coupled with the Under-17 tournament in September, it is a big boost for the region," Ellis said.

"Zambia has been the Under-17 World Cup, as has South Africa twice, so having these tournaments in the region can only help the growth of women's football in Southern Africa."

South Africa and Zambia will also take part in the All Africa Games Under-20 football competition that will be played in Morocco from August 17-29, meaning the COSAFA event will be vital preparation for that.

"With the All Africa Games coming up not long after the Under-20 tournament, it is going to help them prepare, which is fantastic," Ellis says.

"This region can only grow from strength to strength, it is a great initiative from COSAFA, for us to be able to go watch the young ones and them to be able to come and watch us. We can inspire each other!"

Ellis has steered South Africa to the last two senior titles in COSAFA and says those tournaments played a massive role in Banyana Banyana's eventual qualification for the World Cup.

"People cannot imagine how COSAFA has helped us in preparing us for Afcon, to get to the World Cup," she said.

The draw for the COSAFA Women's Under-20 Championship was made on Wednesday.

Group A looks a very competitive one, with South Africa up against Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, in what is certainly a Group of Death.

Group B contains Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania and Eswatini, and will also be eagerly contested.

The tournament will run alongside the senior championship, which is also being staged in Nelson Mandela Bay from July 31-August 11.

By Guardian Reporter

UNION cricketers will be eager to start to their campaign in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament in grand fashion, when they lock horns with Jaat Blasters in the event's opening match that will take place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval today.

The DGC Cricket Section Captain, Ashish Nagewadia, noted the T20 formatted event, which has brought together over 400 participants, will run for 14 weeks with the

oval hosting all of the competition's matches.

Union, who laid their hands on the title in the 2016 edition of the tournament, did not have a good outing in the 2018 event and they will this time around be out to play their hearts out and replicate their exploits in the 2016 competition.

Anadil Burhani will play Punjabi Kings in one of two encounters, penned for Sunday. In the day's other match, Kanbis, who reached the last four stage of the last year's competition, will lock horns with new entrants Young Muslims shortly thereafter.

Nagewadia noted all six teams led by experienced captains and star players will be looking forward to winning their opening games to set the tone for the rest of the tournament.

This year's GP Gymkhana Shield has General Petroleum (GP) and Premier Refinishes as main sponsors, and co-sponsors MGen Tanzania, Sayona Drinks, SBC Tanzania, ASAR Limited, JayKey Trading, I&M Bank and AFRO Turk.

Nagewadia and Abhik Patwa, the section's Vice Captain, added the duo, together with the competition's organizing committee, are extremely confident that this season's edition will be a huge success.

"It will see more entertaining games as all of the squads are well balanced and the experience of key players will play a key



Kishen Kamania, one of players who will compete in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition, poses with the trophy, which will be handed over to the tournament's winners, during the launch in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

part in their success," the duo disclosed.

Nagewadia had disclosed at the competition's launch last weekend the tournament would have been played in February,

this year, but it was cancelled due various issues against DGC.

"It was ultimately approved due to the support of the club management and Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and

Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe," he added.

"I would like to thank them for looking at the wider picture of cricket development rather than trivial issues that always harm the development of the cricket."

"Due to the misunderstanding, we lost two lead sponsors, who had offered significant amount of cash to host this tournament."

The sponsors' decision to opt out, as disclosed by him, came about because of the uncertainty and negative publicity the situation was attracting.

"It has not been a smooth ride for this season's edition but, in the end, we made it," he noted.

"This competition would not have taken place if we had not received the support from General Petroleum."

"When all doors for support were closed, I called General Petroleum official, Zafar Khan, to once again support us and within a short time he approved his company's readiness to serve as lead sponsors."

"Premier Refinishes followed suit, turning into the tournament's other main sponsors... without General Petroleum and Premier Refinishes we would have hosted this tournament," he noted.

"We, as well, would not have managed to import full uniforms that we will present to the participating outfits."

"I use this opportunity to wholeheartedly appreciate the support that has come at such a short notice."

# SBL holds luncheon to welcome Taifa Stars back from AFCON

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL), sponsors for senior national football team's, Taifa Stars, held a luncheon for the side in Dar es Salaam to welcome them from Egypt where the team competed in the on-going Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Taifa Stars lost all three group stage matches and the side were therefore unable to make it to the round of 16 of the tournament.

Anitha Rwehumbiza, SBL's Acting Marketing Director, noted the squad nevertheless deserves credit for managing to qualify for the biggest African soccer tournament in nearly four decades.

Speaking at the luncheon, Anitha thanked Taifa Stars players and the coaching staff for making the dream come true for Tanzania to take part in Africa's finest competition.

"To be able to qualify after so many years of failure is, in itself, a major step forward for our national team, at this stage, the players and everyone involved with team deserves credit," she said.



Taifa Stars' players and coaches in a group photo with Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Acting Marketing Director, Anitha Rwehumbiza, after the side had arrived in Dar es Salaam mid this week from Egypt, where they battled it out in the AFCON finals. SBL, Taifa Stars' sponsors, hosted a luncheon for the squad in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

She, on the one hand, disclosed that Stars' level of performance in matches was also of improved quality, despite poor results.

On the other hand, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) secretary general, Wilfred Kidao, thanked SBL for their support to the national team.

The TFF official said the firm's sponsorship is key to making the team succeed to not only qualify for AFCON 2019 but also perform well in the other competitions laying ahead. The assignments are the upcoming African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers, a competition which is exclusively for players playing in their domes-

tic leagues. "We will meet with the technical bench and assess Stars' participation in AFCON 2019, thereafter, we will come up with a strategy for CHAN qualifiers," the TFF official added.

He pointed out that a major lesson had been learnt from Cairo.

Taifa Stars participated in this year's AFCON tournament for the

first time since they last managed to qualify for the same for about 39 years ago.

Stars were drawn in Group C of the continental showdown where they played against two of Africa soccer giants and favourites to win the competition, namely Senegal and Algeria, as well as a neighbouring Kenya.



Tabora Regional Education Officer, Suzan Nusu (4th L), poses for a photo with a section of the region's youngsters who battled it out in this year's Umitashumta tournament, which took place in Mtwara recently. Tabora emerged as overall winners of the competition, which also involved sports disciplines for children with disabilities. The region collected 153.5 points in soccer, netball, basketball, athletics, sanitary, as well as arts. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

A SLEEPING PILLOW is actual a SLEEPING PILL...

