

Chimps using tools for complex tasks pass those skills on - study

ST LOUIS, WASHINGTON

CHIMPANZEES that use a multi-step process and complex tools to gather termites are more likely to share tools with novices, researchers report.

For most wild chimpanzees, tool use is an important part of life—but learning these skills is no simple feat. Wild chimpanzees transfer tools to each other, and this behavior has previously been shown to serve as a form of teaching.

The study helps illuminate chimpanzees' capacity for prosocial—or helping—behavior, a quality recognized for its potential role in the evolution of human cultural abilities.

“Non-human primates are often thought to learn tool skills by watching others and practicing on their own, with little direct help from mothers or other expert tool users,” says Stephanie Musgrave, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Miami and first author of the study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“In contrast, the results from this research indicate that social learning may vary in relation to how challenging the



The researchers found differences in the rate, probability, and types of tool transfer during termite gathering between these two populations

task is: during tasks that are more difficult, mothers can in fact play a more active role, including behaviors that function as teaching.” Beginning with Jane Goodall in the 1960s, researchers have been studying chimpanzee tool use for decades at the Gombe Stream Research Center in Tanzania. The Gombe chimpanzee study is one of the longest running studies of animal behavior in the wild. This year marks the 20-year anniversary of the study of chimpanzees in the Goulougo Triangle, Republic of Congo, where researchers have documented some of the most complex tool behaviors of chimpanzees.

The study is distinctive because it applies standardized methods to directly compare how processes of cultural transmission may differ between two populations of wild chimpanzees. In both populations, the chimpanzees use tools to target the same resource—but the task varies in complexity.

The findings of the current study are important on a number of levels, Musgrave says. “First, chimpanzee populations

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RC hears prisoners' complaints, 75 Ethiopians wrongly still in jail



The transport situation in Moshi Urban bus stand is still tense following the huge number of passengers going back to work stations as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshi

Former inmate, an Ethiopian national Tagabu Tambabre, speaking on behalf of others said they have finished their two-year sentences but were still in jail and asked the Tanzania government to set them free and transport them back home to continue with their lives in their own country

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MTWARA Regional Commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa has formed a special team to probe complaints raised by inmates and remandees at Lilungu Prison that still holds 75 inmates from Ethiopia despite finishing their two-year jail time.

The RC took the step yesterday after visiting the prison, where he listened to various complaints from inmates.

He said he was enraged by complaints from some of the remandees and inmates of the prison.

One among the complaints that compelled him to form the special committee was that some prisoners are being prosecuted over offences quite different to the crimes they committed.

He said other complaints included one over the 75 Ethiopian nationals who were still in jail even though they had finished their jail times.

The RC affirmed that these complaints were enough for him to probe into the situation so as to get to the bottom of the circumstances.



He said all criminals should be prosecuted on crimes they had committed, not anything else including trumped up charges

He said all criminals should be prosecuted on crimes they had committed, not anything else including trumped up charges.

Speaking on behalf of other complaining prisoners, one inmate Leonard Igogo said he is faced with a civil case involving 3m/- but the case has been turned into an economic sabotage one involving 3b/-.

At the initial stages of the case he said he was ready to pay the demanded money of 3m/- but he was denied to do so and the case was turned into an economic sabotage one.

“Prosecutors have been changing remandees’ cases hence we thank you for coming to listen to us to know the truth of what has been going on,” the inmate told the RC.

Former inmate, an Ethiopian national Tagabu Tambabre, speaking on behalf of others said they have finished their two-year sentences but were still in jail and asked the Tanzania government to set them free and transport them back home to continue with their lives in their own country.

Zanzibar embarks on 'blue economy' path

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said the Isles are in the process of implementing blue economy strategies and steps were being taken to attain that goal.

The president said so yesterday in his speech at a ceremony to lay the cornerstone for the construction of a fish port-cum-market at Malindi, in Zanzibar Urban West Region as part of activities to mark 56 years of the Zanzibar Revolution, climaxing on January 12.

He said blue economy is anything that is found in the sea and its shores and already the government is implementing the realization of this kind of economy.



The government is building the port and the fish market at Malindi which will have the capacity for 6,000 people to work therein

In that direction, Zanzibar has established the Zanzibar Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO) which has already launched one fishing trawler and others are in the offing, he said.

The government is building the port and the fish market at Malindi which will have the capacity for 6,000 people to work therein.

The people of Zanzibar are surrounded by the sea but it has not been fully exploited, and instead people from foreign countries have been coming to steal their fish, including tuna.

He said Zanzibar history shows that Zanzibaris started fishing before farming, hence fishing has a long history, stressing that there is need to employ modern fishing methods, including having a fishing port, a market and modern fishing equipment.

He said there is also need to develop modern ports, so the government has resolved to build a new port at Mpigaduri and another port to handle oil and gas at Mangapwani. It also intends to remove all oil storage tanks at Mtoni, as these

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Anti-FGM activists rescue 3,400 girls

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

OVER 3,400 girls have been rescued from the pangs of female genital mutilation (FGM) that had been earmarked for them for the period 2018 and 2019 following education given to the society on the adverse effects of circumcision, child marriages and pregnancies.

The girls, whose exact number is 3,494, were rescued by the Association for Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (ATFGM), a non-governmental organization (NGO) based at



Masanga, in Mara Region after establishing 193 clubs for children rights in primary and secondary schools.

Speaking with this paper at the weekend, the managing director of ATFGM Masanga, Sister Stella Mgaya said 434 were Tanzanians and 55 Kenyans for the year 2018 and for 2019 there were 3005 rescued children hence the total comes to 3494.

“We have been working together with Tarime District authorities and other stakeholders. We

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steps will create employment and increase trade.

Dr Shein (pictured) thanked the Japanese government for assistance extended to attain these goals, promising that the government and the people of Zanzibar will play their part and will deliver.

Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri, the Isles Minister for Agriculture, Natural resources, Livestock and Fisheries said the ministry has put in place special procedures to closely follow up work on the projects to ensure they are completed in time.

The government will also put up a friendly environment to enable fishermen to develop their fishing capacity for their own economic development, he elaborated.

He also warned over environmental destruction from illegal fishing activities including dynamite fishing that destroys coral formations. The government will provide education to fishermen on the need to preserve the sea environment, he stated.

He also congratulated Dr Shein for the step to establish a fishing research institute whose work is expected to be completed next June.

Mariam Juma Abdalla Saadalla, the permanent secretary in the ministry, said laying the cornerstone for the fish market and fishing port follows long time efforts by the Zanzibar Government.

She said the modern fish market



building and the port are being constructed by Rinkai Nissan Construction Co. of Japan in collaboration with SCI Co. based in Dar es Salaam, along with Coastal Dredging Co. of Zanzibar.

Construction will cost 26.491bn/- out of which 22.776bn/- is grant from the Japanese government through its international development arm, JICA and 3.715bn/- will be provided by the Zanzibar Government.

The contract of the construction work was sealed on March 26 2019 and work started in June.

The market will consist of six platforms for fish auctions, 141 stalls for sellers out of which 76 will be immovable and 13 areas for fish processing, and an ice making plant producing three tons of ice per day.

The market will be able to berth 24 vessels at a time, and involve 1,400 labourers in unloading and loading fish, the top ministerial official noted.



Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Selemani Jaffo (C) addresses residents in Chunya district, Mbeya region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa.

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succeeded to enroll into schools 402 children, out of whom 150 benefitted with training in various skills, 180 in primary schools and 72 in secondary schools. Still we face stiff opposition from traditional leaders who see the institution goes against traditional customs especially over the issue of

Anti-FGM activists rescue 3,400 girls

FGM," said Sister Mgaya.

They also face challenges from some parents who refuse taking back their children after camp season ends, and some are put to FGM by force, she

stated.

Some of the children who had received education and safe circumcision done to them were taken to traditional FGM by force. "This is a

challenge that has built enmity between the society and our institution," she specified.

Tarime District Commissioner Mtemi Msafiri said the government

will never succumb to small groups of people who are bent on destroying the society, vowing that all those engaging in illegal FGM will be dealt with by the law.

"FGM is widespread and is being enhanced by traditional elders despite receiving education through various seminars on unsafe circumcision, but they still do not want to abide by the laws. We shall arrest and take legal action against all those involved and severe punishment will be meted out."



Children preparing to return to school. Parents shop around for affordable uniforms for their children as captured in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

NAIROBI

Shabaab report on Manda Bay attack exaggerated: US army

Al-Shabaab's report on yesterday attack at Manda Bay Airfield in Lamu County was exaggerated, the US military has said.

Manda Bay is an area where US forces provide training and counter-terrorism support to East African partners.

Following the ambush at dawn, the terror group issued a statement, saying there were "severe casualties on both Kenyan and American troops stationed there".

It added, "The Mujahideen fighters covertly entered enemy lines, successfully stormed the heavily fortified military base and have now taken effective control of a part of the base."

But the US Africa Command, Africom, dismissed the group's statement, saying the message was distorted to create the wrong impression.

"Al-Shabaab resorts to lies, coercion, and the

exertion of force to bolster their reputation to create false headlines," said Maj. Gen. William Gayler, US Africa Command's Director of Operations.

Al-Shabaab also claimed it seized part of the military base and that fighting was ongoing.

Africom, however, noted that the airfield had been cleared and was being secured. "The security situation at Manda Bay is fluid. Al-Shabaab is a terrorist group that has repeatedly communicated an intent to attack US interests. It is important to counter Al-Shabaab where they stand to prevent the spread of this cancer."

The command said more information will be released after personnel are accounted for.

In its statement, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) said the attackers were successfully repulsed.

The army also said four bodies of Al-Shabaab fighters were found and that a fire that broke out during the attack.

"Arising from the unsuccessful breach [was a fire that affected] some of the fuel tanks at the airstrip. The fire has been put under control and standard security procedures are ongoing," it said in a statement posted on its official social media pages.

Earlier, Lamu County Commissioner Irungu Macharia said five suspected terrorists had been arrested in connection to Sunday's attack.

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may vary not only in the complexity of their tool behaviors but in the social mechanisms that support these behaviors," she says. "Second, the capacity for helping in chimpanzees may be both more robust and more flexible than previously appreciated."

CHIMPANZEES AS TEACHERS

Among animals, chimpanzees are exceptional tool users. Different groups of chimpanzees use different types of tools—and likewise, researchers have suggested the teaching process might be customized to facilitate these local skills.

In this study, researchers examined the transfer of tools between chimpanzees during termite gathering, and compared the population in the Goulougo Triangle, Republic of Congo, with the population in Gombe, Tanzania.

Termites and other insects are a valuable source of fat and protein in the diet of wild chimpanzees and also contribute important vitamins and minerals. Termites build complex nest structures that encompass a network of below-ground chambers, sometimes topped with a towering, freestanding mound reaching several meters high.

Chimpanzees in both locations use fishing-probe style tools to harvest termites, but Goulougo chimpanzees use multiple, different types of tools sequentially. They also make tools from specific plant species and customize fishing probes to improve their efficiency.

The researchers found differences in the rate, probability, and types of tool transfer during termite gathering between these two populations.

At Goulougo, where the fishing tasks were more complex, the rate of tool transfer was three times higher than at Gombe, and Goulougo mothers were more likely to transfer a tool in response to a request. Further, mothers at Goulougo most often responded to tool requests by actively giving a tool to offspring.

Such active transfers were never observed at Gombe, where mothers most often responded by refusing to transfer tools. Given that offspring in both populations made comparable requests for tools, these differences suggest that mothers at Goulougo were in fact more willing to provide tools. "We have previously documented that tool transfers at Goulougo function as a form of teaching," says Crickette Sanz, associate professor of biological anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. "The population differences we observed in the present study suggest that teaching may be related specifically

to the demands of learning to manufacture tools at Goulougo, where chimpanzees use multiple tool types, make tools from select plant species, and perform modifications that increase tool efficiency." "An increased role for this type of social learning may thus be an important component of the transmission of complex tool traditions over generations," she says.

"While Gombe and Goulougo chimpanzees both fish for termites, we suspected that there might be differences in how this skill is acquired," says Elizabeth Lonsdorf, associate professor of psychology at Franklin & Marshall College. "But only after many years of accumulating these data were we able to rigorously quantify these differences."

"To date, prosocial helping in chimpanzees has been principally examined in captivity or using differing methods in the wild," says Stephen Ross, director of the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes at Lincoln Park Zoo. "This study provides novel evidence for helping behavior in wild chimpanzees and demonstrates that chimpanzees can help flexibly depending on context."

PASSING IT ON

Understanding how chimpanzees pass on tool traditions over generations can provide insights into the evolutionary origins of complex cultural abilities in humans.

"Human evolution is characterized by the emergence and elaboration of complex technologies, which is often attributed to our species' aptitude for passing skills onto one another through mechanisms such as teaching and imitation. However, the evolutionary origins of these capacities remain unclear," Musgrave says. "Our research shows that the human propensity to assist others in acquiring complex skills may build at least in part upon capacities that we share with our closest living relatives."

Conservation efforts are fundamental to this research and future studies. "Chimpanzees and their cultures are endangered," says Emma Stokes, director of the Central Africa Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society. "Recent research shows that human activity imperils the survival of chimpanzee cultures. Studying our closest living relatives offers a unique opportunity to gain insights into the evolutionary origins of cultural behavior—but this privilege depends on long-term efforts to conserve these apes and their habitats."

Additional researchers are from Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Miami, and Franklin & Marshall College.



Home Affairs deputy Permanent Secretary Ramadhani Kailima (C) briefing Fire and Rescue Force finance and administration commissioner Mbaraka Semwanza (R) and administration and human resources director Emmanuel Kayuni (2nd R) during his visit at the construction of a new office in Dodoma over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Veronica Mwafisi

Protect Zanzibar revolution, advises Dr Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has urged all Zanzibaris to keep on protecting and honouring the country's revolution as it has brought peace, unity and development among the residents.

According to him, it was vital for the revolution to occur in 1964 so as to fight exploitation, racism as well as bring equality in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

He made the remarks during the ceremony to lay foundation stone for the construction of Michezani Mall and Sheikh Thabit Kombo building at Mapinduzi Square grounds in Zanzibar.

The event was part of celebrations of the 56th anniversary of Zanzibar revolution.

Dr Shein said that he once promised to build Michezani mall and the ceremony verifies the implementation of the promise.

"Revolution has brought equality, unity, brotherhood and harmony... and the greatest is that it has also eliminated all forms of discrimination while making Zanzibaris as one," he said.

He said that since the revolution over 50 years ago, Zanzibar has witnessed a lot of changes and development in all sectors with people lives having improved.

"We should all together preach about Zanzibar's history, this will help plant seed of love, peace and unity among our children, youth and future generation. We should all of us remember where we came from, where are and where we are going," Dr Shein insisted.

He said that the government's zeal to build and develop all towns in the Isles saying that they are now planning to

develop other sub-towns of Chumbuni, Chwaka, Mkokotoni, Tunguu and others.

"We are also working to establish our own construction company which will be able to implement a number of government's projects. This will help us cut cost in the projects," he said

For his part, Finance and Planning Minister Ambassador Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa said that the construction of the two projects is the implementation of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Manifesto and the Vision 2020.

Khamis Mussa, Finance and Planning Permanent Secretary (PS) highlighted that structural design of the Michezani Mall was conducted by the ARQES AFRICA Company from Dar es Salaam and its construction will be done by a CRJE- East Africa Company at a cost of 27.9bn/-It will take 21 months to completion.

"This modern commercial building will have nine floors whereby the under-ground floor will be used as a storage facility for traders to keep their products and the ground floor will be for financial and banks services," he explained.

The building will also carry conference and ceremony halls with the capacity to carry up to 500 people, offices, shops and cinema halls among others.

Mussa further said that the Sheikh Thabit Kombo building is the joint project between the ruling party CCM and Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) and it will be built at Mwembekisongwe area.

The 7.7bn/- building with five floors will also carry offices, shops, conferences and ceremony halls among others," he added.

Govt to deregister 3,436 non-existing cooperative unions, says minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is intending to de-register 3,436 non-existing cooperative unions after investigations revealed they were not operating from their registration points.

Addressing journalists at his office in Dodoma yesterday, Agriculture Minister, Japhet Hasunga said so far there a total of 3,436 cooperative unions registered at the registrar of cooperative unions whereas among the, 3,436 do not exist, 1,250 poorly performing and 6,463 active ones.

Hasunga said he has directed the registrar of cooperative unions to publish in the government's gazette the intention to de-register them in accordance with the country's Co-operative Societies Act, 2013. He said Section 100 of the act gives power to the registrar to remove non-existing cooperatives in the registrar list.

The said some of the reasons that may lead to de-registering of a

cooperative union include lack of office and committed leaders who can be reached whenever they are needed. He said the government can also remove from its list all the cooperative unions that have failed to submit financial statements and annual performance reports which have to be submitted to the Co-operative Auditing and Supervision Corporation (COASCO).

"Cooperative unions must comply with financial requirements from Bank of Tanzania and make sure it has the required number of members", said the minister noting any cooperative unions that have not been active for three months also qualify for de-registration.

He explained that 73 per cent of the cooperative unions that will be de-registered are those engaging with savings and credit services. He most of them were established during the fourth phase government and received monies through the 'JK Fund' that were meant to economically empower ordinary citizens.

"Most of the cooperative unions' SACCOS were intentional established to get funds from JK Fund; it is unfortunate that some stopped operations after failing to get the monies. Those received the funds operated temporarily and closed their offices", he explained.

He said regions with a big number of non-performing cooperative unions include Mwanza (393), Coast (335), Kagera (301), Morogoro (298), Arusha (282), Tabora (282), Kigoma (207), Mara (151), Tanga (136), Geita (119) and Iringa (92).

The Minister also informed that National Seed Cooperative (NSC) has approved the use of 40 new certified seed varieties that have also been checked and approved by the National Variety Release Committee (NVRC).

He said the new varieties have been produced in accordance with the national guidelines and laws governing production of seeds.

Hasunga noted the government

endorsed the use of the new seeds for specific crops after consultations with the National Variety Release Committee. He said the seeds have been proved to increased yields adding they have different tolerance levels for disease infection.

"The new varieties will be used starting the 2019/2020 farming season", said the Minister.



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Swissport Tanzania director general Mrisho Yassin (3rd R) and ATCL head of planning department Kitula Yango (3rd L) cut a cake moments after signing a cooperation agreement in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'HESLB fails to find out beneficiaries'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) has failed to find out the whereabouts of beneficiaries with loans amounting to 1.46tr/-, the office of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has said.

A special released edition of the CAG reports of the 2017/18 fiscal year shows that the situation also affects provision of loans to new and continuing students.

Addressing reporters yesterday here, CAG Henry Naiman acknowledged that in various auditing reports, the area of loans has been seen having a challenge.

GAG Naiman advised HESLB to reinforce efforts, cooperate with other institution to get accurate information on how to identify and locate the debtors.

"It is better for the loan board to strengthen cooperation with other institution to ensure that all the debtors are identified," he said.

The report also showed at least eleven public entities have been operating without profit for two consecutive years thus remaining burden to the government.

"There are also 14 public institutions that are undergoing financial hardship something which had led them to have huge debts than the actual capital," he stated.

The report further recommended that the government should review some of the entities to enable them operate profitably.

At least 623 tenants at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) have continued to enjoy full renting services despite having chronic debts amounting to 3.8bn/-, read part of the report.

The report further stated as per records, the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) reported to claim 53bn/- but the CAG found that the actual debt is 63bn/-.

"The report recommends that all public entities should make sure that they implement their policies so as to supervise well incomes and revenues."



It is better for the loan board to strengthen cooperation with other institution to ensure that all the debtors are identified

AfDB provides €109 million for sanitation project in Luxor's villages

By Jean Marie Takoueu

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has decided to finance a major rural sanitation project in the Luxor Governorate in the Upper Nile region of Egypt.

The Integrated Rural Sanitation Project in Upper Egypt, Luxor (IRSUE-Luxor), has recently received substantial financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB), whose Board of Directors has approved a

loan of €108 million and a grant of €1 million.

According to the pan-African financial institution, the grant was awarded under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI). The initiative is also supported by bilateral and multilateral agencies, governments, African communities and the RWSSI Trust Fund (RWSSI-TF).

The purpose of RWSSI is to support projects and programmes in the rural water and sanitation sector by financing

investment operations, strengthening sector processes and systems, as well as advocacy and knowledge building. In Egypt, the supported project is expected to boost access to sanitation in rural areas of Luxor governorate.

New sanitation infrastructure in villages

IRSUE-Luxor "aims to increase wastewater coverage in the region from 6% to 55%, thereby improving the quality of life of citizens, especially women and children, who are most affected by poor sanitation," says the

AfDB.

To achieve this result, new communal sanitation facilities will be built in 11 villages in Esna and El-Tood districts. In these rural areas, 11 sewerage systems will be constructed, with sizes ranging from 200 to 900 mm in diameter. They will be supplemented by pipelines and pumping stations.

The sewerage networks will be connected to two sewage treatment plants. The first, with a capacity of 22,000 m³/day, will be located in Keman El Matana. It will handle

wastewater collected via the sewerage networks of five villages, namely : Keman, Asfoun, Alghyrah, Tafneis and Halfa 3.

Another wastewater treatment plant will be built in Al-Tood. With an expected capacity of 13,000 cubic metres per day, it will serve the Alshaghab, Elmalla, El Dabayba, Altoot Gharb, Alodysat Quebly and Alodysat Bahry villages.

The new facilities will also benefit the satellite localities located around these villages. Wastewater produced

by households in these localities will be collected by vacuum trucks. The Egyptian government estimates that the project will directly affect 170,000 people.

However, the capacity of the facilities should make it possible to keep pace with population growth in this part of Egypt.

Thus, in the 11 villages and satellite localities concerned by IRSUE-Luxor, the population is expected to increase from 171,000 people at present to 288,000 people in 2040.

African credit scoring startups can win ENGIE pilot projects at Africa tech summit Kigali

By Tom Jackson

AFRICAN startups with solutions in the credit scoring and financing space will have the chance to secure a testing phase for their technologies with French utility company ENGIE at Africa Tech Summit Kigali in February.

Taking place for the third time on February 4-6, Africa Tech Summit Kigali brings together tech leaders, MNOs, banks, investors, entrepreneurs, governments, trade bodies and media to drive investment and collaboration in the African tech space.

For the second year, Disrupt Africa has reprised its partnership with Africa Tech Summit Kigali to host the two-day Africa Startup Summit, which will bring stakeholders in the tech startup space from across the continent together in Rwanda to explore the opportunities and challenges within the ecosystem.

As a Gold Sponsor of Africa Tech Summit, French multinational energy utility company ENGIE has opened applications for a pitching challenge on the Startup Summit stage to credit scoring startups with the potential to provide innovative solutions to both existing and future ENGIE customers.

It is ENGIE's ambition to become a world leader in the zero-carbon transition "as a service" for its customers. The company is already providing clean decentralised electricity to more than three million people in nine countries, yet is striving towards universal access to electricity through a combination of national grid extension, mini-grids and Solar Home Systems.

The key to this growth is the access to solar products, or productive appliances powered by solar, thus generating revenues for the customer, which can often prove huge barriers, particularly for low income populations. Central to this challenge is the fact that assessment of the payment capacity of potential customers

can be a huge risk for the provider, and thus ENGIE is now seeking startups with innovative solutions in the scoring space to address this challenge.

The growth in smartphone penetration and increase in value of mobile money transactions in Sub-Saharan Africa means there is now an increased amount of data available, combining transactions histories and accurate demographic and geographic information with big data, artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies and accurate algorithms. This allows tech startups to build advanced services providing accurate probability scores and data valorisation schemes.

Through its pitch challenge at Africa Tech Summit Kigali, ENGIE is looking for credit scoring solutions to provide proper, accurate, efficient and relevant.

Business intelligence to improve and optimise the prospection and acquisition of future customers;

Financing schemes for its existing and future customers;

Scenarios to valorise customer data that aim to design customer profiles and match offers to customer needs.

As a reward, the prizes will depend on the maturity of the solution. For early-stage ideas, ENGIE is offering US\$5,000 in cash funding to help to finance a prototype, or, for more developed solutions, it is offering a testing phase with ENGIE Africa. The winner of the challenge will be able to test the efficiency and viability of their solution in the relevant environment within the ENGIE Africa business framework over a period of six months. Based on the results of the testing phase, the solution shall be integrated within the ENGIE Africa business portfolio for further co-development of the project. Prospective locations for the testing phase are South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Tanzania and Benin.



Nutrition officer in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region Silvanja Kullaya (L) feeds a child during a scale up nutrition campaign at Usari over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

Seaweed farming could help battle climate change

By Alex Robinson

IT'S the bane of swimmers, and can ruin a nice day at the beach. But harvesting the aquatic plant could play a role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

A new study conducted by scientists at UC Santa Barbara found that seaweed farming could be a powerful new tool to sequester carbon and

offset greenhouse gas emissions. Researchers say seaweed farming alone won't balance global emissions from agriculture, but it could help meet local carbon neutrality goals.

"It's not a silver bullet, nor an industry that exists yet," one of the study's authors, Halley Froehlich, said in a press release. "But it has huge potential."

Most of the world's seaweed farming

happens in Southeast Asia. Small seaweed farms are starting to pop up in the U.S., but are mainly for food and other commercial purposes rather than carbon sequestration.

The study identified around 30 million square miles of ocean where seaweed could be farmed. Researchers say the benefits of seaweed farming far outweigh the fact that it won't completely offset the carbon emissions

for the entire agricultural industry. Study co-author Benjamin Halpern said there will never be a single easy tool to deal with climate change, and that all efforts are necessary.

"The problem has become too big for simple solutions," he said. "We need all hands on deck."

Researchers plan to continue their work on seaweed farming to maximize its effectiveness in sequestering carbon.



Minister of State in the Second Vice President's Office in Zanzibar Aboud Mohamed addresses Uroia residents shortly after the launch of a water project. The minister represented Second Vice President ambassador Seif Ali Iddi. The event was held over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Pakistan Navy establishes free medical camp in Dar

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 1000 patients from across Dar es Salaam region have received free medical treatment with the support from Pakistan Navy Mission currently in Tanzania for a four-day visit.

The visit is meant to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the area of defence and security.

This was said by Muhammad Saleem, the Charge d' Affaires and head of mission of the High Commission of Pakistan to Tanzania, when speaking at the joint dinner reception onboard Pakistan Navy Ship (PN) at the Dar es Salaam Port.

He said the free medical camp was offered at Almutaziri girls primary school for two days from 4th to 5th and patients have received medicines in accordance with the diseases they have.

Two Pakistan navy ships PNS ASLAT and PNS MOAWIN are in Tanzania for four -days on goodwill visit at the Dar es Salaam port from January 3rd to 6th this year.

The visit is part of similar goodwill visits and training cruises undertaken to the ports of some other friendly countries around Africa.

The mission was led by Commodore Abdul Munib SI (M), Commander Surface Task Group-2, whereas Captain Shafiq Ur Rehman, TI (M) is Commanding officer, PNS ASLAT, PSN MOAWIN.

Pakistan Armed Forces have a lot to offer including capacity building, Intelligence sharing, expertise in fighting violent extremism and terrorism, sale/

supplies of military hardware including fighter planes, naval equipment and small arms.

"Both Pakistan and Tanzania being littoral states of the Indian Ocean rims, Pakistan looks forward to working with Tanzania as with all other friendly countries in Africa to strengthen the existing cooperation in the defence and security fields and on geo-strategic issues such as fighting the menace of piracy at sea," he noted.

Other issues include drugs and human trafficking, peace keeping and ensuring the safety of strategic sea lanes of communication.

Pakistan navy is specially keen to closely work with Tanzanian navy for shared goals of promoting maritime security and cooperation and he hope the visit would help in further cementing the existing friendly relations between the armed forces of the two friendly countries.

He expressed thanks to the Tanzania's ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ministry of Defence and National Service, Tanzania Port Authority and the office of Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner for making the event possible.

For his part, Surg Lieutenant Commander, Pakistan Navy, Farukh added that 15 specialists doctors and 50 medical staffs (nurses) are in Tanzania to provide health services for Tanzanians in terms of dental, eye, and surgical services among others.

For his part, Tanzania Navy Commander, Rear Admiral Richard Makanzo expressed thanks to Pakistan Navy Mission who are in Tanzania

for organising free medical camp for the needy that in turn has helped Tanzanians to check their medical conditions as well as receiving medical treatment.

"The goodwill visits at the Dar es Salaam port by the Pakistan naval ships ASLAT and MOAWIN, is a source of great inspiration to us and also is a landmark in the broader framework of further augmenting the close and cooperative ties between the armed forces and the navy of the Republic of Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania as part of strengthening bilateral relations in diverse fields," he noted.

He said the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Pakistan are all maritime nations that are connected by the Indian Ocean and these two nations are neighbors due to its connectivity by waters.

Being neighbours we do share some common transnational crimes such as maritime piracy, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking and other maritime illegal activities, he noted.

"Under Indian Ocean Naval symposium forum that we are all member states need us to continue synergizing our efforts, such as information sharing, material support training and conducting bilateral and multilateral exercises at sea aiming at combating all these illegals," he noted

He said these threats if not administered can lead to paralyse sea-lanes of communications (SLOCs) and hinder us in tapping abundant offshore economic resources available therein.

"We all know that, No shipping, means no shopping and therefore no life," he noted.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Make by-laws to compel herders dip their livestock, says Govt

THE Government, through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has directed livestock dips committees to make by-laws that administer livestock dipping in their areas especially in compelling herders who do not take their animals for dipping.

This directive was issued by the Acting Head of Veterinary Diagnosis Centre for the Central Zone Dr Samuel Mngumi during launching of the second phase of cattle dipping campaign for the Zone held at Mkoyo village, Hombolo Ward in Dodoma Region.

Dr Mngumi stressed that dips committees are the nuclei of the dips and the entire dipping

process hence they should make by-laws that would compel herders to dip their animals.

He said he believes every Council has made its own by-laws that deal with the few herders who refuse to dip their animals so that they do not pass the habit to other herders.

He said there are many laws that govern the control of animals' diseases and cited the 2003 law that requires all people to cooperate in the control of animals' diseases.

He said after realizing that

some herders are reluctant to dip their animals, the government is coming up with a specific law on that - what to deal with herders who do not take their animals for dipping.

Dodoma City Veterinary Officer Innocent Peter thanked the Fifth-Phase government for reviving in earnest animals dipping, and added that since the campaign began, incidents of animals' diseases have been on decline.

Citing example he said incidents of diseases from teaks

have declined from 30 per month before the campaign down to 5 - 10 per month in rural areas. He said as for urban areas phone calls from livestock keepers to vet officials also declined.

Yoro Losiwa, a herder who attended the event hailed the campaign saying it would reduce, if not eradicate completely cattle diseases.

The Chairman of Mkoyo Village Benjamin Lebolo used the occasion to praise the government and the ministry for revival of the dipping culture.

E-commerce seen disrupting small-scale rental business in Kenya

NAIROBI

THE banner at a building in downtown Nairobi, Kenya's capital, recently declared a one-month free offer for anyone taking up rental space.

The building hosts dozens of rental shops for small traders selling clothes, shoes, books, jewelry and those running photocopying and mobile money shops.

The free one-month renting offer was to entice businesses to take up the shops whose rent averages 25,000 shillings (250 U.S. dollars) per month.

A spot check at the building on Friday revealed several of the shops remain vacant, and so are those of numerous other buildings across the east African nation's capital.

The situation has largely been blamed on the economic slowdown. However, a rise in e-commerce in Kenya is one of the major things disrupting the commercial small-scale rental business.

While most of the small traders are vacating the rental shops, they are not closing their businesses.

A majority are taking their stocks to their houses where they now operate from and advertise the goods online, sale and deliver those bought via courier services.

"It was not making sense for me to pay 150 U.S. dollars rent every month and business was low," said Faith Nguma, a trader who sells men's shows. She used to operate from a stall along Moi Avenue in Nairobi's central business district but vacated the premises in November 2019.

Nguma, who lives in the east of the capital, advertises her merchandise on social media sites Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. "I normally post what I have then deliver in offices or homes of clients. The person I had employed at the shop sometimes does the deliveries or I do them myself or use courier service if outside Nairobi," said Nguma on Saturday.

She has gotten used to her new modus operandi, noting she is not only saving the rental money but also time and wages she used to pay her worker.

Vincent Wesonga, who closed office for his software start-up in the Nairobi central business district, said he had no choice but to work from home.

Wesonga had run the office for five years, with rent rising over the years to 250 U.S. dollars a month.

"I closed the office in October 2019 because jobs dried up but I am still in operation. It became hard to pay rent for the office and for my home," he said.

He now advertises his services on social media sites including Twitter as other jobs come through referrals.

On the micro-blogging site, the messages "please retweet, my next client could be on your timeline" have become common as Kenyans seek business.

To try and find business, landlords are not only offering free rent but they have done away with goodwill they used to charge tenants, with the cash starting from 1,000 to 20,000 U.S. dollars.



IST is now accepting applications for IB Diploma Scholarships

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Secondary School, Admissions Office
International School of Tanganyika
P O Box 2651, Dar es Salaam
Phone: 260 1126/7, 0787 997 778/98
Email: ibscholarship@istafrika.com

For more information and application forms please visit www.istafrika.com/admissions or the Secondary School Campus, corner of Haile Selassie/Chole Road, Masaki, Dar es Salaam.

IB scholarship application deadline for entry in August 2020: Friday, February 28, 2020. Testing for selected applicants will take place at the Secondary School Campus, Masaki in early March.

For other non-scholarship applications and enquiries please contact:

Admissions Office
International School of Tanganyika
Secondary Campus, Masaki
P O Box 2651, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone: 260 1126/7, 0787 997 778/98
Email: admissions@istafrika.com



Technical and Administration/
Finance Specialists - Horticulture Value Chain, Tanzania

Tetra Tech International Development Services (<http://www.tetrattech.com/intdev>) headquartered in Arlington, VA is looking for qualified candidates to serve in a number of roles for an anticipated horticulture value chain program in Tanzania. We are looking for visionary leaders, strong managers and creative thinkers who work well with partners, and who have a passion for and a commitment to finding local solutions to food security problems. These positions are anticipated to be full time positions, based in a number of locations in the Southern Highlands (Morogoro, Iringa and Mbeya) and Zanzibar, for a period of up to five years.

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'Rehabilitation of Mv Clarias at the final stage'

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) has said that the rehabilitation of Mv Clarias was now at the final stage and is expected to commence operations soon.

Once completed, the new ship will have a carrying capacity of over 3000 tonnes of general cargo or 50 cargo wagons at the same time. This is one of the ships which were once providing services between Mwanza and Nansio-Ukerewe island.

MSCL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Eric Hamissi said that the ship will be christened 'Mv. Clarias Hapa Kazi Tu' when it is completed.

"It was necessary to rehabilitate the ship because it was hardly operating for two days consecutively between Nansio Ukerewe and Mwanza city on Lake Victoria without developing mechanical defects," Hamissi noted.

He said that rehabilitation works on the ship had taken one year.

Hamissi added that other ships that are still on the floating docks for

rehabilitation in Lake Victoria are Mv. Victoria and Mv. Butiama and they are scheduled for completion in March this year ready for operations.

Before the rehabilitation, Mv. Victoria was plying between Mwanza city and Bukoba, Kagera while Mv. Butiama was offering services between Nansio Ukerewe and Mwanza city on Lake Victoria.

He noted that currently there is no any ship owned by MSCL operating between Mwanza and Bukoba a situation that forces people to transport their cargo using other motor vehicles which is relatively costly as compared to ship travel.

Citing an example, he said cargo that can be transported by ship from Bukoba to Mwanza at 27,000/- is charged 80,000/- for lorries which is very expensive.

He insisted that ships are being rehabilitated from government funds and the all contractors who are undertaking the work are all paid.

'Hapa Kazi Tu' is a slogan President John Magufuli used during 2015 presidential campaign. The slogan which gained popularity literally translates : just work, nothing else.



Industries and Trade deputy minister Stella Manyanya inspects the quality of rice at one of the factories at Ubaruku ward in Mbarali district over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Farmers, agriculture stakeholders urged to fight weather and climate change impacts

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FARMERS and agriculture stakeholders have been urged to increase cooperation with the government to jointly to fight weather and climate change impacts by adopting climate smart practices and technologies in farming to increase crop yields.

Speaking during the opening of the two-day workshop here, Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Richard Kwitega said that climate change has continued to pose threat impacting livestock and agriculture sectors

across the globe.

rganised by Netherlands based not-for-profit international development organization (SNV)- the implementer of the "Climate Smart Agriculture East Africa project", the workshop brought together small-scale farmers, researchers, financial institutions and other stakeholders from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

Kwitega recommended that through the project implemented by SNV, strong strategies should be formed to enable farmers to adopt climate change impacts.

"Experts have to also increase research on

drought tolerant seed varieties to enable the community living in drought areas identify the kind of seeds for such environment," he added.

He noted that bean crop is among the major important food crop, so it was vital for both stakeholders and the government to join efforts, work together towards improving its production.

For his part, programme supervisor Godfrey Kabuka said that the Climate Smart Agriculture East Africa project is an initiative funded by Dutch development organisation that will contribute to affordable and sustainably

produced food for the growing population in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The project provides a strong platform to not only manage and coordinate a robust climate smart agriculture project, but also provide targeted technical assistance, business facilitation, and research and knowledge management support to local partners and companies in the three targeted EA countries.

"We brought the farmers and stakeholders together to discuss and share expertise emphasizing them on better choice of seeds

so as to increase their agricultural outputs and income," he said.

Annamarie Groot, representative from Netherlands Wageningen University said climate change needs joint efforts to address for betterment of the future generation.

Experts had advised that since rain-fed agriculture is affected by drought that is also exacerbated by climate change, impacting significantly on both the national economy and smallholder farmers' vulnerability to food insecurity, investing in irrigation development was crucial.



Road transport safety is an important issue in the land transport sector. A road is completely blocked after an accident involving a lorry along the Tanzania-Zambia highway at Simikoe rural in Mbeya region. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA region intends to produce 3.93 million tonnes of various crops for commercial and domestic purposes for the agricultural season that is expected to meet consumers' and market demands.

The assistant Regional Administrative Secretary (Agriculture and Production unit) Saidi Madito, said the land for agricultural activities covers 559,589 hectares for the whole region.

He said despite the production conditions being estimated to be high but the region's demand for food is only 17 per cent and so there is an expectation of an increase in yields thus calling for transportation of such crops to neighbouring regions for trade.

Crops production trend in Mbeya region high-official

"We are currently mobilising all agricultural sector stakeholders in the region to continue to encourage farmers and to help them increase productivity so that we can achieve the target we set," said Madito.

He said currently food security in the region is satisfactory by considering access to farms and markets.

He said an assessment carried out in October 2019 shows that the prices of crops in various markets in Mbeya region, especially

the priority crops, were far low that it was easy for every citizen to afford.

He said the price of maize which is the main food crop was approximately from 600/- to 800/- per kilogramme, while rice was 1,500/- to 2,200/- per kilogramme, beans sold at 1,500/- to 2,200/- per kilogramme.

He mentioned other priority crops as bananas which sold for 500/- to 1000/- per kg and potatoes was 300/- to 700/- per kilogramme.

Paying the school fees, one butterfly at a time

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ONCE upon a time, there was a tropical forest that stretched all the way from Somalia to Mozambique. Today, there isn't much left. In Kenya all that's left of the forest is 42,000 hectares on the coast called the Arabuko Sokoke Forest.

"Arabuko Sokoke has a very rich biodiversity with more than 600 different tree species, 250 bird species such as the Clarke's weaver, 230 species of mammals and different insects species, including more than 230 different butterflies," says Elvis Katana Fondo, assistant ecosystem conservator for the Kenya Forest Service in Kilifi. "In addition to a rich terrestrial ecosystem, it also boasts a unique marine ecosystem, with more than 8,000 hectares of mangroves. That is part of what makes this forest so special and why it is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage site."

In order to preserve this unique forest, the Kenya Forest Service decided to work with local communities in line with the 2005 Forest Act which states that communities whose livelihood depends on the forest around them should be included in all decisions about the forest. The UN-REDD Programme, through the United Nations Development Programme, introduced rules for free, prior and informed consent that lay out a series of guidelines on how to make this happen.

In practice, this means that people living up to 5 kilometres from the forest have to organize themselves into Community Forest Associations, allowing the the Kenya Forest Service to work with them and give them rights to collect firewood, water and herbal medicines within 1 kilometre of the forest periphery. This forest was one of the first places in Kenya where participatory forest management was piloted.

Charo Ngumbao, chairman for one of three Community Forest Associations in Arabuko, has 1500 members, of whom 85 per cent are women. "Examples of the various user groups that we have in my group are people working on eco-tourism such as bird watching. Other groups are involved with beekeeping, tree planting and tree nurseries; others act as community scouts to assist the forest guides and last but not least, there is a group of women involved in butterfly farming."

Butterfly farming was introduced in Arabuko Sokoke in 1993 as a local community project to directly generate income to the community from the forest so as to enhance conservation of the forest resources which were threatened from over exploitation. Jan Godon, the former head of Nature Kenya, set up the export of butterfly pupas (cocoons) to Stratford upon Avon in the United Kingdom and recently new markets have been

added, including the United States, Turkey and Dubai. There are weekly shipments and the price varies from US\$0.50 to almost US\$2 per butterfly.

"The butterflies, called kipepeo in Kiswahili, will hatch upon arrival at their destination and are used for wedding ceremonies, exhibitions and collectors. Their very short lifespan (up to ten days) makes it a delicate export. Each species of butterfly has its own value depending on colour, pattern and how difficult it is to breed, and each species breeds in a specific indigenous tree. Keeping the forest healthy is therefore essential to the survival of the butterflies. We've come to realize that we don't want the forest to be cleared," says Emily Katana, a butterfly farmer. "It's our treasure and source of income."

Butterfly farming has its challenges. "We are trained to trap them from 9 a.m. using bananas and mangoes that are placed inside the traps in the forest. In the evening, we return to the forest to remove the trapped butterflies and take them to our breeding places where we feed them until they lay their eggs, which then hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillars eat leaves until they turn into the pupae state, where they cocoon themselves. It is at this point that we sell them before they hatch into butterflies," says Katana.

Katana and other butterfly farmers sell the pupae to Kipepeo Butterflies House (KBH), a company that buys and sells butterflies to the international market. "It's a fragile product, but it pays our kids' school fees, their clothes and even desks for the local schools," says Chenola Tabou, another member of the butterfly farmers group.

The Kipepeo project started in 1993 with an inception fund of US\$50,000 provided by the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, but these days, they have a yearly revenue of about US\$100,000. "We pay the farmers weekly based on what has reached the customers in good shape," says project manager, Hussein Adulai. "Since it's a fragile product, there is no guarantee of payment. But still, the business has been growing since 2016 despite competition from Costa Rica, Nepal and the Philippines. We are now self-sustainable and there are 870 people living from it."

"Ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, and encourage economic growth, in an environmentally sustainable way. Helping to provide alternative livelihoods for communities living near forests can not only reduce poverty, but also conserve forests and help tackle climate change," says Judith Walcott from the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre on behalf of the UN-REDD Programme.

Turkey takes over operations of SOS Schools in Arusha

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Turkish envoy to Tanzania, ambassador Al Davutoglu has expressed a new chapter of cooperation between the two countries by promising major boost in the local education centre in the year 2020.

Ambassador Al Davutoglu divulged the new development in Ngaramtoni area, over the weekend, during the ceremony in which the Non-Profit Organisation of Turkish Maarif Foundation was taking over the running of primary and secondary schools, previously operated by the SOS Children Villages of Tanzania.

"Through assisting the education sector, Turkey intends to become major partner with Tanzania, towards the country's goal of becoming a middle income state by the year 2025," said the envoy, adding that the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF), is now a global education brand running 372 schools in 47 countries, mostly in Africa.

Turkish Maarif Foundation offers education facilities covering pre-school, kindergarten, lower and upper primary, as well as secondary all the way to high school levels stages of schooling.

Dr Mary Nagu is the board chairperson of SOS Children Villages; "We have been running these schools for years but it is now time to place them under the TMF because being a non-profit organisation, they can guarantee quality education with humanitarian support for pupils and students," she pointed out.

The head of SOS Minor School, Heri Abubakar said the SOS Children Villages

concentrate in taking care of homeless children, orphans and those living under difficult conditions and leave the responsibilities of offering education facilities to other organisations well-equipped and suitable for the task.

The SOS Schools of Arusha so far have 320 pupils and students, but now under new management, starting 2020, the facilities intend to increase the number of students to reach 1000 or more.

The Arumeru District education officer (health and nutrition), Grace Massawe, said they were hopeful that TMF will improve the SOS School facilities as promised. "They plan to increase classrooms, build dormitories and laboratories as well as equipping the school with computers and other basic necessities," she added.

Despite now running under the Turkish organisation, the SOS schools of Ngaramtoni, in Arusha, will maintain the Tanzania education curricular and the Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry for Local Government will be taking closer supervision of their operations.

The SOS Children Villages have been serving local homeless children of Tanzania for over 20 years now.



We have been running these schools for years but it is now time to place them under the TMF because being a non-profit organisation, they can guarantee quality education with humanitarian support for pupils and students



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister, Constantine Kanyasu talks with National Housing Corporation contractors shortly after visiting Biharamulo forest project in Chato district, Geita region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ACAI scientists, partners review progress in cassava agronomy

By Guardian Reporter

SCIENTISTS, experts and scaling partners of the African Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI) of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) set for their 4th annual review and planning meeting. The aim was to discuss and unveil the progress made in cassava agronomy and how such efforts are addressing the low yield per hectare on farmers' fields in Nigeria and Tanzania.

Across Africa, yield per hectare of cassava is about 9 tons per ha as opposed to Asia with more than 20 tons per ha. This undermines African cassava farmers' competitiveness in the export market.

The ACAI was held in Zanzibar from 9 December to 12, 2019, presented an opportunity for the entire ACAI team to get-together, celebrate successes of the project, discuss challenges, and plan for the fifth and final year, says the project coordinator, Dr Pieter Pypers.

"This year's meeting will have less of plenary presentations but more of poster sessions, a world café, breakout sessions and information booths where

scientists, knowledge exchange experts and partners will showcase and share ideas."

According to Dr Pypers, "the meeting was also meant to scaling up plans for Akilimo. The first day was entirely devoted to how we have been putting our tools to use within the extension activities of our partners. Only on the last day, we will talk about science."

Akilimo is the mobile agronomy advisory tool developed to serve as the face of ACAI's decision support system. It combines data, predictions models, software infrastructure and interfaces, using pragmatic and user-centred approaches to provide the information in ways that are attractive and useful to partners, extension workers and cassava farmers.

Apart from the ACAI team members, partners leading the dissemination of the ACAI Decision Support Tools through extension work in Nigeria and Tanzania expected at the meeting include Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), Farm Concern International (FCI), UWAMWIMA, Minjingu, Psaltry International, 2Scale and NOTORE.

The technical partners working to strengthen Akilimo (VIAMO 321 service, eSOKO digital solutions and Arifu chatbot) will also be present at booth sessions.

Zanzibar presents a unique venue for last year's ACAI review meeting. The island is a real gem, a beautiful place with an interesting history, beaches, sun, palm trees, and great food.

"We will take the opportunity to enjoy some of the pleasures that Zanzibar has to offer. But Zanzibar is also a place where cassava is grown. And cassava is a very important crop for Zanzibari farmers, both for food and for cash. Together with the Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) and our partners-Farm Concern International (FCI) and UWAMWIMA, we want to demonstrate some of the very interesting work that has been conducted here. We will be taking you out to the field, and let you experience first-hand how recommendations on cassava intercropping are now being validated and demonstrated to farmer groups on the island," Dr Pypers added.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE E2E LENDING PLATFORM FOR CRDB BANK Plc

- CRDB Bank Plc is seeking for Request for Proposal from a qualified Consulting Firms for Consultancy work to guide/ assist the Bank towards Selection and implementation of the E2E Lending Platform
- The Consultancy work includes, but not limited to, the following activities:
 - AS- IS Assessment Document
 - Gaps and needs assessment analysis based on current status and business strategy.
 - New lean business processes and simplified customer journey
 - Requirements documentation: the resulting requirements are explicit, unambiguous and feasible, and are documented in a language that both business and technology teams understand
 - Recommended new products and services
 - Solution architecture
 - Quality assurance plan to ensure the solution meet expectation
 - Implementation roadmap for acquisition / development options with a cost benefits analysis for each option. Develop implementation roadmap and plan for integrated system acquisition / development option
 - More details in the RFP document attached in our website under tender portal
- The bank now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in Consultancy work for Selection of a new E2E Lending Platform.
- Interested Consulting Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified and experienced in selection of E2E Lending Platform by submitting the following information; Company profile, Description of similar assignments, Overall experience in providing similar consultancy work, Resources and availability of appropriate skills among staff and business partners that will be engaged in the project.
- A shortlist of consulting firms will be developed on the basis of the proposals submitted to CRDB Bank Plc. The selection will be conducted through a two-staged "Quality Based" process. Initial short listing shall be conducted based on Technical and Functional Capabilities, Experience and skills whereas the second short listing shall be done based on a presentation covering previous similar assignments, experience and capabilities in conjunction with due diligence of reference sites and Head Offices of the participating firms.
- Interested eligible Consulting firms may obtain further information from the office of the CRDB Bank Tender Committee Secretary, CRDB Head Office along Azikiwe Street, 1st Floor, Office of Accommodation Scheme Building, from 8:00AM to 5:00PM Local Time on Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.
- All Tenders in one original, duly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the Tender Box on the 1st Floor, CRDB Head Office, along Azikiwe Street, Office Accommodation Scheme Building, Opposite New Post Office, P. O. Box 268, Dar es Salaam before 1500hours local time on 21st January, 2020. All Tender clearly marked, should be addressed to the Secretary Management Tender Committee CRDB Bank Plc P.O.BOX 268, Dar es Salaam.
- All Requests for proposal will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidder's representatives who will choose to attend the opening ceremony at CRDB Head Office Meeting Room situated on the 1st Floor on 21st January, 2020 at 1500 hours' local time.
- Late Tenders, a portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances

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Public health plays an important role in disease prevention efforts

PUBLIC health plays an important role in disease prevention efforts in both the developing world and in developed countries through local health systems and non-governmental organisations. The World Health Organization (WHO) is the international agency that coordinates and acts on global public health issues. Most countries have their own governmental public health agency, often called the ministry of health, with responsibility for domestic health issues.

Public health has been defined as the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting human health through organised efforts and informed choices of society, organisations, public and private, communities and individuals. Analysing the health of a population and the threats it faces is the basis for public health. The public can be as small as a handful of people or as large as a village or an entire city; in the case of a pandemic it may encompass several continents. The concept of health takes into account physical, psychological and social well-being. As such, according to the World Health Organisation, it is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Public health aims to improve the quality of life through prevention and treatment of disease, including mental health. Access to health care and public health initiatives are difficult challenges in developing countries. Public health infrastructures are still forming in those countries.

The focus of a public health intervention is to prevent and mitigate diseases, injuries and other health conditions through surveillance of cases and the promotion of healthy behaviors, communities and environments. Many diseases are preventable through simple, nonmedical methods. For example, research has shown that the simple

act of handwashing with soap can prevent the spread of many contagious diseases.

In the same vein, regional and district medical officers in the country have been urged to supervise public health in their areas by ensuring that they mobilise efforts and support the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases in the communities.

The director of Prevention Services at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Leonard Subi made the call last year here when speaking during the medical officers meeting.

The medical officers are meeting for a three-day working session to discuss the implementation of the resolutions made by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the first general conference in 2018.

"This is a very important meeting for medical officers, because you are the major supervisors of health activities at community level. So you have a role to play to ensure that our communities are safe from diseases," he said.

According to him, the meeting will among other things discuss issues on environmental health, climate change and community health at large. The participants will also share the performance of regional and district health and progress of project activities.

"It's my hope that, you will use this meeting to learn and share experience on how to improve services in your communities...use this platform also to come up with recommendations to advise the government in social welfare." Dr Subi added. He further added that the officials have a role of strengthening surveillance in border areas to protect outbreaks from outside the country. The meeting theme was "Quality health services, environment and sanitation; essential catalyst for sustainable economy."

Opening up minerals trading centres is crucial for the sector's growth

THE mineral industry of Africa is the largest mineral industries in the world. Africa is the second largest continent, with 11.73 million miles of land, which implies large quantities of resources. With a population of 1.216 billion living there. For many African countries, mineral exploration and production constitute significant parts of their economies and remain keys to economic growth. Africa is richly endowed with mineral reserves and ranks first or second in quantity of world reserves of bauxite, cobalt, industrial diamond, phosphate rock, platinum-group metals (PGM), vermiculite.

African mineral reserves rank first or second for bauxite, cobalt, diamonds, phosphate rocks, platinum-group metals (PGM), vermiculite and zirconium. The mineral industry is an important source of export earnings for many African nations. To promote exports, groups of African countries have formed numerous trade blocs.

Deputy Minister for Minerals Stanslaus Nyongo last year launched minerals market centre in Handeni district, Tanga region, opening doors for small-scale miners to improve their businesses and incomes.

Speaking shortly after the launch, the deputy minister said that with the launch of the market, traders will no longer travel long distances searching for customers.

According to him, the new mineral market would consist of various mineral experts who would be responsible for providing education to miners and traders as well as providing important information concerning mining market in the country.

"The purpose of building this market is to make it to help miners to get their right by benefiting from what they are

doing" Nyongo told miners in Handeni district.

He said that the market was set not only for the district's residents but for also traders and buyers from across the region and the country.

Nyongo further instructed the contractor (Suma JKT) to complete the construction of the market within this month including the installation of furniture for the market to officially commence operation.

For his part, the Suma JKT manager in northern zone, Lieutenant Colonel Daud Zengo explained that the project cost 1.8bn/- and has reached 95 per cent of construction.

Col. Zengo cited poor road infrastructures as among the major challenge which has been thwarting the smooth implementation of the project.

For his part, chairman of miners in Tanga region thanked the government for bringing the market closer to them because previously was spending a lot of time looking for markets.

In March this year, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed regional commissioners in all regions blessed with minerals to open up minerals trading centres to enable the sector benefit all people. Speaking during the launch of the Geita Gold market in March, PM Majaliwa said "All mineral-producing regions should set up these trading centres as soon as possible to serve small miners."

The Premier said the Geita centre would serve as a model for others adding that all the centres to be built were aimed at controlling smuggling of gold and other minerals.

Reports cite Tanzania as the Africa's fourth-biggest gold producer after South Africa, Ghana and Mali and gold exports are a key source of foreign exchange.



Only PhD holders should use doctor's title

By Abdulrazaq O Hamzat

HISTORICALLY, lawyers in most European countries were addressed with the title of doctor, and countries outside Europe have generally followed the practice of the European country which had policy influence through modernization or colonialisation. The first university degrees, starting with the law school of the University of Bologna (or glossators) in the 11th century, were law degrees and doctorates. Degrees in other fields were not granted until the 13th century, but the doctorate continued to be the only degree offered at many of the old universities up until the 20th century. As a result, in many of the southern European countries, including Portugal, Spain and Italy, lawyers have traditionally been addressed as "doctor," (as well as Macau in China).

Additionally, the doctor's title was not known to be a title for medical practitioner, until in 1703, when the "University of Glasgow's first medical graduate, Samuel Benion, was issued with the "Academic degree" of Doctor of Medicine. That marked the beginning of medical practitioners using the Doctor's title.

In recent time however, laymen had associated the doctor's title only to medical practitioners. Apart

from laymen, some doctors even feel it is unworthy for none medical practitioners to use the title. Reports of medical doctors feeling dismayed that there are so many academics these days who insist upon being addressed as "doctor," when that title properly belongs to physicians abound. These medical practitioners do not know that from Roman times through the middle Ages until well into the 18th century, the honorific doctor applied only to eminent scholars - e.g., the Four Doctors of the Western Church in the 5th and 6th centuries (Saints Ambrose, Augustine of Hippo, Jerome, and Gregory).

History has it that, jealous of the respect shown to scholars by the title doctor, medical schools in the 18th century (particularly Edinburgh in Scotland) began the practice of addressing their graduates as "doctor." The schools argued that since their graduates generally earned bachelor's degrees before admission to medical studies, they were entitled to the honorific in the same manner as university scholars. In one of life's great ironies, many uninformed laymen now perceive the medical degree to be more prestigious than the PhD, declaring that people who have earned the latter are "not real doctors."

"Doctor" signifies that an individual has not only gained enough competencies to practice in

a teaching field, but has developed enough expertise to instruct others. Incidentally, most UK surgeons drop their title of "Dr" and revert to "Mr" after joining the Royal College of Surgeons. I've read through an online medium of at least one surgeon who reacted quite angrily at being addressed as a mere "Dr", which in such circles, due to a collision between traditional titles and modern medical training, could be unkindly translated as "trainee".

Additionally, the confusion in the use of Doctor's title is not only in Nigeria, it existed all over the world. In France for example, only medical practitioners can use the Doctor's title. The mention of Doctor for none medical PhD holders is forbidden, especially in hospitals -even when the type of doctorate is precisely stated. More shocking is the fact that, in some health departments or hospitals in France, PhD holders are not authorized to sign/co-author any article, even if they did all the work and wrote the manuscript; they are mostly retained as ghost writers, whose intellectual work goes to others. But in Poland, doctor is a common degree of education. It is not reserved for medicine.

By convention in most countries, recipients of honorary doctorates do not use the title "Dr" in general correspondence, although in formal correspondence from the university

issuing the honorary degree it is normal to address the recipient by the title.

However, this social convention, especially in Nigeria, is not always scrupulously observed; notable people often defy social convention and use the honorary prefix.

Furthermore, it has also been argued that, using the title "Dr." based on an honorary doctorate is unethical, but this is prevalent in Nigeria. But let me state that Doctor's title isn't an honorary title; it's an earned title; an academic degree after much efforts and rigor. It is a title for scholars or teachers, who have acquired enough competence to pass down knowledge.

However, others have equally argued that, whatever one thinks of the merits of an Honorary doctorate, it is not something "claimed" but rather something "awarded" for good reasons or bad.

Finally, let me emphasize that, neither MD's nor PhD's are the original "Doctors", but Doctor of Divinity (DD's). But since Pope granted the right of usage to the University, the right of usage has been transferred to educators, particularly the holders of PhD, which is the highest academic qualification for teachers. For this reason, I believe only PhD holders should use the Dr's title to put an end to the confusion once and for all.

By Special Correspondent

Charcoal anthrax outbreak in Niger

THE outbreak of charcoal anthrax in Niger Republic is sad news and a setback to the livestock sector in the West African sub-region. An initial report from the Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to the World Health Organisation for Animal Health indicated that, as at September 23, more than 20 cows had been killed by the bacteria, while as many as 100 more had been infected. In view of ECOWAS free movement, which has also facilitated the cattle grazing and trading in the sub-region, the charcoal anthrax outbreak is of a great concern to Nigeria as Niger Republic is one of its immediate neighbors.

It is well-known that anthrax is a bacterial infection which even humans are exposed to. The variant that infects livestock, charcoal anthrax, do infect those who consume animals infected with this anthrax. The World Health Organisation, on its website, says, "Gastrointestinal anthrax is caught from eating meat from an infected animal. It causes initial symptoms similar to food poisoning but these can worsen to produce severe

abdominal pain, vomiting of blood and severe diarrhoea. Appropriate medical evaluation and treatment are essential."

It is reassuring that the Nigerian Customs Service has said it has taken proactive measures against the importation of this disease into Nigeria. Last week, the agency said, "Given the supply of cattle and sheep from Niger to Nigeria, the CGC has directed on the urgent need to place additional precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease into Nigeria through our land borders." At the moment, Nigeria's land borders with neighbouring countries have been closed, hence animals are not expected to be imported from any of the West African countries into Nigeria. However, we encourage Customs operatives to demonstrate patriotism by abiding by the directive of the Comptroller General of the Service.

Also, a statement by the Director of Veterinary and Pest Control Services of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Olaniran Alabi, that the department had strengthened

surveillance in all the frontline states where cattle markets and cross border activities exist with Niger Republic, is a positive step. We would advise the agency that, in addition to Nigeria's borders with Niger, its operatives should be vigilant at Nigeria's borders with other countries that share borders with Niger Republic, like Chad and Cameroon. Unscrupulous merchants could take a decoy through other countries borders in a desperate attempt to penetrate into Nigeria's market. It is well-known that Nigeria has the largest market for livestock in the subregion and, therefore, the target of cattle merchants.

We call on relevant government departments, especially research outfits, to ensure that the country is adequately prepared for an epidemic of this nature which could affect livestock. If Niger Republic livestock could be affected, it follows that cow, sheep, goats and similar animals in Nigeria could also be victims of charcoal anthrax. We, therefore, encourage agricultural research organisations to come up with preventive vaccines.

Such vaccines could be used if a trace of such disease is found in any animal. Also, veterinary outfits should stock treatment drugs for both animals and human beings who may be infected with the bacteria.

In addition to preventive and remedial measures, it is important for government agencies to embark on public enlightenment on the causes, manifestations, and prevention of charcoal anthrax. Such publicity should be done in animal rearing communities. If those in the livestock sector are unaware of the features of the bacteria, they would not notice it if their animals are infected. Some, out of anxiety and ignorance, could engage in self-medication if their livestock begin to manifest evidence of unfamiliar ailments. This, too, could be disastrous as a wrong medication could trigger off unexpected health challenges among animals.

Now that Niger Republic has alerted the world about charcoal anthrax, Nigeria should be at alert to ensure the disease does not penetrate into the country's livestock sector.

The inspiring story of the brilliant student on the path of greatness

By Odunayo Olamide

Sometimes a child from a humble family goes on to become a star. This is a story of Master Franklin Ayodeji, 11, from a family of five, who now attends a top secondary school in Lagos as a beneficiary of a prestigious scholarship after performing exceptionally well in the country's national common entrance exam.

Ayodeji's primary school, Bridge International Academies, is part of a network of nursery and primary schools that serve low-income communities.

Raised from a humble background, Franklin's father a businessman while his mother runs a shop where she sells fabrics, have always been very serious about the education of their children, making it a priority for the family.

Franklin's academic journey has been described as a fairytale.

According to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adedeji, Franklin's success story began four years ago when he requested to leave his previous primary school. His reason was that he was not challenged enough in class and so didn't always do as well as he could. His mother recounted an incident that happened years ago when Franklin was ill and couldn't



go to school as a result of the chicken pox he had, to the extent that he missed the termly exams. His teacher told his mother that if he missed writing his exams, he was confident that Franklin could still come out top in the class. "So Franklin always had the potential but he needed a school with supportive teachers and competitive pupils to encourage

and push him to strive and aim for the best." Mrs. Adedeji said.

Franklin moved to a Bridge School in Ikorodu four years ago and hasn't looked back since. "Each day we learnt new things," Franklin noted, saying that Mr. Azeez Fasasi was his favourite teacher and was always willing to help him. Fasasi spotted the potential in Franklin and

helped him overcome his shortcomings. He worked on Franklin's confidence as he discovered Franklin was timid and was hesitant in expressing himself in public.

When asked what his favourite subject is, Franklin had an unusual answer for an 11-year-old, "Maths" he said, "because it makes me think faster."

This skill will certainly come in handy for Franklin's dream job, which is to be a scientist in order to "help Nigeria improve," he explained.

While at Bridge, Franklin was the head boy and had the duty of teaching others to behave well, he helped the teacher with collecting books and keeping the classroom in order. He learnt how to be responsible and care for others. Franklin also loves reading and volunteers to read story books aloud to his class.

Franklin Adedeji was the best graduating pupil in 2019 at Bridge Nigeria, having scored an amazing 182 marks out of 200 in the National Common Entrance Examination. As a result of his fantastic score, he got a chance to compete against other top performers from across the country for the Nigerian National Production Corporation and Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (NNPC/SNEPCo)

National Cradle-to-Career Scholarship.

Scholarships like this are important for pupils like Franklin, as it enables brilliant children from less privileged backgrounds be able to attend strong secondary schools in Nigeria. Franklin was shortlisted for his state of origin, Ondo State, and over 100 pupils competed for the prized secondary school scholarship. He was amazed to win one of the three places: "these things don't often happen to children in communities like mine," he said.

According to Shell Nigeria, scholarships like Franklin's are "designed to bridge educational inequalities resulting from geographic and socio-economic difference." They select candidates from each of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory to enter, finally awarding scholarships to the three best children.

Now, Franklin attends Lead-Forte Gate College, Lekki, a top independent secondary school established with a vision to produce world class leaders. The students of the school have participated in local and international competitions, recording impressive academic success. Bridge uses an approach that leverages

technology to leapfrog education, enabling teachers to succeed and children to excel. A UK Government report at the end of last year showed that unusually Bridge was delivering equity of learning at its schools in Lagos, for all children, regardless of their background and the common entrance results support that.

The Academics Director at Bridge Nigeria, Rhoda Odigboh said: "Our teachers must take some credit for the success of their pupils. It's dedication, passion and hard work of teachers who enable us to transform the opportunities for children each and every day across Nigeria."

"The success our children have achieved in the national exam shows what Bridge has always believed that every Nigerian child can excel if given the right opportunities, supportive teachers and empowering schools."

Bridge International Academies first entered Nigeria in 2015, supporting community schools across Lagos. 2019 was the first year that the school network entered pupils for the National Common Entrance exam. Fifty five Bridge candidates sat the exam in their inaugural year and boys and girls excelled equally with Bridge's top performing female pupil,

Fatimat Ibrahim scoring 179 marks. The majority of Bridge candidates did very well and surpassed the historical unity cut off exam score for Lagos state; the state that usually has the highest cut off score in the country. The majority of pupils scored 132 marks or more out of 200 which is impressive, especially considering that Bridge is focused on serving low-income families.

The results provide further evidence that Bridge provides a strong education to children in Nigeria and builds upon the preponderance of evidence being gathered by the school network in national exams such as the Uganda Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) and the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE); in both sets of government exams, Bridge pupils outperform the national average every year.

Franklin now learns alongside children from some of the wealthiest communities in Lagos. His success is largely down to the support from his teachers and parents and the solid Bridge primary foundation he received from which he can explore and conquer the world.

Franklin describes going to Bridge as a "life changer" and says that he would recommend it to all families.

By Dana Krause

Dahabo left Somalia in June 1992 after hordes of men swept through her house and killed her brother. She was 13 years old when she arrived in the Dadaab refugee complex, known in the local dialect as the 'rocky hard place'.

She is still there today, now with her own 13-year-old daughter. Their story defies the short-term logic of refugee camps. Isolated, almost forgotten, they fear a return to Somalia and the insecurity that awaits them there.

But this week, governments have another chance to unblock the decades-long limbo of 200,000 Dadaab residents like Dahabo at the first ever Global Refugee Forum.

On the ground, we are witnessing a renewed commitment to finding solutions for refugees here. Since 2014, over 80,000 refugees have returned to Somalia as part of UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme. Within Kenya, communities hosting refugees in Dadaab have shown remarkable generosity, while facing their own development challenges. County governments, with support from UNHCR, are developing pathways for refugees to access public services and integrate locally.

These are vital developments in resolving the long-term encampment of refugees. But the wider context remains pitted against lasting solutions for all. Refugees still cannot move freely outside the camp complex nor access formal education and employment; international assistance has struggled to keep up with refugees' needs; and insecurity reigns in Somalia.

Meanwhile, in Dadaab, water shortages are frequent, there is rarely enough food, and Dahabo and her eight children live cramped in a wind-blasted hut made of plastic sheeting.

We need to find sustainable solutions for Dadaab refugees



One recent morning, Dahabo sat with her daughter, Marian, in the MSF clinic in Dagahaley camp, one of three camps that comprise Dadaab's sprawling refugee complex. Suffering from a congenital disease, Marian is often wracked by fits that leave her exhausted and weak. Every month, she comes to the clinic to receive her treatment. She could be cured in a specialised hospital, but in Dadaab, only those that need urgent, life-saving surgery can seek care outside the camps.

A fragile balance has been maintained between normalcy and emergency, life and death. As months became years and years became decades, this has trapped people in a paralysis from where they can neither move forwards nor backwards.

To end refugees' confinement, overtures by local counties like Garissa must be backed up by Kenyan authorities implementing policies that allow refugees to freely move, study and work. Host countries including Kenya should receive the full support of the international community to integrate refugees locally through

pledges of long-term assistance to strengthen and expand local service delivery. In the transition from a chronic emergency towards longer-term solutions, it is vital that the quality and quantity of services to refugees is not compromised.

At the same time, both traditional and new resettlement countries should commit to increasing the number of resettlement places. This should be complemented by other pathways to self-reliance such as scholarships, work permits, extended family reunification and private sponsorships.

MSF has stood alongside refugees and host communities for most of Dadaab's existence and we will continue to provide medical care to refugees and host communities. But having witnessed first-hand for years the scarcity and uncertainty in which people have been forced to live, it is agonising to see such daily affronts to their dignity.

For the hundreds of thousands of Somalis who have only known life in the camps of Dadaab, sustainable solutions out of this rocky hard place are desperately needed.

From Dadaab, we will be watching the world's first refugee summit with expectant eyes.

Dadaab is a semi-arid town in Garissa County, Kenya. It is the site of a UNHCR base hosting 211,365 registered refugees and asylum seekers in three camps (Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo.) as of the 13 May 2019,^[1] making it the third-largest such complex in the world. The center is run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and its operations are financed by foreign donors.^[6] In 2013, UNHCR, the governments of Kenya and Somalia signed a tripartite agreement facilitating the repatriation of Somali refugees at the complex.

Construction

The Dadaab camps Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo were constructed in 1992. In 2011 and 2013, two new refugee camps were opened when 164,000 new refugees from Somalia arrived, due to severe drought. The Ifo II camp extension was originally constructed in 2007 by the Norwegian Refugee Council, in response to major

flooding that destroyed over 2,000 homes in the Ifo refugee camp. However, legal problems with the Kenyan Government prevented Ifo II from fully opening for relocation, until 2011. As of May 13, Hagadera was the largest of the camps, containing just over 74,744 individuals and 17,490 households. Ifo refugee camp, on the other hand, is the smallest camp with 65,974 refugees. Former Kambioss and Ifo2 refugee camps were closed in April 2017 and May 2018, respectively.

Ifo camp was first settled by refugees from the civil war in Somalia. The UNHCR subsequently made efforts to improve the premises. As the population of the camps in Dadaab grew, UNHCR commissioned the German architect Werner Schellenberg to draw the original design for Dagahaley Camp, as well as the Swedish architect Per Iwansson, who designed and initiated the establishment of Hagadera camp.

Population growth and decline

People first began arriving at the Dadaab complex shortly

after its construction in 1992, with most escaping the Somali Civil War.^[10] When refugees arrive at the camp, they are registered and fingerprinted by the Kenyan government. However, the camps themselves are managed by the UNHCR, with other organizations directly in charge of specific aspects of the resident lives. CARE oversees Water and Sanitation Hygiene as well as warehouse management and the World Food Programme (WFP) distributes food rations. Until 2003, only Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provided refugees with access to health-care. Now, healthcare is decentralized. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) provides health care services in Ifo refugee camp, International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Hagadera and Medecins Sans Frontières in Dagahaley refugee camp. Although refugees arriving at Dadaab receive assistance from each of these organizations, aid is often not immediate due to overcrowding. Other relief organizations include Danish Refugee Agency (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Agency (NRC), Windle International, Lutheran World Federation, Center for Victims of Torture, In July 2011, due to a drought in Eastern Africa, over 1,000 people per day were arriving in need of assistance. The influx reportedly placed great strain on the resources, as the capacity of the camps was around 90,000, whereas the camps hosted 439,000 refugees in July 2011 according to the UNHCR. The number was predicted to increase to 500,000 by the end of 2011 according to estimates from Médecins Sans Frontières. Those population figures at the time made Dadaab the largest refugee camp in the world. According to the Lutheran World Federation, military operations in the

Demographics

Before the UNHCR base was opened, the local town population traditionally consisted of nomadic ethnic Somali pastoralists, who were mainly camel and goat herders. However, since the 1990s, an influx of refugees has dramatically shifted the demographics of the area. Most of the people living in Dadaab have fled various conflicts in the broader Eastern Africa region. The majority have come as a consequence of the civil war in southern Somalia as well as due to droughts. According to Human Rights Watch, most of these displaced persons belong to the Bantu ethnic minority population as well as the Rahanweyn clan. Most of the latter have migrated from the southern Jubba Valley and the Gedo region, while the remainder have arrived from Kismayo, Mogadishu and Bardera.

In 2005, around 97 per cent of registered refugees at Dadaab were Muslims from Somalia. The remainder mainly consisted of Muslims from the Somali region (Ogaden) in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Christians and Sudanese Christians, totaling 4,000 individuals. While the Muslim minorities did not face any persecution, tensions with the Christian minorities were reportedly high.

According to the UNHCR, 80 per cent of residents were women and children and 95 per cent were Somalia nationals as of mid-2015. Of the registered refugee population from Somalia, the number of men and women is equal, but only 4 per cent of the total population is over the age of sixty. Each year, thousands of children are born in the Dadaab camps. A number of adults have spent their entire lives as refugees in the complex.

Infrastructure development and the African future

By Sam Amadi

Three issues will define Africa's future in the 2020s. The first is political stability. African countries, especially those in the Sahel and Sub-Saharan, must reestablish state capacity and legitimacy amid the chaos of 21st Century jihadist attacks and communal conflicts. These countries are terribly weak and incoherent. Strength and coherence are required for effective modern state. The market with weak state capacity will not deliver prosperity and order to Africa. Strong and legitimate states effectively creating and managing markets is what Africa needs.

The second challenge Africa must address is political justice. The legacy of the Berlin Conference is unraveling. Everywhere in Africa, suppressed or oppressed ethnic groups and communities are resurrecting grievances and playing the politics of difference. Africa's multiethnic and multireligious states are wobbling under the gale of identity politics and struggle for access to resources. The weakness of the political bargains that ushered the post-colonial state in Africa is showing too glaring.

And the problem is that there is no presence of mind and even epistemic resources to deal with the crisis of the political state in the context of the overwhelming predicament of the economic state in Africa. The politic of identity is blowing harshly across Africa. State fragility amid extreme poverty is a difficult proposition



to deal with. Africa social scientists and jurists must innovate new structures of social justice to deal with the challenge.

The third challenge for Africa in the next decade will be how to trigger and sustain transformative economic growth. Sustained and inclusive economic growth in Africa will enhance the capacity to solve the two other challenges. Africa is the only other continent, besides the Middle East, that has not recorded real sustained economic growth. Africa's development deficit is caused largely by lack of good infrastructure. Electricity supply in African countries (except for South Africa and one or two other countries) is totally comatose.

For example, Nigeria, the largest economy in Africa has average available capacity of about 6,000 megawatts of grid electricity. It distributes to homes and businesses on the average less than 4,000mws daily. Apart from the North Africa, the rest

of Africa has an average of 50% access to electricity. Of course, South Africa is an outlier in these indicators. Acute power shortage undermines industrial development and makes African enterprises uncompetitive. Transportation infrastructure is similarly very bad.

Bad road and rail networks have weakened market transactions in urban and rural areas, hindered intra-African trade and undermined the growth of African economies. The lack of growth in physical and social infrastructure is both the main cause and outcome of economic underdevelopment in Africa. It has resulted in shared poverty, communal violence and political instability in African countries, more lamentable in a country like Nigeria that has tremendous potential for development and transformation.

The African continent is not poor, but poorly governed. One indicator of poor governance is

the failure to build and sustain critical infrastructure. The good news is that African leaders have realized this failure and are making serious efforts to build the missing critical infrastructure. The major policy thrust of the Nigerian government's economic policy is infrastructural development. It budgets to spend about three trillion naira on infrastructures. The Nigerian budget as an example contains many road and power projects that the government hopes will re-inflate the economy and create more wealth and jobs.

Liberalisation has become a major feature of the emerging economic landscape in Nigeria as well as in other African countries. Since 1999, with the return to civilian democratic government, the Nigerian government has focused on liberalising the economy and allowing the private sector to play more role in provision of economic goods and services. This policy has cul-

minated in the privatization of major state-owned enterprises.

The most recent and ambitious is the divestment of government shares in electricity generation and distribution companies in 2013. This process transferred 17 electricity companies to private enterprises and brought the government owned transmission company into private sector management. The power sector privatization rode at the back of privatization of government owned tourism and telecommunication companies. The privatization of the refineries is touted as next on the card. Interestingly, Africa's largest grid, South Africa and Egypt and Morocco are still publicly owned.

Many African governments have decided on liberalisation and commercialisation as the model of economic growth. Liberalisation and commercialisation came at the behest of neoliberalism that swept Africa and other developing economies as a result of balance of trade deficit and debt overhang. Although the assumptions of neoliberalism are being questioned in the mainstream Washington institutions that promoted the ideology and the ideology is now in retreat in the advanced economies, Many African countries are inevitably on the neo-liberal agenda and will continue to rely on private funds to finance infrastructure. This will be the case because these countries are witnessing dramatic fall in commodity prices and huge infrastructure deficit is overwhelming dwindling public finance.

A fundamental challenge of establishing and managing infrastructure in Africa would be how to raise the required finance for massive infrastructural development. African governments will resort to the private sector to

finance new infrastructure and manage old ones under different forms of private public partnership. The African private sector is underdeveloped. This means that there will be increasing resort to foreign direct and portfolio investments. These come with anxieties about costs, pricing and policy and political stability.

How can the continent attract enough private capital to finance infrastructural leap-forward required to restart economic prosperity in Africa? Private enterprises will be reluctant to finance infrastructure projects unless there is a regulatory regime that inspires confidence and assures predictable returns on investment. Furthermore, private investment in infrastructure would mean cost-recovery pricing of infrastructural services, which in some sense are public goods. This has socio-political difficulties that require a matured and effective regulatory framework. So, the most pressing challenge for these government would be to develop capacity for effective infrastructure regulation.

The regulatory challenge for infrastructural development is threefold. First, we must get the economics right. Economics is not everything. But economics matters. The regulatory framework should give assurance of cost recovery and reasonable profit in social context that maximises access to quality services. It is easy to talk of a pricing framework that recovers costs in a fair and sustainable manner. But it is difficult to establish

and manage such a framework. The risks profiles are high in the continent and no amount of contract will be complete in the sense of anticipating contingencies and covering them. Incomplete contracting means that certainty and fairness in regulatory governance will be key.

Pricing will be a major concern. Obviously, Infrastructure markets will need a guarantee of cost-reflective pricing. But market fundamentalism gets it wrong. Proper pricing is not only a science; it's a science as well as an art. It should skillfully adapt universal principles of infrastructural pricing to unique local contexts. The emphasis is more on 'unique' rather than 'local'.

A sustainable public policy framework for infrastructure development must be built within an accountable and inclusive politics for sustainability. This will be difficult when the macro politics in African countries are patently illiberal and unaccountable. Public participation and support are critical to a sustained delivery of infrastructure reform policy. Building such public support will determine success. This is one area World Bank type reformers will need a better script in implementing reform. Good politics will determine failure or success. And good politics, as the late political economist, Claude Ake, counselled should not approximate the coordinates of a free market, but rather rooted in community engagement and accountability.

By PAULINE ONGAJI

Despite it being more than two years since Vera* was sexually assaulted, the events that took place that fateful Sunday June 2017 still remains fresh on her mind.

For this 22 year old, it is a case of being raped by people he knew. It all began on the night of Saturday June 17, 2017.

Then, she was only 20 years and working as a bar attendant at a small local club in Nairobi's Embakasi estate.

IN CUSTODY

"Apparently the club owner was operating without a license and so when the police came calling at around 9pm, and being the only one on duty at the time, I was arrested," she explains.

According to Vera, like other people in custody that night, they had to endure hours of being driven throughout the estate as the police made other arrests.

"By the time we reached at the police station it was past midnight. But just before I was booked in, my boss came to bail me out," she says.

According to her, in his car, her boss came with two other men; her co-workers at the bar. "Before I left the bar, I was a little tipsy, so when I got into the car I slept because I thought I was safe being with the men I knew," she says.

But she would be in for a rude awakening the next morning. "The next day, at around 8am, still in my boss's car, I was woken up by his wife. "Amka uvae nguo unatuaibisha," which translates to "wake up, you're embarrassing us," she said.

At first, she says, she didn't

Measures to cope with sexual assault



understand why she was that harsh until she looked at herself.

"I was in the front seat of the car. My trouser was pulled down and the lower part of my body was naked. My hoodie top I had on was unzipped and my chest bare. I was feeling enormous pain on my head and back but I couldn't remember what happened," she explains.

So she ordered me to get at the back seat and dress up. "She locked me inside the car. Still it didn't come to my mind that I had been sexually assaulted, until I wanted to urinate and I felt immense pain and also saw my urine mixed with blood," she adds.

EVIDENCE

Later on her boss together with her co-workers who were with him the previous night would come back.

"My efforts to demand what had happened to me that previous night fell on deaf ears as no one talked about it. Instead, they insisted on taking me somewhere else to bathe then drop me home. I was tired, stinking, bloody and vomiting thus I desperately agreed," she explains.

She didn't know she was getting rid of the evidence. She threw away her panty, but still remained with my bloodied trousers.

Afterwards she was taken home of which she slept through the night before going to the hospital the next day, which was on a Monday.

"I went to Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital where it was confirmed that I was beaten up and raped, at least going by the vaginal bruises. I was put on medication," she explains.

Unfortunately, the doctors couldn't get any DNA that could link the perpetrators with the act, since all evidence had been gotten rid of. "Besides, I was embarrassed of explaining the events prior to my assault, and thought people wouldn't believe me," she explains.

Sabia Mwinini, nurse in

charge of the Gender Based Violence recovery centre at The Coast General Hospital, says after sexual trauma experience it is important to prioritise your safety.

Sabia, who specialises in the clinical treatment of sexual violence survivors, says many survivors may be reluctant to pursue medical attention immediately after a sexual assault mainly due to the fear of being judged.

However, she insists that going to the hospital after being raped is important as the victim gets a chance to be treated physical injuries. "It also ensures your sexual and physical health," she adds.

SHOCK

Lynette Odidi, a consultant psychologist and a mental health advocate based in Kisumu says normally after an assault, most victims experience shock.

"Most sexual violence survivors experience depression and anxiety due to the issue of victims being blamed as well as circumstances leading to the incident."

It is for this reason that Odidi insists on the importance of calling someone, probably a close friend. "Someone you could confide in without being judged, and have them keep you company," she says.

The importance of talking about the assault, she says, is to help in the healing process. "Failure to seek help can have adverse effects on the victim like for instance, change of eating or sleeping habits, which in worst scenarios could lead to post traumatic stress disorder," she adds.

But even as it is important to take precautions after being assaulted, Chris Yumba, projects and development officer for I am My Bodyguard, a Swiss based global foundation dedicated to training children and women skills to protect themselves against all types of violence, says, it would be even better for victims to gain knowledge about defensive measures to avert such a tragedy.

"There is need to use techniques that build psychological strength and self confidence in children at a young age. It is important to train children about self-defense skills like being assertive, using their voice and body language as a self-defense mechanism. Body language

could be in the form of a firm handshake," he says.

AWARENESS

Being a gender based violence survivor herself, Eunice Nuna, project manager of I Am My Bodyguard here in Kenya, insists on the importance of fighting for personal space and self-confidence.

"This means being able to maintain eye contact, a tactic that most of the time intimidates the prospective perpetrator. Also, avoidance and awareness of your surroundings, as well as knowing your circle of trust, is important as it helps you sense dangerous situations and helps you avoid them before it actually happens," she says.

Nuna who is also a psychologist says it is also important to understand the criminal mind-set. "Reading body language before conflict, understanding who to invite in your personal space and when," she adds.

However, Yumba insists this does not disqualify the need for being aggressive and fighting. When it is necessary, he says, and the victim feels threatened as their life is in danger, then they have to fight back but in an intelligent manner.

"You have to identify the crucial points and where to attack and immobilise the attacker as quick as possible, so that you get a chance to run for safety. This could be the eyes and the groin areas, especially for men since they make up a huge percentage of perpetrators," he explains.

These tactics, Yumba says, could help reduce the numbers of gender based violence cases, and in the process avert sexual trauma, unwanted pregnancies and sexual transmitted diseases including HIV.

Community engagement critical in curtailing teen pregnancies

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya, Mwanza

RECENT media interviews with young girls in Lake Zone regions of Mwanza and Simiyu revealed that when girls become pregnant their future, health, education and dreams change radically making them vulnerable to poverty.

A team of journalists reporting on maternal health related issues had recently visited Magu, Ukerewe and Bariadi districts of Mwanza and Simiyu regions.

Dayness (not her real name) is one of the young mothers and victim of teen pregnancies in Magu district, Mwanza region said: "I was dreaming to become a nurse, but my dreams ended up in a thin air after getting pregnancy when I was in Form Two".

At that time, Dayness said she was 15 years old knowing being pregnant was the end of all her dreams.

"It was difficult for me to break the news to my parents because I was not ex-

pecting to conceive at the age, but it all happened once when I met a man for the first time" recalls Dayness, who is now taking care of her two-year-old baby boy.

Dyness's story is a lesson to many young girls who do not know the importance of using contraceptives as well as the impacts of unprotected sex.

"I am aware of some few contraceptive methods but I have never used anyone of them over fears I would later become barren", she told journalists who sought to know whether she was aware that pregnancies could be avoided.

In another incident, at one of the secondary schools in Magu district, a 19-year-old girl was found pregnant after a random pregnancy test conducted at the school at every three months.

By the time, Juliana was in Form One and was engaging in unprotected sex without using contraceptives. She claimed that modern contraceptives were said to have side effects thus

worrying some women and gild to use them.

"I heard from colleagues that using contraceptives may result into one becoming barren" said Juliana noting her parents had advised her to abort the pregnancy because the responsible man had already disappeared to unknown destinations.

Dayness and Juliana cases are just few examples of teen pregnancies in Tanzania and around the world.

Ukerewe District Education Officer (Secondary), Benjamin Siperto, was of the view that ending adolescent pregnancy requires multi-sectoral approach which also involves the young girls in finding feasible solutions.

"When figuring out solutions to end teen pregnancies in our country we should also involve the girls since the ones to provide us with the possible means. We cannot succeed to end the problem if we only impose solutions on them, the need to participate in planning and implementation of the

plans", he said.

The education officer insisted the need for enhanced partnership between the girls and teachers to come up with designated solution for addressing teenage pregnancy. The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) 2010 shows that adolescent fertility rate stood at 116 per 1000 birth, while the TDHS 2015/2016 says the rate is 132 per 1000.

It is estimated that Tanzania is the 17th country in Africa with high adolescent's birth rate.

Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said: "when girls are educated, they can avoid child marriage, unintended pregnancy and HIV, they can contribute fully to their societies' battles against poverty."

Other factors fueling teen pregnancy include poverty, low level of education as well as tradition and taboos. This has been the case as in an environment where discussions about sex and



sexuality remain taboo, it is little wonder that teenage girls are unable to make a healthy and safe transition to adulthood.

Top ten regions leading in teen pregnancies according to the TDHS 2015/2016 are Katavi (45%), Tabora (43%), Morogoro and Dodoma

(39%), Mara (37%), Mbeya (33%), Ruvuma and Kigoma (32%), Coastal, Simiyu and Geita (30%), Rukwa (29%), Mwanza and Lindi (28%),

and Manyara (26%). Region with the lowest teen pregnancies are Kilimanjaro (6%) and Mjini Magharibi in Zanzibar (5%).

'One of Ireland's best exports': How the young scientist exhibition came to Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE BT YOUNG SCIENTIST and technology exhibition, in its various forms, has been a fixture on school calendars around Ireland for the last 56 years - but since 2011 students in Tanzania have also been noting the date of their local competition in their diaries.

Editha Barde and Nasra Mpochi recently took home last year's top prize at the 8th Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) competition for their project based on cultivating beehives and encouraging bee colonies in arid regions of the east African country using plants native to the island of Unguja, in Zanzibar.

Students in Tanzania have taken the Irish model of the event and run with it, according to the competition's co-founder Joseph Clowry, a former secondary school science teacher from St Mary's Academy, Carlow

"If you look at the projects that are presented in Tanzania, they're all about issues around inequality around climate change, agriculture, access to education," Clowry told TheJournal.ie.

Climate change is also a dominant theme for Irish students, featuring heavily among the 1,800 projects entered in the 56th BT Young Scientist, set to take place in the coming week.

The Young Scientists competition was tailored for Ireland by its founders Rev Dr Burke and Dr Tony Scott who believed Irish students would benefit from experiences similar to entrants to US science fairs.

They launched the first Irish competition in 1965 at the Mansion House Round Room in Dublin with 230 participants. The success of the first year was such that the exhibition then moved to the much larger venue of the RDS, where it has remained there ever since.

Joseph Clowry was present at the 1968 competition, an experience he describes as "inspirational".

He credits the competition with popularising science and technology among secondary school students



Young Scientist Tanzania

since his school days rural Ireland in the 1950s and 60s.

It's a long way from Dublin 4 - so how did the competition end up as a fixture on the educational calendar all the way over in Tanzania?

In 2008, Clowry was offered a position as an education officer with the Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium (CDPC) at Maynooth University. The key objective was to develop the concept of Science for Development and continue to introduce Development Education to secondary schools by linking and highlighting the work of the CDPC.

The following year, Clowry hosted some 40 East African researchers on a training programme in Ireland and "they couldn't believe the level of research being done by children at second level".

Clowry then went to Tanzania to explore the possibilities of transferring the Science for Development programme to one of the CDPC's partner countries.

At one of my presentations, a government official cleared his desk and said his country was a fertile ground for such a project. He asked me to support him to plant the seeds for the project and he would ensure it was cultivated.

"I knew that the proposed Science for Development Outreach Programme in Tanzania would need a high profile exhibition if it were to succeed. I could think of nothing better than the Young Scientist in Ireland model to showcase this

synergy.

"I suppose the idea of what we're doing is we put a focus on the need for science teachers in every region [of Tanzania]," Clowry said, adding that he even received the blessing of Tony Scott to use the Irish template.

In 2018, Joseph was presented with the Inaugural Founders Award Scott at the BT Young Scientist Awards in recognition of his work.

PastedImage-832Joseph Clowry with Dr Tony Scott Getting the concept off the ground was a "tough time" as Ireland was in a recession, but Clowry's persistence paid off.

"So, I suppose from 2009 to 2011, I worked on getting all of the types of elements together like government support for the projects, but I had to get this project off the ground in Tanzania without the government there getting their hands on it. It had to be an independent organisation.

The Tanzanian government has put its support behind the project but it remains an independent NGO, meaning it runs "more efficiently", according to Clowry.

After running a pilot of the competition in 2011 with just four schools, a visit from some highly impressed potential sponsors secured future funding for the competition to expand.

The 2011 YST started out with a presence in just two regions. In 2015, schools from all 30 regions in Tanzania participated

in the annual exhibition. 2019's competition received 550 applications.

"Don't forget, Tanzania is about 11 times bigger than Ireland. So when you're talking about expanding this nationwide, you're talking about huge logistics," said Clowry, explaining that the expansion has been aided by recruiting "local charismatic teachers" as regional coordinators.

Clowry credits the teachers for making the competition a staple on the academic calendar in Tanzania and for helping it to continue to grow "exponentially".

"From the moments the kids leave their school, to the time they go home, we take care of everything. We take care of the buses, the food, we put them up in great accommodation. We treat them like kings," Clowry said.

In 2019, over 600 schools from all over Tanzania sent in their projects to participate at the YST 2019 exhibition. The top 100 schools were then selected to showcase their research at the national exhibition.

The most recent winners travelled to South Africa in October representing Tanzania at the Eskom ExpoScience Science Fair where they won a Gold Medal in the Agriculture Category.

Clowry's end goal is to have an exhibition in each region of the country to give more students a chance to participate, the winners of which would still compete at the grand final in the capital.

New global plan to end TB

By Guardian Reporter

THE Stop TB Partnership launched the Global Plan to End TB 2018-2022 that calls for 2.6 billion USD per year for vital research and development of new tuberculosis (TB) diagnostic tools, new drug regimens and a new vaccine, and 13 billion USD per year for TB care and prevention.

With the new Global Plan, the Stop TB Partnership is also launching the largest ever call for proposals, 2.5 million USD, to fund grass root organisations as part of the TB response as well as new, child-friendly drug-resistant TB treatments.

In September 2018, Heads of State and Government assembled at the United Nations committed to a series of bold targets in the fight against TB. Unlike previous five-yearly plans, the updated Global Plan for 2018-2022 is deliberately aligned to the time frame of the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB targets and provides an estimate of the resources needed to achieve these targets.

If the Global Plan is fully funded and implemented,

countries will reach UNHLM on TB treatment targets set for 2022, including putting 40 million people on treatment for TB, including 3.5 million children and 1.5 million people with drug-resistant TB. This will lead to 1.5 million fewer deaths due to TB, and the return on investment will be 44 USD for 1 USD spent. On the other hand, a five-year delay in increasing funding for TB research and development would lead to approximately 2 million more people dying and an additional 13.9 million people developing TB.

Funding is critical. To achieve these goals, 13 billion USD every year is needed globally for TB care and prevention—approximately twice the current level invested. And 2.6 billion USD is needed every year for research and development of new diagnostics, new drugs and a new vaccine—approximately three times the current level invested.

Many countries will have difficulties reaching these funding levels. While high-income countries, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and upper-

middle-income countries can tap domestic budgets to reach the necessary funding levels, low-income and lower-middle-income countries will need increased external funding. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria provides nearly 80% of external funding for TB programs but the envelope provided is very small versus the actual needs, with a total of 840 million USD/year.

The announcement was made in Indonesia, one of the top three highest TB burden countries in the world, with nearly one million people developing the disease each year. In its 2016 National Strategic Plan, the Indonesian Ministry of Health pledged to end TB in the country by 2030.

At the event, Stop TB's Global Drug Facility (GDF) officially launched the Pediatric Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB) Initiative. Of the estimated 1.1 million children under the age of 15 who became sick with TB around the world in 2018, an estimated 32,000 had DR-TB. Of those, fewer than 5% are diagnosed and receive treatment. Even fewer of those under the age of five received treatment.

Until recently, only 500 young children globally with DR-TB received treatment, and those who were treated were put on medicines intended for use in adults. Yet, children require different formulations for treatment than adults—ones that are more aligned with the smaller size of children and that can be taken more easily, for example dispersed in water rather than crushed and mixed. With so few children with DR-TB being diagnosed and treated globally, getting these new formulations developed, produced and distributed is difficult.

The Pediatric Drug-Resistant TB Initiative aims to ensure access to the best possible treatments for children suffering from one of the deadliest diseases in the world. GDF together with the Sentinel Project on Pediatric DR-Tuberculosis worked to identify early adopter countries that could implement the new pediatric formulations quickly and pooled their demand, leading to the introduction of these life-saving medicines in countries in less than 12

months.

Already procured by 56 countries and introduced in Haiti and Nigeria, among others, the oral medicines come in a dissolvable, flavored form—replacing the adult doses in tablet form that had to be crushed or split so that the proper therapeutic levels could be met and removing the injectables with their terrible and permanent side effects. GDF was also able to negotiate substantial price reductions, ranging from 30% to 85%, depending on the medicines used.

In 2019 alone, Stop TB's GDF provided over 1,100 treatments for children with drug-resistant TB around the world, more than double the number of children under five years of age historically treated each year for DR-TB.

However, the world is far away from the 2018 UNHLM on TB and Global Plan to end TB target of treating 115,000 children with DR-TB by the year 2022, including 47,000 young children in need of these new, child-friendly formulations.

The Stop TB Partnership also launched the largest-ever call for proposals for TB-affected community and civil society grassroots organizations.

An estimated 30% of the 10 million people who developed TB disease in 2018 did not access or receive proper care. This call for proposals recognizes the fact that we cannot reach these key and vulnerable populations unless we work with TB-affected communities and the organizations that support them. Only through collaboration with these organizations can we end TB.

Supported by USAID and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, each grant will be between 25,000 and 150,000 USD to cover 12 months of activities.

The Challenge Facility for Civil Society grant mechanism will fund proposals that address barriers in screening and treatment services; promote community outreach, education and advocacy; organize legal responses to systemic discrimination; and facilitate monitoring of the TB response, holding governments accountable to the commitments made in the United Nations declaration on TB.

By Special Correspondent

Packaging requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables extremely essential

Packaging fresh fruits and vegetables is one of the more important steps in the long and complicated journey from grower to consumer. Bags, crates, hampers, baskets, cartons, bulk bins, and palletized containers are convenient containers for handling, transporting, and marketing fresh produce. More than 1,500 different types of packages are used for produce in the United States and the number continues to increase as the industry introduces new packaging materials and concepts. Although the industry generally agrees that container standardization is one way to reduce cost, the trend in recent years has moved toward a wider range of package sizes to accommodate the diverse needs of wholesalers, consumers, food service buyers, and processing operations.

Packing and packaging materials contribute a significant cost to the produce industry; therefore it is important that packers, shippers, buyers, and consumers have a clear understanding of the wide range of packaging options available. This factsheet describes some of the many types of packaging, including their functions, uses, and limitations. Also included is a listing, by commodity, of the common produce containers standard to the industry.

The Function of Packaging or Why Package Produce?

A significant percentage of produce buyer and consumer complaints may be traced to container failure because of poor design or inappropriate selection and use. A properly designed produce container should contain, protect, and identify the produce, satisfying everyone from grower to consumer.

PACKAGING POINTS

Recyclability/Biodegradability.

A growing number of US markets and many export markets have waste disposal restrictions for packaging materials. In the near future, almost all produce packaging will be recyclable or biodegradable, or both. Many of the largest buyers of fresh produce are also those most concerned about environmental issues.

Variety.

The trend is toward greater use of bulk packages for processors and wholesale buyers and smaller packages for consumers. There are now more than 1,500 different sizes and styles of produce packages.

Sales Appeal.

High quality graphics are increasingly being used to boost sales appeal. Multi-color printing, distinctive lettering, and logos are now common.

Shelf Life.

Modern produce packaging can be custom engineered for each commodity to extend shelf life and reduce waste.

Containment

The container must enclose the produce in convenient units for handling and distribution. The produce should fit well inside the container, with little wasted space. Small produce items that are spherical or oblong (such as potatoes, onions, and apples) may be packaged efficiently utilizing a variety of different package shapes and sizes. However, many produce items such as asparagus, berries, or soft fruit may require containers specially designed for that item. Packages of produce commonly handled by hand are usually limited to 50 pounds. Bulk packages moved by forklifts may weigh as much as 1,200 pounds.

Protection

The package must protect the produce from mechanical damage and poor environmental conditions during handling and distribution. To produce buyers, torn, dented, or collapsed produce packages usually indicate lack of care in handling the contents. Produce containers must be sturdy enough to resist damage during packaging, storage, and transportation to market.

Because almost all produce packages are palletized, produce containers should have sufficient stacking strength to resist crushing in a low temperature, high humidity environment. Although the cost of packaging materials has escalated sharply in recent years, poor quality, lightweight containers that are easily damaged by handling or moisture are no longer tolerated by packers or buyers.

Produce destined for export markets requires containers to be extra sturdy. Air-freighted produce may require special packing, package sizes, and insulation. Marketers who export fresh produce should consult with freight companies about any special packaging requirements. Additionally, the USDA and various state export agencies may be able to provide specific packaging information.



Damage resulting from poor environmental control during handling and transit is one of the leading causes of rejected produce and low buyer and consumer satisfaction. Each fresh fruit and vegetable commodity has its own requirements for temperature, humidity, and environmental gas composition. Produce containers should be produce friendly - helping to maintain an optimum environment for the longest shelf life. This may include special materials to slow the loss of water from the produce, insulation materials to keep out the heat, or engineered plastic liners that maintain a favorable mix of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Identification

The package must identify and provide useful information about the produce. It is customary (and may be required in some cases) to provide information such as the produce name, brand, size, grade, variety, net weight, count, grower, shipper, and country of origin. It is also becoming more common to find included on the package nutritional information, recipes, and other useful information directed specifically at the consumer. In consumer marketing, package appearance has also become an important part of point of sale displays.

Universal Product Codes (UPC or bar codes) may be included as part of the labeling. The UPCs used in the food industry consist of a ten-digit machine readable code. The first five digits are a number assigned to the specific producer (packer or shipper) and the second five digits represent specific product information such as type of produce and size of package. Although no price information is included, UPCs are used more and more by packers, shippers, buyers, and retailers as a fast and convenient method of inventory control and cost accounting. Efficient use of UPCs requires coordination with everyone who handles the package.

Types of packaging materials

Wood

Pallets literally form the base on which most fresh produce is delivered to the consumer. Pallets were first used during World War II as an efficient way to move goods. The produce industry uses approximately 190 of the 700 million pallets produced per year in the United States. About 40 percent of these are single-use pallets. Because many are of a non-standard size, the pallets are built as inexpensively as possible and discarded after a single use. Although standardization efforts have been slowly under way for many years, the efforts have been accelerated by pressure from environmental groups, in addition to the rising cost of pallets and landfill tipping fees.

Over the years, the 40-inch wide, by 48-inch long pallet has evolved as the unofficial standard size. Standardization encourages re-use, which has many benefits. Besides reducing cost because they may be used many times, most pallet racks and automated pallet handling equipment are designed for standard-size pallets. Standard size pallets make efficient use of truck and van space and can accommodate heavier loads and more stress than lighter single-use pallets. Additionally, the use of a single pallet size could substantially reduce pallet inventory and warehousing costs along with pallet repair and disposal costs. The adoption of a pallet standard throughout the produce industry would also aid efforts toward standardization of produce containers.

In the early 1950s, an alternative to the pallet was introduced. It is a pallet-size sheet (slipsheet) of corrugated fiberboard or plastic (or a combination of these materials) with a narrow lip along one or more sides. Packages of produce are stacked directly on this sheet as if it were a pallet. Once the packages are in place, they are moved by a specially equipped forklift equipped with a thin metal sheet instead of forks.

Slipsheets are considerably less expensive than pallets to buy, store, and maintain; they may be re-used many times; and they reduce the tare weight of the load. However, they require the use of a special forklift attachment at each handling point from packer to retailer.

Depending on the size of produce package, a single pallet may carry from 20 to over 100 individual packages. Because these packages are often loosely stacked to allow for air circulation, or are bulging and difficult to stack evenly, they must be secured (unitized) to prevent shifting during handling and transit. Although widely used, plastic straps

and tapes may not have completely satisfactory results. Plastic or paper corner tabs should always be used to prevent the straps from crushing the corners of packages.

Plastic stretch film is also widely used to secure produce packages. A good film must stretch, retain its elasticity, and cling to the packages. Plastic film may conform easily to various size loads. It helps protect the packages from loss of moisture, makes the pallet more secure against pilferage, and can be applied using partial automation. However, plastic film severely restricts proper ventilation. A common alternative to stretch film is plastic netting, which is much better for stabilizing some pallet loads, such as those that require forced-air cooling. Used stretch film and plastic netting may be difficult to properly handle and recycle.

A very low-cost and almost fully automated method of pallet stabilization is the application of a small amount of special glue to the top of each package. As the packages are stacked, the glue secures all cartons together. This glue has a low tensile strength so cartons may be easily separated or repositioned, but a high shear strength so they will not slide. The glue does not present disposal or recycling problems.

Pallet Bins. Substantial wooden pallet bins of milled lumber or plywood are primarily used to move produce from the field or orchard to the packing house. Depending on the application, capacities may range from 12 to more than 50 bushels. Although the height may vary, the length and width is generally the same as a standard pallet (48 inches by 40 inches). More efficient double-wide pallet bins (48 inches by 80 inches) are becoming more common in some produce operations.

Most pallet bins are locally made; therefore it is very important that they be consistent from lot to lot in materials, construction, and especially size. For example, small differences in overall dimensions can add up to big problems when several hundred are stacked together for cooling, ventilation, or storage. It is also important that stress points be adequately reinforced. The average life of a hardwood pallet bin that is stored outside is approximately five years. When properly protected from the weather, pallets bins may have a useful life of 10 years or more.

Uniform voluntary standards for wood pallets and other wood containers are administered by the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association, Washington, DC. Additionally, the

American Society of Agricultural Engineers, St. Joseph, Michigan, publishes standards for agricultural pallet bins (ASAE S337.1).

Wire-Bound Crates. Although alternatives are available, wooden wire-bound crates are used extensively for snap beans, sweet corn and several other commodities that require hydrocooling. Wire-bound crates are sturdy, rigid and have very high stacking strength that is essentially unaffected by water. Wire-bound crates come in many different sizes from half-bushel to pallet-bin size and have a great deal of open space to facilitate cooling and ventilation. Although few are re-used, wire-bound crates may be disassembled after use and shipped back to the packer (flat). In some areas, used containers may pose a significant disposal problem. Wire-bound crates are not generally acceptable for consumer packaging because of the difficulty in affixing suitable labels.

Wooden Crates and Lugs. Wooden crates, once extensively used for apples, stone fruit, and potatoes have been almost totally replaced by other types of containers. The relative expense of the container, a greater concern for tare weight, and advances in material handling have reduced their use to a few specialty items, such as expensive tropical fruit. The 15-, 20-, and 25-pound wooden lugs still used for bunch grapes and some specialty crops are being gradually replaced with less costly alternatives.

Wooden Baskets and Hampers. Wire-reinforced wood veneer baskets and hampers of different sizes were once used for a wide variety of crops from strawberries to sweetpotatoes. They are durable and may be nested for efficient transport when empty. However, cost, disposal problems, and difficulty in efficient palletization have severely limited their use to mostly local grower markets where they may be re-used many times.

Corrugated Fiberboard

Corrugated fiberboard (often mistakenly called cardboard or pasteboard) is manufactured in many different styles and weights. Because of its relatively low cost and versatility, it is the dominant produce container material and will probably remain so in the near future. The strength and serviceability of corrugated fiberboard have been improving in recent years.

Most corrugated fiberboard is made from three or more layers of paperboard manufactured by the kraft process. To be considered paperboard, the paper must be thicker than 0.008 inches. The grades of paperboard are differentiated by their weight (in pounds per 1,000 square feet) and their thickness. Kraft paper made from unbleached pulp has a characteristic brown color and is exceptionally strong. In addition to virgin wood fibers, Kraft paper may have some portion of synthetic fibers for additional strength, sizing (starch), and other materials to give it wet strength and printability. Most fiberboard contains some recycled fibers. Minimum amounts of recycled materials may be specified by law and the percentage is expected to increase in the future. Tests have shown that cartons of fully recycled pulp have about 75 percent of the stacking strength of

virgin fiber containers. The use of recycled fibers will inevitably lead to the use of thicker walled containers.

Double-faced corrugated fiberboard is the predominant form used for produce containers. It is produced by sandwiching a layer of corrugated paperboard between an inner and outer liner (facing) of paper-board. The inner and outer liner may be identical, or the outer layer may be preprinted or coated to better accept printing.

The inner layer may be given a special coating to resist moisture. Heavy-duty shipping containers, such as corrugated bulk bins that are required to have high stacking strength, may have double- or even triple-wall construction. Corrugated fiberboard manufacturers print box certificates on the bottom of containers to certify certain strength characteristics and limitations. There are two types of certification. The first certifies the minimum combined weight of both the inner and outer facings and that the corrugated fiberboard material is of a minimum bursting strength. The second certifies minimum edge crush test (ETC) strength. Edge crush strength is a much better predictor of stacking strength than is bursting strength.

For this reason, users of corrugated fiberboard containers should insist on ECT certification to compare the stackability of various containers. Both certificates give a maximum size limit for the container (sum of length, width, and height) and the maximum gross weight of the contents.

Both cold temperatures and high humidities reduce the strength of fiberboard containers. Unless the container is specially treated, moisture absorbed from the surrounding air and the contents can reduce the strength of the container by as much as 75 percent. New anti-moisture coatings (both wax and plastic) are now available to substantially reduce the effects of moisture.

Waxed fiberboard cartons (the wax is about 20 percent of fiber weight) are used for many produce items that must be either hydrocooled or iced. The main objection to wax cartons is disposal after use—wax cartons cannot be recycled and are increasingly being refused at landfills. Several states and municipalities have recently taxed wax cartons or have instituted rigid back haul regulations. Industry sources suggest that wax cartons will eventually be replaced by plastic or, more likely, the use of ice and hydrocooling will be replaced by highly controlled forced-air cooling and rigid temperature and humidity maintenance on many commodities.

In many applications for corrugated fiberboard containers, the stacking strength of the container is a minor consideration. For example, canned goods carry the majority of their own weight when stacked. Fresh produce usually cannot carry much of the vertical load without some damage. Therefore, one of the primarily desired characteristics of corrugated fiberboard containers is stacking strength to protect the produce from crushing. Because of their geometry, most of the stacking strength of corrugated containers is carried by the corners. For this reason, hand holes and ventilation slots should never be positioned near the corners of produce containers and be limited to no more than 5 to 7 percent of the side area.

Postharvest Technology Series

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =030=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

- 3 letter word: USE, SPA, EAT, SIT, UDO, ERA
- 4 letter word: NONE, NORM, ELMS, BONE, MERE, SHOW
- 5 letter word: RIDER, TRAIN,HELLO, ARENE, RADAR INLET, SPADE
- 6 letter word: SERENE, RODENT, CEMENT, TABORA, TOWERS, HADITH, MUSEUM
- 7 letter word: ELEATIC, CREATOR
- 9 letter word: SERENGETI, MERCHANTS

WORD FIT CROSSWORD

- Clues: Across
1. Device for shaving (6)
 5. Divide something with sharp tool (3)
 6. Wild Asian ass (6)
 8. So be it (4)
 9. Somebody who tests products (6)
 11. Rental contract (5)
 14. Retrain (7)
 16. Believer that people are insincere (5)
 17. Increase (3)
 18. Scottish Trades Union Congress (4)
 20. Costing nothing (4)
 21. Jotted record (4) 22. Floating (6)
- Down:
1. Game (5)
 2. Gather (7)
 3. First Woman in the World (3)
 4. Attractive (4)
 7. Almost never (6)
 10. Provoke a reaction (6)
 12. Alloy for making magnets (6)
 13. Confine in cages (7)
 15. Bear hardships (7)
 18. Half (4)
 19. One person, thing or group (4)

BUSINESS

LOW INTEREST

Bank loan benefits 200 farmers in Singida Region

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Itigi

MORE than 200 lentil farmers from seven villages in Itigi district, Singida region have benefited with loans worth 900m/- from NMB bank to enable them engage in commercial cultivation of the crop.

Farmers have also been assisted with modern agricultural facilities, according to the bank's branch manager in Itigi district, Rasul Msangi.

Speaking over the weekend, Msangi said the bank is supporting farmers following the high demand of lentils particularly in Asian countries. He said businessmen from Asian countries have been coming into the country in search of lentils at every harvest season.

"We are supporting farmers because the crop can grow better in the villages of Damwelu, Ipande, Kazikazi, Kitopeni, Sanjaranda, Gulungu in Itigi district. We had provided them with tractors worth over 40m/- on loan basis where they pay within three years", he noted.

Msangi noted that NMB decided to support farmers after they complained of being given high interest loans by middlemen hence failing to realize profit after harvesting. He said the bank loans have lower interest rates which enable farmers to repay and remain with profits.

He added the bank also supported six Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (Amcos) and tobacco

farmers. He said tobacco farmers were given modern agricultural tools to enable them engage in commercial cultivation of the crop as well as realize profits.

Seif Nuru who got a tractor, said the bank has so far trapped her from poverty because she has finished to repay the loan and the tractor is now hired by other farmers thus helping her to generate more income.

"With the tractor I expanded my farm to 100 acres from the previous 50 whereas harvests have also increased from 120 sacks to 182 sacks. I also ventured into sunflower cultivations where I plant 120 acres of the crop each year", said Nuru.

Lucas Joseph Mkono an extension Officer from TANFEEDS said lentils or scientifically known as 'lens culinaris' is widely cultivated in Itigi district with the production reaching over 100 tonnes annually.

He said market for lentils is available locally and internationally insisting most buyers come from outside Tanzania.

Mkono informed that lentil is leading cash crop in central zone after Mwanza and Shinyanga. It has a number of healthy benefits since it contains vitamins A and B, protein, potassium and iron which useful in human body.

If properly cultivated, farmers can harvest between 200 and 500 kilograms of the crop per acre. A kilo of lentils is sold at between 900/- and 1000/-.



SUCCESS

TADB vows to stimulate the country's agricultural development for farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has vowed to stimulate the country's agricultural development to benefit farmers.

This was revealed by TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine at the weekend when he visited farmers and farming projects that had received loans from the Bank.

Among the projects that had received TADB loans is the Real World factory for maize processing in Ruvuma Region.

TADB aims include offering assistance in the sustainable availability and food security in the country, contribute in agricultural revolution from subsistence to commercial agriculture to contribute in economic growth and alleviate poverty.

Hence it's TADB's strategies to begin the year by visiting regions that have big production of food crops in the country.

Justine said: "That is why, through industries, we believe even farmers at the lowest level benefit by the market. Also our aim is to bring together farmers to cooperate in the opportunities in the

value of chain.

"Producers of packaging should cooperate with processors so that together they can raise the country's economy. We would also like to bring much more agricultural development here in Ruvuma Region and we thank you for answering to the call from the Regional Commissioner to establish TADB branch here to serve farmers much more closely."

He said TADB offers various services to farmers in order to spur development in the agriculture sector in the country.

He said to attain that goal; TADB serves all farmers in the country through its various zonal offices at Dodoma, Mwanza, Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, and its new office for the Southern Highland Zone for Iringa Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma and Songwe.

On his part the Ruvuma Regional commissioner Christina Mndeme called upon TADB to open a fully fledged branch in the region to serve farmers more closely.

She said Ruvuma Region is among the country's seven regions with big production of food crops such as maize. She said Ruvuma Region depends on agriculture by 99.9 percent as its economic activity.

She mentioned challenges being faced including inadequacy of warehouses for storage, fertilizers and resources.

However she thanked TADB for opening up many opportunities in agriculture by investing 2.8bn/- towards various agricultural activities including agro industry.

She said as of now the region has strategies to allocate 1.8 million hectares for crop production compared 1.6 hectares for the last season.

Manager of Real World - maize milling factory, John Magogo, said through TADB "me and other youths have benefited through employment as well in food production for humans and livestock and humans and have widened our markets as far as Mtwara, Liwale, Lindi and Dar es Salaam."

He added: "And through 500m/- capital from TADB, we have started opening up more maize mills."



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) managing director, Japhet Justine (C) listens to explanations from Real World project manager John Magogo over the weekend in Ruvuma. TADB boss is in the region to inspect agro-projects which are funded by the bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

OUTLOOK

BOT: Immense success in exports of non-traditional goods

By Guardian Reporter

Exports improved further recording annual growth of 11.9 per cent to US\$9,534.4 million in year ending November 2019 according to the Bank of Tanzania's Monthly Economic Review for December.

BOT states in the review that the performance was on account of an increase in the value of non-traditional goods exports and service receipts.

"The value of exports of non-traditional goods grew by 31 per cent to US\$4,160 million in the year to November 2019, largely driven by gold and manufactured goods" reads the review.

Export of gold, which accounted for 51.4 per cent of non-traditional goods exports, increased by 41.9 per cent to US\$2,139.9 million on account of both volume and price in the world market.

"The increase in volume exported is partly associated with government actions to effectively manage mining activities in the country" it adds.

Likewise, manufactured goods exports improved by 28.4 per cent to US\$996 million in the year to November 2019 largely owing to good performance in exports of iron and steel products, glass and glassware, manufactured tobacco, sisal yarn and twine, and fertilizer

According to the review traditional goods exports continued to decline, contracting by 21.4 per cent to US\$740.3 million of the period



Bank of Tanzania (BOT) headquarters in Dar es Salaam. File photo

under review from the value recorded in the corresponding period of 2018. The value of all traditional goods exports declined save for coffee, cotton and sisal.

It asserts that improved performance of coffee, cotton and sisal exports was mainly due to increase in the volume exported following favourable

weather during the crop season. Contrary, the value of cashew nuts exports fell following deterioration in world market price.

The value of cloves exports also lessened owing to lower volume due to cyclical nature of the crop coupled with a decline in world market price. Price movements of traditional

goods exports were broadly in line with developments in the world market prices.

In Zanzibar goods and services worth US\$212.6 million were exported during the year ending November 2019, 3.3 per cent higher than those exported in the corresponding period in 2018 owing to increase in service receipts.

Goods exports continued to record weak performance. With exception of seaweeds, and fish and fish products, other major categories of exports declined. The value of cloves exports fell by 87.4 per cent to US\$2.3 million of the period under review due to cyclical nature of the crop.

BRAND

Daimler recalls 744,000 US Mercedes-Benz vehicles for faulty sunroofs

WASHINGTON

German automaker Daimler AG (DAIG.DE) said over the weekend it will recall 744,000 Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the United States

from the 2001 through 2011 model years because the sunroof glass panel could detach and pose a hazard.

The large recall covers more than two dozen vehicles from C-Class, CLK-Class,

CLS-Class and E-Class model lines. The automaker said the bonding between the glass panel and the sliding roof frame might not meet specifications and could lead to sunroofs detaching.

Owners who paid for repairs for the issue will be able to seek reimbursements from Daimler. A Mercedes-Benz USA spokesman said on Saturday he did not have a worldwide vehicle total for

the recall.

Dealers will inspect the glass panel bonding and replace the sliding roof if necessary, the company said.

Last month, Mercedes-Benz USA agreed to a \$20

million civil penalty over its handling of U.S. vehicle recalls after a year-long U.S. government investigation into 1.4 million recalled vehicles.

Under the terms of the set-

tlement, the automaker will pay \$13 million and faces another \$7 million fine if it does not comply with the agreement.

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion said the company failed to notify owners in a timely fashion in some recalls, did not submit all reports and did not launch at least two recalls in a timely fashion.

Japan orders tighter immigration procedures after Ghosn flees country

TOKYO

Japan on Sunday said it would tighten immigration measures after former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn fled the country while on bail, its first official response to an astonishing escape that has transformed the executive into an international fugitive.

Ghosn revealed on Tuesday that he had fled to his childhood home of Lebanon to escape a "rigged" justice system in Japan. The former Nissan Motor (7201.T) and Renault (RENA.PA) chairman was arrested in Tokyo in November 2018 and faced multiple charges of financial wrongdoing, which he denies.

Justice Minister Masako Mori said Ghosn's "apparently illegal" departure was very regrettable and added there was no record of him leaving the country. She promised a thorough investigation and said authorities had issued an international notice for his arrest.

"I have instructed the Immigration Services Agency to coordinate with related agencies to further tighten departure procedures," she said,

adding that Ghosn's skipping bail was not justified, and that the court had revoked his bail.

Separately, prosecutors issued a statement defending Japan's justice system, saying his departure ignored the legal system and amounted to a crime.

Authorities have remained mum for days following the events of Ghosn's escape, with all government offices and most businesses shut for the new year holidays.

As such, it remains unclear what Japan might do to bring him back. It has extradition treaties only with the United States and South Korea, meaning it might be difficult to return Ghosn from Lebanon.

Lebanon this week said it had received an Interpol arrest warrant for Ghosn. It has said he entered the country legally.

A senior Lebanese security official said it was not yet clear whether Ghosn would be summoned for questioning over the warrant, but added that Lebanon does not extradite its citizens.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that Ghosn slipped out of Japan aboard a private jet hidden



A new model Nissan car. File photo

in a large black case typically used to carry audio gear. He was accompanied by a pair of men with names matching those of American security contractors, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with an investigation into the escape.

A Turkish private jet

operator has said two of its planes were used illegally to carry Ghosn, with an employee falsifying the lease records to exclude the executive's name.

According to the company, MNGJet, he flew from Osaka, Japan, to Istanbul, where he changed planes and flew to

Beirut.

Turkey has said it had detained seven people, including four pilots, as part of an investigation into his passage through Istanbul.

Japanese prosecutors said the legal system guarantees all defendants a prompt, open and fair trial. They

added that Ghosn's more than 100 days of detention were justified on the grounds that he "had an extensive domestic and overseas network and that he could deploy his considerable influence to conceal evidence."

US factory sector in deepest slump in more than 10 years

WASHINGTON

The U.S. manufacturing sector fell into its deepest slump in more than a decade in December as the U.S.-China trade war kept a lid on factory output, orders and employment, although the long-awaited Phase 1 deal between Washington and Beijing could limit further downside.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its index of national factory activity fell to 47.2 last month from 48.1 in November. It was the lowest reading since June 2009 and, coupled with readings for both new orders and factory employment at multi-year lows, thwarted expectations for a leveling off in the pace of decline in a sector buffeted by trade tensions.

A reading below 50 indicates the sector is in contraction, and December's reading marked the fifth straight month below that benchmark level. Economists polled by Reuters had been looking for an increase to 49.0.

The manufacturing sector had been under pressure for much of the second half of 2019, as tit-for-tat tariffs by the United States and China slowed the flow of goods between the world's two largest economies and contributed to a cooling in the pace of global economic growth.

Last month, the two sides announced they had reached agreement on a Phase 1 deal, and U.S. President Donald Trump this week said the accord would be signed on Jan. 15 in Washington, and talks to cement a wider Phase 2 deal would begin shortly.

"Global trade remains the most significant cross-industry issue, but there are signs that several industry sectors will improve as a result of the Phase 1 trade agreement," Timothy Fiore, chair of ISM's Manufacturing Business Survey Committee, said in a statement.

In addition to the drag from trade frictions, Boeing Co's (BA.N) inability to get its 737 Max jetliner back in service may have been a factor, especially in the transportation equipment industry, which was the weakest of the six big industry sectors, according to Fiore.

Boeing will cease production of the plane this month until regulators allow it to resume flying in the wake of two crashes, and that could be a headwind in the coming months that may counter improvements arising elsewhere from the trade deal.

While ISM's overall measure of activity in December was the lowest in more than a decade, Fiore said on balance the contraction remains relatively shallow.

"It's not super low," he said on a conference call. "We're still in that range of slight contraction to slight expansion."

Typically the index would have to drop below 43 to signal the risk of a wider economic recession. Weakness in the manufacturing sector was one of the concerns that spurred the U.S. Federal Reserve to cut interest rates three times last year, although the central bank appears to be done with lowering borrowing costs for now, with officials like Fed Chair Jerome Powell satisfied the economy is in "a good place."

Overall, the U.S. economy did appear to be in relatively sound condition near the end of 2019, supported by low unemployment and healthy consumer spending, which accounts for roughly 70% of economic activity.

The housing sector also appears to be contributing to the growth picture after a prolonged run as a drag. In a separate report, the Commerce Department said U.S. construction spending rose more than expected in November and builders also spent more in earlier months than previously estimated.

Construction spending increased 0.6% in November, beating analysts' consensus forecast of a 0.3% gain. Data for October and September was revised to show increases in spending, a reversal from previous estimates of contractions in spending during those months.

The gain in November was driven by a 1.9% increase in private home-building, an indication the Fed's rate cuts last year, which drove mortgage rates lower, were boosting the economy.

Meanwhile, several of the largest U.S. automakers on Friday reported another year of stable sales of pickup trucks, fueled by holiday season discounts and lower interest rates on vehicle loans, even as demand for passenger cars fell further.

Analysts expect overall 2019 vehicle sales to fall by about 1% from 2018, but still finish above 17 million vehicles for the fifth consecutive year.

Retail giant folds as creditors make final close of Nakumatt

NAIROBI

Nakumatt creditors will on Tuesday vote to dissolve the once giant retailer after effort to revive the supermarket chain failed.

Peter Kahi, the court-appointed administrator of troubled retail chain, says the creditors' only meeting set for on January 7 will formally end the Nakumatt brands should the creditors support the liquidation plan.

The creditors including banks, suppliers and landlords are owed 38 billion/- and the administrator will share about 422 million/- received from sale of six Nakumatt branches to Naivas.

"With the sale of assets to Naivas Ltd having been concluded, the administrator distributes and appropriate funds of the company to the various classes of creditors in line with IA 2015, after meeting costs of the administration," says Mr Kahi of the 422 million/-.

The six branches were expected to help the retail chain as it went back to the drawing board to rewrite the wrongs, pick up the pieces and bounce back having



Nakumatt thrown out commodities from Nyali mall where it rented. File photo

learnt from its mistakes. But, it appears, this dream cannot work.

"An attempted turnaround of the business would be very costly and the com-

pany is likely to be loss-making for the better part of the turnaround window, implying that such a turnaround would need to be financed by additional debt to sustain

operations before achieving breakeven," says the notice.

"The company also has no assets to collateralise such additional funding. The administrator is of the view

that it is likely to be difficult to attract an investor to inject the substantial amount of equity required to restructure NHL's balance sheet due to the current

high degree of financial leverage."

Creditors owed less than 100,000/- and those that have failed to show proof of their debt will not be allowed to vote.

Nakumatt went into voluntary supervision in early 2018 after seeking protection from its creditors.

Nakumatt, which grew from a mattress shop in Nakuru to have branches across Kenya and East Africa, was forced to shut dozens of outlets from 2017 as it struggled to repay its suppliers, landlords and other creditors.

By February 2017, it had 60 branches that dropped to six in September 2018.

Its sales dropped 1.9 billion/- in the year to February down from Sh51.9 billion in a similar period in 2017.

The company sought protection using Kenya's newly enacted company laws, which provide a pathway for distressed firms to avoid complete collapse.

Naivas paid 422 million/- for Nakumatt's remaining assets, outbidding rivals Chandarana who offered 246 million/- for the six stores while Tuskys bid 70 million/- for three branches.

New threat haunts Zimbabweans panning for gold

HARARE

The sound of steel pounding rock echoes through the dark, as Michael Machokoto, 23, hammers away, 40 metres underground, at one of the disused gold mining shafts at Jumbo Mine, located in the Mazowe area, 40km north of Harare.

Just two metres away, his friend, Tendai Gwature, 21, is also chipping away at the stone, hoping to find gold and buy food for his starving family back in the village.

The two friends left their jobs as cattle herders in rural Muzarabani, because their monthly income, eroded by steep inflation, was no longer enough to buy

enough food, even for just one week.

There are a dozen other men digging alongside Michael and Tendai underground, trying to eke out a living through gold panning. Usually, at this time of the year, these men would be in their fields, taking care of crops. But with Zimbabwe in the grip of a major drought, many have turned to pits and shafts in search of gold.

With the mining and marketing of gold having been relaxed to accommodate artisanal miners, including panners, gold is the easiest way to get access to scarce US dollars, still the currency of choice for grocery traders, despite it being officially banned from use for all local transactions.

For Michael and his friend, their toil does not end when they find gold. If they strike it lucky, they will also have to contend with violent machete-wielding gangs looking to rob them.

The gangs, popularly known as Mashurugwi, have been attacking miners underground and stealing their gold ore. Hardly a week passes without media reports of miners killed in the violence.

A week ago, one of the gangs killed police officer Constable Wonder Hokoyo, 27, and also left another police officer, Constable Kambuka, seriously injured after attacking them with machetes, axes, catapults and logs. The police officers were caught in the

crossfire while defending workers at Good Hope Mine in Battlefields, near Kwekwe, 212km west of Harare.

While President Emmerson Mnangagwa has pledged to root out the perpetrators of the violence, miners feel more could be done to protect a sector they see as an exit from poverty.

In 2018 small scale miners (including panners) contributed 63.3% of the 33.2 tonnes delivered to the country's official gold buyer Fidelity Printers and Refiners.

According to Mukasiri Sibanda, an economic governance officer with the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association which also deals with mineral resource governance issues,

there is increased activity in the gold mining areas because of the recent drought.

"Because of the drought and economic challenges being experienced in the country, many people, including criminals, in form of these machete gangs, are turning to gold which makes it easier to access US dollars. The market is flooded by illegal buyers both local and foreign nationals so competition is stiff.

"A lot of people have turned to gold milling and buying, but what this has done is to increase competition and now some are sponsoring terror groups for easy access to gold," said Sibanda.

He said increased competition also

meant some would not risk going underground and come out with nothing but would rather pounce on successful miners.

Zimbabwe Miners Federation president Ms Henrietta Rushwaya says there is need for a concerted effort to eradicate violence in the artisanal small scale mining sector, as the costs of inaction is just too great.

She said members of her organisation are accredited and can be easily identified as genuine miners.

Not unlike blood diamonds, the gold being extracted from Zimbabwe, outside of any protocol, is slowly turning into bloody gold.

US farmers see another bleak year despite Phase 1 trade deal



Frozen corn is seen on a farm near East Grand Forks, Minnesota, U.S. File photo.

CHICAGO/DIMMITT, Texas

Across snow-covered North Dakota, U.S. farmers are stuck with fields full of weather-damaged corn - a crop they planted after the U.S.-China trade war killed their soybean market. Many don't know yet what crops they'll plant next season among a host of dicey options.

In Texas, Kansas and Colorado, farmers are weighing whether they should plant fewer acres of corn and more sorghum, even though China has all but stopped buying it. That's because sorghum costs about half as much as corn to plant, which appeals to farmers wary of investing too much for an uncertain return.

As the U.S. farm economy reels from the worst harvest in decades after nearly two years of the trade war, U.S. grain growers are struggling to decide what crops might keep them in business.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced last month that China had agreed to double its pre-trade war purchases of U.S. agricultural products over the next two years as part of a Phase 1 trade deal. That brought little comfort to U.S. farmers because China still has not confirmed the commitment or signed any deal.

"President Trump said that we're all going to need to go buy bigger tractors," said North Dakota farmer Justin Sherlock. "I don't think many farmers are going to invest much money until we see that this is a done deal and a long-term deal."

Trump administration officials say the Phase 1 trade deal with China will be signed in January, though many tariffs will remain in place during further negotiation. Commodity market analysts and agricultural economists warn an agreement won't be an immediate fix for the U.S. farm economy because the conflict has spurred China to develop new supply chains.

China has, for instance, deepened ties with rival exporters such as Brazil and Argentina. Brazilian soy cultivation is expanding after record exports to China in the past year and China is investing in South American ports.

Making matters worse, China's need for soy and sorghum to feed livestock is waning because of a deadly pig disease that experts estimate has killed off about half the world's largest hog herd. China's hog industry has also worked to reformulate pig rations to include less soy and more alternative feeds that don't have to be imported from the United States.

"We won't go immediately back to

where we were 18 months ago - maybe not for a long time," Jay Debertin, chief executive officer of CHS Inc, the largest U.S. farmer cooperative, told grain producers at a recent conference in North Dakota.

Many U.S. farmers have tried shifting crops to dodge the economic fallout from losing such a crucial export market. They planted 76.5 million acres of soybeans in 2019, 14.3% fewer than the previous year, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture data. U.S. plantings of sorghum - used in livestock feed and the fiery Chinese liquor baijiu - dipped about 7.5% in 2019, to 5.3 million acres. Plantings of cotton have dropped, too, as China pulled back on purchases.

Plantings of such China-dependent crops likely would have fallen much further were it not for the Trump administration's allocation of \$24.5 billion in aid to compensate farmers for trade-war losses. The bailouts gave many farmers an incentive to keep planting crops such as soybeans that they knew would be difficult to sell at any profitable price. Government handouts are expected to account for nearly a third of 2019 net farm income, according to federal government and bank regulatory data.

Trump administration officials have

not said if farmers will get more payments in 2020. Robert Johansson, chief economist at USDA, told Reuters he expected the interim trade deal would solve the issues that the aid program had addressed.

USDA Deputy Press Secretary Alec Varsamis said the agency would decide in January on future payments. White House spokesman Judd Deere declined to comment and referred to previous statements by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who has said China committed to "massive" U.S. agriculture purchases.

Farmers in export-dependent regions say they can't continue to sell their crops for below the cost of production without a third round of subsidies to cover the losses.

"If the government doesn't pay us, we're done," said Sherlock, who did not vote for Trump in 2016 and remains undecided for 2020.

Most farmers have backed the president as he seeks re-election, according to polls by Reuters and farm media outlets. In 2016, they were drawn to Trump's promise to shake up Washington bureaucracy and hoped the trade war, although it might bring short-term losses, would eventually improve the size and scope of China's U.S. agricultural purchases.

Parts of S. Afrika battling with low rainfall, while threat of another drought looms - agri economist

JOHANNESBURG

The Northern Cape and Eastern Cape provinces are still contending with the effects of a drought in the areas, and the SA agricultural industry is still not out of the woods as the country might be hit by another drought in February, an agricultural economist warned.

Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa, on Saturday morning posted a video on his Twitter account warning of the dire situation farmers, and even households, are facing.

"Driving around South Africa you will actually discover that, some of the provinces like the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape are still in a dire situation. It is dry there. Livestock farmers are in a difficult situation. Crop farmers are in difficult situations, and even households are starting to feel the pain," he said.

The economist went on to explain that players in the agricultural industry are

concerned that there could be another drought or below normal rainfall, between late January and early February. There will be more certainty about the status of the potential drought at the end of January, he added.

"South Africa's agricultural sector is not completely out of the woods. There are still some pockets that are facing extreme, tough conditions," Sihlobo said.

As a short-term remedy to the drought-stricken Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, government should prioritise supplying feed to livestock farmers, he said. Given that national government finances are constrained, Sihlobo called on provincial government to re-prioritise their budgets and allocate resources to areas which are most vulnerable.

Sihlobo had earlier explained that the Magoebaskloof dam in Limpopo is at capacity - but the same cannot be said about the Tzaneen and Ebenezer dams. The latter two dams are at 5% and 28% capacity, respectively.



Eskom main grid infrastructures in South Africa. File photo.



ITV		MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM		I TV													
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WORLD

Iran condemns Trump as 'terrorist in a suit' after attack threat

DUBAI

IRAN condemned Donald Trump yesterday as a "terrorist in a suit" after the U.S. president threatened to hit 52 Iranian sites hard if Tehran attacks Americans or U.S. assets in retaliation for the killing of military commander Qassem Soleimani.

"Like ISIS, Like Hitler, Like Genghis! They all hate cultures. Trump is a terrorist in a suit. He will learn history very soon that NOBODY can defeat 'the Great Iranian Nation & Culture'," Information and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi tweeted.

Soleimani, Iran's pre-eminent military commander, was killed on Friday in a U.S. drone strike on his convoy at Baghdad airport, an attack that has taken long-running hostilities between Washington and Tehran into uncharted territory and raised the specter of wider conflict in the Middle East.

Soleimani was the architect of Tehran's overseas clandestine and military operations as head of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force.

Giving no indication of seeking to defuse tensions after the strike he ordered, Trump issued a stern threat to the Islamic Republic.

In a series of tweets on Saturday he said Iran "is talking very boldly about targeting certain USA assets" to avenge

Soleimani's death.

Trump said the United States has "targeted 52 Iranian sites" and that some were "at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture, and those targets, and Iran itself, WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD."

He said the 52 targets represented the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran after being seized at the U.S. Embassy in 1979 during the country's Islamic Revolution.

Iran's army chief, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, was quoted by state television on Sunday as saying the United States lacked the courage for military confrontation with Iran.

"In a potential conflict in the future, which I don't think they (Americans) have the courage to carry out, there it will become clear where the numbers five and two will belong," he said.

Trump said on Friday Soleimani had been plotting "imminent and sinister" attacks on U.S. diplomats and military personnel. Democratic critics said the Republican president's action was reckless and risked more bloodshed in a dangerous region.

FEAR OF WAR WITH SUPERPOWER

While many Iranians have rallied in to show grief over the death of Soleimani, regarded as the country's second most powerful figure after Supreme Leader



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, others worry that his death might push the country to war with a superpower.

On Friday, Khamenei promised harsh revenge and declared three days of mourning.

Soleimani's body was flown to the city of Ahvaz in southwest Iran. IRIB posted a video clip of a casket wrapped in an Iranian flag being unloaded from a plane as a military band played.

Thousands of mourners dressed in black marched through the streets of Ahvaz beating their chests in live footage aired on state TV.

IRAQI ANGER

British foreign minister Dominic Raab said yesterday he had spoken to Iraq's prime minister and president to urge efforts to relieve tensions in the region following the U.S. strike.

Raab, who described Soleimani as a "regional menace" and said he was sympathetic to the situation the United States found itself in, said he also planned to speak to Iran's foreign minister.

"There is a route through which allows Iran to come in from out of the international cold," he told Sky News. "We need to contain the nefarious actions of Iran but we also need to de-escalate and stabilize the situation."

Friday's U.S. air strike also killed Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Iraq's parliament was set to convene an extraordinary session on Sunday where lawmakers told Reuters they would push for a vote on a resolution

requiring the government to request the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

"There is no need for the presence of American forces after defeating Daesh (Islamic State)," said Ammar al-Shibli, a Shi'ite lawmaker and member of parliament's legal committee.

Despite decades of enmity between Iran and the United States, Iran-backed militia and U.S. troops fought side by side during Iraq's 2014-2017 war against Islamic State militants.

Around 5,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq, most of them in an advisory capacity.

The militia were incorporated into government forces under the umbrella of the Popular Mobilisation Forces which Muhandis led.

Many Iraqis, including opponents of Soleimani, have expressed anger at Washington for killing the two men on Iraqi soil and possibly dragging their country into another conflict.

On Saturday evening, a rocket fell inside Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone near the U.S. embassy, another hit the nearby Jadriya neighborhood and two more were fired at the Balad air base north of the city. No one was killed, the Iraqi military said.

The U.S. strike followed a spike in U.S.-Iranian hostilities in Iraq since last week when pro-Iranian militias attacked the U.S. embassy in Baghdad after a deadly U.S. air raid on Kataib Hezbollah, a militia founded by Muhandis. Washington accused the group of an attack on an Iraqi military base that killed an American contractor.

Agencies

Body of Iranian commander killed by US strike in Iraq returned to Iran

DUBAI

THE body of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in Iraq in a U.S. military strike, was returned to Iran yesterday and driven through thousands of mourners, the official IRIB news agency reported.

Soleimani (pictured), the architect of Tehran's overseas clandestine and military operations as head of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, was killed on Friday in a U.S. drone strike on his convoy at Baghdad airport.

While many Iranians have rallied in to show grief over the death of Soleimani, regarded as the

country's second most powerful figure after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, others worry his death might push the country to war with a superpower.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened to hit 52 Iranian sites "very hard" if Iran attacks Americans or U.S. assets.

Khamenei promised harsh revenge and declared three days of mourning on Friday.

Soleimani's body was flown to the city of Ahvaz in southwest Iran.

IRIB posted a video clip of a casket wrapped in an Iranian flag being unloaded from a plane as a military band played.



Thousands of mourners dressed in black marched through the streets of Ahvaz beating their

chests in live footage aired on state TV.

Soleimani's casket was driven amidst the large crowds on the back of a truck.

The body of Iranian-backed Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who was killed in the attack with Soleimani, was also flown to Ahvaz, according to IRIB.

Tens of thousands of people marched in Iraq on Saturday to mourn Soleimani and al-Muhandis, chanting "Death to America".

Iranian parliamentarians also chanted "Death to America" in a parliamentary session shown on state TV on Sunday.

Oman has called on the United

States and Iran to seek dialogue to ease tensions, Oman News Agency reported on Sunday.

Oman, which maintains friendly ties with both the United States and Iran, has previously been a go-between for the two countries.

On Saturday evening, a rocket fell inside Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone near the U.S. embassy, another hit the nearby Jadriya neighborhood and two more were fired at the Balad air base north of the city, but no one was killed, the Iraqi military said in a statement.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Agencies

Britain's navy to escort UK-flagged ships through Strait of Hormuz

LONDON

BRITAIN'S navy will accompany UK-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz to provide protection after the U.S. killing of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani inflamed tensions in the region.

Britain's defence minister, Ben Wallace, ordered the HMS Montrose and HMS Defender to prepare to return to escort duties in the major oil shipping route

as Prime Minister Boris Johnson came in for criticism for his silence over the killing.

Media reports have said Johnson is on holiday in the Caribbean.

"The government will take all necessary steps to protect our ships and citizens at this time," Wallace (pictured) said in a statement.

Britain was forced to defend its ships through the world's most important shipping route last year after Iranian commandos seized a



British-flagged tanker in the Strait. British forces had previously captured an Iranian oil tanker near Gibraltar that was accused of violating sanctions on Syria.

The killing of Soleimani has raised fears that tankers could be targeted again. Wallace said he had spoken to his U.S. counterpart, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, and urged restraint on all sides.

"Under international law, the United States is entitled to defend itself against those posing an im-

minent threat to their citizens," he added.

Jeremy Corbyn, the outgoing leader of the opposition Labour Party, said he had written to the British prime minister to ask what was being done to protect UK nationals and others in the region.

"Boris Johnson should have immediately cut short his holiday to deal with an issue that could have grave consequences for the UK and the world," he said in a statement.

Agencies

Al Shabaab attacks Kenya base used by Kenyan, US forces

NAIROBI

SOMALIA'S Islamist group al Shabaab yesterday attacked a military base in Lamu county in Kenya that is used by both US and Kenyan forces, a source and al Shabaab said.

"They have attacked Manda airstrip in Lamu, which is just next to the military camp that hosts military personnel from any countries including Kenya and the US," the military source told Reuters.

The source added that fighters were trying to access the base from the airstrip.

The attack sent a dark plume of smoke into the air, said witness Abdallah Barghash. He was among the crowds watching the drama unfold on Manda Island from neighboring Lamu Island, a top tourist destination.

Al Shabaab, an al Qaeda-linked Islamist insurgent group fighting to overthrow the weak, UN-backed Somali government, also put out a statement promising further updates. "An elite group of soldiers from Harakat Al-Shabaab Al Mujahideen's 'Martyrdom Brigade' launched a daring dawn raid on a US naval base known as 'Camp Simba' in Lamu County, Kenya," the statement said.

"The base is home to hundreds of US military personnel and Kenyan soldiers and serves as one of the many launch pads for the American crusade against Islam in the region," the statement added.

The attack comes nearly a year after al Shabaab launched a deadly suicide attack on the upscale 14 Riverside complex in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, killing 21 people.

Al Shabaab frequently launches attacks in Kenya, including planting roadside bombs in the north and attacks on passenger vehicles. This week, they killed three passengers when they attacked a bus in Lamu county, police said.

Kenya sent troops into Somalia in 2011 after a spate of cross-border attacks and kidnappings. They were later absorbed into an African Union peacekeeping force, now 21,000-strong, that supports the Western-backed Somali government.



In this photo taken Aug 26, 2019 and released by the US Air Force, airmen from the 475th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron conduct a flag-raising ceremony at Camp Simba, Manda Bay, Kenya. The al Shabaab group says it has attacked the Camp Simba military base

County leader goes all out online to sell products

A CHINESE rural government official is proving that not all bureaucrats are boring with little personality after he imitated a leading online sales blogger with a hilarious, fast-talking sales pitch that helped sell a million yuan (\$143,600) worth of local agricultural products.

Wang Shuai, deputy leader of Shanghe county in Jinan, East China's Shandong Province, gained fame for his exaggerated online sales pitch during which he eats four packaged cooked chickens in a short video that was posted on social media.

His video had more than 3 million views as of Wednesday afternoon, January 1, and he has 219,000 followers on TikTok.

"The most delicious braised chicken ever! ... The outer packaging takes my breath away ... What a royal taste ... Amazing!" rants Wang in a spot-on imitation of Li Jiaqi, a well-known online pitchman for cosmetics. Wang even throws in an "Oh my God!" in English.

Wang's hyperbolic pitch resulted in the local company receiving 6,000 orders.

Another local official, Liu Jingjing, told Pear Video that 17 county officials are helping local people sell products online. "Total sales exceeded 2 million yuan through live streaming," she said.

Wang's talent became obvious during his first live-streaming sales pitch in May 2019, when he sold 200 watermelons in 10 seconds, Liu told media.

"He's a good example of how grass-roots government leaders can advance with the times," said a netizen whose post received many thumbs up on social media.

Global Times

Long-distance transport business flourishes amid festive peak period

WINDHOEK

IT was 6:30 am, and the sun was out. At a loading zone in Oshakati town in the northern part of Namibia, Sem Dallas, a long-distance driver registered the last passenger before departing for Namibia's capital, Windhoek.

"It is unusual for a bus to be full by this time, and still have a great number of people scrambling for space on buses. For us, this is good business," Dallas said on Saturday.

The high number of people relying on public transport between the city and other metropolitan towns during the festive season has become a boon for the long-distance bus drivers.

Majority of the populace travelled for holidays to visit their families in various

parts of the country.

According to Dallas, since mid-December, the business has not been short of customers.

"During December, most people travelled from Windhoek to the northern region, which is my authorised route. The bus would get full in an hour or even 30 minutes compared to the ordinary two to six hours waiting period. In January, they are travelling from their holiday destinations back to the city," Dallas said.

Meanwhile, the drivers have also since increased the bus fare, to make extra money from the peak season rush and influx.

The standard price between Windhoek to Oshakati is an average of 300 Namibian dollars (21 U.S. dollars), but during the peak season, buses charge

380 Namibian dollars per head. It is even more if a passenger has many luggage and additional items.

"There is a scramble for space on the buses, so most people are willing to pay this price to get to their destination," Dallas said.

According to Dallas, his focus is on transporting people from the northern region to the city.

He is not the only one. Martin Shikoyeni is a long-distance driver between coastal Walvis Bay and northern Namibia.

He envisages making a good profit, given the scramble for space by the masses.

For Shikoyeni, the festive season peak enabled him to double proceeds from 15 500 to 35,000 Namibian dollars weekly. "We increased the price. Not only is

that, but we also make more regular trips compared to the normal year period," Shikoyeni said.

Meanwhile, the drivers are also making use of communication tools and social media to lure clients.

According to Dallas, he created a WhatsApp group for his services through which people can make bookings to secure their seats.

"That way, I secure a clientele and getting the bus full before I get to the bus terminal. Whatsapp has aided to business growth," Dallas added.

For Shikoyeni, bookings by clients through mobile phone calls and text messaging has been central to business prosperity during the festive season.

"I also pick up clients from where they are to ensure I fill the bus as early as possible. Clients also feel special and

that way I can build a loyal clientele base over time," Shikoyeni said.

The drivers also strategically recruit middle-man agents to source clients for them.

Ronald Dennis, an agent, has been operating from a bus terminal for two years. When a customer arrives at the bus loading zone, he rushes to them and directs them to his designated bus. For every customer he brings, he is incentivised by the bus driver.

This week, Dennis said, he intentionally travelled to the north to maximise on the mass population of traveller there.

"During the peak season, the job is much easier than usual due to the consistent influx of travellers. The bus gets full within a short time. That leaves me with more time to play middle man role

for at least six buses in a day, compared to only one or two during a normal year period," he said.

Moreover, the drivers are also geared to ensure safety on the road.

"Without safety, business dwindles. Thus, we make sure we comply with the rules of the road," said Dallas.



Without safety, business dwindles. Thus, we make sure we comply with the rules of the road

Jess Phillips starts bid to win UK Labour party leadership

By Bloomberg

MAVERICK politician Jess Phillips said Labour Party needs a "different kind of leader" as she launched her bid to succeed Jeremy Corbyn, following the UK opposition party's worst electoral defeat since 1935.

Labour needs to regain support from "huge parts" of the working class base it has lost and is in "big trouble" if it fails, Phillips, 38, said in a statement Friday, according to the Press Association.

In the aftermath of the crushing defeat on Dec 12, Corbyn said he would stand down as leader following a "period of reflection" to determine the direction the party should take. Labour's National Executive Committee is due to outline a timetable for the leadership election next week.

"Now is not the time to be meek: Boris Johnson needs to be challenged, with passion, heart and precision," Phillips said. "We need to recognize that politics has changed in a fundamental way by electing a different kind of leader. More of the same will lead to

more of the same result."

Lisa Nandy, 40, another member of parliament, late Friday tweeted that she is running because "it has to be different and it can be better."

The leadership race is shaping up as a clash between opposing wings of the party. Corbyn supporters want to install a new leader in his left wing, socialist mold to push on with an agenda of wealth redistribution and the nationalization of key industries. But moderates want to steer the party back toward the center ground from where Tony Blair led it to victory in three successive elections between 1997 and 2005.

The two early favorites, Labour's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer and business spokeswoman Rebecca Long Bailey, have yet to formally declare their candidacies - though both have said they are considering a bid.

A YouGov poll of Labour party members published on Jan 2 showed that Starmer, a moderate who remained loyal to Corbyn, would comfortably beat Long Bailey - viewed as the current leadership's preferred candidate



British opposition Labour Party MP Jess Phillips

- with Phillips in third.

Phillips has been a fierce critic of Corbyn and is known in Parliament for her no-nonsense, blunt style. A Remainder who backed a second referendum on Brexit, she held her Leave-backing Midlands seat of Birmingham Yardley in the election with a comfortable majority of more than 10,000 votes, even as Labour lost dozens of

similarly pro-Brexit seats in central and northern England.

In her statement, she criticized Corbyn's "woeful response" to the party's antisemitism crisis as well as the ambiguous position he adopted on Brexit. Phillips is a member of the Labour Friends of Israel parliamentary group.

Phillips adds her name to Labour Party's foreign affairs spokeswoman,

Emily Thornberry, and a junior economy spokesman, Clive Lewis, in formerly declaring her leadership bid. Party Chairman Ian Lavery has also suggested he'll stand. Backbencher David Lammy took himself out of the running in a Twitter post on Saturday.

"After serious consideration, I'm ruling myself out," he said. "I'm committed to playing my full part in opposition, but we need the candidate best placed to unite our party's factions so we can win the country's trust."

Nandy, who represents Wigan, a community between Liverpool and Manchester in northwest England, sent a letter to her local newspaper to announce her plans.

"I'm standing because I know too many people in places like Wigan no longer feel they have a voice in our national story," she said. "So many of you have told me you believe many leaders are not interested in what you have to say and are unable - or unwilling - to understand your lives. I believe you are right."

Agencies



Russian and Turkish Foreign Ministers discuss latest events in Middle East - source

ANKARA

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu held a telephone conference on the situation in the Middle East, the Turkish Foreign Ministry told TASS on Saturday.

"Our minister had a telephone conversation with the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. They discussed the latest developments in Syria, Libya and Iraq, as well as other regional issues," the source said.

On Tuesday, the Pentagon confirmed that a missile strike near the Baghdad airport killed the head of the Quds Force Qasem Soleimani. The operation was carried out at the direction of US President Donald Trump, the statement said.

According to the Pentagon, the strike was defensive, since it was aimed at protecting US troops in Iraq and other countries. Washington blamed Soleimani for allegedly approving a rally outside the US Embassy in Baghdad earlier this week.

The US claims that Soleimani personally approved the recent attacks on US military bases in Iraq and that he is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of US troops at the hands of Shia armed formations supported by Tehran during the campaign aimed to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

Agencies

At least 30 killed in Libya military academy attack

TRIPOLI

AT least 30 people were killed and 33 others wounded in an attack on a military academy in the Libyan capital late on Saturday, the health ministry of the Tripoli-based government said in a statement on Sunday.

Tripoli, controlled by the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA), is facing an offensive by military commander Khalifa Haftar's

Libyan National Army (LNA) that began in April.

There has been an increase in air strikes and shelling around Tripoli in recent weeks, with fears that fighting could escalate further after Turkey's parliament voted to allow a troop deployment in support of the GNA.

Forces allied with the GNA described Saturday's attack on the military camp at Al-Hadhba as "an aerial bombing" launched by their eastern rivals. An LNA

spokesman denied involvement.

GNA Health Minister Hamid bin Omar told Reuters earlier in a phone call that the number of dead and wounded was still rising. Tripoli ambulance service spokesman Osama Ali said some body parts could not be immediately counted by forensic experts.

Earlier, the ambulance service appealed for a temporary ceasefire to allow its crews to retrieve the bodies of five civilians killed

on As Sidra Road in southern Tripoli and to evacuate families.

Emergency teams withdrew after coming under fire while trying to access the area on Saturday, it said.

The GNA Foreign Ministry called for referring Haftar and his aides to the International Criminal Court on charges of committing "crimes against humanity", adding that it will call for an emergency UN Security Council meeting to discuss the

alleged crimes.

Qatar, which supports GNA, said on Saturday that the attack "may amount to a war crime and crimes against humanity".

Ankara, which last week passed a bill approving a troop deployment in Libya to support Tripoli, also condemned the attack and said the international community needs to take steps to achieve a ceasefire.

"It is crucial for the international community to urgently

take necessary steps to halt external support for the pro-Haftar army and its attacks and establish a ceasefire in Libya," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) condemned the attack saying that "rising escalation... further complicates the situation in Libya and threatens the chances of returning to the political process".

Xinhua

China to fearlessly make new progress in new era

CHINA, a country with nearly 1.4 billion people, will soon achieve the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. It will be a milestone for not only China's development, but also the progress of human history.

The world will witness the unstoppable steps of the country to win the fight against poverty - a glorious chapter in the history of human development. Entering 2020, China's resolution and effort will pay off and amaze the world.

What's been achieved in the past will always find a way to shine in the future. Sweating and toiling when pressing ahead with concrete efforts for achievements, China will constantly make new progress.

As the grand ceremony celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China left a deep impression on the world, China has been receiving more "thumbs up" from all over the globe.

Felix Lee, a journalist with German newspaper Die Zeit found that at Beijing South Railway Station, only foreigners were still curious about China's 350-km/h Fuxing bullet trains, as they have already become routine for Chinese passengers.

What amaze the foreigners are not only these bullet trains. In

November, China's Chang'e-4 mission team received the only Team Gold Medal of the year awarded by Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) of the UK, and the Chang'e-4 mission was awarded the Moon Village Principles - Mission Prize by the Moon Village Association a few days later.

Going forward, China is going to continue to be very competitive, and the country is still going to be a global player, said Consumer News and Business Channel in a recent article, stressing China's profound influence in the global economic pattern.

As China is injecting more positive energy into the world peace, stability and prosperity through its own development, it is seeing a further rise in its international influence, its ability to inspire and power to shape.

The number of countries establishing diplomatic ties with China has been expanded to 180, and 199 countries and international organizations have signed agreements with China on the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This expanding "circle of friends" is building a path of common development for China and its global partners that will benefit people from all over the world.

2020 marks the Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation between China and Russia, the



India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges' year, the China-ASEAN Year of Digital Economy Cooperation and the Brunei-China Tourism Year. The diversified exchanges and mutual learning between the Chinese people and the people across the world are bound to further enhance friendship and deepen cooperation.

As the world is undergoing the greatest changes in a century, China adheres to win-win cooperation, firmly safeguards international equality and justice, and offers new energy for the building of an open world economy, serving as a cornerstone to protect multilateralism and the democratization of international relations.

In the past year, China launched the Foreign Investment Law, in-

troduced shortened negative list for foreign investment market access, kept reducing tariffs, lowered market access conditions for foreign-funded banks and insurance companies, and established 6 new pilot free-trade zones. Besides, the country also held the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the second China International Import Expo. These all marked the new steps of China to further open up.

China firmly safeguards the international system with the UN at its core, the basic norms of international relations based on the international law, and the multilateral trading system with the WTO as the cornerstone.

People's Daily

Ghossn escape: Japan orders tighter immigration procedures

TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday said it would tighten immigration measures after former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn fled the country while on bail, its first official response to an astonishing escape that has transformed the executive into an international fugitive.

Ghossn (pictured) revealed on Tuesday that he had fled to his childhood home of Lebanon to escape a "rigged" justice system in Japan.

The former Nissan Motor and Renault chairman was arrested in Tokyo in November 2018 and faced multiple charges of financial wrongdoing, which he denies.

Justice Minister Masako Mori said Ghossn's "apparently illegal" departure was very regrettable and added there was no record of him leaving the country. She promised a thorough investigation and said authorities had issued an international notice for his arrest.

"I have instructed the Immigration Services Agency to coordinate with related agencies to further tighten departure procedures," she said, adding that Ghossn's skipping bail was not justified, and that the court had



revoked his bail.

Separately, prosecutors issued a statement defending Japan's justice system, saying his departure ignored the legal system and amounted to a crime.

Authorities have remained mum for days following the events of Ghossn's escape, with all government offices and most businesses shut for the New Year holidays.

As such, it remains unclear what Japan might do to bring him back. It has extradition treaties only with the United States and South Korea, meaning it might be difficult to return Ghossn from Lebanon.

Lebanon this week said it had received an Interpol arrest war-

rant for Ghossn. It has said he entered the country legally.

A senior Lebanese security official said it was not yet clear whether Ghossn would be summoned for questioning over the warrant, but added that Lebanon does not extradite its citizens.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that Ghossn slipped out of Japan aboard a private jet hidden in a large black case typically used to carry audio gear. He was accompanied by a pair of men with names matching those of American security contractors, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with an investigation into the escape.

A Turkish private jet operator has said two of its planes were used illegally to carry Ghossn, with an employee falsifying the lease records to exclude the executive's name.

According to the company, MNG Jet, he flew from Osaka, Japan, to Istanbul, where he changed planes and flew to Beirut.

Turkey has said it had detained seven people, including four pilots, as part of an investigation into his passage through Istanbul.

Agencies

Beijing-Zhangjiakou line unveils smart railway system era

CHINA'S first self-driving high speed railway linking the two host cities of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games went into operation recently, featuring cutting-edge homegrown technologies deemed as major breakthroughs regarding China's rail development. The new line also demonstrated the country's railway evolution.

The 174-kilometer rail line is the first of its kind in the country that is covered by China's self-developed BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), and is also the world's fastest driverless train with a maximum speed of 350 kilometers per hour, according to China Railway Corp.

Connecting Beijing and Zhangjiakou, the co-host city of Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics located in North China's Hebei

Province, the railway reduces travel time between Beijing and Zhangjiakou from more than 3 hours to 47 minutes, which will be a great boost to the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, stressed the significance of the high-speed railway line connecting Beijing and Zhangjiakou.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said the opening marked new progress in the preparations for Winter Olympics and called for high-standard and high-quality advancing of related work.

The Chongli railway, the 53-kilometer-long branch line of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou high speed railway line also came into service

on the same day, according to the operator. The Chongli district is where the 2022 Winter Olympic village is located.

Cutting-edge technology

Besides the coverage of BDS, the rail line also features a wide range of advanced technologies such as autopilot and auto-dispatching systems. The self-driving system enables the train to automatically start and run between stations, adjusting its timing in accordance to the schedule while accurately stopping at stations.

"The Beijing-Zhangjiakou rail line is China's high-speed rail 2.0 version, integrating smart rail technologies," Lv Gang, chief engineer of the railway's tunnel project, told the Global Times on Monday, indicating that the launch of the service also repre-

sented the future of high-speed rail development.

The line is also the first in China to adopt a full-lifecycle Building Information Modeling (BIM) approach for all disciplines involved in the project, marking a milestone in China's railway construction and unveiling the practice of smart railway construction, according to analysts.

Meanwhile, its alarm system, earthquake warning system, natural disaster monitoring system constituted the intelligent dispatching command system for the train. Designed for connecting different Olympic venues, the railway, with the support of dual model 4G and 5G equipment, could facilitate the switch of signals, supporting the upgrade to 5G networks in the future and assist with live streaming of the

Olympic Game.

"This will also be an opportunity to showcase China's technological development to the world," Zhao Jian, a professor at Beijing Jiaotong University, told the Global Times on Monday.

Over the past decade, China has built the world's most modern and developed high-speed railway network, with operating length surpassing 35,000 kilometers as of the end of 2019, ranking first in the world, according to media reports.

"The rail line showcases smart rail technologies such as autonomous driving, 5G-enabled services, on-board Wi-Fi and e-ticket services, setting an example for the future development of China's railway and it could be key features for the nation's high-speed rail diplomacy," Luo Duhao, chief

engineer of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-Speed Railway Line, told the Global Times on Monday.

Rail evolution

The construction of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou rail line is a part of China's national medium and long-term railway construction plan, also known as the "eight vertical and eight horizontal" high-speed railway network. It also links up to Hohhot, capital city of North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, cutting the travel time between Hohhot and Beijing from nine hours fifteen minutes to two hours nine minutes.

The construction of the railway and high-speed rail line has significant implications on China's economic growth, as the country aims to reach 150,000-kilom-

eter of railway network by 2020, within the aforementioned figure, high-speed rail distances will reach 30,000-kilometers, covering 80 percent of major first-tier cities.

Beijing-Zhangjiakou railway is of particular significance in the development of China's railway system. The line, first built from 1905 to 1909, was China's first railway that was designed and built solely by Chinese.

"110 years ago, the rail line was first built, bringing opportunities for the city. 110 years later, the Beijing-Zhangjiakou high-speed rail went into service, becoming a vital symbol for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei integration, which is also fortunate for us," Wang Ping, a local resident of Zhangjiakou, told the Global Times.

Global Times



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo drives during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, in Milwaukee. (AP Photo)

NBA-leading Bucks beat Spurs 127-118 for 5th straight victory

MILWAUKEE

SAN ANTONIO kept Giannis Antetokounmpo under control for one half.

Then the third quarter started.

The Milwaukee star opened it with a layup on an aggressive move to the basket and scored 19 of his game-high 32 points in the quarter, pacing the Bucks to a 127-118 victory over the Spurs on Saturday night.

Antetokounmpo repeatedly was fouled on his drives to the hoop and converted all 12 of his free throw attempts in the second half, including 10 in the third quarter as the Bucks started to pull away. A 60% foul shooter this season entering the game, he finished 15 of 18 at the foul line to set a season-high for free throws made.

"That's how Giannis is built," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It felt like they were going to foul him every time he drove it and test him at the free throw line. If they're going to put him on the free throw line, I think Giannis will make them pay for it."

All the hard knocks failed to get Antetokounmpo off his game.

"I'm going to trust my technique," said Antetokounmpo, who had just nine points in the first half. "I saw that whenever I was getting in the paint, they tried to reach and foul and push me and all that. I said, 'OK, tonight is going to be the night.' I tried to drive it, go in the paint and just make a play for myself or for my teammate."

The NBA-leading Milwaukee improved to 32-5, winning their fifth straight since a Christmas Day loss in Philadelphia.

Eric Bledsoe added 21 points and six assists, Kris Middleton had 20 points and Brook Lopez tied a season-high with seven blocks. Backup center Robin Lopez contributed 14 points and one block in 19 minutes.

"I thought we did a really good job in the first half, but he (Antetokounmpo) got away from us," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It's a hell of a team. Those brothers killed us with the blocks and we were fouling too much."

San Antonio took a 12-point lead early in the game but trailed at the break, 71-66. LaMarcus Aldridge had all 16 of his points in the first half but was 0 for 7 from the field in 15 second-half minutes.

DeMar DeRozan led the Spurs with 26 points and Rudy Gay had 15 off the bench.

"That's been our issue all year, having lapses whether it's the second quarter or the start of the second half," DeRozan said. "It makes it tough on us to crawl back."

"We've got an opportunity to play these guys on our floor Monday. We know what we did wrong and just try to be better."

Bledsoe was 4 of 6 from 3-point range and Kyle Korver, Middleton and Antetokounmpo each added 3 triples as the Bucks went 17 of 45 (37.8%) from beyond the arc.

The Bucks, who own the NBA's best record, will open a four-game Western swing in San Antonio on Monday, before moving on to play Golden State, Sacramento and Portland.

Milwaukee improved to 18-2 at home and

23-0 against sub-500 teams. The Bucks also scored 100 or more points for the 61st consecutive game, tying a mark set by the Houston Rockets during the 2016-17 season.

Meanwhile, in Atlanta, even when producing the most first-half points of his career, Trae Young didn't carry the load alone for the Atlanta Hawks.

Young's backcourt partner, Kevin Huerter, also enjoyed a memorable night.

Young scored 30 of his 41 points in the first half, Huerter added a season-high 26 points and the Hawks recovered after blowing a 22-point lead to beat the Indiana Pacers 116-111 on Saturday night.

Huerter scored 12 points in the third quarter, helping Atlanta keep pace in a game with 14 lead changes.

"We had a couple guys out again tonight and a couple guys just weren't shooting very well," Huerter said. "I was just trying to stay aggressive. I knew I made a couple shots and was feeling pretty good. We ran a lot of sets for me."

Young and Huerter combined to make nine 3-point shots. The Hawks, who have the NBA's worst record, improved to only 4-12 in home games.

The Hawks started strong offensively, scoring 43 points in the first quarter. Defensive problems have helped keep Atlanta at the bottom of the NBA standings, but the Hawks gave up only 16 points in the fourth quarter to take the win.

"We didn't start the game right," said Indiana's Jeremy Lamb, who had 12 points. "Down the stretch we didn't put the ball in the hole."

Atlanta led by just two points before Young's drive and layup pushed the lead to 113-109.

Young, defended by T.J. Warren, lost possession of his dribble out of bounds with 24.8 seconds remaining. A review confirmed the officials' call that possession belonged to the Hawks, but Vince Carter's air ball with the shot clock on the verge of expiring gave the Pacers another chance.

Warren made only one of two free throws after he was fouled with 4.5 seconds remaining. Young made just the second of his two free throws for a 114-111 lead, but was fouled again and this time sank both attempts to clinch the win.

Domantas Sabonis had 25 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana. Justin Holiday had 18 points.

"If we had a better start maybe the outcome would have been different," Holiday said.

The Hawks opened with their highest-scoring first quarter of the season, leading 43-23. Atlanta's big lead was 22 points. Young had 18 points in the period.

The Pacers took their first lead at 68-66 early in the second half on a four-point play by Warren, who made a 3-pointer and a free throw after he was fouled by Bruno Fernando.

After a long succession of lead changes, Warren sank another 3 for an 88-85 lead. The advantage held until Huerter's 3 gave Atlanta a 96-95 lead entering the final period.

AP

City derby lived up to promise of underdogs squaring up with much fancied favorites

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

CITY derby or Tanzania's version of El Clasico lived to its promise of not just being a thrilling game but also where unexpected things happened, namely the two sides battling to a two-all draw, with the four goals at specific intervals adding drama and moments of despair to an already choking atmosphere.

As teams are usually compared for their extent and quality of registration as well as comfort and confidence among players, all indications were that Young Africans SC were rank underdogs, and hardly anything has gone well for the club once its veteran sponsor was scuttled three years ago. Recovery is long, bumpy.

Yet the derby has provided a moment of satisfaction for club fans that while at the level of resources and comfort they may be lying quite a few paces behind the current club champions, they don't have much to envy them in the football, and more so, stood an onslaught nearly at their weakest moment.

Inequality in the material aspect was so vivid that at the end of the game it was if the Jangwani Street side had won and the Msimbazi Street outfit had lost the game. In terms of soccer psychology however, this result was more or less logical, despite that it is impossible to predict that things may turn out that way, but for some few.

Perhaps in a day or two the word would go around how many pundits at betting won their bets and got some cash out of the derby, as obviously experts betting would not lose sight of that possibility. It would however have to look at derbies where material inequality was vivid and how those derbies were played out, as usually some uncanny logic is demonstrated once more. While that line of research could yield some results,



Yanga midfielder, Pappy Tshishimbi (C), attempts to get the better of Simba SC players, midfielder Muzamiru Yassin (L), and defender Shomarik Kapombe, when the outfits met in a Vodacom Premier League duel played at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

there is clearer rule that a derby is always well contested and results don't often reflect the level and quality of registration of players for the season, thus the side with resources doesn't always grin.

When it comes to the premier league format proper, the match result has boosted Yanga in the runners up position as a loss would less significantly have disturbed their pursuit of second place finish or appearance on the table, but ruined their chances of distantly changing the title.

There are many in the club who may still be holding out to challenge Simba, but at 35 points with at least two games in hand compared to those who have played 15 matches, dislodging the leaders is not something that one can project for this season. So the question reverts to the difficulty of picking a continental contender from the knock out format in Azam Sports Federation Cup tournament - rather than the premier league runners up.

Pundits said that the lady in charge of the game was having another go at controlling

the country's most acclaimed soccer event, twice a year, as it now appears she is the right choice for the contest, as each year complaints kept streaming of biases in handling the match. Much as her outfit - assuming it isn't a uniform sort of betrayed her precise inclinations, and perhaps a bit too loudly - her handling of the match was being well rated in different quarters.

That doesn't mean to say it was perfect, as pundits were as yet disputing which score could have been disallowed had that controversial instrument been in place - the video assisted referee. It was unclear if objections to her decisions were equal on both sides or rather unbalanced, and who were the more critical side, if it was the favorites as they onerously expected to win, or the underdogs.

Chances were however plausible that the side much happier with the result would see in the refereeing a shade of fairness while the psychologically losing side would most likely smell a rat in all this, and the referee's uniform of sorts would then

confirm their gravest fears, or consequential fears...

But without exaggerating Tanzania is definitely setting a good example in that direction, that a woman is likely to be a more dependable referee than a man, which means to suggest that men are more likely to be partisan in soccer than women, or tend to show their partisanship more forthrightly. The fact that those who watch the England premier league, the Spanish La Liga or Serie A in Italy, not to speak of the UEFA Champions League scarcely ever see key games officiated by lady referees, this innovation is worth a plaudit or two.

It may ultimately prove to be a trend setter in the region if people like the veteran regional soccer administrator Nicholas Musonye take sufficient note of it and speak to soccer minded leaders like Rwanda President Paul Kagame, to whisper to regional federation officials to make the scene a bit more commonplace. It may look like it is day dreaming but most big things were dreamed, not planned at first.

Award-winning Congolese singer Celine Banza takes sudden fame in her stride

KINSHASA

PLUCKING the opening bars of her song "Te Rembi" on a guitar in a dingy studio in central Kinshasa, Congolese singer Celine Banza is blinded by a spotlight propped up by a brick and a piece of folded cardboard.

The 22-year-old is still getting used to the glare of the limelight after winning the prestigious Radio France International Discovery Award in November, a prize that celebrates African musicians and which she hopes will jumpstart her international career.

In previous years the gong has gone to musicians such as Ivory Coast's Tiken Jah Fakoly and Mali's Amadou and Mariam who had already toured the world and earned global fame.

"I can't believe this is real," said Banza in the dilapidated studio at the back of the French Institute in the Congolese capital as she practises with her band.

"I'm honoured and proud ... but the celebrity does not mean anything to me. I'm still Celine."

Congo has a long established repu-



Celine Banza

ation as a centre of musical innovation, with much of its music since independence from Belgium in 1960 drawing inspiration from Cuban rumba, which is echoed in Banza's lilting melodies.

She started singing at a young age with her school choir be-

fore moving to Kisangani, a city in the centre of the country, where she met people who helped her develop a taste for music, dance, acting and cinematography.

She returned to Kinshasa at the age of 15 and later studied musicology at the National In-

stitute of Arts where she met her three bandmates.

"The work we have been doing for a while didn't fall from the sky, we have to work hard," Banza said.

Her prize-winning song "Te Rembi", which means "My body", is about asserting her value as a woman beyond the male gaze.

Her lyrics are in Ngbandi, a language spoken in the north of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"You think you can buy my soul with your assets. You confuse me with a commodity and a slave," she sings in Ngbandi, a language she shares with the country's brutal former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

Banza rejected the temptation to sing in a more popular language like French or English because she wants audiences to know her culture and identity.

"It turns out they like it," she said.

REUTERS

Novak Djokovic now concerned about smoke at Australian Open as bushfires continue to blaze

SYDNEY

TENNIS world number two Novak Djokovic said he is concerned that smoke might cause some problems at the Australian Open later this month as bushfires continued to blaze across large sections of the southeast on Sunday.

Hundreds of fires in New South

Wales and Victoria have killed at least 24 people and destroyed more than 5.25 million hectares (13 million acres) of land over the last few months.

Smoke from the blazes has also resulted in hazardous conditions in Sydney, where the final rounds of the inaugural ATP Cup will take place next weekend, and Melbourne, where the year's

first tennis Grand Slam gets underway on Jan. 20.

Seven-times Australian Open champion Djokovic, who is playing in the ATP Cup, said he hoped the crisis would "dissipate" soon but that an action plan would be needed to avoid any impact on the health of players if it did not.

"If it continues same way and if the quality of air is affected

in Melbourne or Sydney, I think Tennis Australia probably will be forced to create some rules about it," he told a Brisbane news conference in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"It's tough for them because ... there's a lot of different things involved. But health concern is a health concern for me and for anybody." REUTERS

Barcelona held 2-2 at last-place Espanyol in Catalan derby

BARCELONA, SPAIN

CHINA forward Wu Lei scored late to give Espanyol a 2-2 draw against 10-man Barcelona in Saturday's Catalan capital derby between the best and worst teams in the Spanish league.

Barcelona's third draw in four rounds left it level on points midway through the season with second-place Real Madrid, which beat Getafe 3-0 hours before. Barcelona kept the league lead on goal difference - and Espanyol remained last - after 19 of 38 games.

The Spanish league said Wu is the first Chinese player to score against Barcelona. The substitute got the equalizer for Espanyol with two minutes remaining after Luis Suárez had played a key role in putting Barcelona 2-1 ahead. Espanyol was helped when Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong was sent off for a second yellow card with 15 minutes remaining.

"The hardest thing to do is to turn a game around when playing on the road," Suárez said. "I leave feeling we let these points slip away. Of course, when a rival plays with an extra man, it gets a boost. But that can't be an excuse."

Suárez canceled out David López's first-half goal by scoring in the 50th with a precise touch of the tip of his right boot to steer Jordi Alba's lobbed pass between goalkeeper Diego López and his near post.

Suárez's assist for substitute Arturo Vidal to give Barcelona the lead nine minutes later was just as impressive. Suárez first dribbled around a defender before using the outside of his right boot to flip a pass across the box for Vidal to head home.

Barcelona was heading for a comeback win until Wu broke free down the right side of the area to receive a pass from Matías Vargas and drove an angled shot past goalkeeper Neto.

The gutsy performance by Espanyol came in the debut of coach Espanyol coach Abelardo

Fernández, a former Barcelona defender, who became the club's third coach of the season last week during the league's winter break.

Espanyol remained winless in 10 home league matches this season, but its players and fans treated the draw as a great victory over its fiercest rival.

"(It's) a turning point for these players who have suffered so much," Abelardo said. "They gave it their all against a great team. The expulsion of De Jong helped us, but my team was never out of the match and deserved the point. If we compete like this, we will be hard to beat."

Abelardo has a reputation for taking over troubled teams without star talent and making them competitive from his previous stints at Sporting Gijón and Alavés.

Neto made his second start of the season for Barcelona in place of injured goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who is expected to be sidelined for around a week with a tendon problem.

Neto could do nothing to stop David López from putting the hosts in front in the 23rd when he sent a glancing header of Marc Roca's free kick just inside the far post.

Barcelona didn't threaten to score until just before halftime, when Suárez hit the goalframe.

Suárez pulled the visitors level with his 11th league goal this season when he was left unmarked in Espanyol's only mistake of the match.

Vidal, sent on at halftime by coach Ernesto Valverde, scored his sixth goal for Barcelona - most as a substitute - this season.

Suárez went close to scoring after Lionel Messi coasted past four defenders before setting him up, only for Diego López to save the Uruguayan's shot in the 65th.

Barcelona, Madrid, Atlético and Valencia will travel to Saudi Arabia to contest the new-look Spanish Super Cup next week.

AP

How Arteta restored belief in the Arsenal squad

LONDON

IT had just gone 11.30 p.m. on New Year's Day when new Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta left Emirates Stadium victorious against Manchester United, driving off in his Mercedes with his wife, Lorena, beside him, flashing a big smile and waving to those who he passed.

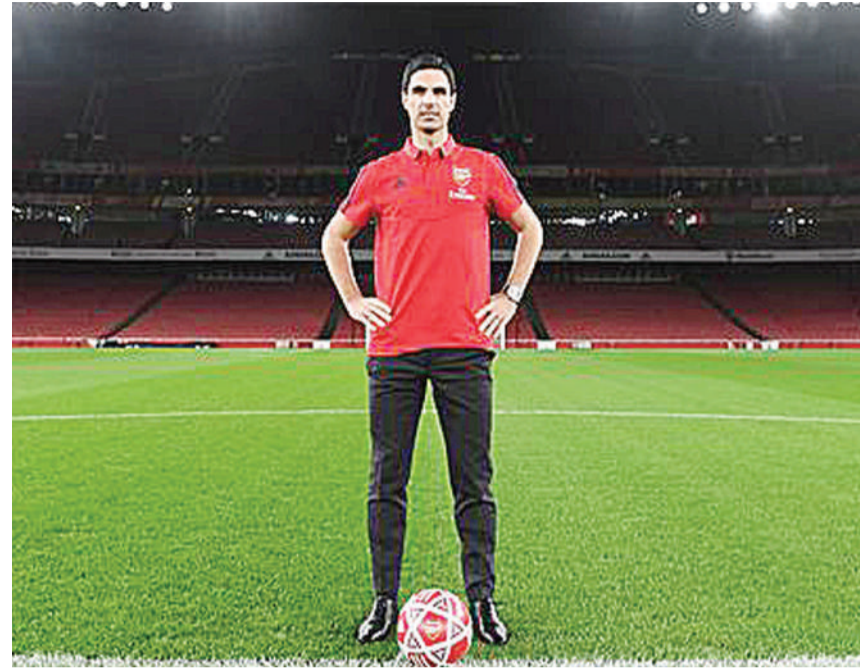
He was not the last one to leave, either. A buoyant Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang mingled with family and friends inside the players' entrance, while Barcelona's Samuel Umtiti - enjoying a brief winter break from his club - patiently waited for his longtime friend, Alexandre Lacazette, so they could ring in the new year.

The positive atmosphere was palpable around the club after the win over United, arguably their most impressive team performance in months. It was a mixture of relief and happiness, of course, but more importantly, there was a sense of reward that all the hard work done in a short time under Arteta since he arrived on Dec. 21 had begun to pay off.

The Gunners had come close to a result against Chelsea three days earlier but suffered a late and cruel loss, beaten 2-1 thanks to a pair of self-inflicted mistakes in the final seven minutes. Yet after that game, the new head coach had only positive words for his players, telling them they were on the right path and, regardless of how much it hurt to lose a match such as this - a London derby, no less - they were improving rapidly.

The players felt it. Since Arteta's appointment two weeks ago, they've had no days off. They've spent time working on their collective shape and with a medium block when they don't have the ball. The intense, hands-on work is already paying off and will come in handy on Monday in the FA Cup, when they host Leeds United at the Emirates (3 p.m. ET on ESPN+).

Individually, the manager has put great emphasis on tactical positions and on the small but crucial details, such as the positions of players' bodies and their vision when receiving the ball. They've practised the long, diagonal passes to switch the play that have been on display all season at Liverpool, to name just one club.



Mikel Arteta

The Arsenal players have also worked tirelessly on how to be better and sharper in transition, both offensively and defensively, working to find more space and exploit it better. This was evident against Man United, many felt they were watching the Arsenal they thought they had lost.

Arteta has been working his squad hard the whole time with little respite. On Christmas Day, they enjoyed an early breakfast together at 8 a.m. while on the eve of the Chelsea match, they travelled to the Emirates for a 45-minute tactical session before leaving for the team hotel.

To implement his ideas and philosophy, Arteta has had to run a crash course; the team has done plenty of video analysis around their past three on-pitch performances, as well as their training sessions.

Arteta is very demanding when it comes to what he asks of his players, and he wants them to learn quickly. As one player put it, there is a structure, but with freedom inside it.

Overall, despite Arteta's being in charge for a short time, the changes at Arsenal have been clear to see and significant compared to his predecessor's methods. The patterns of play are obvious, particularly in the buildup play. Take, for example, the way Granit Xhaka drops into the left-back position, with Aubameyang coming inside to leave the whole left side for his full-back to exploit.

Arteta has also worked a lot with Mesut Ozil. Not only does he want the playmaker to be a key part in his team, but he has also changed Ozil's position, asking him to take up "half spaces" on the right side when Arsenal have the ball.

If Ozil was unsure of his future when Arteta arrived, even though they were in the same Arsenal XI at the tail end of his new manager's playing days, he has been boosted by the faith shown. Sources say Ozil is a totally changed player compared to the one booed by home fans a few weeks ago. He is impressive at training and influential in matches.

However, arguably the biggest change has been not tactically but mentally. Arteta has been very clear since day 1 about what he calls the "non-negotiables." The attitude of each and every player has to be perfect.

When Arteta was appointed before the Everton game, he told his new squad that he would be sitting in the stands at Goodison Park watching their attitude and their effort with and without the ball. Before his first game in charge at Bournemouth, he told them again: "If you don't give everything, you are out of the team. It doesn't matter who you are."

Arteta has been consistent about that energy and commitment from his players, especially when losing possession and using a high press to get the ball back as quickly as possible. Before each game, the

players gather for a group huddle in which Aubameyang gives a pep talk. After the United game, Arteta told his players to go and clap the crowd "together."

The togetherness shown by the Gunners is probably what pleases Arteta the most. They attack and defend together; they press and close down as one.

If he was asking for a completely different mindset, a more aggressive approach, more intensity and more running, the players definitively responded.

But where the Spaniard has shown his real strength is in his management. He is very demanding and wants his players to give everything, but he has to be credible and a strong leader. Promising midfielder Joseph Willock describes him as "stern and relatable." Arteta had a chat with the club's five captains - Aubameyang, Xhaka, Ozil, Lacazette and Hector Bellerin - to ensure that his message was understood and relayed within the squad by the senior players.

In addition to being tough, Arteta has taken time to speak individually to those players who arguably needed it most. He took Xhaka to one side, convincing him to stay after been ostracised after a well-publicised fallout with the club's supporters.

He also made time for Reiss Nelson, who did well against Chelsea, and club-record signing Nicolas Pepe, who have improved in training and have earned another chance.

On the morning of the United game, Arsenal players were again told to be at the stadium first thing for a light training session before they headed to the team hotel for final preparations. Arteta took time to speak with Pepe, asking him how he was feeling and if he felt ready to start.

It gave Pepe, who scored the opening goal against United, the boost and confidence he needed. It was his mother's birthday on New Year's Eve, and he wanted to make her proud. He wanted to make Arteta proud as well and repay him for his trust.

Indeed, all the Arsenal players made Arteta proud that day. He told them so. He also told them that it was the beginning of something special.

(Agencies)

Man Utd held by Wolves in FA Cup stalemate, Man City cruise through

LONDON

SPLUTTERING Manchester United were forced to settle for a 0-0 draw at Wolves in the FA Cup third round, while holders Manchester City started their bid to retain the trophy with a 4-1 victory against Port Vale on Saturday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's troubled side didn't manage a single shot on target in a domestic game for the first time in five years.

Easily beaten by Arsenal in the Premier League on Wednesday, United once again struggled to find any momentum and now face an unwanted replay at Old Trafford later in January.

Defending the latest in a growing list of underwhelming displays, Solskjaer said: "I'm happier to be in the replay than going out. It's a fair result that we are both still in the cup."

"It's a tough place to come. They had chances. Sergio Romero made some great saves. He's putting pressure on David de Gea and that's what we want. We want the best players in the world here."

Solskjaer made seven changes at Molineux with the League Cup semi-final first leg against Manchester City looming on Tuesday.

Knocked out by Wolves in the FA Cup quarter-finals last season, disjointed United nearly fell behind when Matt Doherty's volley was superbly turned away by Romero.

Brandon Williams had a strong penalty appeal rejected by VAR after the United left-back tumbled following a challenge with Leander Dendoncker.

United substitute Marcus Rashford hit the bar with his first touch, but Wolves nearly won it in the closing moments as Raul Jimenez smashed against a post, leaving Solskjaer's men with just two wins from their last five matches.

AFP

At the Etihad Stadium, City boss Pep Guardiola made seven changes, but Oleksandr Zinchenko got the scoring started against fourth-tier Vale after 20 minutes.

Port Vale striker Tom Pope had memorably mocked John Stones last year, claiming he would love to play against him after being overwhelmed by the City defender's performance during an England match.

And with Stones returning for City after a month out with a hamstring injury, the 34-year-old Pope backed up his social media taunts by equalising with a glancing header in the 35th minute.

Sergio Aguero restored order when he fired City back in front with his 15th goal of the season three minutes before half-time.

Taylor Harwood-Bellis sealed the win from Stones' flick in the 58th minute and Phil Foden got the fourth in the 76th minute.

"We are in the next round after an incredible amount of games. We played seriously. First half we struggled a bit but second half was better," Guardiola said.

- Villa, Brighton crash out - Aston Villa and Brighton suffered embarrassing exits as the Premier League clubs paid the price for making a raft of team changes.

Villa are languishing just above the relegation zone after a difficult first season back in the top-flight and boss Dean Smith prioritised that survival battle with nine changes in the 2-1 loss at second tier Fulham. Anthony Knockaert gave Fulham the lead with a 54th minute curler as the former Brighton forward grabbed his first goal since September.

Anwar El Ghazi equalised for Villa in the 63rd minute, but the understudies couldn't hold on as Harry Arter won it with a 30-yard thunderbolt with 16 minutes left.

Proud Li Tie says coaching China 'a very important dream'

BEIJING

FORMER Everton midfielder Li Tie said on Sunday that he has realised a childhood dream by becoming coach of China.

The 42-year-old, who succeeds Italian World Cup winner Marcello Lippi, also revealed that his initial contract is only until the middle of this year.

Li was named to the top job in Chinese football on Thursday, tasked with reviving their hopes of reaching the 2022 Qatar World Cup.

Li, once an assistant to Lippi, said in his first press conference: "It took me 35 years, from a child who can't play football, to today becoming the head coach of the Chinese national team. "I'm really very happy. I can say very proudly to my children, 'Your dad realised a very important dream.'"

Chinese President Xi Jinping wants the world's most populous country to host and even one day win the World Cup.

But first, Li must rescue China's 2022 qualifying hopes after Lippi's abrupt resignation following a 2-1 defeat to Syria in November.

China lie second in Asian qualifying Group A, eight points behind Syria. Only the top team in each group automatically goes through to the next stage.

Li, whose first match in charge will be a March qualifier home to the Maldives, said: "My contract with the Chinese Football Association is until June 9, 2020."

"If we qualify for the next stage of the qualifiers, then my contract will be automatically extended to the next stage... of the qualifiers."

Li was in the team that played in



Li Tie, the new head coach of China men's national football team, is tasked with rescuing their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign (AFP Photo)

the 2002 World Cup, China's only appearance at football's top table, and his appointment is a popular one with Chinese football fans.

"Even if the national team had signed me for a one-day contract, I would not hesitate," Li said.

"When you have the opportunity to work for your country, you really don't need to think over it or hesitate."

Li is already familiar with the national coaching set-up having been in temporary charge during the East

Asian championships in South Korea last month.

Li, who made 40 appearances for Everton after joining in 2002, said that he will continue to use naturalised players for China, a trend that started last year under Lippi and looks likely to gather pace.

But he warned: "They will have to compete to earn their way into the squad."

"I treat all players in an impartial way, I don't care if they are naturalised players, old players or young players."

Li took Wuhan Zall to sixth in the Chinese Super League last season and was one of three Chinese coaches interviewed by the Chinese Football Association (CFA) to follow Lippi.

The CFA said that employing a local coach was a change of strategy after looking to foreigners for much of the past decade.

China are 76th in the FIFA world rankings, sandwiched between Bolivia and Uganda.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Arteta restored belief in the Arsenal squad

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DABAZ (RIVE)
12:00 FUNGUA
14:00 UJAE
16:30 #HASHAG
17:00 SILEET
17:55 KURASA
18:00 SKEWE
18:30 MUSIC
19:00 KATV SAA 1
19:30 MADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 EA DRIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
13:00 Kipanga Xtra
14:00 Kipanga Bongo
15:00 EA Drive
17:00 Kipanga
18:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Lack of experience cost Singida United-coach

By Guardian Correspondent

SINGIDA United head coach, Ramadhan Nsanzurwimo, has observed that inexperience cost his side when the outfit hosted Azam FC in a recent match of the ongoing Vodacom Premier League.

Singida, who were the clash's hosts, lost 2-1 to Azam FC at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium.

Azam FC scored through Bryson Raphael on the 26th minute and Idd Selemam on the 89th minute while Singida scored through Frank Zakaria on the 62nd minute of the game.

In an interview, the Burundian tactician said his side played well in the second half but were unable to contain Azam FC due to lack of experience by his side.

Singida United are now anchoring the 20-team league table with seven points from 14 games, but Ramadhan said he is confident his charges will work hard and avoid relegation.

The victory has taken Azam FC to second place in the league with 26 points from 13 games.

He said the first step to avoid relegation is to sign experienced players who will use their experience in domestic league to help the outfit fight relegation.

Singida have so far signed experienced Athuman Idd and in an interview, Ramadhan disclosed that they are in the final process of signing veteran players Haruna Moshi and Haji Mwinyi.

"Everyone will agree with me that we played well against our opponents, in the first half we were not that good but in the second half we played very well our only problem is inexperience. We created a lot of scoring chances but we could not score, at the same time, in the last minutes of the game we gave our opponents chances, which they utilized and scored the winning goal," he said.

The coach said he will use the Vodacom Premier League break to try new combinations and give new players a chance to play and he promised Singida United will come out very strong.

The domestic top flight has gone for a short break to give room for Mapinduzi Cup, which is slated to kick off today and come to a close on Monday next week in Zanzibar.

Azam FC assistant coach Idd Cheche also agreed with Nsanzurwimo, saying Singida United have a lot of good players who gave his side a tough time but their only problem is lack of experience.

"Yes, it was a good game and I must confess that our opponents were better, the only problem I saw in them is that they have many players who do not have Mainland Premier League experience, otherwise they are a good side," he said.

He said for his side to emerge the victors, they worked hard and had to change tactics by utilizing on the central midfield where Singida United were ineffective.

"After analyzing the way our opponents (Singida) were playing we found out that they were not good on central midfield so we instructed our players to make use of that loophole, score a winning goal, then other things will follow," he said.



Singida United head coach, Ramadhan Nsanzurwimo.

Simba SC coach bemoans team's luck, praises derby referee



Yanga midfielder, Deus Kaseke (C), blocks Simba's defender, Mohamed Hussein, in a Vodacom Premier League duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Sports Club head coach, Sven Vandebroek, has said he feels his side did not deserve to draw their Vodacom Premier League clash against rivals Yanga on Saturday.

The two squads settled for 2-2 draw in the match, which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Two quick goals from Yanga midfielders, Mapinduzi Balama and Mo-

hamed Issa, condemned Simba, nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', to their second draw of the campaign.

Simba had netted their goals through forward Meddie Kagere and winger Deo Kanda.

However, coach Vandebroek

believes his side did not get what they deserved.

"I think we saw a very good game, one technical team and another team on power and

rush, we controlled the first half in ball possession and chances we created and I think at half-

time we were deserving the one nil up. Even the second half began very well for us," he said in post-match comments.

Vandebroek felt the game was decided on the fine margins of the laws of the game which saw his opponents capitalize on their

numerical advantage to score two goals.

However he had nothing but praise for referee, Jonesia Rukyaa, for handling a tough game.

"The opponents' coach spoke about the laws of the game, and I think indeed the laws of the game decided the game today. Note that the referee was good, I have to give a complement in such a difficult game she did very well. What I mean with the laws of the game is that when you kick someone out of the field he has to go out and you can play with one extra man," he said.

"We conceded two goals when one of our players was outside the pitch having treatment, so we conceded two goals with one man, which is the law of the game. If it had happened I don't think they would have come back into the game," he added.

"In the end we could have won it with the ball on the post because after 20 minutes, their rush went down again, we controlled the game again and we were unlucky that the last ball was on the post and not inside."

The results leave Simba eight points clear at the top while Yanga who are third with 25 points will reduce the former's lead at the top to four points if they win their two games in hand.

All set for East Africa Junior Tennis Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

Mchekadona

The ITF/CAT zonal tennis championship, which has attracted nine teams from the East and Central Africa region, starts today at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

The one-week tournament is organized by the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) in conjunction with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA).

Dennis Makoi, TTA president, yesterday said all preparations for the tournament which will be opened by an official from the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports are over.

He mentioned countries which have already arrived for the event as Somalia, Eritrea, Comoros, the defending champions Kenya and Seychelles, which have joined hosts Tanzania.

By the time we went to press Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi were not in Dar es Salaam.

Being the hosts, Tanzania will feature two teams which are coached by Salum Mvita, Goodluck Mollé, Charles Laizer and Majuto Majaliwa, who is TTA national technical director.

Makoi said he is proud that Tanzania is hosting one of important junior tennis events in the region.

He said he is hopeful that the championship will take the sport in the country to another level.

"Tanzania is proud to host this important junior tournament, we will do our best to make it a



Junior tennis player, Isando John, hits a return to an opponent in boys' singles' event of this year's BQ Open tournament, which took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

success," he disclosed.

"We know there will be a lot of challenges but we are ready and I'm appealing to companies, organizations and individuals to help us financially and materially so that we successfully host this event," he said.

Makoi also expressed confidence that the teams

selected for the zonal competition will do the country proud.

"We have a good crop of junior players in the country and coaches selected the two teams last year. I believe the teams chosen will be competitive and bring pride to the country," he said.

Meanwhile, ITF has announced

the composition of its Committees and Commissions for 2020-21.

A total of over 190 representatives from over 70 nations have been invited to serve on a range of ITF Committees, Commissions and Taskforces that assist the federation and its Board of Directors across key

areas of the sport.

Committee members include representatives of the ITF Board, member nations and other individuals with specific areas of expertise, all of whom give their time on a voluntary basis.

The announcement is made on International Volunteer Day as a reflection of how many people give their time for the benefit of tennis worldwide.

David Haggerty, ITF president, said in line with its 2024 strategy, the 2020-21 appointments reflect the ITF's drive for gender equality, inclusion and cooperation. Female representation has increased to 33% but remains an area that the ITF will continue to prioritize through its Advantage All program.

"Tennis can be proud of its achievements in providing equal opportunities on court, but we recognize that this is not yet reflected in leadership roles at the highest levels," he noted.

"In addition to increasing the number of women on our own committees, we encourage our national and regional associations to continue to increase diversity on their boards and committees so that our future pool of talented leaders have the opportunity to develop and assume senior positions in our sport."

"The next few years will be important for the ITF as we strive to increase tennis participation and achieve the strategic priorities of 2024," he noted.

"Committees will play a critical role in providing the resources needed to meet the challenges."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

