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TANZANIA

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Leveraging technology to ease learning for students with disabilities

# Samia: Door open for dialogue with clerics

By Guardian Reporter

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday declared that the government was open for discussion with religious leaders and institutions on burning issues to promote peace and unity in the country.

Addressing an Eid-el-Fitr assembly at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam, the president said the government will always respect freedoms, uphold democracy and the right to worship.

"Let me assure you that the door is open for discussion with religious leaders because you have a big following and enjoy the trust of believers," she told the gathering.

The remarks were directed at the leadership of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata), with Secretary General Nuhu Mruma asking that the president abrogates existing detention orders and release Zanzibar sheikhs who have for years been held in custody.

Without mentioning their actual designation, Sheikh Mruma told an attentive Eid assembly that staying in custody for a long time without trial denies them the right to timely access to justice.

The president urged the gathering to abide by the teachings emphasised during the holy month of Ramadan as a reference point for unity, peace and love that underlines the fasting.

"The major challenge remains the maintenance of the country's peace" she said, elaborating that maintaining the vows that underline the fasting will enable the country uphold the peace and security.

She urged religious leaders to take time to sensitise their followers on the importance of promoting peace as well as promoting personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness in their localities.

President Samia also asked civil servants to be dutiful and be satisfied with what they earn, appealing to those in the private sector to make sure they pay taxes accordingly.

Muslims in the county joined fellow believers around the world to mark this year's Eid El-Fitr with key speakers calling upon women to dress decently as required under the teachings of the faith.

Chief Sheikh Mufti Abubakar Zubeir led thousands of believers for Eid prayers at Mnazi Mmoja, where in his remarks to the assembly he requested the government to remove tax on dates to facilitate fasting for Muslims as it proved to be a challenge this year.

"Your Excellency may I request you to help us with the issue of dates because this was a problem during the holy month of Ramadhan. Dates are imported and those who bring them to us complained of high taxes," he explained.

**The major challenge remains the maintenance of the country's peace**



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses Eid el-Fitr assembly in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

# Cattle disease curbs SADC meat exports

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is grappling with the foot-and-mouth disease ravaging cattle populations and thus crippling the country's capacity to export meat to Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states.

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Ndaki told 'The Guardian' in a recent interview that the ministry has already taken initiatives to address the problem, which has led to Tanzania being barred from exporting meat and live cattle in the zone, as the SADC region takes precautions against the spread of the disease.

Seven countries are ready to purchase meat and animal products from Tanzania but under condition that it must prove without doubt to have eliminated FMD, severe, highly contagious viral disease

**“Once we submit our application, the team of experts will come to the country to ascertain that we have met the minimum set of requirements to export meat and meat products to their markets**

of cattle and swine caused by a virus, he stated, noting that there are seven types of such viruses, producing similar symptoms "and distinguishable only in the laboratory."

Teams of experts from member states will clear the export hurdle when satisfied that the country had controlled the problem and therefore deserves to be allowed to export meat and meat products, he stated.

The countries are not sure on effectiveness of the way the disease is being put under control as so far the country had an uncontrolled outbreak of the disease, he said.

"Our teams are working to see possible ways to meet the condition set by the SADC member states," he said, citing in

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# AfDB gearing up for \$3bn in pharmaceutical industry loans

By Guardian Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) says over the next ten years, it will invest \$3 billion to build Africa's pharmaceutical industry, especially in view of the seemingly continuous need for Covid-19 vaccines over the medium term.

Akinwumi Adesina, the AfDB president, disclosed this intention at a virtual 'finance in common spring' meeting convened in collaboration with the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) and the International Development Finance Club (IDFC).

He said the bank will also seek support for the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) with \$28m to strengthen its capacity to tackle the vaccines problem.

"The bank plans to launch a major effort to build Africa's pharmaceutical industry to which we plan to invest \$3 billion in the next ten years," he said.

"The bank is also currently working with partners on how

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# Peace, unity appeals top Eid el-Fitr vows

By Guardian Reporter

MANTAINING peace and unity was a running theme in messages for yesterday's Eid el-Fitr celebrations, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadhan.

The festival, one of the most important in the Muslim calendar involves mosque prayers and speeches to highlight the social and national significance of the festival, family feasts and prior shopping for clothing, gifts and foods.

In messages issued by various cler-

ics during the festival addresses in city mosques and elsewhere, the importance of maintaining peace was underlined, to enable national leaders to make the right decisions and implement development initiatives without disruptions.

Mwanza Regional Sheikh Hassan Kabake said that it was important for Muslims to always stay humble, preach peace and pray for the country's leaders.

"In this world, chaos and conflicts are inevitable, but when these happen we Muslims should remain united and make sure

we end them and continue building and promoting love for everyone so that God opens divine blessings for us," he said.

Tanzanians should also spend more time praying for President Samia Suluhu Hassan and top government executives so that they properly fulfill their responsibilities, he urged.

"A peaceful nation is one that has God-fearing people, so we Muslims must do

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## Cattle disease curbs SADC meat exports

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particular Namibia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Botswana, Angola Malawi and South Africa.

The member states will in three months time send a team of experts using their criteria to find out if the situation allows them to clear meat exports from us, he said.

"Once we submit our application, the team of experts will come to the country to ascertain that we have met the minimum set of requirements to export meat and meat products to their markets" he emphasised.

The team of experts will collect data by random sampling and put to the test to show if the government had contained the disease outbreak as it expects to have done so by that time, he specified.

Tanzania is the second in Africa for size of livestock population, with an estimated 33.4m head of cattle, 21.29m goats and 5.65m sheep, but the resulting contribution of the leather sector to GDP is minimal.

Experts say this is attributed by low public financing for the sector, persistence of traditional herding and grazing of animals and poor slaughtering facilities.

Old technologies in tanning and leather manufacturing industries are some of constraints along the value chain that limit the development of the leather sector in the

country, they further assert, illustrating that in 2019, beef and beef variety meat exports amounted to 1.32m metric tons valued at \$88.1bn.

Top export destinations of sheep and goat meat, fresh, chilled or frozen from Tanzania in 2018 were United Arab Emirates at 73 percent of the total, priced at \$2.9m, Oman at 16 percent (\$648,000), Vietnam at 3.13 percent (\$123,000) along with Hong Kong at 2.88 percent (\$113,000), while others were Kuwait 1.23 percent priced at \$48,000 plus Pakistan (\$38,000), Argentina with \$20,000 imports of Tanzanian meat, the United States at \$18,700 of such exports and South Africa at \$14,200 in that year.

However, in 2017/2018 Tanzania imported 1404.96 tonnes of meats, but in 2018/2019 it dropped to 516.63 tonnes.

Last year, the government launched the Tanzania Livestock Master Plan (TLMP) to address the challenges facing the sector so as to propel it towards the the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) by 2025.

TDV goals include a vibrant livestock sector, to a large extent being commercially run, modern and sustainable with highly productive livestock to ensure food security, improved incomes for households and contributing to the revenue and environmental conservation.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi addresses an Eid el-Fitr council at Kikwajuni in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

## AfDB gearing up for \$3bn in pharmaceutical industry loans

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best support can be extended in the financing of vaccines manufacturing on the continent."

He projected a gradual recovery of African economies from the COVID-19 pandemic, with an expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.4 percent this year.

"That recovery is expected to be across the board for oil-exporting countries, tourism-dependent economies, commodity dependent economies

and non-resource dependent economies," he elaborated.

"But all these depend on access to vaccines and tackling the issue of Africa's debt," the bank president declared.

Tackling the issue of Africa's debt needs to be top priority, which he described as critical for the continent's financial market stability in the short and medium term.

"Without a resolution of Africa's \$700bn external debt, Africa's economic recovery will be like running up a steep hill with a backpack full of

sand," he cautioned.

Adesina said the issuance of special drawing rights (SDR) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), if well used, would support the recovery process in Africa and address the debt challenge.

He urged that part of the SDR issuance be directed to support public development banks with additional resources to enable countries to 'build back better,' greener and with climate and environmental resilience, while creating job opportunities for the youth.

A share of the SDR issuance should be used to pay down some of Africa's huge private commercial debt, while bringing the debt issue into the G20 common framework for debt restructuring, he stated.

"It is clear that if this is not done, when the debt payments become due from 2023/2024 with bunching of payments, many countries will not be able to meet their obligations, which could trigger massive and widespread credit downgrades across Africa," he added

## Rights group launches tool to stem cybercrime in Africa

NAIROBI

Victims of cyberbullying and related crimes can now get redress thanks to a new online platform that seeks to empower internet users across Africa to report digital rights violations.

The platform called Ripoti, a Swahili word meaning report, was launched last month (30 April) at the 2021 Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum. It links victims to expert support and enables them to document and track evidence of violations.

"Digital rights violations have been on a worrying upward trend in Africa," says Bulanda Nkhovani, Southern Africa programme officer for Paradigm Initiative, which created the platform. "We may not be able to provide a percentage increase in changes that we observed but it's quite a spike that we could no longer cope with volumes. Every average citizen is a potential victim but activists, human rights defenders and journalists are more likely to be victims."

The violations vary from internet shutdowns, cyberbullying, and surveillance to illegal access to user information.

Bulanda cites instances in countries such as Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania where authorities have repeatedly shut down the internet, infringing on people's digital rights.

"For many governments, these violations are committed in their pursuit for unconstitutional and undemocratic political power," she tells SciDev.Net.

Both the United Nations resolution on promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights

and the African commission resolution on the right to freedom of expression and information affirm these rights which should apply offline as well as online, she explains.

According to Bulanda, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated digital rights violations on the continent as most activities were pushed online.

"Some data privacy violations may have been committed through the use of contact tracing applications," she suggests.

Studies have shown that online gender-based violence increased significantly during this period.

The new platform seeks to provide redress for violations that usually go unnoticed when not reported. It also creates awareness of the different types of violations, which ones are more prevalent and pressing, and documents these into a body of evidence that can inform advocacy intervention by various partners.

Joshua Patrick Ogembo managing director at Mirror Ethics East Africa, an economic crimes management outfit, says that Ripoti is a timely intervention as cybercrime gains ground on the continent.

"Cybercrime is not only common in most African countries but also very complex," he tells SciDev.Net.

According to a report by Serianu, a Kenyan-based cybersecurity firm, cybercrime is estimated to cost Africa US\$4.12 billion dollars a year.

"In Kenya, for instance, reporting ordinary crime is a liability. And reporting cybercrime may seem impossible," Ogembo explains.

AGENCIES



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (R) visits the grave of former president Dr John Magufuli at Chato in Geita District yesterday while on his way to Kibondo in Kigoma Region in connection with the Muhambwe constituency by-election lined up for tomorrow. Photo: VPO.

## Peace, unity appeals top Eid el-Fitr vows

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what God has taught us in Scripture. We should follow what God wants us to do," he declared.

He similarly appealed to traders, farmers and other believers to remember paying tithes in accordance with religious law so as to meet religious requirements to help with the lot of orphans and widows.

Believers should not be spending their incomes in the pleasures of drinking,

adultery and smoking which offend divinity and invoke anger on humans, he stated.

Dodoma Regional Sheikh, Mustapha Rajabu urged Muslims to celebrate in good manner by pondering the mighty acts of heaven and not by indulging themselves in unnecessary pleasures that might ruin the whole concept of the holy month of Ramadan.

"We should also continue to direct our prayers to Almighty God so as to help the leaders do what is right. All the good acts

we were doing during the fasting should not stop. We should not fall into error just because we are through with fasting," he said in his remarks after the Eid prayer at the Gadafi mosque in the capital.

To mark the day, Sheikh Rajabu extended support to 400 needy Muslims including widows, elderly and orphans to uplift them during the festival.

Hilal Abdul, Imam of the Bilali Area C mosque urged youth to stop staying in the streets with nothing to do, but rather

work hard, engage in any lawful income generating activity so as to improve their lives and contribute to the country's wellbeing.

He also wanted Muslims to respect people of different cultures and avoid doing things which offend others.

Shinyanya Regional Sheikh, Ismail Makusanya urged Muslims to be submissive to God and the country's leaders.

Addressing a gathering at Sabasaba grounds in the municipality, Makusanya

described obedience as one of the key religious values, inn which case believers should live for the betterment of the nation.

"To disobey the leaders is to offend God, because divinity hands power to those it wishes, and if you continue to go against him you are digging a grave and your prayers will not be accepted," he stressed.

Muslims must celebrate Eid by offering help to orphans, prisoners, widows as well as having fun with their families and not to go for unseemly luxuries, he added.





Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (in cap) pictured yesterday presenting an Eid el-Fitr goat to a representative of a centre caring for elders. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## Jafo stresses need for environmental impact assessment of abattoir project

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

THE Minister of State Vice President's office (Union and Environment) Selemu Jafo has given 10-day ultimatum to Kigoma municipal executive director to register and hand over a certificate of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to an abattoir project in the area.

During his two days tour of Kigoma, Jafo toured the abattoir construction project and found that it was being conducted without any environmental impact assessment.

"I, therefore, direct that this project be registered and given an environmental assessment certificate because it is very essential in conserving the environment," he said.

He said if the municipal will fail to register the project he will suspend the project.

The minister called upon investors to register their projects so that it meets the criteria to be given an environmental assessment certificate which will help the impacts to the environment.

Jafo said the government aims at inviting more investors into the energy sector so that they invest in producing alternative energy which is friendly to the environment.

He made the remarks soon after touring a solar energy project which is expected to produce 4.8 MW by the year 2025.

According to the minister, the energy which is produced from the Kigoma mini-grid has been very friendly to the environment because it reduces the use of energy generated from fuel. He hailed the region for using green energy as a source of power.

# Horn of Africa facing fresh food shortage

MOGADISHU

THE Horn of Africa region is staring at food shortages after the delayed start of the long rains in some countries and below-average rainfall in others.

The UN and the government of Somalia have jointly declared drought in the country after officials determined that 80 percent of Somalia had received little rainfall. Usually, much of the Horn considers March to May as a planting season.

However, projections by the Famine Early Warnings Sys-

tems Network and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies indicate that the situation is likely to get worse as we get into May down to September if the weather situation does not change.

"In eastern Africa, worse outcomes are expected through May 2021 across much of the region (North East Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia - including the restive Tigray region) attributed to conflict and displacement, long term macroeconomic challenges, the economic impacts

of Covid-19, multiple weather shocks and the desert locust upsurge," the IFRC Food Insecurity and Hunger for Africa bulletin says.

A situational report by the Federal Government of Somalia and humanitarian partners said the country is experiencing moderate to severe drought and warned that the population there was on the "brink of human catastrophe."

Somalia's Humanitarian Response Plan requires \$1.09 billion to assist about four million people, and more than three

million who are in acute need.

In Somalia, drought is almost routine, appearing once in every two years. Since 1990, it has experienced more than 30 climate-related hazards including 12 droughts and 19 floods.

This is three times the number of climate-related hazards experienced between 1970 and 1990.

In Kenya, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture Peter Munya announced on April 14 that the country will not be facing an acute maize shortage at least until later in the year, saying "We

will have a surplus of at least 11.8 million bags by the end of May."

An assessment by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group in February puts the population at risk at over 1.4 million people who are in need of urgent life-saving support.

IFRC notes that in South Sudan, 60 per cent of the population (7.2 million people) are expected to face acute food insecurity between April and July.

"This includes 2.4 million in emergency situations and 108,000 people in catastrophic situations," the federation states.

Ethiopia, just like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan and Somalia is facing one of its worst locust outbreaks in 25 years rendering crop production, food security and millions of lives at the dire risk of starvation.

Tigray region is particularly in an "extremely grave" quoting remarks made by the High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi who alongside a high ranking team of UN officials toured the region in February to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground.

"People need all possible forms of support; food items, non-food items, medicine, water, shelter and access to banks and telecommunication systems," Grandi told journalists in Addis Ababa.

He added that though the government of Ethiopia had reported on some progress being made in improving the security situation in the region, isolated incidents are still taking place resulting in looting, various kinds of violence including rape and the unfortunate loss of six humanitarian workers.

## Prof Mkenda: Locust swarms under control

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has managed to control locust swarms that hit the northern part of the country earlier this year, a senior official has said.

Addressing journalists here on Wednesday, Minister for Agriculture, Prof Adolf Mkenda said the destructive pests stormed the country and the rest of east Africa early this year. The locusts invaded the country from neighboring Kenya hitting northern districts of Mwanza, Siha and Moshi (Kilimanjaro), Simanjiro (Manyara); Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro (Arusha); and Lushoto (Tanga).

Prof Mkenda said that the locusts used to move in one area to another and the highly affected districts included Siha (Kilimanjaro), Simanjiro (Manyara); Longido and Monduli (Arusha) destroying 6,441ha of farmland.

On red locust, Prof Mkenda said they are in the natural breeding sites Malagarasi River Basin (Kigoma and Kaliua), Ikuu/Katavi conservancies (Mpanda), Wembere Basin (Igunga), and Lake Rukwa Basin (Sumbawanga).

He however said that there are auxiliary breeding areas in Bahi whereby the ministry makes evaluation of the

red locusts' breeding sites and come up with measures to control them.

In the 2020/2021 season experts from the ministry in collaboration with the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) carried out a survey on the insects' breeding sites and discovered that there is no threat on the vice.

Early this year, huge swarms of desert locusts reported to have invaded some of the country's northern regions including Kilimanjaro from Kenya, darkening horizons and causing panic among farmers, who fear destruction of their crops.

Onesmo Biswelu, a district commissioner, said swarms of locusts invaded large-scale plantations at the Ngare-Nairobi ward in the district.

However, the government swiftly deployed special planes to spray pesticides in the affected areas, Biswelu said.

"We have managed to contain them, and destruction to crops is minimal," he said.

Huge swarms of desert locusts, believed to be triggered by the changing weather patterns, have been destroying crops across swathes of eastern and northern Africa.



Muslim faithful take part in Eid El Fitr prayers at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has led Muslims in national prayers to celebrate Edi el Fitr, calling for religious tolerance urging them to abide by the teachings they received during the holy month of Ramadhan.

During the prayers which took place at Maisa grounds in Unguja Dr Mwinyi said the teachings by religious leaders during Ramadhan have helped to build unity and love among Zanzibaris.

He called upon Zanzibaris to unite and not allow themselves to be divided on religious grounds.

The prayers were attended by various leaders including First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman, Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla, retired President Amani Abeid Karume and

## President Mwinyi calls for religious tolerance

retired Vice President Mohammed Gharib Bilal.

The leader hailed the respect shown by those who are not Muslims especially during the month of Ramadhan where they did not do things that were provoking others.

He said the situation has made Zanzibar to be one of the countries in the world with diverse religions but exist peacefully since the colonial era.

During the prayers, Dr Mwinyi urged Muslims in Zanzibar to get prepared for Hijja in Mecca as the government was preparing for an official communication from the Saudi Arabian government.

"Let me take this opportunity to inform Muslims with interest to go for Hijja that we are waiting for directives from the government of Saudi Arabia following the outbreak of coronavirus," he said.

Dr Mwinyi said the Saudi government has issued information on Hijja prayers on conditions that pilgrims have been vaccinated against Coronavirus.

He said the government of Zanzibar will put in place conditions which will be in line with those of the Saudi government to ensure Muslims in Zanzibar participate in the prayers which is one of the

key pillars of the religion.

Dr Mwinyi directed the Waqf and Trust Commission to finalise the establishment of a Hijja fund which will facilitate Zanzibaris to travel.

He said the fund is important because it facilitates Muslims who want to go to Hijja to do so without problems adding that such funds are available in countries with huge Muslims following.

For his part, the secretary for Zanzibar Mufti Shelkh Khalid Mfaume for being a leader who has managed to unite Muslims and other people who had grievances against others.



# Eid el-Fitr as celebrated in Arusha, Dar, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Zanzibar



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Prayers in progress at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally (C) and Sheikh Khamis Mataka shortly after prayers at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Shinyanga Regional Sheikh Ismail Makusanya (R) leads prayers at Sabasaba grounds in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



Dodoma Regional Sheikh Mustafa Rajab Shaaban presents foodstuffs to 400-plus needy people, including widows, orphans and elders, shortly after prayers in the national capital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Prayers under way at Maisara Suleiman grounds in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House



Seller and protective buyer in negotiations on the price of an Eid el-Fitr cock at Kitunda in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Arusha Urban legislator Mrisho Gambo (in draft shirt) presents foodstuff to 400 widows in Arusha city on Tuesday in readiness for Eid el-Fitr. Photo: Correspondent Tumaini Mafie





ZARA Tours guide Faustine Chombo (C, in white T-shirt) leads tourists at Karanga when heading for the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro - Uhuru Peak - on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Mkenda suspends Lindi cooperatives registrar over abuse of office reports

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE minister Prof Ado If Mkenda has suspended the regional registrar for cooperatives in Lindi, Edmund Masawe over accusations of abuse of office.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, the minister said that he has directed Dr Benson Ndiege, the Registrar of Cooperatives to implement the directive.

The regional official is said to have pushed Umoja Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) in the region to hire a warehouse for storing cashew nuts while they have their own facilities for the purpose.

The minister also asked Dr Diege "to examine himself for failing to advise on the matter during a meeting with the Amcos groups which took place on 2nd May 2021," he stated, affirming that Dr Diege was directed to offer his advice on a project by 32 cooperatives in Kilimanjaro Region but he did not do so.

"The director of cooperatives thinks am joking, he thinks I cannot fire him, I am going to make changes

at the cooperatives commission," said Prof Mkenda.

The minister placed the country's cooperatives registrar on observation and directed that he gives the advice as requested by May 17.

Minister Mkenda said he has been given the powers to lead the ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the cooperative unions in the country so that they are beneficial to farmers.

The minister explained the various steps taken by the government to contain the invasion of desert locusts saying the government has done a great job in collaboration with those from the regions and districts.

He said the government sprayed Fenitrothion using four helicopters and other motorized sprayers to control a swarm of locusts that have invaded various districts of Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions.

Desert Locusts were first reported to have entered into the country on 19 February this year in Mwanga district and later scattered to some areas of Same and Simanjiro in Manjara Region.

## CSOs, stakeholders urge govt to work on recommendations by CAG

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CIVIL Society Organisations (CSOs) in Dodoma region and other stakeholders have called on the government to form regulations binding public office holders to implement recommendations made by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) in the annual reports.

Speaking during a meeting to analyse the CAG's 2019/2020 report, they expressed concern that a lot of issues raised by the auditors remain unimplemented and no one is taken to task for accountability.

The meeting dubbed 'Directors Forum', an annual event convened by the Foundation for Civil Society

(FCS) in collaboration with Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA) brought together over 50 directors of CSOs and NGOs in the region, members of parliament and other stakeholders.

In his presentation, Wajibu Executive Director, Ludovick Utouh said CSOs have a big role in enhancing public financial accountability for better service delivery by advocating for the government to implement CAG recommendations.

He said by so doing they support the auditor-general in carrying out the mandate by identifying what he revealed and help the public to see areas of serious scrutiny.

The former CAG noted that hav-

ing such forums to debate in-depth analysis of CAG report and recommendations is crucial for the CSOs to identify areas of advocacy, thus make the government to take the matters further and head on with the government.

"When CAG says the number of qualified opinion reports in the local government authorities (LGAs) are on the increase is a sign of reduced level of ability among public servants," he said. He also expressed concerns that 2019/20 CAG report indicates that investment projects in the country declined by 48 percent from 2015/16 to 2019/20. According to him, the report shows that the decrease in capital investment under the Ex-

port Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) was 88 percent.

Other recommendations were demand for increased collaboration between the President's Office Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Regional Secretariats in enforcing implementation of the guidelines for management of the Women Youth and People with Disabilities (WYPDS) empowerment fund.

He also recommended that law enforcement organs including the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to

enforce implementation of the amended Section 27 of the Public Audit Act No. II of 2008.

Debating the former CAG's analysis, Grace Tendega, the Parliamentary Local Government Accounts Committee (LAAC) chairperson thanked Wajibu for the insight that will help her committee and parliament at large to get a detailed understanding of the CAG report. "There is need for the government to closely look into the audit committees within its institutions and resolve the challenges," she said adding that punitive measures should be taken on those who defy CAG recommendations. The Public Investment and Capital Commit-

tee, deputy chairperson, George Malima noted that reduced investment is a serious threat to national development. "I strongly support the efforts to help the public understand the content of the CAG report," he said, John Mapesa, one of the directors noted that implementation of CAG report need a binding regulations, saying, "Those who fail to implement CAG recommendations should be legally forced to give explanations".

Sylvia Sirgwa from the Association of Retired Council of Directors in Tanzania on her part argued that there is little political will to help resolve issues raised by the auditor general.

Anthony Lyamunda from Bahi observed that there are weak oversight institutions and systems at the LGAs, making them incapable of doing what is expected of them.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, FCS's Executive Director, Francis Kivanga said yesterday's meeting was the third 'Directors Forum', adding that the previous ones were held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the annual event is held yearly after the CAG produced the audit reports and the aim is to help other stakeholders including CSOs see its analysis, raise question and also come up with recommendations on the way forward.

## Ministry: Availability of reproductive health education in schools is crucial

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Permanent Secretary in Zanzibar's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Ali Khamis Juma, has stressed the need to provide reproductive health education in schools because many students get into relationships before they have completed their studies.

He made the call here yesterday when opening a three-day workshop on data collection, and provide feedback on HIV and reproductive health education.

The workshop was organised by UNESCO. The PS said there are serious consequences for students when they engage in relationships at their tender age, "so the education will help them know its effects and stop engaging in sexual relationships at an early age."

"Education on this matter will be a solution as students will be aware of all issues related to sexual reproductive health," he said. According to him, the workshop is important and will help the government in planning various programmes.

He however said: "It is very important for the nation to look at which areas can be collected data with a view to solving various existing problems, especially education as well as working on the development of children."

Education and Health Officer from UNESCO Dar es Salaam, Mathias Her-

man said that the need to collect data on HIV and gender is important taking into account that education is a cross-cutting issue.

He urged the trainers to work on the training they were given and to ensure that they properly collect data on issues of abuse and HIV for students affected by such cases.

He said the ministry has limited data on gender-based violence (GBV) and health-related reports, the situation that makes them unable to report to global data. "So, this workshop provides a platform for participants to learn better ways of using global questionnaires in collecting data," he said.

An education and health officer from UNESCO Zanzibar, Hasina Salim Bukheti, said the ministry is facing a serious shortage of information on issues of abuse in the statistics as well as health information in the education questionnaire which makes them fail to report effectively in the global questionnaire.

Given this situation, the officer said, UNESCO has seen the importance of conducting the workshop so that they can learn using the global guideline with the aim of finding out which methods can be useful in using them in their statistics.

Some of the participants said that the workshop will help to get accurate statistics on various issues of abuse, health and HIV for students in schools.



Students wait for transport at the Kimara Mwisho commuter bus stop along Morogoro Road in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Reluctance by some conductors and drivers to take students on board their buses is a decades-old public transport challenge. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## ATIS calls for standardised travel protocol to help tourism recover swiftly

By Special Correspondent, Cape Town

AFRICAN governments must work together to define a standardised travel protocol if tourism is to recover swiftly and deliver the economic benefits that are so critical for the continent.

That was the overarching message of the recent African Tourism Investment Summit (ATIS), hosted by International Tourism & Investment Conference (ITIC) and World Travel Market Africa (WTM Africa) at Africa Travel Week (ATW) which featured no fewer than 9 incredible ministerial and investment expert panel discussions and presentations. Sounding the call for collaboration, ITIC Chair and former Secretary-General

of the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Dr Taleb Rifai said it would take five years for 70% of the world's population to be vaccinated and that it would be impractical to pin tourism's hopes on this before travel could resume in earnest.

"We cannot face this as individual governments. We have to work together and not just ministers of Tourism, but also ministers of Health, of Transport. African governments must work together and create a minimum procedure and protocol for travel. We can't have one country insisting on quarantine, its neighbour insisting on vaccinations and a third one requiring testing.

There has to be a standardised minimum level of

procedures that is agreed upon for travel to be possible. There's no other way."

Taleb's view was widely supported by the various ministers and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) President and CEO Gloria Guevara who called for an international mobility programme to deliver the certainty required for travel.

"We cannot consider entire countries as infected and thus quarantined, so there is a need to move from country assessment to individual assessment. If we can have agreement among the countries in Africa, we could resume international travel and bring back travellers and jobs," said Guevara whose recommendation for Africa would be to define clear rules and to work

together to put together a mobility protocol.

Ian Liddell-Grainger, Vice Chair of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, advocated for widespread access to vaccines and called for a "team effort" to get "tourism up and running" swiftly, while sounding a caution about variants.

"One of the things we are trying to do is open up tourism without taking variants to countries that don't have them and, conversely, bring back variants that are not covered by existing vaccines. Variants must be identified and South Africa is a prime example. They identified a variant, got it out to the world and we know now that the vaccinations cover that variant. That's how it's done."



## Stakeholders counsel TRA on digital services

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has been urged to extend collaboration with various stakeholders regarding the newly introduced digital services to make them become friendly to the users hence get services including payment of taxes more easier.

Speaking during a training on effective use of TRA's digital services in Dar es Salaam yesterday, most participants said some of the digital services introduced by the authority were not friendly to them.

The one-day training which was organised by a Dar es Salaam based microfinance firm known as B-AI GEE Finance limited attracted a number of participants mostly accountants and cashiers.

A participant identified as January Melchior, thanked the organisation for the training urging for more cooperation with Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMES).

"TRA should make sure that it involve all members of the public including SMEs so that they become conversant with the digital services it offers," he said.

Another participant identified as Ulrich Mwinjichi thanked officials from TRA who had responded to their request.

He said they were interested in receiving training from TRA officials on a particular subject because they want to convey it to the people at grass root level through their microfinance company.

Presenting paper on TRA's tax returns e-filing system the authority's

Ilala Region Taxpayer services and education official identified as Zakeo Kowero said that the system was introduced in August 2020.

He said that the new online system was introduced to remove challenges traders and TRA face during its implementation in the past.

TRA introduced an electronic filing (e-filing) system to improve tax compliance and increase efficiency in tax administration he said.

Prior to deploying the e-filing system, only the monthly value-added tax returns were filed electronically and withholding tax certificates were generated electronically. The new e-filing system allows the

following additional tax returns to be filed electronically: Annual corporate income tax (CIT) returns provisional income tax returns Monthly pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) returns.

Monthly skills and development levy (SDL) returns all other tax returns are to be filed physically (paper copy) with the TRA.

Apart from filing tax returns electronically, the e-filing system will also enable entities to: appoint individual declarants who will submit tax returns on behalf of the entity, appoint a local audit firm and auditors for certification of income tax returns before submission, apply for extension of time to file returns, and access and view filed returns and assessments which are electronically issued after submission of the respective tax return.

Traders were asked to register with the new e-filing system much earlier to avoid heavy penalties for failure to do so.



Salmin Mmari (L), an assistant to Pangani legislator and Water minister Jumaa Aweso, presents a prize bicycle at a mosque in Pangani District earlier this week to a student who emerged one of the winners of a Quran reading competition. Looking on (C) is Pangani District's Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) chairman, Mohamed Amari. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## EU to offer expertise to drive renewables-friendly policy across Africa

By Special Correspondent

WITHOUT national regulatory frameworks geared to supporting renewables, the energy transition could remain a distant dream in Africa, according to Salvatore Bernabei, CEO of the Enel Green Power renewables division of the Italian energy company.

Bernabei was speaking at a webinar dedicated to driving the African energy transition, organised by the European Commission, African Union Commission, and the European Council's Portuguese presidency, and backed by the European Investment Bank, African Development Bank and the secretariat of the Africa-EU energy partnership.

Enel Green Power boss Bernabei said: "Some countries,

like South Africa, Morocco, and Egypt, have great regulatory policies but we cannot make a greater impact with only three countries."

Frans Timmermans, executive VP of the European Green Deal for the European Commission, said the EU and its member states stood ready to help African governments introduce the policies required to help catalyze private-sector investment in clean energy.

Through the auspices of the African-EU Green Energy Initiative, the European Union and African Union would finally implement a long-desired strategic energy partnership which would aim to drive investment in clean power generation, raise access to electricity, and promote energy efficiency, said

Timmermans.

The commission VP said: "We cannot limit ourselves to energy access based on six hours of electricity per day, which is barely enough to plug a fan, a radio, and a TV. We need to think big. We need access on a scale which can truly help the economic development and the industrialization of Africa." Stating the bloc and its member states have, since 2013, more than doubled their contributions to partner nations pursuing a sustainable development path, Timmermans said 30% of the EU's external partnership budget would be devoted to climate change investment over the next seven years.

The commission representative also emphasized the need for supportive policymaking, including energy sector reform,

carbon pricing and access to affordable finance in African nations. While Timmermans said the public sector needed to take action, European Commission peer Koen Doens, director-general for international partnerships, said stronger links between African and European businesses could also play an important role.

Francesco La Camera, director-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), said a broader approach needed to be adopted in Africa, both in terms of widening the debate beyond which technologies to deploy and in terms of national interests. Cross-border, regional infrastructure would be more effective in harnessing the industrial and development benefits which industries such as green hydrogen production

might offer to the continent, he said, adding, the 2.7 GW of solar capacity installed in Africa last year amounted to just 0.01% of the renewables projects added worldwide.

Africa will need a decade to complete the goal of providing access to energy for its 600 million people who are unconnected at present, said African Union commissioner for infrastructure and energy, Amani Abou-Zeid. "We urgently need to think of innovative ways to mobilize resources and invite [the] private sector and governments on this journey to green energy access," she added.

That sobering prospect is also an opportunity, Kandeh Yumkella told the webinar. "Connecting 600 million people with electricity is not only a challenge but also a great business oppor-

tunity for the two sister continents," said Yumkella, co-chair of the strategy group for energy at policy thinktank the Africa Europe Foundation.

Lack of accessible finance is a significant hurdle between African businesses and that opportunity, the event heard, and Hela Cheikhrouhou, CEO of Washington DC-based energy finance provider Nithio Holdings, emphasized the benefits blended finance - comprised of public and private-sector cash - could offer.

"If you looked at the map of the world ten years ago," said commissioner Timmermans at the event, "coal was the cheapest option to produce electricity everywhere, with a few small exceptions. Today, in competitive procurements, renewables come out cheaper than the

cheapest coal plants. Last year, we saw record-low auction prices for solar energy in Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and Chile. For instance, it cost only three cents per kilowatt-hour. But if you wanted to build a new coal plant, it would cost you three times more, over nine cents."

The commission VP said: "Fossil fuels are not a good business and we would never try to convince our partners in Africa to buy second-hand fossil fuel technologies." In terms of the planned partnership between the EU and Africa, he added: "It's about enhancing technology transfer, boosting the transition to new energy resourcing and leapfrogging some of the developments that would lead to higher emissions, rather than to more sustainable energy systems."

## Free up bottlenecks stifling Africa's agri-food sector, appeals FAO chief

By Guardian Reporter

THE UN agriculture chief warned that severe underfunding of Africa's agri-food sector has boosted food insecurity and was hampering the future development of countries across the continent.

"Let's unblock the bottlenecks that are holding back potential by increasing coordination and upskilling human capacity in African nations," urged QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Speaking at the launch of FAO's latest report, Public Expenditure on Food and Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, he added that funds must also be unlocked and public finance systems streamlined, "so that the scarce resources we have do not go unspent".

Based on "rigorous analysis over the last 15 years, made possible thanks to strong collaboration with our members in the region," the FAO chief explained that the report brings to light a gap between long-standing political commitments and the financial realities facing 13 sub-Saharan countries.

Despite meetings of African Union (AU) Member States, beginning in 2003, where they vowed to fuel social and economic growth by pledging 10 per cent of their national budgets to food and agriculture, this undertaking remains unfulfilled.

A survey of the Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) programme, an FAO initiative that tracks public expenditure in Africa, revealed that only Malawi has consistently met that target.

In some years, Mali has also achieved it, but Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda, have never succeeded in doing so.

In some cases, food and agriculture hover at only three per cent of national budgets, and on average, little of that is made available for food and agricultural development. Insufficient implementing capacity has also left a fifth of the funding undisbursed.

According to the report, agriculture is being implicitly penalized.

Marco Sánchez, Deputy Director of FAO's Agri-food Economics Division, outlined research showing that technical efficiency in agriculture, increases dramatically as spending nears \$80 per capita. And while it begins to taper off after that, most African countries come nowhere near that amount.

While acknowledging a "narrow fiscal space" to expand public investment in Africa - particularly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic - he argued that it was possible to generate efficiency gains through better spending.

According to the report, the lion's share of national expenditure on food and agriculture in Africa subsidizes fertilizer, tools and other inputs, which Sánchez said tend to exhibit diminishing returns over time.

At the same time, FAO Chief Economist Máximo Torero, stressed the importance of generating quality data to guide agricultural investment decisions, with today's report being a significant step along that path.



Efforts under way earlier this week to clear and secure the Jangwani Valley section of Msimbazi River in Dar es Salaam by removing mud deposited there recently by floodwaters. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



# UNICAF to expand to 17 African countries following UN call for investment in digital education

By Special Correspondent

THE Covid-19 pandemic unearthed the fault lines for what could be a generational catastrophe in education.

Even before the pandemic resulted in school closures affecting over 1.6 billion students in at least 161 countries, more than 250 million school-age children were out of school globally.

In much of the developing world, the gap between the levels of learning that education systems provide, and the needs of students, communities and countries, has been steadily growing over the years.

Barriers to education in developing countries include political and security instability, costs, health and nutrition, distance to school, insufficient budgetary allocations to education, and poor-quality environments, content and processes. And now, even more school-age individuals are at risk of falling behind or dropping out of school permanently as the pandemic persists. This would widen inequality across an already unequal region with stark wealth, gender and social disparities, as well as stymie opportunity, innovation, and economic growth prospects—education is the cornerstone of building human capital.

Dr Nicos Nicolaou, the founder and CEO of Unicaf - a leading higher education online platform with students in 158 countries, set out his vision for a more robust education sector supported by digital infrastructure.

"In August last year, the UN Secretary-General stated that the education sector must invest in digital literacy and infrastructure and look to evolve towards learning how to learn, rejuvenate lifelong learning, and strengthen links between formal and non-formal education," said Dr Nicolaou.

"He suggested the need to draw on flexible delivery methods, digital technologies and modernised curricula while ensuring sustained support for teachers and communities."

A sustained increase in demand for access to education across Africa is unavoidable as populations grow, and given the role of education in modernisation and development, it is critical that governments increase higher education opportunities.

"Central to the discussion on sustainable development is the imperative of equality in higher education opportunities. Universities should offer holistic and transformational education with high-level quality content. Learning should be stimulating, engaging and learner-centric, leading to successful outcomes for the learners. Universities should inspire learners to be global citizens, assume active roles in the society they live in, and contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable world," says Dr Nicolaou.

"Taking into consideration that tens of millions of additional students will become of university age in the next decade and the fact that there are no plans to build hundreds of new universities in the continent, the only solution is online learning," he adds.

"The skilful use of modern technologies can enhance teaching and learning effectiveness and, thus, may substantially contribute towards the goals and objectives associated with sustainable, inclusive growth and development."

"Distance education can eliminate current barriers to higher education in Africa, imposed by space and time, and can dramatically expand access to lifelong learning. Using flexible delivery models, students will no longer have to visit a physical location at specific times and days. A modern higher education institution, such as Unicaf University, no longer has to be at any specific physical location but, through the use of technology, can exist anywhere, anytime for students who wish to access study materials and complete a particular academic programme fully online."

There has been a high growth and adoption in education technology

around the world in recent years, with edtech investments of up to USD 18.66 billion in 2019, and projections for the online education market expected to reach USD 350 billion by 2025. COVID-19 has accelerated the transition to the wider use of technology in delivering education.

"Because of COVID-19 online learning expanded dramatically. Almost all universities had to shift to remote learning to serve their students. In a very short time, everyone had to shift from face-to-face teaching to online, using a variety of technologies. The pandemic provided the catalyst needed for universities to move online and to use digital platforms for teaching and learning," says Dr Nicolaou.

"What was considered to be the future has been accelerated to become the present; and my expectation is that this shift is here to stay, in one form or another. Various technologies, which are employed for online teaching, will reshape learning, both inside the classroom and beyond, well after the present pandemic subsides. In the same token, regulators have realised how crucial online education is and started encouraging universities to offer online programmes," he adds.

Africa accounts for about 20 per cent of the world's youth population (aged 15-24), which is also the fastest growing in the world; however, there is a dearth of quality and affordable higher education. School enrolment rates at the tertiary level stand at 8 per cent, according to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, significantly below the global average of 32 per cent. Online education has the potential to increase access to higher education, making it cheaper, more flexible and more accessible to a wider range of students, and that is what Unicaf does.

"Founded in 2012 and with headquarters in Europe, Unicaf is a leading higher education online platform with students in 158 countries, and also a scholarship programme, facilitating higher education studies



Unicaf founder and CEO Dr Nicos Nicolaou

at affordable cost. The state-of-the-art Unicaf digital platform provides access to quality university degree programmes and professional courses from reputable partner institutions in the UK, the USA and Africa, and is addressing an underserved part of the higher education market through an affordable and flexible online learning model," says Dr Nicolaou.

The platform's current partners include Liverpool John Moores University (UK), the University of East London (UK), the University of Suffolk (UK), the University of California, Riverside Extension (USA), and a multi-campus Unicaf University in Africa—offering high-quality Bachelor, Master's and Doctoral degrees at a fraction of the cost.

"During the pandemic, Unicaf has been able to demonstrate its capabilities and increase its reach. Unicaf's state-of-the-art digital platform has helped thousands of students to study online towards an internationally recognised degree without being affected by lockdowns and other restrictive measures. Within the last 12 months, we have received thousands of applications from students interested to study through online programmes. This is additional proof of Unicaf's dominance in Af-

rica's online education market and the strengthening of its brand and reach," says Dr Nicolaou.

Developments in technology and changes to the global approach to teaching—including collaborative and project-based learning, mobile-friendly learning platforms, and adaptive personal learning—are not yet used at scale in Africa. Unicaf is expanding across the continent through a growing network of university campuses and learning centres offering blended and open learning options. Unicaf currently has a physical presence in 12 African countries and has plans to expand to five additional countries within the next two years.

"Unicaf and Unicaf University's strategy is to continue expanding throughout Africa by obtaining additional university licences in new countries and enriching the portfolio of programmes they are offering. Along with its partner universities, Unicaf has already served more than 40,000 students, by awarding them over USD 100 million worth of scholarships to study for internationally recognised degrees at a fraction of the cost, and to positively transform their lives," says Dr Nicolaou.

"Our software development team will continue developing new

state-of-the-art technologies, aiming towards enhancing the existing technologies we use in our digital platform. Such technologies help all our operations become more efficient and more scalable," he adds.

"With a population of 1.2 billion projected to reach 1.4 billion by 2040, Africa will become one of the biggest free trade areas with a very high commercial significance. This is good news for higher education too, and will heighten collaboration opportunities among universities in Africa in the areas of teaching, learning and research," says Dr Nicolaou.

"For the African leaders of the future, Agenda 2063 sets out the need to refocus and reprioritise Africa's agenda. Educating Africa's future leaders is very important, as they are the ones who will strive to reposition Africa as a dominant global player. To support this goal, Unicaf continues to develop a suite of modern and affordable programmes, which offer specialist knowledge, underpinned by values-based ethical principles and practices."

"Employability is vital for university students in Africa and is central to the mission and operation of Unicaf University."

## Youth activists urge bigger role in decision making for climate-hit Africans

By Special Correspondent

YOUNG African environmental activists have urged those impacted by climate change to have a bigger say in decision-making to find solutions, including at upcoming COP26 UN climate talks set for November in Glasgow.

In an online discussion joined by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Nigerian environmentalist Olumide Id-

owu said African youth could "no longer afford to be spectators of our future".

"Most of these negotiators negotiate on behalf of us, without us ... we should be looking at how we can be a part of these negotiations," Idowu said.

From stronger heatwaves and storms to droughts and flooding, climate impacts are hitting Africa increasingly hard, according to the World

Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Droughts have killed crops, worsening existing food insecurity across the continent, while excessive rains and flooding have contributed to unprecedented plagues of locusts and the spread of diseases.

Adding her voice to the topic, Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate said that despite the growing threats, "we

are not seeing the action we hope to see. We're not seeing leaders do what we are asking them to do". Little of the limited money available to combat those threats is making its way to frontline communities, as funders have often tended to focus instead on larger, well-established organizations.

When Amazon founder Jeff Bezos last year donated the first round of promised billions to fight climate change,

for example, most of the money went to big environmental groups rather than affected countries and communities.

And with key interim UN climate negotiations, ahead of the November talks, now set to happen online, low-income countries, including those in Africa, could be disadvantaged by poor internet access.

The young environmentalists said African grassroots activists can be particularly

effective at tailoring climate messages to local people in order to lower climate risks and build support for climate action.

That includes engaging communities on social media or translating climate science into useable information on risks to food production and security, they said.

But while young Africans had found local solutions to

peers on climate change and worked to build more resilient communities, these solutions were not being heard at higher levels, they said.

Thunberg urged world leaders to give greater prominence to on-the-ground expertise as they try to accelerate action on climate change and cut risks.

"I cannot stress how important it is that we listen to the African voices and tell the African stories," she said.

## Invest heavily in girl-child education, parents advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

PARENTS and guardians in Rukwa Region have been urged to invest in girls' education, health and protection instead of rushing to marry them off in exchange with dowry.

Plan International Tanzania Director of Programs Peter Mwakabwale made the advice here recently when speaking at the Intergenerational Dialogue held at Ilemba ward in Sumbawanga District Council. The dialogue was organized by a youth-led organization—Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ).

As part of Girls Get Equal Integrated Approach to Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage Project activity package, intergenerational dialogue aims at engaging communities in discussing harmful norms and practices that lead to child early and forced marriages including teenage pregnancies and figure out joint solutions.

The project is funded by a Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and implemented in partnership between Plan International Tanzania, People's Development Forum (PDF), Rukwa Sustainable Development Organization (RUSUDEO), Rafiki SDO, YES TZ and the government in Rukwa Region.

Mwakabwale said: "There is ample evidence that shows that empowered girls, are powerful drivers of sustainable development and powerful agents of change, yet some families in Rukwa Region are failing the girls by forcefully marrying them in quest of getting cows as dowry price."



Peter Mwakabwale, Plan International Tanzania's director of programmes, speaks at an intergenerational dialogue held at Ilemba in Sumbawanga District, Rukwa Region, recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

According to him, investing in girls has ripple effects, girls who are future mothers and women if educated and empowered deliver the good for themselves, their families, communities, and societies.

"If you marry your adolescents daughters so that you can get cows, I want you to know that, investing in your girl child's education, ensure gender equality and ensure that they transition to adulthood healthy, the cows you get once and for all when you marry them, you can get them every year if you

educate your daughters, they get employment either by employing themselves or getting employed," he said.

Marrying girls in their childhood, according to Mwakabwale, undermines them into lifelong circle of poverty, and many other human rights abuses.

The official said child marriage, is a reflection of the way communities in Rukwa Region perceive and value women and girls.

"You cannot, and will not, end poverty if you do not end child forced and early marriages, teen-

age pregnancies, strive to achieve gender equality, invest in girls education and their health and well being," he stressed.

When a girl becomes pregnant, her present and future change radically, and rarely for the better. Her education may end, her job prospects evaporate, and her vulnerabilities to poverty, exclusion and dependency multiply, according to YES TZ.

Ilemba village chairman, Pascal Bundara discouraged early child marriage as the practice deprives teen girls of their right to educa-

tion, renders them vulnerable to gender-based violence.

"Now, through this project (Girls Get Equal Integrated Approach to Ending Child Early and Forced Marriages) we have an opportunity to correct this wrong and prioritize the health, rights, and wellbeing of our adolescent girls," Bundala said.

"We are late, many adolescents have died, many have been pushed into poverty, but this project (Girls Get Equal Integrated Approach to Ending Child Early and Forced Marriages in Rukwa) provides us with a second chance to make sure that adolescents and young girls rights are respected, protected and fulfilled," he said.

Around 37% of Tanzanian girl children are married before they turn 18, according to the Tanzania Demographic Health and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDH-MIS, 2016). This involves both legal and informal unions where the marriage is not registered.

The prevalence rate varies by region, including as high as 59%. Rukwa is among the regions with the highest rate (9th) of child marriage in the country, which is above the national rate 37% (TDHMIS 2016).

Rooted in patriarchy, control of adolescent girls' sexuality is a driver of one of the world's most prevalent harmful practices, child early and forced marriages and unions (CEFMU). CEFMU is a stark example of how women's and girls' life choices, down to the most intimate of it, whom, and when to marry are taken away from them and controlled by others, according to YES TZ project coordinator Navina Mutabazi.

"The fundamental aim of Intergenerational Dialogue activity, as one of gender transformative approach, is to create space for communities themselves to challenge harmful social norms around gender and sexuality, especially girls' sexuality," Navina said.



## Agro-financing experts will do well to accept reality - and back reforms

CONFRONTING the demons retarding the country's development is a task that has started in earnest, as the sixth phase authorities crawl out of the impression that infrastructure modernization is concomitant with development. Rapidity of movement facilitates economic activity, but it isn't in itself a formula for rapid economic growth, for it doesn't create the markets that investors need to put their money on the ground, but merely ease access to potential consumers. The question is how such consumers are not only created but multiplied over time, so that a 20 year plan for industry or expansion project will make sense.

This is in a nutshell what a high-level panel of experts in agriculture financing led by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe has been tasked to do for the next four months, to work on the issue and recommend on a course of action. Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Minister for Agriculture, told reporters midweek that the team will feature executives from banks and financial institutions, including CRDB Bank, NMB Bank, the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB), the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and others like the Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB), the Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust, Azania Bank, the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) and individual experts.

The terms of reference of the team of experts being constituted is in particular reports of the Bank of Tanzania indicating that the lending share in the agricultural sector has largely been declining and at any rate it is nowhere concomitant with the size of the population that depends

on agriculture. This reference point suggests that the team shall work on how the financial sector can amass more resources, especially by waiving or sharply cutting interest rates, so that farmers can take up the loans. Loans for agriculture might be intensely problematic but it is untrue that the country is at ease with industrial or service sector loans either, in which case there is a wider macroeconomic growth projection that needs to be introduced.

Explanations by minister Prof Mkenda relating to preliminary discussions in the area leading to formation of the team to an extent shows the problem in graphic terms, and it is difficult to say that bank sector executives can solve the challenges merely from the viewpoint of being bankers. They will be faced with issues of how to revolutionise agriculture by ensuring that capital is available to farmers and stakeholders in agriculture that will enable them to invest in the value chain of various agricultural products. That can be addressed by financial sector processes and special funds where others can contribute, but it isn't all.

The crucial issue is how the loan mechanism can enable farmers and other stakeholders access inputs, set up value-addition industries for crops and also the ministry ensure guaranteed access to markets for the products they can sell.

What the ministry can do, in like manner as the fifth phase government, is to stop localized sales of crops and thus farmers look for signals as to whether there are foreign markets for this or that crop, as the local market is limited.

## Strategies for prevention of deafness and hearing impairment are a must

HEARING loss is a partial or total inability to hear. Hearing loss may be present at birth or acquired at any time afterwards. Hearing loss may occur in one or both ears. In children, hearing problems can affect the ability to acquire spoken language, and in adults it can create difficulties with social interaction and at work. Hearing loss can be temporary or permanent. Hearing loss related to age usually affects both ears and is due to cochlear hair cell loss. In some people, particularly older people, hearing loss can result in loneliness. Deaf people usually have little to no hearing.

Hearing loss may be caused by a number of factors, including: genetics, ageing, exposure to noise, some infections, birth complications, trauma to the ear; and certain medications or toxins.

A common condition that results in hearing loss is chronic ear infections. Certain infections during pregnancy, such as syphilis and rubella, may also cause hearing loss in the child. There are three main types of hearing loss: conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, and mixed hearing loss.

About half of hearing loss globally is preventable through public health measures. Such practices include immunisation, proper care around pregnancy, avoiding loud noise, and avoiding certain medications.

The World Health Organisation recommends that young people limit exposure to loud sounds and the use of personal audio players to an hour a day in an effort to limit exposure to noise.

Early identification and support are particularly important in children. For many, hearing aids, sign language, cochlear implants and subtitles are useful. Lip reading is

another useful skill some develop. Access to hearing aids, however, is limited in many areas of the world.

One in four people across the world - nearly 2.5 billion - could face some degree of hearing loss by 2050 with at least 700 million requiring access to treatment and rehabilitation, a World Health Organisation (WHO) report warns.

The first World Report on Hearing predicted that in 2050 the highest number of people with some degree of hearing loss is likely to be found in the WHO Western Pacific region - which includes Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam - with nearly 760 million, and the South-East Asia region - which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Indonesia - with nearly 660 million.

The report emphasised the urgent need for initiatives to prevent and tackle hearing loss by funding and widening access to ear and hearing care services.

"Investment in ear and hearing care has been shown to be cost-effective," and governments can "expect a return of nearly US\$16 for every US\$1 invested," the WHO said in a press statement launching the report recently.

Ear and hearing-related treatment is currently not integrated into the national health systems of most countries and human resources are often lacking, according to the report.

It said 78 per cent of low-income countries have less than one ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist doctor per million population and 93 per cent have less than one audiologist per million population.

The African region fared slightly better with 56 per cent of all countries having fewer than one ENT specialist per million of population.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

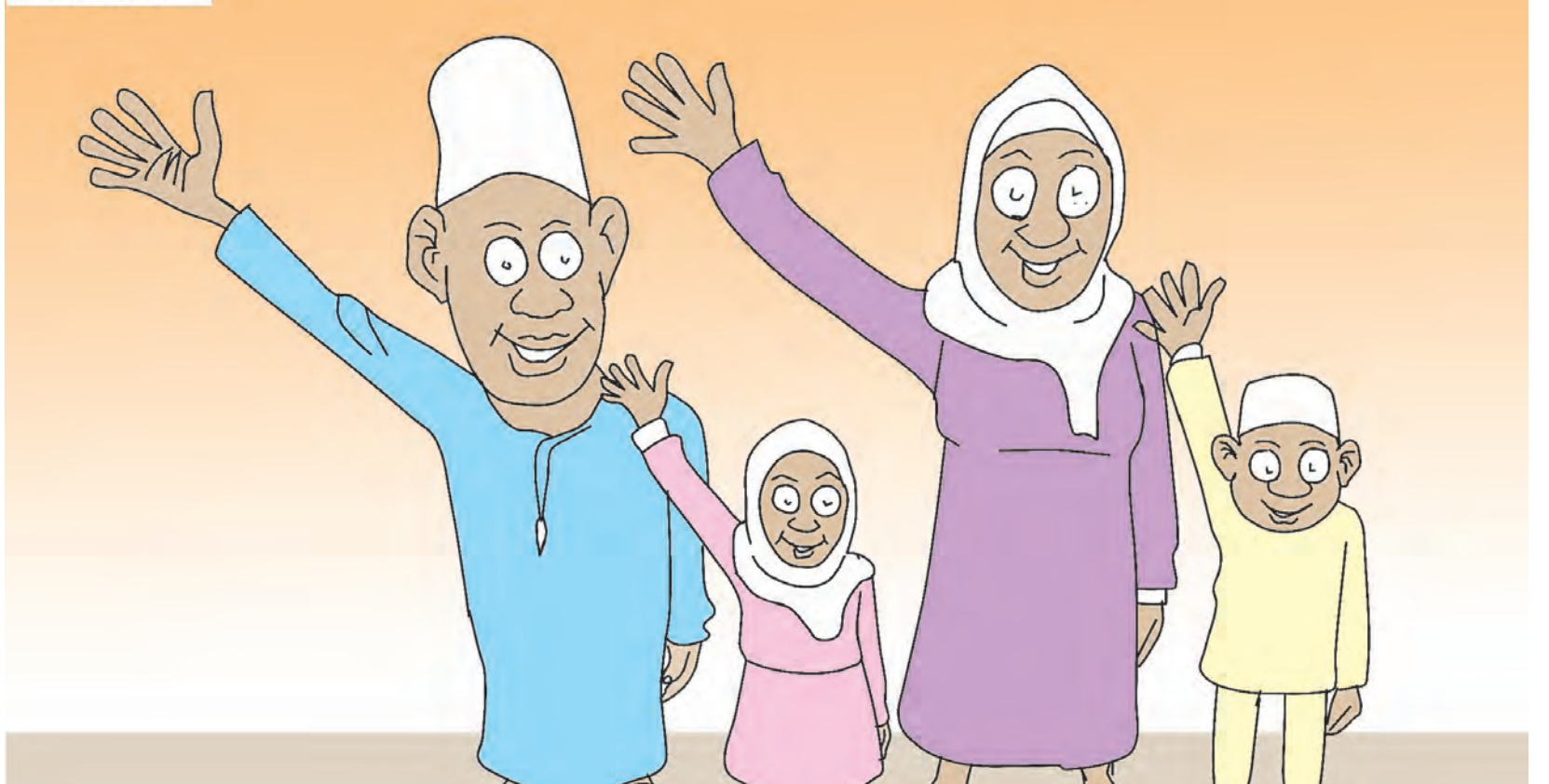
### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

### EID MUBARAK PEACE AND LOVE



# Women are a mainstay of fishing in West Africa, but they get a raw deal

By Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood  
and Sayra Van Den Berg Bhagwandas

Throughout West Africa, the artisanal fishing sector is a crucial source of livelihoods and food security. For instance, in Nigeria artisanal fishing accounts for 80% of the fish consumed and supports the livelihoods of about 24 million people.

Both men and women work in the sector, though the labour - throughout the region - is divided by gender. Men dominate fishing and production while women dominate post-harvest processing, such as dressing, sorting, salting and smoking the fish. Women also do most of the selling and marketing. Women thus play a crucial role in artisanal fishing.

We have conducted research on marine resource governance across West Africa over the last six years. This has included field research in Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. Our research has found that weak fisheries governance undermines the livelihoods of fisherfolk.

Research elsewhere shows that women in particular get a raw deal. Their contributions to the sector are widely undervalued, underpaid and largely invisible. This affects them in many ways - for instance, they have less access to capital and other resources.

Because women don't earn enough money, and are restricted in their roles within fisheries, they don't have the buying power to purchase enough fish to earn a living for long periods of time. They also don't have access to the required processing and storage facilities to avoid fish loss through spoilage.

At times of economic or social upheaval such as an epidemic (Ebola) or pandemic (COVID-19) their position is even more vulnerable.

We are now carrying out research that explores these vulnerabilities. The countries we're examining include Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and



São Tomé & Príncipe. In this ongoing research, we are looking at the extent to which COVID-19 has compounded the particular challenges that women face.

### The challenges

Gender bias at institutional levels - such as fishery ministries, management agencies and financial institutions - is a significant challenge for women in fisheries. Fisheries policy-making and management overlooks the (often informal) contributions of women. Their fisheries contributions are treated as an extension of their everyday lives and responsibilities, rendering them invisible within the blue economy.

This institutional invisibility reduces women's access to capital, thereby restricting their ability to grow or diversify their livelihoods. Expanding fisheries livelihoods and diversification among women is further complicated by the fact that they must balance productive and reproductive roles, and many use the majority of their earnings to meet household expenses.

Post-harvest fish loss through spoilage is another enduring challenge for women processors. They typically lack access to adequate preservation and cold storage equipment, such as wood for smoking and ice for storing, which both must be purchased and are subject to limited supply.

Depleting fish stocks pose another challenge to women. Half of the fish species in waters off West Africa are over-exploited. This reduces fish caught and limits the access that women have to fish for processing and sale. The competition for access to fish is growing and, as a result, there are reports of women exchanging sexual favours to guarantee steady fish supplies.

### Implications and next steps

The challenges that women in West African fisheries face have dire implications.

Institutional invisibility means they are marginalised. They're often excluded from receiving policy or financial support.

Post-harvest fish losses through spoilage and depleting fish stocks threaten the economic and food security of women in fisheries and their families.

Reduced access to fish increases competition for this valuable resource, with dangerous consequences. Globally, HIV/AIDS infection rates in fishing communities are between 4 and 14 times higher than national averages, with transactional sex link doesn't work in the fisheries sector contributing to this high prevalence.

### Way forward

Through our work, we've seen that women in fisheries do have coping mechanisms in the form of women's

cooperatives. Women's cooperatives at national and regional levels provide important "safety nets" for women in fisheries, through financial support, advocacy and fundraising.

In Côte d'Ivoire, women's co-operatives, like L'Union des Sociétés Coopératives des Femmes de la Pêche et Assimilées de Côte d'Ivoire, offer support by regulating informal lending relationships on behalf of women who are otherwise exploited by loan sharks.

But more needs to be done, particularly as COVID-19 restrictions are making it harder for women to access, store and sell fish stocks - something we are seeing through our ongoing research.

Measures that policymakers should take include improved cold storage for fish preservation, and processing infrastructures - such as ovens and chamber freezers - to extend the shelf life of landed fish.

Furthermore, West African governments must consider establishing and supporting financial organisations - such as credit unions and cooperatives to provide credit at affordable rates - to lessen the burden of the financial risks that women encounter along the fisheries value chain.



# Former UN expert: Genocide accusations against China are sinophobic propaganda

**GENEVA**  
**T**HE accusation of genocide against China is not supported by credible evidence and constitutes propaganda for war and Sino-phobia, said a former UN expert.

Such an allegation is also contravening Article 20 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is a "geopolitical weapon" against China, said Alfred de Zayas, former United Nations (UN) independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

**ILL-FOUNDED ACCUSATION**

Noting that genocide is a well-defined crime under the 1948 Genocide Convention and Article 6 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, de Zayas said using the term requires a high level of proof, particularly as to the "intent" to "destroy in whole or in part" a group of people. It is irresponsible to use the term loosely and without giving opportunity to the other side to contradict the allegation, he said. "I was surprised. I am American, and I would expect that the U.S. (2020) Country Reports on Human Rights (Practices) would be professional," he said, describing the report as "shoddy."

In the 2020 report issued by the U.S. State Department late March, Washington accused China of "genocide," without, however, substantiating the claim. In his latest interview with CBS News, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken again accused China of so-called "genocide." "This (2020) report was prepared, of course, in the Trump years, but I am not about to absolve the Biden administration of issuing this propaganda pamphlet. Blinken is himself a lawyer, and his advisors should have dissuaded him," said de Zayas. "It diminishes our authority and our credibility to make allegations that are not backed up by solid evidence," he said.

It is not the first time Washington has targeted a country with false accusation. In his interview with Xinhua, de Zayas recalled propaganda used by former U.S. President George W. Bush to prepare the assault on Iraq in 2003.

"We had (former U.S. secretary of state) Collin Powell appear before the UN Security Council. He lied to the United Nations, he lied to the American people," he said. "If you look at the organizations that have been peddling this kind of information, they are mostly United States-based think tanks or non-governmental organizations directly or indirectly financed by the United States.

They work in collusion with a compliant corporate media that has its own geoeconomics interests," he added. "If you look at the sources of their financing, you see the role of the National Endowment for Democracy and United States Agency for International Development," said de Zayas. "So their objectivity and their independence is very much in question."

**CONCOCTION OF FAKE NEWS**

"The nonsense takes a degree of respectability when it's peddled by supposed 'independent' experts, among them Gay McDougall," de Zayas said, referring to a U.S. member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) who claimed in 2018 that there were credible reports about 1 million Uyghurs being kept in "concentration camps."

McDougall made the claims "without backing it up with any evidence," de Zayas stressed, adding that after solid investigative journalism by American independent news website Grayzone, McDougall's claim was "pulled apart, and there is nothing behind it but propaganda." "It was not a statement by the United Nations, nor was it a statement by the CERD. It was a statement by Ms. Gay McDougall, the American member in the CERD," he said.

According to the CERD's official website, the committee is "the body of independent experts," not UN officials. "And this statement was taken by Reuters, and beautifully reported in the New York Times, Washington Post, in the entire world's press, (using) big words like '1 million Uyghurs being subjected to forced labor,' '1 million Uyghurs being kept in concentration camps,'" he said.

The Grayzone report also revealed that McDougall made the allegation without providing any source to back up her explosive claim, and mainstream media tried to substantiate the story by referring to reports made by a China-bashing group based in Washington that depends heavily on U.S. government grants.

"That is serious, because the failure here is not just that of one individual, Ms. Gay McDougall. She should have known better," said de Zayas. "In my entire career as a UN expert, as a Rapporteur, as a senior officer



Foreign diplomats visit a resident in Nazarbagh Town of Kashgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, March 31, 2021.

of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, never did I make a statement I could not back up."

"The more worrisome aspect of it is that it was picked up by the mainstream media, it was magnified by the mainstream media, and it was disseminated worldwide to create the impression that if there is smoke, there must be fire, so the situation in Xinjiang must be horrendous," said de Zayas.

**TRUTH BEHIND LIES**

Anti-China forces have done more than fabricating facts. They refuse to recognize social and economic development and progress in human rights protection in Xinjiang, and turn a blind eye to crimes conducted by separatist groups which threaten peace and security in Xinjiang and other parts of China.

Washington removed the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), a UN-listed terror group, from its terror list last year. The ETIM voiced support for an attack in China's southwestern city of Kunming in 2014 that killed 29 people and injured another 143.

In de Zayas' view, East Turkistan separatists have engaged in "criminal activities," for "they have demonstrably committed terrorist acts throughout Xinjiang, and not just now, but for the last 35 years."

"Obviously, because you have the obligation as a State to protect law and order, you have the obligation to take appropriate actions proportionate to the danger. I believe that is what was done (in Xinjiang)," he said. After years of efforts in fighting violence, counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, Xinjiang, which suffered thousands of terrorist attacks between 1990 and 2016, is now at its best time in history, enjoying a stable society and a fast growing economy, and all ethnic groups there are living together in harmony.

Over the past 40 years, the Uygur population in Xinjiang has doubled from 5.55 million to over 12 million, while the gross domestic product (GDP) there has surged by more than 200 times in the past six-plus decades. The latest official data shows that from 2014 to 2019, Xinjiang's GDP increased from 919.59 billion yuan (about 142 billion U.S. dollars) to 1.36 trillion

yuan (about 210 billion dollars), with an average annual growth rate of 7.2 percent. "To those who claim that China is destroying the Uygur culture, I say, prove it, because there are thousands of mosques in China and they function," de Zayas said.

"One thing that I noticed for Xinjiang is that even the money is in Uygur language, so it's not like minorities are being deprived of their language. The street names are both in Chinese and Uygur, so they do have minority rights," he added. Accusing China of committing genocide without evidence, in the eyes of de Zayas, is "an insult, a lack of respect, a lack of compassion vis-a-vis the victims of genocide and their survivors, their families."

"Nobody really cares about the human rights of Uygurs in Washington. The allegation is a geopolitical weapon, a useful Kalashnikov in the propaganda war," he said. "It is 'fake news', vulgar Sinophobia, and at the same time dangerous sabre-rattling, which is prohibited by Article 20 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," he said.

Xinhua

## Medicinal herb bears fruit of prosperity



Staff members work in a mugwort field in Huaibin County, central China's Henan Province, March 31, 2020

**ZHENGZHOU**

**F**OR many years, mugwort was nothing but wild grass to locals in central China's Henan Province. People rarely thought of it except at the Dragon Boat Festival, when they hang bundles of it on the front door as a tradition.

Today, with a complete industrial chain covering growing, processing, and sales, mugwort has become a cash cow that has lifted villagers out of poverty and is leading them to prosperity. Formerly impoverished villager Cui Tinggui in the rural area of Nanyang City cannot work in big cities as he has his ailing mother to take care of at home.

By growing mugwort, he can earn 2,000 yuan (about 311 U.S. dollars) per mu (about 0.07 hectares) of the plant every year. "I never expected that growing grass would become a way of making a living," said Cui, 43, adding his family shook off poverty thanks to mugwort.

Mugwort, a kind of herb mainly used in moxibustion as a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)

therapy, has apparent effects.

They include fumigating, eliminating dampness, and killing insects and bacteria. Moxa soap, lotion, essential oil, and pillow products are also popular with Chinese consumers as they are considered healthy.

"The treatment effect and health functions of the herb have generated vigorous market demand," said Wei Yuezhi, head of the city's mugwort industry association. Nanyang is China's major mugwort planting and production base, with a growing area of 24,000 hectares, contributing to 70 percent of the country's total amount of wild and artificially planted mugwort herbs.

In a mugwort processing cooperative in Nanyang's Wancheng District, boxes of moxa products piled in the workshop, waiting to be delivered. "Many online stores order products from us and then sell them across the country," said Hui Dawu,

a manager of the cooperative.

According to the city government, Nanyang has more than 1,500 companies in mugwort plantation and processing. More than 100,000 residents are employed in the sector, reaping an annual industrial output of 10 billion yuan.

Chen Zengxi, former head of the science and technology bureau of Wancheng District, is optimistic about the prospects of the mugwort industry, as the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic has made the TCM better known worldwide.

"With more people getting to know the TCM, traditional Chinese medical therapies, including Nanyang moxibustion and acupuncture, will hopefully be spread worldwide and benefit people globally," he said.

Xinhua



**Today, with a complete industrial chain covering growing, processing, and sales, mugwort has become a cash cow that has lifted villagers out of poverty and is leading them to prosperity**



# Where are the women? How pandemic decisions are ingraining global gender bias

UNITED NATIONS

There are teams of experts around the world right now tackling the coronavirus pandemic, providing pathways to put an end to this deadly global scourge and charting the course for recovery.

These task forces comprise health experts, economic leaders, policy makers, and more to ensure the best holistic solutions are put forward. But what they don't have is gender balance and, in some cases, any women at all.

There are three men to every woman on national COVID-19 task forces around the world, according to recent data from the United Nations Development Programme, UN Women and the University of Pittsburgh.

The data show that women, on average, still make up only 24 percent of members among the 225 COVID-19 task forces examined across 137 countries. And in 26 task forces, there are shockingly no women at all.

This is a problem. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in recent remarks, the pandemic has provided yet another opportunity for men to dominate decision-making. And when women are missing from decision-making, we see the world through only one perspective.

Male-dominated decision makers will lead to male-dominated policies. With each new recommendation or proposed policy towards pandemic recovery, assumptions will be made on behalf of women, because women aren't in the mix.

When male-dominated task forces recommend economic measures, for instance, are they considering the mass exodus of women workers who were forced to leave their jobs to take care of their families during this crisis?

Tracking governments' pandemic responses will help us better understand the gender gaps in global policies and actions. That is why the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, developed by UNDP in partnership with UN Women, collects data on national COVID-19 measures taken by governments and showcases them in a one-stop shop for policy makers to see where they need to correct course.

The tracker, which includes over 3,100 policy measures across 219 countries and territories, indicates that the global response to the economic fallout remains, so far, largely gender blind. It shows, for example, that only 13 percent of all the fiscal, labour market, and social protection policy measures analyzed target women's economic security.

We know that women's full participation is essential for democracy and can lead to more sustainable peace and greater climate action. It also brings more inclusive perspectives that can influence public policies and institutional practices to include a gender lens.

So, why are women's voices still missing from COVID-19 leadership, especially when they are being disproportionately affected by this crisis?

Many factors play a role in this exclusion. Among them are perceptions and



A healthcare worker collects samples for COVID-19 testing at Mimar Sinan State Hospital in Buyukcekmece district, Istanbul, Turkey, April 2020. New numbers reveal that men outnumber women 3-1 in 225 COVID-19 task forces around the world, while 70 percent of the frontline healthcare workers are women.

bias. Last year UNDP released data that showed 90 percent of people surveyed had some bias against women. The index also showed that about half of the world's men and women feel that men make better political leaders, and over 40 percent feel that men make better business executives and that men have more right to a job when jobs are scarce. How women are viewed by society places them at the back of the line.

There's also a gender gap in public administration. We know that having more women in the public sector and civil service brings women's perspectives and needs to policy and public service delivery, but women are still missing from leadership positions in this area.

Data from 2018 show that women made up 45 percent

of the public administration workforce but only 34 percent of decision-making positions.

Over the past year the pandemic has worsened these longstanding gender inequalities and revealed just how deep and pervasive these inequalities are in our political, social and economic systems. Women's economic security is in jeopardy as their jobs are hardest hit, their unpaid care work continues to dramatically rise, and a shadow pandemic has emerged as domestic violence surges globally.

At the same time, women are "the shock absorbers of society" and make up the majority of the global health workforce, working at the frontlines of the pandemic. Women should have the opportunity to shape their own

future and the post-pandemic world, and to bring their different views and perspectives to the table.

It's not too late to change this.

Women have the skills, the knowledge and the expertise to lead in all decision-making spaces, including the COVID-19 response. What they lack though is power. We must work together - UN agencies, governments, civil society, the private sector and others - to shift the power into women's hands and to close this power gap.

To create this change, we need to break down the structural barriers and alter discriminatory social norms and attitudes that are holding women back. Strengthen constitutional, legislative, and political processes, for example by establishing quotas.

Address the increasing violence that women in public life face, both online and offline, as well as reform our workplace cultures so women can harness their full leadership potential. Recognize women's unpaid care and domestic work and address the crisis of care to ensure women have equal conditions to participate fully in decision-making in their societies.

As we determine the best way forward from this pandemic, let's not waste this opportunity to do things differently. Now is the time to work together to ensure that women finally have a seat at the decision-making table, in the COVID-19 response and beyond.

IPS

KABUL

A SUCCESSION of explosive attacks in Afghanistan has worsened the security situation in the conflict-battered nation, following an abrupt announcement by the United States of a complete withdrawal of forces from the country.

To ensure that Afghanistan doesn't collapse into chaos requires an end to the current violence, the withdrawal of foreign troops in an orderly and responsible manner, and relevant parties to sit down at the negotiation table to advance the country's peace and reconciliation process. On Saturday, three consecutive explosions outside a secondary school for girls in western Kabul killed at least 50 people and injured over 100 others.

Meanwhile, militant attacks in Afghanistan have increased, with the Taliban stepping up activities since the start of the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces on May 1. Ending violence is the first step to calm the situation in the country. The growing violence, especially the number of civilian casualties, has deeply concerned the international community, with the United Nations Security Council on Monday stressing the importance of sustained efforts to end violence and protect civilians.

In addition, foreign military forces should be withdrawn in an orderly

# What it takes for long-term peace in Afghanistan

and responsible manner to prevent terrorist groups from taking any chance to create turbulence, and to ensure a peaceful political transition in Afghanistan. A sudden withdrawal at this stage is inappropriate and irresponsible since fighting continues in the country. "The merciless killing of civilians and Taliban attacks on government forces in several provinces demonstrate the outcome of foreign troops pull-out from Afghanistan," Afghan political analyst Nazari Pariani said.

U.S. President Joe Biden's recent remarks that Washington has achieved its goal of smashing al-Qaeda's network was doubted by Afghan public opinion. The U.S.-led war on terror in Afghanistan has been described by local observers as a failure. Countless Afghans including civilians, security personnel and Taliban militants have been killed in so-called anti-terror combat, yet the brutal fighting and bloody attacks continue.

To prevent the country from being dragged into a protracted war and becoming a heaven for violence and terrorism once again, the only choice is to promote the peace and reconciliation process through dialogue and international cooperation. The fate of Afghanistan should be decided by the Afghan people. Adherence to the principle of "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned," which is in line with the requirements of the Security Council's relevant resolutions, is the only way to realize national security and the reconstruction in the country.

In this domestic process, any political ar-



The books of students who were killed in a car bomb attack in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan.

rangment should have broad representation and inclusiveness to make all factions and ethnic groups in Afghanistan equally involved in political life and share state power. Meanwhile, the international community and countries in the region should uphold justice and support the negotiations to achieve peace, instead of moving away from peace. No external force should impose itself on Afghanistan or use Afghanistan for its own selfish gains.

An international conference on the Afghan peace process will be held in Istanbul after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, opening a window of opportunity to end the long-running conflict in the war-torn country.

All Afghan factions should seize the chance to focus on the interests of the country and the people, advance negotiations, and reach a future political arrangement that is acceptable to all factions. The cessation of war and long-term peace have always been the common will of the over 30 million Afghan people. Domestic efforts together with the support of regional countries and the international community are needed to bring stability to the country.

Xinhua

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Relief as QNET donates various food items to two orphanages in Dar, Isles

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of celebrating the Holy Month of Ramadhan and Eid-el-Fitr, QNET has extended a donating hand to two children centres in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland supporting them with assorted food items.

These are Safina Widow and Child Care Foundation; an orphanage in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam and in Zanzibar, the donations went to the Takrim Foundation.

The donation included 10 mattresses, 100kg of rice, 100kg of sugar, five sacks of wheat flour and 10 sacks of maize flour.

Other items included three sacks of charcoal two boxes of Sanitary pads, two dozen underwear, three buckets of food oil, two buckets of powdered milk, two sacks of powdered soap, two boxes of bath soap, two dozen toothpastes, 17 dozen of books, 10 boxes of pens, five boxes of pencil and two rim paper boxes.

Athumani Juma, the Assistant Guardian of the Safina Widow and Child Care Foundation said in a statement appreciating the support from Qnet as it brought relief and smiles to the children and centre's family at large.

"On behalf of the Center, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude. We appreciate and are very thankful for the gifts," he said.

He said that Safina Widow and Child Care Foundation was started in 2007 with only 10 children, the orphanage now hosts and takes care of some 50 plus orphans who live and attend school from the centre.

The caretaker went on to point out that the donations cover most all of the basic needs that the children use in their day-to-day lives. He said the donations are timely and will cut their operating costs allowing them to redirect their funds to other needs.

On the Isles, the Takrim Foundation cares for some 92 orphans through a home care system. The system operates by having the orphans live in foster parents' homes so they can grow up in loving caring home environments rather than in a center as their Mainland counterparts do.

"We are more than grateful for this donation. We urge more stakeholders to come and chip in...the children are a communal responsibility we all have a part to play in their wellbeing," said Rahma Salum Hamisi, Foundation's Secretary. She said the foundation appreciates the efforts done by QNET as they have set an example for others in the private sector to step



in and support the community to care for the needy and less privileged.

Started in 2020 and registered early this year, Takrim Foundation cares for orphans and children who are otherwise living in very harsh conditions or homeless all together. Other than their basic daily needs, the Foundation funds school expenses of the

children and ensures they grow up in healthy and supportive environments.

Among other things, QNET donated 10 mattress, 100kg of rice, 100kg of sugar 5 sacks of wheat flour and 10 sacks of maize flour.

Other items included three sacks of charcoal two boxes of sanitary pads, two dozen underwear, three

buckets of food oil, two buckets of powdered milk, two buckets of powdered soap, two boxes of bath soap, two dozen toothpastes, 17 dozen of books, 10 boxes of pens, five boxes

of pencil and two rim paper boxes, of powdered milk, two buckets of powdered soap, two boxes of bath soap, two dozen toothpastes, 17 dozen of books, 10 boxes of pens, five boxes

## Africa's cashew producers miss out on opportunities owing to processing capacity snags, UNCTAD says

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA grows most of the world's raw cashews, but only processes a fraction of them, missing out on opportunities offered by rising global demand, according to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The global market for cashews is booming, but the African countries growing more than half the world's supply aren't cashing in due to their lack of processing industries, the UNCTAD report titled Commodities at a Glance:

Special issue on cashew nuts said.

"Countries that grow cashews but don't process them at a significant scale retain only a small share of the value created as the nut travels from the farm to store," Miho Shirotori, who leads UNCTAD's work on trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy, said. "African farmers, exporters and workers are missing out on a wealth of opportunities."

About 20 million jobs are at risk in Africa as the continent's economies were projected to shrink in 2020 due

to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, according to an African Union study. Up to 15 per cent of foreign direct investment could disappear, the study found.

Between 2000 and 2018, world trade in raw cashew nuts more than doubled to 2.1 billion kilograms, and African producers - led by Côte d'Ivoire - accounted for almost two-thirds of the growth. But the continent's farmers and exporters receive only a fraction of the final retail price, the report said. About 90 per cent of the raw cashew nuts traded in

the global market are grown in western and eastern African nations. After Côte d'Ivoire, the leading cashew producers are Tanzania, Nigeria, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Ghana, according to UNCTAD.

However, less than 15 per cent of the continent's nuts are deshelled on African soil. The rest is exported mainly to Asia, where 85 per cent of the world's cashews are deshelled, the report said. Two Asian countries - India and Vietnam - accounted for about 98 per cent of the world's raw cashew imports

between 2014 and 2018.

Even more value is added in Europe and North America, where 60 per cent of traded kernels are roasted, salted, packaged and consumed as a snack or an ingredient in a drink or other product UNCTAD said.

In 2018, the export price of cashew kernels from India to the European Union was about 3.5 times higher than what was paid to cashew farmers in Côte d'Ivoire - a 250 per cent difference in price, as per the report. And after secondary processing in the EU, the price of the

cashew kernels was about 2.5 times higher than when exported from India - and about 8.5 times more than when they left the farm in Côte d'Ivoire.

"This shows the potential for value creation in African cashew-growing countries, 14 of which are classified as 'least developed'," Ms Shirotori said. "And value creation can lead to better wages for workers and more money for the local economy."

The UNCTAD report highlights the potential for cashews to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development

Goals, specifically on poverty reduction.

"Since production typically takes place on smallholdings in rural areas, there is a direct link between value addition in the cashew sector and the achievement of poverty reduction," the report said, highlighting that cashews are a source of income for an estimated 3 million smallholder farmers in Africa.

The report said that all 46 countries that produce cashews "on a significant scale" are developing economies, 18 of which are classified as "least develop

## Foundation reaches out to school girls in Newala with sanitary pads

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of its efforts aimed to facilitate smooth and effective learning to girl students in the country, Wentworth Africa Foundation (WAF) has donated sanitary pads to 1,392 girls in Nagwanda and Kuita Secondary schools in Newala District in Lindi Region.

WAF president Barbara McBean said that the provision sanitary pads support menstrual hygiene to the school girls thus improving their academic performance.

Barbara pledged her continued support for the program, saying: "I am very passionate about education and where WAF can help girls not to miss school simply because of their menses then we will step in."

Reports show that some schoolgirls, especially in poor rural areas, miss their studies every time during their menstruation period.

She noted that lack of sanitary towels contributes to hindering academic performance to some girls especially those from poor families as they fail to attend classes during menstruating.

According to her under its programme dubbed 'Keep a Girl in School', the organization works to address menstrual hygiene challenges by providing sanitary pads and menstrual hygiene education to girls in low-income communities in Mtwara, Lindi and Coast region of rural Tanzania.

Among the challenges faced by the students are lack of sanitary towels and a lack of understanding of the menstrual cycle. Form one teachers emphasized the need for more seminars on menstrual education.

"Good menstrual hygiene management is not a given. For many in the developing world it is a time of anxiety, uncertainty and oftentimes a time when women and adolescent girls cannot access hygienic products to keep them comfortable and feeling safe," she noted.

Barbara said in commemoration of the forthcoming Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28, WAF will support one school in Dar es Salaam with sanitary pads.

"We are now calling for the public to nominate a school in need in Dar Es Salaam Region, which will stand a chance to receive a donation of sanitary pads on World Menstrual Hygiene Day," she said.

On this day the World is asked to reflect on this normal biological process that causes havoc to millions of women across the

globe but more especially in developing countries.

Newala District Council education officer, Humud Mpende who was in attendance at the sanitary pads handover said: "I would like to sincerely thank Wentworth Africa Foundation for remembering our district. The sanitary pad deficit for our girls is a real issue and we are grateful that WAF is tackling this matter for our future leaders of tomorrow."

There are several issues around the topic including social stigmas and taboos, lack of access to menstrual hygiene products and lack of sanitation infrastructure especially in schools and public ablutions. Lack of menstrual hygiene education is a major challenge.

Adolescent girls can fail to reach their full potential simply because they are compelled to miss so many school days. In Africa it is estimated that one in ten girls miss school because of their menses. This invariably has a massive impact on their future.





# US casts 45 vetoes – and counting – while protecting a client state

## UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Security Council (UNSC), the most powerful political body at the United Nations, has largely remained silent or ineffective in resolving one of the longstanding military conflicts in the Middle East involving Israelis and Palestinians.

But, at the same time, several attempts to condemn Israel for its excesses have been thwarted by successive US administrations, which have exercised the veto power in the Security Council to protect a client state whose survival has depended largely on billions of dollars in US economic and military aid, state-of-the-art weapons systems and outright military grants doled out gratis.

Stephen Zunes, professor of Politics and chair of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of San Francisco and who has written extensively on the politics of the Security Council, told IPS the US has vetoed no less than 45 resolutions critical of Israel, "thereby rendering the Security Council effectively impotent".

Asked if any other UN member state has been protected by so many vetoes, he said: "Not even close".

In January 2017, he pointed out, an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress passed a resolution opposing United Nations involvement on the question of Israel and Palestine, insisting all matters should be resolved only through direct talks between the Palestinians and their Israeli occupiers, a position which thus far appears to be upheld by the administration of President Joe Biden.

Still, said Dr Zunes, it is unlikely the Biden administration will allow any resolution to pass that is critical of Israeli attacks in East Jerusalem or Gaza, even if balanced by criticism of Palestinian actions, since in the view of Washington, every military action by Israel is by definition "self-defense."

Early this week, a State Department spokesperson defended the Israeli air strikes in a crowded urban area in the Gaza Strip on the grounds that every state has a right to self-defense.

However, when pressed, he was unwilling to acknowl-



Smoke from an airstrike rises over the city of Rafah in southern Gaza Strip.

edge-even theoretically-that Palestinians also have a right to self-defense, said Dr Zunes, a columnist and senior analyst at Foreign Policy in Focus. As US Presidents go, Biden was no exception when he told reporters early this week that his expectation was that tensions would be "closing down sooner rather than later" but pointed out that "Israel has a right to defend itself, when you have thousands of rockets flying into your territory." But he ignored the lethal Israeli airstrikes with US-supplied fighter planes that have so far killed 67 Palestinians, including women and children, while turning houses and buildings into rubble, including a 12-storeyed office building.

In the US, the Israeli lobby has remained so powerful that few Americans politicians dare challenge the Jewish state or its violations of Security Council resolutions.

Pat Buchanan, a senior advisor to three US Presidents and twice candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, once infamously described the United States Congress as "Israeli-

occupied territory" -- apparently because of its unrelentingly blind support for Israel.

Meanwhile, according to Cable News Network (CNN), riots and violent clashes between Arab and Jewish citizens have swept through several Israeli cities after days of deadly airstrikes and rocket attacks. "Militants in Gaza have fired more than 1,000 rockets into Israel since the latest round of violence began Monday afternoon, and Israel has responded with devastating airstrikes in Gaza."

At the same time, residents have reacted with fury, and there have been reports of attacks and raids at places of worship, said CNN.

Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), told IPS the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has been left to fester and rot for a generation. In the past, he said, the United States routinely used its veto to provide political cover for Israel, making the UN Security Council irrelevant.

"The new Biden administration should make it

clear that the US will no longer provide diplomatic excuses for Israel's violations of international law, its collective punishment of civilian populations or its apartheid-like policies," he said.

"Otherwise, the UN Security Council will be left on the sidelines watching as yet another senseless war kills both Israeli and Palestinian civilians," declared Dr Adams, a former member of the international anti-apartheid movement and of the African National Congress in South Africa.

Zunes said since the United Nations and virtually the entire international community recognizes East Jerusalem as territory under foreign belligerent occupation, responding to the escalating violence is very much within the purview of the Security Council.

Since 1993, however, the United States has blocked—either by a veto threat or an outright veto—every UN Security Council resolution which has included criticisms of Israeli actions in Jerusalem in its operational clause.

It was under the Clinton administration when the United States began to informally recognize occupied East Jerusalem as part of Israel and blocking UN Security Council resolutions that confirmed greater East Jerusalem as occupied territory.

Meanwhile, an "Atrocity Alert" issued by the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, said Israel has controlled East Jerusalem since the 1967 war, but Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from transferring parts of its civilian population into occupied territory.

Jahaan Pittalwala, Research Analyst at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, said that, "forced evictions of Palestinian families from East Jerusalem are rooted in the Israeli government's apartheid policies. The illegal transfer of Israeli settlers into occupied territory may amount to a war crime." **IPS**

# Are Israel, Hamas on verge of large-scale war in Gaza Strip?

## GAZA

AFTER more than a year of relative peace and stability in the besieged Gaza Strip, Israel and its bitter enemy Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) are again on the brink of a large-scale war, Palestinian analysts warned.

The Israeli military continued its bombardment in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, targeting buildings and apartments that led to heavy casualties, mainly among civilians, in the wake of hundreds of rockets fired from the Palestinian coastal enclave.

The current wave of violence between Israel and Gaza militant groups is the first of its kind since the last large-scale air and ground offensive that Israel waged on the Palestinian enclave for 50 days in 2014.

According to the Israeli military, two Hamas commanders and another two from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) have been killed in targeted strikes since Monday evening. Meanwhile, at least six Israelis were killed and more than 100 were wounded by

the barrages of rockets fired from the Gaza Strip.

The Hamas-run health ministry said three days of Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip left 48 Palestinians dead and 304 others wounded.

## MUTUAL THREATS

Israel and Hamas leaders traded threats, regardless of the mediative efforts made by Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations.

Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh said in a televised speech that his group had received calls from different mediating parties, asking Hamas to stop firing rockets at Israel.

"Our response was that the occupation is the one which should stop assaults and attacks on Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Gaza Strip," Haniyeh said.

"The one responsible for the current escalation is (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu," Haniyeh added.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu said Israel would intensify its strikes on the Gaza Strip, adding that the Israeli army has targeted hundreds

of targets and facilities of the Hamas and the PIJ.

Hani al-Masri, founder and director-general of the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies, told Xinhua that the latest escalation "threatens to drag the confrontation between Israel and Gaza militants into a large-scale war in the Gaza Strip."

"But the war is very costly," al-Masri said. "The coming hours are crucial."

## UNPRECEDENTED TENSION

Tension between Israel and the Palestinians have mounted recently when clashes broke out last week between Palestinian worshippers and Israeli police forces at Al-Aqsa Mosque and Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

Mohammed Hijazi, a Gaza-based political analyst, told Xinhua that Hamas had positively responded to the appeal of the Palestinians to retaliate the Israeli practices in East Jerusalem.

"What Hamas did constitutes a positive incentive for all the Palestinians, who must unite before the issue of Jerusalem. Despite the con-



A Palestinian inspects the damage of a house following Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, on May 11, 2021.

tinuing disagreements among Palestinian politicians, there is no disagreement on the issue of Jerusalem," he said. However, Hijazi said that reaching calm or a truce with Israel is also an important option, "because Hamas doesn't want to go for an open war." "Netanya-

hu is also in a crisis after he failed to form a government in Israel, so he is not interested in a large-scale war that would threaten his political position," he added.

The Gaza analyst expected Hamas and Israel would reach a truce within the coming two days.

"But this option is still uncertain as long as the tit-for-tat trade of fire goes on and escalate," he said.

Adnan Abu Aamer, a Gaza political science professor who is specialized in Israeli affairs, told Xinhua that since the beginning of tension in Jerusalem, "Israel tries to avoid involving the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in the tension." "But the harsh and brutal Israeli policy of dealing with the Palestinians was the main reason behind the development of tension that has expanded to the entire Palestinian territories," Abu Aamer said.

Since 2008, Israel has waged three large-scale offensives on the Gaza Strip. The largest was in the summer of 2014, which ended when Egypt and other mediators brokered a cease-fire between Gaza militants and Israel.

# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MISETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	





## BUSINESS



Mrs South Africa 2020 finalist Pearl Osa with her 10 children.

## EGGHEADS

## Local homeschooling mom proves it works as her son enrolls at university at only 16

## JOHANNESBURG

Starting homeschooling under lockdown was one of the biggest challenges for many parents around the world. Lockdown restrictions around movement resulted in many schools closing down and a need for extensive use of technology for learning based at home. As the lockdown became our new normal, parents began to take their children's education into their own hands. Stats show that 60% of local parents inquired about homeschooling during the lockdown in 2020, while only 2% of parents decided to wait until schools reopened for their children to learn. This goes to show just how serious South African parents are about their children's education.

Parent24 chatted to a mom who has homeschooled her ten children, since way before the lockdown. Despite facing various challenges caused by the pandemic, homeschooling was not an issue for mom of 11, Pearl Osa, during the lockdown. "The pandemic found us already doing the things that other families had to adjust to - homeschooling, working from home and spending loads of family time together," she tells us.

Osa was busy with her application to the Mrs South Africa 2020 pageant during the lockdown, but she never neglected her role as her children's mother and teacher. "They come first, and business has to wait," she stresses.

On busy days, she would ask her mother to take care of some of the house duties while homeschooling her ten other children. Osa has a huge family, and she says there is never a dull moment with her children "with different personalities make for unlimited entertainment. I love that I have a tribe

that I get to celebrate with and be vulnerable with."

Enjoying reading by the age of five Since Osa took over her children's education, her children have learned to read as soon as they turn five years old. She says, "They look forward to it because it is a big deal and is celebrated with a lot of excitement."

She says that considering the intensive one on one attention she usually gives during this process, she was glad that the child who turned five the past year did not miss out on that milestone. Her four-year-old has also started reading, and she says that she is making remarkable progress.

Osa also assists other homeschooling parents through her Instagram page, offering her tips and tricks on homeschooling. Opening her own school or having her own curriculum is still a distant dream, but she says that "there are also plans under way to capture my methods in books and maybe an app to help other parents further out there."

Making it to university Osa is exceptionally proud of her children, as they set their own goals. "While I might have encouraged, taught and held their hands through the process, they are the ones that showed up, rolled up their sleeves and put in the work," she says. She reveals that her eldest child is in university, aged just 16. "This in itself is a remarkable story because no South African institution enrolls students younger than 18," she says.

She notes that "it was in the spirit of possibilities that we waited till he turned 16 to enrol him for his guest degree in an online university." This shows that there are endless opportunities when you put effort into your children's education.

## ODD

## Business in eggs and sperms lucrative, growing in Kenya

## NAIROBI

In January 2020, LaFemme Healthcare Clinic in Nairobi ran an advert to recruit voluntary human egg donors to increase its pool as clients sought more options. Previously, egg donors were picked by word-of-mouth and this narrowed the options presented to clients. "We got 4,700 responses," says Dr David Thuo, the founder of LaFemme. "And a lot of backlash from Kenyans."

A few years ago, 'buying and selling' human eggs and sperms were unheard of in Kenya. But the business is taking off fast as more couples unable to get pregnant, same-sex couples and single women seek to get children through in vitro fertilisation (IVF), where a baby is created in a laboratory and implanted in a uterus.

According to Dr Thuo, several reasons necessitate gamete (eggs and sperms) donation. "There are couples unable to produce their own gametes due to primary or secondary infertility problems. Others are single and want to have children. Both will need someone to donate for them," he says.

In Kenya, egg donation is especially more lucrative, under-regulated and understudied. Eligible female donors have to be aged between 18 and 25 years because the quality and the quantity of eggs they produce are very high.

Dr Wanjiru Ndegwa-Njuguna, an obstetrics and gynaecologist at Footsteps to Fertility in Nairobi for the past six years, says that normally egg donations are done on demand. "A client will come and look through the profiles in our database. Should they see a woman who matches what they're looking for, the process of egg harvesting begins."

However, there are cases where clinics need not wait until a client comes looking. If a donor walks in with a requirement that is missing in a clinic's database, for instance, someone who is "exceptionally handsome or beautiful or kind-hearted", with unique skills or exceptionally high IQ, their gametes will be harvested and stored in anticipation of a buying client.

In Kenya, women are compensated between Sh30,000 and Sh50,000 per donation cycle. In developed countries, women donating eggs are paid Sh268,000 per cycle. Buyers then pay about Sh535,250 for the eggs. But egg donation is not as easy as ABC. The women are first injected drugs to stimulate their ovaries before doctors can retrieve the eggs.

The information donors give out is extensive. The clinics have donors' portfolios that contain religion, ethnic group, height, weight, eye colour, hair colour, hair texture, blood type, occupation and level of education. Some contain



Dr Wanjiru Ndegwa-Njuguna consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Footsteps to Fertility.

coloured photos. There is an option of requesting an audiotape, for an additional Sh2,000 fee, in case a couple wants to hear a donor answer questions about herself or himself.

In Kenyan clinics, men have the final say when picking a sperm donor from the portfolio and women choose the egg donor. A clinician once joked that "this avoids the chances of a woman picking a sperm donor who resembles her ex-boyfriend or a secret admirer."

Per one vial of semen, Kenyan men are compensated between Sh3,000 to Sh10,000. Men from around the region, for instance, Tanzania get Sh10,000 as compensation. Should the male donor have striking characteristics, the compensation is between Sh25,000 and Sh30,000. The rarer the characteristics a donor possesses, such as green or amber eye colour, lighter or biracial skin colour, model-like features and hair, and a higher IQ, the more there are sought-after and paid.

A couple can opt to import frozen semen or eggs and it is delivered at an IVF centre of choice. The most favoured countries are the US and Denmark because of the donor confidentiality laws. According to Ayieta Lumbasyo, a lawyer and bioethicist at the Nairobi IVF Centre, the work of fertility centres is not to buy and sell gametes. "IVF centres exist to solve fertility problems. The money paid to donors is compensation for time taken out," she says.

## Advance careers

During donation, it is impossible to extract only one egg or sperm from the donor. To increase chances of success in IVF treatments, more than one egg is fertilised but not all of them are implanted. An IVF centre is thereby morally and ethically obligated to store the gametes and embryos. This has led to the rise of fertil-

ity preservation – an arm of IVF that deals with the preservation of gametes and embryos used in assisted reproduction through cryopreservation. Cryopreservation is the process of rapidly freezing eggs and embryos at a temperature of -196°C in liquid nitrogen. This provides flexibility in their use because frozen tissue can be stored indefinitely. Currently, IVF centres in Nairobi have thousands of donated gametes and remaining embryos preserved.

Storage costs between Sh20,000 and Sh30,000 per year. This earns fertility clinics millions of shillings in revenue, but investment in the technology and machinery required is not cheap. Some clinics have spent up to Sh60 million to install the machines.

While this freezing technology gives people with reproductive diseases and cancer a chance to have a family, its usage is turning social. The trend of women delaying motherhood until they reach an age in which fertility has reduced, poor quality or quantity sperms due to increased smoking and drinking alcohol have spurred the business.

Dr Wanjiru says she has noted an increase in the number of women freezing their eggs. Whereas men freezing their gametes are undergoing cancer treatments or in long-distance relationships, women are also doing it for personal purposes. "Women want to advance their careers but knowing that age reduces their chances of conception, they're opting to freeze their eggs for the future," she says.

These women belong to the upper echelons of society, are big on women empowerment and financial security, rightly so because the process of harvesting and storing eggs costs Sh300,000 to Sh400,000, an amount that an average Kenyan cannot afford.

According to Dr Wanjiru, wom-

en between the ages of 25 to 35 can freeze their eggs. Fertility preservation is a global phenomenon. Tech companies like Facebook, Google and Apple offer cryopreservation options to their employees. Nonetheless, before planning to donate, buy or freeze gametes or embryos, one has to make tough decisions.

Ms Lumbasyo says several issues have to be considered. For example, donors must be prepared to live with the knowledge that there is a child with their DNA roaming the world? How often should one donate gametes? How long can the tissues be stored?

There is also the question of when conception begins. The Kenyan Constitution states that life begins at conception. Does that mean the embryos are children and disposing them of is similar to having an abortion?

"All parties involved must undergo counselling and given all required information so that when they sign papers for donation, IVF and storage, they've made an informed choice. These procedures require people with a sound mind," Ms Lumbasyo says.

## Do you fit?

Yet most potential donors are unaware of how tedious and overwhelming the process can be. Besides being the ideal age, donors are required to give information about their medical and genetic history.

Additionally, they should have no criminal record, should not be overweight or on antidepressant drugs. They must also submit to medical, psychological, sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol screening as well as vaginal cultures and ultrasound tests.

Dr Thuo advises women to donate thrice in their lifetime. On storage, gametes and embryos are kept for five years then the application is made for them to be stored for another five years. Conversations on disposal are held once this period lapses.

"Gametes are cells and can be disposed of by the treatment centre or given to the owner. However, doctors have a medical responsibility towards embryos because they are considered live human tissue and the duty of care falls within the medical faculty," she explains.

"As such, stored embryos are only transferred from one centre to another. You cannot leave a clinic with your embryo if you intend to have it implanted." Similarly, IVF centres cannot dispose of embryos for a client. There are four ways of disposing of embryos in Kenya: a donation to an anonymous recipient, a donation to a known recipient, self-disposition, or compassionate transfer once the 10 years lapse, Ms Lumbasyo says.

## INCLUSIVITY

## Leveraging technology to ease learning for students with disabilities



Sylvie Irakoze doing her assignment at home.

## KIGALI

Sylvie Irakoze, a Primary five pupil born with a disability was forced to put her studies on hold when challenges became too much for her to bear.

In class, she had relied on her feet to write but this was too hard for her and prevented her from doing most of her class work with ease. She also found it hard to catch up with others. However, her story is yet to change thanks to the modern learning technology initiative - smart boards - that was introduced at her school - GS HVP Gatagara-Nyanza District.

The smart learning technology was launched last week alongside the physiotherapy to facilitate access to health services and access to qual-

ity education for persons with disabilities in HPV Gatagara Headquarters, Nyanza district.

Funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the United Nations (UN) and Liquid Telecom, the initiative aims at sustaining the disability inclusion initiative. A total of 11 smart boards were given out to three HVP Gatagara schools based in Huye, Rwamagana and Kicukiro districts, hence offering a new learning experience to a total of 1,366 students including 494 students with disabilities.

According to organisers, the internet broadband provided by Liquid Telecom is expected to transform the learning experience for the students, making it easier and friendly, but also widen their learning spectrum. The initiative is as

well aimed at serving to raise advocacy for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and to attract other stakeholders to support health and innovative education of PWDs.

Maxwell Gomera, UNDP resident representative said children with special needs require modern equipment providing alternative and adapted learning tools, and that lack of adapted tools makes their learning experience hard and impossible.

"Smarts boards and the internet are giving access to visual and sound contents which are more adapted to students with special needs while also initiating them to the use of the internet and new technologies," he noted.

Inadequate infrastructure, lack of adaptive sitting equipment, inadequate learning ma-

terials for the learners, lack of enough science laboratories, inadequate number of skilled teachers are some of the challenges still facing learners with disability.

Commenting on the setbacks under infrastructure, Dr Nelson Mbarushimana, Director General at Rwanda Education Board (REB) said they are putting effort in ensuring that infrastructure, including classrooms, are put in place to allow students have a conducive learning environment.

"We have a new unit for inclusive and special needs catering for students with disabilities. The unit is going to be strengthened. Also, our curriculum and teaching methods will be empowered since there are already specialised personnel in this particular area who are committed to make a

difference, as well as support this inclusive and special need unit," he says.

Rwanda is one of signatories and ratifiers of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and the seven (7) year national strategic for transformation (NSTI 2018-2024) has been designed to address several issues that citizens face in day-to-day life.

Using the concept of activity limitations to identify persons with disabilities, Rwanda counts 446,453 persons with disability (50.4 percent are women), according to the latest census (2012 RPHC). Approximately 20 percent (87,900) of the population of children between the ages of 5 and 18 live with disabilities which are ages of education development.



## ECO-FRIENDLY

# Rotary Africa's international conference to unpack sustainable development of fashion

KAMPALA

Sustainability has become a crucial consideration for many industries, with businesses globally needing to be increasingly cognisant of their contribution to protecting the environment.

The textile and fashion industry is no exception. In fact, for many years, this industry has had a notoriously large environmental footprint. Thanks to the likes of a new generation of eco-innovators and eco-friendly fashionistas, the future of sustainability in the textile and fashion industry in Africa is looking promising.

The upcoming Zone 22 Rotary Africa Centennial International Conference, taking place on 24 and 25 April, is hosting a panel discussion on this crucial topic. In celebrating the positive change that Rotary International has had within Africa over the last 100 years, this conference also unpacks some of the real challenges that still need to be addressed on the continent. One such key area is the protection of the environment.

## Innovation in Africa

Sustainable and environmentally-friendly textile development will be discussed by a panel including Kenyan



Cottonbro from Pexels.

designer Anyango Mpinga, a forward-thinking eco-innovator who explores the use of emerging technologies to create biodegradable textiles. Mpinga is passionate about aligning to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of sustainable employment, economic growth, and fair employment opportunities for all, particularly within the textile industry.

Also on the panel will be Samata Pattinson, CEO of Red Carpet Green Dress, a global change-making organisation bringing sustainable design to the forefront of conversation and action

within the fashion industry.

According to Pattinson, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of African designers over the last few years, aided by the increasing recognition of African aesthetics within pop culture, which has inspired and contributed to more designers showing their range of designs to the world.

Bringing his perspective to the discussion will be Skander Negasi, CEO of Trade and Fairs Group who is also the Messe Frankfurt representative for East Africa and co-organiser of African Sourcing and Fashion Week, Africa's big-

gest trade event for the textile, apparel and fashion industry.

"Due to lack of resources, African designers have always been sustainable with resources in comparison to the European countries. There is a bright future when it comes to designing," he says.

Think bark cloth manufacturing in Uganda, woven textiles from Nigeria and Ghana, traditional Berber weaving in North Africa, and beadwork from Maasai and Ndebele artisans. The panel will be moderated by Kutay Saritosun, the director of fashion brands at Bluesign Technologies in Switzerland, a man passionate about educating brands on producing more sustainable products.

Ahead of his involvement at the upcoming conference, Saritosun who is himself a Rotarian and former Rotary exchange student, says that the growth and movement of manufacturing factories throughout Africa have the potential to change the industry by being more mindful and wary of the environmental and social impact they have.

The fashion industry can no longer turn a blind eye to responsible consumption and production of materials and need to play their part in making a positive impact on climate change. This panel discussion

forms part of a session on Protecting the Environment, one of the 11 sessions taking place at the conference.

Sustainability and responsible business practices are no longer buzzwords used by brands to persuade their customers that they're good corporate citizens, says African Brand Architects managing director Natalia Rosa. "New empowered generations demand and no longer ask nicely for action over promises. They want to see, not hear how businesses' strategies incorporate sustainability as a way of doing business and how these strategies contribute meaningfully to the communities and environments connected to them."

Focus on environmental protection

A collective of communications and marketing thought leaders that brings African excellence to the world, African Brand Architects has aligned itself with Rotary as the anchor sponsor of this Centennial Conference because of the organisation's commitment to sustainability, resilience and authenticity. More than \$18m in Rotary Foundation global grant funding has been allocated over the last five years with a specific focus on water, sanitation and hygiene and community economic development.

## RELIEF

## Conjoined twins separated at Red Cross Hospital: 'I'm holding my children, with one in each arm'

CAPE TOWN

The twins, Siphosethu and Amahle Tyhalisi, were born attached at the head. The newborns were transported from the Eastern Cape to the Red Cross Children's Hospital at only four days old. Craniopagus twinning (joined at the head) is the rarest form of conjoined twinning, explained Professor Tony Figaji, head of paediatric neurosurgery at the hospital. It occurs about once in every 2.5 million live births worldwide.

"We were fortunate in this case that the connection did not involve any shared brain tissue and didn't involve major [blood] vessels going from one twin to the other," said Figaji. A multidisciplinary team of surgeons was put together for this unique operation. Each twin had a team of an anaesthetist, neurosurgeon, plastic surgeon, and nurses.

Professor Saleigh Adams, head of plastic surgery at the hospital, said the teams were prepared for a six-hour, at least, surgery. On this occasion, the surgery lasted all of one-and-a-half hours. This is a huge plus for the recovery of the twins," he said. Mother Ntombikayise Tyhalisi, 31, said: "I am overjoyed! I wasn't expecting to leave [the hospital] holding my children, one in each arm." She said she was looking forward to taking the twins home to meet their siblings.

"I am happy now that they've been separated because, when they were still joined, it wasn't easy to hold them and it was difficult for me to bathe them, the nurses had to help me. Now that they've been separated, things are going to be much easier and my sister is going to help me here and there during this time," Tyhalisi said. The focus now turns to ensuring the healthy healing of the surgical areas. Both patients and mom are doing well following the surgery and continue to receive follow-up care.

The City of Johannesburg, like its Western Cape counterpart, limits the number of dogs and cats to be kept at a single dwelling unit to two, although the number of dogs and cats allowed increases with the size of the property. A permit is only required if you want to keep more dogs than the regulated number.

In Durban, the city council won't trouble you too much if you own domesticated animals, provided they don't pose a public health risk. You'll only need a permit to keep animals which could cause a public health problem, like sheep or pigs, in your home. Belinda Abrahams, communications manager for the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, says pet registration has been a requirement since the Animal Bylaw was published, in August 2011.

"Registration allows for effective management of the process of rehoming of lost and stray animals, and the Cape of Good Hope supports this process," she said. Abrahams said the Cape of Good Hope SPCA commends the City for "driving change in the interests of improving the welfare of animals via a collaborative policy process. This is a step in the right direction."

## REGULATION

CAPE TOWN

## Cape Town wants you to register most – but not all – of your pets, as per law

Although this may be news to most Capetonian pet owners, a Cape Town bylaw has required the registration of dogs and horses for nearly 10 years.

Now the days of special rules applying to cats and other small animal owners could be coming to an end, if a proposed animal-keeping policy becomes law. The policy isn't specific about what constitutes other "small" animals, so lizard, spider, and hamster owners will have to wait for the outcome of the consultation process to find out if their pets will fall into the group.

The City of Cape Town is updating its Animal Keeping Policy, in an effort to "provide guidance" to pet owners in terms of their duties as animal keepers. The policy is an effort to beef up the City's animal safety approach and has been endorsed by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). The City is currently accepting comments on a Draft Animal Keeping Policy, which, if passed, would mean virtually all pet owners will need to register their animals.

According to the City's cur-



Dogs enjoying the breeze on Cape Town beach.

rent animal policy, all dogs and horses have to be registered with the City by the owner of the property, and there are limits on the number of animals generally, allowed on different kinds of premises. But cats do not have to be registered, unless the owners want to own more than the regulated number.

But under the proposed new policy, pet owners will need to

register "all small and large animals, including dogs, cats and horses" with the City of Cape Town. Comments opened on 17 April and close on 17 May. Registration takes place either online or at one of the City's offices.

Registration of all pets, the City says, will help it to monitor animal populations, as well as gather data on pet keeping. This, in turn, will help the City

carry out inspections to ensure that animals are kept responsibly. It will also help the City to reunite lost or stolen animals with their owners.

"The permitting of small and large animals including dogs, cats and horses is compulsory and the City will determine the format and process of registration," reads the proposed policy. Unregistered pets could end up being put up for adop-

tion, sold, or euthanised, if their owners can't be located, and contravening any of the City's animal bylaws could result in a fine or a prison sentence of up to two years.

The new regulations, if implemented, would see additional, detailed duties placed on animal owners in terms of breeding, sterilisation, animal keeping, and the treatment of impounded animals. They will also place a duty on the City to keep detailed records of animals in Cape Town.

But while the proposed policy may seem overly stringent, it's worth taking into account that the City of Cape Town already doesn't allow its residents to keep any dog which causes a nuisance by chasing dogs, poultry, or even pigeons outside the property where it is kept, according to the existing bylaws.

It's also frowned upon, legislatively-speaking, to keep a dog which "barks, yelps, howls or whines for more than six accumulated minutes in an hour", according to the animal keeping bylaw, in its current form. Cape Town's proposed policy isn't entirely out of step with bylaws in other SA cities, although it is certainly more thorough.

## GOOD-NEWS

## Mediterranean Diet may prevent memory loss and dementia, study shows



A model Mediterranean diet.

MARYLAND

Fans of the heart-healthy Mediterranean diet have more reason to load up on fresh fruits, vegetables, seafood and olive oil. According to a recent study, the diet popular in countries along the Mediterranean Sea may be able to lower your risk for dementia and memory loss.

The study, which was published in *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, examined 343 people at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, a common cause of dementia, with 169 cognitively normal subjects.

Researchers tested a person's cognitive skills as well as the spinal fluid from 226 participants, with findings showing that people who did not follow the diet closely had more signs

of amyloid and tau build up, which is associated with memory loss and dementia, in their spinal fluid.

Those who followed the diet also performed better on cognitive tests. "These results add to the body of evidence that show what you eat may influence your memory skills later on," said Tommaso Ballarini, the author of the study.

What is a Mediterranean Diet?

In contrast to popular belief, the Mediterranean diet is not simply about eating dishes such as lasagne and souvlaki. Instead, it is about loading up on vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and nuts and olive oil. Seafood is a staple in the Mediterranean diet, supplemented by dairy, poultry and eggs. Meanwhile, red meat is eaten only occasionally, while refined grains,

oils and sugars, and processed meat are not recommended at all.

This also comes after it was revealed in another study in April that broken sleep also played a role in developing dementia at an older age. Middle-aged adults who regularly slept fewer than six hours a night were at greater risk of dementia, according to new research.

People aged between 50 and 70 with a pattern of consistently shorter sleeping periods faced a 30 per cent higher risk of the condition, a study that tracked nearly 8,000 Britons across three decades found. About 10 million new cases of dementia are reported worldwide every year and the study published in *Nature Communications* adds to evidence suggesting that disturbed sleeping patterns are a contributing factor.



## RECREATION

## Royal gardens to visit this summer, from Buckingham Palace to Japan's Imperial Palace

LONDON

Back in 1993, Buckingham Palace threw open its gates to allow visitors for the first time in its 314-year history. Needing to fund renovations at Windsor Castle after a devastating fire ripped through the royal residence in 1992 and causing more than £36 million (approximately \$61 million) worth of damage, Queen Elizabeth II gave her permission to allow visitors into the palace, with tickets selling out three years in advance as soon as they went on sale.

The palace opens for 10 weeks each summer while the queen removes to Balmoral in Scotland, but the palace gardens have always remained closed to the public. The space was only used by the royal family, along with their guests, most notably during the three annual garden parties hosted each summer during which the queen recognises those who have made contributions to the military, community, arts, education and more.

This year, as Covid restrictions ease in the UK, the Royal Collection Trust, a charity that runs and maintains the



The gardens at Buckingham Palace are being opened to the public for the first time this summer, with visitors invited to come and picnic in the centuries-old grounds.

royal palaces and grounds, is opening up the gardens at Buckingham Palace for the first time. Along with the residence of the British royal family, here are five royal gardens open for visitors

this year.

The history: The 15.8-hectare garden is the largest private garden in London. While the palace was built in 1703, the gardens date back further, to 1608, when

James I established a plantation of mulberries to rear silkworms on the site.

Originally built for the Duke of Buckingham, the palace and gardens came into royal ownership

in 1761 when George III purchased it as a private residence. During his reign, the garden was home to an elephant and one of the first zebras in England.

George IV later appointed William Townsend Aiton of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to remodel the grounds after the taste for natural landscaping replaced the previous fashion for formal gardens. Visitors will be able to picnic by the wisteria-clad summer house, see the Waterloo Vase made for George IV, and visit the Palace tennis court where King George VI and Fred Perry played in the 1930s.

Nature: The garden features more than 325 wild plant species, over 1,000 trees, a 156-metre herbaceous border, wild flower meadow and rose garden. It is also home to more than 30 species of bird, including the common sandpiper, sedge warbler and lesser white-throat. Visitors will also see plane trees planted by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and the lake with an island in the middle upon which the Buckingham Palace bees reside.

Book tickets: The garden is open from July 9, 2021 to September 19, 2021. Tickets cost £16.50 (\$23) for adults, £9

(\$13) for children aged 5-16, children under 5 can enter free of charge. Discounts are available for students, over-60s and people of determination. Visit [www.rct.uk](http://www.rct.uk)

The history: French landscape artist Andre Le Notre was commissioned to create and renovate the palace gardens by the Sun King, Louis XIV, in 1661. The job would take 40 years and involve the moving of large amounts of soil to first level the grounds.

The famous Orangery was constructed, while the fountains and Grand Canal were dug from the surrounding meadow and marshland in a project that required thousands of men, with entire military regiments drafted to help.

Trees were brought from different regions of France, while the likes of Jean-Baptiste Colbert, the superintendent of buildings to the king, Charles Le Brun, first painter to the king and Jules Hardouin-Mansart, first architect to the king collaborated on the design. The garden needs to be replanted every 100 years and after Louis XVI, Napoleon III oversaw the next replanting.

## CONCERN

## Spain's playing host to Brahim Ghali could harm trade, diplomacy, Moroccan parties say

RABAT

The hosting by Spain of the leader of Polisario Front, Brahim Ghali is unacceptable and may affect bilateral trade and diplomacy between the two countries said leaders of Moroccan political parties represented in parliament.

Speaking after their meeting in Rabat earlier this week, the leaders said Spain's decision is unacceptable and condemnable because it is in flagrant contradiction with the quality of bilateral relations between the two peoples, the two countries and the good neighbourliness currently existing.

The political leaders said Ghali has orchestrated serious violations of human rights in the camps of Tindouf hence not qualifying to be hosted by a friendly country like Spain. In their joint statement after their meeting with head of government, Saad Eddine El Othmani in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Abroad, Nasser Bourita, they urged Madrid to expel Ghali.

Indicating that they have learned with strong disapproval and indignation the hosting of the leader of the Polisario under false identity, the leaders called upon the Spanish government to clearly take a stand against the militia and criminal group.

"The political parties which are signatory to the statement call upon the Spanish government to clearly specify its position on this flagrant violation and to take

immediate action to remedy the situation," the statement said.

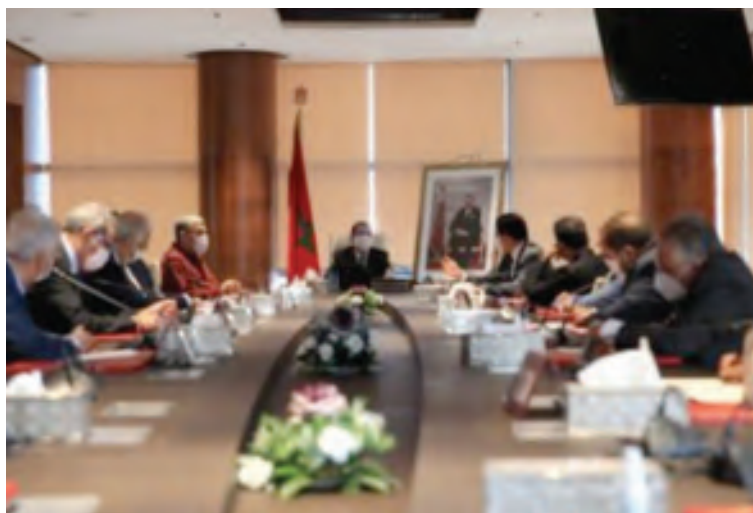
In this regard, they rejected the justifications and pretexts of some Spanish officials considering that, "The partnership and good bilateral trade and diplomatic relations require respecting the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Morocco by avoiding to deal with PF leaders.

These political parties said like Morocco, Spain has also suffered and still suffers from separatist groups which has a negative impact on its stability hence should understand better the PF leader's role as a security threat to Rabat.

"Our deep conviction is that due to serious acts of violation of human rights committed by Brahim Ghali, his should stand trial before Spanish justice system other than being accorded red carpet treatment in Madrid," the Moroccan politicians charged.

Reaffirming their support to King Mohammed VI as commander in chief of Moroccan defence forces, the leaders said he has done a good job in defending the territorial integrity of the Kingdom which remains united.

The joint statement was signed by leaders of the Party of Justice and Development (PJD), the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), the Istiqlal Party (PI), the National Rally of Independents (RNI), the Popular Movement (MP), the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), the Constitutional Union (UC), the Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS) and the United Socialist Party (PSU).



Moroccan political party leaders meeting with head of government, Saad Eddine El Othmani in Rabat earlier this week.



ITV

## SUNDAY 18 April

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

## MONDAY 19 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera News  
12:30 Mjue Zaidi  
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt  
14:10 Habari za saa (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:45 Kesho leo  
19:00 Afya ya Jamii  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Dakika 45  
22:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTV

## TUESDAY 20 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 The Base rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Ijue Sheria  
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco  
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Habari  
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTV

## WEDNESDAY 21 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt  
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 The Base rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Ijue Sheria  
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco  
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Habari  
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTV

## THURSDAY 22 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI

9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt  
10:30 Jungu kuu rpt  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 The Base rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Afya ya jamii  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 DWTV: Kesho leo rpt  
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:10 Yu wapi  
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt  
18:30 Uchumi na biashara  
19:00 Jarida la wanawake  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology  
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu  
21:40 Chetu ni chetu  
22:30 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 Chetu ni chetu  
23:45 The Base  
00:45 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTV

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

## FRIDAY 23 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt  
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 The Base rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)  
17:30 Kiislam  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt  
19:00 Shamba lulu  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipima Joto  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTV

## SATURDAY 24 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera

9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:00 Shika Bamba 5  
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong  
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe  
16:20 Igizo: Mtego  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong  
19:00 Jungu Kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Art and lifestyle  
21:30 ITV TOP 10  
22:10 Isidingo rpt  
00:30 DWTV

## SUNDAY 25 April

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

## MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:00 Shika Bamba 5  
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong  
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)  
Wild Skin  
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe  
16:20 Igizo: Mtego  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong  
19:00 Jungu Kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Art and lifestyle  
21:30 ITV TOP 10  
22:10 Isidingo rpt  
00:30 DWTV

09:00 In good shape  
10:00 Capchat rpt  
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt  
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter  
12:00 Jagina rpt  
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt  
13:00 In good shape rpt  
13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
15:15 Aibu yako  
15:30 Rev rpt  
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
16:45 Mizengwe rpt  
17:00 The Decor rpt  
17:30 Meza huru  
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt  
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights  
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris  
21:00 Shift  
21:15 Capchat live  
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
00:00 Al Jazeera

## SUNDAY 25 April

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

## CAPITAL

## Sat 17 April

08:00 Al Jazeera  
09:00 Rev rpt  
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt  
10:00 Culinary delight rpt  
10:30 Innovation rpt  
11:00 Out n' about rpt  
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt  
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt  
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt  
13:00B usiness edition rpt  
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter  
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt  
17:45 Bundesliga kick off  
18:15 Capchat rpt  
19:15 Mizengwe  
19:30 The Decor  
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris  
21:00 Out n' About  
21:30 Movie: Grindstone Road( tape no:5593)  
23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
01:00 Al Jazeera

## Sun 18 April

08:00 Aljazeera

09:00 In good shape  
10:00 Capchat rpt  
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt  
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter  
12:00 Jagina rpt  
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt  
13:00 In good shape rpt  
13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
15:15 Aibu yako  
15:30 Rev rpt  
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
16:45 Mizengwe rpt  
17:00 The Decor rpt  
17:30 Meza huru  
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt  
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights  
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris  
21:00 Shift  
21:15 Capchat live  
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
00:00 Al Jazeera

## Mon 19 April

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

## Tues 20 April

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

## Wed 21 April

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
16:30 Culinary delight rpt  
17:00 Innovation rpt  
17:30 Meza huru  
18:00 Sports Gazette  
19:30 Chetu ni chetu



## WORLD

## Israel targets Gaza tunnels, Palestinian rocket attacks persist

GAZA/JERUSALEM

ISRAEL fired artillery and mounted extensive air strikes yesterday against a network of Palestinian militant tunnels under Gaza that it dubbed "the Metro," amid persistent rocket attacks on Israeli towns.

An Israeli military spokesman said that while ground forces had taken part in the 40-minute, pre-dawn offensive, none had crossed into the Gaza Strip, as hostilities entered their fifth day with no sign of abating.

Health officials in northern Gaza said a woman and her three children were killed during the Israeli operation and that their bodies were recovered from the rubble of their home.

Rocket barrages against southern Israel swiftly followed the Israeli strikes, which the spokesman said included artillery and tank fire from inside Israeli territory.

The most serious fighting between Israel and Gaza militants since 2014 began on Monday after the enclave's ruling Hamas group fired rockets at Jerusa-

lem and Tel Aviv in retaliation for Israeli police clashes with Palestinians near Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

At least 119 have been killed in Gaza, including 31 children and 19 women, and 830 others wounded in the current hostilities, Palestinian medical officials said.

The death toll in Israel stood at eight: a soldier patrolling the Gaza border, six Israeli civilians – including an elderly woman who fell on the way to a shelter on Friday and two children – and an Indian worker, Israeli authorities said.

In northern and eastern parts of Gaza, the sound of artillery fire and explosions echoed early on Friday. Witnesses said many families living near the border left their homes, some seeking shelter at United Nations-run schools.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said 160 aircraft as well as artillery and armored units, "not inside the Gaza Strip," had taken part in what he called the largest operation against a specific target since the fighting began.

"What we were targeting is an elabo-



An explosion lights the sky following an Israeli air strike on Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

rate system of tunnels that spans underneath Gaza, mostly in the north but not limited to, and is a network that the operatives of Hamas use in order to move, in order to hide, for cover," he said in a briefing to foreign reporters.

"We refer to (it) as the Metro," he said, adding that a final assessment on the outcome of the operation was pending.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday the campaign "will take more time." Israeli officials said Hamas, Gaza's most powerful militant group, must be dealt a strong deterring blow before any cease-fire.

US President Joe Biden called on Thursday for a de-escalation of the violence, saying he wanted to see a significant reduction in rocket attacks.

## Tensions in Israel

The hostilities have fueled tension between Israeli Jews and the country's 21 percent Arab minority who live alongside them in some communities.

Violence continued overnight in mixed communities of Arabs and Jews. Over the past several days, synagogues were attacked and fighting broke out on the streets of some towns, prompting Israel's president to warn of civil war.

On Thursday, the Israeli military said it was building up forces on the Gaza border, raising speculation about a possible ground invasion, a move that would recall similar incursions during Israel-Gaza wars in 2014 and 2009.

But an invasion looked unlikely, given Israel's reluctance to risk a sharp increase in military casualties on Hamas turf.

The UN Security Council will publicly discuss the worsening violence between Israel and Palestinian militants on Sunday, diplomats said after the United States had objected to a meeting on Friday.

Truce efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations had yet to deliver a sign of progress.

## Panic buying prolongs fuel shortages in southeastern US

WASHINGTON

FUEL shortages caused by the shutdown of a major pipeline over a ransomware attack last week in the southeastern United States have been exacerbated by panic buying and hoarding, and the scenario is not expected to turn for the better soon as the pipeline was restarted Wednesday afternoon but will take days to resume full operation.

"Long lines, sharp words and pumps gone dry greeted unhappy drivers from the Alabama foothills to the Chesapeake Bay" across the eastern half of the country, and "nervous drivers clogged gas stations and created shortages in parts or all of 11 states," reported The Washington Post on Thursday.

At least 12,000 gas stations reported being completely empty, and the squeeze pushed the price of a gallon past 3 U.S. dollars, its highest in years, it added.

The pipeline shutdown and ensuing gas search are "causing several thousand gas stations across the nation to run out of fuel. Hundreds of others are limiting sales," reported The New York Times on Thursday.

"Consumers have become gripped by a fear that there could be a gas shortage. Many have turned to social media to vent, posting videos and pictures of long lines and empty pumps at filling stations," it added.

## WIDE-SPREADING SHORTAGES

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm told a White House press briefing on Tuesday that the current supply crunch was in the areas that were affected by the pipeline, predominantly the Southeast, such as the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and southern Virginia.

"The crisis was man-made -- first by the ransomware attack on the systems of Colonial Pipeline that led the company to shut down its pipeline connecting Texas to New Jersey, then by a panic that led drivers to fill up out of fear the country could run out of gas," said the Post.

"The long lines of frustrated drivers were the latest reminder of a country vulnerable to shocks and recalled the queues outside food banks, coronavirus testing centers and grocery stores over the past year," it added.

In North Carolina, 65 percent of stations were out of gas Wednesday afternoon, according to GasBuddy, an app that tracks fuel prices and demand. More than 43 percent were out in Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia.

The panic was so contagious that gas stations in central Florida, an area not supplied by the Colonial Pipeline, were also running out of fuel. Governors in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida have declared states of emergency.

The 5,500-mile pipeline system transports more than 100 million gallons of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and heating oil per day, or roughly 45 percent of fuel consumed on the Eastern Seaboard between the Gulf Coast and the New York metro area.

## CALM NEEDED

Officials in states with the longest gas lines are asking for calm. "I'm urging everyone to be careful and be patient," South Carolina's attorney general, Alan Wilson, was quoted by the Times as saying.

"Remember when it wasn't a good idea to panic buy toilet paper last year? Please don't do it with gas now," the Virginia Department of Emergency Management tweeted on Wednesday.

The Colonial Pipeline Company, operator of the pipeline carrying gasoline and diesel fuel to U.S. east and southeast parts, said that it initiated the restart process of its transportation system at approximately 5 p.m. ET on Wednesday, almost six days after its shutdown.

"Following this restart, it will take several days for the product delivery supply chain to return to normal. Some markets served by Colonial Pipeline may experience, or continue to experience, intermittent service interruptions during the start-up period," said the company. "Colonial will move as much gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel as is safely possible and will continue to do so until markets return to normal."

The Joe Biden administration approved a temporary waiver of shipping requirements late Wednesday to help Colonial Pipeline transport fuel. The waiver "will enable the transport of additional gas and jet fuel between the Gulf Coast and East Coast ports to ease supply constraints," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement early Thursday.

Xinhua

## China's commerce minister vows better service for foreign firms

BEIJING

CHINA'S Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao has pledged to enhance communication with foreign enterprises and chambers of commerce and provide better service.

Wang (pictured) made the remarks Thursday at a symposium with foreign pharmaceutical companies as well as the American Chamber of Commerce in China and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Foreign investment has con-

tributed actively to China's economic development since its reform and opening-up more than 40 years ago, while foreign enterprises have also fully benefited from China's development, he said.

In the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), China will accelerate the building of the new "dual circulation" development paradigm, in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, according to Wang.

The new development para-



digm, which is by no means a closed domestic loop but more open domestic and overseas circulations, is expected to provide more opportunities for foreign companies, said the

minister.

For the next stage, the commerce ministry will work with relevant departments and local authorities to enhance communication with foreign companies and chambers of commerce to deal with their problems in a timely manner and provide better service for foreign enterprises.

Foreign companies participating in the symposium hailed China's efforts in continuously improving the business environment in recent years, saying that they are willing to take part

in China's building of the new development paradigm and increase investment in China.

China recorded a 4-percent growth in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows last year, making it the largest recipient of FDI in the world, according to a report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

In the first four months of 2021, FDI into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, surged 38.6 percent year-on-year, data from the commerce ministry showed.

Xinhua

## Italy fines Google 102m euros for abusing dominant position

ROME

ITALY'S Competition Authority (AGCM) has fined Google about 102 million euros (123 million U.S. dollars) for abusing its dominant position in the Italian market, the authority said in a statement on Thursday.

The watchdog said Google violated the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, since the U.S. tech giant refused to allow an Italian company's app to interoperate with Google's Android Auto app which mirrors features of an Android device on a car's dashboard information and entertainment head unit.

The JuicePass App, developed by Enel X's Italian branch

– the Enel X Italia, allows several services for recharging electric vehicles, including finding and booking a place at recharging stations.

"Through the Android operating system and the Google Play app store, Google holds a dominant position allowing it to control the access of app developers to end users," AGCM explained.

Noting that about three-quarters of smartphones in Italy currently use the Android system, the authority said that Google "has unfairly limited the possibilities for end users to avail themselves of the Enel X Italia app when driving and recharging an electric vehicle."

"Google has consequently



favored its own Google Maps app," it said.

This policy towards Enel X Italia app went on for more than two years. If it were to continue, it could permanently jeopardize the company's chances of building a solid user base at a time of significant

growth in sales of electric vehicles, according to the antitrust watchdog.

"In addition, the JuicePass app could not be included in the list of applications used by users, leading to an impoverishment of consumer choice and an obstacle to technological

progress," it added.

The authority also stated that Google's conduct might have a wider impact on the development of electric mobility, and the development of an infrastructure network for recharging electric vehicles.

As a result, possible negative effects could occur to the diffusion of electric vehicles, to the use of clean energy, and to the transition towards more environmentally sustainable mobility, it said.

Google replied by saying that they "respectfully disagree with the Authority's decision."

"We will study the documents and review our options," Ansa news agency quoted a Google spokesperson as saying.

## UK ex-PM Cameron says facing Greensill inquiry 'painful'

LONDON

FORMER British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Thursday that it was "painful" for him to have to face parliamentary scrutiny over the collapse of Greensill Capital, for which he had acted as an advisor and lobbyist.

"This is a painful day coming back to a place that I love and respect so much, albeit virtually, but in these circumstances," he said in an opening statement to the House of Commons' Treasury Committee.

"Lobbying itself is a necessary

and healthy part of our democratic process, but I accept that there's a strong argument that having a former prime minister, engage on behalf of any commercial interest, no matter how laudable the motives and cause, can be open to misinterpretation," he said.

Cameron said he had not been hired by Greensill as a lobbyist, but the situation changed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cameron declined to say exactly how much he was paid by Greensill, or how much he would have made from shares he owned if the business had pros-



Former British Prime Minister David Cameron leaves his residence in London on Thursday. (AFP)

pered. But he said he had a "big economic interest" in its future.

"I was paid an annual amount, a generous annual amount, far more than I earned as prime minister," he said.

Cameron repeatedly contacted senior ministers over a four-month period in 2020 to lobby for the now-failed, supply-chain finance firm Greensill Capital, according to documents published on Tuesday.

Cameron was lobbying the government to allow Greensill, founded by Australian banker Lex Greensill in 2011, to access a COVID-19 financing scheme.

The Bank of England said in April that no changes were made to the Covid Corporate Financing Facility as a result of communication between Cameron and Bank officials.

Cameron said that at the time he was lobbying ministers in 2020, he had no sense that Greensill Capital was in financial difficulty.

Cameron served as prime minister from 2010 to 2016, stepping down after he unexpectedly lost a referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union.

Agencies



## UK may speed up vaccine 2nd doses on virus variant concerns

LONDON

UK ministers may bring forward second vaccine doses for millions of people after Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he's "anxious" about the spread of a COVID-19 variant from India.

Cases of the new B.1.617.2 strain of COVID-19 have risen to 1,313 from 520 over the past week, Public Health England said Thursday, assessing the strain to be "at least as transmissible" as the so-called Kent variant that took hold in December, precipitating the UK's third lockdown in January.

"We are anxious about it, it has been spreading," Johnson said in a pooled broadcast interview. "There's a range of things we could do, we're ruling nothing out."

Johnson's comments raise the prospect

the government may be forced to slow down its roadmap to open the economy from the country's third coronavirus lockdown. That could put him into conflict with members of his own Conservative Party, who have already been agitating for a faster reopening amid a vaccination program that's one of the most advanced in the world.

Meanwhile, another 2,657 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 4,444,631, according to official figures released on Thursday.

The country also reported another 11 coronavirus-related deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 127,651. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test.

## Turkey's Karpowership shuts down power to Lebanon

BEIRUT / ISTANBUL

TURKEY'S Karpowership, which provides electricity to Lebanon from two barges, said on Friday it was shutting down supplies over payment arrears and a legal threat to its vessels amid the country's economic crisis.

The company, which supplies 370 megawatts (MW), or about a quarter of Lebanon's supply, had told the government this week it would have to shut down in the absence of moves towards a settlement.

The shutdown threatens longer daily power cuts across the heavily indebted nation, which did not have enough capacity to meet demand even before Karpowership's move on Friday.

Many people rely on private generators or struggle for several hours a day without power. In a statement, the company, a unit of Kardeniz, said it was shutting down supplies on Friday.

A source familiar with the situation said the step was taken at about 8 am (0500 GMT), as the vessels' fuel had been running down. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said arrears exceeded US\$100 million, and added that the government had not reached out for talks or to try and resolve a legal case, despite the firm's repeated appeals meant to avert a shutdown.

Lebanon's Finance Ministry said it had been notified by the Turkish firm and cited a lawmaker saying that the country could face "total darkness" in case of a shut-off.

It has made no public statement about any talks. A Lebanese prosecutor threatened this month to seize the barges and fine the firm after Lebanese TV channel al-Jadeed reported corruption accusations over the power contract.

Agencies

## Groundless claims on Xinjiang rebuked

By Cui Jia

ISLAMIC leaders in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region have expressed strong opposition to claims that Muslims' freedom of religious belief has been restricted as Muslims in the region on Thursday celebrated Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.

"In recent years, some Western anti-China forces have kept spreading rumors such as that mosques have been demolished, religious leaders have been detained and even that 'genocide' of Muslims has been carried out in Xinjiang.

"Anyone who is willing to respect the facts of the actual practices of freedom of religious beliefs in the region could never make such claims," Abdureqip Tumunliyah, president of the Islamic Association of Xinjiang, said at a reception in Beijing to celebrate Eid al-Fitr.

In fact, Xinjiang Muslims' freedom of religious belief has been fully safeguarded in accordance with the law. In addition, the condition of religious venues and the education of religious leaders have continued to improve in order to support healthy development of Islam in Xinjiang, he said.

Abdureqip made the remarks at a reception in Beijing hosted by the Xinjiang regional government, which was also attended by a number of foreign



A man dances in front of Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, as he celebrates Eid al-Fitr on Thursday. (XINHUA)

envoys.

"It's clear that those people who fabricate lies about religious issues in Xinjiang aim to cause instability in Xinjiang to curb China's development and damage the relationship between China and Islamic countries. The peaceful development of Islam is the last thing Western anti-China forces want to see," he added.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a daily news briefing on Thursday that the United States was continuing to spread rumors about Xinjiang in its "In-

ternational Religious Freedom Report 2020", which was released on Wednesday.

The so-called report disregards facts and is packed with ideological bias. It recklessly attacks China's policies on religious affairs, Hua said, adding that the US should stop interfering in China's internal affairs in the name of religious issues.

For a period of time, some Xinjiang Muslims had been fooled by religious extremists and even lured into carrying out terrorist attacks, which killed a large number of innocent people

as well as religious leaders, Abdureqip said.

Muslims are happy to see that the spread of religious extremism and terrorism has been effectively curbed, as they no longer need to be afraid of becoming the prey of religious extremists and terrorists, he added.

Mamat Juma, the imam of the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar in southern Xinjiang, said that religious extremists who preach violence in the name of Islam have greatly damaged the image of the religion.

"Eliminating religious extremism is in fact important for the development of Islam in Xinjiang. That's why people have supported the government's measures to fight religious extremism," Mamat said at the reception.

Mamat's father, Juma Tayier, the former imam of Id Kah Mosque, was killed in a terrorist attack in July 2014. The attackers had been influenced by religious extremism, according to local court files.

## 1,500 UK police officers investigated for misconduct - report

LONDON

MORE than 1,500 police officers and staff in England and Wales have been investigated for misconduct in the past two years by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), according to a report published on Thursday.

Almost 60 percent of the 1,504 investigated were either found to have a case to answer or faced other action, such as unsatisfactory performance proceedings, the report showed.

The IOPC carried out 1,435 inves-



tigations, and 236 cases included at least one person under criminal caution, according to the report.

A total of 327 people were criminally investigated by the IOPC, and files relating to 176 individuals (54 percent) were passed to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to con-

sider charges, of whom 51 were subsequently charged by the CPS with a criminal offence.

"The vast majority of police uphold the professional standards the public expect of them. The work they do carries a combination of personal risk, fast decision-making

and a great deal of sensitivity that is unmatched by any other job. But it is also a job that cannot be done without the confidence of the communities the police serve, or without there being independent scrutiny," said IOPC Director General Michael Lockwood.

The IOPC, established in January 2018, is an "executive non-departmental public body" sponsored by Britain's Home Office to "increase public confidence in the police complaints system in England and Wales", according to British government's website. **Agencies**

## Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference following talks with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Ladies and gentlemen,

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and I had substantive and fulfilling talks centred on the situation in international relations, which is quite challenging. We used the opportunity to discuss our cooperation and the assistance that Russia, under the UN Charter, can additionally provide to the UN to help it fulfil its goals.

We noted that Russia sees some Western countries' attempts to promote unilateral approaches in circumvention of the established collective mechanisms for developing international law-based solutions as one of today's key challenges. We consider developing certain "rules" behind the back of the greater part of the international community and then imposing them on others as universal norms unacceptable and dangerous practice.

We are witnessing situational coalitions and partnerships being created outside the UN, which arrogate to themselves the right to speak and act on behalf of everyone else, accompanied by criticism of the UN for its allegedly low efficacy.

We emphasised that, in the opinion of the Russian Federation, the "rules-based order" concept promoted by our Western colleagues is unrelated to either law or universal morality and runs counter to the objective trend for democratising interaction between states and creating a fair, inclusive and polycentric world order. The voice of every country, regardless of its size, military or economic capacity, must be heard within the framework of this democratic world order. The "rules" concept is causing tangible damage to the central coordinating role of the UN in international affairs, leads to an imbalance

in the architecture of global governance and directly contradicts the interests of the international community.

We see no less serious risks in other illegitimate actions in circumvention of the UN, primarily, the use of force without the approval by the UN Security Council and unilateral economic sanctions, which usually affect the most vulnerable groups in society and lead nowhere.

As a founding state of the UN and a permanent member of the Security Council, Russia stands strongly with the UN. We operate on the premise that the UN is the pillar of the international legal system that emerged in the wake of World War II. This is the only truly universal interstate mechanism capable of expressing the will of entire humankind, which has unique legitimacy in this regard. We are convinced that the overwhelming majority of the nation states share this point of view.

Russia reaffirms its position in favour of taking practical action to strengthen the UN. Russia's foreign policy undertakings are, as a rule, UN-centred, which can be seen in President Putin's initiative to convene a summit of the leaders of the states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council, which, we hope, will take place after the epidemiological situation normalises worldwide.

We share the Secretary-General's conviction that the international community can deal with modern challenges and threats, regional conflicts, pandemics similar to the COVID-19 infection, terrorism and other transnational crimes and, of course, such phenomena as climate change only through joint efforts. We also have to accomplish socio-economic development tasks, primarily in developing states. Member states should pool

their multilateral efforts on the basis of the UN Charter's goals and principles. This is our common position.

We discussed specific conflict situations, part of the UN and Security Council agenda, in great detail, including what is going on in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and Yemen. We also reviewed the rather complicated problem of the Cyprus settlement.

Russia fully shares the UN Secretary-General's striving to resolve crises by political and diplomatic means, including through mediation. We are also content with the aims of the UN Secretary-General to overcome disagreements through an equidistant and unbiased approach towards the conflicting parties and by heeding all opinions of the member states. We intend to support Antonio Guterres' efforts in every way possible. We are grateful to the UN Secretary-General for his readiness to accept Russia's contribution to his efforts.

We agreed that it was in our common interests to facilitate the effective and unbiased work of the UN agencies. The UN Secretary-General agrees that it is important that top UN executives, especially its Secretariat, adhere to well-balanced approaches, and that they act solely on the basis of collective decisions made by the member states.

We came to an agreement to continue expanding the number of the Russian Federation's officials in the UN Secretariat. Specific steps have already been taken in this direction. We are grateful for this.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the UN Secretary-General for his many years of cooperation and to wish him every success in the future.

**Question (addressed to Sergey Lavrov):** Russia enjoys good relations with both



Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (R) and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at a joint news conference

sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. What can Moscow do to de-escalate the tensions? Earlier, you also pushed for combining the efforts of the quartets of international and Arab mediators. How relevant is it at this point?

**Sergey Lavrov:** We covered this in depth today. Indeed, problems have piled up in the region, and many of them are intertwined. Addressing one and ignoring the others is not an option.

We welcomed the beginning of a process for normalising relations between the Arab countries and Israel as any other progress in relations between the international community members. But, like other countries that observed this process, we emphasised that the normalisation of relations between the Arab countries and Israel should not take place at the expense or to the detriment of resolving the Palestinian issue in accordance with the two-state principle enshrined in the UN Security Council resolutions.

The developments that broke out several days ago are, unfortunately, still underway. People are dying on both sides. The unilateral actions

have begun, which the UN Security Council and the Quartet of international mediators have repeatedly urged the sides to avoid.

Today, we have come to a common understanding that convening a Quartet of international mediators, including Russia, the United States, the UN and the EU, is the most important task at hand. We put our trust in the Secretary-General as the coordinator of the Quartet to work with the parties and to try to set up this meeting as soon as possible and hold it preferably at the ministerial level.

We stand for establishing a dialogue between the Quartet and the Arab countries that normalised their relations and established diplomatic ties with Israel. Plus, the Palestinians and Israelis themselves. We had Saudi Arabia, which pushed forward the Arab Peace Initiative, join this group as another participant of this meeting. At this point, convening the Quartet is the simplest and the most urgent move we should make. It is easier to do this now than to make arrangements for larger configurations. I hope that the Secretary-General's experience and diplomatic skills will

help create proper environment to get this process underway.

**Question (addressed to Antonio Guterres):** You have criticised a lot the "vaccine nationalism." Is there any discussion worldwide of the possibility that all the major manufacturers of the vaccines may suspend their rights in order to distribute the know-how and make the vaccine accessible worldwide? And a related question: what are the prospects for the Russian vaccine to be approved by the European regulator?

**Sergey Lavrov (speaking after Antonio Guterres):** Several dozen agreements have been signed, and Sputnik V has been registered in more than 60 countries, most of which are already receiving the first batches. We have repeatedly made it clear that we are open to cooperation with other vaccine manufacturers. We can both enjoy a positive process of interaction if they show similar interest.

The other day, President Vladimir Putin spoke positively about the idea of dropping patent protection by all vaccine manufacturers for some time so that the generic drugs could quickly saturate the market.

**Question (addressed to Antonio Guterres):** I would like to take use this opportunity to draw your attention to the situation in Latvia. Since 2020, Latvian authorities continue to persecute journalists who cooperate with Russian media outlets. This is all-out persecution: a criminal case has been opened against over a dozen people, their homes have been searched, their documents and office equipment have been confiscated, and they have signed pledges not leave their city of residence.

Technically speaking, they are being accused of violating the sanctions regime, although no sanctions apply to them, and these journalists have nothing to do with any sanctions. In my opinion, this is political persecution. On May 3, 2021, on World Press Freedom Day, we sent you a video address by one of the journalists. Are you aware of the situation in Latvia? Are you ready to monitor these developments and to ensure that Latvian authorities comply with the fundamental UN documents, at least the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and therefore do not create administrative and criminal barriers hampering the work of journalists in Latvia?

**Sergey Lavrov (speaking after Antonio Guterres):** Apart from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Secretary-General has an assistant on human rights who is from Latvia. I believe that, if he receives your video, this will be instrumental for processing your request.

**Question (addressed to Antonio Guterres):** In the past few years, the United States has expanded its blockade against Cuba. What is your opinion of the US policy with regard to Cuba?

Sergey Lavrov (speaking after Antonio Guterres): Apart from the specific situation caused by additional challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a systemic problem regarding the US blockade of Cuba. Each year, the UN General Assembly passes a resolution by an overwhelming majority of votes. Two or three countries and the United States do not support it, while all others vote in favour of the document. These resolutions reflect the UN policy. **Agencies**



## KMC FC plots Azam FC downfall in Premier League



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER picking up two points in their last two Vodacom Premier League (VPL) matches, the technical bench of Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC has said that they are now shifting their focus in their next away game against Azam FC, slated for today in Dar es Salaam.

The KMC FC will enter the match which will be played at the Azam Complex as they seek to secure their first-round victory where they managed to beat Azam 1-0 in a game played on November 21.

Forward Reliant Lusajo who currently dons Namungo FC kits netted for KMC FC in the 57th minute of the tie.

Commenting on their preparations which started early this week, KMC FC's information officer, Christina Mwagala, said that, following the 0-0 draw they got in their previous game against Namungo FC, now their technical bench has set its sight on the duel against Azam FC.

She said, their technical bench has made it clear that correcting the mistakes that deprived them of three points in their previous game is the main task ahead of them.

She insisted KMC FC is eager to take

three points that will move them to fourth place in the league standings.

She said, if soccer followers look at the position their opponents are, it is difficult to bring the latter down, a situation that will make the game more difficult.

Christina said despite the difficulties which lie ahead of the squad, they will prepare their players for the fight for status and points.

According to her, KMC FC will use the mistakes that Azam FC players will make to garner three points.

"We had been going on with our preparations for the match against Azam FC which will ensure we take three points from the tie, our tacticians have already prepared a special program that we believe will give us what we need," Christina noted.

Azam FC has been enjoying a run of nine unbeaten games in the Vodacom Premier League under the tutelage of Zambian gaffer George Lwandamina who has transformed their bad mid-season form.

Azam FC now sits third in the league standings with 54 points after taking part in 28 games.

The side's posted a famous league win, a 1-0 victory over Yanga on April 25.

## Yanga midfielder yearns for first-team action

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima, has disclosed he has left it to the outfit's head coach Nassredine Nabi to decide on the former's selection for the first team.

The veteran Rwandan midfielder is currently struggling to find a place in Yanga's first team, unlike in the past when he was the first choice.

The gifted player has also been able to play in his side's high-profile top-flight clashes against age-old rivals, Simba SC.

He had turned out for Simba SC in the 2018/19 season, when the squad lifted the Vodacom Premier League's top honour, apart from qualifying for the CAF Champions League's last eight.

This season has seen Niyonzima play a total of 12 matches and spend 371 minutes for his club.

Yanga, now sitting second in the Premier League standing, has taken part in 27 matches.

In 12 outings that Niyonzima has featured in, he has not had the chance to play all 90 minutes and he has not either scored a goal or provided an assist.

Commenting on his current role in Yanga, Niyonzima said that he leaves it to the coach but he is tasked with playing.

He noted: "I am a player but selection for the first team rests on the coach. When I get a chance to play, I fulfill

my responsibilities to help my team, so whether I start in fixtures or not, it should rest in the coach's hands."

The midfielder played 69 minutes in a league clash against Mbeya City FC, he moreover lasted seven minutes in the clash against Kagera Sugar.

He played for 45 minutes in Yanga's clash against Coastal Union, he later featured for 59 minutes in his outfit's duel against Polisi Tanzania.

He managed nine minutes in Yanga's clash against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, Ruvo Shooting (19 minutes), Mwadui FC (30 minutes), and he played for 14 minutes in a clash against Ihefu FC.

He came on as a second-half substitute in Yanga's clash against Kagera Sugar, spending 16 minutes, he featured for 77 minutes in the duel against Polisi Tanzania, he moreover spent 14 minutes in his side's clash against Biashara United.

Reports recently had it Niyonzima did not travel with the squad to Lindi to play Namungo FC, with the reasons for the decision not being made public. Niyonzima has so far experienced limited playing time, with Yanga playing under the tutelage of four tacticians.

The coaches, Zlatko Krmpotic, Cedric Kaze, Juma Mwambusi, and Nasreddine Nabi, have all failed to give him a chance to play regularly.

Yanga will come up against Namungo FC in Lindi this afternoon.

## K&P Constructions' cricketers stretch winning run in 2021 DC Gymkhana Cup Division A

By Guardian Reporter

THE K&P Constructions cricket side has stretched its winning streak in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup show-down's Division A after commanding a five-wicket victory over Dar Black Panthers in a tie held in the city early this week.

The win has seen K&P Constructions squad enjoy the driver's seat in Group C with six points, having posted victory in three games and lost one.

The Group C leaders have in 1.0705 net run rate, amassing 447 runs and giving away 388 runs.

Opener Hema Suryakant Mullapudi put scintillating displays with the bat as K&P Constructions squad easily tamed Dar Black Panthers.

Dar Black Panthers went in to bat first, notching 95 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs.

Gurvinder Singh and Imrankhan Pathan were among the batsmen who put good knocks to show and brought the team to five runs short of triple-digit total.

Singh ended as the team's top run-getter, recording 26 runs which consisted of three fours.

They displayed an encouraging start, given opener Pathan recorded 15 runs in a spell which saw him clear the boundary on three occasions.

They later experienced three quick dismissals of top order batsmen, which to some extent weakened their batting resolve.

The squad's skipper, Chiray-



The K&P Constructions cricket team.

ush Barot, was one of the victims of an early exit, ending five runs short of a two-digit figure.

K&P Constructions side's bowler Visswanath Bathala brought Barot's presence at the crease to an end, as he bowled the latter.

Prasad Baraskar gave his all in a bid to give the squad the much-needed confidence, he recorded 17 runs.

Munish Kumar, slotted in at middle order, ended up notching 14 runs which included two fours.

Their efforts to end the innings with a convincing total were dealt a huge blow following Singh's exit.

He was caught by K&P Constructions outfit's Mullapudi from Ramalingaiah Neelam's delivery.

Shaik Abdul Shaheel and skipper Lakshmikanth Sukava-

si had most wickets during K&P Constructions outfit's bowling spell, ending their respective spells with two wickets apiece.

Shaheel had two maiden overs in his four-over spell, which saw him give away 12 runs.

Sukavasi conceded 16 runs in four overs, ending with 4.00 in economy rate.

Needing 96 runs to emerge victoriously, K&P Constructions gallantly chased Dar Black Panthers' score, notching 97 runs for five wickets in 15.3 overs.

They showed intention to mount a successful chase early on, with opener Mullapudi confidently cracking balls all over the pitch.

He was eventually the batsman with the best innings, registering unbeaten 51 runs, which included five fours.

Naga Gurijala, who opened

the innings with Mullapudi, scored 15 runs which included two fours.

Suman Emuru, who came on at number three, saw to it K&P Constructions team are within reach of the win, scoring 13 runs which included a six.

Much as they faced quick dismissals of the other key players, Harish Munuganti, Shaheel, and Bogineni Prasad, they had what it takes to wade off Dar Black Panthers' pressure.

Second-placed Annadil Burhani, who are K&P Constructions outfit's closest challengers, are two points below the group leaders.

Patel Brotherhood comes third after posting one victory and one loss, which have seen the side settle for 0.1021 in net run rate.

Alaf Aces and Alaf Aces are placed fourth and fifth respectively.

## Tanga Women Combine stun Usambara Development in TCA T20 Tanga League

By Guardian Reporter

NASRA Nassoro put spirited displays as Tanga Women Combine's cricketers registered seven-wicket drubbing of Usambara Development side in a 2021 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) T20 Tanga League's tie, held in Tanga early this week.

The national cricket governing body has organized the tournament to boost the promotion of the sport in the country.

It turned out to be the first victory that Tanga Women Combine has notched in the show-down.

The club is consequently placed third in the four-team show-down, having recorded -0.4262 in net run rate.

Tanga Women Combine has scored 185 runs and gave away 181 runs.

They went in to bat first in the match against Usambara Development, scoring 104 runs for the loss of six wickets in 20 overs.

They experienced a shaky start to their questing for notching an imposing total, as one of their reliable all-rounders, Hudaa Mrisho, was dismissed with two runs to her name.

Swaumu Godfrey, who had opened the innings with Hudaa, withstood Usambara Development bowlers' pressure for a few overs, posting 10 runs which included a



Tanga's Twiga Girls cricket team pictured before participating in a 2020 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Regional Women Cup's tie, which took place in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

four.

There was an early exit of Swaumu Deo, who came on at number three, as Usambara Development bowlers sought to suppress's batting attack.

Jenipher Gabriel, who ended as the batter with the best innings, did all she could to have Tanga Women Combine staying in control of the innings with solid displays.

Jennifer gave a good account of herself, notching unbeaten 20 runs.

Mwamvua Hamisi helped Tanga Women Combine pile more runs, scoring 11 runs, Nasra Nassoro could not make her presence felt, she ended two runs short of a two-digit figure.

Furahini Kuziwa ended with unbeaten nine runs, forming an unbeat-

en partnership with Jenipher and consequently had Tanga Women Combine ending with a respectable score.

Usambara Development's bowlers Rajabu Juma, Masoud Rashid, and Amiri Sadiki notched a wicket each in what was a vain attempt to thwart Tanga Women Combine's efforts to set up a challenging target.

In response Usambara Development gave their all in the chase, they though lost steam given they were skittled for 97 runs in 19.4 overs.

They got off to a rather frustrating start, following early dismissals of key players, Karim Kiseti, Omary Hilal, and skipper Riziki Kiseti.

The Kiseti brothers ended three runs of double-digit figures, Hilal could only score six runs

before falling victim to Nasra Nassoro's skilful deliveries.

Usambara Development showed intention to mount a successful chase when Amiri Sadiki had stepped at the crease, given he registered 23 runs.

Abdallah Shabani went on to boost the score with his 17 runs which included a four.

Usambara Development's hopes of getting down to a successful chase, later on, went up in smokes, given the remaining batsmen could not live up to expectations.

Nasra's impressive bowling showing saw her command a four-wicket haul which ultimately won her the best player of the match's prize.

Nasra, also one of the dependable players in

the senior national women cricket squad, gave away 26 runs in her four-over spell, ending with an economy rate of 6.50.

Much as they conceded their first loss, Usambara Development outfit is still leading the rest of the pack in the tournament, give they have the best net run rate.

The league leaders have 1.9422 in net run rate, they have posted 181 runs and leaked 184 runs in two matches.

Second-placed Macechu Stars have won the only clash they have taken part in to notch 1.2553 in net run rate.

Bottom-placed Amboni Stars have lost the only tie they have taken part in, settling for -6.9565 in net run rate. They have posted 80 runs and gave away 84 runs.



## Atletico closing in and tensing up as La Liga title edges closer

MADRID

"If we didn't suffer, we wouldn't be us," Atletico Madrid captain Koke said on Wednesday night but after 36 games and nine months, a 10-point advantage spurned and a two-point advantage left, the trophy was finally in sight.

With just two games left to play, a win on Sunday at home to Osasuna could be enough for the league leaders to clinch the title.

Koke was referring to Atletico's 2-1 win over Real Sociedad, when they had to hang on "unnecessarily" according to Diego Simeone, after missing chances for a third goal and then conceding one to set up a nail-biting finish.

But he could also have been talking about Atletico's season, in which they would have won the title by now if it was not for a dramatic drop in form and might have seen it disappear completely if Barcelona and Real Madrid had not been so lacklustre in making them pay.

Instead, Atletico have clung on, neither losing hope nor put out of their misery, the belief growing that they might yet somehow find a way through.

In April, the gap had closed and Real Madrid had the wind behind them but draws against Getafe and Real Betis checked the momentum before another draw with Sevilla on Sunday meant the initiative was lost.

Barcelona were the best team in the league between February and May, a defeat in the Clasico just a blip until Granada scored twice in 16 minutes at Camp Nou.

Barca lost there and again away at Levante on Tuesday, their chances evaporating in less than two weeks.

Atletico have managed back-to-back wins only once since February but they have done just enough to keep their heads above water and now they could pull away once and for all.

Real Madrid's 4-1 thrashing of Granada on Thursday night applied pressure but an Atletico victory against Osasuna will still mean the title is theirs, as long as Real Madrid fail to win away at Athletic Bilbao.

If Atletico and Real Madrid both win, the battle will go to the final weekend, although as a two-horse race instead of three. Barca would be out of the running regardless of what they do at home to Celta Vigo.

Sevilla, who briefly had an outside chance, have already conceded, their victory over Valencia on Wednesday not enough after Atletico overcame Real Sociedad at the Wanda Metropolitano.

In the car park outside the stadium, a group of around 50 Atleti fans had gathered to cheer the team on, their singing audible inside the ground and on the pitch too, where Koke said the players felt an extra push.

"We could hear them outside, especially when we needed them in the last 10 minutes," Koke said.

But just as Atletico's victory was not as comfortable as it should have been, the title race remains alive, with Real Madrid on their shoulder ready to pounce.

"We can only keep putting pressure on Atletico and hope they don't win both of their games," said Thibaut Courtois on Thursday. "We are close, there is no margin for error."

Atletico's fans would rather any other team be chasing them because if suffering is part of the club's DNA, so is disappointment, a tendency to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

AFP

## Rodgers urges Leicester to 'make history' with FA Cup win

LONDON

BRENDAN Rodgers says his players can "create an incredible legacy" if they become the first Leicester side to win the FA Cup on Saturday after four previous defeats in the final.

Leicester face Champions League finalists Chelsea in English football's premier cup competition -- the first time the Foxes have reached the showpiece occasion since 1969.

Several players, including talisman Jamie Vardy, remain from the team that produced one of the biggest shocks in English football history by winning the Premier League in 2016.

But many of the current crop were not in that side and Rodgers said they now had the possibility of making their own slice of history for the Thai-owned club.

A crowd of 21,000 will be at Wembley, with Chelsea and Leicester allocated 6,250 tickets each as part of a pilot to test the return of big crowds to venues during the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have earned the right to be in the final and we will arrive with an opportunity to make our own history," Rodgers said on Thursday.

"We have watched it (the cup final) all through our lives. To be able to lead Leicester out for the first time in 50-odd years will be a real privilege for me."

"These weeks you always have to stay calm. This is a game where you can create an incredible legacy, you write your own stories in these games."

Rodgers, whose side is also on track to qualify for next season's Champions League, is hoping experienced central defender Jonny Evans will be fit to face Chelsea after missing two games with a heel injury.

AFP

## Protests outside, struggles inside: Man U loses to Liverpool

MANCHESTER, England

THE beefed-up defense outside Old Trafford was more robust than Manchester United's on the pitch inside.

While United supporters again protested against the owning Glazer family -- facing riot police and new steel barriers to guard the entrances -- the game against Liverpool went ahead as planned after being called off 11 days earlier when some fans were able to storm the pitch.

United might have wished it hadn't, losing 4-2 for its first home defeat against its fiercest rival since Jürgen Klopp took charge of Liverpool six years ago after Roberto Firmino scored twice.

Not only was this United's third game since Sunday -- with this rearranged fixture squeezed into the week -- but the players had to get to the stadium much earlier than usual after being unable to leave their hotel on May 2 due to the protests at Old Trafford.

"The players handled the situation well," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjær said. "None of them have been complaining. They



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, center, scores his side's fourth goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Liverpool, at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England, Thursday, May 13, 2021. (Agencies)

have got on with it. The preparations have been different. We're not going to make an excuse of that."

He also downplayed the sloppy defensive display, which was more demoralizing than impactful given United has a four-point cushion in second place with two games remaining.

"Football would be really boring if no one made a mistake," Solskjær said. "You try to eradicate them and work on them."

For Liverpool, which was playing its first game since its reign as champion was officially ended by Manchester City, the

win means the reset target of just making the Champions League is still a possibility. With three games remaining, Liverpool is four points behind fourth-place Chelsea with a game in hand.

"I like the timing. We needed it tonight the most," Klopp said of finally winning at United. "We always play to win, we just didn't see it often this season."

While United is unbeaten on the road, this was a sixth loss of the Premier League season at a home that will have the fans back inside next week for the first time since before the pandemic in March

2020. Never before in the Premier League has United conceded as many as 27 home goals in a season.

It was a Liverpool defender, though, who helped United go ahead when Nat Phillips accidentally helped to divert the shot from Fernandes into the net.

"We started quite slow," Phillips said. "We knew, despite the things that were happening at the start, we had an extra gear. So I didn't feel too worried."

But from a corner, Mohamed Salah's blocked shot was not cleared and a follow-up effort from Phillips was flicked in by Diogo Jota

in the 34th minute.

"It was only a matter of time because we turned it around," Phillips said, "got ourselves together and started to play the way we should do."

And Liverpool entered halftime in the lead after Firmino rose above Paul Pogba to meet a free kick from Trent Alexander-Arnold.

"We conceded goals at very bad times of the games," Solskjær said. "Conceding before halftime was a kick in the teeth."

There was another one inside two minutes of the second half.

Fred was exposed playing out from the back and the errors

continued with Luke Shaw dispossessed before Alexander-Arnold had a shot spilled by Dean Henderson and Firmino took advantage to score his eighth of the league campaign.

Just when United looked to be capitulating, Marcus Rashford pulled one back in the 68th minute. After initially passing to Edinson Cavani, Rashford made the run to receive the ball back and then slide a shot past goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

There would be no United comeback, though.

Nemanja Matic gave the ball away in the 90th minute and Curtis Jones passed down the middle for Salah to run onto and then curl a low shot past Henderson.

"We have a very intense period now, we play the next three games in a week," Klopp said. "West Brom, which is tough, Burnley with supporters and then Crystal Palace at home. Obviously we are looking forward to that, because our supporters are there but very intense. We have to recover quickly and go again."

In Thursday's other game, Everton moved into eighth place with a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa.

AP

## Were PSG right to extend Neymar's contract?

By Julien Laurens, ESPN Correspondent

LAST week was an interesting one for Neymar, with one big high and two huge lows. The high, of course, is the announcement of his contract extension at Paris Saint-Germain, made official on Saturday by the club despite it being in the works for three months, as previously reported.

The Brazilian star is now tied to the Parisians until June 2025, with an option for another year beyond that. Considering that he'll be 34 by the end of this extension, it's clear he is committing his long-term future, and arguably the remainder of his European career, to Paris.

The two lows, though, were brutal. The first was PSG's elimination from the Champions League semifinals by Manchester City, as Neymar was kept at bay by the English side's stout defence.

The other was the points PSG dropped (again) in a tight Ligue 1 title race; Sunday's 1-1 draw at Stade Rennes means Lille are now three points clear with just two games to go. (Rennes deserved the point, too, outshooting PSG 19-12 and with 10 shots on target to the four mustered by Neymar & Co.)

To review: there won't be a second career Champions League win for Neymar this season, after claiming it with Barcelona in 2015, and there likely won't be a fourth consecutive league title row either. There could be the small consolation of claiming the French Cup, after PSG beat Montpellier on penal-



Neymar

ties in the semifinals on Wednesday to set up a final against AS Monaco or minnows Rully. But for the first time since the 2013-14 season with Barcelona, there is a risk that Neymar ends a season in Europe winning nothing.

However, he can celebrate this new deal, a much-discussed new deal, too. Neymar has been dividing opinion since he arrived in the French capital from Barcelona in August 2017 for a (still) world-record fee of €222 million. The debate is not so much around his talent, but more his impact on the team and his ability to lead the super-club to the very top.

His production doesn't come into question either -- his 86 goals and 46 assists (all competitions) in 113 games is quite extraordinary -- but the flip-side of such form is the fact that in almost four seasons in France, he has missed half of the games! At €36m net a year (or nearly €620,000-per-week), it is a lot of matches missed and the return on the investment could be an issue.

Yet there's a bigger question: should Paris have used the money spent on Neymar's new contract to make the

team stronger and more balanced around him? There are strong arguments on both sides of this debate. Without Neymar, PSG would not have reached last season's Champions League final. He was clutch for them in the knockout rounds, and was good -- though not clinical enough -- in front of goalkeeper Manuel Neuer in the 1-0 final defeat to Bayern Munich. Yet their best performance of the season didn't involve Neymar at all: the Feb. 16 first-leg win over Barcelona in the Champions League round of 16, in which Kylian Mbappe scored a hat trick as PSG ran to a 4-1 victory.

Neymar was outstanding in this season's quarterfinal first leg against Bayern, notching two assists in the 3-2 away win, though that prodigious form was absent against City in the next round.

When it comes to his remarkable numbers, the question is often asked whether they are exceptional just because he is far too good for Ligue 1? Neymar has scored 55 goals and had 30 assists in the 68 matches he's played since joining the club. (PSG have played 140 league matches since they recruited Neymar.) Then there are the injuries and absences -- astonishing when put in context. In four seasons at Barcelona, he never played fewer than 26 league matches in a season (his first one, before featuring in 34, 33 and 30 league games respectively). In Ligue 1, he has never played more than 20 (his first one, followed by 17, 15 and 16 so far with two games to go). The metatarsal injury he suffered in his first season was bad, as was the one a year later, but there are other issues such as his relaxed off-field lifestyle.

Should Neymar change to become even better? Can he even

change at 29 years old? Already, there is a view that he is much more professional than ever before in what he eats and what he does off the pitch. Then there is an argument that maybe he could adapt his game a bit more.

Dribbling has always been at the heart of what he does and is part of what makes him so special. Yet, he's not as efficient anymore in terms of dribbling past opponents, nor in creating chances and goal opportunities through his dribbling. A look at his stats from the past few seasons in the Champions League confirm it: this season, he has had 3.7 successful dribbles per game (52%). Last season, it was 6.1 (65%), the season before 5.3 (59%), and in his first season, a whopping 7.3 per game (61%).

Neymar is talented and intelligent enough to evolve. Maybe it would be better for him to play centrally now, as a proper No. 10 like he did vs. Bayern where he was excellent, instead of on the left wing where he sometimes drifts in and out of games.

It will be interesting to

see how and where manager Mauricio Pochettino uses him next season. The Argentine was keen on keeping him at the club, as Neymar is a key part of what he wants to do at the Parc des Princes. It is the same for PSG sporting director Leonardo, who didn't always have the best of relationships with Neymar and his father, but who is now really close to them. "Poch" and "Leo" both believe that Neymar and Mbappe are among the 5-10 best players in the world. Keeping the Brazilian was also a way of showing their ambitions -- and of signaling to Mbappe that he too can stay a bit longer in Paris.

More importantly, PSG believe that by keeping Neymar and hopefully Mbappe, they will still be able to strengthen the squad and key positions (midfield, full-backs) to make this team even better. They have promised Neymar a really competitive squad for seasons to come, while he has promised them to bring the Champions League trophy to Paris. They trust each other, which is priceless in football. But can both sides deliver?

Gwiji by David Chikoko

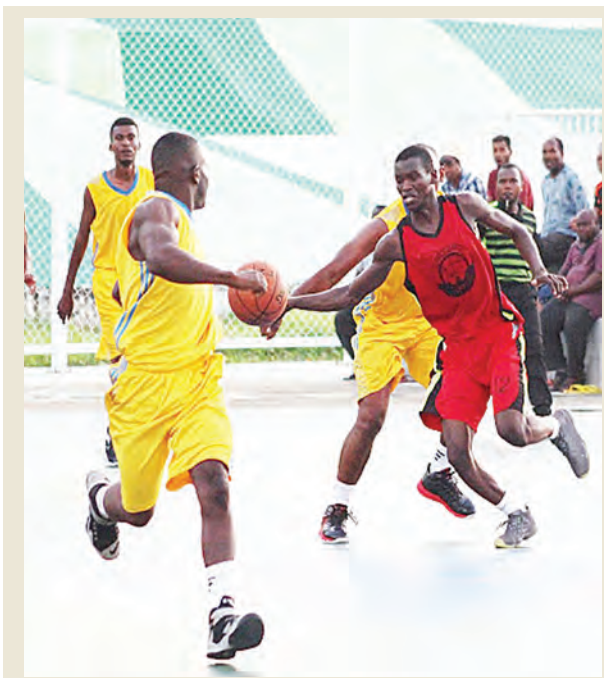




# SPORT

Protests outside, struggles inside: Man U loses to Liverpool

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Zanzibar basketball players take part in a recent league clash, which took place in the Isles.

## Karume basketball tourney preparations gain momentum

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Zanzibar Basketball Association (BAZA) has said it has reached a good stage in the preparations for the Karume Championship, known as 'Karume Cup', scheduled to continue on Sunday at Mao ze Dong and Maisara courts.

It will be recalled that BAZA suspended the tournament to observe the 21 days of mourning for the death of the former President, John Pombe Magufuli, which happened on March 17.

But after the end of the mourning days, BAZA officials decided to suspend the competition due to a few days remaining before the start of the holy month of Ramadhan.

The BAZA vice-chairman, Rashid Hamza Khamis, said when they announced the new dates for the tournament they had already started preparations which are now in good shape.

He noted that they believe it will make the continuation of the tournament more exciting.

He said from the beginning their strategy had sought to provide the schedule in advance and after several sessions, they agreed the league continues on May 16 and the conclusion of the final match to be played on May 25.

"In the matches to be played on May 16, New West will face Nyuki while Usolo will face Millennium and on May 17 the women's teams, New West will host KVZ while KZU will face JKU," he said.

"After the group stage, the first winner of Group A will play against the second winner of Group B while the first winner of Group B will face the Group A's second-placed side and then the winners will be looking for winners from Pemba and Unguja who will compete for the finals," he said.

"Let us remember that Karume Cup is being held under the auspices of the family of the first President of Zanzibar and the general of the glorious revolution of Zanzibar, Abeid Amani Karume, under the leadership and chief sponsor Ahmed Karume and preserve all the good he did," the official stated.

The showpiece's Group A is made up of Stone Town, African Magic, Usolo and Millennium teams while Group B has Bees, Police, JKU, and New West men's teams.

The women's category consists of JKU, KVZ, KZU, and New West, which will play in a league format and the team that gets the most points will win the championship.

The 'Karume Cup', which is played in both Unguja and Pemba, will have the women's and men's champions rake in cash.

The winners will be presented with 500,000/-, a trophy, one set of jerseys and a basketball, a cash prize totaling 300,000/-, a trophy, one set of jerseys and one basketball will go to the runners-up in both men and women events.

The third-placed clubs in both men and women events will rake in 150,000/-, basketballs and one set of jerseys.

# Simba SC all out to stun Kaizer Chiefs in CAF CL last eight



Simba SC

By correspondents Nassir Nchimbi & Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Simba SC will be out to make a crucial step forward in their quest for progression to this season's CAF Champions League's last four when they take on South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs in the first leg of the quarterfinals at the latter's backyard today.

Simba, who are currently Tanzania's only representatives in the continental tournament, are hoping to confidently grace FNB Stadium's pitch, seeking to come out victorious.

Didier Gomes, Simba's head coach, stated he respects Kaizer Chiefs, given his outfit is playing away, but they are looking for good results, so they will fight to ensure they win.

"The match will be tough and I have a lot of respect for our opponents, but we need good results so that we can achieve our goals in this season's Champions League," he disclosed.

Kaizer Chiefs' head coach

Gavin Hunt pointed out he is worried by Simba's results in the group stage, especially the latter's win over Egypt's Al Ahly, which is the most successful side in Africa.

Simba's coordinator Abbas Ally said that they are ready for the game.

He said Simba is a great team so no game will be easy in the tournament but they are determined to make sure they get good results.

Simba has advanced to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League after finishing top in Group A with 13 points while the showpiece's historical champions, Al Ahly, settled for the second spot with 11

points.

Meanwhile, it is to Kaizer Chiefs' advantage that they are not considered favourites ahead of today's match against Simba SC, the former's defender Reeve Frosler disclosed.

In a season in which they have been struggling, especially on the domestic front, Kaizer Chiefs, nicknamed 'Amakhosi', punched above their weight to reach the Champions League quarterfinals after participating in the group stage for the first time.

While comparing the Soweto giants to Simba, who have been trying to flex their muscles in Africa in recent seasons, Frosler feels they are facing

superior opponents.

"I think we have a good chance [to beat Simba]. Nobody knew much about us in terms of Caf experience so we are regarded as underdogs," Frosler told Chiefs' media.

He stated: "Yes, we will stay an underdog and we will just keep on doing our best."

He said: "You never know as you have seen these Caf games are unpredictable. Anybody can win on any day. So we never know what could happen."

"When the draw came out I didn't personally know much about Simba, but after reading about them and watching them, they seem like a team

which has been doing well in the Champions League for the past few years."

"They seem to be a very big team in Tanzania, so I'm looking forward to playing against them," he added. "They pose a new challenge for us but we are up for the challenge I'm up for the challenge."

Chiefs go into Saturday's match fresh from a 1-1 Premier Soccer League draw against Swallows FC, which was their fourth straight league match without winning.

However, Frosler feels that the PSL and Champions League are different stages, and the 'Amakhosi' will employ a new approach against Simba.

He disclosed: "We have just come from a game on Wednesday evening so we have a few days to prepare for Simba," said Frosler.

"We have a different plan, it's not like we are playing a league game here so we have to plan differently and go about it a bit differently."

He stated: "If you look, Simba was here early, they arrived earlier in the week so they have time to acclimatize and possibly watched our game on Wednesday."

"As I said, it is a different game. CAF Champions League and PSL are two different things so we just look to do our best come Saturday. Each player just has to give his best and you never know what can happen."

After today's match, Kaizer Chiefs will visit Simba for the return leg set for seven days later.

## Upanga SC B cricketers demolish Kutchi Leva B in Kazim Nasser tourney

By Guardian Reporter

UPANGA SC B cricketers have picked their first win in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division C, commanding four-wicket victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) B side in the city early this week.

Rinkesh Patel put a man of the match displays for the tie's eventual winners, consequently helping them boost their quest for sailing through to the Division C playoffs.

The SKLPSC B went in to bat first in the Group A clash, which took place at Leaders Club venue, notching 133 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs.

Ghanshyam Gondaliya's impressive knocks, which had the batsman recording a half-century, was instrumental in SKLPSC B squad's acquisition of the total.

The top order batsman was so far the most impressive in the innings, notching three boundaries and two sixes on his way to posting the half-century.

They had shown intention to post a convincing total as



Upanga SC B cricket side.

openers, Navin Dabasiya and Aaditya Bhattbhatt, had two-digit scores.

Bhattbhatt posted 21 runs, which included three fours, Dabasiya notched 10 runs which consisted of two fours.

Top order batsman Athumani Siwa's early exit, to some extent, weakened their resolve but Gondaliya then kept them in control with aggressive knocks.

Naran Kerai chipped in with 15 runs, clearing the boundary once, in the latter stages.

Low order batsman, Ramesh

Dabasiya, was three runs short of a two-digit figure for the squad.

Upanga SC B's bowlers, Thurlapari Sai Asrith, Sadaf Saifee and Shivan Kamania, took two wickets each.

Needing 134 runs to emerge victoriously, Upanga SC B confidently chased their opponents' score, recording 135 runs for the loss of six wickets in 19.1 overs.

A solid showing by opener, Manoj Thakkar, had Upanga SC B expressing their plan to mount a successful chase

known early.

He recorded 34 runs which included three fours, sparing the blushes of the fellow opener, Shivan Kamania, who suffered an early exit.

The SKLPSC B side attempted to frustrate Upanga SC B with a dismissal of Thakkar, as Ramesh Dabasiya stumped the batsman from delivery by spinner Athuman Siwa.

Top order batsman, Rinkesh Patel, and Rinkesh Patel boosted the quest for a successful chase with double-digit scores, notching 36 runs and 28 runs

not out, respectively.

In Rinkesh's spell, he cracked three fours and a six.

They successfully waded off SKLPSC B's pressure in the latter stages, given Jignesh Dondia partnered Rinkesh to make certain of the victory.

Dondia posted 16 runs not out, nailing two fours.

The SKLPSC B's Navin Dabasiya wrapped up an impressive spell as he took two wickets. He though could not help his squad avoid defeat.

Upanga SC B is currently placed fourth in Group A, which is led by Estim B side.

Dar Cricket Club (DCC) B outfit sits second, having recorded victory in the only tie they have participated in.

Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) is placed third with one victory and one loss, SKLPSC B squad and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) have been positioned fifth and sixth respectively.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

