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Consul: Tanzanians in China safe



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PM prohibits activities unrelated to curriculum



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Public urged to protect water sources



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Coronavirus jolt pushing TCAA, airline firms to tighten controls

By Beatrice Philemon

AVIATION stakeholders met in Dar es Salaam yesterday to tighten control measures as one more case of the deadly coronavirus was detected in Africa.

Hosted by the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA), the meeting brought together representatives from the Zanzibar Airports Authority, Abeid Amani International Airport, Kenya Airways, Emirates Airline, Egypt Air,

E-auctioning of hunting blocks hits snag, again



The Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) Dr. Mary Mwanjelwa (2nd R) and Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika (R) dancing in a get together with beneficiaries of assistance from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) residing at Pambogo Street at Iyela Ward, Mbeya region on Monday.. Photo: Nebart Msokwa .

By Guardian Reporter

THE much touted electronic auctioning of hunting blocks which was set to kick off today has been suspended once again due to intrigues in the lucrative tourism subsector.

A statement released yesterday by the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) said the online exercise that would allow hunting companies to bid for the 26 blocks up for grabs had been halted by the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla, until further notice.

"The decision has been made because of queries raised by stakeholders. We will work on those issues first," the statement affirmed.

A new date for the much-awaited auction

One of the directors of the bidding company must have experience in wildlife business as well as showing conservation credentials

will be announced at a later date. But this time TAWA gave further details of the criteria for bidders, specifically that the bidding firms must be registered in Tanzania. "One of the directors of the bidding company must have experience in wildlife business as well

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WHO told the BBC it expected the remaining 14 sub-Saharan nations currently without testing equipment to gain facilities within a fortnight

Swiss International Airline, Julius Nyerere International Airport, TCAA, Immigration Department and the Ministry of Health.

"We have agreed to be more proactive by tightening screening at all entry points and share information on suspected cases promptly so that we can keep the disease at bay," said TCAA Director General Hamza Johari.

The meeting was part of the aviation stakeholders' Collaborative Arrangement for Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) aimed at preventing communicable diseases spreading among participating agencies.

This comes as a second person in Senegal yesterday tested positive for coronavirus, the country's health ministry confirmed.

It said the patient is an 80-year-old French national who arrived in the West African country on February 29.

He was being treated at the same hospital for infectious diseases in the capital city.

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Over 10,000 Burundian refugees wish to remain

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

OVER 10,000 Burundian refugees, who had initially expressed willingness to return home in the ongoing voluntarily repatriation arrangement, have changed their minds.

Athman Igwe, the coordinator of the tripartite repatriation programme in Kigoma Region told Deputy

These are among 31,723 families with 93,503 members who had earlier applied to be repatriated to Burundi

Minister for Home Affairs Hamad Masauni here yesterday that 10,883 refugees making up 3,163 families that had earlier indicated readiness to leave the camps are no longer willing to do so.

"These are among 31,723 families with 93,503 members who had earlier applied to be repatriated to Burundi," he elaborated.

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Women's emancipation depends on all of us - VP

By Henry Mwangonde

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday challenged women in the country to work hard and support each other for them to achieve the equality they fight for.

Speaking at a forum in Dar es Salaam to mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Women (held in Beijing in 1995) and Tanzania's plan of action, the VP (pictured) said that women



cannot make strides in their

quest to live in an equal society by stepping aside and waiting for men to do everything.

She said there is need for a national coalition to combat gender-based violence, insisting that everyone should play his or her role.

"In some cases, women are their own worst enemies. Even in politics, when a woman declares interest in a leadership position, the first to discourage

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TUZO ZA TEHAMA ZA TCRA ZA MWAKA 2020

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Mwisho wa uwasilishaji fomu ni Machi 15, 2020

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E-auctioning of hunting blocks hits snag, again

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as showing conservation credentials earned here," it stated.

Most hunting blocks are located in the 50,000 square-kilometre Selous Game Reserve ecosystem, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its large herds of elephants, lions, zebras, black rhinos, giraffes and other exotic species.

TAWA first invited bids for the e-auctioning of hunting blocks last year which was set to commence on 10th June 2019 and run for seven days. In a statement it issued in May, TAWA said there were 26 vacant hunting blocks within game reserves, game controlled areas and open areas that were immediately available for e-auctioning.

Previous allocation of hunting blocks by government officials to tourist companies was dogged by suspicions of impropriety and loss of revenues, hence the new initiative was designed to end apparent malpractices.

But the planned exercise never materialized as intrigues continued to dog the exercise, leading to a postponement. One of the issues that emerged was that there were no regulations to guide the business.

Late last month

TAWA announced that regulations were now ready, setting March 5 as the date for the first auction. The TAWA Deputy Commissioner for Tourism and Business Services Imani Nkuwi told reporters in Dodoma that prospective hunters would be able to bid for up to six blocks.

The bidders were to pay a single bid fee of USD 5,000 for each of the three categories of the block on auction, he stated.

Meanwhile, experts from the health sector and authoritative institutions like the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) would be advising the ministry on how best the business would be conducted, he similarly asserted.

Tourism is the main source of foreign currency in Tanzania, best known for its long coastline and islands, wildlife safaris and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Revenues from the sector were put at \$2.43 billion in 2018, up from \$2.19 billion in 2017, on the basis of official data.

Tourist arrivals totalled 1.49m in 2018, compared with 1.33 million a year earlier.

The government had targeted to bring more than two million tourists a year by end of this year, a situation that is now in doubt with the outbreak of a global pandemic.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan (R) shake hands in style with Getrude Mongella during the 25th anniversary of the Beijing conference on women in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Getrude Mongella was secretary general during the Beijing Conference in 1995. Photo: Henry Mwangonde

Over 10,000 Burundian refugees opting to stay

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The programme is jointly undertaken by the governments of Tanzania and Burundi along with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and focuses on repatriating only those who are willing to go back on their own volition.

He said that what remains for the 10,883 refugees and others, who had not declared interest in going back home, is to be accommodated merely as refu-

gees, applying for Tanzanian citizenship, or seek to move to a third country.

"Since the voluntary repatriation programme began in 2017, some 27,459 families with 80,072 members have voluntarily returned to Burundi, with 715 families having 1,247 members repatriated in the past two months," he said.

He said 36,127 refugees went to third countries, relocated in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), where 200 were recently relocated to the United States and Australia.

He was speaking at Nduta camp in Kibondo District which hosts 62,127 refugees, 11,841 asylum seekers and 1,168 others of yet-to-be-determined status.

Masauni reiterated the position expressed by the two governments that peace had returned and refugees have no reason to fear going back.

"In November last year, our two governments signed another agreement with the UNHCR to repatriate refugees after visiting Burundi and ascertaining that there is peace there," the deputy minister said.

"Now that it is election year, you have the duty to go back, register and vote," he declared.

Burundi is set to go to the polls on May 20 and President Pierre Nkurunziza has announced he will not be standing for another term.

More than 400,000 Burundians left the country following

a surge in political violence in 2015 when the president ran for a disputed third term in office, with opponents accusing him of breaching the constitution.

While Tanzania and Burundi encouraged the over 100,000 refugees who were until recently still in the country to go back home as peace has returned, UNHCR has maintained that refugees should not be pushed to leave but be left to decide on their own if and when to go back home.

Coronavirus jolt pushing TCAA, airline firms to tighten controls

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Dakar, where another Frenchman was hospitalised for coronavirus last week.

News of this second confirmed case in Senegal brings the total number of confirmed cases on the African continent to 12. Other countries with confirmed cases are: Algeria (five people), Egypt (two people), Morocco (one person), Nigeria (one person) and Tunisia (one person).

Senegal is one of 33 sub-Saharan African nations with testing facilities for coronavirus. The authorities say they are well prepared to deal with the virus.

On Monday the World Health Organization (WHO) told the BBC it expected the remaining 14 sub-Saharan nations currently without testing equipment to gain facilities within a fortnight.

Meanwhile, the World Bank yesterday committed USD12 billion in aid for developing countries grappling with the spread of the coronavirus.

The emergency package includes low-cost loans, grants and technical assistance.

The action comes as leaders around the world pledge to shield their countries from the economic impact of the outbreak.

It follows warnings that the slowdown from the outbreak could tip countries into recession.

The aid is intended to help countries improve their public health re-

sponse to the crisis, as well as work with the private sector to reduce the economic impact.

The WB said it would prioritise the poorest and most at-risk countries in distributing the aid to counter the effects of the virus, which has spread to more than 70 countries around the world.

Half of the package comes from the International Finance Corporation, which works with the private sector. About \$4bn of the \$12bn is being shifted from previously available funds.

Countries with weak health systems, limited financial resources and close economic links with China are said to be most vulnerable to the coronavirus outbreak.

Authorities have confirmed more than 92,000 cases of the virus worldwide of which more than 80,000 are in China. More than 3,000 people have died globally, the vast majority in China.

New infections and deaths have been declining in recent weeks in China due to draconian quarantine measures. The country on Wednesday reported 38 more deaths but a fall in fresh cases for a third consecutive day.

The worst-hit country outside China remains South Korea which on Wednesday reported 516 new confirmed infections, bringing the total to 5,328. The country's death toll stands at 33.



Coast region commissioner Evarist Ndikilo opening the tap at Kisarawe district market after the water project had been completed by Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority. The project cost 10.6bn/-. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanians in China are safe, says Chinese Consul in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter

THE government of China has assured Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein that all Tanzanians in China are safe as the country continues to search cure for the Coronavirus disease or Covid-19.

Consul of the Chinese

government in Zanzibar, Xie Xiaowu expressed the assurance when he met and held talks with the President Shein at Zanzibar State House during which they discussed various issue including the outbreak of Covid-19.

Ambassador Xie Xiaowu explained to Dr Shein that

the Chinese government continues with it efforts to find the cure for the disease and that already some successes has been achieved in reducing the rate of new infections and appealed to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the international community to offer their support.

He assured President Shein that China values its long time relation with Tanzania hence it is taking care and serve Tanzanians currently in China just as they do to its own citizens.

Xie Xiaowu also told Dr Shein that it will continue to cooperate with the government of Zanzibar

through its health ministry in providing education against the spread of the virus, especially from the fact that many tourists visit the Isles.

He also congratulated union President John Magufuli and the ruling party Chama cha Mapinduzi - CCM for his message of consolation fol-

lowing the eruption of Coronavirus disease in China.

Meanwhile Xie Xiaowu assured Dr Shein that the Chinese Government via Exim Bank is ready to provide funds for the completion of construction of Terminal III for passengers at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar.

Women's emancipation depends on all of us, Vice President declares

FROM PAGE 1

her are likely to be fellow women," she said.

She called upon the representatives of scores of women's organizations who gathered yesterday that if women are at the forefront of supporting each other, men will follow the same path.

The VP cited her own career as an example, saying that she knew nothing about politics but ended up making it because she was supported by fellow women who she described as mentors. They took her hand up and helped her to move up, she explained.

"I told them my interest. They even helped me on how to fill the forms then supported me during campaigns, even the words to say to voters. In the long run here I am," she said.

Samia said the 25th anniversary was time for reflection on achievements, challenges and the way forward in implementation of issues raised in the Beijing conference.

Tanzania had eight different plans of action to address various aspects of preventing violence against women, violence against children, and gender based violence. Each aspect has a unique coordination structure, activities, monitoring and evaluation structures, apart from distinctive communication strategies.

Getrude Mongella, a former Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament, said it was a great achievement for her to be alive and be in the forum 25 years after Beijing, an event in which she had played a major role, was being discussed.

Dr Zainab Chaula, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elderly and Children who represented minister Ummy Mwalimu said there was a lot that the government has achieved in improving the welfare of women.

The vast improvement of health care provision countrywide, increase in school enrolment and secondary education were among key measures that the government had taken that resonate with Beijing 1995 agenda.

"We are constructing health centers to ensure no woman was dying when giving birth," she said.

UN Women country representative Hodan Addou said the anniversary is a wakeup call for Tanzanian women to continue with the struggle.

The forum was held under the theme 'Accountable Leadership for a Generation of Gender Equality.'



Deputy minister for works, transport and communication Elias Kwandikwa (L) hands over one of the five computers to Dodoma secondary school teacher Ester Simchimba donated by Vodacom Tanzania shortly after launching the 163 school Internet connectivity project in Dodoma yesterday in which Vodacom donated a total of 806 computers for the project. Others are Vodacom managing director Hisham Hendi (2nd R) and universal communications service access fund (UCSAF) chief executive officer Justina Mashiba. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Tanzanite One officials barred from entering Mirerani mines

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government has bared directors and senior officials of the Tanzanite One Limited from entering or drawing near within 200 metres of the fenced off Mirerani mines because they have no licence to conduct any activity in the area.

Mirerani resident mineral officer Daudi Ntalima said this yesterday, warning that stern measures will be taken against any one from the company who had entered the built wall which is located in Mirerani town in Simanjiro district, Manyara region.

The company once owned 50 per cent of the block C of the mines - a joint venture with the State Mining Company (STAMICO) but the government through the minerals commission recently annulled the operational licence.

The termination of the licence was also announced by the Minerals Minister Dotto Biteko in the Parliament.

He named the barred officials as Faisal Shabahi and Hussein Gongu (top leaders). Others are those from the company's safety and security department Abubakari Lombe, Thomas Mollle, Elisamehe Msuya and Baraka Mkongo.

Some of the small-scale tanzanite miners at plot B (Opec) and D surround the Tanzanite-One plot have expressed their joy following the ban as they will re-start op-

erations in some of their mines at Mitobozano area which had at one time stopped operating.

"We have gone through 'hell'; we have experienced a lot of torture from the investor. We believe that from now everything will go smoothly. I commend the government for taking such good decision," said Samuel Rugemalira one of the investors at the Mirerani mines.

Commenting, Tanzanite One director Faisal Shabahi said that the management was yet to receive an official communication on the ban.

"We are following up, but if there is a government's directive, we will implement it," he said.

In August last year, the government had directed to stop mining activities at Tanzanite One Mining Limited (TML), the world's biggest miner and supplier of Tanzanite. The government decision had come following the breach of some statutory guidelines.

the government directed to stop mining activities at Tanzanite One Mining Limited, the world's biggest miner and supplier of Tanzanite following breach of some statutory guidelines.

Deputy Minister for Minerals Stanislaus Nyongo said that the mining contracts have benefited only a few instead of all Tanzanians or the nation at large.

Allocate enough budgets for environmental conservation and cleanliness - stakeholders

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ENVIRONMENTAL and health stakeholders have called on city and municipal councils to allocate adequate budget for environmental conservation and cleanliness in particular to make the cities and councils better place to live.

They also said there is also a need for political will. The city and municipal councils should be responsive and enforce laws and regulations governing the environment and health issues to make the city clean.

Speaking at a meeting convened by Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) in Dar es Salaam recently, environmental, health officers and community development officers said people have the right to clean environment, but unfortunately, the current condition of

the environmental hygiene in the city and municipal councils is not good as it should be.

The meeting was part of the urban outreach project for protection of social, economic and environmental rights facing women, youth, girls and the general public through legal empowerment strategies in Dar es Salaam.

"Some industries are polluting the rivers. The situation of garbage in the city is shocking, a situation that need specific budget and enforcement of environment laws to control them. Currently industrial wastes, random dumping of garbage and river pollution is on the increase, a situation that needs immediate control," said Franklin Masika from LEAT.

Environmental officer from Ubungu municipal council who preferred anonymity because he was not spo-

ken person for the district council said that there is a need for political will to control the wastes.

"We are only experts, in fact, if our leaders, I mean decision makers who are supposed to issue strong statements and walk their talk, there will be very high response from the general public. But talking without follow up, people tend to take it easy," she said.

Health officer from Ilala, Ally Kasembe advised that the waste dumping site at Pugu Kinyamwezi needs improvement, noting that open dumping of solid waste is currently a major health and environmental threat to communities surrounding city dump sites and it has been overwhelmed by massive solid wastes.

"There is a long queue of vehicles carrying solid waste and some of them tend to stay in the queue for more than four days. This shows that the dumping site

can no longer accommodate other garbage being collected from different parts of the city," he said.

Explaining some activities lined up for the project implementation, Masika from LEAT mentioned some of them as action-oriented meetings with stakeholders at district level, monitoring of the action by specific team and reporting to the key stakeholders in each quarter.

"We will also develop community environmental App to allow community members and paralegals to report to the team for follow-up," he said.

Other activities include awareness to the community through radio program, short video clips and conduct public dialogues on the right to clean environment.

According to Masika, the urban outreach project aims to empower Dar es Salaam population on understanding and asserting the right and responsibilities to live in

PM prohibits activities unrelated to curriculum in schools' environs

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has prohibited all activities in schools areas that are unrelated to curriculum, including building factories, and other enterprises so as to allow students to have friendly learning environment.

The Prime Minister was responding to complaints, earlier this week, from parents over the sale of part of Mshikamano primary school in Handeni district that was sold to businessman who turned it into workshop for motor vehicles.

Majaliwa, who is on official visit in Tanga region said the law prohibits such activities in school areas and directed Handeni district council officials to relocate the businessman to another area.

The Prime Minister also urged the council to plan for better use of land by allocating areas for residences, businesses, factories and social services to avoid the town growing

up without proper planning.

He also called upon wanchi to report to legal authorities all teachers who have love affairs with students, saying "the government has put up stringent laws to protect girl students, if you impregnate a girl student, or marry her you go to jail for 30 years."

Speaking about the numerous placards at public rallies involving national leaders, the PM said it was a sign that council officials never go to the wanchi to their villages to address their various problems.

He said the fifth-phase government has put more efforts in serving the people and

solve their problems hence it will ensure every public official is made accountable.

"This government will not nurture public servants who are embezzling the public funds, thieves, working without diligence or discriminate wealthy people, colour, religion or political affiliation."



Invitation to bid: No. ITB/2020/SUP/002

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENT(S) FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIESEL FUEL - BULK DELIVERY

1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Tanzania, invites qualified suppliers to make a firm offer for the establishment of Frame Agreement(s) for the supply of Fuel (Diesel) Delivered in Bulk to the destinations mentioned below.

UNHCR may award Frame Agreement(s) with initial duration of 2 (two) years, potentially extendable for a further period of 1 (one) year, for supplying its operation in Tanzania. The successful bidders will be requested to maintain their quoted price model for the duration of the Frame Agreement(s).

2. Eligibility:

Fuel Companies, authorized resellers, wholesalers, or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be downloaded from link here <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TsJo5j3LqD-ZeHWG5dT80gr-80nFka6I>

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS INVITATION TO BID

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Tuesday 17 th March 2020 at 23.59 hours EAT
Suppliers' conference meeting	Wednesday 18 th March 2020 at 11.00hours EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Tuesday 14 th April 2020 at 16.00 hours EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to access the tenders.

TANZANIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTRONIC AUCTIONING OF VACANT HUNTING BLOCKS

Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) wishes to inform the general public that, Hon. Dr. Hamisi A. Kigwangalla (MP), Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism of the United Republic of Tanzania has postponed the electronic auctioning of vacant hunting blocks which was scheduled on 5th March 2020 till further notice.

The decision is made due to complaints from some stakeholders.

Thus, this is to allow consolidation of the said complaints before conducting the third phase of the said e-auctioning. The new auction date will be communicated to you in due time. We sincerely regret for inconvenience caused.

Issued by:

Conservation Commissioner
Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority - TAWA Morogoro
 Road-Kingolwira Area
 TAFORI Building
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This government will not nurture public servants who are embezzling the public funds, thieves, working without diligence or discriminate wealthy people, colour, religion or political affiliation



Tigo digital services specialist Ikunda Ngowi (R) hands over a dummy cheque worth 13m/- to Mbagala resident Miller Said Kungwi after he emerged the winner of Tigo 'Chemsha Bongo' 2020 promotion in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCDC conducts training on crops sale via warehouse receipt system

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

TANZANIA Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) is conducting capacity building training to stakeholders to enhance their understanding on the warehouse receipt system which will be introduced for cereals and seed crops cultivation in Mwanza region.

Speaking at opening of the training held at Nyanza Cooperative Union (NCU) yesterday, chairman of the cooperative development commission, Dr Titus Kamani said the training is also aimed to sharpen leaders management skills especially on price negotiations for the betterment of farmers.

"The warehouse receipt system is applicable countrywide to ensure farmers get better prices for their crops. Cooperative unions have been applying the system on crops such as legumes, cereals, millet, cocoa, green peas, soya beans and strategic cash crops—coffee, tobacco, cotton, tea and cashew nut", said Dr Kamani.

He said the aim is to build reliable cooperatives and "eradicate fraud on crop prices for farmers as even crop buyers will purchase the crops from warehouses through competitive bidding depending on the quality.

He said in the Lake Zone the system

will be first applicable for cereals.

Dr Kamani said in Southern Highlands Regions—Lindi, Ruvuma, Mtwara and Coast the system has been in use for over three years for crops like soya, peas, simsim, and cocoa farmed in Kyela district, Mbeya region.

He said farmers who will benefit with the system include those from Mwanza, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions through Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) that will collect crops and store them in warehouses under the supervision of Nyanza Cooperative Union (NCU) so that private people can buy through the system.

He said the warehouse receipt system will help to bring together individual farmers in selling their crops so as to get higher prices.

Dr Kamani said due to farmers' little understanding they have been selling their crops to middlemen without even using weighing machines, sometimes direct from their farms using plastic containers and find themselves being conned.

For his part, deputy registrar of cooperative unions, Charles Malunde said at the time of selling the crops announcements will be made via social media and that this month they will sell the crops through auctions to be conducted at ware-

Country's meat consumption too low, says ministry official

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIANS don't like meat or simply can't afford it if consumption rate is anything to go by.

Assistant senior livestock officer at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Charles Lugamara said that meat consumption in the country has remained low despite having over 32 million of livestock.

He was speaking during vaccination exercise here conducted at all livestock surrounding areas in Kongwa ranch.

"Tanzania is among the least consumers of meat, available data shows that one Tanzanian adult eats only 15kg of meat per year below the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) recommendation of 50 kg of meat per person per annum," he noted.

Lugamara said that in a bid to ensure that the potential in the livestock sector is fully exploited, the government has embarked on a number of programmes and strategies which include increasing investment in processing industries.

He named one of the strategies which will be implemented soon as production for export which is aimed to address various challenges facing local meat producers to enable them produce quality products to cater for local and international market demands.

"Most of our meats have been facing some obstacles in the foreign markets due to diseases and low quality, this is why the ministry in collaboration with other departments has decided to embark on a special meat production strategy will be considering all qualities," he lamented.

According to him, the ministry through the Tanzania National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO) is well prepared to ensure that all livestock keepers owning special grazing plots adhere to laws and principle for best products.

"The ongoing vaccination exercise has reached at least 24,999 cattle, these are among the government's efforts to protect our animals from diseases and thus get quality meat," Lugamara added.

For his part, NARCO acting manager Masele Mipawa said that the Kongwa ranch has a total of 38,000 hectares whereby 12,076 hectares have been set aside only for livestock keepers surrounding the area.

"We commence the vaccination programme on February 21, this year. The major objective is to ensure that the

animals are safe from skin and lungs diseases.

Available statistics indicate that Tanzania accounts for about 1.4 per cent of the global cattle population and 11 percent of African cattle population (FAO 2014). The country has about 30.5 million cattle, 18.8 million goats and 5.3 million sheep; while other livestock include; 1.9 million pigs, 38.2 million local chickens and 36.6 million improved chickens. The livestock sector employs about 50 percent of Tanzania's population which is equivalent to 4.6 million households whose income depends on livestock.

Despite being ranked second in Africa in terms of cattle population, according to the country's National Bureau of Statistics, livestock-related activities contribute only 7.4 per cent to Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP) and growth of the livestock sector at 2.6 per cent is low.



Urbanisation and development is gradually transforming the landscape of Iringa township in Iringa region. The current rapid urbanisation across the African Continent is largely unplanned and 'potentially catastrophic,' the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) said on Friday. Photo: Friday Simbaya

Govt bans rampant sale of petrol in rural areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

GOVERNMENT in Same district, Kilimanjaro region has banned uncontrolled sale of petrol and diesel at unauthorized places in rural areas.

The decision followed reports that five people died after petrol stored inside the house had exploded.

Same district commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule confirmed the deaths of the five people after having stored the oil in their house for the purpose of selling it to motorcycle riders who transport passengers, popularly known as 'bodaboda'.

She said the five included one government worker, who died after failing to save himself from blaze after the fuel exploded.

The DC said due to rampant increase of such incidents, the government has directed all ward and village executive officers to ensure the ban stays from now on.

"I have issued the ban of rampant sale of petrol and diesel and directed that whoever wants to engage in the business should follow procedures laid down by Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (EWURA) that include construction of low cost selling points in areas that lack major petrol stations," she said.

She said the low cost fuel selling points will ensure safety of the people as well as increase government revenues, and added that whoever will be selling fuel in plastic containers will be dealt with severely.

A dealer who had been selling the fuel in plastic bottles in Saweni village, Frank Sadic said they do not oppose the government's ban, but they provide the services because the area lacked a fuel station while it has many vehicles including the bodaboda.

He appealed to the government through EWURA to provide them with low interest loans to build low cost fuel selling centres in accordance with the laws.

EWURA manager for northern zone Eng. Lorivil Long'idu said they had started providing education aimed at reducing the hazards from rampant sale of petrol from plastic containers particularly in rural areas.

He said EWURA in the northern zone comprising Arusha, Manyara, Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions has also started giving education to small fuel dealers to construct friendly fuel selling points in rural areas and already many of them had responded to the call.

Stop fighting, Nyanzi tells Besigye, Bobi supporters

KAMPALA

Dr Stella Nyanzi has declined to make a painful choice: whether to support opposition FDC founding President Kizza Besigye or Robert Kyagulanyi aka Bobi Wine, leader of the fastest-growing pressure group, People Power.

ple Power.

Nyanzi, a former Makerere University Institute of Social Research [MISR] researcher, instead urged supporters of both groups and politicians to find a way of working together.

Speaking to The Observer in an exclusive

interview on February 28, a week after her release from a sixteen months' stint in Luzira prison for insulting President Museveni, Nyanzi said she has resisted people who have asked her to choose between the two opposition strongmen.

"Kizza Besigye is a twin and I'm a Nalongo

[twin mother]. Kyagulanyi Ssentamu belongs to the buffalo clan and I'm Nyanzi, I also belong to the buffalo clan.

He's my brother. Why would you force me in a situation where I have to choose between my son and my younger brother?" Nyanzi said.

have issued the ban of rampant sale of petrol and diesel and directed that whoever wants to engage in the business should follow procedures laid down by Energy and Water Regula-



WB announces US\$12 bn financial package to support COVID-19 affected countries

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING the spread of COVID-19 to more than 60 countries, the World Bank Group has announced an initial package of US \$ 12 billion in immediate support to assist countries coping with the health and economic impacts of the global outbreak.

The funds are designed to help member countries take effective action to respond to and, where possible, lessen the tragic impacts posed by the coronavirus.

A WB Group statement said the financial package, with financing drawn from across IDA, IBRD and IFC will be globally coordinated to support country-based responses.

Through the package, the bank will help developing countries strengthen health systems, including better access to health services to safeguard people from the epidemic, strengthen disease surveillance, bolster public health interventions, and work with the private sector to reduce the impact on economies.

"We are working to provide a fast, flexible response based on developing country needs in dealing with the

spread of COVID-19," said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

Malpass added: "This includes emergency financing, policy advice, and technical assistance, building on the World Bank Group's existing instruments and expertise to help countries respond to the crisis".

The COVID-19 support package will make available initial crisis resources of up to US \$ 12 billion in financing – \$ 8 billion of which is new – on a fast track basis.

This comprises up to \$2.7 billion new financing from IBRD, \$ 1.3 billion from IDA, complemented by reprioritization of \$ 2 billion of the Bank's existing portfolio and \$ 6 billion from IFC including \$ 2 billion from existing trade facilities.

It will also include policy advice and technical assistance drawing on global expertise and country-level knowledge.

The financial package will provide grants and low-interest loans from IDA for low income countries and loans from IBRD for middle income countries, using all of the bank's operational instruments with processing accelerated on a fast track basis.

International Finance Corporation,

the World Bank Group's private sector arm, will provide its clients with the necessary support to continue operating and to sustain jobs.

The World Bank support will cover a range of interventions to strengthen health services and primary health care, bolster disease monitoring and reporting, train front line health workers, encourage community engagement to maintain public trust, and improve access to treatment for the poorest patients.

The bank will also provide policy and technical advice to ensure countries access global expertise.

IFC will work with commercial bank clients to expand trade finance and working capital lines. IFC will also directly support its corporate clients with a focus on strategic sectors including medical equipment and pharmaceuticals to sustain supply chains and limit downside risks.

These solutions will leverage the lessons learned from similar events in the past with a goal to minimize the negative economic and social impacts of COVID-19 globally.



Operations and training Commissioner of Police Liberatus Sabas (L) and Tanzania atomic energy commission director general Prof Lazaro Busagala sign protection and security agreement on sources of radiation in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni,

Mbarawa stresses need to protect water sources

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Water and Irrigation Prof Makame Mbarawa has called upon the public to protect water sources and avoid practicing human activities along the vital areas.

He wanted them to adhere to the country's laws that prohibit human activities especially agriculture along water sources.

Speaking here yesterday during his tour to visit and inspect variety water projects in Monduli district, Prof Mbarawa wanted responsible authorities to ensure they closely supervise and protect the water resources.

"Government officials in the district have to ensure that they work closely to protect water resources, this include taking stern measures against those who will be found tampering with the water infrastructures, I have been informed that there are some dishonest people who cut water pipes thus affecting water supply," he said.

According to him, increased human activities like farming and livestock keeping along water sources are posing threats to water availability and ecosystem.

The minister also said that huge amount of water is being taken by culprits and not a normal loss caused by infrastructure leakage. The culprits of water theft are doing illegal connections of water while others are selling it to others thus bringing loss to the government.

"The government spent huge amount of funds to implement these water projects, so our plea to the public is for them to take good care of the infrastructures, we have to ensure that we curb water theft and destruction of infrastructures," he said.

Prof Mbarawa cited a Monaro water project in the district which produces up to 18,000 litres of water but some people have started destroying its infrastructures.

Neville Msaki from the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) said that the Monaro water project is facing poor supervision challenge something which affects supply of water to the community.

Moita ward councillor Prosper Meyan said that the project has also failed following high demand of electricity in pushing the water.

He urged the government to construct a special tank to support the project.

Monduli District Commissioner, Iddy Kimanta said water availability in the district was not impressive as over 30 percent of people do not have access to the service.

"Out of 164,213 people, only 111,266 (67 percent) have been reached with the water service," he said.

French company to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter &

Agencies

ROSSIGNOL Group, a French company manufacturing winter sports equipment, is committed to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania in an initiative called "Respect" programme that is part of the group's environmental and social responsibility activities.

The programme aims to contribute to the fight against global warming by reducing the carbon footprint of the company by 30% by 2030.

Rossignol will give a boost to Tanzania's reforestation policy. The French winter sports equipment manufacturer has just announced a major programme to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania from 2020, in partnership with ReforestAction, a French company whose mission is to protect the environment and combat deforestation.

It is good news for Tanzania, where the authorities have launched a new programme aimed at transforming the main forests into "forests under high protection" to prevent the country from turning into a desert.

In 2017, the country recorded one of the highest deforestation rates in East Africa: around 373,000 hectares per year.

"Biomass energy currently provides 92% of the country's energy needs, which leads to unsustainable use of forest resources," says Florian Mkeya, head of

natural forests at the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

The project to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania is part of the "Respect" strategy, Rossignol's programme of environmental and societal commitments.

"Our environmental progress programme requires the Rossignol Group to do better, wherever we can. We are now embarking on a structured approach aligned with the European objectives for reducing carbon emissions," says Bruno Cercley, Chairman of the Rossignol Group.

Awareness-raising campaigns for the protection of mountains in France are also included in the "Respect" project, whose objective is to contribute to the fight against global warming by reducing Rossignol's carbon footprint by 30% by 2030 and aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050.

With a workforce of 392 employees and a turnover of 249,290,000 euros over the period 2018-2019, the Rossignol Group has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by joining the "Fashion Pact", launched in 2019 in France on the sidelines of the G7 summit.

The "Fashion Pact" is a global coalition of fashion and textile companies, as well as suppliers and distributors, committed to the primary environmental objectives of limiting global warming, restoring biodiversity and protecting the oceans.



Field Office Annual Statutory Audit Scope of Work

Project Name: USAID NAFKA II Feed the Future Project

ACDI/VOCA at a Glance:

ACDI/VOCA is an economic development organization that fosters broad-based economic growth, raises living standards, and creates vibrant communities. Based in Washington, D.C., ACDI/VOCA has worked in 148 countries since 1963. Its expertise is in catalyzing investment, climate smart agriculture, empowerment & resilience, institutional strengthening, and market systems.

Project(s) Overview:

NAFAKA is a USAID Feed the Future funded project implemented by ACDI/VOCA that bolsters productivity, competitiveness, and improved nutrition for smallholders, primarily women and youth, and the market system as a whole through increased smallholder adoption of improved technologies and practices at scale.

NAFAKA's role is to improve competitiveness and inclusiveness of the rice and maize value chains, which leads to; increased productivity, profitability and the nutritional well-being of targeted beneficiaries through three objectives below;

- 1) Input supply system development;
- 2) Development of Producer Organization's marketing and business development activities;
- 3) The improvement of milling and processing of maize and rice produce.

Purpose and Objectives of this Engagement:

The purpose of this audit engagement is the following;

1. Perform an audit of ACDI/VOCA Tanzania Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019
2. Perform a verification of statutory compliance for the year ending 31st December 2019
3. Perform Tax Consulting Services for the period up to 31st December 2020

This will be an external audit of ACDI/VOCA Tanzania's in-country activities as presented in the financial statements and verify compliance with Tanzanian statutory tax requirements as required by Non-Government Organizations. The audit and verification shall cover financial period of January through December, 2019 with necessary document review to confirm ACDI/VOCA Tanzania conforms to both the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Tanzania's annual statutory financial filing requirements. To meet these objectives ACDI/VOCA Tanzania will provide our USAID NAFKA and other in-country QuickBooks transaction extracts of the financial reports (i.e. P&L, balance sheet, cash flow).

Audit Scope of Work and Terms of References:

The Auditor will undertake the following activities:

1. Obtain an understanding of ACDI/VOCA's financial and accounting policies and procedures for the sole purpose of compiling an audit report.
2. Review financial records for the period under review to establish they are sufficient in preparing the annual statutory financial statements and rendering an unqualified audit opinion for the period under review. This would include:
 - Bank statements identifying incoming cash transfers that form ACDI/VOCA Tanzania's income.
 - Sampling of expenditure incurred and reported under period of review.
3. Review ACDI/VOCA Tanzania's period of review financial statements - balance sheet, profit and loss and cash flow statements - to establish conformity and suitability for preparing financial statements consistent with local requirements.
4. Discuss appropriate accounting policies adopted in preparing the financial statements.
5. Format and finalize the financial statements needed for all statutory returns within the agreed upon deadline.
6. File all relevant 2019 financial statements with local Government of Tanzania (GoT) regulators on behalf of ACDI/VOCA Tanzania.
7. Provide detailed report (in English) of activities performed under period of review, flagging potential issues noted through SOW that could be interpreted as being non-compliant with Tanzanian tax law.
8. Provide recommendations to ACDI/VOCA's Tanzania Chief of Party (COP), Director of Operations and finance or other individuals as designated by (COP).

Therefore, organization internal control testing procedures are not required under the scope of this engagement.

Audit Period : 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

Timeframe : 2 weeks from Tuesday 24th March 2020

Location : ACDI/VOCA - NAFKA Project Head Office - Iringa, Tanzania

Audit Firm Expected Competencies:

The audit firm should have the following qualifications and competencies:

- a. Have partners and managers credentialed as Certified Public Accountants (CPA), Chartered Accountant (CA), Expert Comptable (EC), or other recognized national accounting professional certifications.
- b. Have partners authorized to act and sign on behalf of the firm.
- c. Be legally licensed to perform auditing and tax consultancy services in Tanzania and registered with the following national professional organizations:
 - a. National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA)
 - b. Registered as Tax Consultancy Firm with Tanzania Revenue Authority

***Note: Verification documents should be included as an annex**
- d. Be an organization in good standing with its own tax filing and employer requirements and be able to provide, the following evidence of compliance with Government of Tanzania statutory requirements (in an annex):
 - a. Tax Clearance Certificate
 - b. National Social Security Fund & Workers Compensation Fund .

***Note: Verification documents should be included as an annex**
- e. Have been in operations and providing audit, tax and compilation services for at least 10 years.
- f. Have demonstrated experience providing audit and tax consulting services and support to International Non-Government Organizations.
- g. Be able to provide verifiable professional references.

Terms and Conditions:

The audit firm is expected to submit its cost proposal, a technical proposal within timeline of submission deliverables/Audit report, profile, trade license, tax identification number (TIN) and VAT certificate along with updated CVs and professional licenses of 1) the Principal partner, 2) the Audit Supervisor, and 3) the Audit Manager for this assignment.

Payment Conditions:

Payment will be made after submission of invoice and written acceptance of deliverables by ACDI/VOCA's Chief of Party and Field Finance Manager/Director.

Primary Contact Person(s):

1. ACDI/VOCA Tanzania Chief of Party;
2. Field Finance Manager/Director;

PROPOSAL/QUOTE SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Date: 17th March, 2020 Time: 0400HRS

MODE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL/QUOTE :

Quote(s)/Proposals shall be submitted in writing to:

Name: Procurement Department

Address: P. O. Box 185, ACDI/VOCA- NAFKA Project, Iringa.

Email: procurement@nafaka-tz.org



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

"Sometimes in life there is that moment when it's possible to make a change for the better. This is one of those moments."

—Elizabeth Glaser

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a global leader in the fight against pediatric HIV and AIDS, working in 19 countries and supporting close to 6,000 sites around the world to prevent the transmission of HIV to children, and to facilitate access to services for those already infected. Today, because of the highly successful work of the Foundation and its partners, pediatric AIDS has been virtually eliminated in the United States. With a growing global staff of over 1,000—nine of 10 who work in the field—the Foundation's global mission is to implement prevention, care, and treatment; further advance innovative research and to execute strategic and targeted global advocacy activities to bring dramatic change to the lives of millions of women, children, and families worldwide.

Position Details

Job title:	Associate Project Manager
Reporting to:	Senior Project Manager
Job grade:	Grade 6
Location:	Dodoma

Job Summary

The Associate Project Manager has the main responsibility of promoting Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation's country strategic plan and provides specific programmatic direction to facilitate the work of EGPAF in respective region(s). The APM supports the senior project manager to oversee the implementation of activities in respective regions and supports project management with a focus on leadership and management, supervision of council project coordinators' program activities. He/she has representation of the organization at regional level as well as capacity building and transition of the supported project(s) to local authorities. The APM ensures that the program delivers the designed objectives and intended impact is realized.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide leadership and management support for field supports staff by
 - Provide strategic direction to the team, oversee TA needs and build capacity where needed.
 - Provide day to day guidance to all direct supervisees (CPC, and TO) and other staff by pro-actively providing support and effective communicates all projects matters as arise from Dar office and at the region level.
 - Translate EGPAF policies and guidelines and ensure staffs adhere to the policies and guidelines in place. Assure optimal compliance with a zero-tolerance for fraud.
- Performance monitoring and reporting, including financial monitoring of sub-agreements and programmatic monitoring and report writing
 - Monthly and quarterly reports submitted as per agreed timelines
 - Ensure CPC prepare activity report for all sites visited made indicating objectives of visit, name and number of sites visited, action/supported provided to each site;
 - Ensure close monitoring of targets set for each performance indicator against results with the use of existing tools (Power Bi and DHIS2)
 - Prepare reports to be shared to RHMT on progress, challenges and success made by individual sub grantees.
- Provide to TA to sub grantees through CPC
 - To participate in new business development activities and Support Councils in the process of developing CCHP by advocating the inclusion of proposed activities and closely monitor implementation of activities.
 - Build capacity of councils to offer quality integrated HIV, TB, and FP services and promote integrated approach as means of achieving intended results to clients.
 - Close monitoring of sub grantees budgets and implementation of activities.
- Project Office Relationship Management and Representation
 - Ensure sound relation with the relevant stakeholders including Regional Administration, RHMTs and Other relevant implementing partners in the project office regions
 - Support RHMTs in coordination of regional stakeholders including sharing cost in jointly organized activities e.g. Joint SS, DAVs etc.
 - Represent the Foundation to activities and events organized by other stakeholders in the project regions
 - To organize and participate in field offices events

Required Qualifications

- Graduate Degree in Health sciences, MD
- Master's in Public Health or other relevant Master's degree is an advantage

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- At least 5 years of proven project management experience in the design, administration, management and implementation of health programs
- Understanding on local RCH, HIV, TB and FP integration context within health facilities and community levels
- Experience in Project Management.
- Experience managing donor funded projects, with vast knowledge on US Rules and Regulation.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills (English and Kiswahili); strong critical thinking, problem solving and attentiveness to detail.

Position Details

Job title:	Project Drivers
Reporting to:	Administration/Associate Officer
Job grade:	Grade 2
Location:	Dodoma, Arusha and Singida.

Job Summary

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Administration Officer, the driver ensures that EGPAF staff and official visitors/consultants are driven safely to meetings, workshops, and other work-related destinations; and that the

EGPAF vehicle under in charge is maintained in an optimal working condition. The driver provide logistical support and back up to operations department as required and advised from time to time by supervisor. The position is based in the districts we operate and may require travelling outside of the working station to other locations of program implementation. Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Logistics Support

- Drives EGPAF staff and officials to meetings, field trips and other destinations on official business.
- Collects and delivers mail, packages and equipment; and maintains records of all deliveries and distributions.
- Performs pick up duties from various points as directed by the supervisor
- Work with respective departments to follow up on various permits and VAT exemptions
- Work to clear various EGPAF shipments at different levels
- Assist in receiving, packing, labeling and distributing parcels to different destinations as advised from time to time
- Perform purchase duties for the office such as office supplies

Vehicle Maintenance

- Ensures that the assigned vehicle is compliant with the EGPAF minimum operating standards and Foundation Vehicle use Policy requirements.
- Performs minor repairs, arranges for regular maintenance and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean and in good running condition at all times.
- Ensures safety and custody of the vehicle, including tools.
- Ensures availability of all the required documents/supplies including vehicle insurance, registration, logs, office directory, first aid kit, and necessary spare parts are in the assigned vehicle.
- Ensures that, in the event of an accident involving the office vehicle, the necessary steps required by rules and regulations are followed.

Administrative Support

- Maintains records for vehicles, logs official trips, records daily mileage, records the use of fuel vouchers, and keeps records on consumption.
- Keeps track of insurance and other tax formalities
- Assist office staff in filing, photocopying and maintaining stores when required.
- Assists in the mailing and distribution of letters and publications
- Collect and distribute mails as directed by the administrative assistant
- Follow up on utility invoices and deliver cheques on the specified period of time

Other duties

- Provide back up in the operations department in absence of other operation team members
- Perform other reasonable duties as may be assigned from time to time by the supervisor

Required Qualifications

- At least three years of experience as a driver/messenger, with preference for experience with USAID or other International Organizations.
- Safe driving record
- Long distance driving experience
- At least a Secondary education
- NIT Competency certificate will be an added advantage
- Class C Driving Certificate

Skills

- Good oral communication ability.
- Polite, easy going, ability to work with variety of different people and cultures
- Ability to work after hours to transport staff/consultants to airport and other location.
- Ability to work off hours
- Sound communication skills both in Kiswahili and English

HOW TO APPLY

- EGPAF is an equal opportunities employer and the position is open to all. Qualified candidates should submit a CV, cover letter and relevant certificates explaining how the experience detailed in the CV will contribute to the requirements of the position and references to EGPAF.

Submissions to be sent to:

Senior Human Resource Manager,
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation,
P.O. BOX 1628,
395 Ursino Park, Mwai Kibaki Road, Morocco.
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Or e-mail: recruitment.tanzania@pedaids.org

Closing date: March 13th 2020

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Food and safety tops priorities for older refugees in Ethiopia

By Guardian Reporter

OLDER refugees from South Sudan living in camps in Ethiopia need more food and safe access to bathrooms and toilets, HelpAge International said on Tuesday.

The statement followed a study of the needs of older people living in the Gambella refugee camps.

The elders are short of money and do not have the opportunity to earn a living. They also struggle to access safe bathroom and toilet facilities and are vulnerable from physical and psychosocial problems.

"Older refugees make up only a small proportion of the total number of refugees and, as a result, are often not prioritized in the humanitarian response. But as one of the most vulnerable groups, their needs must not be overlooked by those who should be taking care of their needs," said Sisay Seyoum, Ethiopia Country Director, HelpAge International.

Seyoum added: "It is important that the specific needs of older people are

factored into the delivery of aid in Gambella. A meaningful consultation needs to be carried out as a matter of urgency followed by the roll out of a programme of action that is designed to meet the specific needs of older people".

A survey by HelpAge at the Gambella camps revealed that a need for more food is among the highest priority amongst the older people at the camp, one quarter of whom regularly go to bed hungry.

Three quarters of them are not able to get hold of enough food and eat an average of only 1.7 meals a day.

Eighty-two per cent of older people reported that they did not receive enough food in the monthly rations that are provided for refugees, and more than half said that what is provided does not suit their needs.

Accessing the markets presents a further challenge, where they said food is available, with 67 per cent saying they do not feel safe to do so

and 23 per cent unable to afford the food there. Safety is another major issue for older people in Gambella. Most felt unsafe using bathing and toilet facilities in the camps, while two thirds felt unsafe accessing food and more than half did not feel safe to access healthcare.

About 95 percent of the older people living in camps are also responsible for care of children and other older people, including those with disabilities.

According to HelpAge, many of these older carers are themselves dependent on support from others. This can cause protection risks, for example when children they care for are tasked with collecting drinking water, exposing them to risk of violence and abuse in public spaces, particularly girls.

Aid programmes in Ethiopia's refugee camps need to be designed to meet the specific needs of older people as they are rarely consulted about what humanitarian support they need.



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu (2nd L) looks at one of 80 beds worth 10m/- donated by NMB Bank in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Second right is NMB zonal manager Idd Badru. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC wants zonal laboratories for product testing

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge has asked the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to open zonal laboratories for testing local produced goods.

Speaking in Dodoma at the opening of training for sunflower oil processors, food and cosmetics traders, Dr Mahenge said such services needed to be close to manufacturers across the country.

He commended TBS for a job well done insisting more have to be done to improve its functions including construction of zonal laboratories which would help to minimize unnecessary delays of product testing. He said the laboratories are important since there are an increased number of factories in the country.

The RC noted that Dodoma alone has more than 3,000 new industries which require various services from TBS. He urged officials of the standard watchdog to work hard to meet manufacturers' demands as well as support the government's industrialisation drive.

Dr Mahenge said that the organisation should have a special window to serve large investors in a bid to improve business environment and reduce unnecessary delays.

Dodoma is prepared to ensure a conducive business and investment climate that would attract both, local and foreign investors, he said.

Commenting on the training, Dr Mahenge said the different topics presented to participants would help to improve the quality of their products thus make the products competitive internationally.

Research and Training Manager from TBS, Hamis Sudi, said the organisation aimed to educate small and medium producers to have a common understanding on issues regarding to standards and certification.

He said during the financial year 2019/2020, TBS conducted training to SMEs in Western Zone, Lake Zone and Central Zone. In central zone the trainings were conducted in Iramba, Kondoa, Manyoni, Singida, Kongwa and Dodoma districts.

Sudi said there was a good response for participants whereas 489 participants attended the awareness training from the said districts.

The organisation intends to conduct similar trainings in Northern and Southern Highland Zones in June this year.

Apart from TBS, the training also involves stakeholders from Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), health sector, business and community development officers at district levels.

Land, fisheries and forests guidelines significant to food security - FAO

By Guardian Reporter

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has said that tenure rights to land and other natural resources are fundamental to food and shelter, which are the key elements of social and cultural practices underpinning Tanzania's economic growth.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently, FAO Tanzania's National Land Officer, Beatha Fabian, pointed out that security of tenure on natural resources such as land, fisheries, and forests were key since food security of billions of people in the world depends on it.

"Agriculture very much depends on security of tenure of the natural resources. The sector is important, as it is the main source of food, employment and cash for many people. Here in Tanzania, it contributes about twenty-five percent of Gross Domestic Product and thirty percent of export earnings while employing about sixty-seven percent of the labour force," she said.

Based on the significant role that security of tenure plays in agricultural sector development, she explained, FAO's partners and Member States including Tanzania endorsed in 2012 the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests (VGGT).

"The VGGT place secure access to land, fisheries and forest firmly in the context of national food security. They seek to improve tenure governance with the overall

goals on ensuring food security, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, rural development and environmental protection," Beatha added.

According to her, the VGGT provide guidance and information on internationally accepted principles and practices; contribute to the development of policy, legal and organisational frameworks; and enhance the transparency and functioning of tenure systems.

Besides, they strengthen capacities and operations of all persons concerned with tenure governance, and promote the cooperation between actors.

Hence, they serve as a framework that countries like Tanzania can use when developing their own strategies, policies, legislation, programme and activities.

The FAO Tanzania's National Land Officer also disclosed that the UN Agency has translated the VGGT into Kiswahili with the aim of popularizing them to the larger Tanzanian public.

"This is a significant step in ensuring a common understanding and interpretation of a key global framework by a wider local audience. With its inclusive multi-actor and multi-sector approach, it is expected that in the rural communities, VGGT implementation will not only improve tenure governance but also make agriculture, forest and fisheries more productive and sustainable," she concluded.



Health, community development, gender, elderly and children minister Ummy Mwalimu (C) talks with Tanzania Interfaith Partnership chairman Rev. Canon Moses Matonya at a religious meeting to discuss challenges of Ebola and Coronavirus in Tanzania held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is WHO country representative Dr. Ketsela Tigest Mengestu. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Z'bar planning to amend law on illicit drugs to enhance penalty

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi has said the government plans to amend the law on narcotic drugs by enhancing punishment to importers, transporters and peddlers of the illicit drugs.

He said various steps in the fight against drug abuse have to be taken as a huge workforce among the youth and even adults is being destroyed due to drug abuse.

Ambassador Iddi expressed this when adjourning the 17th meeting of the 9th session of the House of Representatives in Zanzibar that had discussed various Bills including House Committees' reports.

He said the special programme on containers' examination at the port and goods at airports has been established as directed in the CCM Election Manifesto aimed to prevent illicit drugs imports into the country.

He said the government through its 'Zanzibar Safety' project has installed X-ray machines to cater for passengers and their luggage at

entry and exit points - ports and airports. The ambassador said education continues to be provided through the media on the hazards of illicit drugs.

"The Zanzibar government liaises with the Union Government and both regional and international institutions in the fight against illicit drugs," he said.

He thanked Members of the House and heads of both state and private institutions for using their democratic positions in advising the government to be accountable to the people in the right way to fight the menace.

Speaking about the General Elections slated for November this year, ambassador Iddi called upon the citizens to verify their voter registration details, and for those who are yet to be registered as voters in the Permanent Voters Register to come out and do so.

He also called upon all the residents to maintain the prevailing peace and harmony during campaign and election period as they have been doing during past elections.

Tanzania's industrialisation agenda promoted through 'Kaizen' approach

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Industry and Trade adopted the Project on Strengthening Manufacturing Enterprises through Quality and Productivity Improvement - KAIZEN in 2013 as part of its industrialisation efforts.

The project was implemented by the ministry in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

A statement from JICA said the project was implemented in phases whereas in the first phase (2013-2016), three regions - Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Morogoro were targeted as pilot regions to introduce 'Kaizen' in specified industries.

The project anticipated to build the capacity for

Kaizen project management, to create awareness of Kaizen movement, and to develop Kaizen trainers and pilot enterprises. As a result, a total of 19 Kaizen trainers were developed and 62 enterprises acquired knowledge and skills necessary to implement Kaizen out of 51 enterprises as an initial plan.

In 2017, the second phase of the project was introduced and commenced with the inclusion of five additional regions - Mbeya, Singida, Arusha, Mwanza and Kilimanjaro.

The project was expected to introduce Kaizen to 100 companies and to develop more than 50 Kaizen trainers. So far the project has been introduced to 88 companies and 30 trainers developed.

The project scored remarkable achievements in promoting industrialisation in the country.

To further promote the industrialisation agenda the Tanzania Kaizen (TKU) in the ministry organised a special competition with the purpose of promoting the application of Kaizen in Tanzania through mutual learning of know-how and practical experiences of Kaizen in the country.

This year, a competition was held in Dar es Salaam on February 18th where 13 selected companies from 8 regions competed to win Kaizen awards at national level.

The competitors included small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as large industries. In the competition, two companies won Outstanding Performance Awards. They are Shelys Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd representing the large industries category and Tanzania Brush Products Ltd representing

the SMEs category. Following the introduction of Kaizen, Shelys Pharmaceuticals Co Ltd was able to increase their productivity by 113 percent from 166,256 bottles to 355,195 bottles per 3 months.

The company was also able to save costs as a result of increasing productivity and reduction in number of rejects.

However, the Tanzania Brush Products Ltd was able to increase productivity and quality by 30 percent from 3,500 pcs to 4,050 pcs per shift (8hrs).

The two companies received awards as the best industries which are implementing Kaizen in the country. They will represent Tanzania in the all African Kaizen Awards Competition organised by the African Union (AU) and JICA to take place in South Africa in September 2020.

Maternity Africa,
NGO Registration #
OONGO/R2/000524

Statement of the funds/
resources raised by Maternity
Africa between
27 AUG 2019- 31 DEC. 2019.

According to the Regulation
13(A) of the NGO ACT CAP56
the name of the stakeholder
who rendered the fund is Segal
Family Foundation(USA)

Amount of given funds:
45,618,627/= TZS rendered
to support the ongoing
operational costs of Maternity
Africa

See organizational website for
more details about NGO.
(maternityafrica.org)



TENDER NOTICE

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work together, with our partners, to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Save the Children Tanzania is inviting applications for pre-qualification and registration of suppliers. We also seek to establish Framework agreements for a period of **2 (Two) years** as per the categories of Goods and Services listed below.

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Save the Children Tanzania Country Office
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Complete and sealed tender documents marked with the specific **Ref. No.** and addressed to the **PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE** should be deposited in the Tender Box at the **above address** not later than **4.30pm on 26TH March 2020.**

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21565401

The Guardian Limited

JOB VACANCY

The Guardian Limited, publisher of leading Tanzania newspapers, The Guardian and Nipashe, is looking for motivated and experienced people to fill the position of:

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- Identify and build rapport with existing and potential customers by communicating the benefits of Selling The Guardian and Nipashe.
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NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Urban population growth in Tanzania offers the potential for structural transformation

IN 2018, 33.78 per cent of Tanzania's total population lived in urban areas and cities. Therefore, the country's urban population is projected to grow to more than 60 million people by mid-century. This rapid urban population growth offers the potential for structural transformation, as well as scale and economies that can accelerate human and economic development. Planning and investment decisions made today will determine the performance of Tanzania's cities for decades to come. National policy-makers in Tanzania have a critical role to play in providing adequate housing, services, infrastructure and jobs for current and future urban residents.

Cities are becoming home to a growing proportion of Africa's children. In Tanzania, already one in four lives in an urban centre - and many more will in coming years.

This study aims to provide policy-makers and others with an understanding of the impact of current urbanisation trends on Tanzania's urban poor, especially children.

It suggests that cities provide an opportunity for the holistic and integrated delivery of development interventions that will address all aspects of their lives - family, school, ward and the city.

The challenges posed by urban growth continue to receive little attention from policy makers, partly due to widespread belief in an 'urban advantage' - the idea that compared to rural residents, city dwellers are invariably better off.

Urbanisation refers to the population shift from rural areas to urban areas, the decrease in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to this change.

It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas.

It is predicted that by 2050 about 64 per cent of the developing world and 86 per cent of the developed world will be urbanised. That is equivalent to approximately 3 billion urbanites by 2050, much of which will occur in Africa and Asia.

The current rapid urbanisation across the African continent is largely unplanned and potentially catastrophic, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) has stressed.

During a high-level continental meeting that was held under the theme "Accelerating Progress with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 in Africa: The local Dimension," brought together mayors and local authority leaders from around Africa. While urbanization inherently enables economic productivity and improvements in social outcomes, and the opportunities for this in Africa are enormous, it does so only when it is planned and managed.

The current "business as usual" scenario of urban planning and management in Africa is threatening sustainable development targets raising the need for sub-national authorities including city leaders, who are critical actors to accelerating the implementation of the two Agendas to be fully engaged in related processes.

Inevitably, the world is rapidly moving towards becoming an urban world, so it is imperative to consider how the urban context shapes sustainable development.

The global 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, among other things, encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven.

The high-level continental meeting facilitated an exchange between the UN and sub-national authorities and city leaders on the implementation, follow-up and review of Agendas 2030 and 2063 in Africa.

Strategies for prevention of deafness and hearing impairment are crucial

HEARING loss may result from genetic causes, complications at birth, certain infectious diseases, chronic ear infections, the use of particular drugs, exposure to excessive noise, and ageing. Hearing loss, also known as hearing impairment, is a partial or total inability to hear.

A deaf person has little to no hearing. Hearing loss may occur in one or both ears. In children, hearing problems can affect the ability to learn spoken language and in adults it can create difficulties with social interaction and at work. In some people, particularly older people, hearing loss can result in loneliness. Hearing loss can be temporary or permanent.

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 cytomegalovirus, syphilis and rubella, may also cause hearing loss in the child. Hearing loss is diagnosed when hearing testing finds that a person is unable to hear 25 decibels in at least one ear. Testing for poor hearing is recommended for all newborns.

Hearing loss can be categorized as mild, moderate, moderate-severe, severe, or profound. 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 immunization, proper care around pregnancy, avoiding loud noise, and avoiding certain medications.

The World Health Organisation recom-

mends that young people limit 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.

In the same vein, Tanzanians have been called upon to go for regular screening of the ear to get timely and effective interventions as figures show sharp increase of hearing losses among adults in sub-Saharan Africa caused by among other noise pollution and unregulated medical drug usage.

Dr Edwin Liyombo the head of otolaryngology department at MNH made the remarks recently during the commemoration of the International Day of Hearing at the Muhimbili National Hospital's Mloganzila branch.

The specialist said though there are no available data for Tanzania on the matter, unaddressed hearing loss poses an annual global cost of \$750 billion.

He said interventions to prevent, identify and address hearing loss are cost effective and can bring great benefit to individuals.

According to Dr Liyombo it is estimated that there are 466 million people globally with hearing impairments with estimates showing that there will be 900 million people with hearing complications by 2050.

The day which is commemorated globally each year on 3rd March is celebrated this year with the theme: "Hearing for life: Do not let hearing loss limit you"

It is estimated that for African countries in the sub-Saharan region, over 500 million people have hearing challenges which is almost 10-percent of the global population.

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Why Obote wanted Kiswahili as national language

By Henry Lubega

LATE last year, government declared the teaching of Kiswahili in all primary schools compulsory.

The directive is in sync with the East African regional integration. Save for Uganda, Kiswahili is either a national language, the official or unofficial language in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

But the National Resistance Movement government is not the first to try to popularise Kiswahili.

In July 1967, then President Milton Obote presented a paper, "Language and National Identity" at Makerere University during a four-day conference on language and nation building.

The president acknowledged that the country was facing a challenge on having a national language.

"I want to say briefly that Uganda finds difficulties in identifying herself, and that Uganda has a serious language problem. Our present policy as a government is to teach more and more English in schools. We are not unmindful of disadvantages inherent in this policy," he said.

Obote (pictured) blamed the promotion of English at the cost of an indigenous national language to the colonial mentality that was adopted after independence.

"We know that English was the language of the people who were rulers. We know that many of our people learned English in order to serve in the Administration."

The continued use of English as the official language, which was a reserve for the minority, was looked at as an extension of the imperial legacy in an independent Uganda.

"English, therefore, remains the national language in Uganda when at the same time it is a language that the minority of our people can use for political purposes to improve their own political positions. Some of our people can use it in order to improve their economic status," Obote said.

From the inception of election of national representatives, English was made a national language. In the first general election of 1961, one of the key requirements for a candidate was the ability to speak and understand English.

"We have, therefore, adopted English as our political and national language," Obote said.



As a language spoken by the minority, English was to be seen as a continuation of the colonial agenda and alienation of the majority of the population. Obote warned of the consequences.

"There is a real possibility that as long as English is maintained as the official language, spoken by a minority, a charge against its use could be made on the ground that it is the language of the privileged group," he said.

Despite his criticism of the use of English, he was not oblivious to its importance.

Rooting for Kiswahili

Although English was not the ideal national language, Obote was neither in support of any of the indigenous languages.

"We could not, for instance, adopt Lugbara as our national language. The task of teaching Lugbara itself would be beyond our capacity. Language has an economic and political power in a country of this kind. Teaching Lugbara or adopting it could result in serious riots and instability," he warned.

The adoption of any local language was, and probably still is, a riddle. Even the taking up of the then widely spoken local languages was not as easy.

"Luganda and Lunyoro are spoken by the greatest number of our people, but immediately we adopt either of them as the official language for administrative purposes or legislation, some of us will have to go out of the government. Other areas would feel unrepresented. So, there again, we find no alternative to English," Obote said.

According to the former president, a country like Uganda needed a language that unites the country and its neighbours.

"The problem posed by languages like Runyoro-Rutoro and Luganda in the context of Uganda's geographical position is a different problem from that posed, for instance, by Kiswahili. It would be difficult for the Congolese who already speak some

kind of Kiswahili to bother to learn our new national language when they know that across the borders of Uganda there are millions of people who speak a language they already know, which is Kiswahili," he said.

"It is possible today for the people of Uganda to communicate with people in the neighbouring countries in broken Kiswahili, but it is not possible for the people of Uganda to communicate with the neighbouring countries in broken Luganda."

Later attempts

When Idi Amin came to power in 1971, he, like Obote, was faced with the same problem of having a national language. He also vouched for Kiswahili.

Writing in a paper The Divisive Nature of Ethnicity in Ugandan Politics, Before and After Independence, Andy Lancaster says: "In August 1973, Idi Amin attempted to address a long-standing problem by declaring that Kiswahili would become the official language in Uganda. This provided opportunities for people who were previously unable to exert themselves on the political level because of linguistic barriers, and because no group had a monopoly of the language, it represented an attempt at ethnic equalisation."

"The adoption of Kiswahili as the national language, however, proved to be one of the very few cultural gains brought about by Amin's rule."

Language and national building

The challenge Obote faced was aligning his choice of a national language with its culture.

"Swahili was taken out of schools in the past for political reasons. I am not quite convinced that adopting an African language as a national language would discourage all other languages around the country," he said at the conference.

He insisted that the need for a national language was not for

political purposes only.

"We don't need the national language for the workers to talk and argue their terms with their employers. We need such a language to cover every aspect of our lives intellectually, politically, economically," Obote said.

"When I move out of Kampala to talk to the people, I have to talk in English. I lose a lot as it has to be translated through a third party. That's why they say there are no secrets in Africa."

Dr Gilbert Gumoshabe, the head of department of African Languages at the School of Languages, Literature and Communication at Makerere University, says: "We think in our local languages and later translate the thoughts into English as we speak."

This supports Obote's assertion that talking through a translator makes one lose a lot.

Apollo Milton Obote (28 December 1925 - 10 October 2005) was a Ugandan political leader who led Uganda to independence in 1962 from British colonial administration. Following the nation's independence, he served as Prime Minister of Uganda from 1962 to 1966 and President of Uganda from 1966 to 1971, then again from 1980 to 1985. He was overthrown by Idi Amin in 1971, but regained power in 1980 a year after Amin's 1979 overthrow. His second period of rule was marred by repression and the deaths of many civilians as a result of a civil war known as the Ugandan Bush War.

Early life

Milton Obote was born at Akokoro village in Apac district in northern Uganda. He was the son of a tribal chief of the Lango ethnic group. He began his education in 1940 at the Protestant Missionary School in Lira, and later attended Gulu Junior Secondary School, Busoga College and eventually university at Makerere University. Having intended to study law, a subject not taught at the university, Obote took a general arts course, including English and geography. At Makerere, Obote honed his natural oratorical skills; he may have been expelled for participating in a student strike, or alternatively left after a place to study law abroad was not funded by the protectorate government. He worked in Buganda in southern Uganda before moving to Kenya, where he worked as a construction worker at an engineering firm.

While in Kenya, Obote became involved in the national independence movement. Upon returning to Uganda in 1956, he joined the political party Uganda National Congress (UNC), and was elected to the colonial Legislative Council in 1957. In 1959, the UNC split into two factions, with one faction under the leadership of Obote merging with Uganda People's Union to form the Uganda People's Congress.

Idi Amin Dada Oumee (1925 - 16 August 2003) was a Ugandan military officer who served as the President of Uganda from 1971 to 1979. Popularly known as the 'Butcher of Uganda', he is considered one of the cruelest despots in world history.

Amin was born in Koboko to a Kakwa father and Lugbara mother. In 1946, he joined the King's African Rifles (KAR) of the British Colonial Army as a cook. He rose to the rank of lieutenant, taking part in British actions against Somali rebels in the Shifta War and then the Mau Mau rebels in Kenya. Uganda gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1962, and Amin remained in the armed forces, rising to the position of major and being appointed Commander of the Army in 1965. He became aware that Ugandan President Milton Obote was planning to arrest him for misappropriating army funds, so he launched a military coup in 1971 and declared himself President.

During his years in power, Amin shifted from being a pro-Western ruler enjoying considerable support from Israel to being backed by Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko, the Soviet Union, and East Germany. In 1975, Amin became the chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), a Pan-Africanist group designed to promote solidarity among African states. Uganda was a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights from 1977 to 1979. The UK broke diplomatic relations with Uganda in 1977, and Amin declared that he had defeated the British and added "CBE" to his title for "Conqueror of the British Empire".

UN: World remains a 'violent, highly discriminatory place' for young girls

UNITED NATIONS

TWENTY-five years after the historic Beijing women's conference in China - a milestone in advancing equal rights - violence against women and girls is not only common, but widely accepted, a new UN report revealed.

While there have been remarkable gains for girls in education, little headway has been made to help shape a more equal, less violent environment for them, warned the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), together with UN Women and the non-governmental organization Plan International in their report, *A New Era for Girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress*.

"25 years ago, the world's governments made a commitment to women and girls, but they have only made partial good on that promise", flagged UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

The report highlighted that in 2016, women and girls accounted for 70 per cent of detected trafficking victims globally, mostly involving sexual exploitation.

"As long as women and girls have to use three times the time and energy of men on looking after the household, equal opportunities for girls to move from school into good jobs in safe workplaces are going to be out of reach," said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director.

Moreover, an astonishing one-in-20 girls between the ages of 15 and 19, has experienced rape in her lifetime.

"While the world has mustered the political will to send many girls to school, it has come up embarrassingly short on equipping them with the skills and support they need not only to shape their own destinies, but to live in safety and dignity", the UNICEF chief spelled out.

Lagging on equal rights The report has been launched in line with the Generation Equality campaign to open a global conversation for action and accountability on gender equality, and to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

"Since 1995 in Beijing, when a specific focus on 'girl child' issues first emerged, we have increasingly heard girls assert their rights and call us to account", said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. "But the world has not kept up with their expectations of responsible stewardship of the planet, a life without



violence, and their hopes for economic independence".

Girls today are at a startling risk of violence, whether it is in school, at home, or online as well as throughout their communities, which leads to physical, psychological and social consequences.

A New Era for Girls also

Rashmi Hamal is a local heroine who helped to save her friend from an early marriage. She campaigns actively against child marriages in the Far Western Region of Nepal. File photo

covers harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), which continue to disrupt and damage the lives and potential of millions of girls around the world.

According to the report, each year 12 million girls are married in childhood, and four million risk FGM.

And girls aged 15-19, are as likely

to justify wife-beating, as boys of the same age.

"As long as women and girls have to use three times the time and energy of men on looking after the household, equal opportunities for girls to move from school into good jobs in safe workplaces are going to be out of reach", said the UN Women chief.

"For everyone's sake, that's got

to change, along with making sure that the skills girls learn are right for the new tech and digital jobs of the future, and that the violence against them ends".

79 million fewer girls out of school

The report noted that in the past 20 years, the number of girls out-of-school has dropped by 79 million and over the last decade, more are actually likely to be in secondary school than boys.

However, it also pointed to negative trends for girls in nutrition and health.

For example, globalization has shifted traditional diets to more processed, unhealthy foods and aggressive marketing techniques targeting children have fuelled consumption, along with sugar-sweetened beverages.

"Access to education is not enough", maintained the UNICEF chief, adding, "we must also change people's behaviours and attitudes towards girls".

Meanwhile, concerns are growing over poor mental health, exacerbated in part by the excessive use of digital technology.

A New Era for Girls revealed that suicide is currently the second leading cause of death among adolescent girls in that age bracket, surpassed only by maternal conditions.

Turning to their heightened risk of sexually-transmitted infection, the report found that some 970,000 adolescent girls between the ages of 10 and 19 are living today with HIV - accounting for around three-in-four new infections among adolescents worldwide - as compared to 740,000 girls in 1995.

"True equality will only come when all girls are safe from violence, free to exercise their rights, and are able to enjoy equal opportunities in life", concluded the UNICEF Executive Director.

Agencies

NEW YORK

THIS International Women's Day, 25 years after we first heard it declared that "women's rights are human rights" at the historic Beijing 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, we need to take the space and time to reflect on just how far we've come - and just how much more work there is to do.

This year, achievements in the quest for recognizing women's rights, leadership, and voice must be celebrated; but more than anything we need to double down and hold governments and other powerbrokers to account - to be part of the movement to ensure women's rights are actually respected as human rights once and for all.

Every March, women arrive in New York from around the world to do just that - to advocate for the implementation of the myriad commitments that international decision-makers have made to the realization of women's rights.

Tucked away in a small corner of Manhattan, the yearly Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN brings thousands of women and allies together to connect and learn from each other, and to hold their governments accountable.

This year would have been historic as more than 12,000 people had registered to join this conference, a testament to the importance of Beijing's anniversary and the commitments it produced.

Sadly, this series of events has been postponed due to the Coronavirus - a grim but important reminder of how interconnected our world has become, and how much we must rely on each other to protect ourselves and make progress.

Oxfam, just one small piece of this moment was set to bring 22 partners to participate - activists and leaders from places like Russia, India, Palestine, Zambia and Bolivia. Oxfam and our partners

were to host events and conversations on issues ranging from gender-based violence, women land rights, fundamentalism in Latin America and Russia, women and climate, natural and resource governance and unpaid care work. These issues and conversations may not be happening in person next week, but they must still go on.

Right now is a critical moment for Latin America, and Oxfam staff and our partners are speaking out against the chronic violation of women's rights and feminicides that have become the norm in the last years.

It is where the rise of fundamentalism, toxic masculinity, and extreme authoritarianism have created a wave of impunity and normalization of human rights violations.

As we have watched forests burn, air quality suffer and temperatures rise, women from Zambia, India, Colombia and more are pushing for transformative feminist leadership and climate-just governance for natural resources like coal, oil and other extractive industries - and for the intrinsic connection between women's rights and the climate crisis to be more widely recognized.

As inequality spirals out of control, Oxfam is calling for an end to our sexist economies that have put us in the position where the richest 22 men in the world have more wealth than all the women in Africa.

It's no accident that while most billionaires are men, women do more than three-quarters of all unpaid care work, and when they do work, dominate the least secure and lowest-paid jobs. These are just more barriers women face when trying to make a difference and lead in their communities.

Even as thousands had plans to travel and convene at CSW, this space was never open for all. Travel restrictions and statelessness had stopped plans to have a Roh-

Sexist economy: Where world's 22 richest men have more wealth than all the women in Africa

ingya leader join from Bangladesh to help launch an Oxfam report highlighting Rohingya women's challenges, priorities and leadership.

It calls for an immediate fo-

cus on addressing the root causes of the crisis, better supporting women to meet their basic needs with dignity and further enabling their leadership in decision-making at all levels.

Many women caught in some of

the world's worst humanitarian crises and conflicts - like Yemen, Syria and South Sudan - also do not have access to these opportunities due to instability at home, threats to their safety, and the discriminatory Muslim Ban enacted by the Trump administration.

The postponement of CSW is a reminder of the women's voices we must always be amplifying around the world during these moments and in between. Whether we're together in New York or spread around the globe, acts of solidarity through elevating women's stories and demands on social media, signing petitions for national decision-makers, and joining campaigns make all the difference.

We also need to see more women and men in power who support women and who will put forward a feminist foreign policy. On International Women's Day and every day, we have a duty to shine a light on these women and the efforts they are making to realize their rights. In a time of increasing anxiety about health, politics, climate and more - we should appreciate the advocates and leaders who paved the way for anniversaries like Beijing, and celebrate the communities of smart, driven, tireless women who continue to push for a more inclusive and just world.

AGENCIES



Dorothy, 27, stands inside the house she is rebuilding with her brother, in the village of Malambwe, southern Malawi, following the flooding brought on by Cyclone Idai. Dorothy's house collapsed and the floodwaters carrying away many of her belongings, as well as some of her livestock. She took her four-year-old child, and went to higher ground to escape the floodwaters. Credit: Philip Hatcher-Moore/Oxfam

What would Khalifa Haftar's Libya look like?

BY MATTHEW HERBERT

WAR has raged in western Libya since 4 April 2019. On one side is the Government of National Accord (GNA), Libya's main internationally recognised government. It is heavily dependent on armed groups for the defence of Tripoli, and increasingly reliant on Turkey, which has provided military equipment, trainers and advisers, and thousands of Syrian mercenaries.

Opposing the GNA is General Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA) - an alliance of armed groups and foreign mercenaries from Russia, Sudan and Chad. Foreign actors, primarily the United Arab Emirates, have supported the LNA militarily, via direct action, training and equipment, and by providing diplomatic backing and cover.

In 11 months of clashes, the death of around 6 000 fighters and hundreds of civilians, and the displacement of 140 000 Libyans, Haftar's LNA has slowly gained territory in western Libya. Turkey's growing intervention has stalled this advance, and lessened, though not eliminated, the prospect of a military victory for Haftar.

Haftar, however, retains significant international support in his aim to take over Libya. He has effectively marketed himself, and the LNA, as essential for international actors focused on countering crime, terrorism, instability, and, for the UAE, actors linked to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Numerous factors suggest that a Haftar-dominated Libya would remain weakened, chaotic and violent.

Significant debate has revolved around whether Haftar can win. What happens if he does, and what type of state Libya might look like under him,



have been less explored. Despite the strongman imagery and the public rhetoric around creating a centralised Libyan state, there is reason to be cautious in assuming that a Haftar victory would lead to this. Numerous factors suggest that a Haftar-dominated Libya would remain weakened, chaotic and violent.

This is partly due to the strategy Haftar has pursued for bringing most of Libya under his banner. Apart from the violent conflict raging in Tripoli, and previous grinding battles in Benghazi and Derna, he's extended his geographic reach in Libya by gaining the support of tribes, and inducing the defection of local armed groups.

The general's global supporters shouldn't just focus on whether he can win, but what victory would mean. File photo

This has been accomplished partly by negotiation, gifts and a focus on combating those construed as mutual enemies. Haftar has appealed to tribes linked to the former regime by promising vengeance and an end to political exclusion. Effectively, he has either explicitly or tacitly promised these groups a significant stake in how his Libya will be governed.

However the relationship between Haftar and the tribes associated with his coalition is conditional, predicated on his delivery once in power on expectations and promises. His ability to fully do so seems unlikely, given the

sheer number of actors he has engaged with, the limited number of high-profile government positions he can dole out, and the reality that Libya's economic resources are not limitless.

Haftar has effectively marketed himself as key for countering crime, terrorism and instability.

Haftar's strategy has also meant that the LNA is more a fractious coalition of groups - all armed and all of which have differing goals and priorities - than a unitary national force. In Libya's east, where Haftar's power is most entrenched, he has struggled to control armed groups nominally un-

der LNA command, which have been implicated in serious human rights abuses.

There seems little reason to believe that a victorious Haftar would be able to rein in the autonomy of tribes and armed groups throughout the rest of the country, and he'd probably struggle to get many to surrender their weapons. So there's reason to doubt claims that Haftar's Libya would be strong, and every reason to worry that it would emerge as only a weakly functional state.

This state weakness and a continuation of violence would probably be further driven by GNA supporters, especially by Islamist armed groups and those who risk losing the gains they've made since the 2011 revolution. Haftar's formal defeat of the GNA would probably not end resistance to his rule. Rather opposition would go underground.

The LNA's history of war crimes and human rights abuses in eastern Libya suggest that such opposition would be met with brutal violence, including extrajudicial arrests, executions and torture. A Haftar victory could birth an even worse bloodbath than the current conflict.

Would Haftar's Libya be able to appreciably rein in criminal activity in western Libya?

However, nine years of conflict and disorder in Libya have changed the status quo and society in ways that would challenge the emergence of a Libyan state predicated on extreme violence. Many Libyans have military experience, and arms are prevalent throughout the western cities. Abusive behaviour would probably fuel, rather than reduce, active opposition to Haftar's rule.

The risk of a weakened, fractious and violent state is three-

fold. First, it is inherently unstable, raising the possibility that Haftar's rule, or that of any successor, could be brief. Second, the likelihood of significant rule-of-law gaps, abusive behaviour by security forces and economic appropriation by Haftar's forces would almost undoubtedly fuel escalating grievances.

Without licit opposition outlets, frustrations could fuel terrorist radicalisation and recruitment. This coupled with a weak state, which could aid extremist groups in organising and staging operations, threatens to worsen Libya's terrorist problem. There is evidence that this is already happening in southern Libya, a zone under Haftar's control.

Finally, criminality could remain robust in a post-GNA state. Already the eastern city of Tobruk, nominally under Haftar's control, is an important point for drug trafficking throughout the eastern Mediterranean. Armed groups under Haftar's banner are deeply involved in crime.

There is little reason to believe that Haftar's Libya would be able to appreciably rein in criminal activity in western Libya. Rather, control of illicit markets would simply switch hands from GNA-aligned groups to those operating under the LNA banner.

Assessing what a future Haftar-dominated Libya would be like is speculative. However, structural dynamics suggest that such a state would bear limited resemblance either to the claims made by Haftar, or the expectation of his international backers. International actors shouldn't spend time assessing only whether Haftar can win, but what kind of situation that victory could lead to.

Agencies

Chinese online grocery platforms in huge demand after coronavirus outbreak

By Luo Shanshan,

ONLINE grocery stores have become a new option for Chinese families because of the novel coronavirus which confines millions of people across the country.

Statistics indicate that Missfresh, an online grocery platform backed by tech firm Tencent has seen a year-on-year growth of over 300 percent since the Chinese New Year holiday, and its rivals Meituan and Jingdong Shengxian also witnessed obvious sales growth in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Wuhan. Vegetables, foodstuffs, fruits, meat, eggs, and aquatic products accounted for over 60 percent of these platforms' daily sales.

Li Jie, a retired teacher living in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province who used to buy vegetables at supermarkets, recently ordered two bags of fresh vegetables from an online grocery platform. "It took me around 100 yuan and these vegetables can feed my family for a couple of days," she told People's Daily.

Now the retired teacher rarely goes to supermarkets due to the epidemic. She said that it's convenient and safe to have the couriers send the commodities to her doorstep. She learned how to order vegetables online from her daughter during the Chinese New Year holiday, and is now able to select products and pay deftly.

The epidemic is driving larger-than-usual demand for groceries on online platforms. Wang Jun, partner and chief financial officer of Missfresh noted that the upper-stream industries of China's agriculture have huge capacity, and the urgent problem is not production but labor shortage which results in difficulties in picking and transportation. It calls for collaboration to stabilize the supply side.

The General Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, the General Office of the Ministry of Transport, and the General Office of the Ministry of Public Security jointly issued a notice, requiring strict



Couriers pack food ordered by customers through social platform WeChat. A Zhejiang-based agricultural company cooperates with local postal office to launch non-contact delivery on Feb. 13, 2020. The commodities all come from agricultural bases and are packed at each store of the company. They will be delivered by couriers of the postal office after orders are placed online. Photo by He Xinchao, People's Daily Online

implementation of a "green channel" system that ensures unobstructed transportation of fresh agricultural products, as well as the orderly supply of non-grain food and agricultural means of production.

To relieve the labor shortage, e-commerce giant Alibaba's Hema chain started "sharing" employees with catering enterprises. By Feb. 10, over 1,800 employees have joined the grocery chain. At present, this model has been widely applied by online

grocery platforms, and the employees who passed health examinations and quarantine are working temporarily for these platforms to maintain normal operation.

Since the onset of the epidemic, many online grocery platforms have started providing non-contact service. Users can choose such service on mobile applications or tell the couriers to place the commodities at designated places via phone calls.

A citizen named Zhang Xinxia in Chengdu,

southwest China's Sichuan province was one of the many who have used such service. After typing the code on a smart locker at the south gate of her residential complex, the woman immediately received a bag of fresh vegetables she had ordered on an online platform.

Yao Xin, secretary general of the Commercial Sub-Council of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, told People's Daily that non-contact delivery not only enables the customers to

enjoy fast delivery, but also helps them avoid close physical contact and lower risk, which guarantees the health of both the customers and couriers.

According to a report issued by online delivery platform Meituan, over 80 percent of the orders placed between Jan. 26 and Feb. 8 were delivered by non-contact methods, and 66 percent of the customers requested non-contact delivery for every order.

People's Daily

Chair of SADC organ on political and security briefed on situation in region

By Guardian Reporter

ZIMBABWE President Emmerson Mnangagwa who is the chairperson of the Southern African Development Community-SADC Organ on politics, defense and security cooperation has received a report on the situation, saying the region is peaceful and stable.

In receiving the brief from SADC executive secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax, Mnangagwa said: "It is pleasing to note

that the SADC region remains peaceful and stable. As chair of the organ, I will work closely and in consultation with my counterparts in the region to ensure that peace and stability in the region are sustained".

President Mnangagwa assumed the chairpersonship of SADC organ on politics, defense and security cooperation in August, 2019 during the SADC summit of heads of state and government held in Dar es Salaam.

Mnangagwa is mandated to

provide direction in the promotion of peace and security in the SADC region, in accordance with the objectives of the organ spelt out in the SADC protocol on politics, defense and security cooperation.

The objectives include promoting peace and security across southern Africa, protecting the region's people from instability due to the breakdown of law and order, developing a common foreign policy throughout the region, and cooperating on matters re-



lated to security and defense.

Earlier, SADC executive secretary indicated that the region remains stable and peaceful, and continues to consolidate democracy as demonstrated a number of peaceful elections which took place since August 2019 when Zimbabwe assumes the organ chairpersonship.

Dr Tax thanked Zimbabwe for leading SADC electoral observation missions (SEOMs) in the republics of Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, and Mozambique successfully.

She indicated that some of the elections were contested, and dealt with in line with the legal mechanisms of respective countries, demonstrating maturity of democracy in the region.

The SADC executive secretary underscored the need for continued efforts, as well as a systematic, and sustainable regional approach to tackle youth unemployment and poverty, which, if not addressed timely, pose a threat to the prevailing peace in the region.

She also took the opportunity to congratulate President Mnangagwa and the government of Zimbabwe for taking positive steps in transforming the Zimbabwean economy to uplift the lives of Zimbabweans.

The executive secretary also noted the progress on the lifting of sanctions and pledged to continue calling for a complete lift of all forms of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

Why Exim Bank emerged the best employer in annual ATE awards

By Guardian Correspondent

LAST year, Exim Bank Group was named the country's overall winner of the Best Local Employer 2019 award during the Employer of the Year Award (EYA) organised by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE). Our Guardian Correspondent talked to the bank's human resources head Frederick Kanga about the success story. Excerpts:

QUESTION: When did Exim Bank start operations in Tanzania?

ANSWER: Exim Bank (Tanzania) Limited, a locally established Bank in Tanzania was established since August 1997. It continues to remain in the forefront of providing quality banking services in the country and beyond.

Within a short span of 22 years of its existence and in five markets now, the bank had built a strong brand through its geographical reach-Tanzania, Comoros, Djibouti, Uganda and Ethiopia. Innovative products, relationship management and its ability to provide a faster turn around in services and in the process building a strong loyal customer base are among the reasons for the bank's success.

The bank is among the top five in the country in terms of total assets and total deposits. The bank's total assets as of December 2019 was at 1.7trillion/-.

Q: How does the bank participate in corporate social responsibility (CSR)?

A: The realisation and comprehension of the fact that we (Exim Bank), do not exist and operate in isolation but rather as part of the community, is what, primarily, drive our Exim Cares initiatives.

We have been ambitious and aggressive in our business conduct but not at the expense of our surroundings. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has always been and is at the core of our philosophy, driven by our desire to bring positive changes in our communities through high priority sustainable practices.

In line with the vision of our CSR programme, Exim Cares, we strongly believe in transforming lives through our actions. Over the years, Exim Bank, had made numerous contributions to the communities that sur-

round us, either on environmental issues such as our Go-Green initiative in which we maintained parks and gardens across cities or need-based donations like emergency funds to relief organisations, desks for local schools, beds and mattresses for hospitals across the country as part of giving back.

Our CSR programme expands the definition of CSR from the common notion of giving back to becoming an organisation that operates in a way that protects and benefits societies in a sustainable manner through aligning our business strategies, investing in local communities and standing up for social justice issues.

We are motivated to address important social issues and building on our commitment as Exim at work today, for tomorrow mantra which aims at working for a better tomorrow for the communities that support and surround us.

Q: How did you become the overall winner in the ATE's Best Employer 2019 award?

A: We emerged winners for four consecutive years, not by default but by design. Our experiences in dealing with this science is tremendous and it is our passion to see that we are connecting the dots to make sure that the most valuable assets of our organisation is properly linked to the intended organisational success.

I had been doing this function for about 28 years today and I have acquired enough experiences to handle the challenges. My passion is to see that I am creating strategies that will bring a sense of belonging by employees feeling that they belong to the organisation and the organisation belongs to them, I always do a thorough diagnosis of employees' wants and engage them in designing the strategies.

As local employers, we have done a lot in transforming our human resources processes. Unlike some of colleagues who are privileged to have their headquarters elsewhere and operate in Tanzania as subsidiaries (hence receiving some guidelines from their corporate offices), we make our own human resources strategies and execute them. We create our own agenda that suits our business, our growth strategies

considering both our short term and long-term strategies.

Exim Bank embarked on the transformation journey from the year 2013 and we identified 3 key pillars as our success factor, people being the first and most important determinant, followed by technology and processes. We have been consistent in addressing this because we believe that it is a backbone of our survival in the market and sustainability of our business. Since then, we have brought different innovations in human resources practices starting from creation of sound HR infrastructure, which supports the growth of both business and employees themselves.

Another strategy is capacity building, which we take very seriously; we have gone an extra mile of creating our own academy, which provides tailor-made learning opportunities to our employees. Our talent management programme is non-comparable as we have invested a lot in making sure that we have thorough means of identifying, developing and retaining our talents to become future business leaders, we have developed a good number of Tanzanian talents who have taken over some critical positions in our bank.

We have efficient ways of employee engagement whereby no Eximite who feels left-out at any time. We have got different periodic meetings whereby we discuss all issues related to our bank and agree on the way forward, we have created sustainable platforms for employee communication. This success story is what makes employees rely on internal platforms of addressing their concerns (if any) rather than relying to a third party. Following this, we have only 2 members of trade union out of the 700 employees despite the fact that we encourage them to join the union. We have got our own quarterly magazine called "Eximite" which is useful in communicating various initiatives to all employees. Our quarterly town hall and our staff committee have remained to be the best platforms of employee engagement.

We have made Exim Bank to be a good place to work as we make it free of industrial relations disputes. We normally practice preventive human



Exim Bank human resources head Frederick Kanga (2nd L) together with other Exim Bank senior officials represented the Bank to receive two awards—overall winner of the Best Local Employer 2019 Award and overall winner in Employee Engagement award at the Employer of the Year Award (EYA) 2019 organised by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

resources management by providing much education to employees on our policies and procedures. However, whenever there is a dispute, we resolve it proactively and professionally. Like any other organisation, we sometimes have problems, but we normally resolve our problems in a mature way.

We have a thorough performance management system which allows employees to own their future; we have also automated most of our HR processes to enable smooth management of employee information. To us, performance is the key to every employee's success, and we have got transparent means of recognition of outstanding performance.

We take care of our employees' welfare and we are always flexible in

our policies in accommodating the diversities. We are equal employers as we provide equal opportunities to gender, place of origin and disability.

Q: You have been winning as an employer of the year for some years, what is the secret behind?

A: We have been winning these awards for four consecutive years now, the secret behind is that we are clear on where we want to place the bank in terms of employer brand, commitment to attain that position, clear strategies and consistency. It is a passion to thrive for excellence, this is our passion and we are committed to maintain the pace. We always come up with innovative ideas on how to improve our practices. Innovative human resource values are

what enabled the bank to clinch the awards and our target remains to be the overall winner in all the categories.

Q: In terms of human resources management, how do you treat the employees in term of fringe benefits and compensation?

A: Our compensation is attractive in all means and has been distributed in monetary and non-monetary. We always compare ourselves with the market and pick the most attractive practices. We have annual salary reviews that consider the market position, especially with our peers. We also have got a long list of benefits which are also flexible and that are amended from time to time.

Govt to establish more holding centres for drug addicts - official

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is planning to establish more holding centres which will be providing methadone treatment to drug addicts in a new move aimed to reduce congestion in major hospitals.

Mirembe hospital director, Dr Erasmus Mndeme said when presenting a report before the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/Aids Affairs.

Dr Mndeme who also serves as director of the Itega drug dependence treatment centre in Dodoma said the available centres were still not enough to cater the growing number of drug addicts in the country.

He said that there are 7,658 drug addicts who are receiving methadone treatment in the country whereby 6,682 (87 per cent) of them are in Dar es Salaam.

"We are also working to establish four 'satellite' clinics at the centres available at district level and one in Segerea prison, this will reduce and even eradicate congestion in our major centres," he said.

According to Mndeme, with the new centres, drug addicts will be able to access services near to their homes.

He noted that the war on illicit drug was complex, but efforts made by the government and stakeholders were bearing fruit.

"Apart from Dar es Salaam, we also have drug patients in Mbeya region (273), Mwanza (359 patients) and Dodoma (344)," he said.

Out of the 7,658 drug addicts at the centres, 671 (8.8 per cent) are HIV positive whereby 194 of them are female and 477 are male.

Dr Mndeme said that apart from methadone treatment, the clinics also offer HIV counseling, testing and care and treatment; TB clinic services; cervical cancer screening services, STI diagnosis and treatment, and substance abuse counseling and psychosocial support among other things.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 10 per cent of new HIV infections worldwide are attributable to injecting drug use, often of an opiate such as heroin.

In Tanzania, people injecting drugs are approximately 30,000 with a high HIV prevalence of 36 per cent according to the National Aids Control Program (NACP) national consensus report in 2014.

AfDB directs partners to pursue skills to enhance technological advancement, trade, growth in Africa

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa have called for stronger links between technical, vocational education training and industry to equip young people with skills they need to boost technological advancement, trade and growth in Africa.

This is according to a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector Scoping Study Workshop, held in February in Abidjan and financed through the Bank's Japan Trust Fund.

The conference drew more than 50 delegates from 13 African countries, representing international organizations, academia and the private sector.

"Quality skills development for youth employability will help Africa leapfrog and accelerate its path towards inclusive and sustainable

development," the Bank's acting director for human capital, youth and skills development, Pierre-Justin Kouka, told participants during the opening session.

Hendrina Doroba, the bank's manager for the education and skills development division said: "The findings of the preliminary scoping study show that there are gaps in skills development for employability in Africa."

A number of studies have been undertaken in the past; however, there is a need to dive deep into the TVET ecosystem and derive evidence-based priority areas of skills development."

Sharing ADEA's scope of work in the TVET sector, Shem Bodo, ADEA's senior programs officer, said there is a need for innovative financing schemes to strengthen technical and vocational skills development systems for sustainable socio-economic growth in Africa.

The continent has made substantial progress in economic development. However, skills mismatch, weak industry linkages, resource constraints, and poor implementation of policies are making it difficult to sufficiently respond to the current and future industry needs.

The workshop's main objective was to share the findings of a TVET scoping study that researched the TVET landscape in Africa and its linkages with the private sector.

Organizers also set the stage to discuss the design of a TVET mapping study with the aim of providing an evidence-based picture of TVET in Africa and its links with industry to guide interventions and investments by the African Development Bank and other stakeholders.

Workshop attendees emphasized the need for targeted investments in skills and training, with proper alignment to Africa's priority areas of development.

Coronavirus exposes global economic vulnerability

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR

As the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 threatens a global pandemic, major stock markets around the world have suffered their worst performance since the 2008 financial crash.

Growth disruption

The OECD has warned that the coronavirus outbreak could halve global economic growth this year to 1.5%, the slowest rate since 2009. It has cut its 2020 growth forecast for China to a 30-year low of 4.9%, down from 5.7% in November.

The IMF downgraded its growth forecast for China to 5.6% in 2020, its lowest since 1990. Economists, polled by Reuters during 7-13 February, expected China's economic growth to slump to 4.5% in the first quarter of 2020, down from 6% in the previous quarter, the slowest since the financial crisis.

Meanwhile, China's manufacturing sector tumbled in February, as many factories remained closed after the annual lunar new year break. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), a widely used measure of factory activity, plunged to a record low in February, reflecting the sharp contraction.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) head expects the coronavirus epidemic to greatly slow the global economy, as China accounts for 19.1% of global GDP using purchasing power parity (PPP), or 17% at current exchange rates, 13% of global trade, and



28% of global manufacturing output in 2018.

Impact on developing economies
Developing countries, especially those dependent on commodity exports and global supply chains, are particularly vulnerable.

The impact is expected to be more severe for the 21 African countries the IMF sees as 'resource-intensive', where growth had already slowed to

about 2.5%. Trade between Africa and China grew 2.2% in 2019 to US\$208.7bn, compared with a 20% rise the year before.

Even Latin America counts China as its largest overall trade partner. The key downside risk is further deterioration of the commodity terms of trade. The most exposed economies are Chile, Peru and, to some extent, Brazil.

Asian developing countries linked to China through supply chains, raw material exports, investment and tourism are especially vulnerable, while other Asian giants, Japan and South Korea, have also been hit by the virus.

Global supply chain disruptions

The virtual shutdown of the 'factory of the world' has slowed the supply of products and parts from China, disrupting production the world over. Apple's manufacturing partner in China, Foxconn, is experiencing production delays, while a Lombardy electronics factory was forced to close by the Italian authorities due to an outbreak.

Some carmakers, including Nissan and Hyundai, have temporarily closed factories outside China due to parts supply shortages. European manufacturing could suffer considerably due to its extensive links with China through supply chains. Already, four of the world's biggest carmakers are expected to shut down European production.

Meanwhile, 94% of Fortune 1000 companies are facing supply chain disruptions due to the coronavirus. Even the pharmaceutical industry is expected to face disruption.

For the Harvard Business Review, "the worst is yet to come", expecting the Covid-19 impact on global supply chains to peak in

mid-March, "forcing thousands of companies to throttle down or temporarily shut assembly and manufacturing plants in the U.S. and Europe".

Commodity prices plunge
Prices for commodities, from natural rubber to coal, plunged in February as Chinese companies cancelled orders, dragging down prices.

The Wall Street Journal reports one of the worst routs in commodity prices in years due to the coronavirus outbreak as prices for some natural resources plunged to new lows.

With the outbreak spreading to more countries, the oil price has been dropping precipitously as global demand weakens further. US and Brent crude benchmark prices fell 16% and 14% respectively during the past week, to its lowest levels since July 2017.

Meanwhile, iron ore prices dropped to US\$81.35 per tonne during the first week of February from around US\$90 throughout January.

Perfect storm?

Years of spending cuts due to fiscal austerity policies have undermined public health provisioning, not only in developing countries, but also in developed economies.

Various countries are bracing for economic fall outs from the COVID-19 virus outbreak, but have very limited policy space

after eschewing sustained fiscal recovery efforts following the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

Instead, monetary policies, including unconventional ones, with historically low interest rates and central bank balance sheets, are still being relied upon.

China's central bank has already cut the country's benchmark lending rate in February. The US Federal Reserve has recently further loosened monetary policy, with others quickly following or expected to follow. However, while rate cuts may temporarily boost financial market indicators, they are unlikely to be of much help.

Despite rejecting sustained fiscal efforts to revive economic growth in favour of austerity for a decade, debt levels continued to rise as revenue declined due to tax breaks. Scope for a 'big boost' fiscal package is also limited by public perceptions of the record global debt level—estimated at US\$253tn, more than three times global GDP.

Although the economic consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak require a global response, multilateralism is in disarray. As if to underscore its growing irrelevance, the G20 missed an important opportunity to provide leadership at its 22-23 February finance ministers' meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

AGENCIES

It is time for action! Uniting for Africa's transformation

UNITED NATIONS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ago, thousands of representatives adopted the Beijing Declaration, one of the most progressive universal agreements to advance women's rights.

The Beijing Declaration built on the human rights inscribed in the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, whose articles 7 and 8 clearly states the need for removing all discriminations preventing women from leadership.

On September 1995, the Beijing Platform of Action took full ownership of the human rights agenda initially contained in CEDAW, advanced women's rights and strongly reaffirmed the universal commitment to women's power and leadership. Women took ownership of the human rights agenda and redefined it to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment would be at its core.

At the time, world leaders committed to the extraordinary Platform for Action with tangible and ambitious commitments in strategic areas, from peace to development, and designed roadmaps to get us there.

Since 1995, the world continued the march to make the world more gender equal and to enhance women's leadership and participation in peace, security and development processes.

In 2000, following decades of advocacy led by women civil society organizations and women human rights activists, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1325, the global commitment to ensure that women are systematically and sustainably integrated into peace and security processes.

The international community furthered the women, peace and security agenda in 2009 by recognizing the harmful impact of sexual violence in

conflict on women and communities, making this scourge punishable under International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law.

In the last twenty-five years, African women have made substantive progress in political, economic and social arenas but also have faced numerous constraints.

The positive picture reflects enhanced political and legislative leadership to ensure that women do have a seat at the table of key decision-making processes. Today, Rwanda has the highest percentage of women members of parliament in the world: 61%. Namibia, Senegal and South Africa follow closely with at least over 40% of women holding seats in Parliament.

Ethiopia not only made great strides by electing its first female President in October 2018, but Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also raised the bar high for national governments by ensuring a gender equal cabinet with 50% of its members being women.

Across Africa, women have taken the seat at the top table, including President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, President Catherine Samba-Panza of the Central African Republic and President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim of Mauritius.

More women are being elected in public office or appointed to ministerial positions. These changes have not happened by coincidence but as the result of deliberate policy decisions and grassroots action. In many cases, this transformation was realized through hard-fought constitutional amendments and parity legislation aimed at reserving the necessary space for women and youth.

At continental level, the African Union has developed an extensive and progressive body of legal instruments as well as innovative solutions and platforms in its various thematic areas of work. The years 2010-2020 marked the African Women's Decade.



Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

The AU Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (2018 - 2028) is informed by global standards that include instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs - whose Goal 5 is on "Gender Equality"). Other human rights instruments of the African Union such as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights consider women's rights as an integral component of the key rights. The AU has appointed Heads of State as champions and leaders to push for implementation of commitments under various thematic areas of the work of the Union.

Despite these great achievements, we must admit that the world - and we as leaders - did not keep our promise to ensure that every woman and girl, wherever she may live, could be assured to enjoy her full human rights reach her full potential.

The reality is that we have failed women and girls. Some of the best minds remain excluded because we failed to provide access to education to all women and girls. Many of the potential pillars of our societies remain marginalized because we failed to properly address and eradicate gender inequality and violence against women.

Our continent is lagging behind in creating the peaceful and developed societies we seek to realize, in part, because we failed to offer women and girls the necessary opportunities and tools, which would allow them to thrive and be full contributors.

And despite the elections of some women to high and highest offices, and existing legislative and legal frameworks, by and large, across Africa women are still struggling to gain a seat at the decision-making table or in peace and security processes.

Despite the existing evidence revealing that

their participation and leadership in key decision-making processes.

The Network committed to push and deliver on the commitments made in UN Security Council resolution 1325 by October 2020, its 20th anniversary and to be in solidarity with the women and communities in conflict and post-conflict situations throughout Africa.

Since 2017, the AWLN conducted joint UN-AU solidarity missions to revitalize women's participation and leadership in peace, security and development in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. The missions brought much needed political attention to the situation on the ground, while promoting women's meaningful participation as mediators in all efforts of conflict-resolution, sustainable development, peacebuilding and humanitarian interventions.

The AWLN redefines the faces and structures around power and leadership - considering each and every woman or girl a leader, standing up for her human rights, may she be a Head of State or a grassroots activist working for peace and development, an entrepreneur or a school-girl with a dream.

We support the advancement of African women through six (6) flagship projects in peace and security, governance, finance, agriculture, young women's leadership and social mobilization. The Network further provides peer learning, experience sharing and cross-generational dialogues in order to bolster women's contributions to building and sustaining peace, sustainable economies and social transformation.

Women are making a crucial difference in the lives of the people they serve at local level. In this spirit, the AWLN national chapters are the cornerstones of movement building for the Network and support its localization at grassroots level and represent a major milestone benefiting all African women and ensuring that their voices are better heard, and their issues better addressed, in order to increase women's ownership in the transformation of the continent and the 2063 Agenda "The Africa We Want."

Since 2017, the AWLN has established 11 national chapters in (chronologically) the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Liberia, Morocco and Cameroon.

The Network, with the support of UN Women and the AU, plans to have a total of 25 national chapters established by March 2020, in line with UN Women's Generation Gender Equality Campaign, and to ensure that a critical mass of women is leading the movement throughout the continent.

We are working closely with women's groups, the UN System, the African Union and development partners to ensure that, beyond women's participation, all efforts are undertaken to create a conducive environment for women empowerment and the protection of their rights and freedoms.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =063=

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

WORD FIT

3 Letter word: ZOO, ORE, AGE, ONE, EVE, RED, GET
4 Letter word: KNEE, MAAR, NIDE, NEVE,
5 Letter word: MONEY, EIDER, KENYA, CYBER, CMDRE, HONED
6 Letter word: MWANZA, ERSATZ, NONAGE, GROOVE
7 Letter word: OVER-EGG, EDITORS
8 Letter word: ZANZIBAR, NYAMWEZI

CROSSWORD

Clues Across

1. Device for separating cream (7)
4. Liquid that firms the seas (5)
7. Country life (5)
8. Move in rhythmical ways (5)
9. Former native of Ireland (6)
10. Large spiral horned antelope (5)
12. Peculiarity of consciousness and thought (5)
14. Twin brother of Jacob (4)
17. Give audible expression (5)
19. Powdery particles of wood produced by sawing (7)
22. Fibers used in sewing (7)
23. Enure (5)
24. Institute legal proceeding against a person (3)
25. Person who settles in a new country (7)

Down:

1. Obscene expression of anger (5)
2. The membrane of the middle ear (7)
3. Trailing plant (5)
4. Proceed in an irregular course (7)
5. Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
6. Something remains after the main part has gone (7)
8. Waterbird (4)
11. Hinged panels fixed in a window that can be closed for security (7)
13. Tell a story (7) 071555321
15. Extraordinary (7)
16. Suffix denoting a process (4)
18. Grass and the surface layer of earth held together by its roots (4)
20. Human body below the ribs (5)
21. People in general (5)



Thursday 5 March 2020

CRDB's Nsekela rubs shoulders with AfDB's Adesina in African awards

By The Banker Reporter

UK based African Leadership Magazine has named CRDB Bank Plc's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela into a class of 'Hall of Fame' class of CEO for 2020 for his outstanding business leadership in a race that also witnessed African Development Bank President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina honoured as an African of the Year 2019.

At the prestigious 8th African Leadership Magazine's Persons of the Year Award held in Johannesburg last weekend, Nsekela was recognised also for his role in exhibiting passion, knack and commitment to diligence, success and transformational leadership in the bid to make Africa prosperous. The CRDB chief was among top leaders recognized as business superstars who included Dr Adesina.

The award was established to spotlight ground-breaking contributions by leaders and top-level executives in the African business terrain who exemplify integrity, insists upon excellence, earns the trust of others and has built a regional competitive organization, the organisers said in a statement.

Over 250 leading African political, business and diplomatic leaders gathered for the gala dinner which was also attended by Tanzania's Ambassador to South Africa, Major General (retired) Gaudeance Milanzi who praised Nsekela for the success.

"I wish to extend my heartfelt congrat-



The African Leadership Magazine Hall of Fame awards won by CRDB managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela.

ulations to the CRDB Bank's Group CEO because simply put, I could not be prouder of his achievement on this prestigious occasion," said Ambassador Milanzi who also acknowledged Nsekela's dynamic leadership at the helm of the Tier 1 bank.

Receiving the award on behalf of the CRDB chief was Director of Corporate Affairs, Tully Mwambapa who said that the award is testimony of Nsekela's strong leadership within the lender which has also contributed in trans-

forming the financial industry as Chairman of Tanzania Bankers Association.

"I cannot think of anyone else more deserving to be named into the African Leadership Magazine's Hall of Fame than our Group CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela," Mwambapa said adding, "He is helping to reshape the financial industry into playing an increasingly important role in social-economic development projects of our country," she added.

Commenting on his success, Nsekela expressed his appreciation for the international recognition saying, "I am humbled and delighted to be included in African Leadership Magazine's Hall of Fame honour list."

The youthful CRDB Group CEO further noted that his recognition will only serve as a motivation by the bank's over 2,000 staff members to work even harder and deliver both to customers and shareholders.

"This recognition is also an affirmation of our team's ded-

icated efforts and drive in facilitating exemplary customer service and business, which we are constantly reviewing. I wish to thank the African Leadership Magazine for recognizing our work," Nsekela added.

The event with the theme: Africans for Africa-exploring the gains of a connected continent, was also attended by South African Deputy President, David Mabuza and former Africa Union Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

Among other things, the organisers said they picked the CRDB chief because of his commitment to use innovative products and services to prop up small and medium size enterprises growth, women and youth groups which helps tame poverty and unemployment.

"In Tanzania a large number of SME business are owned by women, our bank has invested more than 500bn/- to build capacity of women through a special framework known as Women Access to Financial Initiatives (WAFI)," said Nsekela when commenting on why target women financing.

He vowed to improve financial inclusion among young people, women and SMEs through tailor made banking products and services with focus on positive impact on the overall wellbeing of the country's economy.

In 2018, CRDB embarked on a digital transformation journey to drive financial inclusion which has since resulted into stellar performance recording 87 percent increase in profit to 120bn/- compared to 64.2bn/- in 2018.

Fixing South Africa's economy a long, hard haul, Ramaphosa says

CAPE TOWN

President Cyril Ramaphosa says his administration's drive to turn the economy around will be protracted and is being frustrated by the rapid spread of the coronavirus around the globe and other factors beyond its control.

"These are trying and testing times," Ramaphosa said at a two-hour briefing to journalists in Cape Town on Tuesday. "I like to believe that we have entered an era where there is no longer any objection to reforms and transformation. We are going to reform. As this moves, we will be repositioning our economy for further investments."

SA has twice slipped into recession since Ramaphosa took office in February 2018, highlighting the challenges he faces in trying to undo the misrule and corruption that characterised his predecessor Jacob Zuma's nine-year tenure. Gross domestic product shrank an annualized 1.4% in the last quarter of 2019, and expanded just 0.2% for the full year, the slowest pace since the global financial crisis, the national statistics agency said on Tuesday.

While the data is "not pleasing," it's not surprising given the country's contending with power shortages, drought and low levels of consumer and business confidence, Ramaphosa said. South Africa has yet to have a confirmed case of the coronavirus, but the president expects it to have a "huge, huge impact" on the global economy, with a negative knock-on effect domestically.

Ramaphosa repeated reassurances that the government will fix debt-stricken state power utility Eskom, which supplies about 95% of the nation's power, and restructure the energy industry to ensure private producers played a bigger role. Consideration should be given to selling some of Eskom's older power plants to private investors who could operate them more effectively, he said.

"Our power generation has now entered a new era, a new era that should not be driven by ideology, but by pragmatism," he said. Ramaphosa described a plan proposed by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the country's biggest labour group, for pension funds to either assume part of Eskom's R456bn in debt or take a stake in the company, as "quite compelling," but said final details still needed to be worked out. Cosatu wants the government to underwrite any losses incurred by pensioners and the implications that would have for the nation's finances would have to be worked out, he said.

Other highlights: While the government would have liked to have introduced a fiscal stimulus package to spur growth, it doesn't have the requisite funds; The government is in ongoing talks with unions about its plans to trim the state wage bill, its biggest expense. While union concerns about the cuts are understandable, an agreement with them is within reach; South Africa has made progress in rebuilding its public institutions, but the process will take some time; and The president wants the civil services to be depoliticized and senior officials to be given long-term contracts.

World Bank announces up to \$12bn in immediate funds for coronavirus

WASHINGTON

The World Bank on Tuesday announced an initial \$12 billion in immediate funds to assist countries grappling with the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus virus outbreak that has spread quickly from China to some 80 countries.

World Bank President David Malpass said there were still "many unknowns" about the fast-spreading virus and "much more" aid might be required, but he declined to elaborate. The announcement underscored escalating concern about the economic and human impact of the virus.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday warned of a global shortage of protective equipment to fight the disease as well as price gouging as the death toll from the respiratory illness mounted.

Also on Tuesday, the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates in an emergency move to try to prevent a global recession, and finance officials from the G7 group of rich countries said they were ready to adopt fiscal and monetary measures where appropriate.

Malpass called on countries to coor-



World Bank President David Malpass.

ordinate their actions on a regional and international level, saying the speed and breadth of the response would be critical to saving lives. "We're announcing today an initial package of immediate support that will make available up to \$12 billion to respond to country requests for crisis financing of their immediate needs and also to lessen the tragic impacts of the crisis," he said.

"The point is to move fast; speed is needed to save lives," Malpass said during a teleconference with reporters. "There are scenarios where much more resources may be required. We'll adapt our approach and resources as needed."

The Bank's International Development Association, which helps the world's poorest countries, could also re-

ceive additional funds in the second quarter of 2020 if its Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) is triggered, which has not occurred yet, Malpass said.

That would not require global health officials to declare the outbreak a pandemic, he added. Poor countries with weak health systems were the most vulnerable in such outbreaks, he said, but past experience with Ebola and other outbreaks showed that taking the right measures quickly could lessen transmission of the disease and save lives.

He also cautioned countries against taking measures that would further limit trade. Some countries had already requested aid, Malpass said, but declined to name them.

The World Bank said the \$12 billion

in fast-track grants, loans and low-interest loans would help developing countries provide better access to health services, strengthen disease surveillance and bolster public health interventions, as well as work with the private sector to reduce the impact on economies. About \$4 billion of the funding will be reprogrammed from other Bank instruments, officials said.

The Bank said its International Finance Corporation (IFC) will work with commercial bank clients to expand trade finance and working capital lines as countries scramble to get needed supplies to contain the virus. The IFC will also work with corporate clients in strategic sectors such as medical equipment and pharmaceuticals to sustain supply chains and limit downside risks.

G7 top officials prepare to stem economic bleed from coronavirus

PARIS

Top finance officials from the Group of Seven nations said Tuesday that they would use "all appropriate policy tools" to prevent the new coronavirus outbreak from damaging economic growth, following the rout on global stock markets last week.

"G7 finance ministers are ready to take actions, including fiscal measures where appropriate, to aid in the response to the virus and support the economy during this phase," the group said after

a conference call of finance ministers and central bankers.

"G7 central banks will continue to fulfil their mandates, thus supporting price stability and economic growth while maintaining the resilience of the financial system," it added. The officials from the world's most advanced economies - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States - did not announce any specific relief measures.

"G7 finance ministers and central bank governors stand ready to cooperate further on

timely and effective measures," it said. Companies worldwide have been buffeted by actions taken by governments to stem the outbreak of coronavirus infections since they emerged in China, where entire cities have been locked down and factories shut.

Fears that the crisis will deepen sent equity markets into a tailspin last week, though indices have recovered this week on expectations that officials would take action, such as cutting interest rates or providing emergency financing.



Insignia Limited's managing director, Kisan Dhebar (C) talks to the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday on commemoration of the coral and galaxy paints manufacturer's 30th anniversary. Photo courtesy of Insignia Ltd.

Pick n Pay intros 'future-focused' online grocery service

JOHANNESBURG

Grocery retailer Pick n Pay has launched an online scheduled grocery delivery service that enables customers to set up an automatic weekly or monthly delivery of items they buy regularly.

In a statement, the retailer says removing the hassle of manually placing regular online orders for essentials, this new online shopping feature, called Grocery Genius, offers customers an easy and more convenient way to re-stock products - from the week's groceries to monthly pantry and household items.

Pick n Pay claims it was the first retailer to launch online grocery shopping in South Africa and has now become the first supermarket to introduce this future-focused grocery service. Gaining traction overseas with companies like Amazon Prime, this new service is expected to further change the landscape of how customers maximise convenience when shopping for their groceries, says Pick n Pay.

After a successful pilot with a group of shoppers last year, this service is now available to all Pick n Pay online shoppers. "It is as easy as 'set it and forget it' and the feedback has been very positive as time-saving has always been a major priority for our customers," says Georgina Muirhead, Pick n Pay's online manager.

Explaining how it works, Muirhead says customers will fill an online trolley by selecting the products they want delivered regularly. The majority of these items will likely be found in their "personalised favourite aisle" on their profile which shows the items they purchase most often, she says.

Customers then select the day of the week or date of the month they'd like them delivered. "It is as simple as a few clicks," Muirhead adds. "Customers only need to set up their scheduled delivery once and their basic shopping needs will be fulfilled weekly or monthly, with no further action required."

Pick n Pay's full online shop range is available for the scheduled delivery service, and customers will continue to earn Smart Shopper points for all their online shops, says the retailer. It adds the Grocery Genius service is free and delivery for the customer's first scheduled delivery will be free.

Thereafter, it notes, customers pay the standard delivery fee of R60. Customers can cancel or pause the service at any time - for instance, if they go on holiday - at the click of a button on their mobile or desktop.

"We also remind customers three days before their scheduled order is set for delivery should they wish to add or remove any products to their online trolley. If customers forget to remove items they don't need that week or month, they can simply return these items with the driver or in-store," says Muirhead.

Pick n Pay says this is the ideal solution for those with limited time, or for customers who want to avoid the tedium of repeat purchases at every shopping trip, or online. "Our scheduled delivery shopping solution means those little annoyances like running out of milk or pet food late in the evening can be avoided. It also helps with stocking up on big or bulky items like toilet paper or heavy dog food. This service takes away any hassle for customers as it is automatically delivered straight to their front door."

Nigeria now tops South Africa as the continent's biggest economy

ABIDJAN

As if a recession wasn't enough bad news for South Africa, it's now confirmed as the continent's second-largest economy.

The answer to the question of whether South Africa or Nigeria, the two countries that account for almost half of sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product, is the biggest economy on the continent has long depended on which exchange rate you use for the West African nation. But now both the official naira rate of 306 per dollar and the weaker market exchange rate of around 360 that almost all investors use put Nigeria tops.

Nigeria's economic growth beat forecasts in the fourth quarter, helping its economy to expand the most in four years in 2019 as oil output increased and the central bank took steps to boost credit growth. GDP in the West African country stood at \$476 billion or \$402 billion, depending on the rate used. South Africa's economy went the opposite direction.

It slumped into a second recession in consecutive years, contracting more than projected in the fourth quarter as power cuts weighed on output and business confidence. For the full year, expansion was 0.2%, the least since the global financial crisis, and even less than the central bank and government estimated. Based on an average rand-dollar exchange rate of 14.43 for the year, GDP was \$352 billion.

Projections show Nigeria's economy will continue to grow faster. While the International Monetary Fund cut its forecast for Nigeria's 2020 growth to 2% from 2.5% last month due to lower oil prices, South Africa's GDP is forecast to expand only 0.8%.

BancABC chief basks in Visa award glory for e-commerce transactions



BancABC Tanzania's managing director, Iman John displays a Visa E-commerce Issuing Growth Award that the bank won for its excellence in encouraging customers use Visa card in online transactions. Photo courtesy of BancABC.

By The Banker Reporter

AN increase in online transactions through pre-paid Visa card by local customers has earned BancABC, an Atlas Mara subsidiary, a Visa E-commerce Issuing Growth Award.

The award which is presented by Visa Inc recognises financial institutions that embrace innovation and dedication towards facilitating secure online transactions in the market. This is the second time for the bank to win the award after bagging it in 2016.

BancABC Tanzania's Managing Director, Imani John said in Dar es Salaam this week that getting the award in such a competitive market shows how committed the bank is serving its customers digitally.

"At BancABC we ensure that we make our customers' transactions easier and secure," said John adding that the award is also an indication of customer

confidence and trust in using Visa pre-paid cards in making online payments. "We are committed to providing even more cutting edge innovative solutions to uphold this position and ensure our customers' experience is improved further," he added.

Backing his boss' observation, BancABC Tanzania's Managing Head of Digital and Alternative Channels, Silas Matoi said the award will only encourage them to work even harder to meet market needs.

"We really appreciate our customers who have adapted use of Visa card in making online payments. You are the one who made us win this award and the award belongs to you. We feel proud to continue serving you and we promise to continue offering quality and excellent service," said Silas.

Matoi added that the bank invests heavily in promotion of safe and secure online transactions infrastructure which allows world class companies such as Visa Inc collaborate with the Dar es

Salaam based bank.

"Our cards come with high level security of its chip and PIN feature, a proven technology that is already in use all around the world providing increased protection against any fraud," he added while noting that Visa cards have a wide reach as they can be used during any time of the day throughout the week with access to over 2.7 million Visa branded ATMs worldwide, over 46 million Visa merchants retail outlets and over 400 Visa branded ATM's in Tanzania plus 1000 Visa merchant outlets in the country.

Speaking at the same event, Visa Country Manager Olive Njoroge said the company appreciates BancABC's efforts in encouraging customers transact using the cards. "It is really a big success and therefore we have come together to recognize those efforts," said Njoroge adding that Visa cards are very secure and can be used anywhere at any time.



Governor Bank of Uganda Prof Emmanuel-Tumusiime Mutebile.

Meet the central bank that lost \$545m

KAMPALA

The Bank of Uganda has been making losses for most of the past 15 years and lawmakers in East Africa's third-biggest economy are getting anxious about its ability to execute its mandate.

BoU lost a total 2 trillion shillings (\$545 million) during the period and only turned in a profit in 2007, when it made 40 billion shillings. Finance State Minister David Bahati told parliament on Thursday, raising the ire of some lawmakers.

"Can the minister brief the country the circumstances under which the bank made the losses yet it trades in securities," Richard Othieno, a member of parliament with the ruling National Resistance Movement party, demanded in parliament.

While central banks invest in

securities to raise revenue for national coffers, market unpredictability and volatility put them at risk of loss, parliament said in a statement, without giving detail on the type of losses for the wholly state-owned bank.

"The bank truly trades in securities, but it invests in monetary policies that involve making losses," Bahati said in the statement. "These are the facts on the ground; we cannot do anything about it because a loss is a loss."

The bank's "securities misadventures are undocumented," and parliamentary rules of procedure make it difficult for lawmakers to interrogate the matter further, it said.

Operationally, the central bank on Thursday feted Stanbic Bank Uganda Ltd. and Absa Bank Uganda Ltd. for

being best. Central banks' primary monetary-policy goals are price stability, optimal economic growth and financial stability. While making a profit is a distant priority, losses threaten their independence and often result in governments having to replenish their capital.

Last month, lawmakers agreed to boost BoU's capital by 481.7 billion shillings. That followed a 200 billion-shilling injection in October, according to state-owned New Vision newspaper. A central bank spokeswoman was not immediately available for comment.

"It does speak to the credibility of the central bank," said Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo, a senior economist at the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa. "Lack of purely financial independence is a recipe for lack of operational independence."

UAE Central Bank urges banks to review plans amid coronavirus scare

ABU DHABI

The Central Bank of the UAE is urging banks to review their business continuity plans as it established a committee to assess and identify solutions to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus on the country's economy.

Financial institutions are expected to implement measures such as the "re-scheduling of loans contracts, granting temporary deferrals on monthly loan payments as well as reducing fees and commissions" for customers affected by the virus, the central bank said in a statement on Saturday.

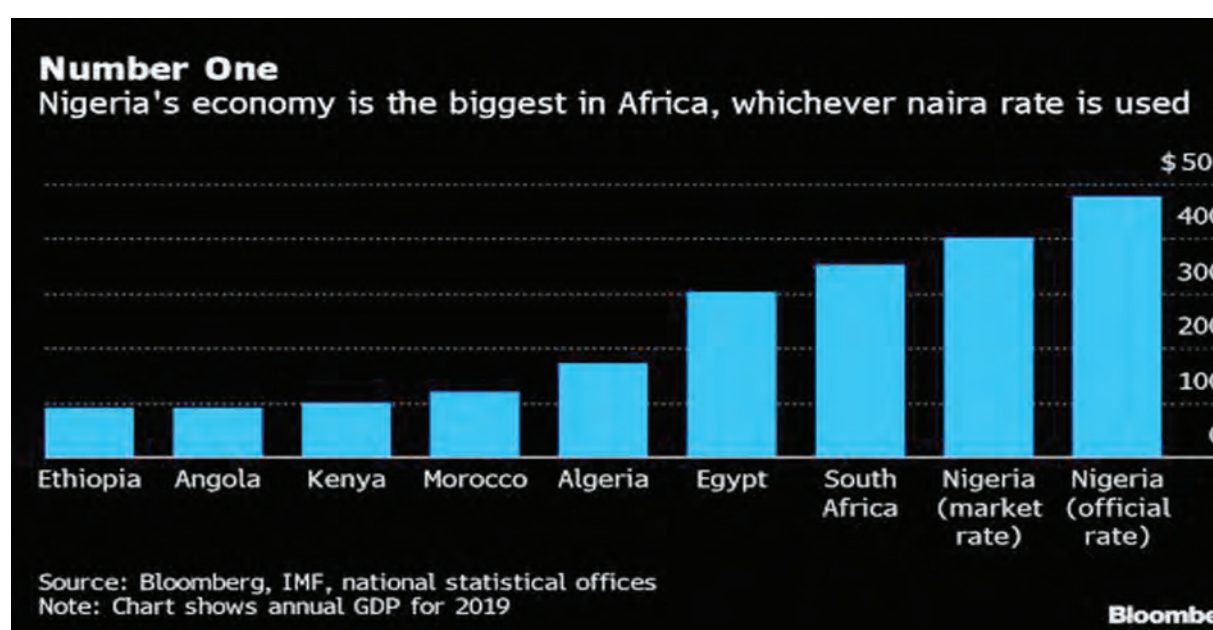
UAE banks remain well-capitalised and are in a good position to support customers affected by the virus, without "jeopardising their own safety and soundness", the statement said. The UAE reported 21 cases of the coronavirus on Saturday as the outbreak continued to spread across the globe.

The World Health Organisation has raised the alarm on the virus to "very high" from "high" but stopped short of calling the outbreak a pandemic.

The virus has migrated from its source in China's Hubei province, with scores of new cases being reported in countries such as South Korea, Italy and Iran. The global death toll from the virus has topped 2,900 with the number of confirmed infection cases worldwide surpassing 84,000. "[The] CBUE continues to closely monitor the situation, and, if necessary, will provide additional guidance and direction," the statement said.

Central banks around the world are acknowledging the risks posed by the virus, which has disrupted supply lines and trade, leading to a rout in oil prices and stocks. Oil prices and global stocks slumped to their worst week since 2008 as the virus spread to more than 40 countries.

The S&P 500 fell 0.8 per cent on Friday, declining more than 10 per cent over the week, while crude oil futures in New York declined 16 per cent. The US Federal Reserve indicated it was prepared to cut interest rates, if needed, to sustain the country's longest-ever expansion, according to its chairman Jerome Powell.



SBL's 'don't drink and drive' push now targeting 'Bodaboda' riders

By The Banker Reporter

THE rise to prominence of motorcycle taxis popularly known as 'Bodabodas' has attracted Serengeti Breweries Limited's 'Don't drink and drive' campaign which has been taking place for many years in the country.

The market's second largest brewer, has taken its campaign which also incorporates Tanzania Police Force's traffic department to the next level by including 'Bodabodas' which, according to traffic reports have emerged as prone to accidents thanks to their popularity.

SBL's 'Don't drink and drive' initiative is a robust campaign, a brainchild of the brewer with its main objective being to sensitize road users such as drivers, motor cyclists and pedestrians on the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol. The campaign also encourages consumers to drink in moderation.

The initiative has so far covered nine regions, namely: Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Morogoro, Iringa and Singida with more than 10,000 people involved in one way or another through word of mouth, leaflets and media publications and broadcast messages.

Official data shows that 'Bodabodas' significantly contribute to many



Iringa Regional Traffic Officer, Superintendent of Police Yusuf Kamote putting a reflector vest on the region's 'Bodaboda' Riders Association chairman, Juma Gamba during a 'Don't drink and drive' campaign initiated by Serengeti Breweries Limited. Left facing camera is SBL government business manager, Neema Temba. Photo courtesy of SBL.

traffic accidents leading to injuries, loss of lives and property. Among the causing such accidents include: lack

of formal training by operators; use of substandard motor cycles and parts with defects such as break failure and

tire bursts, among others.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Hamad Masauni last year told parlia-

ment that at least 5,213 'Bodaboda' accidents had been reported across the country between 2016 and 2019 in which 2,160 people were killed.

"This revelation which also includes thousands of people injured with property worth billions of shillings destroyed, calls for urgent remedial action to address the situation before it reached peak proportions," Masauni said. The Home Affairs Ministry's 10-year report indicated that 'Bodaboda' accidents killed over 8,000 people representing an average of 800 deaths annually while over 35,231 were seriously injured.

Such shocking data is what aroused stakeholders such as SBL to collaborate with the traffic police in organizing road safety campaigns and other related activities to control and prevent the occurrence of the unnecessary accidents often caused by drunk driving.

SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said the brewer is implementing the campaign to sensitize the general public not to drink and drive. Speaking at one such event held recently at Iringa commuter bus terminal, Chairman of Iringa 'Bodaboda' Riders Association, Juma Gamba conceded that there has been an increase of accidents involving 'Bodabodas' in the region, citing ignorance of road

safety rules as one of the main reasons behind the escalation.

"Lack of awareness on road safety rules is a problem to many riders. We are grateful to SBL and the traffic police for bringing us this campaign because it reminds us on why we should desist from drinking and driving," Gamba said.

Iringa Regional Traffic Officer, Yusuph Kamota backed SBL for coming up with the campaign which has provided fresh impetus to promoting road safety in the country with focus on the dangers of drunk driving.

"All of us, ranging from the police force, drivers, the community and other stakeholders have a responsibility to make our roads safe. I am happy to see that SBL has recognized the fact that apart from selling alcohol, they also have a role to play in encouraging responsible drinking," TRO Kamota said.

He said road traffic injuries and death cause considerable economic losses to individuals, their families and the nation as a whole hence need to be tamed. "The losses arise from the cost of treatment as well as lost productivity for those killed or disabled," he added noting that such victims become a burden to family members who need to take time off their work or school to take care of them as they recuperate.

Why Rwandan banks operating costs rise

KIGALI

Operating costs of local banks have been rising steadily in the last three years, statistics from the Central Bank show.

In 2019, Rwandan banks incurred Rwf372.5bn in operating costs up from Rwf278.4bn in 2016. The largest driver of the rise in costs was interest expenses as the 16 local lenders have to borrow money at times outside the country and often in foreign currency which drives up the cost.

Banks also lend from customers deposits which can be expensive to collect as it requires a countrywide network and value chain. Diane Karusisi, the Bank of Kigali chief executive, said of ten such factors drive up costs of operations as banks do not borrow from the Central Bank. Karusisi was speaking during last week's Central Bank Monetary Policy and Financial Stability Statement. Banks incurred up about Rwf105.6bn in interest expenses.

Local banks also saw a rise in costs due to the adoption of digital services which is expected to drive up financial inclusion, more services to clients and improve their relevance. Digital services adoption comes with costs such as the acquisition of systems and necessary infrastructure and training of staff.

Bankers who spoke to this paper said that adoption of digital services is among the highest drivers of costs and will remain so for a number of years going forward. The returns from the investment is not instant and will also take several years with some putting it at 5 to 7 years.

The period before banks can reap the returns on the investment is among other things dependent on the pace of uptake by the public and impact on financial inclusion. Robin Bairstow, the President of the Rwanda Bankers Association, told Doing Business that the highest cost most banks are currently incurring costs in digitization. Bairstow said that the cost of operation is further likely to go up with the year as investments in the technology continue.

Globally, digitization of banking services is a popular trend as lenders seek to innovatively reach out to clients replacing the habitual long queues in banking halls. Across the world,



Robin Bairstow, the President of the Rwanda Bankers Association.

bank services are increasingly available via mobile phones and internet banking. This, however, requires better and cleaner data that the new systems banks are acquiring and building are expected to address.

Banks operating costs also went up due to provisions for bad debts which were about 18 per cent of all expenses, about Rwf 67.8B. This is because there was a significant write-offs in bad debts of about Rwf157 billion.

A 2017 law requires banks to write off loans that have been classified as a loss for over 360 days. More write-offs increase expenses as banks are expected to make 100 per cent provisions on written off loans without deducting value of collaterals.

Banks are also in the process of reducing their branch network as they adopt digital technologies. This has seen costs incurred in the rent of premises remain fairly stable. However, profitability among banks has been growing in recent years through not proportional to the rising cost of operations. In 2019, the 16 Rwandan banks made a total of Rwf 76B from Rwf 29B in 2017.

The central bank in the Financial Stability Statement expressed interest on the future of profitability of banks as they currently depend on loans and the quality of loans. As interest margins decrease, the central bank fears that it could pose a threat to banks' profitability. With that, the regulator

is calling on banks to diversify their income-generating activities primarily through the growth of non-interest income. Non-interest income was about Rwf 35.6B in 2019.

Commenting on the operating costs of banks, Peace Uwase the Director for Financial Stability at the Central Bank told Doing Business that going by the aggregate cost to income ratio for local banks, which stands at 77.1 per cent as of 2019 its indicative of growing bank incomes. Cost to income ratio is operating expenses against the operating income generated to the profitability of a bank. A lower ratio is better because means higher profitability. In 2017, the ratio for local banks was 85.1 per cent.

How a storied private bank became embroiled in a tax shares scandal

HAMBURG

M.M. Warburg & Co's headquarters exudes the aura of a fortress that has withstood the tumultuous twists of German history for centuries.

The ornate sandstone structure survived the bombs that rained down on Hamburg starting in 1941. One shell hit the roof but bounced off a metal beam, limiting the damage. Even the firestorm that wiped out much of the neighbourhood in a 1943 raid couldn't harm the building. The Jewish family that owned and ran the bank was expelled by the Nazis and went into exile, only to return after the war and rebuild the institution into one of the country's largest and best-regarded private lenders.

Now another crisis is enveloping the storied institution and has forced its longtime chairman, Christian Olearius, as well as co-owner Max Warburg - a direct descendant of the founding family - from the supervisory board. Authorities have raided Warburg three times as well as the private homes of Mr Olearius. Among the seized documents were the chairman's personal diaries containing meticulous records of his business life.

Warburg allegedly participated in controversial dividend trades known as Cum-Ex that took advantage of double tax reimbursements. The scandal, which lawmaker say has cost the state at least €10 billion (\$10.8bn) in lost revenue, has roiled the financial industry, ensnaring lenders from Deutsche Bank to Barclays. The case has led to a months-long trial unfolding in Bonn with two defendants, former bankers who have laid out the industry's complicity in the practice.

Mr Olearius, his son Joachim - now the lender's chief executive - Max Warburg and several top managers are being probed over their roles in Cum-Ex. The next charges filed by Cologne prosecutors will target Warburg employees, people familiar with the case said.

Warburg said it never intended to participate in illegal share transactions, misinform tax authorities or claim unjustified refunds. Cum-Ex trades, named for the Latin term for "With-Without," took advantage of German tax laws and allowed multiple investors to claim refunds on a dividend levy that was paid only once, prosecutors say.

How a discreet institution like Warburg, which has carefully crafted the image of respectability, got caught up in what's been labeled the biggest tax heist in Germany has perplexed investigators and the public alike. Warburg is a fixture among Hamburg's moneyed elite, and the fall of Mr Olearius has sent shock waves through the upper echelons of society and political circles.

"Warburg survived countless challenges in the last 200 years; numerous wars, a hyperinflation and the Nazis - you have to wonder why a bank with such tradition was prepared to participate in these kinds of acts," said Christopher Kopper, a professor at Bielefeld University specialising in corporate history.

In the world of Cum-Ex, Warburg stands out. Its deep involvement in the scandal belies its modest size compared to global giants like Bank of America's Merrill Lynch unit or Barclays. Warburg long focused on private banking for the rich, as well as asset management and investment banking, and the company prides itself in its long-term



M.M. Warburg & Co's chairman, Christian Olearius.

approach. A corporate brochure suggests Warburg is guided by a higher ethical standard, claiming it doesn't do business for its own sake.

"Cum-Ex has laid bare the fundamental problem of the finance industry, which likes to embrace all possibilities that are not strictly illegal," said Bernhard Emunds, an ethics professor at the Sankt Georgien college in Frankfurt. Warburg is one of the last family-owned private banks in the country. Sal. Oppenheim, previously Europe's largest private bank with a rich history to match Warburg's, was forced to embrace Deutsche Bank as a saviour in 2009 after investments went sour.

The Hamburg bank traces its roots to brothers Moses Marcus Warburg and Gerson Warburg, who set up shop in 1798. Over the next century, it expanded to become a well-connected lender with close government ties around the globe. Paul Warburg, a family offspring who became an investment banker in New York, was an early advocate for the US Federal Reserve System, while Eric M. Warburg founded E.M. Warburg in New York in 1939, which evolved into private equity firm Warburg Pincus.

The Nazis finally forced the family in Hamburg to give up its shares and the bank later had to change its name to Brinckmann, Wirtz & Co. After the war, the Warburgs regained ownership and reinstated the family name. Warburg's first brush with Cum-Ex occurred more than a decade ago, when one of Germany's top tax lawyers stopped by for a meeting. On January 30, 2006, Hanno Berger pitched Mr Olearius a new trade that promised safe yet highly lucrative transactions built around taxation of dividends, according to the indictment filed by prosecutors in the Bonn case.

One of Mr Berger's associates, a tax lawyer who has since turned on his former boss using the pseudonym Benjamin Frey, recounted the meetings, and how he was awed by the splendor, with oil paintings depicting the dynasty adorning the walls, coffee served by butlers and china with the Warburg emblem. (The bank denies employing butlers).

WORLD

China to ensure steady economic, social progress through refined mechanism for stability in six key areas

BEIJING

CHINA will refine the coordination mechanisms for stable performance in six key areas, namely, stability in employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and market expectations, to promote both effective outbreak response and steady economic and social progress.

The decisions were made at the State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang Tuesday.

"The coordination mechanisms for stable performance in the six key areas have, since their launch, played an important role in forging inter-agency synergy to keep major economic indicators within the proper range. This year we may face even greater challenges, hence there is a higher need to refine these mechanisms to make our work across the six areas better targeted," Li said.

The meeting underlined the need to advance epidemic control and economic and social development in parallel. It urged targeted steps in ensuring stability in the six key areas to more effectively manage the impact of the outbreak on the economy.

Inter-agency coordination on macroeconomic policies, foreign trade and investment, and financial stability must be fully leveraged to formulate strong and effective response measures to boost the internal dynamism of the economy and keep major economic indicators within the proper range for the whole year.

"The most pressing task now is to manage the impacts of the epidemic. Maintaining stability in the six key areas will help keep capital flowing and the industrial chain running, and contribute to an economic performance within the proper range," Li said.

The meeting also adopted a host of



Premier Li Keqiang

policies for facilitating the restart of business activities in the logistics sector from transportation, shipment to express delivery services to provide a strong underpinning for epidemic control, help smooth the flow of economic activity, and meet people's daily needs.

The meeting called for following the region-specific, tiered and targeted approach to encourage businesses to resume operation in an orderly way. Any arbitrary requirements on the resumption of work must be lifted.

Face masks and other needed protective gear should be made available through coordination. Sub-national authorities are required to provide equal convenience for both postal and courier services providers under all types of ownership.

"A major obstacle in current outbreak response and production resumption lies in logistics. Undue restrictions should be removed as quickly as possible.

Otherwise, the operation of both industrial and supply chains will be hampered," Li said.

Further tax and fee cuts will be made to logis-

tics-related services. Insurance companies will be encouraged to lower or exempt premiums for commercial vehicles, ships and aircraft whose operations are suspended during the outbreak, by way of extension of insurance period and deduction of policy renewal fees.

For toll-road operators encountering difficulty in repaying their financial debts as a result of the toll-free pass policy, financial institutions will be guided toward providing support to them through deferring interest payment, extending principal repayment and rolling over maturing loans.

"It is important to further cut costs for logistics companies, deferring or exempting relevant payments as needed. Such steps should also enable truck and taxi drivers to get tangible benefits," Li said.

"We must enhance preparedness in terms of policies and projects, do everything we can to keep economic development and employment stable, and work hard to meet this year's targets for economic and social development," Li said.

Xinhua

Russia suspends export of masks amid coronavirus fears

WASHINGTON/MADRID/PARIS

RUSSIA has suspended the export of surgical masks and medical gear including bandages and one-use chemical protection suits, according to a government resolution published yesterday, amid fears over the spread of the coronavirus.

Russia has not reported any confirmed cases of people contracting coronavirus while inside the country, though six people who got infected elsewhere have received or are receiving treatment in Russia.

According to the government resolution, the suspension would not affect exports being made for humanitarian reasons or individuals taking items out of the country for their own use.

"It is mainly necessary to prevent a so-called 'artificial deficit' in certain medical items - masks, respirators, antiviral agents that speculators can export abroad," Industry Minister Denis Manturov said.

Spain sees first fatality
A man in the Spanish region of Valencia has died from coronavirus, marking the country's first

death from the outbreak, a local health official said on Tuesday.

Tests carried out post-mortem showed the man, who died on Feb 13, was killed by the virus, regional health chief Ana Barcelo said at a press conference.

News of the death came shortly after Spain's Health Ministry announced on its Twitter page that several sporting events would be held behind closed doors, while medical conferences will be cancelled in an effort to limit the spread of the virus.

The ministry said sport fixtures expected to draw crowds from zones designated as high-risk for coronavirus, such as northern Italy, would be played without spectators, having earlier referred to the measure as a recommendation.

In total, around 150 people have been diagnosed with coronavirus in Spain, while some 100 health workers in the Basque region have been isolated in their homes after coming into contact with people carrying the virus.

Authorities are monitoring two clusters of the infection in Torreon de Ardoz, a suburban city



close to Madrid with a population of around 130,000, and one in the Basque city of Vitoria-Gasteiz.

France reports 4th death, to regulate antibacterial gel price

In Paris, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Wednesday that France will regulate the price of antibacterial gels after prices were reported to have increased heavily since the coronavirus outbreak began.

A decree regulating the price would be published during the day, Le Maire told French BFM Business radio. A pharmacists' union on Wednesday told franceinfo radio

that the price rise was unacceptable, and called for government intervention.

On Tuesday, Health Minister Olivier Veran said that President Emmanuel Macron had signed a decree to requisition all stock and production of protective face masks.

Also on Tuesday, France reported its fourth death from COVID-19 on Tuesday. The number of confirmed cases has risen to 212, with 13 regions affected.

Germany reports 44 new cases
The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Germany increased

to 240 on Wednesday, up from 196 on Tuesday afternoon, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) said.

Fifteen of Germany's 16 federal states have now reported cases of the novel coronavirus, with the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia being most affected, according to the RKI.

Italy toll hits 79

In Italy, health authorities said on Tuesday they may set up a new quarantine red zone to try to contain the coronavirus outbreak in Europe's worst-hit country, after the death toll and the number of cases jumped.

Twenty-seven people died of COVID-19 in Italy over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of dead to 79, the Civil Protection Agency said.

The total number of cases rose to 2,263 from 2,036 on Monday.

The outbreak remains centered in the north, with Lombardy by far the worst affected, but it has since spread south and infections have now been confirmed in all but one of Italy's 20 regions.

Agencies

US carries out first airstrike on Taliban since Doha deal

KABUL

THE United States conducted an airstrike on Wednesday against Taliban fighters in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, a US forces spokesman said, the first such attack since a troop withdrawal agreement was signed between the two sides on Saturday.

The Taliban fighters were "actively attacking an (Afghan National Security Forces) checkpoint. This was a defensive strike to disrupt the attack," said

Colonel Sonny Leggett, a spokesman for the US Forces in Afghanistan in a tweet.

He said Washington was committed to peace but would defend Afghan forces if needed.

"Taliban leadership promised the (international) community they would reduce violence and not increase attacks. We call on the Taliban to stop needless attacks and uphold their commitments," he said.

The airstrike was the first by the United States against the Taliban in 11 days, when a reduction in

violence agreement had begun between the sides in the lead up to Saturday's pact.

Since the signing, the Taliban had decided on Monday to resume normal operations against Afghan forces, though sources have said they would continue to hold back on attacks on foreign forces.

The Taliban has so far declined to confirm or deny responsibility for any of the attacks and did not immediately respond to request for comment on the airstrike.

On Tuesday, there were several attacks against Afghan officials

blamed on the Taliban, including one at a security checkpoint near a copper mine that killed five Afghan policemen.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday that in the past 24 hours there had been clashes between the Taliban and Afghan security forces in nine provinces, including Helmand.

A spokesman for Helmand's provincial governor said that the Taliban had attacked a security checkpoint in Washer district - a different district to the one in which the US carried out its air-

strike - on Tuesday evening, killing two police officers.

A defense ministry spokesman also confirmed an attack against an Afghan army base in the city of Kunduz and said there were seven casualties.

The weekend agreement envisages a full withdrawal of all US and coalition forces within 14 months, dependent on security guarantees by the Taliban, but faces a number of hurdles as the United States tries to shepherd the Taliban and Afghan government towards talks.

Agencies

Putin says most 'fake news' on coronavirus spread in Russia comes from abroad

MOSCOW

PROVOCATIVE fake news on coronavirus spread in Russia mostly comes from abroad, while in reality nothing critical is happening, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during his meeting with the government yesterday.



"In regard to this disturbing fake news, the Federal Security Service reports that it is mostly being organized from abroad, but this, sadly, is a constant issue," Putin said, commenting on Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova's report, which mentioned "fake news" on coronavirus spread.

According to Putin, this fake news aims to "sow panic among the population," and it can only be countered with timely and reliable informing of people on the situation.

"Thankfully, nothing critical happens [in Russia], but people must know about the real situation. I ask you to set up this information work," the president said.

During the meeting, Golikova reported fake news coming primarily from the social media that tell about allegedly large number of people infected by the coronavirus and claim that the government seeks to hide this data. The Deputy Prime Minister underscored that this information is fake.

According to Golikova, only three coronavirus cases were registered in Russia since prevention measures have been deployed. Besides, three infected Russians have been evacuated from a cruise ship in Japan.

A pneumonia outbreak caused by the COVID-19 virus (previously known as 2019-nCoV) was reported in China's Wuhan, a large trade and industrial center with a population of 12 million, in late December.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the new coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, describing it as an epidemic with multiple locations. Besides China, major coronavirus outbreaks have been reported in South Korea, Iran and Italy. More than 70 countries, including Russia, have reported confirmed coronavirus cases.

In China, which accounts for the majority of the novel coronavirus cases, the death toll is nearing 3,000, while almost 80,000 people have been infected and another 50,000 have recovered. According to the WHO, the number of coronavirus sufferers outside China has exceeded 10,500 and more than 160 have died.

Egyptian, US presidents discuss ways to settle Nile Dam dispute

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump on Tuesday discussed over the phone the latest developments in resolving the dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

During the conversation, Trump expressed his appreciation that Egypt signed initials of the agreement that resulted from the rounds of negotiations on the GERD during the past months, Egyptian Presidency's spokesman Bassam Rady said in a statement.

Trump noted that the agreement is comprehensive, fair and balanced, stressing that signing the agreement reflects Egypt's goodwill and sincere political will.

Trump also stressed that the U.S. administration will continue its efforts to coordinate with Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia on this issue, until the three countries sign the agreement.

For his part, Sisi expressed appreciation for the role the U.S. administration is playing in sponsoring the tripartite negotiations on the dam.

Sisi affirmed that Egypt will continue to give this issue the utmost attention as the North African country is keen to defend the interests, capabilities and future of the Egyptian people.

Egypt said on Saturday it has signed a U.S.-brokered deal regarding the rules of filling and operation of the GERD, while urging Ethiopia and Sudan to follow suit.

However, Ethiopia said on Saturday that it had notified Egypt, Sudan and the U.S. that it needed more time to deliberate on the process.

It added that it will commence the first filling of the GERD in parallel with the construction of the dam, in accordance with the principles of equitable and reasonable utilization, and causing no significant harm.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said that Ethiopia cannot start filling the GERD until "an agreement is reached with the downstream countries."

"Egypt desires to see Ethiopia follow the path of negotiations," Shoukry said in an interview with the Egyptian TV Program "9 O'clock PM" on Monday night.

He explained that Ethiopia pledged in the Declaration of Principles, signed by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan in March 2015, not to start filling the dam until an agreement is reached on the operation rules.

Xinhua

Chinese companies convert production lines to support epidemic prevention

MAJOR manufacturing enterprises in China are now engaged in cross-industry production to cope with the current shortage of medical supplies such as masks, protective suits and disinfectants amid the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Enterprises from petrochemical engineering, automobile and mechanical manufacturing industries established production lines of masks from scratch in just 5 days. Some products were even developed in just 55 hours.

Such quick transition, R&D and production come from the undefeatable spirit of the Chinese enterprises at the special moment, and reflect the country's complete manufacturing system, high level of supporting mechanism of industries, as well as the advanced

skills of the Chinese workers.

On Feb. 6, China's largest oil refine China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec), and its e-commerce platform Epec posted message on social media to seek partners for mask production. The message received wide attention and the partners were found in just 3 hours.

Sinopec has reached agreement to cooperate with 11 mask production lines by noon of Feb. 7, and facilities are to be installed. It is estimated that 600,000 masks will roll off the new production lines on Feb. 29 and production of more than one million per day will be realized on March 10.

The production facilities of many enterprises, such as automobile manufacturers, are way different from

those for medical supplies, but these enterprises completed great transition.

For many manufacturers, to convert production lines is to reinforce their current facilities, such as reforming workshops, and making or purchasing new equipment. Besides, they have also trained staff, applied for relevant production qualifications, and learned necessary manufacturing techniques and process.

Many of the enterprises released news of production conversion in recent days, but actually they had prepared for this nearly a month ago.

On Feb. 7, Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., Ltd (GAC Group) sent engineers from its auto part technology center to Dongguan, southern China's

Guangdong province to study relevant techniques and manufacturing process of mask production equipment. The engineers finished the 2-week training in just a couple of days, and assembled the first set of mask production equipment on Feb. 10.

It is learned that GAC Group plans to produce 30 to 50 sets of such equipment by cooperating with its suppliers.

Part of the equipment will be employed by the group itself for mask production, while the rest will be offered to other enterprises in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province.

Other carmakers, including BYD and SAIC-GM-Wuling also started producing masks by building new production lines or cooperating with their

suppliers. BYD is expected to make 5 million pieces of masks per day in late February.

In major epidemic-hit areas, disposable protective suits are still in short supply. A large number of newly produced protective suits were not able to be sent to the frontline because they must go through 1 to 2 weeks' of sterilization before being put into use.

Now, the use of mass irradiation sterilization might largely shorten the process.

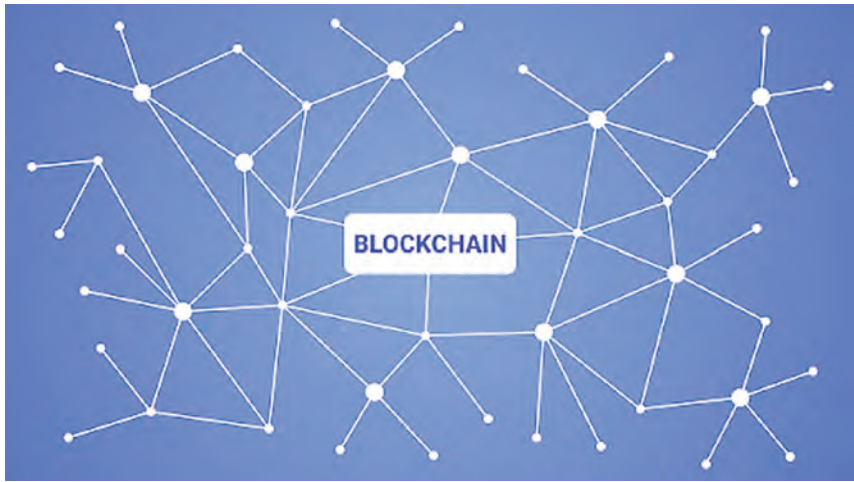
On Feb. 12, the first batch of over 10,000 disposable protective suits finished irradiation sterilization at a radiation technology company in Beijing under China National Nuclear Corporation. It only took 6 hours for the entire process, from unloading to

departure. Such sterilization method has largely reduced the time consumed compared with ethylene oxide sterilization.

The radiation technology company has opened a green channel for epidemic prevention and control materials. The production line is able to sterilize around 100,000 protective suits on a daily basis, an executive of the company introduced.

Ou Xiaoli, director of the Department of Social Development, National Development and Reform Commission, noted that the resumption of production will drive the demand for protective materials, and such materials, especially masks, are still seeing insufficient supply.

People's Daily



US fallacies on China will never sell

SENIOR officials of the U.S. once again attacked China's political system, as well as the country's domestic and foreign policies, at the recent 56th Munich Security Conference (MSC).

Such lies reflected their political prejudices against China, and fully exposed their paranoia and hypocrisy. The unnerving silence at the conference hall after they finished their speeches was sarcastic, while the refutation made by other attendants during the Q&A session well explained with whom justice stands.

At the MSC, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi made hypes on China's tech firm Huawei and 5G technology, comparing normal technology cooperation between enterprises to export of social system, which revealed her insanity in oppressing Chinese enterprises.

What's absurd is that her remarks suit perfectly the practices of her own country. The U.S. PRISM surveillance scandal is known throughout the world. In this program the U.S. government tracked nearly 5 billion phone calls around the world on a daily basis, and monitored the phones of national leaders for more than 10 years. Recently, the country was once again reported to have long controlled foreign companies and stole 120 countries' confidential information.

Of course, no one is going to buy such groundless rhetoric made by the U.S. - a "hacker" who can barely conceal its hypocrisy and anxiety, and is tripped by its own practices.

The European Union, the UK and Germany made it clear that they will not rule out certain companies on 5G construction, and UK officials said bluntly that the U.S. failed to offer solid evidence.

It indicates the long-lasting disreputation of the U.S. on cyber security. The improper remarks made by the country will never be supported no matter how hard it tries to sell them.

At the MSC, U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo put on a ridiculous "duet", with one fanning up the "China threat" and the other preaching "the West is winning".

On the one hand, they made the nonsense that China's admission to the WTO was a benefit offered by the U.S.; on the other hand, they claimed that China is interfering with U.S. internal affairs.

They told the meeting that the U.S. does not seek conflict with China, but later spared no effort to start provocation. These self-contradictory remarks were ridiculous, and only revealed the ugliness of arrogant hegemonism.

What effects has this "show" achieved? According to American political opinion website The Politico, both Esper and Pompeo's remarks to smear China at the MSC were not recognized by most of the European Un-

ion countries. Such situation tells that the calculations of these American politicians will never defeat justice.

Equity and justice shall never be absent from this world, and there will always be voices safeguarding them.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier criticized the U.S. administration at the MSC for rejecting "even the idea of an international community." French President Emmanuel Macron put it clear that Europe has different expectations with the U.S.

"But even the conference host, Wolfgang Ischinger, a veteran German diplomat, couldn't help but push back against the American torrent," said an article on the website of U.S. magazine Foreign Policy. The American Conservative noted that "As we look back on the record of how the U.S. and our allies have behaved over the last 30 years, respect for other nations' sovereignty is not what we see."

Every country enjoys the right to independently develop, and its people enjoy the freedom to pursue a happy life. China's development goes with global peace and justice, and is a natural step of the history that no force is able to stop. The by-hook-or-by-crook practices of the U.S. will only present China's rapid development in a clearer image.

More and more members of the international society are expressing discontent with the improper remarks and practices of the U.S. High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell noted that the recent criticisms and accusations against China from individual countries are out of jealousy for China's development success.

Cold War mentality and zero-sum games, as well as the outdated political prejudices and lies cause nothing but damage. The U.S. politicians will finally realize, in a desolate manner, that what goes against history will never make history, and the world will not join them in reversing the history.

Just as what the Munich Security Report 2020 points out, some of the world's most important challenges cannot be solved by the West alone, and dealing with the implications of this new era will require cooperation with countries of different social systems.

There's no doubt that the international society welcomes China's development, and expects countries of different social systems to coexist peacefully and cooperate for win-win results.

In the face of the increasingly complex security and development challenges, countries must seek common ground while shelving differences and take concrete actions to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

China sharing experience on COVID-19 'nothing short of excellence' - WHO

GENEVA
HAVING China share its experiences with other countries on containing the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, is nothing short of excellence, experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

Maria van Kerkhove, technical lead for the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, said at a daily briefing that China's experience in fighting COVID-19 needs to be shared, referring to China's latest support in terms of experts and medical equipment to Iran.

"This is an excellent example of peer-to-peer sharing what has been done, what can be done in other countries, and having direct interaction with another country," said Kerkhove.

She underlined it's important for China to share experiences in cases and contacts finding, caring and management of patients, on how to ready hospitals and personal protective equipment, as well as in infection prevention and control.

"That direct interaction is what we want to see more and more happen. So having China share its experience with

other countries is nothing short of excellence," she added.

Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Program, said that experts from China and the WHO are at the time "probably sitting together to discuss" the COVID-19 situation in Iran.

"The Iranian government is very keen that the Chinese expert team and the WHO team come together as happened in China," he said, adding that the experts will share experience, double their impact, and have a joint approach against the outbreak in Iran.



Trump campaign sues Washington Post over opinion pieces

NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump's re-election campaign sued the Washington Post for libel on Tuesday over two opinion pieces that it said suggested improper ties between the campaign and Russia, North Korea or both.

The campaign filed its lawsuit six days after filing a separate libel lawsuit against the New York Times, over an opinion piece it said falsely suggested a quid pro quo between Russian officials and Trump's 2016 campaign.

Both lawsuits escalate the Republican president's long-running battle with news media he believes demonstrate bias against him, a list also including CNN and MSNBC and which he frequently brands "fake news."

Trump's campaign is seeking millions of dollars in damages in both lawsuits.

Kristine Coratti Kelly, vice-president of communications at the Post, said in a statement: "It's disappointing to see the President's campaign committee resorting to these types of tactics and we will vigorously defend this case."

The Post is owned by Amazon.com Inc's billionaire founder Jeff Bezos.

Tuesday's complaint focused on alleged false and defamatory statements contained in opinions published last June 13 by Greg Sargent and June 20 by Paul Waldman, who both write for the Post's Plum Line blog.

The campaign objected to what it called Sargent's statement that former Special Counsel Robert Mueller, in his probe into Russian interference in the 2016 US election, concluded that Trump's campaign "tried to conspire with" a "sweeping and systemic" attack by Russia against that election.

It said Mueller's report, released last April 18, actually concluded there was "no conspiracy" between the campaign and the Russian government, and that no US person intentionally coordinated with Russian efforts to interfere with the election. The campaign also objected to Waldman's statement "who knows what sort of aid Russia and North Korea will give to the Trump campaign, now that he has invited them to offer their assistance."

Agencies

Biden has strong Super Tuesday showing, Sanders wins California

WASHINGTON

A RESURGENT Joe Biden rode a wave of momentum to win at least eight large states on Super Tuesday, but Bernie Sanders won the biggest prize of California to set up a long one-on-one battle for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In a surprisingly strong showing, Biden rolled to victories across the South, Midwest and New England on the biggest day of voting in the Democratic campaign. Americans in 14 states cast ballots for a challenger to Republican President Donald Trump in the Nov 3 election.

"For those who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign," said Biden, the former vice president who had performed poorly in the first three nominating contests but broke through with a win in South Carolina.

"We are very much alive," he told roaring supporters in Los Angeles.

Sanders, the one-time front-runner who had hoped to take a big step toward the nomination on Tuesday, won Colorado, Utah and his home state of Vermont, Edison Research said.

Fox News and AP projected Sanders won California, whose 415 delegates represent the largest haul in the nominating contest. But Edison Research and other networks held off declaring a winner as results trickled in.

With overwhelming support from African American, moderate and older voters, Biden swept to wins in Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Virginia. The second biggest prize Texas and Maine were too close to call. Sanders was slightly trailing Biden in Texas, a state he had heavily invested in and had hoped to win given its sizeable Latino population.

It was a spectacular turn for Biden, whose campaign was on life support after poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire. Until a week ago he trailed Sanders in most state and national opinion polls.

Biden's blowout win in South Carolina on Saturday provided a burst of new mo-



Democratic presidential hopeful former Vice President Joe Biden (center) arrives onstage with his wife Jill and sister Valerie (right) for a Super Tuesday event in Los Angeles on Tuesday. AFP

mentum, fueling a wave of endorsements from elected Democratic officials and former presidential rivals including Pete Buttigieg, a former mayor, and US Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota before voting began on Super Tuesday.

ONE THIRD UP FOR GRABS

More than one-third of the delegates who will pick the eventual nominee at a July convention were up for grabs in the primaries on Tuesday, which provided some clarity at last in a muddled race for the White House.

The results also left Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former New York mayor who spent more than half a billion dollars on advertising, largely out of the running, with his only victory coming in the US territory of American Samoa.

Bloomberg campaign officials said he would reassess whether to stay in the race on Wednesday, but they said that did not mean he would drop out.

Biden was hoping to stay within reach of Sanders in delegates, giving him a chance to catch up as the race moved on. But after Tuesday, he led Sanders in delegates for the day 241 to 174, with hundreds more to be allocated.

Overall, Biden leads Sanders in delegates 294 to 234.

Without naming him, Sanders took direct aim at Biden during a rally with sup-

porters in Vermont, criticizing his 2002 vote to authorize the war in Iraq and his support for global trade deals that Sanders opposed.

"We're going to win the Democratic nomination and we are going to defeat the most dangerous president in the history of this country," Sanders said.

Biden accomplished his main Super Tuesday goal of muscling aside Bloomberg and consolidating support from moderates to turn the race into a one-on-one contest against Sanders.

BIDEN POPULAR WITH BLACK VOTERS

Biden repeated his strong performance with black voters in South Carolina on Saturday. Edison Research exit polls showed Biden winning large majorities of African-American voters in the South.

His showing was further fueled by strong support among an older people, college graduates and those who considered themselves liberal or moderate.

Sanders countered with a strong showing among Latinos, young people and white men, helping him to wins in the West. The results were disappointing for US Senator Elizabeth Warren, who finished well behind Sanders and Biden in most states and trailed them in her home state of Massachusetts.

Agencies

IOC presented forged signatures in doping case against Russian biathletes, lawyers say

MOSCOW

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been given one day to provide an explanation regarding alleged forged signatures on documents presented as evidence against Russian biathletes accused of doping.

On Monday the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) considered a claim by Russian lawyer Alexey Panich, who said that IOC documents on the case involving three Russian biathletes -

Olga Zaitseva, Yana Romanova and Olga Vilukhina - contained fake signatures of former Moscow Anti-Doping laboratory chief Grigory Rodchenkov.

The trio of Russian athletes were slapped with lifetime bans in 2017 and stripped of medals over alleged doping violations.

According to TASS, the IOC will need to provide an explanation regarding the documents - the key evidence against the Russian athletes - by Tuesday.

The athletes retired from sport in 2017, but filed an appeal with CAS attempting to overturn the decision imposed by the IOC on the verge of the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.

The athletes are seeking monetary compensation for damage inflicted to their reputation and sporting career.

The former head of the Moscow laboratory Rodchenkov fled Russia at the end of 2015, becoming WADA's key informant in the case on the alleged state sponsored doping program in

the country.

His accusations instigated a massive crackdown against Russia, which affected the country's participation at the 2016 and 2018 Games in Brazil and South Korea respectively.

At the 2018 PyeongChang Games, Russian athletes are competing under a neutral flag and under the name Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR) without national emblems, which were banned by the IOC.

Agencies

EU leaders express unity in dealing with migrant flows after visiting Greek-Turkish border

ATHENS

LEADERS of European Union (EU) institutions expressed on Tuesday their support for Greece and determination for a common European response to the refugee, migrant challenge after a visit to the Greek-Turkish land border.

European Council President Charles Michel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Parliament President David Sassoli, and Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic attended the press conference held in the town of Kastanies in the Evros region with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, after being briefed on the crisis unfolding on the Greek-Turkish land border since last Friday.

Tens of thousands of refugees and migrants have gathered on the Turkish side of the border, after Ankara said it could no longer prevent them from reaching Europe's borders.

Greek police and armed forces have been strengthened on the border and until Monday evening they had prevented over 24,000 illegal crossings and detained 183 persons who crossed the border, according to Greek government sources.

In the past few days, the Greek government has repeatedly stated that it faces a national security threat and therefore has stepped up patrols on land and sea borders and requested the immediate substantial aid from other EU member states.

"The Greek borders are the

European borders and what you are doing is important for Greece and crucial as well for the future of the EU. We are together, because we consider borders protection is essential," Charles Michel said on Tuesday.

"We have come here today to send a very clear statement of European solidarity and support to Greece," von der Leyen stated.

Greece will receive an additional 700 million euros (784 million US dollars) of financial aid for the management of the crisis, she announced, noting that European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is already getting ready to deploy a rapid border intervention unit to assist Greece in dealing with the situation.

"It is the responsibility of Euro-

pean countries until the closure of borders along the Balkan route in the winter of 2016 and the signing of EU-Turkey agreement aimed to stem the influx.

Under the deal, Turkey would be provided with financial assistance to accommodate the millions of refugees and migrants hosted in the country in return for increased efforts to deal with the human smuggling networks operating in the region.

"We need - we see it every day - to strengthen our common policy framework to deal with migration on a European level. We are here today for one more reason, to tell Turkey that we do not want more talks, but that Turkey respects what has been agreed," Sassoli said on Tuesday.

Stressing that nobody wishes to

see a replay of the 2015-2016 refugee crisis, Plenkovic also voiced support for Greece, calling for determination to give a European response to the new challenge.

"Greece is now the shield of the external borders of the EU... We will send a message to Turkey that good relations between Turkey and the EU depend on both of us. We will seek to find political and diplomatic solution to deescalate the situation we have today here," the Croatian prime minister told the press briefing.

Greece has demonstrated solidarity to people in need for years and is currently hosting about 100,000 already, but cannot shoulder alone all the burden of safeguarding Europe's borders from more massive flows, said Greek prime minister.

"Greece expects tangible solidarity from the EU and I can tell you that the presence of the entire leadership of the EU here at the outer border of Europe sends a clear signal to everyone. But let's be honest. Europe has not been up to the task of dealing with the migrant crisis. I hope this crisis will serve as a wakeup call for everyone to assume their responsibilities," Mitsotakis stated.

"We stand ready to support Turkey in dealing with its refugee problem and find a solution to the Syria conundrum, but not under these circumstances... Migrants and refugees cannot be used as instruments, as pawns in a geopolitical game," the Greek leader concluded. (1 euro = 1.12 U.S. dollars)

Agencies



Golden State Warriors guard Jordan Poole (3) drives as Denver Nuggets forward Will Barton defends during the second half in an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Denver. Golden State won 116-100. (AP Photo)

Anthony Davis scores 37, leads Lakers past Sixers 120-107

LOS ANGELES

SHORTLY before halftime, 6-foot-10 Anthony Davis coolly dropped a crossover dribble and a Eurostep layup on the 76ers.

And then shortly after halftime, 35-year-old LeBron James walked the ball upcourt and casually drilled a 3-pointer from the "R" inside the Lakers' half-court logo.

The superstar duo had another full night of doing things that blow people's minds.

Against an undermanned but lively Sixers lineup, Los Angeles needed most of that magic to win again.

Davis scored 18 of his 37 points during a phenomenal second-quarter surge, and the Lakers held off injury-depleted Philadelphia 120-107 on Tuesday night.

James had 22 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds for the Lakers, who moved to 47-13 with their ninth win in 10 games. His 40-footer was a stylish flourish on an entertaining all-around game from the Lakers' two All-Stars, and it came at the end of a 44-10 run in roughly 10 minutes spanning halftime.

"That was a great stretch for our team, for our season," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "To see us be able to take over a game like that was a positive sign."

James and Davis had to carry them past the Sixers, who played without injured starters Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and Josh Richardson. To James, the Lakers can learn from their slow start and big surge as they prepare to make a run at a championship in several weeks.

"We've lost to teams that were missing starters this year, but everyone here is an NBA player," James said. "We all got here for a reason, so you don't ever disrespect that. You don't ever disrespect the game. They're a very good team no matter what."

Davis hit four 3-pointers while grabbing 13 rebounds and going 13 of 19 from the field, with no basket prettier than his crossover to ditch Al Horford. He made all seven of his shots in the second quarter while the Lakers played some of their prettiest basketball of the year.

"I started off really slow and missed some shots that were wide open," Davis said. "I was just trying to figure out how I could get myself going. Once one of us got it going, it got contagious until all of us got going."

Glenn Robinson III matched his career high with 25 points and Tobias Harris had 18 for the Sixers, who have lost nine consecutive road games since Jan. 20.

Philadelphia lost twice at Staples Center to start its four-game California road trip despite this persistent effort against the powerhouse Lakers.

Philly's role players and backups got off to an impressive start, taking an early 13-point lead. That's when Davis took control with a dazzling quarter that included three 3-pointers. The Lakers made 17 of their 19

shots at one point.

"Obviously we played two really good teams here," Harris said. "I felt like we had a good start, and then that second quarter hurt us. I think where the game really slipped was they picked up their defensive intensity, and from there it rushed us."

Meanwhile, in Oklahoma City, Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points to help the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 109-94 on Tuesday night.

The Clippers held Oklahoma City to 42% shooting as coach Doc Rivers moved into sole possession of 12th place in NBA history with 936 wins.

"We played defense the whole game," Rivers said. "They made a couple of runs, but that's what they do. But we kept responding. We responded with big baskets and lots of stops. I thought our defense today was extraordinary."

Montrezl Harrell and former Thunder player Paul George each added 16 points for the Clippers, who won their fifth straight.

George received a warm reception from Oklahoma City's fans. He spent two seasons with the Thunder and was third in the MVP balloting last season before the team traded him last summer.

"I had a short stint here, but the way they embraced me and took me in the second I stepped foot here from day one – it was a huge impact," George said. "That's the reason I still want to do community work here. I still want to be established as a Sooner here, as an Oklahoman."

Dennis Schroder scored 24 points and former Clippers Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Danilo Gallinari each scored 15 for the Thunder, who lost their second straight. The 15-point margin matched Oklahoma City's worst home loss of the season.

"I thought we had moments in time in the game where we got stagnant on offense," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "I think some of that had to do with their length and their size and their athleticism."

Oklahoma lost 133-86 to Milwaukee on Friday night.

"I think these last two games, playing against Milwaukee and playing against the Clippers, obviously two elite teams – I'm hopeful that we can keep getting better because in these kinds of games, things get exposed that you have to work on and have to really address and look at," Donovan said.

The Clippers finished the second quarter strong and led 59-47 at halftime. Leonard led Los Angeles with 16 points on 7-of-11 shooting while Schroder scored 13 points in the first half for the Thunder.

The Clippers continued to roll and led 89-70 after the third period. George scored eight points in the third quarter after a quiet first half.

Los Angeles held a comfortable lead throughout the fourth quarter.

Music industry now shifting from copyright lobbying to radionomics

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THAT there is a difference between old time dance music and the rapping generation has nowhere been underlined than in musicians moving into industry themselves, not just depending upon producers and market savvy entrepreneurs for their livelihoods. There are still some soft voices being heard here and there, for instance the holding of a rather intensive 'estates general' of the industry courtesy of Radio One and its associates mid last year on the subject. It was perhaps the last word said in that direction, and unlikely to come up for intense mention too soon.

The reason is that fortunes of musicians are more or less unpredictable in the sense that some are making good money, some even making plenty of money, while those on the wrong side of the market make a few coins, to get on with daily chores. As it is the case with any other market based commercial engagement, there is no formula to enable everyone to succeed, nor are there sorely difficult conditions where the majority is likely to fail. It is a matter of talent, the direction it takes and how the market welcomes it at that point, sealing the musician's fate.

From what is apparent in the market, the more important hindrance of musicians' development is their kind of audience, for instance how far they can compose hits, get a producer, place them online and earn significant amounts of money from such productions. There is an uneven transition from relying on attendance in music halls of invitations for ceremonies and directly accessing the market on line or hard copy via the cutting industry. Still the visibility of records being sold in the streets is low or declining, as youths select songs for flash discs or smart phones.



A section of domestic artistes, who took part in the 2018 edition of the Sauti Busara festival in Zanzibar, appreciate spectators' support after the artistes' show.

Selective purchasing of songs for routine accessibility instead of listening to random music from radio stations means that the competition is less between bands than between songs. This aspect has always been there and it survives with regard to wider aspects of exercising music talent, for instance in live shows, where it isn't just one or other song but band or group image which matters more. Thus radios take a different role or sight aspect to musicians compared to the past, namely that they cease to be the market from which they ought to get a livelihood.

On the contrary, radios become publicity centers for productions of musicians, exposing them to audiences, often obtaining time to talk on their latest numbers and what intuition informs the numbers, etc. There is also a fan club aspect in such appearances, as interviewers or talk show hosts are keen about the people around this or that hip hop star in particular, so all the gossip matters that circulate in the grapevine or in tabloids are put on the table for extended

discussion. This vocation is symbiotic in character as it enables otherwise starved FM stations win audiences while being a lifeline for artists to sell their works, their perspectives on life, etc.

That puts paid to a well cultivated policy line that used to link the veteran music groups' organizations in the city of Dar es Salaam, Dance Music Association of Tanzania (CHAMUDATA), with culture and youth authorities in government. Just as regulatory authorities keep tabs on charges made to mobile phone users in purchase of airtime, similarly there were tabs being developed on the use artists' productions, and how much they ought to be paid. If such a proposition is taken far enough, that is, 'fair payment' for use of the work of an artist, it would singularly price them out of the market for lack of air time, as most radios live on a pittance, and hardly can afford to pay for music.

It is also evident that ability to earn money directly online has eased the pressure on the better placed local musicians, and thus any lingering pressure for

keeping tabs on local radios and seeking 'fair payment' for musicians will have a thinning base of supporters all the time. Thus when the past musicians estates general again raised the matter it was clear that it was out of date, and the pundits favoring that approach were those drawn from the old school, dance music veterans, in the main. Few of the current money-spinning Bongo flava artistes appeared to worry about it.

Plenty of marketing savvy music whiz kids must be sought on a daily basis to find ways to strike a balance, or elevate chances of earnings, from routine audiences, online productions, collaborations and their embedded costs, monitoring use of recorded materials (in flash disk-based distribution), etc. While in the old days any talk on radio concerning music could be followed and enjoyed by the commonest of laymen, it isn't quite the case when online savvy performers are interviewed. Without being somewhat initiated in the industry, one quite simply loses his way.



Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), opens an Executive Board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Tuesday. Photo: REUTERS

IOC stands firm on Tokyo Games despite coronavirus concerns

LAUSANNE, Switzerland

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday gave further unequivocal backing to this summer's Tokyo Olympics, urging athletes to prepare "full steam" despite the coronavirus threat.

"We are preparing for a successful Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020," IOC head Thomas Bach said at an executive board meeting to discuss the July 24-Aug. 9 sporting extravaganza.

Earlier on Tuesday, Japan's Olympics minister Seiko Hashimoto had said that details within Tokyo's contract with the IOC "could be interpreted as allowing a postponement" until the end of the year.

That host city contract states that one of several triggers which would allow the IOC to withdraw the Games from Tokyo would be if "the Games are not celebrated during the year 2020".

Hashimoto said, however, that Japan's government and Tokyo were still committed to the Games beginning on July 24, and the IOC has repeatedly swatted aside any suggestions of a postponement.

The Olympic body said again on Tuesday there was no Plan B, and that the Games would take place in their allotted time slot.

WREAK HAVOC
Any change to dates would instantly wreak havoc on most sports programmes, with competition calendars planned several years ago to accommodate the Tokyo timings.

Finding a new date in 2020 at this stage, which would first need the green light from the IOC, would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the 33 sports federations present in Tokyo.

Bach, a 66-year-old lawyer and former Olympic fencing champion, has an iron grip on IOC decision-making and is known for

sticking to his guns in adversity.

"I would like to encourage all the athletes to continue their preparation for the Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020 with great confidence and full steam," the German told reporters in Lausanne. "From our side, we will continue to support the athletes and the National Olympic Committees."

Multiple sports events around the world have been cancelled during the epidemic, which has killed more than 3,000 people in China and spread to more than 60 nations including Japan where infections are near 1,000 and 12 people have died.

SMALLER CROWDS
Crowds will be smaller and receptions have been scrapped at the Tokyo 2020 torch-lighting ceremony in ancient Olympia, Greece, next week as the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) introduced measures to protect against the coronavirus, it said

on Tuesday.

Despite concerns over possible health risks to spectators and participants at the Games, the Olympic body is unwilling to publicly discuss any other option, such as cancellation or postponement.

"No," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said when asked if the Olympic body had discussed possible options if the situation deteriorates.

"There is no international travel ban and all the advice that we are getting is that the Games can and will go ahead," Adams said. "At this precise time we are expecting the Games to begin on the 24th of July."

The IOC board said a joint task force had been created two weeks ago, involving the IOC, the Tokyo Games organisers, the city, the government, and the World Health Organisation to help deal with the coronavirus ahead of the Olympics. REUTERS

Ceferin now asserts European soccer power in face of 'threats'

AMSTERDAM

ASSERTING the power of European soccer, UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin warned that FIFA's attempts to radically change several club competitions would be a "death sentence" for football.

With FIFA President Gianni Infantino in the audience, Ceferin told the UEFA congress on Tuesday he was not "ashamed" European soccer was so successful.

FIFA has tried to gain a greater foothold in the club game, with Infantino trying to raise finances to attract the biggest names to an enlarged 24-team Club World Cup, which could threaten UEFA's popular Champions League competition. Plans for a global clubs' league from Real Madrid President Florentino Pérez also emerged after he met with Infantino in December.

Ceferin said it was an "inalienable right" for UEFA and other confederations to organize their own competitions.

"The principles of solidarity, of promotion, relegation and open leagues are also non-negotiable," Ceferin said. "Our principles, history, tradition and structure have enabled football to dominate other sports and enabled European football to dominate the rest of the world. Calling them into question would be a death sentence for our sport."

The future format of the Champions League is also being debated with opposition growing in the last year to a concept to turn Europe's elite competition into a largely closed one.

"If our success enables us to defend with strength, conviction and legitimacy the European sport model, based on promotion and relegation and the principle of solidarity, we can be proud," Ceferin said in Amsterdam. "If our success enables us to ward off threats that appear on the horizon, we can be proud. These threats are alarming and we need to anticipate the worst if we are to prevent it."

"When purpose over profit becomes profit over purpose, it is time to raise the alarm. Football is not simply a business like any other. It has a history, tradition and structure that must be respected."

Ceferin tried to distance himself from dramatic attempts to transform the soccer landscape in a speech to officials from the 55 UEFA member nations and leaders from other confederations.

"No football administrator, no mat-

ter the size of ego, should think we are the stars of the game. Because we are not," Ceferin said, without naming anyone. "We are the guardians of a legacy. We are guardians, here to protect the game, its players and its history."

After what appeared like criticism of Infantino's strategy at FIFA by Ceferin, the world body used its Twitter account to link to its president's speech by stating he "stressed the need for cooperation" over determining the future of football.

FINANCIAL FAIR PLAY
Ceferin was tight-lipped at the congress on Manchester City being banned from European competitions for two seasons for "serious breaches" of Financial Fair Play rules by overstating sponsorship revenue in its accounts and break-even information.

With Abu Dhabi-owned City appealing against the punishment, Ceferin said he had to "respect the system" but suggested there could be future changes to the rules that restrict the spending by clubs, regardless of their owners' wealth.

"It's too early to say how it will look like in the future," Ceferin said. "But we are thinking about it and we probably will have to adapt it. It was very successful as a system ... and now we will probably have to adapt to different times. But it's again, too early to share it with the public. Our experts are discussing it and it will not happen very soon."

CHARGED EXECUTIVE
Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the president of Paris Saint-Germain who also runs Doha-based broadcaster beIN, took part in the two-day UEFA meeting as an executive committee member despite being indicted recently as part of a five-year Swiss corruption investigation linked to FIFA World Cup television rights.

"The charges of bribery are off," Ceferin said. "On the other charge, we have presumption of innocence as a very important thing. We are awaiting how things develop."

Al-Khelaifi, who denies wrongdoing, was charged with inciting then-FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke "to commit aggravated criminal mismanagement." Al-Khelaifi was accused of allowing Valcke to use a luxury villa on the Italian island of Sardinia rent free in 2014 and 2015. At the time, Valcke had some influence over FIFA broadcast deals, including an extension of beIN's Middle East rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups.

AP

Frank Lampard thrilled with 'throwback' Gilmour after win

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Frank Lampard described 18-year-old midfielder Billy Gilmour as a "throwback" after the young Scot's superb display in the 2-0 FA Cup win over Liverpool on Tuesday.

Gilmour was handed only his third start in the fifth-round match, having also been selected for a couple of League Cup ties, and seized his chance with an assured performance in a high-tempo tie.

Lampard has given youth a chance this season with Mason Mount, a regular starter, also impressive against Liverpool. The diminutive Gilmour really caught the eye though with his incisive passing, tackling and fearlessness on the ball.

Lampard could hardly contain the smile when asked about the player snapped up from the Rangers academy.

"What an incredible performance for a young player," Lampard told the BBC. "He was a calm head in that first five or 10 minutes. He's a throwback of a midfielder."

"Can you put your foot in? Yes. Can you make angles to play the passes? Yes. He's only slight in stature but he's huge in personality. He deserves people to talk about him after a performance like that."

Goals by Willian in the 13th minute, courtesy of a ghastly mistake by Liverpool keeper Adrian, and Ross Barkley in the 64th minute, made it a great night for the eight-time Cup winners.

They were indebted to recalled

goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to keep them ahead though as the Spaniard, dropped in January, made three saves in quick succession from Sadio Mane, Divock Origi and Liverpool teenager Curtis Jones.

"I was really pleased for Kepa," Lampard said. "It's not easy because all players want to play and a goalkeeper gets scrutinised more than any other position and he made some good saves. He's shown good character and he played well."

Liverpool's third defeat in four games, following Saturday's shock 3-0 loss at Watford that ended their 44-game unbeaten run in the Premier League, can hardly be described as a mini-crisis.

Juergen Klopp's side are 22 points clear in the Premier League and within touching distance of a first league title in 30 years. They will also be confident of overturning a 1-0 deficit against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League.

Yet there are signs that Liverpool are misfiring with eight goals conceded in four games and three consecutive away defeats in all competitions for the first time since November 2014 under former manager Brendan Rodgers.

"Look, it went our way for so long because we defended outstandingly," Klopp told reporters. "Usually you don't get a lot of chances against us and stuff like this, but now we have to admit that in the last three games -- (maybe) four -- we have conceded absolutely too many goals, that's true."

(Agencies)

UEFA 'confident' coronavirus outbreak will not derail Euro 2020 plans

AMSTERDAM

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said Tuesday he was confident European football's governing body could deal with any worst-case scenario in relation to the upcoming Euro 2020 as the continent battles to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

COVID-19 has been detected in 76 countries worldwide, killing over 3,000 people with Italy the worst-hit nation in Europe.

The Italian capital Rome is one of 12 venues across the continent set to host matches at the European Championship in June and July.

A long list of sports events around the world have been cancelled or postponed in recent days to avoid spreading the virus, including games in Italy's Serie A. The top two divisions of Swiss football have been postponed until the end of March.

"You don't know how many concerns we have when we organise a big competition," Ceferin said at a press conference after the UEFA Congress in Amsterdam.

"We have security concerns, we have political instability concerns, and one of the concerns is also the virus, and we are dealing with it and we are confident we can deal with it."

This week marks 100 days until the start of the 24-team European Championship, and Ceferin called on organisers to "not just think about dark scenarios, there will be time for that later."

His comments came after FIFA president Gianni Infantino, addressing the Congress, urged authorities "not to panic".

UEFA General Secretary Theodore



UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin speaking at the Congress of European football's governing body in Amsterdam (AFP Photo)

Theodoridis said European football's governing body "do not want to overreact" and was dealing with the situation "case by case". However, Champions League fixtures are a more pressing concern.

"Prepared for every eventuality"

On Tuesday evening Spain's health minister, Salvador Illa, said Valencia's Champions League last 16, second leg at home to Italian side Atalanta next

Tuesday, March 10, should be played behind closed doors.

In Italy, Juventus had their Serie A game called off at the weekend, while Inter Milan played a Europa League home game behind closed doors last Thursday with the north

of the country particularly badly hit by the outbreak.

Juventus are due to host Lyon in Turin in the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on March

17 and that game could also be played behind closed doors, chiefly because there is little room in a crowded calendar to allow for postponements.

Inter are also due to host Spanish side Getafe on March 12 in the Europa League.

Theodoridis said: "Inter already have two matches postponed, and they still play in the Italian Cup and the Europa League, so this makes it almost impossible

to find dates if we don't coordinate between the European leagues."

Concerns about the outbreak impacted on the draw for the next UEFA Nations League tournament in Amsterdam on Tuesday evening.

Scotland manager Steve Clarke was not present at the draw, with the Scottish FA telling the BBC that decision was made in order to avoid an "unnecessary risk" before his team play Israel in a key Euro 2020 qualifying play-off later this month.

Meanwhile, Spain coach Luis Enrique did not travel to Amsterdam due to illness, the Spanish Football Federation said.

Asked about the possibility of his team's scheduled friendly against Italy in London on March 27 being cancelled, England manager Gareth Southgate said it was not the time to speculate.

"I think we have to be adaptable and have to make sure that we are prepared for every eventuality, but as we stand we are trying not to get too worried by all the hype, make sensible decisions on hygiene and go from there," he said.

"I don't want to make light of it, but equally there are dangers everywhere in life that you are aware of and conscious of." AFP

Liverpool's FA Cup exit puts club at risk of failing to rewrite history

LONDON

THREE defeats in three competitions in the space of two weeks. All of a sudden, Liverpool's procession toward sporting immortality is beginning to look like the stumble before a fall in the wake of their FA Cup exit against Chelsea.

Frank Lampard's team won 2-0 with goals from Willian and Ross Barkley, but it could have been a much more emphatic winning margin for Chelsea on a night when Liverpool were uncharacteristically unconvincing in every area of the pitch.

Has a rot begun to set in that could result in this season being a good one rather than the great one it had promised to be? Three defeats, without a goal being scored in any of them, against teams prepared to hit Liverpool on the counterattack points to a pattern, but despite the worrying trend, Jurgen Klopp insisted at Stamford Bridge that he is not concerned about a loss of momentum.

"I am not worried about momentum," he said. "You can't control when you have it, but we know we can get it back."

"Losing 2-0 is not good, but easy to explain. We made two massive mistakes before the two goals."

"Things have gone our way for so long [this season] because we defended well. Usually, teams don't get a lot of chances against us, but in the last four games we have conceded far too many goals."

Liverpool's priority this season -- and in every season for the past 30 years -- was to win the league title for the first time since 1990, and this loss of form is going to do nothing to deny Klopp's team the club's Holy Grail. Even after Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Watford, their first in the Premier League all season, Liverpool's 22-point lead at the top is so commanding that it would be unthinkable for them to surrender their position with the finishing line now just four wins away. But until they lost 1-0 against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League round of 16 first leg tie in Spain a fortnight ago, Liverpool were beginning to look like a team capable of sweeping the board in terms of the silverware available to them.

The reigning European champions face Diego Simeone's Atletico



Liverpool's hopes of a historic season took a hit after being knocked out of the FA Cup by Chelsea. (Agencies)

at Anfield in next Wednesday's second leg and they will back themselves to overturn their one-goal deficit and progress to the quarterfinals. But Klopp and his players may now also experience doubt and apprehension ahead of the Atletico tie because their winning habit has now become a losing one and the defeat at Chelsea will only have added to that sense of things beginning to go wrong.

It is a defeat that ends Liverpool's prospect of achieving a Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup Treble, ensuring that they cannot match Manchester United's historic feat from 1999 this season. Three days earlier, Liverpool's hopes of emulating Arsenal's 2004 Invincibles by winning the title without suffering a defeat also came to end with the loss at Watford.

Klopp has always in-

sisted that neither he nor his players are motivated by achievements beyond winning trophies, but the teams that write themselves into the record books are remembered for years and decades, and there is a danger that this Liverpool side may only win the Premier League this season and miss the chance to stand on the shoulders of giants. Perhaps that is why Klopp chose to field a weakened team against Chelsea, making six changes from the side beaten by Watford, with starts for youngsters Neco Williams and Curtis Jones. Fringe players such as Adam Lallana, Divock Origi and goalkeeper Adrian were named in the starting lineup.

For the German, maybe the domestic cups are an unnecessary inconvenience and drain on resources for the league and Champions League. Understandable, perhaps, be-

cause Klopp has used the domestic cup competitions to rotate his squad and rest key men, but a manager driven by the chance to make history would surely have selected the big guns against Chelsea and rested them against Bournemouth at the weekend because the 22-point lead gives him the luxury of being able to do just that in the Premier League.

Doing that would have given his star players a weekend off ahead of the Atletico tie and it would have been virtually risk free, because even a defeat against Bournemouth would not stop the Premier League trophy ending up at Anfield. But as it is, his team are now out of the FA Cup -- a competition Liverpool have not won since 2006 -- and his players now shoulder the burden of having lost three of their past four games. No matter how good or confident you are as a team, such a run

is damaging for self belief, and the last thing Liverpool need against Atletico is self doubt.

The performance of defenders Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Andy Robertson was unusually below par against Chelsea, just as the defence as a whole was poor in the 3-0 loss at Watford. Having kept 11 clean sheets in 13 games before losing at Atletico, Liverpool have now conceded eight goals in four games, so something is not working.

If the malaise continues and sees Liverpool eliminated from the Champions League next week, the sense of them having missed the chance to make history this season will be inescapable. They will win the league, of course, and every Liverpool supporter will happily settle for that.

But there could have been so much more.

(Agencies)

SPORT

UEFA 'confident' coronavirus outbreak will not derail Euro 2020 plans

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga have enough time to prepare for Dar Derby, says coach



Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, issues instructions to his players at a training which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) head coach Luc Eymael has said he has enough time to prepare his side ahead of Sunday's Vodacom Premier League encounter with their rivals Simba SC, which will take place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The coach issued the statement on Tuesday after his side had cruised to 2-0 victory over Mwanza's Mbao FC at the National Stadium.

Forward David Molinga and winger Patrick Sibomana netted for the eventual winners in either

half of the encounter.

Molinga netted the opener for Yanga through a well taken spot kick on the 26th minute, Sibomana made it 2-0 for the side, drilling from inside the visiting squad's penalty area with his left foot on the 81st minute.

Eymael described the game against Mbao FC as a perfect preparation for the Sunday game.

He pointed out he will make sure that his team up their game at the National Stadium to beat the opponents, who are tipped to lay their hands on the league's

silverware.

He said he is treating the Sunday clash, nicknamed 'Dar Derby', with care as he is aware of its importance to Tanzania football.

He disclosed his charges need to create a stir by beating the league leaders.

"The Sunday encounter with Simba is one of the most sought after football fixture on the local scene and the whole of East Africa Region, but I'm not in cold sweat ahead of the match," he disclosed.

"We have good four days to prepare for the encounter, I'm

sure my charges will be ready for the game."

"It is our desire to win the Sunday game and narrow the gap, it is going to be a great challenge, we will need to play very well and even better than we did in our previous games."

The coach, on Tuesday, rested some of his regular players like Metacha Mnata, Erick Kabamba, Bernard Morrison, Haruna Niyonzima, Ditram Nchimbi and Jaffary Mohamed.

Midfielder Mapinduzi Balama, who is as well a regular starter in the squad, came off the bench in the second half of the clash.

The Belgian tactician gave chance to Farouk Shikalo, Adeyun Saleh, Kelvin Yondani, Mohamed Issa, and Patrick Sibomana, who mostly start on the bench.

He hailed his charges for playing well in the game against Mbao FC.

"Today (Tuesday) I rested most of my first team players and gave a chance to those who don't enjoy regular time, but I'm happy with their response," he disclosed.

"They are playing well, to me this means I'm building a squad of good players."

The Jangwani Street based side has posted 47 points from 24 games while Simba had 65 points from 25 games before the outfit's match against Azam FC, which had been slated for yesterday in the city.

The Sunday clash has potential to decide this season's league champions.

Meanwhile, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has announced that Confederation of African Football (CAF) president, Ahmed Ahmed, will jet into Dar es Salaam on Saturday for official duties.

The federation noted Ahmed will, among other things, watch the Dar es Salaam derby the following day.

Ahmed will be the first CAF sitting president in to watch the Dar es Salaam derby.

EATV THURSDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SalamaNa

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Masi Kiraani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujuzi (r)
14:30 DK 10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Umbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MUDALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Union SC clobbers MCC in Paul Manyanda Memorial cricket tournament

By Guardian Reporter

UNION Sports Club cricketers have boosted their pursuit of silverware in Division B of the maiden Paul Manyanda Memorial tournament, walloping Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) by 33 runs in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

It was the fifth consecutive victory for Union SC that are lately positioned second in the Division B table, having notched 10 points and winning percentage of 100.00.

Union SC has posted a net run rate of 3.5349, amassing a total of 473 runs and conceding 321 runs in the five games.

They opted to bat after winning the toss in the last weekend clash played at Annadil Burhani oval, scoring 103 runs and losing five wickets in 10 overs.

The team's dependable batsman, Athumani Kakonzi, was in great form with the bat, notching 48 runs which included eight boundaries after he had been tasked with opening his side's innings.

Union experienced slight wobble after an early exit of Kakonzi's fellow opener Sameer Zaidi who was trapped for leg before wicket by MCC's Vinesh, with the batsman managing seven runs.

Skipper Sameer Mussa and Hasnain Damji to some extent brought back stability in their squad's turn with the bat, chipping in handsomely with some solid knocks.

The two notched double digit figures, as Musa recorded 19 runs which comprised two fours, Damji ended his spell with 10 runs which also included two fours.

Nithin Thomas had an impressive bowling spell for MCC, ending with two wickets and leaking 19 runs in two overs.

In response, MCC saw their efforts to make successful chase end in vain, given they were skittled for 70 runs in 10 overs.

They opened their innings in grand fashion, given Nandakishan Pottachira nailed 33 runs and Safvan Annarathodika notched 17 runs.

Pottachira blasted four boundaries and two sixes in his spell, Annarathodika blasted three fours.

They, nevertheless, experienced batting collapse, given other batsmen made their way back to the pavilion in quick succession with none of them recording double digit figure.

Union SC bowler Ali Sumar tormented MCC batsmen almost at will, ending his impressive spell with four wickets and leaking seven runs in two overs.

He deservedly received man of the match award following his stellar exploits.

Mohamed Rizvi chipped in with two wickets, leaking 11 runs in 1.3 overs to successfully foil MCC chase.

The defeat has left MCC holding the seventh position in the table given they have notched one win and succumbed to three defeats.

MCC have registered net run rate of -1.7962 after recording 273 runs and conceding 310 runs in matches they have participated in.



Dar es Salaam Corridor Group team, winners of the Standard Chartered Bank Cup 2019 tournament, in a group photo with British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sarah Cooke (3rd R behind), the bank's Chief Executive Officer, Sanjay Rughani (2nd R behind), Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia (R behind), and other sports stakeholders shortly after the team had received national flag at a ceremony, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The squad jetted off to United Kingdom yesterday to watch English Premier League match pitting Liverpool against AFC Bournemouth, to be played at the weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Dar soccer side set for UK trip

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM Corridor Group, winners of the Standard Chartered Cup tournament, left for Anfield, United Kingdom (UK) yesterday to watch English Premier League leaders, Liverpool, play AFC Bournemouth at the weekend.

Dar es Salaam Corridor Group emerged as champions of the recreational tournament which attracted 30 teams.

They beat Coca Cola team in the final, which took place at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park in the city on August 24 last year.

Speaking at the flag off event, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, hailed the team for having emerged as the Standard Chartered Cup tournament champions.

He called upon the team to be great ambassadors for Tanzania as they head to Anfield.

Karia also commended Standard Chartered Bank for having carried out the initiative.

He pointed out that the bank has hugely contributed to the

growth of sports, especially football, in Tanzania through the initiative.

"I congratulate the Dar es Salaam Corridor Group team for having won the Standard Chartered Cup tournament," he noted.

"I also commend Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania for having hosted the Standard Chartered Cup tournament. The Bank has significantly contributed to football development in Tanzania through the initiative, I urge other companies to emulate the bank's example," he said.

British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sarah Cooke, who also attended the event, congratulated the Dar es Salaam Corridor Group Team for lifting the title.

She also added that the Standard Chartered Cup tournament initiative has not only contributed to the growth of the sports sector in Tanzania but also contributed to strengthening ties between Tanzania and the UK.

"Not only has the Standard

Chartered Cup tournament initiative enhanced sports in Tanzania, it has also strengthened relations between Tanzania and the UK," she disclosed.

"We are happy to host the Dar es Salaam Corridor Group team in the UK and I urge them to leverage on this opportunity through networking and showcasing their football talent," she said.

George Msonde who represented the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, asked the team to leverage on the opportunity by showcasing Tanzania's beauty and culture and invite the Liverpool community to Tanzania.

Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Sanjay Rughani, said that the bank had completed all arrangements for the team's trip to the UK.

Rughani described it as an exciting program, which will include football clinics with Liverpool's renowned legends as well as an opportunity

to watch a live match between Liverpool and AFC Bournemouth at the weekend.

He said he believes the UK trip will have a very good impact on Tanzania football and noted this is in line with his bank's philosophy which is purpose first and profit later.

"As we had earlier indicated at the launch of the tournament, the whole trip covering flight and accommodation costs, as well as all other costs pertaining to the tours at Anfield and training sessions with Liverpool Football Club coaches, would be fully covered by Standard Chartered Bank. This is, therefore, truly a life time experience," Rughani said.

Prominent former domestic soccer player, Ali Mayay, who has been part of the 2019 Standard Chartered Cup initiative, also congratulated the Dar es Salaam Corridor Group team.

He highlighted that the team should leverage on the training it will receive from the Liverpool legends at Anfield and impart the skills to other players in Tanzania on their return.

TANAPA Lugalo golf tourney set for March 14

Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

DAR ES SALAAM's Lugalo Golf Club is set to host a competition, sponsored by Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), at the club's course from March 14-15.

The event, dubbed 'TANAPA Lugalo tournament', is expected to bring together over 100 golfers from different divisions, as disclosed by the club's chairman, Michael Luongo.

Luongo said the opening of Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) and the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TGLU) offices is as well set to take place during the tournament.

"We expect either Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, or his representative will be the guest honour in the event's closing ceremony," he disclosed.

"The guest of honour will also open the TGU and TGLU offices that have been constructed by Lugalo Golf Club in a bid to appreciate the development of the sport domestically."

Lugalo Golf Club's skipper, Japhet Masai, noted the TANAPA Lugalo tournament will be a gross event and the overall winner will be the tournament's champion.

"We have however put the participating players in four groups, professional golfers, amateur golfers, youths and children, the tournament will come to an end on March 14" he disclosed.

He disclosed the competition will bring together players from various clubs in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

TANAPA representative, Hassan Mbagi, who stood in for the authority's Conservation Commissioner, noted the corporation feels proud to promote national parks through sports.

"We have been backing the event for the third year in a row, we are gearing towards using the opportunity to promote our national parks in and outside the country," he disclosed.

"We believe sports bring people together and give them chance to enjoy life."