+ 255 745 700710

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7909 PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 23 MAY, 2020

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WHO multiplex hosts African innovators in Covid-19 fight

BRAZZAVILLE

A COMMUNITY of African innovators is stepping up support to the continent's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

They are collaborating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in developing solutions to help contain the spread of the virus

On Wednesday, the WHO Africa Region hosted the first of a series of sessions by multiplex for innovators across the region to showcase home-grown creative solutions aimed at addressing critical gaps in the response to Covid-19.

Eight innovators from Ghana, South Africa, Nigeria, Guinea and Kenya presented their pioneering solutions, all of which have already been implemented in their respective countries. There was significant potential for the solutions to be scaled up further across the region.

Innovations ranged from interactive public transport contact tracing apps and dynamic data analytics to rapid diagnostic testing kits, mobile testing booths and lowcost critical care beds.

WHO officials have urged a multifaceted and multisectoral approach to combating

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Govt slates June 29 for start of Form VI exams



Muslim faithful come together outside Dar es Salaam's Ladhwa Mosque yesterday for the last Friday prayers during this year's Holy month of

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has announced that this year's Form VI national examinations will be held from June 29 to July 16 and will run simultaneously with teachers'

Addressing journalists here yesterday, Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako said boarding students are required to report to their respective schools on May 30.

This follows President John Magufuli's directive that secondary schools (Form Six students), colleges and universities reopen on

Prof Ndalichako instructed government officials at regional and district levels to make necessary arrangements before the schools

start receiving students by the end of next week. The required arrangements include putting in place measures to control the proliferation of Covid-19 amongst students. Those in boarding schools should sleep in observance of social distancing as well as making sure that each of the students wears a face mask routinely.

Minister Ndalichako directed the National

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This follows President John Magufuli's directive that Form Six, colleges and universities should reopen on June 1.

MPs criticise TPA, REA, BoT over CAG's 2018/2019 report

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

Public Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) yesterday unveiled a number of gaps and areas that need to be addressed to ensure transparency in government expenditure.

Committee chairperson (Same Naghenjwa Kaboyoka Chadema) made the recommendations in the august House when tabling an analytical document after the committee went

and Auditor General (CAG) for the financial year ending June 30, 2019.

The committee identified laxity in the administration of contracts at the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and operational challenges which provide room for the loss of revenues, noting that TPA failed to account for 1.8bn/- expenditures.

She also faulted the government over poor administration of issuing national identity cards, handled by the National Identification Authority (NIDA). "There were no

The move shall boost the authority's revenue collections, the committee noted

institutions that use its data," the committee report affirmed. The Rural Electrification Agency

(REA) had during the financial year through the Report of the Controller binding contracts between NIDA and approved payments totaling 1.08bn/-

to SMEC International Property Ltd, ignoring the committee's advice on the issue, she stated.

The PAC report noticed a 454.4bn/- debt which the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) is owed by its customers, of which 205bn/- is electricity bills by government institutions and agencies.

"The debt affects Tanesco's performance," the committee noted, highlighting also that the Ministry of

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.



Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.



For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications



Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:



There are simple things you can

do to help keep yourself and

others healthy.

Wash your hands often with soap

and water for at least 20 seconds,

especially after blowing your nose,

the bathroom; and before eating or

· Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a

mouth with unwashed hands.

· Stay home when you are sick.

coughing, or sneezing; going to

preparing food.

Cough

· Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

Develop symptoms

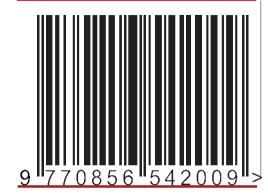
 Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have

recently been in an area with

ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

US inks 5.6bn/- uplift for Covid-19 response



By Guardian Correspondent

THE United States has announced an additional \$2.4m (5.6bn/-) in health assistance funds for Tanzania through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The aid is intended for strengthening laboratory capacity for optimal diagnostics, risk communications, water and sanitation, prevention and control of infections, public health messaging and other relevant

needs. A US Embassy statement said in Dar es Salaam



yesterday that this support complements the \$1m recently disbursed Covid-19 relief funds, making it a total of \$3.4m in new health sector resources for Tanzania.

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Govt slates June 29 for start of Form VI exams

FROM PAGE 1

Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) to ensure timely distribution of examination timetables and fasttrack the marking of exams and release of results.

"Form Six national examination results will be out before August 30 to enable well-performing students to submit their applications to higher learning institutions," she said, noting that only schools that offer advanced secondary school education will be opened on the set date.

With regard to primary and secondary school students, she said they should wait a little longer "as the government monitors the pandemic situation".

Commenting on students' loans, Prof Ndalichako said the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) has already set aside 122.8bn/- for students eligible for loans in the coming academic year (2020/2021).

"Universities should submit essential documents to HESLB by May 28 so that funds are disbursed and reach students on time," she emphasized.

She also directed colleges and universities to make sure that studies are conducted in a way that will enable teachers to cover all remaining topics to compensate for the time lost due to closure necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Timetables have to be altered in order to have more learning sessions to compensate for time lost," she said, ordering universities and colleges to submit the new procedures to relevant authorities - the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TUC) and the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).

Submission of proposals for new procedures will enable the government to know is planned for students in the third quarter of the 2019/2020 academic year.

Universities and schools should take action to curb the spread of the virus, with students observing hygiene protocols to avoid easy infection.

The government is preparing special hygiene protocols for universities and schools, via the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the office of the Chief Med-

Mwita Waitara, the Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) responsible for the education sector, meanwhile said teachers and students must wear face coverings and ensure regular hand washing using soap and running water or using alcohol-based hand rubs or

He instructed regional and district authorities to ensure that hand washing facilities are in place before schools reopen, adding that teachers should prepare students psychologically to enable them to perform well in the coming final examinations.

"Students are allowed to go to school with ginger and even perform steam inhalation. They should undergo body temperature screening every day," said Waitara.

He said arrangements will be made for students with special needs to meet these requirements, cautioning that students should report on the set date, as punitive measures will be taken on those reporting late.

Speaking soon after the swearing-in of new ambassadors to Kenya, Algeria and Mozambique as well as Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma on Thursday, President Magufuli ordered the reopening of universities, colleges and high school classes effective from June 1, saying the number of Covid-19 cases in the country had maintained a declining trend.

Students are resuming classes after staying home for more than two months since schools were closed on March 17, a day after the country recorded the first case of Covid-19.



Consignments of fish fillet are loaded onto an Ethiopian Airlines' Boeing Dreamliner 787-8 at Mwanza Airport on Thursday night

MPs criticise TPA, REA, BoT over CAG's 2018/2019 report

FROM PAGE 1

Natural Resources and Tourism spent about 1.5bn/in unbudgeted funds.

The committee advised the government on how to control laxity in the public management of funds, by improving judicial mechanisms to facilitate quick judgment of tax disputes.

The committee advises that the government should conduct frequent inspection and ensure close monitoring of TPA operations to ensure no public money is lost.

The committee also proposed that NIDA improves its internal regulations and enter into properly contracts with institutions that use its database.

The move shall boost the authority's revenue collections, the committee noted.

MPs also advised Tanesco to prioritize debt collection to ensure quality services to customers.

MPTanga Musa Mbarouk (CUF) queried embezzlement of REA funds amounting to 1.08bn/- paid to SMEC International PTY its job properly, with the government hiring 27 companies to supervise REA projects.

in 1,798 villages but has never hired a consultant engineer. Worse enough decided to hire 27 companies to supervise the projects, which is a massive requires. embezzlement of funds. This situation also indicates that corruption was involved, so an eye on this matter," the chairperson intoned.

For his part, Kilindi MP Omari Kigua (CCM) said Salim Khamis (CCM) said that the government has been losing billions to that dilapidated banknotes recklessness, despite huge worth 300bn/- weren't in-

Revenue Authority (TRA) to collect revenues.

"I urge the government to ensure that boards meet so as to put up strong measures increase collections. If TRA would be more despite failing to implement focused, the government would be able to supervise implementation of strategic projects," he stated.

Mlalo MP Rashid Shangazi "REA had power projects (CCM) said that TRA needs major reforms how it collects revenue as available systems do not optimally deliver, thus denying the government the revenues it

solved on time due to inac- penditure of 1.5bn/- by the tive systems, being too slow the government should put to give answers. This matter should be taken up with urgency," he emphasized.

Mwanakwerekwe MP Ali that the CAG report shows efforts by the Tanzania spected by the Bank of Tan-

zania (BoT) and thereafter the monies were disbursed to commercial banks.

"So, why did the central bank not inspect the bank notes before dishing out the pile to commercial banks? I'm wondering why such a big amount of banknotes wasn't sorted out before disbursing the notes to commercial banks," he queried.

He urged BoT additional care on the matter, as it in turn leads to unnecessary inconveniences for other actors in the country's financial sector.

Special Seats MP Felister "Tax disputes are not Bura (CCM) also queried ex-Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism without following the right procedures.

> "These monies weren't approved by the National Assembly. My appeal is that the government sticks to rules and regulations governing financial expenditure," she declared.

WHO multiplex hosts African innovators in Covid-19 fight

FROM PAGE 1

and containing the Covid-19 pandemic in the region. It recognizes that providing ongoing support and a regular platform to African innovators can be a key facet in this quest.

"Innovation propels human advancement. In times like these when we are confronted with a major public health emergency such as the Covid-19 pandemic, we know that our hope for a better tomorrow lies in finding creative, ground-breaking or avant-garde solutions," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa.

"That is why supporting innovation is a critical component not only in our collective efforts to combat diseases in Africa, but to provide adapted solutions to ensure better health for all.'

The inaugural innovation showcase by multiplex put out a public call for submissions to an extensive network of WHO African innovators. In addition to those presenting, about 350 innovators and other interested parties joined the session, with many participating in a lively Q&A.

"There is already an overwhelming demand from other innovators who wish to be part of this event going forward. There is a wealth of innovation talent in Africa and sustaining this kind of platform should be part of our DNA as an organisation," said Dr Moredreck Chibi, the WHO regional innovation advisor, who facilitated the event.

The multiplex innovation sessions also aim to build on WHO's inaugural Hackathon hosted last month, which tasked small groups of participants with developing scalable concepts aligned with one of the eight pillars of WHO's current Covid-19 response strategy.

These were identified as coordination, surveillance, risk communication and community engagement, points of entry, laboratory, infection prevention and control.

Other relevant areas are case management and continuity of essential health services along with operational and logistics support.

The three highest ranking groups were awarded seed funding to begin implementing their innovations. WHO will look to provide further operational support to several other higher ranked innovations highlighted in the sessions, the coordinator noted.

Understanding how the Covid-19 pandemic continues to evolve in Africa is still a work in progress, and the response is constantly being adapted to the African context, he

"Solidarity and the exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources across the region remains an integral part of this process. WHO aims to continue integrating African innovators into the regional response strategy," he added.

Dar es Salaam resi-dents pick children's clothes along Congo Street in the sprawling Kariakoo market zone

impending Eid el-Fitr celebrations. respondent Jumanne

yesterday in prepara-tion for the



US inks 5.6bn/- uplift for Covid-19 response

FROM PAGE 1

In addition, the US government has directed to the Covid-19 battle an existing \$1.9m disbursement, making it a total of 5.3m (12.2bn/-), it said.

Tanzania over the past 20 years, with around \$4.9bn directed to the health sector.

Since 2009, the United States government has directed over \$100bn to health assistance and nearly \$70 billion in humanitarian assistance globally.

"The US government continues to be the single largest health and humanitarian donor for both long-term development and capacity building efforts with partners, and emergency response efforts The US has disbursed in the face of recurrent aid totaling over \$7.5bn in crises. We are leading the world's humanitarian and health assistance response to the Covid-19 pandemic," the statement asserted.

> United States "The continues to demonstrate global leadership in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. The American people have

given more than \$10 billion that will benefit the global Covid-19 response, and we continue to ensure that the substantial US funding and scientific efforts on this front remain a central and coordinated part of the worldwide effort against the pandemic."

"Months into fighting this pandemic at home and abroad, the United States continues to lead a global response - building on decades of leadership in life-saving health and humanitarian assistance," it

Govt instructs investors to submit their business development project

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS who have registered their projects with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) have been instructed to submit development reports for their projects and challenges thereon every six months for rectification and improvement

The directive was given yesterday by the Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angellah Kairuki after inspecting OK Plast factory in Vingunguti industrial area in Dar es Salaam

The factory that has employed 595 Tanzanians including five foreigners processes scrap metal to manufacture brass rods, power cables, battery ingots and mats.

Speaking at the factory, Kairuki said TIC registration regulations require investors to do that in order to place their projects nearer to TIC.

She said: "The government listens for

investors projects proposals She hail the factory for timely payment of taxes and for employed many Tanzanians, and I appeal to other factory owners to emulate you."

OK Plast factory manager Fadil Ghaddar said their investment had now reached 10b/- and since the factory's establishment in 2005 they had attained big achievements including the acquisition of internal markets as well as from neighbouring countries, Kenya in particular.

He said their biggest challenge is the acquisition of raw materials and had appealed to the government to put up strategies that would ensure local industries get adequate raw materials.

"The government can ban the export of raw materials so as to satisfy the local industries," he suggested.

He said this challenge had forced them to reduce production from 500 tonnes of brass rods per month to 150 tonnes only.

He said a recent study by Bureau for Industrial Cooperation (BICO) of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) showed that there is ample supply of brass scrap metal to meet local industries.

"We are failing to get this raw material because it is being exported and we appeal to the government to look into the issue," he told minister Kairuki who promised to convey the complaint to relevant authorities.

Private sector urged to uphold ethical practice, shun corruption

By Guardian Reporter,

Morogoro

THE National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has called on workers and private businesses to improve upon internal corporate ethics and also do away with all forms of corruption.

Businesses should strive to be in compliance and obey the various national and traditional laws, regulations and seek to attain the expected standards.

The call was made by the Director of Administration and Human Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture, Hilda Kinanga on behalf of the ministry's Permanent Secretary Gerald Kusaya at the unveiling of the NFRA Workers Council on Thursday in Morogoro.

"As you know our country is among countries that are against corruption at work places and the society in general, hence I urge and direct all employees to abide by public service ethics," she said and warned of stern legal steps against those who will be engaging themselves in corrupt practices. She said the government was aware of various challenges they face in the implementation of their duties including inadequate financial and human resources, issues that make them fail to attain targets.

She said the government through the Ministry of Agriculture will continue with efforts of workers involvement in NFRA's institutions to strengthen better service delivery of the public.

NFRA chief executive officer (CEO) Milton Lupa said in its two-day sitting members discussed various issues on NFRA and among the agendas was its 2020/21 business plan, implementation report for the third quarter of 2019/20 and going through the draft for the new Public Service Management system.

Lupa appealed to the government through the ministry's permanent secretary to communicate with the public service management and good governance for having experts for the management of modern silos and warehouses projects soon after their completion.

He also asked the government to allow NFRA to use funds for the construction of modern silos and warehouses to be used for storage of the maize crop as the buying season was just around the corner.



Arthur Shoo (L), Secretary General of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's Northern Diocese, has a word with leaders from the church's Kilimanjaro Central and Hai dioceses yesterday shortly before presenting humanitarian aid to flood victims in Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

'Despite COVID-19 pandemic, routine vaccination of children continues'

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

CHILDREN under five years in outlying rural areas should continue receiving vaccination to ensure all of them are vaccinated in the prescribed time, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Another group that should con-

tinue receiving vaccination are girls of 14 years of age that who are supposed to get human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) against cervix

The call was made by the project officer from the health ministry's national immunisation plan Dr Furaha Kyesi when speaking to officials Mtego wa Simba Health Centre in Morogoro rural district

during his inspection visit on vaccinations provided by health centres during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

A team monitoring vaccination in the ministry's Immunization and Vaccines Development (IVD), vaccination officials from Morogoro region in collaboration with Engeder Health through Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V (MSD), are in the region to inspect the ongoing vaccination services in the Covid-19 pandemic period.

"We must ensure we cover this girls group because we had targeted to do so while they were at schools but since the schools are closed due to Covid-19 pandemic, we must reach them in their homes," Dr Kyesi said. "Children under five years of age should also be reached because when we are fighting against Covid-19 we must also ensure we vaccinate them against other diseases such as measles, polio, diarrhea and others so that we do not get another epidemic eruption."

Earlier, the health centre's midwife nurse, Ipyana Mamwala said every month they receive seven children who are vaccinated against various diseases, and added that the centre is surrounded by four villages - Sangasanga, New Land, Mkono wa Mara, Mkambarani and Mtego wa Simba itself.

"Mothers still respond to the call of bringing their children for vaccination but we must also go out to reach those who do not come to the centre for vaccination.

The centre's doctor in charge Luambano Ally said due to the Ministry's caution they took steps to strengthen preventive measures against Covid-19 infections including hand washing facilities at the entrances of the health centre.

"We have also directed that whoever comes to the health centre must wear a mask, and villagers have been abiding by that directive, including washing their hands," Ally said.



Zanzibar's Health minister, Hamad Rashid Mohammed (R), shares a light moment with Chukwani's Zanzibar House of Representatives member Mwanaasha Khamis outside the House on Thursday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Malawi's electoral chair resigns ahead of presidential election

MALAWI Electoral Commission (MEC) chairperson Jane Ansah has announced that she has resigned.

The MEC leader has confirmed the resignation during an exclusive interview with the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation yesterday. She has also disclosed that she has written President Mutharika about the

Ansah said the decision has stemmed from the fact that top courts in Malawi has faulted the commissioners for mismanag-

ing the 2019 presidential election. The resignation has come after the Mathe opposition leaders' petition and nullified the May 2019 presidential election results on grounds of irregularities including manual alterations and use of tippex on the results sheets to change the figures.

Political commentators and activists are asking President Mutharika to appoint new commissioners for the sake of credibility during the next presidential election.

Malawians are expected to go into polls on June 23 to select a new state president despite the threat of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, office of the district health officer (DHO) workers who recently tested positive to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19)

lawi constitutional court in February upheld are refusing institutional quarantine. A visit inside the Kameza Isolation Centre for Covid-19 revealed.

> Senior Medical Officer for Blantyre DHO, Dr. Atusaye Mughogho told the press on Wednesday that the two have young children that cannot stay with a caretaker only for two weeks. Mughogho, therefore, said the DHO was still negotiating with the health workers so that they are isolated until another test is done and is proven negative.

"Institutional isolation is proving difficult because the health workers are reluctant. One of them has a two-year old child that the family members have also been tested cannot be left with a nanny for the fourteen and have come out negative," she added. day quarantine period," she said.

The other one is a bread winner and lives with little kids that are two and eight years respectively, according to Mughogho.

"In this case, much as we want to take care of the masses out there, we also need to consider the bond that is there between the workers and their families," said Mughogho.

"We have so far done an immediate inspection of their homes to see if there is no danger of transmitting the disease to other family members and possibility of self-isolation. Their immediate contacts, including **AGENCIES**

Govt names five strategies to ensure water transport safety

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodomo

TWENTY years since the MV Bukoba sinking, the government has named five strategies that it had advised to strengthen water transport safety.

The tragic accident occurred on May 21 1996 and nearly 800 people lost their lives in Lake Victoria when the ship that was sailing from Bukoba to Mwanza sank near Bwiru in Mwanza Municipality.

Speaking here vesterday to reporters, the Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Isack Kamwelwe said the government has beefed up lake transport by accomplishing various projects.

He mentioned the projects as including the renovations of two ships in Lake Victoria - MV Victoria and MV Butiama, construction of a dry dock at Mwanza South Port on Lake Victoria. He said since the MV Bu-

koba accident the government another strategy is the improvement to the Marine Transport Control Act while also beefing up water transport safety by having in place inspectors' offices from Tanzania Shipping Agencies Ltd (TASAC) in all regions bordering large lakes.

"Such inspections ensure all water vessels have adequate rescue equipment that correspond to the number of people in the vessel and passengers are instructed on how to use them," he

said. Kamwelwe mentioned the third strategy as the improvement to find and rescue operations whereas a centre for such service has been established in Dar es Salaam.

"The government in collaboration with International Maritime Organization (IMO) has built a centre for the coordination of rescue operations at Dar es Salaam port which is managed by TASAC and is working 24 hours, seven days a week," he said.

The fourth strategy concerned the ports' infrastructures, which Kamwelwe said the government continues to improve at lake ports and the Indian Ocean for safety.

"The fifth strategy is the improvement in training and awarding certificates to sailors, the government has improved the management thereof under the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) in accordance to international protocol, and whose certificates are recognized internationally and enable Tanzania sailors to work in any ship in the world," Kamwelwe said.



The government in collaboration with International Maritime Organization (IMO) has built a centre for the coordination of rescue operations at Dar es Salaam port which is managed by TASAC and is working 24 hours, seven days a week

Saturday 23 May 2020

Guardian

NATIONAL NEWS



Same district commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (with pair of scissors) stands ready to launch an outpatients wing at Mtii village dispensary yesterday, with TPB Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (2nd-L) among the witnesses. The bank extended 25m/- in support of the construction of the building. Photo:

5,000 households benefit from 800m/- foundation programme

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 5,000 households including children's home, widows and people with disabilities will benefit from food assistance worth 800m/- from Nama Foundation and its partners—An-Nahl Trust and Nice Tanzania

The food items will be distributed to intended groups in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Coast region, according to the Foundation's coordinator, Hamza Jabir.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam Jabir said the assistance is meant to support the government efforts against Covid-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus. He said the foundation is also set to provide Covid-19 protective gears and medical equipment worth 500m/. "We will together with our partners provide various goods worth 1.3bn/- in support of the government war against the deadly disease. We are determined to continue supporting poor families especially during the virus outbreak", he noted.

He explained that each of the families will receive 10 kilograms of rice, 10kgs of maize flour, sugar, cooking oil, face masks and hand sanitizers.

On medical equipment, he said they provide personal protective equipment (PPE), oximeters, oxygen concentrator, thermo scanner, special beds for intensive care unit

(ICU) and several others in accordance with government directives.

Jabir said the foundation will start with families located at Mwananyamala area in Kinondoni district where a total of 200 households will be reached. He said identification of the households will be done in collaboration with local government leaders. The event's co-coordinator, Seleman Abdallah acknowledged the support from the government.

He thanked Nama Foundationand its partners— An-Nahl Trust and Nice Tanzania for supporting the vulnerable households during the pandemic outbreak.

The novel coronavirus emerged in China late last year and has so far spread to at least 188 countries in six continents. The World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the outbreak a pandemic.

According to WHO, the symptoms for Covid-19 can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. Those mostly at risks of developing severe symptoms include older citizens and people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart diseases.

Preventive measures that are critical to slow the spread of illnesses include social distancing, frequent had washing with soap and running water or alcohol-based hand

Obstetric fistula is preventable and can largely be avoided - UNFPA

By Getrude Mbago

HEALTH stakeholders have urged the government to continue putting considerable investments towards ending obstetric fistula by ensuring that every woman and girl has access to timely and quality maternal health care, including emergency obstetric care.

It is estimated that of 3,000 women that develop fistula

every year in the country, fewer get treated and less than a third are not aware of causes of fistula and that it can be cured.

In a media tele-briefing held yesterday, Dr Wilfred Ochan, Deputy Representative the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tanzania said that it is high time to ensure that that every new case of fistula is prevented, and every obstetric fistula patient is treated and

receives the follow-up, social reintegration and rehabilitation support.

According to him, as the World marks International Day to End Obstetric Fistula today, concerted efforts between the government, stakeholders and development partners are still needed to improve maternal services.

He said that the day is marked to raise awareness and to mobilize support around the globe to both prevent and treat this devastating childbirth injury.

"Eliminating fistula is a key element of "leaving no-one behind" and this is more relevant now than ever."

Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during child-birth. It is a hole, or abnormal opening, in the birth canal, that results in chronic leakage of

urine and/or feces. Women with fistula are often shunned by their communities.

He said that UNFPA is committed to ensuring that efforts to end obstetric fistula do not stall especially during Covid-19 pandemic.

"As part of national response efforts - we will continue to prioritize the delivery of safe and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, with a focus on reaching those furthest behind."

Dr Ochan said that as the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic continues in Tanzania and around the world, efforts to end fistula must continue, and its prevention through the provision of comprehensive and lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services must remain a priority in these times of crisis.

"Every day, globally, more

than 800 women die from pregnancy-related complications. For every woman who dies, 20 or more are injured or disabled. One of the most serious childbearing injuries is obstetric fistula 2 - a tear in the birth canal caused by prolonged, obstructed labour in the absence of timely and adequate medical care. Those who experience fistula suffer life-shattering consequences including chronic

TARI Ilonga centre produces hybrid sunflower seed varieties

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodomo

THE Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Ilonga centre has invented three hybrid sunflower seed varieties to be released to farmers in October. this year.

The vital innovation aims to improve production of the important cash crop which is currently cultivated in almost all the regions except Dar es Salaam.

The 2016 Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) report indicates that, sunflower cultivation is the most likely subsector to yield investable opportunities in Tan-

But unfortunately, Tanzania has yet reaped more from the economic fortunes of the crop due to several factors, among them, the absence of enough hybrid seed varieties as most farmers are reported to use recycled seeds.

According to experts, increased production of sunflower depends on availability of hybrid seed varieties, excessive processing capacity and the increased demand for edible oil.

National Coordinator for Sunflower Research, Dr Frank Reuben told The Guardian the new seed varieties for the crop include, TARI-ILO 2019 and TARI-NA 2019 which guarantees high yields to farmers.

He said the new seeds are resistant to pests and diseases, but also tolerant to drought condition.

"These are appropriate seed varieties for small scale and large-scale farmers. The reason is that, these seeds allow farmers to produce and distribute them in Quality Declared Seed (QDS) class within their farming community under supervision of the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOS-CI)", Dr Reuben added.

He expressed that the institute was now working round the clock to ensure the varieties become known, accessible and used professionally.

He informed that the potential for expansion of sunflower farming in Tanzania is good since most of the arable land is suitable for growing the crop.

"There are chances for expansion of sunflower farming since we are yet to fully exploit its potential", he noted.

The 2020 map by sunflower production through atlasbig. com shows that Ukraine, Russia Federation, Argentina, China, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary, United States of America, France and Tanzania have been named as the most countries with production and yield as well as sunflower harvested ar-

The source also ranks Tanzania as the leading sunflower producer in Africa.

The seed production at TARI -Ilonga also involves rouging, pollination, and seed stocks maintenance. The seed stock maintenance increases the seed quantity and maintain precisely the specific characteristics of the parent stocks used in seed production.

A basic requirement in the increase of parental stocks is familiarity with their plant types so that a typical plant can be eliminated entirely.

The rouging program involves the removal of off type plants which often are difficult to identify positively because of the normal variation in the variety. Thus, TARI- Ilonga has a well-established producers for the production of quality seed," Dr Reuben observed.



Small trader Ramadhan Rashid packs tomatoes in ten-litre buckets from a vehicle at Nunge in Morogoro municipality earlier this week while waiting for customers. One bucket was fetching 5,000/-, which sources said was much lower than obtained only weeks ago. Photo: Correspondent Frank Kaundula

Govt pledges improvement of aviation sector for cargo transport

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has assured fish traders in Mwanza that it will continue to strengthen the infrastructures and improve the aviation sector to simplify transport of passengers and their cargo within and outside the country.

The assurance was given by the Deputy Minister for works, Transport and Communications eng Atashasta Nditiye when witnessing the first cargo flight for transport of fish fillets by Ethiopian airlines from Mwanza arport.

"I would like to assure traders that the building for storing goods exists and is of high standard, freight transport also exists as well as the markets hence it is for you to grab this opportunity," he said

Nditiye said there are also ap-

plications from other airlines to come and airlift cargo from Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza Airport.

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Eng Stella Manyanya said the transport of fish fillets has increased employment and income for the people of Mwanza as more than 15 factories for pro-

cessing fish fillets have been established.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella called on traders in Mwanza to have a joint forum to discuss how to improve the products they produce and added that the government was ready to solve all challenges they

will submit. lets, has transported mo
A fish dealer Edwino Oking'o
said having more than one airline to do so after RwandAir.

to directly airlift fish fillets from Mwanza will enable the products reach customers in time, and added that in the past they used to store their fish until a plane becomes available, or rerouting the cargo via Nairobi.

Ethiopian airlines that has officially started transporting fish fillets, has transported more than 19 tons of the fillets and is the second

Govt vows to take stern measures against early pregnancies, marriages perpetrators

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government will take serious legal actions against anyone who will be found stirring absenteeism, pregnancies and early marriages to schoolgirls in the country.

In a written response to a question by Special Seats MP, Martha Umbulla, the ministry of education, science and technology said the Education Act chapter 353 with its amendments of 2016 lists a number of punishments for anyone who will be found involved in such practices.

The ministry said; "anyone who will be found in any act that perpetuates such practices shall be subjected to a fine not less than 5m/- or a five years jail term or all of them together," the ministry said quoting the Act.

In her basic question, the MP wanted to know the government's plans to rescue girls from pastoralist communities whom she said were lacking the opportunity to continue with school because they are married at a tender age despite laws stating clearly

on schooling opportunities that girls

In response, the ministry said an education circular of 2004 directs all children of school going age to be enrolled, registered, attend and complete their primary education as it is their fundamental right.

The ministry said apart from the laws it has also put in place various initiatives such as free education for primary and secondary education, establishment of learning centres, construction of girls hostels especially in pastoralists communities.

"The construction of hostels protects girls from walking long distances hence also being protected from pregnancies," the ministry said.

The ministry said the government was also working with various stakeholders to educate the public and youths on the side effects of early pregnancies and the importance of creating mechanisms to protect them.

The programme involves provision of long-term impacts of early pregnancies to various groups.



The construction of hostels protects girls from walking long distances hence also being protected from pregnancies," the ministry said.



Ally Mwakababu (R), the National Health Insurance Fund's Tanga regional manager, pictured on Thursday presenting bed sheets to Pangani District Council chairman Seif Ally on Thursday which the fund donated as assistance to the district's government hospital. Looking on (in glasses) is Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigela. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

AfDB partners SWA in providing water in fighting Covid-19

By Faith Ikade

IN support of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) launched an international campaign, aimed at expanding access to water, sanitation and hygiene in Africa.

The goal is to ensure that water and sanitation systems are available, mobilizing funds to support countries in need and deliver ac- in countries with fragile health-

curate and credible information.

Global partners such as governments, donors, civil society organizations, and other development partners working to ensure that SWA's goals are actualized.

The Hon. Kevin Rudd, SWA's High-level Chair, said that "Access to clean water and sanitation is absolutely crucial to slow the spread of Covid-19."

"This is particularly important

tancing is harder. The support from world leaders for this Call to Action is a strong demonstration of their support for the work of

Rudd added. In preventing the spread of Covid-19, water, sanitation, hand

hygiene, and social distancing, are paramount.

care systems or where social dis-

the United Nations' partnership

Sanitation and Water for All,"

Covid-19 virus is transmitted

through respiratory droplets or contact. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), washing of hands with water and soap kills the virus.

It also interrupts the transmission of other viruses and bacteria causing common colds, flu, and pneumonia, thus reducing the general burden of disease.

But this can only be made possible when every individual has access to running water in suffi-

cient quantities.

Over 400 million Africans lack access to safe water and nearly 800 million do not have access to basic hand washing facilities. This poses a huge challenge in the fight against Covid-19.

However, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has taken a lead role in African responses to the crisis and its effects.

Last month, the bank released its COVID-19 Response Facility,

which will serve as its primary channel for efforts to address the crisis by providing up to \$10 billion to governments and the private sector. In the last decade, AfDB has invested an estimated \$6.2 billion in water supply and sanitation services and mobilized an estimated \$150 million in climate finance from the Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund to co-finance

water sector projects.

This contribution has led to 52 million Africans gaining access to improved water supply and sanitation services.

The SWA statement emphasizes that "COVID-19 is not the first and will not be the last epidemic that countries will face." It urged African leaders to ensure this threat is not a missed opportunity to achieve the vision of universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene.'

Govt paid 2.4bn/- to former employees of Kilombero Sugar **Company - Mpango**

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has paid a total of 2.4bn/- as benefits for former employees of the Kilombero Sugar Company whose contracts were terminated after the state privatised the firm in

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango told the parliament here yesterday in his written response to Mikumi MP Joseph Haule (Chadema) that the payment was only legitimate following the government re-assessment of employees

The minister said the assessment considered clause of the workers' terms of an employment contract and that the payment covered an upfront month salaries, holiday allowance, transport charges, luggage package, a one-month salary for ten years, salary increment arrears and unpaid contribution to social security funds (PPF and NSSF).

"A total of 2,404,984,239/00 was paid to those employees who lost their jobs. But the workers were not satisfied with the government payment pushing for a thorough assessment into the 2000 claims," he said.

The legislator has alleged that some 3,000 employees lost their jobs to the government-ILLOVU investment deal. He said the victims of the deal are yet to be paid their claims two decades since they stopped working for Kilombero sugar company.

When will the government pay their benefits, Haule asked? The minister said the re-assessment revealed that there was a deficit of about 11,830,019/00 in payments that the government had approved as benefits. The workers in their demand claimed they must be paid a long service award worth 1.27bn/they had in a voluntary agreement with workers' union-OTTU and the kilombero sugar management.

Regrettably, Dr Mpango said the government dropped the claims reasoning that the contract did not comply with the productivity and efficiency policy as it also didn't consider any production goals which include increasing productivity and profit maximisation of the company.

"This could have enabled the employees to fully benefits as a reward to their hardworking and diligence," the minister noted. He stressed that the government had made all the required payments under the law to all former employees of the kilombero sugar company. The finance and planning minister said there are no unsettled claims thus far.



A total of 2,404,984,239/00 was paid to those employees who lost their jobs. But the workers were not satisfied with the government payment



A fishmonger at Dar es Salaam's Magogoni International Fish Market prepares fish for retail sale in the city, as found on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Demolition of 1,194 structures along Msimbazi River was lawful - Zungu

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government explained that the demolition of 1,194 structures in the banks of Msimbazi River in Kinondoni Municipality in Dar es Salaam was a legal exercise.

Kinondoni MP, Maulid Mtulia (CCM) claims that the 2015 exercise crushed at least 690 homes at Magomeni Sunnah, 253 structures at Kawawa, 200 building at Hananasifu and 51 other structures at Mkunguni A but he says "none of the owners were compensated,"

He asked why the authorities bulldozed houses of Kinondoni residents without compensation. "When will the affected families receive their benefits after being forced home-

In a written response, Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President (Union and Environment) Mussa Azan Zungu detailed that the exercise was conducted in the city between December 17 and 22 and resumed in January 2016 before being suspended indefinitely following some court injunctions.

"We only suspended the exercise to allow court hearings that were lodged by some residents in various courts in the city," the minister said. He noted that the demolition involved seven government authorities.

They include the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Developments

Urban Planning Department, Office of the President Regional Administration and Local Governments-Dar es Salaam Municipalities, Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism (Forestry Unit), The Police Force, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service-TISS.

"The demolition of illegal structures was part of developing the Msimbazi river basin in Dar es Salaam," he said. Adding, "the exercise aimed at protecting the lives of the people living in the flood-prone river from losing their lives, properties and destruction of infrastructures."

Zungu insisted that the exercise followed all the legal processes which include assessment of all the structures in risk areas, identifying all the illegal structures and marking the required structures to be demolished with x-mark and provision of time for tenants to vacate the premises for the exercise.

The minister noted that in addition, state authorities installed beacons for the river basin and shut down all social services including water, electricity and communication.

"I want to inform the lawmaker that the government through the ministry of land has established a complaint desk specifically to all the people who were affected by the exercise," he said. The exercise was run legally, transparent and without prejudice or favouritism as all people with legal demands had been compen-



CCM Youth Wing secretary general Raymond Mwangwala unveils a plaque in Bahi District on Thursday to launch the construction of the wing's houses. Photo: Peter

Ruvuma to get 58,000 special IDs for small traders this year

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme has handed out 9,000 new identity cards to be divided among District Commissioners in the region for onward transmission to petty traders.

She handed out the cards at a short ceremony in Songea mid last week attended by the DCs, regional administrative secretaries, ICT officials, trade officials and the Regional Tanzania Revenue Authority manager.

Speaking at the event, RC Mndeme said president John Magufuli has issued the IDs and for this year Ruvuma Region has received a total of 58,000 IDs and 9,000 have been brought for the first phase while 49,000 will be distributed in the second phase.

She said the IDs will be distributed to petty traders qualified to receive them and added that for this year the exercise will be computerized for record keeping of the entrepreneurs and service providers.

"I am directing trade officers to ensure application forms for the IDs are filled and the money paid thereon - 20,000/- per one ID is banked," she stressed.

She mentioned the number of IDs to be distributed in each district in the first phase with the figure in brackets as- Songea District (3,500), Mbinga (2,000), Tunduru (1,500), Namtumbo (1,000) and Nyasa (1,000).

Earlier, speaking at the event before introducing the regional commissioner, regional administrative officer Steven Ndaki said the aim of the IDs is to simplify the business management of petty traders.

Songea District Commissioner Pololet Mgema said last year his district was given 15,000 IDs and they distributed all of them to the petty traders.

In 2019 President Magufuli handed out 60,000 IDs to Ruvuma Region and by May 19 this year the region managed to hand out 55,607 and collected 1.112.135.000/-.

NIMR and TAAA donate Covid-19 hand washing gear to PWDs in Dar

By Beatrice Philemon

THE National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in collaboration with Tanzania Australia Alumni Association (TAAA) have donated hand washing equipment worth 7.9m/- to people with disabilities in Dar es Salaam.

NIMR Director General, Prof

Yunus Mgaya said on Thursday that the equipment meant to facilitate hand washing as part of prevention measures against Covid-19 was handed over to Ilala Deputy Mayor Omary Kum-

The donated equipment includes four hand washing machines, 50 litres of liquid soap and 20 litres of sanitisers.

Mgaya explained that three of the hand washing machines are foot-operated hand one automatic hand washing machine. He said the machines have been designed and manufactured by the University of Dar es Salaam with the support from the Aus-

show our support to people

with disabilities, it is our hope that people with disabilities will protect themselves from contracting the disease by frequently washing hands with soap and running water," he said. He said the university decided to come up with special hand washing machines for the disabled after realising many challenges they were facing.

The sensor hand washing machines will facilitate hand wash to the group as well as protect them from Covid-19, he said.

He called upon other institutions, individuals and private companies to support vulnerable groups with various Coronavirus protective gears.

Kumbilamoto commended NIMR and TAAA for donating

the machines for people with disabilities. He said the equipment will help control spreading of the disease amongst them.

He further said that the donated equipment will be placed at the busiest markets including Machinga Complex at the Karume market and Ferry fish market at Kivukoni

area. "May I request users to wisely use the equipment due to its importance in the fight against Covid-19," said the deputy mayor. Chairman of Dar es Salaam region Bajaj riders association expressed thanks to NIMR and TAAA for the support calling upon other institutions to emulate the

TAMWA urges parents to protect children against sexual abuse during Eid el-Fitr fête

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa-Zanzibar) has urged parents and guardians in the Isles to be more careful and close to their children during celebrations of Eid el-Fitr so as to protect them against acts of violence and Covid-19 infec-

Tamwa-Zanzibar is one of the leading non-governmental associations which advocates for child rights in the Indian Ocean

In a statement ahead of Eid el Fitr celebration, Dr Mzuri Issa, director of Tamwa Zanzibar advised parents to keep their children at home and stop sending them to greet their relatives as the country still struggles to contain the spread of the pan-

Dr Mzuri said that experience has shown that Eid el Fitr is one of the events where cases of violence against children are mostly reported.

According to her, in average five GBV cases are reported on daily basis, and it is estimated that 18 under-five children are be-"So, it is high time parents and guardians protect their chil-

dren during this time as reports show that children sexual violence doubles during Ramadan." She said that during Eid el Fitr celebrations, majority of chil-

dren are usually left without care, something which puts them risk as some children finds themselves in hands of dangerous The official further reminded the public to adhere to the

government directives on protective measures against the virus such as frequent hand washing, sanitising, observing social distancing and wearing face masks. "Protecting yourself and others from the spread of Covid-19,

navirus is deadly but can be prevented and contained. Physical violence is also experienced by the majority of children in Zanzibar, 71 per cent of boys and 62 per cent of girls report experiencing physical violence before the age of 18. Relatives and teachers are reported as the most frequent perpetra-

tors of violence against children. Child abuse in Africa is a major threat to the achievement of the sustainable development goals on the continent and has become increasingly topical with a dramatic increase in recognition and an appreciation of the long term harmful effects on the affected population.



Protecting yourself and others from the spread of Covid-19, this is our main message to people," she says, adding that coronavirus is deadly but can be prevented and contained



this is our main message to people," she says, adding that coro-

Hilolimus Mahundi (L), a manager with the Weights and Measures Agency in Shinyanga Region, shows journalists on Thursday one of 27 scales seized from a Kahama District businessman for not meeting legal requirements. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Itigi to vaccinate 75,000 cattle against anthrax

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

ITIGI Town Council in Manyoni District, Singida Region expects to vaccinate 75,000 cattle against anthrax.

The council's Livestock Development Officer John Chao a necessity for every herder who told the councillors meeting this will be required to send all their

120,000 found in the area.

He said the vaccination exercise is expected to begin any time after receiving the vaccine from

the zonal offices. He stressed that the vaccine is

against herders who will evade this directive.

Closing the councillors' ordinary meeting, the council's chairman Ally Minja said the council plans a huge vaccination cam-

He said the benefits from the week that the number of cattle to animals during the vaccination vaccination include animals' be established include Itagata, will be beefed up.

be vaccinated is among a total of period and steps will be taken good health and council's revenue generation.

> He also said the council plans to establish new weekly cattle auctions in areas with great ac-

Minja, who is also the council-

whose auction will take place every Monday and Rungwa where the auction will take place every Saturday.

"I ask the management to go out and work on the modalities so that the auctions begin and lor of Itigi Ward, said areas where our hope is that once they start the new auctions are planned to operating the council's income

TARURA commended for renovating damaged roads

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Rural and Urban Roads Agency has continued to restore road communications in various areas in the country that had been destroyed by rains.

For Dodoma and Manyara regions, communication continues to be restored in Babati, Mbulu and Kondoa districts.

TARURA Manager for Babati District Eng said Mikongomi said already communication has been restored in various areas and people were continuing with their economic activities.

A resident of Mafuta area in Babati said people had great difficulties when crossing the Masware Bridge after its embankment collapsed but as of now it is rectified and now people can cross without difficulties.

In Mbulu District road communication has already been restored and people are moving about without hardships.

Mbulu District Executive Director (DED) Hudson Kamoga said in special interviews that the areas of the roads that had been destroyed by rains are now passable.

He said work done by TARURA has greatly assisted the people as TARURA experts have been arriving promptly whenever a challenge comes up. "I take this opportunity to congratulate President John Magufuli and his government in general for establishing TARURA as they never delay whenever a road becomes impassable due to rains," he said.

TARURA Manager for Mbulu District Eng Nuru Hondo said work in restoring road communication in the district continues and already many areas are now reachable by road.

In Kondoa District, Dodoma Region, road communication has already been restored whereas the Kalamba bridge has already been repaired and people are now using it without difficulties.

Speaking in a special interview TARURA Manager for Kondoa District Eng Goodluck Mbanga said the rains had cut off communications at Kalamba bridge but now it is already repaired.



Psychologist Sadaka Gandi (L) and Bongo Flava artiste Mwasiti Almasi (R) address students in Singida Region earlier this week at a Kipepeo National Campaign platform that is used to relay inspirational messages meant to influence the behaviour of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and adolescent boys. The messages are designed specifically boost awareness on HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment as well as minimising the incidence of unwanted pregnancies. The campaign is a project under the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry and is jointly funded by the Global Fund, Tanzania's National Aids Control Programme and the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Three banks deploy agents in Musoma villages, physical branches to follow

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

IN efforts to bring closer financial services to the under-served rural communities three banks have set up agents in some villages in Musoma District, Mara Region to enable the communities access key financial services, boost rural financial and inclusive economy.

Musoma District commissioner Dr Vincent Anney said this in an interview with The Guardian while speaking about various development strategies being implemented in the district.

According to him, the banks - NMB, CRBD and NBC have deployed the agents as they are preparing to build branches that will be providing more services.

"Witnessing major banks setting up agents in rural and under-served communities is a huge step towards promoting inclusive economy," said Dr An-

He further explained that NMB agents are currently in the villages of Bukima and Mugango while of CRDB are in the villages of Saragana, Seka, Bukima and Mugango. Dr Anney named the other villages, which are expected to acquire NMB and CRDB agents in the future as Bwai, Busekela, Etaro and Nyambono, adding that NBC will start in Murangi village.

"Perhaps I should clarify that Musoma district is made up of Musoma Municipal and Musoma District councils which have

68 villages whose residents rely on financial services in the city, this force them to travel long distances seeking for financial services in town," he said.

The introduction of these services, he said, will help them not to travel longer distances to follow the services as it was in the past, the presence of such banking agents is a positive step.

"For example, the residents of Busekela and other local areas, have been traveling more than 90 Kilometres to pursue financial services in the city but can now access the services in their surrounding areas," he added.

The presence of such agents in some villages, he said, was a concerted effort by various stakeholders including Musoma Rural MP, Prof Sospeter Muhongo who has been collaborating with the government to promote development. "This MP has been campaigning to encourage the presence of banks in his constituency to facilitate the provision of financial services and they are now putting agents in place to prepare themselves for bank buildings," he said.

Persons with albinism call on govt to station dermatologists across all regional hospitals

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) has called on the government to deploy enough dermatologists in each region referral hospital so as to provide intensive medical care to Persons with Albinism (PwA) in the country.

TAS's Secretary General, Mussa Kabimba made the remarks yesterday while briefing journalists on the 40th anniversary of Advocating for the Rights and Dignity of person with disabilities that will be held on June 13th this year.

A dermatologist is a doctor that specialises in treating skin, hair, nail, and mucous membrane disorders and diseases. They can also address cosmetic issues, helping to revitalize the appearance of the skin, hair, and nails.

"We need dermatologists in each region referral hospital because majority of persons with albinism from poor families are dying due to skin cancer and others due to albinism-related health problems as they can't afford to pay for transport costs to travel from where they are to access quality medical services in major cities such as Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Arusha," he

Kabimba said that whenever they seek quality services, persons with disabilities have to go to Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and Mwanza.

"As a result right now most patients are opting for traditional healers to save their lives something which risks their health," he added.

He noted that the number of people who are dying of skin cancer and other albinism-related health problems each year is very high.

He said that in 2018/2019 a total of 18 PwAs died from skin cancer and other albinism-related health problems according to the data from ORCI.

For his part, TAS's treasurer, Abdillah Omary added that due to COVID-19 pandemic, people with albinism will mark the 40th anniversary in Dar es Salaam through media organisations, social media and the climax will be held on June 13, this year. Omary further urged the government to remove tax

on imported goods used by PwA such as sunscreen lotions, boots or shoes, caps, vehicles and long sleeved clothes to protect them from ultraviolet rays of the

He said TAS was officially registered in 1980 and so far TAS has extended its services in 100 district councils in 24 regions in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar and they are working with people with albinism in

The National Population and Housing Census 2012 report indicate that Tanzania has 16,376 people with albinism. So far the society has managed to reach a total of 13,364; among those 6,513 are men while the remained 6,851 are women.

Elaborating on achievements, Omary said that so far TAS has managed to strengthen good relationship with local and international stakeholders in a bid to combat discrimination against PwA and enable the society live healthier life.



Kondoa district executive director Mustapha Yusuf (L) has an audience with development stakeholders in his office yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TRCS launches campaign on Covid-19 in Njombe Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

TANZANIA Red Cross Society (TRCS) has launched a plan for providing education on the prevention measures against Covid-19 infections in Njombe Region so as to reduce the disease's infection rate in the country.

Speaking soon after the launch the TRCS president David Kihenzile said since the government had already started work in such education, they have also seen the need to beef up strength and assist the gov-

He said they continue to offer such services in nearly all regions of the country with the exception of not more than three regions to cover the whole country.

He said: "For Njombe Region we will cover all six districts, 107 wards, 18 divisions, 381 villages and their 82 areas, we shall cover residential areas and those with huge gatherings of people, we are not introducing new measures but we will increase our voice to the citizens on preventive meas-

ures to take against the pandemic," he said. On behalf of the TRCS Secretary the Evaluation Manager for Epidemics Simon Kadogosa beseeched on Tanzanians to abide

by guidelines from health experts against Covid-19 infections, and added that one method they will employ is the use of placards, flyers, loudspeaker and brochures to get the message across.

"We shall bring up to 4,000 placards that will be erected in various areas, 14,000 flyregion and we shall use loudspeakers in strategic areas for those who cannot read," Kadogosa said.

Njombe District Commissioner Ruth Msafiri who was the guest of honour at the event said the fight against the pandemic is not to be undertaken by leaders only but by every citizen, and they should do so while working.

"We continue to educate the public but we must also have faith in God, we must ers that will be distributed in the whole also increase efforts in taking precaution-



SATURDAY 23 MAY 2020

Taking A New Look At The News **ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Managing wicked problems in agribusiness is quite possible

HOMAS Robert Malthus was an English cleric, scholar and influential economist in the fields of political economy and demography. In his 1798 book 'An Essay on the Principle of Population', Malthus observed that an increase in a nation's food production improved the well-being of the populace, but the improvement was temporary because it led to population growth. In other words, humans had a propensity to utilise abundance for population growth rather than for maintaining a high standard of living, a view that has become known as the 'Malthusian trap' or the 'Malthusian

Populations had a tendency to grow until the lower class suffered hardship, want and greater susceptibility to famine and disease, a view that is sometimes referred to as a Malthusian catastrophe.

Malthus saw population growth as being inevitable whenever conditions improved, thereby precluding real progress towards a utopian society: The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man'.

Malthus criticized the Poor Laws for leading to inflation rather than improving the well-being of the poor. For two centuries, all too many discussions about hunger and resource scarcity has been haunted by the ghost of Parson Thomas Malthus. Malthus warned that rising populations would exhaust resources, especially those needed for food production. Exponential population growth would outstrip food output.

Humanity now faces a major challenge as global warming is expected

to frustrate the production of enough food as the world population rises to

9.7 billion by 2050. Agribusiness advocates fed such fears, insisting that food production must double by 2050, and high-yielding industrial agriculture, under the auspices of agribusiness, is the only solution. In fact, the world is mainly fed by hundreds of millions of smallscale, often called family farmers who produce over two-thirds of developing countries' food.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, neither food scarcity nor poor physical access are the main causes of food insecurity and hunger.

Poor production, processing and storage facilities cause food losses of an average of about a third of developing countries' output. A similar share is believed lost in rich countries due to wasteful food storage, marketing and consumption behaviour.

Nevertheless, despite grain abundance, the 2018 State of Food Insecurity report -- by the Rome-based United Nations food agencies led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) -- reported rising chronic and severe hunger or undernourishment involving more than 800 million.

Political, philanthropic and corporate leaders have promised to help struggling African and other countries grow more food, by offering to improve farming practices. New seed and other technologies would modernize those left behind.

But producing more food, by itself, does not enable the hungry to eat. Thus, agribusiness and its philanthropic promoters are often the problem, not the solution, in feeding the world.

Undoubtedly, many new agricul-

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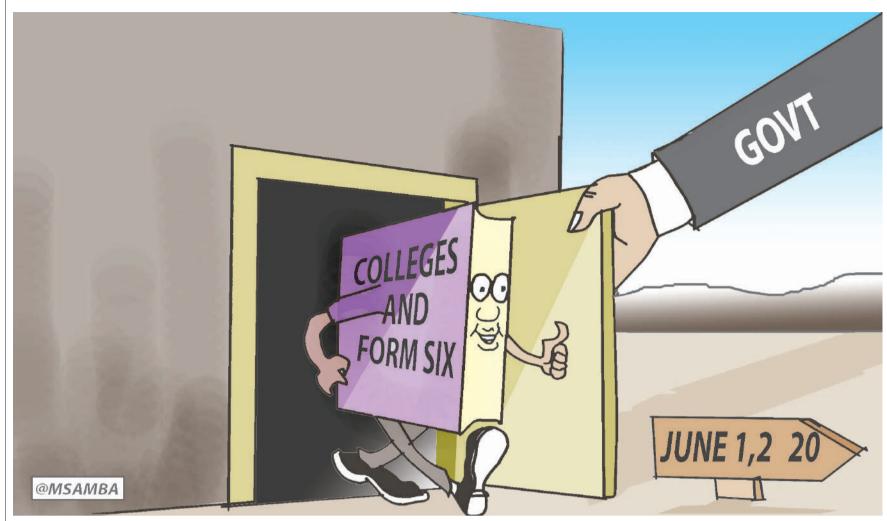
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We need full disclosure of all the facts if we are to beat Covid-19

By Ghaleb Cachalia

ACCOUNTABILITY and transparency run like a golden thread through our Constitution. The government in all three spheres must be held accountable by the opposition, otherwise it's simply a case of 'trust me, I'm a doctor'.

The coronavirus is with us - for better or worse, richer or poorer, till death do us part. The response has been predictable across the board: batten down the hatches as the spiked corona balls rail down on the ship's deck and as the beleaguered vessel limps into port and the voice from Monty Python's Life of Brian is heard above the creaking wheels of the wagon - "bring out yer dead".

The captains of the ships, be they Boris from the infirmary, Cvril from the Command Council, Angela from the Bismarck battleship or Xi Jinping from the paddle steamers of the Yangtze, are all singing from the same hymn sheet with the Psalm Singers of the ship's choir: keep your distance, stay inside, half rations all, and prayer in the absence of communion.

Only the longships of the Vikings of Sweden appear to have broken ranks. Their larder grows as the Viking boats drag across long portages, withstand fierce ocean storms, continue to trade, make war, carry animals, and cross open oceans while attempting to provide protection for the

The jury is out as to whether Boris, Cyril & Co or the lone Swedes will emerge least scathed from this modern-day Battle of Jutland.

age, published by the Health Min-Many see the parameters of victory as being defined by short-term containment or long-term preservation of the economic engine, but the battle is not binary and the wisest course of action is to secure lives, attack the virus and preserve and defend the econo-

tion appears to involve a phased approach to opening the lockdown. In parallel, we need to test to find out how many people are positive, but, crucially, how many of these people do not show any

According to a breakdown of confirmed coronavirus cases by ing an impact of the lockdown approximately 10 days later? On the basis of an aspirational as-

decreased further: shouldn't we be see-

sumption that SA will not exceed a 3.5% ICU-rate required for treatment of acute Covid-19 cases and assuming a low ICUrate, 60,000 active cases can be tolerated. On the other hand and on the basis of a working assumption that SA will have a 10% ICU-rate, we cannot exceed 20,000 active cases in order to cope in our health sector's capacity. In order to get a handle on the epi-

demic, the government should provide, on a daily basis, information about the number of tests conducted by type of test, type of patient and stage of patient, broken down by province.

We must understand the antibodies, the symptoms or lack thereof, whether patients are new or have never been tested and if tested, whether they were negative or positive.

We need to understand positive cases, negative cases, those still in progress and which results were faulty. We need a handle on how many new positive cases we have, the total positive cases, new deaths, total deaths, new recoveries and total recoveries.

Importantly, the number of patients, the hospital beds used by Covid-19 patients and the results of continuous random testing for Covid-19 and symptoms stratified by age, gender, urban/rural, race, LSM, education level, employment status and income level must be tabulated and made available.

In the absence of this we have no plan that will guide us to the recovery of afflicted people and the economy; and if we do, it is locked up in a black box in the Command Council and drip-fed to the nation on a need-to-know basis. This is not good enough.

Dairying can transform the lives of the poor faster than any other commodity

HE dairy industry in Tanzania is among the important components of the livestock sector; a source of animal protein, income generation ; and employment. The sector has a great potential for improving the living standards of the people and contributing towards reduction of poverty.

THE number of hybrid dairy cattle in the country increased by four folds to 1,294,882 in 2018/19 from 783,000 in 2017/2018, a development which saw milk production increasing from 2.4 billion litres to 2.7 billion litres, according to the registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board.

The Board was established by the Dairy Industry Act of 2004 and inaugurated in November 2005 with a mandate to develop, promote and regulate dairy industry in Tanzania

The achievements we are told are part of the ongoing National Five-Year Dairy Industry Development Plan (2018/19-2020/21).

Livestock are productive assets as livestock and livestock products contribute to food and income security of the rural poor. Livestock resources for Tanzania include 22.8 million cattle, 15.2 million goats and 6.4 million sheep.

Other major livestock species kept in the country include 1.6 million pigs and 43 million chickens. More than 90 per cent of the livestock population in the country is of indigenous types, kept in the traditional sector, known for their ability to survive and produce even under harsh environment with poor feed resources.

In 1961-1965 private commercial farms and processing plants dominated the industry. Farmers owned 25 - 40 per cent shares in the milk processing plants which were run by zonal dairy Boards 1965 a dairy industry law was enacted that created a government controlled national dairy Board (NDB). The Board operated until 1973.

In 1974 a Livestock Development Authority (LIDA) was established and two subsidiary companies DAF-CO and TDL were among several subsidiary companies that were established under LIDA. In mid 1980's - the economic liberalisation of the public institutions which led to privatisation of all seven TDL milk processing plants. By 1998 nearly all milk plants and some DAFCO farms as well had been privatised. Informal milk marketing of milk continued to dominate the market for liq-

In the same year it was observed that the industry was uncoordinated and poorly organised need a national institution to regulate and co- ordinate the orderly development of the industry. In 2004 the dairy industry bill was enacted and provided for a dairy board.

In the backdrop to that strategies needed to improve performance of the dairy sector and should include increasing milk production; improving skills of farmers on hygienic milk production and better animal husbandry; farmer training using EA harmonised training manuals being undertaken in Tanzania; assuring milk market by improving milk collection and prompt payment for the milk and last but not least improving availability of finance for long term low interest loans including investment in milk collection centres and transportation facilities in expanding market for dairy products and conducting regular milk promotion events.

There is no doubt, our my view is that successful dairy production, processing and marketing is possible in many regions in Tanzania if the right approaches and required support for smallholders can be made.

Dairying can transform the lives of the poor faster than any other com-

Attention to the entire value chain is important for success.

my by understanding the risk of spread and plotting it against the opening up of the economy.

The most sensible course of acsymptoms.

istry of Israel and by The Times of Israel, almost a third of children under the age of nine infected with the coronavirus are asymptomatic carriers of the disease, or so-called "silent spreaders." This is a significant indicator and it should exercise minds every-

Our fortuitous closing of schools between 15 and 18 March and the partial lockdown and closure of airports and ports seems to have been responsible for the flattening of the curve as of 28 March. The data suggests that since then the lockdown has had no real effect, allowing for an incubation period of approximately 10 days. Our daily rate has not

Working together globally is the only way to beat coronavirus

By James Duddridge

The UK government is speaking to its counterparts across the world to secure global agreement on measures which will save lives and protect economies.

Coronavirus has had an impact on almost every as-

pect of life, in every corner of the globe. For the first time in generations, all of us around the world are engaged in the same fight: tackling this

deadly disease. Across Africa and in the UK, health workers on the front line are saving lives, while others are doing their part by keeping essential services and supplies running or simply by staying at home to slow the disease's spread.

For individual governments, the challenges are huge. But this is a global disease and we can overcome those challenges together with a global response. For example, developing and distributing new vaccines and treatments is not something one country can do alone. Nor will stamping out the disease at home be effective if the virus takes hold in other parts of the world, resulting in new waves of infection worldwide.

That's why the UK stands with Africa as we fight this threat together. The African Union, and its pub-

the continental response, providing strong Africanled leadership and technical advice from which we all stand to benefit. I am proud the UK is now the largest international donor to the African Union Covid-19 Response Fund, following an appeal from Cyril Ramaphosa. Contributing close to R450-million (£20-million) this money will save lives across Africa, by making sure its leaders have the resources to respond effectively to the pandemic.

It will help recruit and deploy African health experts to combat harmful misinformation, track the spread of the disease, provide training for response workers and provide guidance, adapted for different countries, to make sure everyone knows how to stay

With tens of thousands of confirmed cases on the continent, and predictions of hundreds of thousands of deaths, we have to take action. As African nations slow the spread of this virus around the continent, this will help end the global pandemic sooner - and benefit us all.

This is why the UK is encouraging other governments to think internationally, and collectively, about their responses to coronavirus. Prime Minister Boris lic health agency, Africa CDC, are at the forefront of Johnson and ministers from across the UK govern-

ment are speaking to their counterparts across the world to secure global agreement on measures which will save lives and protect economies.

We successfully pushed for the suspension of \$12-billion worth of debt payments to G20 countries for 77 nations. We were the first country to sign up for the IMF's crisis fund which will help countries like Mali and Niger weather the economic impact of the crisis, so they can focus on fighting the virus itself. The UK is also using our membership of the G7 and G20 to urge a timely and effective international response to support the world's most vulnerable countries.

Including the new funding to the African Union, we have now committed up to £764-million (\$931.7-million) of UK aid to fight the pandemic worldwide, funding research into vaccines, tests and treatments providing humanitarian and economic support to the most vulnerable countries and improving access to sanitation.

As the biggest supporter of the international CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) fund to find a vaccine, and the largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, we are committed to making sure everyone across Africa and the world can benefit from a future vaccine.

US Covid-19 deaths compared to other diseases, pandemics and wars

By Robert Roy Britt

TATISTICS don't tell the whole story of Covid-19, and cherry-picking one set of numbers and presenting them in a vacuum can be misleading. But the number of Covid-19 deaths in the United States has now exceeded the country's deaths from the entire Vietnam War and the worst full flu seasons in the past 50 years - with more surely to come and many states are opening their economies back up.

Accordingly, I sought some perspective on deaths in relation to total population figures at the time various events occurred. The chart (updated this May 21) is not intended to shed light on how or when physical distancing and other Covid-19 preventive measures should be relaxed. It is, rather, just an interesting way of looking at the numbers, and only at a moment in time.

However, if the current pace of roughly 1,800 deaths per day continues through the end of May, which many epidemiologists expect it will (it may even be higher in June), the Covid-19 death toll will exceed the combined total for the Korean and Vietnam wars, and it will be higher than any single flu season since the 1918-1919 pandemic.

Note that the actual total of Covid-19 deaths is almost surely higher than the tally presented here, given that as of as many as 9,000 deaths in the country that were likely due to the disease but were not recorded as such.

This is according to a study by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published on April 28. And on May 11, the CDC said another 5,000 deaths in New York City, from March through May, may have been caused by Covid-19 but not officially counted as such.

Meanwhile, there are lots of interesting numbers and facts behind these data. Of all these events, only the Civil War killed more than 1 per cent of the population that existed at the time.

If you projected that death percentage to today - not that this is relevant, it's just interesting - the toll would be 6.5 million people.

Likewise, if you projected the death percentage from the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic to today, 2.2 million Americans would die - again, just interesting, not a projection, though some historians and infectious disease experts see the multiple waves of that pandemic as a cautionary tale.

What really kills us

There's also much to ponder as it relates to what kills most people year after year, including largely preventable

U.S. DEATHS **Civil War** 620,000 675.000 1918-19 Flu Pandemic 0.654% WWII 405,399 0.301% **Heart Disease** 647,457 0.197% U.S. Deaths as a 599,108 0.183% Cancer Percentage of 116,516 0.113% 116,000 0.067% 1957-58 Flu Pandemic **Population** 0.050% 1968-69 Flu Pandemic 100,000 58,220 0.030% Vietnam War Based on population at the time of each event. Covid-19 as of May 21 93,558 0.028% See article for important explanations of this data. 36,574 0.024% Korean War 61,000 0.019% 2017-18 Flu Season SOURCES U.S. Census Bureau, National Archives 38,000 | 0.012% 2016-17 Flu Season Library of Congress; Johns Hopkins University 34,157 | 0.010% 2018-19 Flu Season Federation of American Scientists, CDC 12,469 0.004% 2009 Flu Pandemic GRAPHIC BY ROBERT ROY BRITT

causes like heart attacks.

Heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death in the US in any year, far outpacing other diseases, accidents, modern wars and other violence.

Here are the percentages of US deaths from the Top 10 causes based on the most recent year fully analysed (2017): heart disease: 23.0 per cent; cancer: 21.3 per cent; accidents/ unintentional injuries: 6.0 per cent; chronic lower respiratory diseases: 5.7 per cent; strokes and cerebrovascular diseases: 5.2 per cent; Alzheimer's disease: 4.3 per cent; diabetes: 3.0 per cent; flu and pneumonia: 2.0 per cent; kidney disease: 1.8 per cent; suicide: 1.7 per cent.

All told, those ten causes account for about three-quarters of deaths, and the percentages don't vary by much from year to year - though Covid-19 could add a twist to the 2020 figures.

Were these the percentages you'd expect? In fact, many people don't realise what kills most of us.

A recent survey found that humans tend to underestimate the percentage of people who die from heart disease and overestimate deaths by car crashes and violence.

Researchers say there's some deep psychology to our tendency to inflate the likelihood of dramatic events, in part due to vivid imagery in the news or in fiction. The reality is that we're more likely to die from a bathroom fall than to go down in an airplane or be murdered by terrorists.

Flu deaths overstated

Another important number behind the numbers, one that is sometimes stated incorrectly is that the average number of US flu deaths for the past

nine seasons (2010-2011 through 2018-2019) is 37,461.

The range is 12,000 to 61,000. That means Covid-19, in the space of about three months, has killed more people than any of the last nine flu seasons. Exactly when the coronavirus began circulating in the US has been questioned, but the earliest death is thought to have occurred on February

However, annual flu deaths are always estimated by the CDC, rather than involving firm numbers. The reported figures involve complex mathematics and assumptions about unreported cases.

A new analysis by Jeremy Faust, MD,

who practises emergency medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital, suggests that the CDC grossly overstates flu deaths and therefore Covid-19 has so far "killed between 9.5 and 44 times more people than seasonal flu".

More deaths ahead

1.973%

By all estimates, this pandemic is far from over. Since April 2, more than 1,000 people have died each day in the US from Covid-19. On at least ten days, the toll exceeded 2,000 - more than the average daily death rate for heart disease. The daily death toll has seemingly plateaued as of early May, but the number of new cases is rising.

But as states loosen stay-at-home orders and businesses open up, an internal document from the US Department of Homeland Security obtained by The New York Times and published on May 4 projected about 3,000 daily deaths by June 1.

The document included the logos of the CDC and the US Department of Health & Human Services, though it's not clear who the document was created for or how widely it had been shared within the federal government.

NPR reports that the document contained one of several forecasts that were under development and was an unfinished work in progress.

Several leading epidemiologists meanwhile expect additional waves of Covid-19 infections, which could mean involving a large wave this fall or multiple smaller waves. Either way, they expect peaks and valleys lasting into 2022.

A Luminate dispatch by Robert Roy Britt, former editor-in-chief of Live Science and Space.com and author of the science thriller "5 Days to Landfall."

As Covid-19 burns, world's forgotten wars continue to take toll on civilians

JUBA

ARLIER this year, just before the coronavirus virtually shut down international travel, sat under a mesquite tree and listened to a rambling speech by a South Sudanese general at a military base outside of the capital, Juba.

I was in that war-weary country to investigate violations of the arms embargo, which is up for renewal by the United Nations Security Council this month. The embargo is about two years old, and though it hasn't solved every problem, violence and human rights abuses have significantly decreased in the country since the main torrent of guns and ammunition was choked off.

That day, I had come to see the commander of the dusty improvised camp at Gorom brief a party of diplomats and international ceasefire monitors on his progress training South Sudan's newly established VIP Protection Force.

But instead, the general rattled off a litany of complaints - not enough supplies, not even bedding to sleep on. He said this while seated in front of a wall of unopened cardboard boxes, ten feet tall and forty feet long, all stuffed with sleeping mats donated by Japan.

There was a certain "which do you believe, me or your lying eyes?" quality to the presentation.

I wasn't there for logistical gripes, though. I was there to find out if their weapons were newly shipped in, and thus broke the embargo, and so when the general said he had four shipping containers full of small arms that he had collected from his soldiers as part of the disarmament process, I was interested.

I made it to twelve military and training camps in South Sudan, and this was the only one with a nominally established armory. This was my best chance

But when one of the general's officers opened the four containers for me, they weren't filled with guns. Instead they were stacked to the ceiling with bags of rice and durra, a kind of grain. These units weren't disarming. They were hedging their bets against a return to war.

The general was unapologetic. "These are the forces that will impose the peace in Juba," he said. "These soldiers are the backbone of this peace."

He said out loud what many fear: that even after so much bloodshed in South Sudan's civil war, when given the chance



Images taken when Amnesty's South Sudan researcher and Crisis Response team's arms and military operations investigator visited 12 military training sites in South Sudan in early 2020 to document violations of the UN arms embargo. They also witnessed evidence of child soldiers being used and diversion of arms. File

at a negotiated settlement, the generals will still search for peace at the end of a

On March 23rd, in the face of a mounting global health crisis, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for a global ceasefire. Suffice it to say it was

As the coronavirus spreads around the world, South Sudan is not the only place where a pandemic disease is poised to run rampant through a state of endemic conflict. Officially, South Sudan has only a few dozen cases. So too places like Syria, though as we have come to know, this is mostly a function of testing.

Meanwhile, in Yemen the number of cases is skyrocketing, and in Somalia, gravediggers in the capital can't keep up with the surge in demand and the number of cases in Shabab-controlled territory is unknown.

Adding the coronavirus to these ongoing conflicts will only increase human suffering, and yet, at a time when the world could join together to confront COVID-19, so many wars continue to take their toll on civilians.

The Syrian government and Russian air force have in recent months continued to bomb schools and hospitals around Idlib. In the civil war in Libya, outside powers from Turkey to the United Arab Emirates have pumped in enough mercenaries and materiel that civilian casualties, from artillery and airstrikes, have actually increased since the start of 2020.

Across the Sahel, from Mali to northern Nigeria and Cameroon, and elsewhere in Africa, as far south as Mozambique, armed groups who have pledged allegiance to the group calling itself Islamic State are burning villages and beheading civilians.

And in western Myanmar, where the government's crimes against humanity forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, the military and Rakhine rebels continue to fight; in April, a World Health Organization worker driving coronavirus samples was killed in the crossfire.

And violence continues in South Sudan as well, as a fringe rebel group continues their fight against the government and longstanding inter-communal

rivalries breed abductions and gunfights. Meanwhile, victims and survivors of mass atrocities during the conflict continue to be denied justice.

Fueling this instability and impunity are continued violations of the UN arms embargo. During our investigation, we found recently manufactured Chinese ammunition in the hands of the feared National Security Service.

We found the government's fleet of heavily armed Mi-24 attack helicopters, broken before the embargo was established, newly fixed and flying, ready to be used again to attack civilians as they had during the civil war. We found Kalashnikovs from Eastern Europe, some even made in the old East Germany, newly imported and in the hands of

government forces and opposition alike. The civil war in South Sudan was decidedly low-tech, and featured horrific

atrocities, including hundreds of people gathered up and gunned down in mass executions, often along ethnic lines. But while the arms embargo has proven no panacea, since its adoption in

July of 2018 there has not been a single documented large-scale massacre of civilians, certainly not of the scale seen in the early days of the conflict. Some fighting and human rights vio-

lations continue, but nothing compared to what we saw before the embargo in 2014, back when tens of millions of rounds of ammunition where being shipped in at a time.

The fight against COVID-19 has been described as a war. I don't think that framing is accurate or helpful at all; I bet most of us who have experienced the chaotic messy violence of human beings killing each other would agree.

Wars destroy, but the response to a pandemic requires the opposite; an act of building, creating a resilient society where we take care of each other. And we have a common inhuman foe outside ourselves to mobilize against: a grotesque ball of goo covered in spikes.

Unfortunately, at the UN, the old divisions threaten this unifying opportunity. The rift between China and the United States has stalled a resolution on a 90-day humanitarian ceasefire that would allow for COVID medical aid to reach civilians.

And the question of arms embargoes gets wrapped up in discussions of dropping sanctions generally. Though they are considered by the same council, the arms embargo should not be seen as punitive in nature.

It is not a targeted sanction, it is a necessary tool for curbing human rights violations by all parties, and could not possibly be misconstrued as impeding a country's ability to treat COVID-19.

We face an uphill battle to get the South Sudan arms embargo, but there is still space for hope. The UN Security Council can move with purpose and good will and see the obvious truth: guns don't vanquish a disease.

At the start of the coronavirus outbreak, South Sudan was a place that had more attack helicopters than ventilators. It makes no sense to lift an arms embargo on a fragile country with a legacy of impunity for war crimes and a looming public health challenge.

Agencies

If you really will have to travel, should you take a plane or car?

BY ALEXANDRA SIFFERLIN

HE Covid-19 pandemic has thrown a wrench into the summer plans of people around the world. Right now many places have stay-at-home orders that largely restrict travel.

However, as states begin lifting these restrictions or people need to move, there are questions about the safest way to do so. Is it better to take a road trip but risk stops along the way? Or is it better to take an airplane and spend hours in tight quarters with strangers?

"Any form of travel at this current time in the Covid-19 pandemic involves risk. Knowing the most up-to-date information regarding the virus and travel restrictions is critical," savs Dr Jill Weatherhead, an assistant professor of tropical medicine and infectious diseases at Baylor College of Medi-

Weatherhead says that taking public forms of transportation like buses, trains or planes can undoubtedly mean close exposure to more people in different areas of the country.

"While waiting within airports, bus spots and train stations as well as while riding in planes, buses and trains, practising social distancing as much as possible; disinfecting highly touched surfaces such as seats,

a facial covering may help reduce viral transmission during travel," she says.

What about the lack of airflow on a plane? "Modern planes are equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters which filter particles from recycled air, reducing risk of viral spread through the air," says Weatherhead, adding: "However, it won't necessarily prevent droplet or contaminated surface transmission of the virus if in close contact with sick individuals.'

Dr Robin Patel, president of the American Society for Microbiology, takes a stronger stance on flying, saving: "Travelling in your own car, either by yourself or with members of your household, is certainly safer than traveling by airplane right now in terms of acquiring Covid-19.'

"Even with physical distancing measures on an airplane, there is a risk of exposure to Covid-19 due to the sheer number of people not from the same household sharing the same space," she adds.

Patel says that because Covid-19 can be spread from people without symptoms or people who haven't yet developed symptoms, there's no easy way to know who might be carrying

travellers wear a mask, proper-

trays, armrests; and wearing ly cleaning surfaces in airports and on planes, and washing your hands regularly can help, of course, but if you're alone or with others from your household in your own car, there's really little risk of acquiring Covid-19 there; it's pretty much like being at home.'

Weatherhead meanwhile says that while driving may reduce close contact with large groups of people, "driving requires frequent stops with exposures at restaurants, rest stops and filling stations."

Her advice: "Ensure that evervone in the car is from the same household. Reducing stops and washing hands regularly may also prevent spread of infection while on road trips.'

The bottom line is that any transportation is going to come with a set of risks, especially if you're attempting to travel across states or for a long period of time. In some cases, the distance may make the decision easier. In any situation, try to stay spread apart from others, keep washing your hands, and wear your mask and seat

Alexandra Sifferlin is editor of Medium's Covid-19 Blog. Deputy Editor, Elemental. She was previously with TIME Magazine, and has covered epidemics She elaborates: "Having air including MERS, Ebola and



Covid-19: China tells world health assembly they did their best

UNITED NATIONS

HIS week's 73rd World Health Assembly had member states adopt a resolution to review the global response to the coronavirus pandemic. The World Health Organisation (WHO) will also undergo an evaluation for its response to the outbreak. At the virtual assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping outlined China's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, saying they did their "best to stem cross-border transmission" and to help other countries in need. He said in that China supported the idea of a "comprehensive review" of the world's response to the pandemic, once it has been contained, in order to measure efficiencies of the responses.

"This work should be based on science and professionalism, led by WHO and conducted in an objective and impartial manner," Xi said, adding that "solidarity and cooperation" are the strongest way to de-

Xi also announced that China would fund \$2 billion over the next three years, with a focus on developing countries, to support their efforts to combat COVID-19.

China's response to COVID-19 has also come under heavy scrutiny, especially as reports continue to emerge that China may have a significantly higher number of COVID-19 cases than the country's data

President of the assembly, Keva Bain from the Bahamas, lauded the WHO and its director Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, calling his leadership through this time "inspiring."

"This era of COVID-19 ushers in new technology," she added. "It requires new knowledge, new innovations, flexibility, [and] meaningful, respectful country interactions as well as new and greater global part-

Harsh criticism from US

The assembly ended on the heels of United States President Donald Trump presenting his letter to Tedros, which defended cutting support to the organisation in April.

In the letter posted on Twitter, Trump claimed the WHO did not maintain the same level of scrutiny for China as it did for the U.S. and that its failure to hold China accountable for its lack of transparency regarding data of its COVID-19 cases has "been extremely costly for the world".

However, some experts believe that such harsh criticism of the WHO at this time could be problematic.

Dr. Jennifer Huang Bouey, a senior researcher at the Center for Asia and Pacific Policy, told IPS that the WHO has played a key role in containing a virus that is so global. "I found it very unfortunate that this happened at this moment because WHO is in a primary position to do the coordination and the technical support for a disease that can cross borders," she told IPS. "This is exactly the time that countries need to work together and help countries that have weaker systems."

Bouey's research has focused on how China's public health response has been shaped since it first addressed the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) crisis almost two decades ago. SARS is also a viral respiratory disease, caused by the SARS coronavirus or SARS-CoV.

"During SARS there was no data-collection system at all," she said, "but after SARS the government put in a lot of funding to centralise the surveillance system."

She attributed China's failure to respond appropriately in part to the miscommunication between local and central government, belonging to a "very top-down system" where locals don't want to be held accountable for an emerging disease.

Regardless, she said the disease is "ruthlessly revealing" some of the problems at both country level and international level, and that WHO should not be blamed for its initial response in January, because the scale of the pandemic was not fully realised at that point.

Meanwhile, other experts have said what will make a difference is how these current reactions translate to proper action in the future.



People wearing face masks at a Bus stop in Macau, China near a public hospital. This week's 73rd World Health Assembly had member states adopt a resolution to review the global response to the coronavirus pandemic. File photo Covid-19: China tells world health assembly they did their best

diagnostic tests, medicines and vaccines being universally, timely and equitably available, but if countries and multilateral institutions providing funding to developers do not do so with the necessary strings attached, then these will re- data and technology being and said there are lessons every

health care providers' and patients' hands," Katy Athersuch, a senior policy adviser at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Campaign, told IPS.

She said that it's crucial that

"It is one thing to talk about main words on paper and will used to test and document the cases not translate into medicines in are "openly shared to ensure that production can take place on the scale that is needed in order to provide for people everywhere in the world, not just for those in the highest income

Bouey echoed a similar sentiment,

country can take from the crisis.

"We're always in the cycle of either neglect or panic, so whether COVID-19 can help us overcome that – to put into a plan, or regulation, [to see] whether these surveillance systems are still sensitive and whether we are still up to date on the strategies for a pandemic – these are lessons for every state and also for international organisations."

Agencies

New study warns of Covid-19 impact on cardiovascular health

BRIGHTON, UK

A NEW study shows that a significant number of people who develop coronavirus disease 19 (Covid-19) may experience serious cardiovascular complications. Moreover, some possible treatments of the respiratory disease could end up harming cardiovascular health.

As they assessed data from people who received medical care for Covid-19, researchers recently started paying attention to the relationship between the disease and cardiovascular symptoms.

In April, the journal Radiol-

ies showing a link between Covid-19 deaths and the occurrence of blood clots that impair circulation, an issue that increases the risk of life threatening medical events.

Meanwhile, a review of available evidence indicates that Covid-19 is sometimes associated with serious cardiovascular outcomes, including heart failure and heart attacks, as well as blood clots.

"In writing this article, we hope to increase emergency physicians' knowledge and awareness of this new pathogen and its impact on the carco-author of the review, Dr. William Brady, of the University of Virginia School of Medicine, in Charlottesville.

He adds: "As we encounter more and more patients with Covid-19-related illness, we are increasing our understanding of its impact on the body in general and the cardiovascular system in particular. The rate of learning on this area is amazingly rapid. Information continues to change weekly, if

Dr. Brady and colleagues report their findings in a paper

ogy published several stud- diovascular system," says a Journal of Emergency Medi- 7-17% of patients hospitalized cine. The researchers assessed the evidence presented in 45 studies that mentioned Covid-19 and a potential link with cardiovascular effects.

In the existing research, the investigators found associations between Covid-19 and myocardial injury, heart attacks, acute heart failure, abnormal heartbeats, and venous thromboembolism – or blood clot-

Dr. Brady and colleagues write that, based on the evidence, myocardial injury with an elevated level of troponin, that appears in The American a key protein, "may occur in

with COVID-19 and 22-31% of those admitted to the intensive care unit."

Myocardial injury refers to heart problems associated with an abnormally high level of troponin, a protein involved in the regulation of heart muscle contractions.

In addition, the researchers say that people with Covid-19 may also face a risk of heart attacks and that heart failure may already be present in a significant number of people who enter the hospital with Covid-19.

Finally, the investigators note that, according to the evidence so far, people with COV-ID-19 have "an increased risk" of blood clots forming inside blood vessels, an important risk factor for strokes.

Aside from these findings, Dr. Brady and colleagues draw attention to possible interactions between drugs currently being tested as Covid-19 treatments and medication administered for cardiovascular problems.

One example is that of hydroxychloroquine, which interacts with drugs used to regulate the heartbeat.

In some Covid-19 patients, hydroxychloroquine "may cause direct myocardial toxicity" and "worsen cardiomyopathy," a problem that can lead to heart failure, the researchers write.

Another drug that doctors should administer with caution to people with Covid-19, according to the researchers, is remdesivir, which could lead to abnormal heart rhythms, called arrhythmias, and low blood pressure, known as hypoten-

"As we gain more experience with this new pathogen (SARS-CoV-2, the new coronavirus), we realize that its adverse impact extends beyond the respiratory system," says Dr. Brady.

African nations warm to crop biotechnology for potential in boosting of food security

By Joseph Gakpo

THOUGH only a few African countries are now growing genetically modified (GM) crops commercially, governments across the continent are increasingly recognizing the crucial role that biotechnology can play in improving food security.

In response, African governments are moving to establish an enabling policy framework to support adoption of biotechnology, including GM crops and derived products, according to a paper published in Frontiers in Plant Science by John Komen and five other scientists working in Africa.

"While modern biotechnology and, specifically, genetic modification are subject of debate in many parts of the world, an increasing number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa are making important strides towards authorizing general releases of genetically modified (GM) crop varieties for use by farmers and agribusinesses," the paper noted.

"Our review confirmed that an increasing number of African governments are making steady, in some cases rapid, progress in establishing science-based, functional biosafety systems," Komen, an advisor to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), told the Alliance for Science.

Documented economic and environmental benefits from planting GM crops – based on a track record of over two decades – are a major driver in the decision-making process, the paper said.

Currently, only farmers in South Africa, Swaziland and Sudan are growing GM crops commercially. Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria and Kenya have approved the release of GM crops, but just the latter two countries have begun the rollout to farmers. About a dozen other African countries have GM crop research projects under way, with some of the experiments ongoing for more than a decade now.

Case studies from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda highlighted in the paper show broader agricultural policies in these countries are encouraging support for GM crops on the continent because the policies are science focused.

The Nigerian government's new agricultural roadmap – launched in 2016 as the "Green Alternative" – aims to build "an agribusiness economy capable of delivering sustained prosperity" and has encouraged the country's recent decisions to authorize the commercial release of two GM crops – insect-resistant Bt cotton and cowpea.

Ghana's "One-District-One-Factory" industrialization policy and its "Planting for Food and Jobs" program, which is making improved seeds and other inputs available to farmers, have also provided clear guidance to technology developers who are testing and planning the release of GM crops in the country.

Kenya's "Vision 2030," an overarching development policy aimed at helping to lift the country's population into middleincome through agriculture, accelerated the recent approval of Bt cotton.

Related article: Famous chemist Bruce Ames a chemical 'industry apologist,' anti-GMO group claims

Uganda's "Plan for Modernization of Agriculture," adopted some 20 years ago, also recognizes the potential of GM crops, the paper said. However, the nation's president has waffled in approving the biosafety bill adopted by Parliament.

In addition to the supportive policy initiatives sketched above, these countries have invested in establishing functional regulatory frameworks for GM crops, allowing decision makers to weigh potential benefits against potential adverse effects on the environment and human or animal health, the paper noted. A science-based and practical regulatory framework has become an important enabling factor for countries researching and adopting GM crops, the authors said.

"In countries that were selected as case studies for this article, there has been progress in recent years in establishing functional national biosafety frameworks and growing expertise in GMO decision-making," the paper said. These examples confirm that, increasingly, governments in Africa can adjust their regulatory decision-making processes based on accrued scientific evidence.

Political challenges

Despite the above potential, actual progress has so far been slow. Some African countries are having to deal with pressure from groups opposed to modern biotechnology, which are advocating against the introduction of GM crops.

"Many governments experience political opposition to GM crops and modern agriculture generally," the paper observed. "Political opposition is in most cases fuelled by anti-GM activism, which has slowed down or halted the adoption of biosafety legislation."

There are many examples where, in the final stages of the decision-making process, political support for the introduction of GM crops often wavers, Komen said. "This is not only because different government agencies need to cooperate and coordinate around commercial release decisions... but also because pressure increases from activists and anti-development NGOs who stir up



controversy on GMOs in local media, in politics, and even in courtrooms," he explained.

An uncertain regulatory environment discourages private and public sector investment into development of the pro-poor crops and traits that farmers need the most, the paper noted. Additionally, many of these countries lack capacity to design and implement biosafety regulations. This creates a significant barrier to testing and adopting new crop varieties, including those developed by genome editing and other plant breeding innovations, which would open new opportunities to grow more food, enhance incomes and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. Though only a few African countries are now growing genetically modified (GM) crops commercially, governments across the continent are increasingly recognizing the crucial role that biotechnology can play in improving food

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This creates a significant barrier to testing and adopting new crop varieties, including those developed by genome editing and other plant breeding innovations, which would open new opportunities to grow more food, enhance incomes and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture.

Commonwealth health ministers agree to share advice and solutions in Covid-19 battle

LONDON

COMMONWEALTH health ministers have agreed to coordinate their response in tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

Ministers endorsed removing fees for coronavirus tests and treatment, especially for migrants and refugees, as appropriate within national contexts, and creating a voluntary mechanism to share and distribute extra medical supplies including ventilators and testing kits.

They agreed on the need for solidarity and cooperation among Commonwealth coun-

tries and that close working with the World Health Organization throughout the crisis was vital.

This statement was released following the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting held on 14 May.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said: "We are now participants at an inflection point in history, and how we will be seen will be determined by how we act, right now, in this moment.

"The virus knows no nationality, race, religion, border or economic status. It is an interconnected issue threatening economic order, and should be dealt with as such - guided by a culture of multilateral compassion and cooperation - not competition.

"At this critical moment, invigorated by our common pain and concern. Commonwealth countries have come together to provide the salve we need to deliver a coordinated multilateral response that will help thwart the pandemic and keep our citizens safe."

Globally, around 4.7 million coronavirus cases have been reported. Half a million of these

our global health and world are in the Commonwealth. Seven member states are among 12 nations worldwide that have not reported any cases.

The fast-spreading virus has contracted economies, shattered income streams and forced millions of people to stay indoors.

Health ministers backed the need for unified action to recover from the economic turmoil accompanying the pandemic, while addressing critical health challenges and health systems' vulnerability, particularly to re-

curring climate-related events. The World Health Organization's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "While coronavirus is an unprecedented shock to the world; through national unity and global solidarity, we can save both

lives and livelihoods. "Across the Commonwealth, countries will need to balance the demands of responding directly to coronavirus, while also maintaining essential health services."

Ministers pledged to keep essential health services running for non-COVID-19 patients with a critical non-communicable or infectious disease while dealing with an influx of coronavirus

They agreed to work with finance ministers to promote sustainable strategies to finance the implementation of universal health coverage with a focus on providing health care to women, the elderly, young people, marginalised persons and those with mental illness without facing financial difficulty. The Gambia's health minister Ahmadou Lamin Samateh chaired the meeting.

He said: "Not since the HIV/ AIDS epidemic in the 2000s has health occupied such a central position in development policy.

"With an unprecedented pan-

demic, straining health systems and halting the global economy, the role of resilient health systems across the world has come into full focus.'

During the meeting, ministers presented effective national strategies to address the pandemic, which included a mass test, trace and isolate strategy, digital tools to monitor health status and track transmission routes and a clear communication line.

India is in line to chair the next Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in 2021.

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FEATURES

China's 'two sessions' to secure nation's 'Xiaokang' victory

BEIJING

HINA on Thursday raised the curtain for its annual political high season after an over-two-month postponement as the country has turned the tide on the COVID-19 epidemic.

The top political advisory body started its annual session Thursday afternoon in Beijing, kicking off the "two sessions," a major event in China's political calendar that also includes the annual gathering of the national legislature to open on Friday.

This year's sessions are expected to highlight China's final push in poverty alleviation and completing the building of a moderately prosperous society, or "Xiaokang," in all respects.

Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the opening meeting of the third session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), held at the Great Hall of the

"The year 2020 marks the concluding phase for China's endeavor to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and deliver on the 13th Five-Year Plan," Wang Yang, chairman of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, told more than 2,000 political advisors at the meeting.

The country's poverty alleviation tasks are near completion, as the number of impoverished people fell to 5.51 million at the end of 2019 from 98.99 million at the end of 2012.

Wang called on political advisors to fulfill their duties focusing on coordinating epidemic control and econom- building of a moderately prosperous legislators and political advisors are development. Fairness and equality and medical care, according to Xin ic and social development to make society in all respects.



A journalist asks a question during a press conference of the third session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference through video link in Beijing on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

contributions to winning the battle

Facing mounting uncertainties to secure the goal-achieving victory during discussions on "Xiaokang"-reagainst poverty and completing the both at home and abroad, national and lay good foundations for future lated topics such as housing, health expected to offer insights on how will be highlighted in this crucial year Ming, a professor at the Party School

of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

This year's "two sessions" are expected to garner more attention from home and abroad as they shed light on how the country will march toward its centenary goal while navigating COVID-19 ravages.

China has, through arduous efforts, achieved decisive results in curbing the epidemic and public health will be high on the agenda during the ses-

Lawmakers and political advisors are also expected to discuss how to strive for improved performance in all areas of economic and social development as epidemic prevention and control becomes regular practice.

"China demonstrated great vitality in its systems and I have great confidence in our nation's development despite uncertainties for the future," said Zhang Shuibo, a member of the CPPCC National Committee and head of the School of International Project Management at Tianjin University.

On Friday, Premier Li Keqiang is expected to deliver a government work report to the legislative session, which will be closely watched since it will offer a series of solutions and new policy indicators in terms of how the world's second-largest economy is handling the fallout of the COVID-19 epidemic and global economic recessions.

Also on the agenda is the deliberation of a draft civil code. Once adopted, it will help boost the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, said Wang Yi, dean of the law school at Renmin University of China.

Xinhua

Draft decision on HK national security legislation submitted to NPC

A draft decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security was submitted to China's national legislature for deliberation yesterday.

Wang Chen, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) explained the draft decision to the third session of the 13th NPC, which runs from May 22 to 28.

Since the return of Hong Kong to the motherland, China has been firmly implementing the principles of "one country, two systems," "the people of Hong Kong governing Hong Kong," and a high degree of autonomy, Wang

The practice of "one country, two systems" has achieved unprecedented success in Hong Kong, he said.

But the increasingly notable national security risks in the HKSAR have become a prominent problem, the vice chairman said, citing activities that have seriously challenged the

bottom line of the "one country, two systems" principle, harmed the rule of law, and threatened national sovereignty, security and development interests.

Law-based and forceful measures must be taken to prevent, stop and punish such activities, he noted.

Article 23 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR stipulates that the HKSAR shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the HKSAR, and to prohibit political organizations or bodies of the HKSAR from establishing ties with foreign political organizations or bodies.

More than 20 years after Hong Kong's return, however, relevant laws are yet to materialize due to the sabotage and obstruction by those trying to sow trouble in Hong Kong and China at large, as well as external hostile forces, Wang said.

Considering Hong Kong's situation at pre-

sent, efforts must be made at the state-level to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security, to change the long-term "defenseless" status in the field of national security, Wang said.

This will advance the institutional building to safeguard national security on the course of China's Constitution and the Basic Law of the HKSAR, he said.

This will also strengthen the work of safeguarding national security and ensure the steady and enduring growth of the cause of

"one country, two systems", he added. Wang elaborated on the following basic

principles: -- Firmly safeguarding national security;

-- Upholding and improving the "one country, two systems"; -- Adhering to governing Hong Kong in ac-

cordance with the law; -- Resolutely opposing external interference;

-- Substantially safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of Hong Kong residents;

metal to hold tea leaves

16 a sudden cry in a loud voice

18 to move at a slower pace to

stay behind the others

14 an adolescent

17 syrian cloth

acid by an alkyl or other organ- 12 the mark or line left by a fold

Wang Chen, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 89 00-hat all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words Α M 3 LETTERS: FEW, ADD, ANA 4 LETTERS: MEAN, TAME, NOSE, NEWS, REAP DINE, MINT, (7 WORDS) LETTERS: LEAST, AWASH, POEMS, TAPES EGRET (5 WORDS) CLUES: Across Down: ELETTERS: CAREER, STRIVE, ANSWER, AMORAL, Printed publications to specify ASSETS (5 WORDS) a female servant a time for anticipation LETTERS: MALINDI sending mail through the post plural form of ass 8 LETTERS: ADAPTORS sliced bread broiled to make it office 10 LETTERS: TYRRHENIAN a small South African antelope CROSSWORD **WORD-FIT** 10 Creator of heaven and Earth a roof that resembles a half VATIONS SHOPS OI LED 11 edema circle 13 submit to the authority of to make ashamed 15 an organic compound made by 9 a hollow ball of perforated

replacing the hydrogen of an

17 ic group an indirect reference

19 make a bleating sound

20 apparition of dead people

Article 3 specifies that it is the HKSAR's constitutional responsibilities to safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity; stresses that the HKSAR must complete the national security legislation stipulated in the Basic Law of the HKSAR at an earlier date and HKSAR's administrative, legislative and judicial organs must, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, effectively prevent, stop and punish acts

an introduction and seven arti-

Article 1 states clearly that

the country will unswervingly,

fully and faithfully implement

the principles of "one country,

two systems," "the people of

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tonomy; stresses taking neces-

sary measures to establish and

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the HKSAR to safeguard nation-

al security, as well as prevent,

stop and punish activities en-

dangering national security in

Article 2 states clearly that

the country resolutely opposes

the interference in the HKSAR

affairs by any foreign or exter-

nal forces in any form and will

take necessary countermeas-

accordance with the law;

cles, according to Wang.

The draft decision consists of endangering national security; Article 4 specifies that the

HKSAR must establish and improve the institutions and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security; when needed, relevant national security organs of the Central People's Government will set up agencies in the HK-SAR to fulfill relevant duties to safeguard national security in accordance with the law;

Article 5 specifies that the HKSAR chief executive must regularly report to the Central People's Government on the HKSAR's performance of the duty to safeguard national security, carry out national security education and forbid acts of endangering national secu-

Article 6 specifies the constitutional meanings of related legislation of the NPC Standing

Committee: (1)Entrusting the NPC Standing Committee to formulate relevant laws on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. The NPC Standing Committee will exercise its functions and powers of legislation under authorization:

(2)Specifying that relevant legal tasks for the NPC Standing Committee are to effectively prevent, stop and punish any act occurring in the HKSAR to split the country, subvert state power, organize and carry out terrorist activities and other behaviors that seriously endanger national security, as well as activities of foreign and external forces to interfere in the affairs of the HKSAR;

(3) Specifying the method of implementing relevant laws of the NPC Standing Committee in the HKSAR, that is, the NPC Standing Committee makes the decision to include relevant laws into Annex III of the Basic Law of the HKSAR, and the HKSAR promulgates and implements them;

Article 7 specifies that this decision shall go into effect as of the date of promulgation.

After the issuance of the decision, the NPC Standing Committee will work with related parties to formulate relevant laws at an earlier date for the HKSAR to safeguard national security, actively push for settling prominent problems in the national security system of the HKSAR, strengthen the building of special institutions, enforcement mechanisms and law enforcement forces, so as to ensure relevant laws' effective implementation in the HK-SAR, Wang said.

Saturday 23 May, 2020

Guardian

COMPETITIVENESS

From Polokwane to London: How one tweet got this law student a modelling contract in the UK

JOHANNESBURG

In the spirit of sisters doing it for themselves, meet Tumelo Ntsewa, a 23-year-old model who, in a world that's standing still has boarded a plane to new heights in her career. The Polokwane-born model, whose dream is to see her face on Times Square, recently signed with a London-based modelling agency.

Tumi, as she's affectionately known, put out her intention to be signed in London in a tweet (see below) and her answer came in a contract from a London-based agency. As soon as she can travel, she'll be jetting off on her new adventure.

Tumi is thrilled for the opportunity to model internationally, getting the call was a dream come true for Tumi, "I could not believe that it was real. I had dreamt of being signed beyond South Africa and when it happened, I just knew that our agency's hard work was worth it," she says refering to the

local agency she runs with her mother. Now that she has signed with Zone Models in London, she aims to walk the runaway for Gucci at Paris Fashion Week one day. Based between Johannesburg and Cape Town, Tumi has a BA Journalism degree and is currently a law student at Wits University. Inspired by one of the most loved modherself becoming a model one day.

However, her body image at the time, resulted in some internal-battles. "I was a chubby, short, but a very confident young girl but I had the subconscious belief that I would be laughed at if I shared this dream," she says.

Taking the first step to ensure her dreams were heard by the universe, she made a school project where she jotted down her dreams and aspirations in two versions, one for her teacher, and one that remained in her

After some growth and courage, she began applying to several modelling agencies in 2015, and only got a breakthrough in 2017. "It took three years, moving agencies, and free shoots with photographers, with some of our work not being great, to finally getting one foot in the door," she adds. Tumi's first campaign as a model was with L'Oréal Paris South Africa, and she did a beauty campaign with Revlon.

Tumi has had to face many challenges in the industry she dubs cutthroat. "I have had to learn that sometimes criticism is not personal, that I may want a specific job but won't get it because my look as a model do not fit the brief. I have had to come to terms with being told 'no', often," she says.

One of the effective ways Tumi combats the challenges she faces is defined in the message of her brand - resilience, "I believe in trying even if the odds seem to be against you," she says. In a world that is constantly changing, different industries are expected to evolve as well.

For Tumi, when it comes to inclusivity and diversity, she finds nothing more beautiful than representation. "I love that there isn't a magazine, fashion editorial or campaign out today that does not include someone who is of colour; someone who looks like me. elling shows of our time, America's I love that our industry is now more Next Top Model, at age ten, Tumi saw than ever more embracing the idea that not all people are sample size and that we come in variations which genuinely need to be celebrated," she

> In a technology-driven world, there are boundaries still standing between SA models and the international scene, "The biggest boundary is access to information," she concludes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Tumi will not be moving to London anytime soon; however, she intends on moving once she has completed her studies.



ENCOURAGING

BUSINESS Coronavirus: Home-made masks reduce transmission risk by 90%, study finds

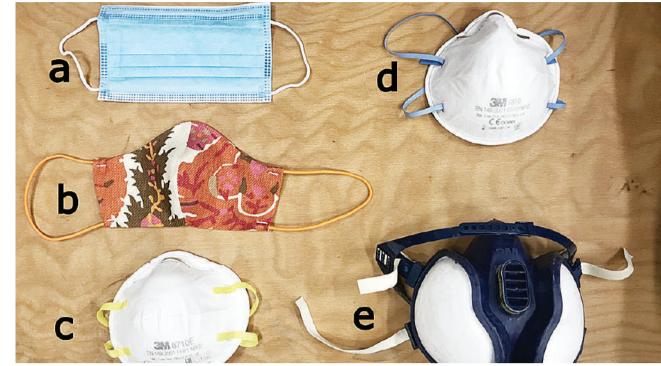
LONDON

ome-made masks or scarves can limit how far an exhaled breath can travel by 90 per cent or more, helping to slow the spread of coronavirus, a new study has found. The air exhaled by people with Covid-19 can contain droplets of water, many of which may hold the virus

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland tested seven types of face masks, including handmade and surgical masks, respirators, and both lightweight and heavy-duty face shields. Unless they contained a valve, all of the masks reduced the forward distance travelled by exhaled air by at least 90 per cent. Masks with valves allowed more breath to escape from the back and sides.

Imaging techniques were used to enable scientists to measure the distance and direction that a breath travels when someone coughs or breathes heavily. Study participants wore the face coverings standing up and lying down, to see if positioning had an effect. Readings were also taken from a mannequin connected to a cough-simulating machine.

However the study also found limits to DIY masks - some potentially dangerous particles still escape into the air unless coverings are fitted properly and are of a medical standard. Handmade and surgical masks allowed for "far-reaching leakage jets to the side, behind and above and below" with "intense backward jets" from coughing or



Some of the masks tested.

heavy breathing.

Respirator masks, mainly used by workers exposed to fine dust, offered protection but the valves on the masks designed to aid breathing could potentially allow infectious air to spread considerably to the front. Countries and health organisations are divided over the benefits of wearing face coverings, but the University of Edinburgh researchers hope the study offers governments guidance on Covid-19 containment policy.

Some countries, such as Germany and the Czech Republic, have made it compulsory in public places while the we discovered that some face coverings US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the UK government, for example, have recommended face coverings in crowded places where it isn't always possible to maintain social distancing.

France has introduced €135 fines to those not wearing face coverings on metro lines or buses, while similar measures are in place in New York. "I have generally been impressed by the effectiveness of all the face coverings we tested," said Dr Ignazio Maria Viola, who co-ordinated the research. "However,

allow the emergence of downward or backward jets that people are not aware of and that could be a major hazard to others around them."

Dr Felicity Mehendale, a surgeon at the Centre for Global Health at the university, said it was "reassuring to see the handmade mask worked just as well as the surgical mask to stop the wearer's breath flowing directly forwards." But she warned the backward jets meant people needed to be careful when standing behind or beside someone wearing a mask.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Meet the women turning plastic waste into a communal fortune

These recyclers are leading SA's drive for environmental sustainability. The necessity for a collective effort in sustainable waste management has inspired the following organisations, created by women, to make a difference, both environmentally and socially.

Salphy Nkoana - the Masupatsela Cooperative

The group has been operating in Tembisa, Gauteng since 2011 and is supported by Ekurhuleni Municipality. It was started by chairperson Salphy Nkoana with the help of other women to reduce poverty in the community. They collects recyclables from more than 600 homes, shopping centres and

"We wake up early in the morning to collect recycling materials from PET (polyethylene terephthalate plastic) to brown and green bottles and others from the street, and by going door-todoor within the community." Salphy

"By doing this we educate people about recycling and its key elements reduce, reuse and recycle - which is then followed by a handout of refuse bags provided to us by the Ekurhuleni Municipality." She went on to explain, "When we create this awareness, people also want to collect materials and sell to us. We encourage this too as it generates an income for many in the community." After collecting the materials they come back to the yard built for them by the municipality and sort out the recyclables before selling them to factories.

"This place has really changed my life, I can now put food on the table and provide for my family. I am even able to pay school fees for my son to attend a



Salphy Nkoana (R) and Cheri Scholtz doing their work.

special needs school, and now he's performing better than he ever has!" This project in the Eastern Cape is based on the principle of exchange. It gives children the opportunity to exchange recyclable items for food, stationery, toiletries, clothing and even toys.

Children earn Mula points from the weight of recyclables which they bring to the Mula collecting point at the Allanridge Civic Centre each Wednesday. In return they exchange the points they have earned for food, clothing, educational items or toys. There are more than 700 children registered at the Mula project.

Created in 2015 by Quinette Goosen, Glinise Howard and Olive Grimsel, the swop shop project benefits up to 300 impoverished households a week and

has, to date, removed 73 902kg of PET plastic from the community. An amazing accomplishment.

"Our focus is on children. The Mula is about offering children the opportunity to exchange plastic and cardboard recyclables for food, clothing, educational material or toys which are available from our on-site shop," said Quinette.

Cheri Scholtz - PETCO

Headed up by chief executive officer Cheri Scholtz, PETCO was established in 2004 as a way to self-regulate and fund the recycling industry and efforts. Cheri said the challenge for PETCO lies in how to "be more effective in linking the formal and informal PET plastic recycling economies through on-going mentorship and enterprise development."

"According to a poverty trends report

released by Statistics South Africa last year, female-headed households remain significantly poorer than their male counterparts. We believe PET waste collection and recycling can provide job creation and income-earning opportunities for women trapped in the cycle of

poverty."

She says that, "in 2017 alone, 2.15 billion plastic bottles were recycled. This saved 578,000m3 of landfill and created 64 000 income-generating opportunities in the process. "So yes, we should recycle, but let's be practical about solutions that make sense for us and for our circumstances." She says that there is however still lot of work to be done to bring in more women in the core recycling business and believes they are now poised to do just that.

Cameroonian pastor who claimed he could cure Covid-19 dies from the virus

YAUNDEY

Popular Cameroonian pastor Franklin Ndifor, who laid his hands on many of his followers to "cure" them of Covid-19, has left his supporters in a state of panic after dying from the virus.

On Saturday, according to Voice of America, police had to force their way into his home in Douala to gain access as his followers had blocked the entrances, praying for his resurrection. The pastor had been a candidate in the central African country's previous presidential

Speaking to the publication, Doctor Gaelle Nnanga said the pastor died less than a week after being diagnosed with the coronavirus. Dr Nnanga said members of Ndifor's Kingship International Ministries Church had called him to help the pastor when they found out their leader was in agony. When the medical team he leads arrived, Ndifor was having severe respiratory difficulties. He died less than 10 minutes after they started treating him.

The pastor was buried in front of his house on the day of his death but his supporters sang and prayed for his resurrection throughout the weekend as they believe he is a prophet and had been on a "spiritual retreat with God" and would return.

Speaking to the publication, one of his followers, Rigobert Che, said that on Wednesday the "prophet" had prayed for him and several dozen people diagnosed with Covid-19, and some who suspected they were carriers or had

symptoms. Che believes Ndifor's death had panicked those who'd been visiting him for prayers and for a cure. "If you, the person that claims you are curing Covid-19, you are dead, what

about the fellow people that were affected by Covid-19? Now that he is dead, I do not know how the people he was laying hands on will be healed," he said.

According to the Cameroon Tribune, the 39-year-old pastor was recently seen distributing anti-coronavirus material to community members in Douala. Ndifor came seventh out of nine candidates in 2018's presidential election, with 23 687 votes. So far there have been 3 529 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the country and 140 deaths, reports the Daily Mail.



Pastor Franklin Ndifor.

LOCKDOWN

Indoor games sell out as Kenyans chess, puzzle away their boredom

NAIROBI

s Covid-19 gifts more time at home and with their families, Kenyans increasingly turning to rolling dice, playing cards, or fixing jigsaw puzzles for hours on end to beat boredom.

In the past several weeks, there has been a surge in demand for indoor games from chess boards, pool tables, scrabble boards and word power crosswords sets with toy shops reporting a boom in sales.

ToyWorld Kenya, for instance, is recording higher sales than usual and it is putting high-volume delivery plans for the next months with the expectation of more buyers. "People are buying more board games including scrabbles, Uno, Chess, Ludo and Monopoly especially Kumuliki – the Kenyan monopoly-like game," said Vinay Shah, ToyWorld sales director.

With rising consumers' orders, the games are depleting fast, pushing retailers to stock more. "There is a demand for games played on a table, home yards or shades and anywhere people can gather together," he added.

In times when most businesses have

customers and some have closed stores, some toyshops estimates that the number of customers buying board games has risen by about 60 per cent. Their best-sellers are puzzles, Lego, remotecontrolled toy cars, and

The toy shop has also seen an uptick in orders for table tennis, bikes, and swings in its five stores, with most buyers opting to have their games delivered at home instead of coming to buy. Games might also seem to be the perfect business for supermarkets. They are seeing more adults buying games for themselves. "Sales at leisure and sports section is now high than before," said John Nduati, who works at Tuskys Ongata Rongai which has sold Monopoly sets, Scrabble Mattel, LudoShakes and Ladder games.

"Chess games for both children and adults are no longer in stock but we have ordered for more. Balls and scrabbles for adults are also selling fast. However, items involving water games have almost stalled and as a result, we are not selling much of implements such as goggles, swimming gear, and floaters," he added.

Create a distraction

According to Godfrey in-charge Muire, of



Kenyans enjoying a game of cards.

a store at Nairobi's The Hub, that is recording brisk business. there has been a growing interest in racket sports, games that normally require players to keep a distance. Hence people are buying balls and shuttlecock.

"Most people are buying table tennis and badminton cliparts. However, the same has been limited to squash probably trampolines at Decathlon, because it is highly regulated in ropes, kettlebells, and dumbbells

terms of rules," he said, adding that the store has also seen a rise in the sale of bicycles.

"Racing bikes have attracted much interest from buyers," he said. While the outbreak has forced most sports around the world to shut down, games have not only found a special place in living rooms and backyards. In April, demand was on skipping

as the closure of gyms and swimming pools forced many to exercise at home.

Cynthia Mutisya, who has taken a liking for indoor games, says the coronavirus pandemic has afforded her time to play with her father and niece, helping her unwind and regenerate new ideas. "It has given me more time with my family. I'm learning new things about them. I have also

improved my cooking skills. We also talk a lot, brainstorm, farm," she says.

The family living in Ruiru is currently playing Monopoly, water guns and cards. "I bought my Monopoly set in a supermarket. It has been a great way of involving everyone. And the fun with allocating tasks such as the 'banker', buying utilities, paying fined and others play-out choices instil responsibility that is important in life. We play it for hours, depending on the number of people," she said.

Even if you do not end up solving a puzzle, psychologists say, the consistency of doing an activity that creates a distraction every day can be reassuring in itself. Cynthia, who is a nurse, says the games relieve anxiety and stress associated with staving at home, social distancing, not travelling, living alone, and not being able to visit family and friends.

"As a nurse, I value games and fun because of their effect on mental health," she says. She has adopted a schedule that includes time for fun from 5pm. "I grab a cup of coffee, watch a movie, or play games with my family or sometimes I take a walk in the neighbourhood. Other times I try out new recipes or just laugh through Tik Tok and YouTube videos," she says.

Why smokers appear to be particularly vulnerable to severe **Covid-19 infections**

NEW YORK

New research from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) suggests that cigarette smokers may be more susceptible to Covid-19.

The research suggests that smoking encourages the lungs to produce more ACE2 (angiotensin-converting enzyme 2), the protein that makes it so easy for the SARS-Cov-2 to adhere to and infect the cells in the body.

This research was discussed in a news release and published in the journal Developmental Cell on 16 May 2020. One thing that the researchers from CSHL noticed is the dramatic differences in how patients with Covid-19 experience their symptoms. In most cases, people experience mild illness that can be treated, but some cases require hospitalisation and may even lead to death. They also noted three vulnerable groups who seem to be more prone to severe Covid-19: men, older adults and smokers.

CSHL Fellow Jason Sheltzer and Google engineer Joan Smith wanted to investigate these differences in Covid-19 infections and looked at previous data to determine if the vulnerable groups had anything in common.

"We started gathering all the data we could find. When we put it all together and started analysing it, we saw that both mice that had been exposed to smoke in a laboratory and humans who were current smokers had significant upregulation of ACE2," explained

The data didn't suggest that age or gender directly affected the ACE2 levels in the body, but smoking influenced the level of ACE2 in the lungs, according to Sheltzer. However, these high levels of ACE2 in smokers' lungs seem to be temporary and quitting smoking could

possibly lower the ACE2 levels. According to Sheltzer, high ACE2 levels are produced by the so-called goblet cells - mucus-producing cells in the airway - which are often increased by smoking.

Now's the time to quit

With the tobacco ban expected to be lifted when most districts in the country go down to Level 3, many people will be glad to hear that they will freely be able to purchase cigarettes. But if you are concerned about your respiratory health and you think that now is a good opportunity to quit, you can read more here for tips on how to quit.



A smoker has a puff

PASTERPRENEURS

Pastors asking for offerings during Covid-19 pandemic leave Christians divided

JOHANNESBURG

The migration of church services to online platforms due to the Covid-19 lockdown has also brought forward the debate of offerings and tithes for church-goers and members.

Many on social media have felt that because of the tough times everyone is going through, it should not be expected of Christians to pay tithes and offerings. A video of pastor, reality TV star and presenter Bishop Israel Makamu encouraging his members to make a seed offering has gone viral, leaving many divided.

In the video, the pastor says even in these tough times, the best thing people can do is to offer so they can succeed financially. Reacting to the video, some called on churches to be regulated while others criticised Makamu for asking for offerings during a time when people are jobless, hungry and

But for many, there is nothing wrong with pastors reminding members to make offers online. Moses Shivambu, a Christian and senior member of a Tembisa-based church, believes people should steer away from judging the practices of churches.

"I am against false prophets and everything they stand for. Most of them are all about the money and scamming our people, by all means let's all condemn that. However, there are churches that are run for the benefit of people's spiritual and physical beings - churches that adhere not only to the rules of the Bible but also abide by the laws of the country.

"People should understand that the church operates as an NPO and its only 'income' is from its general membership. In many churches the pastor is not even a signatory to any of the organisations' bank accounts to make sure there is transparency in how the finances are run - for the benefit of the organisation.

"Without speaking for Makamu, [Prophet Shepherd] Bushiri or whichever other pastor is trending there

say though that I think there is also a need for people to understand that for Christians, offering and seed planting is Biblical and will not stop now because there are elements of self-enrichment that have spoilt the reputation of churches. Imagine being unemployed and living in a shack with no food, and a pastor knocks on your door to give you food bought with the money 'offered' by Christians who are financially able to do so. You will never understand what [that] does for both the giver and receiver. So please think of that before painting all churches with the same brush," Moses tells Move!.

on the social-media platforms, I will

Speaking to Move!, 59-year-old Sponono Makgatho says she received food parcels from three local churches since the lockdown started. "I had to wait a little longer for my food parcels from Sassa. Had it not been for those churches, my son and I were this close to going begging on the streets. It was bad," she says.

COVID-19

Bishop Israel Makamu.

Civil weddings permitted but taxi-motos, upcountry travel still banned for 15 days

KIGALI

The cabinet on Monday, May 18, further eased the nationwide novel coronavirus lockdown but largely maintained existing measures to control the spread of the virus.

The decision came on the day Rwanda recorded five new cases of coronavirus, bringing the tally of positive cases to 297. Out of these, 203 have since recovered after another six people recovered from the virus on Monday, leaving active cases at 94. The country has not recorded any coronavirus related death.

The cabinet maintained the curfew but reduced it by one hour, from 8p.m to 9p.m (until 5a.m), and decided that couples can now hold a civil wedding with only 15 attendees. The new measures will run for a period of 15 days, through June. Under the new measures which will run for 15 days until June 1, the government eased some restrictions.

In a statement released Monday evening and signed by Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente, the Government also announced that inter-provincial travel (including to and out of City of Kigali) and taxi-moto transport will resume on June 1.The following are some of the latest Covid-19 decisions:

When the total lockdown was partially lifted on May 1, the Government introduced a curfew from 8p.m to 5a.m. The curfew was yesterday reduced by one hour and will now be observed between 9p.m to 5a.m.

Since late-March, social gatherings, including weddings, have been banned. Under the new guidelines, however, a civil marriage with 15 people is allowed to be carried out. But related ceremonies such as church services and receptions are not permitted.

Returnees will meet the cost of mandatory

quarantine The cabinet statement said that borders will remain closed, except for goods and cargo, as well as returning Rwandan citizens and legal residents. All returnees will be subjected to mandatory quarantine in accordance with existing health guidelines at their own cost. Quarantine services for people returning from abroad were initially free. The quarantine nor-

mally lasts for 14 days. Motorcycle taxis to resume operations on

Moto taxis have been suspended from carrying passengers since the lockdown was ordered on March 21. But they are allowed to carry goods and other essential supplies. This will

continue to be the case until June 1. The cabinet also retained major coronavirus preventive measures. For instance, schools remain closed until September, while churches and bars are still not allowed to open. Major preventive measures such as wearing masks, keeping the required 1-metre distance between people and washing hands remain a requirement for everyone.

TECH SAVVY

Facebook employees can work from home permanently, says Mark Zuckerberg

NEW YORK

acebook executive Mark Zuckerberg said company will allow more employees to work from home permanently and expects nearly 50 per cent of its 48,000 staff will work remotely in the next five to ten years.

"We are going to get there in a measured way," said Mr Zuckerberg, adding that it will allow the company to "advance future technologies" that facilitate remote working and let it to "access talent pools outside of traditional tech hubs in big cities." "Facebook will be the most forward-leaning company on remote work at our scale ... we have been working on a thoughtful and responsible plan to do this."

In an internal survey, more than half of the company's employees said they are at least as productive as they

are in the office. About interested in full-time remote work, but more than 50 per cent want to get back to their office as soon as possible.

Of the people who want to work remotely, around 75 per cent said they might move home. This trend could potentially affect the costly housing markets in California and New York, where most of the Facebook's full-time employees in the US are based. "Since so much of what we

build is around helping people feel connected no matter where they are - like our messaging apps, video chat and eventually virtual and augmented reality - living our values will help us accelerate the development of these technologies," noted Mr Zuckerberg.

"As the technology improves, the number of jobs that can be done fully remotely will likely increase

... over time, location will 40 per cent said they are hopefully be less of a factor ... this is an important direction that the world is going to go after Covid."

Mr Zuckerberg was interacting with his employees through a Facebook livestream on Thursday that suddenly disconnected after just under an hour. Facebook said the disruption was only to viewers outside the company and Mr. Zuckerberg was nearly done. He admitted still there are many "open questions" that Facebook needs to address. "How do we encourage

creativity when we are seeing each other less, what's the best way to make sure everyone has equal opportunities ... hiring remotely should help, but if remote work ends up being harder, how do we prevent that from affecting people." "Figuring all this out will take time, so we are going to start by focusing on remote



Facebook director of product management George Lee said during a press briefing on the new product.

Over the past few decades, economic growth in the US has been quite concentrated, with major companies often hiring in a handful of metropolitan areas. "That means we have been missing out on a lot of talented people just because they live outside a major hub. Creating opportunities beyond these cities could also be part of the economic recovery," said Mr Zuckerberg.

Facebook on May 19, 2020, reached out to businesses struggling to survive the pandemic with free tools for creating online "Shops" at the social network and Instagram. "The primary focus is to ensure small and medium size businesses have presences online and survive the current situation," Facebook's announcement comes at a time when other tech giants are weighing various options to manage their physical offices during coronavirus crisis. Twitter has also allowed

its employees to work from home permanently. Whereas, Cupertino-based Apple is bringing back its staff to stores in different phases after it shut down its retail operations amid the virus outbreak. Currently, the majority of Facebook employees are alraedy working remotely.

"With social distancing, we expect to only be able to fit 25 per cent of employees back in the office for much of the rest of this year," said Mr Zuckerberg. "Eventually we want to enable many existing employees to become long term remote workers if they want."

To help small businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the social media giant has also rolled out an e-commerce platform Shops. The service will allow businesses - irrespective of size and budget - to list and sell products directly to consumers Facebook's apps for free.



Obese Americans

WARNING

Obesity and Covid-19: Researchers find major risk for deadly blood clotting in the lungs

DETROIT

Obesity makes Covid-19 worse and may lead to deadly blood clots in the lungs, a new study finds. The researchers said that obese patients with Covid-19 may have nearly three times the risk of developing what is known as a pulmonary embolism.

"Clinicians can utilise our findings to aid in determining which patients should have evaluation for pulmonary embolism with pulmonary CT angiography, as the symptoms for Covid-19 and pulmonary embolism overlap," said lead researcher Dr Neo Poyiadi, from the department of diagnostic radiology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

"Early detection of pulmonary embolism can allow prompt treatment with anticoagulation and minimise clinical problems," he said.

Statins may offer protection

Hospitalised obese patients with Covid-19 should be evaluated for increases in clotting indicated by a rising D-dimer - a blood test for clotting. According to the study, 22% of 328 patients suffering from Covid-19 who had a CT scan angiography had a pulmonary

Researchers also found that patients taking statins to lower cholesterol before coming down with Covid-19 were less likely to have a pulmonary embolism. "Further studies are needed to determine if statins have a protective effect against pulmonary embolism in Covid-19 patients," Poyiadi said.

Poyiadi added that a recent study suggests that Covid-19 patients should be placed on blood thinners to prevent clotting. Obesity may make Covid-19 worse because it's associated with an increase in inflammation. Inflammation also increases the risk of clotting. The report was published online on 14 May in the journal Radiology.

Inflammation can lead to blood clots

Dr Marc Siegel is a professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City. He said, "This study underscores point that's becoming more widely known about Covid-19 - that obesity leads to an inflammatory cascade. We know that inflammatory chemicals increase with obesity. That's the suspected mechanism of why obese patients are more at risk for complications."

Inflammation can lead to blood clots, although that's not been proven, he noted. "The complications of Covid-19 that we've been seeing are inflammation and a cytokine storm, which causes inflammation in the arteries and blood clots throughout the body - and obesity is a culprit in high-risk patients," Siegel said.

"To say that's why we're seeing more pulmonary embolism in obese patients is plausible. It's early small numbers, but it's a very important finding and it's not surprising," he said. What is surprising is it looks like using statins might be helpful. Statins are anti-inflammatories, Siegel noted. Preventative anticoagulation

But whether statins are protective is something that would have to be carefully studied, he said. There's no clear-cut reason to start obese patients on statins if they weren't already taking them when they were admitted to hospital, he added.

Obese patients with Covid-19 need the same care as other patients, Siegel said. That includes anticoagulation. Many of the complications of Covid-19 seem to be caused by clotting, and starting patients on blood thinners may become a standard treatment.

"We're already starting to look at preventative anticoagulation," he said. "It's already something we're highly aware of, but this study adds evidence to a direct correlation between obesity and blood clots, that's what's new here.'



SATURDAY 23 May

Uwanja wa Mazoezi Kumekucha Habari

Al Jazeera Watoto wetu Shika Bamba 5

Mjue Zaidi rpt The Great Queen Seonduk

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito

Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego Shamsham za Pwani

18:00 Jiji Letu Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Mapito 19:00 Jungu Kuu

19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle Hawavumi lakini wamo

Kesho leo rpt 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30

SUNDAY 24 May Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al jazeera Watoto Wetu

10:00 Isidingo Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 11:40 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:

14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10

17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego

20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:20 Mjue Zaidi 22:05 Bongo Movie 23:35 ITV Top 10

7:30

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost **MONDAY 25 May** Uwanja wa Mazoezi 5:30 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha

HABARI

Kumekucha Michezo Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 10:00 Watoto wetu 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera News

12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ewura 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Movie:

16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt Mapishi

Kesho leo

18:45

Afya ya Jamii Habari Dakika 45

Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi Telenovela: Elena's Ghost

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera DWTV

TUESDAY 26 May

6:40 Kumekucha HABARI 7:30 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo Watoto wetu

Jungu Kuu rpt 10:30 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera Afya ya jamii rpt Kipindi maalum: TMDA na 13:00

Shika Bamba rpt Habari za saa 13:55 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:10 Yu wapi Mapishi rpt

18:30 Uchumi na biashara Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo Habari Tanzania Yetu 21:00 Chetu ni chetu

Telenovela: Elena's Ghost Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 27 May Uwanja wa Mazoezi

HABARI Kumekucha 7:30 **HABARI** Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo Isidingo Habari za saa

Watoto wetu 10:30 Uchumi na biashara Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera Jarida la wanawake rpt

12:55 Habari za saa Dakika 45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Utawala 13:45 bora na utumishi Habari za saa Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa

Meza huru Watoto Wetu 16:30 18:00 Jiji Letu Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ewura

19:30

21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 The Base 00:30 DWTV

SATURDAY 30 May

Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka 6:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 7:00 Habari Ripoti Maalum Al Jazeera Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 9:00

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base Al Jazeera

00:30 DWTV

Habari

21:45

22:15

THURSDAY 28 May Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI

7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habariz a saa Kumekucha Kishindo 9:00

9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Shamba lulu rpt 10:30 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt

11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 ljue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt

13:30 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu

17:00 The Base 18:00 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo

20:00 Habari Malumbano ya hoja 21:00 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

FRIDAY 29 May Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI

Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu Usafiri wako rpt

11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:10

15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base Ibada ya kiislamu 17:30 18:00 Jiji Letu Mizengwe rpt 18:15

18:30 Shamba lulu Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na 19:00 19:30 İsidingo 20:00 Habari

19:15

19:30

HABARI

Kumekucha Watoto wetu Shika Bamba 5

10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt The Base rpt The Great Queen Seonduk

Chetu ni chetu rpt Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost Igizo rpt: Mapito 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe Igizo: Mtego

17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 18:15 Igizo: Mapito 18:30

19:00 Jungu Kuu Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari Art and lifestyle 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo

Kesho leo rpt 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 31 May Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha

7:00 8:00 Al jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza The Great queen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10

Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiii Letu Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Mizengwe 21:20

Mjue Zaidi Bongo Movie: ITV Top 10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 23 May 08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive It rpt

Turning the Spotlight rpt 09:30 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt

13:00 Business edition rpt Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi 13:30 Family 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino)

Destiny 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rot 17:45 Bundesliga kick off

Mizenawe

The Decor

18:15 Capchat rpt 21:30 Movie: Absolute zero Series rpt: Itohan 01:00 Al Jazeera

20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family

Out n' About

Sun 24 May 08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt Sports Gazette rpt

11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi 12:00 Jagina rp Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 13:00

In good shape rpt Series rpt: Itohar 13:30 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt Mizengwe rpt 16:45 17:00 The Decor rp

17:30 Meza huru Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary 20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family

21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino)

00:00 Al Jazeera Mon 25 April Al jazeera 08:00

Movie: The Cradle Movie :Shadows in the sun 10:30 Turning the spotlight rpt 12:30 Drive it rpt Telenovela rpt: Destiny

(Destino) 13:45 Movie: The last hitman 15:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt Series rpt: Itohar 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rp Eco@Africa rpt 17:30 Movie: All the good ones are

19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Itohan The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News

22:00 00:00 Tues 26 May

06:00 Al jazeera 08:00 Dwtv 09:00 Movie: Time bomb 10:30 Movie: Just business Culinary delight

12:30 The décor Telenovela rpt: Destiny 13:45 Movie: Nightmare 15:15 In good shape

16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Capchat rpt Movie: Final draft 17:30 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt

20:00 Series: Itohan Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny Capital Prime Turning the spotlight rpt

21:30 Eco@Africa

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

WORLD

China sets no specific GDP growth target for 2020

BEIJING

CHINA will work to ensure achieving the development goals of winning the battle against poverty and completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects this year, though setting no specific economic growth target for 2020, according to a government work report submitted to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) for deliberation yesterday.

The work report was submitted as China's national legislature started its annual session Friday morning in Bei-

Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the opening meeting of the third session of the 13th NPC, held at the Great Hall of the People.

Lawmakers paid a silent tribute to martyrs who died fighting COVID-19 and compatriots who lost their lives in the epidemic.

After the period of silence, Premier Li Keqiang delivered the government work report on behalf of the State Council to the legislature for delibera-

Noting that China's economy posted negative growth in the first quarter of this year, the government said in the report that it was "a price worth paying" to contain COVID-19 as life is invaluable and the country will redouble its efforts to minimize the losses resulting from COVID-19 and fulfill the targets and tasks for economic and social development this year.

China's deficit-to-GDP ratio this year

is projected at more than 3.6 percent. The ratio was 0.8 percentage points higher than that of last year.

The deficit increase is projected at 1 trillion yuan (about US\$141.6 billion) over last year, according to the report.

Making it clear that China will spare no efforts in its regular prevention and control of COVID-19 the government said it will not lose any time in advancing its economic and social development agenda.

China plans to issue government bonds worth 1 trillion yuan (about US\$141 billion) for COVID-19 control.

China will pursue a prudent monetary policy in a more flexible and appropriate way and will strive to eliminate poverty among all rural residents living below the current poverty line and in all poor counties this year.

China has set its consumer inflation target at around 3.5 percent for the year of 2020, aims to create more than 9 million new urban jobs and will increase financial support to keep business operations stable.

Large commercial banks should increase inclusive finance lending to micro and small businesses by more than 40 percent, according to the report.

China aims to expand effective investment with priority given to new infrastructure, new urbanization initiatives and major projects and will continue to foster an enabling environment for the development of the private sector and ensure private businesses have equal access to production factors and policy support.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers a government work report at the third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, yester-

The country will review relevant regulations to abolish those that unfairly differentiate enterprises according to ownership forms.

Deadlines will be set for government bodies to make overdue payments owed to private and small and mediumsized businesses, according to the report.

Also in the report, the government pledged to work to improve the consumption willingness and capabilities of domestic residents and support the recovery and development of consumer service sectors.

Trade

According to the work report submitted by Premier Li, China will significantly shorten its negative list for foreign investment. While pledging to further stabilize foreign trade and actively leverage the role of foreign capital, China stressed the joint implementation of the China-US phaseone economic and trade agreement.

This apart, new pilot free trade zones (FTZs) and integrated bonded areas will be established in the country's central and western regions.

China will resolutely safeguard the multilateral trading regime and actively participate in reform of the World Trade Organization.

Also, China will focus on high-quality joint building of the Belt and Road, and carry out mutually beneficial coopera-

China will continue to lower its defense budget growth rate to 6.6 percent in 2020, according to the draft budget

The 2020 defense budget continues to see single-digit

growth for a fifth consecutive year. It is the lowest growth rate in recent years. This year's defense budget will be around 1.27 trillion yuan (about

US\$179 billion). China's total defense spending in 2019 only amounted to a quarter that

of the US, the world's largest defense spender, while the per capita expenditure was just about one-seventeenth. Noting that China has no "hid-

den military spending," Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the third session of the 13th NPC, said at a press conference held ahead of the NPC's annual session that the country is transparent about its defense spending.

China's defense spending has been staying at around 1.3 percent of its gross domestic product for many years, well below the world's average of 2.6 percent, Zhang said.

Health and welfare

China will strengthen the development of the public health system with special emphasis on improving the direct-reporting and early warning systems for infectious diseases, increasing spending on vaccines, drugs and fast testing technologies, increasing mobile labs and strengthening the supply of emergency materials, among other things, as per the work report.

Also, China will increase the basic pension for retirees and the minimum basic old-age pension for rural and non-working urban residents.

Stressing that it is imperative and well within China's ability to ensure the food supply for 1.4 billion Chinese people through the country's own efforts, the Chinese government pledged to bolster agricultural production by increasing its area of highstandard cropland by 80 million mu (5.33 million hectares).

This apart, China will stick to its principle of "housing is for living in, not for speculation". As such, the government will implement city-specific policies to promote steady and healthy development of the real estate market, according to the report.

Xinhua

Light still shines for improved China-US ties

By MAY ZHOU in Houston, Texas

WHEN it comes to China's current relationship with the United States, China expert David Firestein could not help but point out how much it had deteriorated.

"It's really a tough time right now to talk about any notion of cooperation even though I believe working together on something like COVID-19 is far preferable to going it alone," said Firestein, president and CEO of the George H.W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations.

He said the very idea that the two countries ought to work together to deal with COVID-19 had become controversial in the US.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping made the point in a recent address to the World Health Assembly that we have a common challenge and we ought to work together on such matters as vaccine development and cushioning the impact of COVID-19 on the developing world, which has yet to bear the pandemic's full brunt," he said. "Such proposals used to be viewed as sensible, moderate and pragmatic."

Firestein said that view is not shared at the federal level and "represents a very sad state of affairs because we miss opportunities to work together, to actually make a positive difference with respect to COVID-19. That's very shortsighted and very unfortunate."

Despite the tension and rhetoric at the highest levels of government, Firestein sees positive exchanges continuing to happen at the subnational levels between states and provinces, between Chinese and US cities, and within the private and nonprofit sectors.

"There are still some spheres of functional and valuable engagement between the two countries," he said.

When the novel coronavirus broke out in China in January, the foundation quickly formed the US-China Coronavirus Action Network to procure personal protection equipment to help the Chinese people fight the virus.

When the pandemic hit the US hard, the foundation shifted gears and used its network to bring large quantities of China-sourced masks to Texas, New York and

"We at the foundation continue to do what we can to support the development, or at least maintenance of, a functional and pragmatic relationship between the United States and China," Firestein said.

"We do what we can to try to make a positive difference in people's lives. That spirit animates our work.'

Firestein said that people the foundation works with are often grateful to the people of China for making equipment available on a charitable basis. The Chinese people are reciprocating the goodwill earlier shown by the US people toward China.

He believes that the US is better off having a functional relationship with China.

"It's in America's interest to have a relationship with China that is not dysfunctional, one in which we can work together on a host of global issues such as the COV-ID-19 pandemic, other major global health issues, climate change, issues related to the developing world, political and military issues, such as the Korean Peninsula nuclear situation, and others.

"I think the greater likelihood of success for the US and the world on any of these issues is generated when the US and China, among others, work together in a common cause to deal with common challenges," he said.

Firestein pointed out that in the US there is still a desire in some corners to engage and work together.

"The scientific community continues to want to collaborate, for example, on the sharing of best practices for dealing with COVID-19 and developing a vaccine for the virus. There are a lot of things that can be done, and that I think will have to be done, at the subnational level for the foreseeable future."

Speaking about the bleak outlook in the near term for US-China relations, Firestein said, "I'm not sure I see any light at the end of the tunnel at this point but I intend to keep walking forward until I do."



Light still shines for improved China-US ties

UN rejects US claim it is using coronavirus to promote abortion

NEW YORK

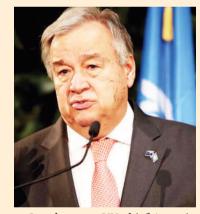
THE United Nations rejected on Thursday an accusation by the United States that the world body was using the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to promote access to abortion through its humanitarian response to the deadly global outbreak.

The UN is seeking some US\$6.7 billion for its coronavirus response plan and has so far received US\$1 Reuters tally shows the corona-

virus, or COVID-19, has infected some 5 million people globally and caused almost 327,000 deaths.

"Any suggestion that we are using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to promote abortion is not correct," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"While we support healthcare that prevents millions of women from dying during pregnancy and childbirth and protects people from sexually transmitted billion, of which US\$172.9 million infections, including HIV, we do was given by the United States. A not seek to override any national laws," he said.



In a letter to UN chief Antonio Guterres on Monday, acting USAID

Administrator John Barsa said the the plan "calls for the widespread world body's plan - announced two months ago - gave sexual and reproductive health services the same level of importance as food insecurity, essential healthcare, malnutrition, shelter, and sanita-

Washington has long-viewed "sexual and reproductive health services" as code for abortion.

"The UN should not use this crisis as an opportunity to advance access to abortion as an 'essential service," wrote Barsa, adding that it was "most egregious" that

distribution of abortion-inducing drugs and abortion supplies, and for the promotion of abortion."

The United Nations plan is to help 63 states, mainly in Africa and Latin America, combat the spread and destabilizing effects of the pandemic.

Guterres has raised concerns about inadequate support for poor countries and lamented a lack of leadership by world powers in the coronavirus fight.

Agencies

US rhetoric about nuclear arms in Europe harms Russia-NATO relations – diplomat

MOSCOW

US rhetoric over the redeployment of American nuclear weapons from Germany to Poland is a factor worsening relations between Russia and NATO, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in response to a statement by US ambassador in Warsaw Georgette Mosbacher about the possibility of bringing NATO's nuclear weapons closer to Russian borders.

"We hope that Washington and Warsaw are aware of the dangerous nature of such statements, which further worsen Russia-NATO relations during this no easy period in their history, as well as jeopardize

the very material basis of European security, harmed as a result of unilateral US steps, in the first place, the pullout from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty," Zakharova is quoted as saying on the Russian Foreign Ministry's web-

NATO touts 'commitment to arms control' as it vows response to 'Russian missile build-up'

"The return of American warheads to the US territory would be a real contribution to strengthening European security. Russia had taken such a move a long time ago by bringing all of its nuclear arms to its national territory," she said.

Zakharova recalled that in fact



Mosbacher had addressed Germanv with an ultimatum in response to the discussion regarding the expediency of US nuclear weapons' further presence in Germany. Such reflect the current condition of purchase of US defense industry

transatlantic solidarity: "The main partner takes the liberty of exerting outright pressure and in some cases resorting to blackmail of its allies."

"All this is aimed at making statements by the US side, she said, them increase the spending on the

allies' prerogative to decide how to build relations among themselves," Zakharova said. She stressed that Russia regarded

products, including dual purpose

aircraft. In the meantime, it is the

such joint nuclear missions within NATO as violations of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Also, the possible redeployment

of nuclear weapons closer to Russia's borders which Mosbacher had mentioned would constitute a violation of NATO's obligations under the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation of May 27, 1997.

Agencies

Human rights come after saving lives in fierce pandemic

A Shanghai doctor assisting Wuhan and stubbornly made provocations. to fight the COVID-19 epidemic cried his heart out after failing to rescue a severe patient who had a sudden cytokine storm when receiving intubation. The scene was filmed by one of the doctor's colleagues and soon went viral online, touching the hearts of all the Chinese.

Efforts must be made 100 percent to save lives even though there's only 1 percent of a chance. That is what the doctor above has practiced, and moral principle infused in the blood of the Chinese nation, as well as the priority of medical treatment in China.

Life is invaluable and saving the people comes before everything. However, some U.S. politicians just can't see this. Instead, they ignored it Rights and the International Bill of Hu-

Lately, a joint letter framing up China was sent to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres by seven Republican senators, saying the country has committed the most severe crime on human rights in pandemic response. However, such practice only became a butt of a joke after being reported by global media. Just like former director John Ross of Economic and Business Policy for the Mayor of London said, China has defended "the key human right" in the lethal epidemic - helping people stay alive.

The right to life is the most fundamental human rights, which is confirmed and guaranteed by the UN's Universal Declaration of Human man Rights.

The sudden outbreak of the COV-ID-19 pandemic is like a mirror that reflects the importance laid by countries on human right protection, as well as their capability to protect the people.

Those who hype the so-called human rights to make troubles for China are desecrating Chinese people's efforts to fight the pandemic. The Chinese government has always taken people's lives and health as its first priority, and is treating the patients and saving the people at all cost. The country is going all-out to save every COVID-19 patient, and has launched "blanket search" to ensure that no one is left behind. Besides, it also launched differentiated treatment plans and cares for individual patients in critical and severe conditions.

China's anti-pandemic efforts fully demonstrated the country's moral principle of placing people and lives in the first place, as well as the power of the Chinese ethic.

Besides, China also participated in global anti-pandemic cooperation with concrete actions and offered assistance as much as possible for countries and regions in need, making important contribution to the global cause of human right protection.

Eduardo Klinger, academician of the Dominican Republic Academy of Sciences noted that the Chinese government has adopted measures that are decisive and responsible for the people around the world to curb the spread of the virus, and the theory of

the so-called human right violation is of Health and Human Services reporttotal nonsense.

Those who hype the so-called human rights to make troubles for China are trying to cover their own incapability in pandemic response, as the socalled human rights are always a club they hold. Even at the critical moment when the COVID-19 is taking the lives of many, they are still rubbing salt into

the wound. China has informed the WHO, the U.S. and other relevant countries about the epidemic on a regular basis since Jan. 3, and the heads of the two countries' disease control centers exchanged information on the following

However, it was half a month later that the chief of the U.S. Department

ed the situation to senior American officials, and the latter turned a deaf ear and wasted two months regarding epidemic response. Why did that hap-

When millions of Chinese people were demonstrating their strength to the virus and quarantining themselves at home in a way to contribute to the world, some U.S. politicians just sat back and watch, badmouthing that China violated human rights.

When cases are surging drastically in the U.S. and leading to spiking deaths, U.S. politicians, health organs and budget department are making a mess asking for more anti-pandemic

allocation.

People's Daily

Khashoggi



A local villager in Anfu county, Ji'an, Jiangxi province checks the growth of dendrobium officinale. To develop the herb medicine industry with the philosophy of green development is a highlight of the county in poverty alleviation. (People's Daily Online)

Over 20,000 forest rangers in E. China's Jiangxi province shake off poverty

FANG Youhong is a forest ranger of a fire prevention team of Jinhu township, Gongqingcheng of east China's Jiangxi province. He patrols in the mountains every day, covering as much as over 15 kilometers on a daily basis in his rubber boots, with a tin pot and an extinguishing mop.

There are 21,500 forest rangers in Jiangxi province, who sticks to the frontline of forest fire prevention like Fang does. Making arduous efforts to safeguard the lucid water and lush mountains, they are also lifting themselves out of poverty.

Fang, who suffers from lumbar disc herniation and visual impairment, was once impoverished - he's not able to seek a job outside the village as his aging mother and young children were both at home for him to take care of.

To help Fang get out of poverty, the government of Jinhu township helped him apply for a job as a forest ranger in 2016, from which he can earn 500 yuan (\$70.4) per month.

Considering the caring from the government, Fang vowed to bring out the best of him. He consulted professional forest rangers in the township about how to use extinguishers, and keeps a work diary where he records in detail his daily routine, and things he must pay attention to during his patrol.

As an important forest area in China, Jiangxi province has the advantage and potential to realize poverty alleviation through forestry.

Last year, the province newly offered forest ranger jobs to 7,500 people from impoverished households, bringing the total number to 21,500. It also made transfer payments of 530 million yuan, which helped lift nearly

70,000 people out of poverty. Meanwhile, Jiangxi improved its ecological compensation mechanism for public benefit forests, and granted 1.12 billion yuan of eco-compensation to the province's public benefit forests with the highest compensation standard in central China.

Last year, the province's Ji'an granted a total of 127 million yuan in ecological compensation according to relevant measures, among which 3.62 million yuan was distributed to 6,642 poor households.

To be a good forest ranger is by no means easy. "We must go through examination, selection and training before finally getting the job," Huang Lianhua, a forest arranger from a poor

household in Nanmu village, Ji'an's

Suichuan county revealed. Huang believes that everything about forest protection is too important to be taken lightly. He starts to patrol in the mountain at dawn every day as he cherishes the work very much.

"I no longer worry about slipping back into poverty because I have a stable income," he said.

In addition to protecting the lucid water and green mountains, the forest rangers also developed a "green bank" in the mountain.

"We local people also benefit from a good natural environment," said Rao Ruiyou, a forest ranger in Chencunwan village, Hengfeng county.

With the help of a local cooperative, he started his poultry business in the forests. Raised in a natural way in the woods, his chickens and ducks feed on insects in the mountains, instead of fodder, and are therefore very healthy. These sought-after poultry enabled his family to make a yearly income of over 40,000 yuan.

This year, he expanded the counting of the poultry to over 500, and turned his cold water paddy field, which covers 1.33 kilometers, into a fish pond where he now keeps over one hundred fish, including grass carp and

"Now people prefer healthy food, especially the urbanites. As my business grows, I have more to expect in the future," said Rao.

As a slogan goes, fortune can be made without destroying the forests. A good natural environment also brings numerous opportunities for making

The province planted a total of around 1,300 square kilometers of high yielding oil-tea camellia last year, and 10 percent were cultivated in 1,000 impoverished villages, which helped lift over 220,000 people out of poverty, with each household gaining an extra of 2,000 yuan on average.

Fang earned a total of 36,000 yuan last year as a forest ranger. The job not only lifted him out of poverty, but also enabled him to renovate his house.

He planted pueraria lobata in his 667-square meter paddy field this spring, planning to sell it to the tourists visiting Gongqingcheng's Jiuxianling Forest Park that turned into a well-known tourist spot because of the efforts made to green the earth.

People's Daily

Russia faces biggest military security threat from western direction, says defense chief

MOSCOW

THE western direction poses the biggest threat to Russia's security, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Wednesday.

"The western strategic direction continues to pose the biggest threat to Russia's military security," Shoigu said at the ministry's board meeting.

Russia's Defense Ministry is implementing a set of measures in accordance with the plan of its activity in 2019-2025 to neutralize threats that emerge, Shoigu pointed out.

In 2020, 28 organizational measures are planned in Russia's Western Military District for improving the troops' combat structure. These



measures are synchronized with the delivery of advanced weapons, the defense chief said.

"In particular, "about 2,000 new and upgraded weapon systems will be delivered, which will increase their share to over 65%," Shoigu (pictured)

The Russian Army has carried out over 320 operational and combat training measures, including more than 30 drills, since the start of the year to raise the professional level of the personnel and military command centers, the defense chief said.

"Today the main efforts of the [Western Military] District's command are aimed at preparing command and staff drills with the groupings of the Baltic Fleet and the 6th army," Shoigu said, stressing that the drills were solely of defensive nature.

Preparations are also underway for the Kavkaz-2020 strategic command and staff drills, the defense chief said.

RIYADH

in a tweet.

China's 'two sessions' to secure nation's 'Xiaokang' victory

BEIJING

China on Thursday raised the curtain for its annual political high season after an over-two-month postponement as the country has turned the tide on the COVID-19 epidemic.

The top political advisory body started its annual session Thursday afternoon in Beijing, kicking off the "two sessions," a major event in China's political calendar that also includes the annual gathering of the national legislature to open on Friday.

This year's sessions are expected to highlight China's final push in poverty alleviation and completing the building of a moderately prosperous society, or "Xiaokang," in all respects.

Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the opening meeting of the third session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), held at the Great Hall of the People.

"The year 2020 marks the concluding phase for China's endeavor to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and deliver on the 13th Five-Year Plan," Wang Yang, chairman of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, told more than 2,000 political advisors at the meeting.

The country's poverty alleviation tasks are near completion, as the number of impoverished people fell to 5.51 million at the end of 2019 from 98.99 million at the end of 2012.

Wang called on political advisors to fulfill their duties focusing on coordinating epidemic control and economic and social development to make contributions to winning the battle against poverty and completing the building of for improved performance in all areas



The third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, yesterday. (XINHUA)

a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Facing mounting uncertainties both at home and abroad, national legislators and political advisors are expected to offer insights on how to secure the goal-achieving victory and lay good foundations for future development.

Fairness and equality will be highlighted in this crucial year during discussions on "Xiaokang"-related topics such as housing, health and medical care, according to Xin Ming, a professor at the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

This year's "two sessions" are expected to garner more attention from home and abroad as they shed light on how the country will march toward its centenary goal while navigating COVID-19 ravages.

China has, through arduous efforts, achieved decisive results in curbing the epidemic and public health will be high on the agenda during the sessions.

Lawmakers and political advisors are also expected to discuss how to strive Renmin University of China.

of economic and social development as epidemic prevention and control becomes regular practice.

"China demonstrated great vitality in its systems and I have great confidence in our nation's development despite uncertainties for the future," said Zhang Shuibo, a member of the CPPCC National Committee and head of the School of International Project Management at Tianjin University.

On Friday, Premier Li Keqiang is expected to deliver a government work report to the legislative session, which will be closely watched since it will offer a series of solutions and new policy indicators in terms of how the world's second-largest economy is handling the fallout of the COVID-19 epidemic and global economic recessions.

Also on the agenda is the deliberation of a draft civil code. Once adopted, it will help boost the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, said Wang Yi, dean of the law school at



International community rallies to support developing countries in combating COVID-19 pandemic

AS the global tally of COV-ID-19 cases tops 5 million, the international community has been mobilizing resources to help developing countries fight the pandemic.

Most notable is the research and development of the medicines and vaccines, as well as their availability and affordability. When opening the

73rd World Health Assembly (WHA), UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated the UN's call for a coordinated large-scale response led by the World Health Organization with emphasis on solidarity with developing countries and vulnerable people. "Protecting the developing world is not a matter of charity or generosity but a question of global North cannot defeat COVID-19 unless the global South defeats it at the same time," he said.

Addressing the 73rd WHA opening via video link, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced concrete measures to boost global fight against COVID-19, such as providing international aid and making the country's COVID-19 enlightened self-interest. The vaccine a global public good

when available. "This will be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries," Xi added.

The University of Oxford said it has reached a global licensing agreement with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for the commercialization and manufacturing of their potential COVID-19

Khashoggi announce that we pardon those who killed our father, seeking reward God almighty

WASHINGTON / MOSCOW

THE United States does not expect to pull out of the New START accord with Russia and will enter into goodfaith negotiations with Moscow, a top US official said on Thursday.

Asked if the White House would be pulling out of New START treaty, Robert O'Brien, the White House national security adviser, said in an interview with Fox News Channel: "No I don't think so. ... We are going to enter into good faith negotiations with the Russians on nuclear arms control."

US does not expect to pull out of New START accord

lier on Thursday it would withdraw from the 35-nation Open Skies treaty that allows unarmed surveillance flights over member countries, the latest treaty withdrawal by US President Donald Trump, saying Russia did not observe the treaty's rules.

The United States announced ear-

The announcement deepened concerns about whether Washington would seek to extend the New START pact, which imposes limits on US and

Russian deployments of nuclear arms. Trump has repeatedly said he wants China to join the accord.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Moscow was waiting for official clarifications from the US on reports that it was pulling out of the Open Skies treaty.

"We did not receive official notifications or clarifications from our US partners and colleagues. This is an international treaty, it has an implemen-

tation format, it has obligations of the ing agreements and treaties. There parties that are fixed," Zakharova was quoted by RIA Novosti news agency as saying on Russia's Rossiya 24 broad-

"In this regard, public statements, to put it mildly, are not enough for drawing conclusions regarding the intentions of the US side," she said.

"In addition to public debate, in addition to public statements, there is the usual normal practice of observ-

are mechanisms for their implementation, namely there is an appropriate commission where you can come and state your claims," she added.

Earlier in the day, Trump said Washington was withdrawing from the treaty, the latest international arms control agreement that the US has abandoned.

The treaty, which became effective

short-notice, unarmed reconnaissance flights over the others' entire territories to collect data on military forces and activities.

Currently, 35 nations, including Russia, the United States, and some other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have signed it. Kyrgyzstan has signed but not ratified

Last year, Washington also abandoned the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty that it had with

UK PM won't face probe over links to US businesswomen

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson will not face criminal action following allegations of misconduct over his relationship with a US tech entrepreneur but he might have had an intimate relationship with her, the police watch-

dog said on Thursday. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) launched an investigation last September following a newspaper report that Johnson, when mayor of London, had failed to disclose his personal links to Jennifer Arcuri, who received thousands of pounds in public funding and places on official trade trips.

Johnson denied any wrongdoing, saying everything was done with full propriety and that there

was no interest to declare. The IOPC's Director General Michael Lockwood said there was no evidence to indicate Johnson influenced any payments to Arcuri or influenced her participation in

trade missions. But Lockwood said "there was evidence to suggest that those offi-

cers making decisions about sponsorship monies and attendance on trade missions thought that there was a close relationship between Mr Johnson and Ms Arcuri, and this influenced their decision-making".

Johnson's spokesman welcomed the fact that "this politically motivated complaint had been thrown out", saying it was a waste of police

"Such vexatious claims of impropriety in office were untrue and unfounded," the spokesman said. The matter was referred to the

watchdog because Johnson was



head of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, a role equivalent to a police commissioner, during his 2008-2016 term as mayor.

The Greater London Author- cision to award a 100,000 pound ity said it had alerted the IOPC because Innotech, Arcuri's then company, had received 11,500 pounds (US\$14,000) from London & Partners, the mayor's promotional agency, for two events in 2013 and 2014.

She attended a trade mission to Singapore and Malaysia in 2014 through Playbox, one of her companies, even though an initial application through Innotech had been

declined. Last October, the government's Internal Audit Agency ruled a de-

grant to a company run by Arcuri was appropriate.

Arcuri gave a number of TV interviews after the allegations came to light, saying she and Johnson had enjoyed a "very special relationship", having bonded over classical literature, but said he had never

shown her any favouritism. She repeatedly refused to say whether she had had an affair with Johnson but said he had cast her aside like "some gremlin" after the

reports surfaced. "Our review established there was a close association between Mr Johnson and Ms Arcuri and there may have been an intimate relationship," the IOPC said.

It said it would have been wise for Johnson to have declared this as a conflict of interest and might be a breach of the GLA's Code of Conduct.

The London Assembly said it would continue its investigation into Johnson's conduct.

"My message to the prime minister is that this issue isn't going away just yet," Assembly member Len

family forgives those who killed their father

"In this blessed night of the blessed month (of Ramadan) we remember God's saying: If a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from Allah.'

THE family of slain Saudi journalist

Jamal Khashoggi said yesterday that they have forgiven those who mur-

dered their father, his son Salah wrote

"Therefore, we the sons of the Martyr Jamal Khashoggi announce that we pardon those who killed our father, seeking reward God almighty" he added.

Khashoggi was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding. His body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building, and his remains have not been found.

The murder caused a global uproar, tarnishing Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's image. Some Western governments, as well as the CIA, said they believed he had ordered the kill-

Saudi officials say he had no role, though in September 2019 MbS indicated some personal accountability, saying "it happened under my watch".

Saudi Arabia sentenced five people to death and three to jail over the murder of Khashoggi last December. The suspects were put on trial in secretive proceedings in the capital Ri-

The trials were condemned by the United Nations and rights groups. UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard, accused Saudi Arabia of making a "mockery" of justice by allowing the masterminds of the 2018 killing to go free.

However, Salah Khashoggi said of the December verdict that "it has been fair to us and that justice has been achieved." Agencies

Therefore, we the sons of the Martyr Jamal

Guardian



BCCI won't push for World Cup postponement to open IPL window

INDIA's cricket board will not push for the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia to be postponed but would consider staging the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the October/ November slot if it becomes available, a senior BCCI official has told Reuters.

This year's IPL, which is worth almost \$530 million to the BCCI, has been indefinitely postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic while the World Cup, which is scheduled to begin on Oct. 18, is also in

Reports in Australian media have suggested India's influential board may look to push for the World Cup to be postponed to open up a window for the IPL.

World Cup contingency plans are on the agenda at next week's International Cricket Council (ICC) board meeting but BCCI treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal said India would not be recommending it be pushed back.

"Why should the BCCI suggest postponing the Twenty20 World Cup?" Dhumal told Reuters by telephone.

"We'll discuss it in the meeting and whatever is appropriate, (the ICC) will take a call.

"If the Australia government announces that the tournament will happen and Cricket Australia is confident they can handle it, it will be their call. BCCI would not suggest anything."

While Australia has seen new infections of the novel coronavirus slow to a trickle and is gradually easing travel curbs and social distancing restrictions, hosting a 16team World Cup would be a Herculean task for Cricket Australia.

Dhumal questioned whether the tournament should go ahead if it had to be played without spectators and said the Australian government would play a key role in any decision.

"It all depends on what the Australian government says on this - whether they'd allow so may teams to come and play the tournament," he added.

"Will it make sense to play games without spectators? Will it make sense for CA to stage such a tournament like that? It's their

Cricket Australia chief executive Kevin Roberts was guarded about the prospects of staging the tournament as scheduled on Friday.

"We don't have clarity on that one, yet. But as the situation continues to improve, vou never know what might be possible,"

"It's ultimately a decision for the ICC."

The ICC has said it was unlikely to make a final call on the fate of the World Cup until August but some boards are in the process

of making contingency plans in the event of a postponement.

While the BCCI recognised an open October-November window would suit the IPL, Dhumal said there was no point in making plans until there was some certainty about the World Cup.

"If we have the window available, and depending on what all can be organised, we'll decide accordingly," he added. "We can't presume that it's not happening and go on planning.'

Meanwhile, in Melbourne, Australia are a "nine out of 10" chance to host India for a test series in the home summer and could also tour England for limited overs series beforehand, Cricket Australia boss Kevin Roberts said.

Cricket has been shut down since March due to the novel coronavirus outbreak and while travel curbs remain Australia has begun easing social distancing restrictions after infections slowed to a trickle.

"I guess there's no such thing as certainty in today's world so I can't say 10 (out of 10), but I'm going to say nine out of 10," Roberts told a roundtable held by Australia's News Corp when asked about the prospects of India touring.

"I'd be really surprised if we can't get the Indian tour away. But I wouldn't, hand on heart, suggest we'll have full crowds from

"We'll just have to wait and see how that

Australia had planned to tour England in July for one-day and Twenty20 series before the COVID-19 pandemic plunged the international schedule into doubt.

England are looking at hosting the West Indies and Pakistan in July and August.

Roberts said he had spoken to the England and Wales Cricket Board on Wednesday and there was "some chance" Australia could tour England after the West Indies and Pakistan tours.

"Obviously we won't jeopardise the safety of the players, but the best test of that is that the West Indian and Pakistan tours ... go off without a hitch," he said.

Advertisement

Roberts was less optimistic about Australia's chances of hosting the Twenty20 World Cup, scheduled to start in October, given the logistical challenge of bringing in 15 teams.

"We don't have clarity on that one, yet. But as the situation continues to improve, you never know what might be possible,"

he said. "It's ultimately a decision for the ICC (International Cricket Council)."

REUTERS

The NBA seems on the cusp of a comeback plan

OMETHING is finally clear in the uncertain NBA: Players believe they're going to play games again this season.

The obvious questions How? Where? When? – remain unanswered. Testing, part of the new normal of this coronavirus era, will be a major component to any return-toplay plan that the NBA comes up with. The Disney campus near Orlando, Florida makes so much sense, given its massive size, multiple courts and its ties to league broadcast partner ESPN. And the sooner games begin, the sooner the process of figuring out next season can start as well.

Several people familiar with the details of the conversations have told The Associated Press this week that players around the league are being urged to start getting mentally and physically ready for training camps that could be just a few weeks away. It might not be a unanimously approved notion, but 2-1/2 months into this pandemic-caused shutdown, the NBA finally seems on the cusp of being able to move forward.

"I have faith in Adam Silver and the NBA, and the NBA teams ... they're not going to have us come back if it's even a question of us getting hurt," Jared Dudley of the Los Angeles Lakers said this week. "And that's where the testing, being clean, and doing everything that I feel that they'll do to keep us safe.'

Pick a scenario for the return-to-play plan, and someone has surely heard it already. Bringing back all 30 teams and resuming the regular season is an option. So is bringing back



In this Oct. 23, 2019, file photo, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver speaks during a new conference at Vivint Smart Home Arena in Salt Lake City. Something is finally clear in the uncertain NBA. Players believe they're going to play games again this season. The obvious questions like how, where and when remain unanswered. (AP Photo)

ing an expanded playoff of sorts, a notion that essentially mirrors what the NHL is talking about these days. A condensed playoff has also been discussed.

The latest sign of momentum: Milwaukee owner Marc Lasry, speaking Thursday on CNBC, said the NBA's board of governors will meet again next week and that he believes "within the next six to eight weeks we should be playing."

Silver, the commissioner who has had to deal with a series of turbulent matters from the strained China relationship in the preseason, to the deaths of David Stern and Kobe Bryant in January, and now a pandemic that will almost certainly affect the league's financial health

something like 20 teams and hav- for the next several years – is listening to any and all ideas.

> "The direction that the league office has received from our teams is, again, all rules are off at this point given the situation we find ourselves in, that the country is in," Silver said last month. "If there is an opportunity to resume play, even if it looks different than what we've done historically, we should be modeling it."

The calendar dictates that those ious dog where you tell him decisions are going to come soon, to sit and he looks at you like backed up by the fact that Silver told players two weeks ago that he wagging because he's so exwants to be able to bring forward a cited," All-Star Bam Adebayo of return-to-play plan in "two to four the Miami Heat said. "It's been weeks." By that timeframe, the win- a whole spectrum of the un-

dow is about to open. "I'm really excited about the pos-

sibility of coming back," Cleveland forward Kevin Love said in remarks broadcast on the NBA's Twitter channel this week. "I think there's so much good that can come from it.... People need that escape and as athletes too, we want to get back to what we love most.

It's going to be different. Fans won't be at games, barring some seismic shift in thinking. Home-court advantage won't exist since games will almost certainly all be at neutral sites. Even the Orlando Magic won't have the home-court edge; they might be able to use their own homes if the NBA comes to Central Florida, but it's not like the games will be in their arena.

And someone is probably going to test positive when play resumes. If that happens, he'll almost certainly have to sit out a minimum of two weeks. If a playoff series is held on an every-other-day basis, that means once someone is positive there's no way he can return to that series. Imagine if LeBron James or Giannis Antetokounmpo tests positive; the title chances for the Lakers and Milwaukee Bucks would basically be gone in an instant.

But in a season where the NBA is certainly going to lose money, quite possibly \$1 billion or more, there is an obvious appetite for getting back to work if safety can be assured.

"This has been like being an anxious kid that wants to do something but can't, or an anx-'C'mon bro' and his tail starts known."

Coates says Tokyo Games face 'real problems' due to COVID-19

MELBOURNE

TOKYO Games organisers face "real problems" staging the Olympics next year as coronavirus infections continue to soar, senior international Olympic official John

Coates, Australia's Olympic chief and head of the International Olympic Committee's inspectorate for Tokyo, said organisers had to assume there would be no vaccine for COVID-19, or none in sufficient quantity, in time for the Games.

"We've got real problems because we've got athletes having to come from 206 different nations," Coates told a roundtable held by Australia's News Corp.

"Yesterday, there was 10,000 new cases in Brazil. Very few countries are as advanced in coping with this as (Australia).

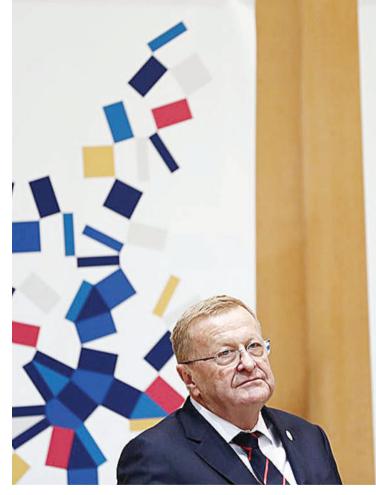
"(Japanese) Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe says Games can only happen in 2021. We can't postpone it again and we have to assume that there won't be a vaccine or, if there is a vaccine, it won't be sufficient to share around the world."

In March, the IOC and Japanese government took the unprecedented decision to delay the Games, which had been due to start in July, for a year due to the coronavirus outbreak.

COVID-19 has infected more than five million people and killed about 334,000 people around the world, with countries like Brazil and the United States struggling with thousands of new cases every

Coates said Games organisers would need to start planning in October for what could be a "very different" Olympics if there were no signs COVID-19 was being eradi-

"By October this year, if there are signs that it is being contained but not eradicated, then we are starting to work through – and we're preparing for it now – the different scenarios by which the sport could take place," he said.





"Do we quarantine the Olympic Village? Do all athletes when they get there go into quarantine? Do we restrict having spectators at the venues? Do we separate the athletes from the mixed zone where the media are?

"We'll have a whole range of scenarios we'll start to address this year on the basis that the Games will still take place for the athletes next year.

"But it could be a very different Games to what we're used to."

Meanwhile, in Tokyo, a media association has withdrawn its coronavirus-themed parody of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics logo after the local organising committee called it offensive and a violation of copyright.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club Japan had published on its website and in-house magazine a design adding protrusions to the circular Olympics logo in imitation of a COVID-19 particle.

"It's very offensive ... when you consider the people of the world who have suffered from the coronavirus," the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee CEO Toshiro Muto told reporters on Thursday.

He said it was an infringement of copyright but did not threaten legal action.

The press club quickly removed the design and apologised.

"We would like to express our sincere regrets to anyone who may have (been) offended on all

sides of this issue and to anyone who lost someone, let me express the deepest condolences," said club president Khaldon Azhari.

The Olympics have been postponed until July next year due to the coronavirus, which has killed about 800 people and infected 17,000 in Japan, though now doubts are growing over that timetable due to the protracted pandemic.

Azhari, speaking to media also on Thursday, said legal experts had advised the club would not have a strong case on the copyright issue and anyway did not consider it appropriate to enter a dispute during the pandemic.

REUTERS

Injuries under the spotlight as Bundesliga continues

INJURIES are likely to be under juries. the spotlight as the Bundesliga stages its second round of matches since the COVID-19 stoppage at the weekend after last week's restart produced a number of victims.

Leaders Bayern Munich, chasing an eighth successive title will host 13th-placed Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday evening while Borussia Dortmund, who are four points behind in second, visit sixth-placed VfL Wolfsburg in the afternoon.

Last week's restart was generally seen as having gone off successfully, albeit in a surreal atmosphere without spectators at any of the

However, at least half a dozen players suffered injuries, highlighting concerns about plunging straight into competitive action after a two-month stoppage without warmup matches.

The most conspicuous was 17-year-old United States midfielder Giovanni Reyna, who was denied a first start for Borussia Dortmund by an injury during the warmup when they faced Schalke 04 in the Ruhr derby.

He was replaced by Thorgan Hazard who himself went off with an injury during the 4-0 win while Schalke 04 pair Jean-Clair Todibo

and Amine Harit also suffered in-

Other casualties included Sebastian Rudy and Ihlas Bebou of Hoffenheim, Borussia Moechengladbach's Marcus Thuram and Per Cilian Skjelbred of Hertha Berlin.

Although teams can now make five substitutions per match instead of the usual three – a temporary measure brought in especially to deal with the unusual circumstances – the upcoming flurry of fixtures leaves players even more vulnerable.

A midweek round of matches next week means that teams will be playing three times in a 10-day period.

"The players will be flat after 60 minutes," warned Marc Lorenz, a midfielder with second tier Karlsruher, earlier this month. "Even the five substitutions that have been made won't help. That's when the fatigue will come and then the serious injuries.

"There are many who play for a new contract," he added. "If one of them tears a cruciate ligament, no one will sign him. Health is price-

The next 10 days will show whether or not his fears are un-

REUTERS

Enrique: No fans sadder than dancing with sister

football without fans is "sadder than dancing with your sister" but accepts as a player he would have been desperate to get back out on the pitch regardless.

Germany's Bundesliga returned behind closed doors last weekend and Spain's La Liga and England's Premier League are both working on June comebacks following more than two months suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Multiple sources have told ESPN that La Liga's clubs have been warned to expect matches in Spain, where there have been Michael Jordan's leadership style nearly 28,000 coronavirus deaths following a debate which has been registered, to be played behind sparked by The Last Dance, which closed doors until 2021.

"Playing without fans is sadder than dancing with your sister," Luis Enrique said to Colgados del Aro. "I saw some games from Germany at the weekend and it's terrible.

"You can hear everything -- all the insults -- and you lose the intimacy of the better moments. But we have to remember that this is a business that generates a lot of money.

"While it's a long way from playing with fans, I understand it can serve as a way of helping people deal with the lockdown. But football in these circumstances

In England, several players have voiced their concerns about returning to action too soon. Luis Enrique doesn't share their apprehension.

"As a player, I would have been keen to get back to playing as soon my age, Jordan was God. He is still as possible," he added. "I would

"On a personal level, I'm not

worried about the virus but I am aware there could be an impact on SPAIN coach Luis Enrique said older people and those susceptible to greater suffering. As a coach, I would like to start up because of everything it means more than because I am keen for it to come

> Luis Enrique also allayed fears players in Spain could reject going into quarantine to enable the season to resume. Some players have said they do not want to be away from their families but he says "they will accept what is dictated so [a return] is possible."

> The former Barcelona coach also questioned basketball legend focuses on the Chicago Bulls' six NBA championships in the 1990s.

> One storyline throughout the documentary centres on Jordan's bullying of his teammates. Former Bull Horace Grant said Jordan's behaviour sometimes crossed the

> "I would like to be considered [the best] for what it means, but I don't think the ugly side is necessary," Luis Enrique said of Jordan's leadership style. "I have always valued the big stars that I have had as teammates because they have led with affection.

> "If I'd had teammates that criticised me, I would have lost confidence, I would have been scared of failing. Jordan would have reached a higher level [of leadership] with his teammates without that role. But for those of the No.1. I idolised the player; the person doesn't matter to me."

Chiellini admires Suarez for biting him at World Cup

ITALY defender Giorgio Chiellini admires Uruguay forward Luis Suarez for biting him during a heated match at the 2014 World Cup, he said in his autobiography.

Suarez, who escaped punishbanned for four months plus nine internationals - but Chiellini said he bore no grudge towards him.

wouldn't call it illegitimate. To get like him.' past a rival you have to be smart," the Juventus captain said in the time of the incident but minutes afbook "Io, Giorgio".

"If he lost it, he'd become an ordito the round of 16 at Italy's expense.

nary forward." Chiellini said nothing strange happened that day in the 2014 World Cup.

"I marked (Edinson) Cavani for most of the match, another guy who is difficult to mark and who we didn't hold back against," he

"Suddenly I noticed that I had ment during the game, was later been bitten in the shoulder. It just happened, but that's his strategy in hand-to-hand combat and, if I may say so, it's mine too. He and I are "Malice is part of football, I alike, and I like to take on attackers

The match was goalless at the ter the incident, Uruguay snatched "I admire his cunning," he added. a 1-0 win which took them through

REUTERS

Henderson has felt 'safe' since return to Liverpool training

LONDON

LIVERPOOL captain Jordan Henderson insists he has felt "very safe" since his club returned to training amid the coronavirus crisis this week.

Jurgen Klopp's side began sociallydistanced training in small groups on Wednesday as the Premier League steps up its bid to resume the season in June.

Although all players and staff at top-flight clubs have been tested for the virus, Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante and Watford striker Troy Deeney opted against returning to work because of fears they would not be safe.

However, England midfielder Henderson is sure everything has been done to keep players as safe as possible at Liverpool's Melwood training base.

"I feel very comfortable with all the measures that the Premier League and the club have put in place, along with my team-mates," Henderson told Sky Sports on Thursday.

"The testing, the temperature control, the social distancing and disinfecting everything has been at a really high level since we've been back. They're doing everything they can to make it as safe as possible.

"We do feel comfortable and that's why we're here training. I feel very safe at the training ground, otherwise I wouldn't be here."

The Bundesliga returned to action last weekend and Henderson is hopeful contact training and then a that I would respect and support resumed training following the



Liverpool captain Henderson feels 'safe' during training (AFP Photo)

resumption of Premier League games them." will follow.

"We want to follow the right protocol and follow the next steps. We want to start bigger group training and then hopefully start playing games again soon rather than later, whenever it's safe to do so," he

Henderson said he understood the decision of players at other clubs who have stayed away.

"I fully respect their opinion. Everyone is in a different situation at home and, ultimately, if you don't feel comfortable you shouldn't feel forced or pressured to come into work," he said.

"I fully respect the opinion of any

With Liverpool 25 points clear at the top of the Premier League before the March shutdown, Henderson has been motivated to keep as fit as possible during the lockdown.

"My mindset hasn't changed from where we left off. I always felt the season needed finishing whenever it was safe to do so." he said.

"I've stayed as fit as I can so am ready when times come to perform at highest level and finish the season off. That's been our motivation."

Meanwhile, N'Golo Kante has been allowed to stay away from Chelsea's return to training due to his coronavirus fears.

players who don't feel comfortable joined up with Frank Lampard's yet. If any of my team-mates felt like squad on Tuesday as Chelsea

Premier League's decision to allow socially distanced sessions.

But the 29-vear-old missed Wednesday's small group practice with the blessing of Chelsea manager Frank Lampard, who is reported to have allowed him to train at home on compassionate leave.

Kante, who tested negative for the virus during this week's first batch of checks, is said to be unconvinced it is safe to train with his teammates while the pandemic is yet to be subdued in

Black and ethnic minorities are at greater risk of serious illness if they contract the virus, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Midfielder Kante is understood to have mostly remained indoors with one of his brothers since the suspension of the Premier League season on March 13.

The former Leicester star experienced a health scare when he collapsed at Chelsea's training ground two years ago.

Tests did not reveal any heart concerns but he missed Chelsea's next game as a precaution.

Kante's elder brother Niamh died of a heart attack shortly before the 2018 World Cup.

Kante's decision to stay at home comes after Watford captain Troy Deeney opted not to join his team for the resumption of training.

Deeney's young child has breathing The French World Cup winner difficulties and he did not want to put his family at risk.

Man United's finances amid covid-19: a warning sign to all of soccer

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

MANCHESTER United executive vice chairman Ed Woodward can be prone to hyperbole, but his latest statement about the financial landscape facing not only his club, one of the biggest in the world, but football in general, should be taken as a blunt reality check of what is facing the game as it attempts to reemerge from the coronavirus pandemic.

"There are still profound challenges ahead," Woodward said on a conference call to United's investors on Thursday. "For football as a whole, it is safe to say it will not be 'business as usual' for some time."

Football may be taking its first tentative steps toward a return to action in Europe, with England, Spain and Italy all attempting to follow Germany's lead by restarting their top divisions at some point in June, but don't be fooled into thinking that action on the pitch will be a sign of the game getting back to its feet again.

There are bleak times ahead.

Some clubs in the lower leagues of English football, for example, fear they may have to be kept out of action for 12 months to have any hope of staying afloat, with locking down and riding it out seen as a better option than attempting to pay player wages without money coming through the turnstiles. In Spain, even Barcelona -- whose football wage bill stands at £555m (\$680m) -- have warned of having to strike loan deals this summer because of the lack of money available to spend on transfer fees.

In Italy, Juventus have installed a self-imposed "salary cap" of £8m per year (\$10m) on new signings, while in Germany, Bayern Munich chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said recently that "everybody has to take care of their financial situation." But as the pool of money begins to shrink as a result of COVID-19, even Manchester United are beginning to feel the chill of the cold wind that is blowing through the game. If it's affecting them this much, imagine how less wealthy and successful clubs will cope.

In their quarterly accounts for the period covering Jan. 1 to March 31 of this year, United revealed Thursday



to the hit on club finances, but the sport is facing a crisis from top to bottom. (Agencies)

£127.4m (\$156m) to £429.1m (\$525m) in the space of 12 months. There was also a warning to investors that as much as £20m (\$25m) will have to be repaid to the Premier League's broadcasting rights-holders this season given the disruption to matches that were suspended in March.

As the conference call went on, there were further worrying forecasts of matchday revenue (worth approximately £3m, or \$3.7m, per game at Old Trafford) being "substantially hit" in the months ahead, with games being played behind closed doors, while there was

that the club's debt had rocketed by also an admission that United would have to "control costs and review planned spending."

Despite their debt, which is due to be repaid in two parts in 2027 and 2029, and a wage bill that amounted to £332m (\$406m) in their most recent year-end accounts, United are in a better position than many of their rivals because they have cash reserves of £90m (\$110m) in the bank. But with the Premier League being advised by Public Health England (PHE) that the scenario of social distancing and safety measures is likely to be in place for the next 6-12 months, even United will feel the bite in the months ahead.

When United publish their next quarterly accounts later this year, for the period covering April, May and June, the numbers will be in red virtually all over the balance sheet. Despite that income drying up, the players and all club staff have remained on full pay. Yet Richard Arnold, United's managing director, remained bullish, saying that "this club has endured two World Wars, a global depression, the credit crunch and a previous pandemic," before adding that "resilience is a core part of the club's DNA." Such stark language only serves

to highlight the difficulties facing all clubs. Others are not as fortunate as United, though. Revenue from attendances will be nonexistent for months, commercial income will decline and all of those connected revenue streams, such as hospitality and merchandising, will be greatly diminished. The bigger clubs will even miss the millions that they earn from lucrative summer tours like the International Champions Cup.

Unless, or until, a vaccine is created for COVID-19, football may have to rely on television money to survive, but that alone will not pay the wage bills of clubs. Even the likes of United and Barcelona would have to explore cutting costs.

In the end, Woodward is right. Football really does face some profound challenges in the months

by David Chikoko



Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Dar to host rest of VPL games

Henderson has felt 'safe' since return to Liverpool training

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Australia confident of hosting India, could tour **England**

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA are a "nine out of 10" chance to host India for a test series in the home summer and could also tour England for limited overs series beforehand, Cricket Australia boss Kevin Roberts said.

Cricket has been shut down since March due to the novel coronavirus outbreak and while travel curbs remain Australia has begun easing social distancing restrictions after infections slowed to a trickle.

"I guess there's no such thing as certainty in today's world so I can't say 10 (out of 10), but I'm going to say nine out of 10," Roberts told a roundtable held by Australia's News Corp when asked about the prospects of India touring.

"I'd be really surprised if we can't get the Indian tour away. But I wouldn't, hand on heart, suggest we'll have full crowds from the start.

"We'll just have to wait and see how that goes."

Australia had planned to tour England in July for one-day and Twenty20 series before the COVID-19 pandemic plunged the international schedule into

England are looking at hosting the West Indies and Pakistan in July and August.

Roberts said he had spoken to the England and Wales Cricket Board on Wednesday and there was "some chance" Australia could tour England after the West Indies and Pakistan tours.

"Obviously we won't jeopardise the safety of the players, but the best test of that is that the West Indian and Pakistan tours ... go off without a hitch," he

Roberts was less optimistic about Australia's chances of hosting the Twenty20 World Cup, scheduled to start in October, given the logistical challenge of bringing in 15 teams.

"We don't have clarity on that one, yet. But as the situation continues to improve, you never know what might be possible," he said.

"It's ultimately a decision for the ICC (International Cricket Council)."

REUTERS



Mtibwa Sugar's fullback, Issa Rashid (R), negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania forward, Sixtus Sabilo, during this season's Vodacom Premier League encounter, which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO; COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

be used by the domestic top flight squads to feature in the

teams' respective games.

A good number of the domestic top flight participating sides have 10 matches left whilst Yanga have 11 games remaining.

He disclosed the remaining stages of this season's Federation Cup will as well take place in Dar es Salaam.

The competition was, until sporting events were officially suspended early in March, in the quarterfinal stage.

Mwakyembe stated that Dar es Salaam 's Azam FC, three venues, National Simba SC and Yanga, Kagera's Stadium, Uhuru Stadium Kagera Sugar, Mtwara's Ndanand Azam Complex will da FC, Mwanza's Alliance

FC, Lindi's Namungo FC and Tanga's Sahare All Stars, had sailed through to the quarter-

Mwanza's CCM Kirumba Stadium and Nyamagana Stadium, the minister stated, are the venues which will host the rest of this season's First Division League (FDL).

Sporting activities had been on an indefinite suspension in the country, as directed by the government, with a view to containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking at Chamwino State House in Dodoma two that has passed away because days back after swearing in of the disease. There are difseveral officials he has ap-

pointed, Magufuli said he has opted to permit the restart of the tournaments on the mentioned date, following significant decrease in the Coronavirus cases in the country.

He requested Tanzanians to keep on featuring in sporting events as all statistics show there is no sportsman that has passed away after contracting the disease.

"I know everyone likes sports. Even Members of Parliament participate in sports. In this disease's satistics I'm not sure there is a sportsman ferent types of sports and every person has his or her favourite sport," he stated.

"I have decided that sports should restart. There is the Premier League, First Division League and Second Division League and so forth, they should resume on June 1," he disclosed.

He pointed out sports help citizens contain the disease, therefore the domestic soccer tournaments will resume. He hinted military games should as well

"Procedures for accesing stadiums will be put in place by Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children but sports must resume."

This means Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, and Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports have been directed to seek better ways the sporting activities should be hosted with adherence to all precautions.

The President had on two ocassions said he was thinking of granting the restart of sporting activities in the country but he did not confirm the dates for the restart of the events.

The restart of the competitions is obviously huge relief to sports followers in the country, particularly the Vodacom Premier League followers.

The enthusiasts were keenly looking forward to the resumption of the domestic top flight.

The tournament's participating sides will, therefore, be free to start team training to prepare for the rest of the event's fixture.

Defending champions, Simba, were, until the day the Vodacom Premier League was suspended, at the top of the domestic top flight log after notching 71

Azam FC were holding second spot with 54 points, Yanga were positioned third with 52 points.

Most of the top flight teams have taken part in either 29 matches or 28 out-

Yanga to start training on June 1

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

By Guardian Reporter

AR ES SALAAM

will host the

rest of this sea-

son's Vodacom

Premier League games

after President John Ma-

gufuli had issued permis-

sion for restart of soccer

competitions and the rest

of sporting activities in

Minister for Informa-

tion, Culture, Arts and

Sports, Harrison Mwaky-

embe, issued the state-

ment in Dar es Salaam

yesterday, after attend-

ing a meeting which also

involved officials of the

Tanzania Football Federa-

tion (TFF) and Tanzania

Premier League Board

Tanzania.

VODACOM Premier League's Yanga have disclosed they will start participating in drills in Dar es Salaam on June 1 to prepare for the remainder of the domestic top flight's matches.

The government yesterday officially declared the league's participating sides, as well as clubs that play in this season's First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL), can start training to prepare for their respective competi-

Sporting activities had been on an indefinite suspension in the country, as directed by the government, with a view to containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hassan Bumbuli, Yanga's information officer, stated they have already informed all of the squad's players that are currently outside Dar es Salaam to make their way back.

Bumbuli said the squad will feature in training at the Tanzania Law School venue located at Ubungo.

"We will this week first seek to put the facility in good shape. The playing ground should be properly marked, good nets should be fixed on the goals with a view to training on June 1," he noted.

He said; "We had in the past been training there, we have paid for ground fee for

"All these, nevertheless, should be done carefully, we therefore will wait for our team doctor to take care of health procedures and tell us what to do in a bid to train whilst taking precautions."



Yanga players take part in training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO; COURTESY OF YANGA

The government spokesman, Hassan Abbas, on Wednesday evening, pointed out domestic soccer players are officially free to attend team training to shape up for their respective events' games.

His statement has come shortly after President John Magufuli had, among others, officially issued permission for restart of sporting events in the country.

Scores of domestic sports fans welcomed Magufuli's pronouncement with acclamation.

Abbas disclosed much as players have

der, Elderly and Children. "We were all waiting for the President's

pronouncement on granting restart of sporting activities. We are pleased the sporting activities have resumed," Abas disclosed. "The President was vividly genuine on

been given green light to start training,

the players and their respective outfits' of-

ficials should keep on taking precautions

and heeding to diretives by Ministry of

Health, Community Development, Gen-

the matter, in which he said domestic

leagues' organizers should start completing the rest of their respective tournaments' games from June 10mpleted precautionary measures."

"Much as there has been significant decrease in the Covid-19 cases in the country, the disease is still in our midst, therefore, health precautionary measures will be taken by the government."

Abbas insisted it is impossible for the domestic leagues' games to start on June 1 whereas there is no squad, which has attended full team training.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I COULD SLEEP OVER YOUR PLACE, SAY THE WARDROBE Was Too SMall ...

