



National Pg 2 Minister calls for policy coordination



National Pg 3 Local banks' support to mining sector



National Pg 4 Coalition hails Samia's maiden address



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VP: Tanzanians now one people, with 57 years of union, harmony

President Samia cancels ceremonies, redirects funds to development projects

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango yesterday urged Tanzanians to cherish and harness achievements recorded in the 57 years of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, as the union is crucial to maintain the country's peace and harmony. Officiating at a symposium to mark the 57th anniversary of the union here yesterday, the VP affirmed that the country

has made a lot of development strides during the period, enhancing security, proper use of resources and entrenching ties between peoples of the two sides. "We have become one people and we all have chances to access the country's resources from both sides of the union," he said, underlining the need for Tanzanians to constantly cherish and value the union. He said the two governments will continue

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango opens symposium on the occasion of the 57th anniversary (April 26) of the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar held in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

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Minister's axe falls upon TANESCO tender board

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

ENERGY minister Dr Medard Kalemani has directed the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) to dissolve the state-run utility firm's tender board following fraud allegations and bureaucracy in procurement procedures.

Dr Kalemani issued this instruction when addressing TANESCO regional and district managers in a consultative meeting on Saturday, saying the tender board was enmeshed in controversy over bureaucracy when it comes

to procurement, fomenting the tendency to violate set regulations.

"The tender board must be dissolved immediately and the management appoint new tender board members. They were deliberately opting for bidders offering high prices while leaving those with relatively low prices," he stated.

He also ordered the management to conduct investigations on other suspected individuals said to be involved in violating procurement

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Govt sets 14 days for port project accounts

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Mwita Waitara has given 14 days to the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to furnish him with a comprehensive report on disbursements of funds for the Tanga Port expansion project that has so far used up 172bn/-.

The deputy minister expressed dissatisfaction with progress in the project whose total costs are projected at over 500bn/-, setting out this ultimatum to obtain clarification on how the 172bn/- was

used in deepening port berth facilities.

The report has notably got to explain the process to get the contractor, who authorized expenditure of the funds, who supervised expenditures and who conducted the feasibility study, he said, noting that this will enable the government to take appropriate measures.

The government wants to see Tanga Port operate well and contributes to the country's economy, but some people were obstructing this goal, he stated, directing the new TPA Director General to

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NMB Bank to broaden motorcycle riders loans

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has lauded NMB Bank Plc for coming up with a tailor-made loan initiative for motorcycle taxi riders which helps to address the unemployment crisis in the country.

Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) praised the bank over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at the launch of the initiative dubbed 'NMB Mastaboda Loan'.

In this initiative the bank has set aside 5bn/- for lending to motorcycle taxi riders to help more youth to engage in the business and thus contribute to the country's economic development.

She commended NMB Bank for recognising that this group of operators

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Jenista Mhagama (2nd-R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend launching NMB Bank Plc's 'Mastaboda' campaign. The drive will see lucky bodaboda taxi operators win NMB loans with which to buy motorcycles and tricycles. Looking on are the bank's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna (C); NMB's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (2nd-L); and the chairman of bodaboda operators in Dar es Salaam, Michael Massawa (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



NMB Bank to broaden motorcycle riders loans

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plays an important role in enabling convenient transport for members of the public at any moment.

"I congratulate you for the tireless efforts in finding ways of lending and empowering young Tanzanians who are sidelined by other commercial lenders," she said.

The loan initiative complements government efforts to empower the youth and take an active part in building the country's economy, the minister underlined, noting further that many such youths have the potential of growing from owning a motorbike to possessing motor vehicles to generate more income.

She urged beneficiaries to observe financial discipline and stick to hard work as key levers in taking their business to the next level.

The government believes that when financial services become more inclusive, more people will be able to access loans which are crucial for engaging in various businesses, he said, elaborating that the government will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to address problems that motorbike riders face to enable their businesses to grow.

"I urge motorbike riders in various regions to make effective use of NMB financial discipline training in order to benefit from the large amount of money

set aside for lending them," the minister intoned, urging the bank to apply that initiative to other regions to reach more youths.

Statistics shows that Tanzania has more than a million passenger motorcycle riders but most of them remain unbanked, thus through the 'NMB Mastaboda Loan' initiative their business will be formalized, bank officials said.

For motorbike riders to qualify for the loan they must hold the National Identification Number (NIN), bank with NMB for three consecutive months and take up membership of a bodaboda riders' association.

Earlier, NMB Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the launch of this initiative is the bank's response to minister Mhagama's request made in 2019 when officiating at an event to launch 'Mastaboda QR.'

She said the bank may increase the 5bn/- set aside for lending motorcycle taxi riders in the first year if the demand needs it.

The loan initiative will be applied to other regions for most such riders to take advantage of the 5bn/- set aside for lending, the director specified.

Filbert Mponzi, NMB Chief of Retail Banking said the bank has so far trained over 5,000 motorbike riders. The target is to reach more than 75,000 motorcycle taxi riders countrywide in one year, he added.



Zanzibar Works, Communications and Transport minister Rahma Kassim Ali (R) has a word with political veteran Getruda Mongella during a panel discussion at the symposium on the 57th anniversary of the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar held in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

VP: Tanzanians now one people, with 57 years of union, harmony

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strengthening the union, noting that protecting the union is worked upon jointly.

Dr Mpango observed that he would not take kindly to anyone tampering with the union, so long as he occupies that office, highlighting that over the years, 15 out of 25 matters that were billed as contentious have been addressed, and the remaining are being worked upon accordingly.

The VP told the audience that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had directed that funds earmarked for ceremonies to mark Union Day be shared out to both parts of the union to speed up implementation of development projects.

Speakers at the symposium included

the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi who attributed the longevity of the union to the spirit of compromise uniting the two founders, Mwalimu Nyerere and Sheikh Abeid Karume.

Ambassador Hija Mohammed, a participant, attested to solidity of fusion of the people of the two sides as there are areas in Zanzibar and Mainlanders is mixed, and they live peacefully. "This is a clear indication that we are one family and not just politically united as it is perceived," he declared.

A lecturer from the Tanzania Centre for Foreign Relations, Abbas Mwalimu said the union is important economically because it provides business and investment opportunities for people of both sides. Zanzibar

can invest in the Mainland without problems, he stated.

The symposium brought together various dignitaries from various ministries, the legislature and leaders of religious denominations, with the theme "Our union is a foundation to economic revolution; let us strengthen peace."

At the same time, the East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki yesterday congratulated President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the government and the Tanzanian people on Union Day.

He said in his message that the commemoration was a "critical step in the coming together of the peoples and nations of our region to form the East African Community, a bloc that we East Africans and the rest of Africa have always looked up to with pride."

Minister's axe falls upon TANESCO tender board

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regulations in collaboration with the tender board.

Still, TANESCO managers across the country were told to speed up power connection in rural areas as the government plans to ensure all remaining villages are connected to the national grid by the end of next year.

"We only have 18 months to the deadline. You must work to ensure every village has electricity services by end of next year," he emphasised, cautioning the managers from cutting off power services without prior notification to the public.

"We do not want to see power outages. Managers who will fail to connect electricity to customers who have already paid for the

service will be held to account accordingly," he affirmed.

Dr Kalemuni instructed further that efforts are enhanced in revenue collections, noting that despite increases in current revenue collections compared to the past, more efforts are needed to optimise levels of company revenues.

Revenue collection in past years stood at 9bn/- per week; while last year it was 36bn/- per week, and now it is about 46bn/- per week. You have to increase efforts to ensure we surpass our set targets," the minister underlined.

Advera Mwijage of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) said the REA management was bent on implementing all directives issued by the minister to ensure the people enjoy power services.



Rama Jumane Muna (L) pictured airing his views at a meeting held at Zanzibar's Stone Town called to identify and enrol needy households to receive assistance from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf). Right is Salma Abdalla Haji, a coordinator with the Fund. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

Govt sets 14 days for port project accounts

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mobilise a team as early as possible to take up Phase VI of the port development project.

He also called on ministerial department officials and autonomous institutions under the ministry to study the 2020 - 2025 National Development Plan to understand what was required of them during the period.

"Work professionally, desist from pomposity, serve the people," he stressed.

For his part the TPA Director Erick Khamis affirmed that the sought for

reports will be provided in time and that the ongoing Tanga port project would be completed within three years to enable the port handle two million tonnes of cargo per year from 700,000 tonnes capacity at present.

"We shall make sure there is reliable road and sea transport in Tanga Region to connect it with the northern regions and the central regions, so that the port operates effectively," he said.

Elsewhere, the deputy minister inspected ongoing construction of the 50km Tanga - Pangani road at tarmac level, urging the contractors, China Henan International, to complete the

project as per the agreed schedule, as the government will not entertain excuses for delays.

TanRoads regional manager Alfred Ndubaro said the government has disbursed around 4bn/- to compensate those being removed to facilitate construction of the road, and that the payment exercise is billed to start next Wednesday, May 3.

The regional office will fully supervise the contractor to ensure the road is built to the required standards and completed in time, he told the deputy minister, who is in the region on a four-day inspection tour visit of infrastructure projects.

Minister calls on business community to coordinate its functions with TNBC

By Guardian Reporter

THE business community needs economic policy coordination with various ministries and institutions such as the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) to simplify monitoring of the recommendations issues.

Geoffrey Mwambe, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Investment), made the observation over the weekend when officiating the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) conference which was meant to discuss various challenges facing the industrial sector; Mwambe underscored the need for the business community to speak one language when presenting their challenges to the government.

According to him, the move will further facilitate more improvement of business conditions in the country. "It is better that all your meetings engage TNBC so as to ensure that all the recommendations are responded by responsible ministries or departments on time," he said.

He also assured investors, traders and business community that the government will continue putting a favourable environment to support their operations for the country's industrial growth.

"We are well prepared to conduct a comprehensive review and amendment of several laws and policies so as to attract investments and spur economic development in the country, so very soon we will table in the Parliament bill drafts of the laws," Mwambe said.

"The government intends to review the investment law and policy to keep pace with the current environment which will add to the business and investment by looking at areas that have been a major challenge in the country," said Minister Mwambe.

He however urged traders to be honest and pay taxes to enable the government to continue with the construction of infrastructure including health centers,

railways, roads, airports as well as the construction of Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP).

TNBC Executive Secretary, Dr Godwill Wanga said the new structure of the Council is aimed at holding meetings from the district and regional levels to find solutions to the challenges of business and investment.

"These structural changes to the council are aimed at creating a conducive environment for business and investment, especially considering Tanzania has benefited from adequate resources, peace, and political stability," Dr Wanga said, assuring CTI that the council would continue to negotiate with the private sector as it's a special link between the government and the private sector.

"The council has been an important link between government and the private sector in addressing the challenges of trade and investment, so we will continue to engage with private sector stakeholders to remove barriers that have been holding back trade and investment growth," he said.

CTI Chairman, Paul Makanza said there has been a positive trend towards addressing the challenges of industrialists but there is a need to add more effective strategies to develop and complete the manufacturing sector in line with the government's vision.

"Industry, like other sectors, has had many challenges and there are those that have been answered after several discussion sessions. Our current proposal is to see more and participatory strategies put in place to increase the sector's contribution to GDP growth and youth employment," he said.

"It is better that all your meetings engage TNBC so as to ensure that all the recommendations are responded by responsible ministries or departments on time"



Works and Transport deputy minister Mwita Waitara (gesturing) stresses a point to Tanzania Ports Authority officials in Tanga city at the weekend on how to supervise expenditure of funds. He was on an inspection tour of expansion work at the facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister calls for finance institutions' team spirit to boost micro enterprises

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINERALS Minister Doto Biteko has urged local banks to join forces for team spirit in order to support small and big companies in the mining sector with adequate loans and capital.

Biteko made the call this week here when he met with the NMB management to among others to discuss areas of cooperation so as to support and speed up economic growth in the country.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed how they are going to work together in a better way to support various investors in the mining sector.

"My call here is not only for one bank, but for all financial institutions in the country, this is the time to work together so as to provide required financial support to small, middle and big companies that are investing in the mining sector," he said.

According to him, the minister has been receiving a number of investors who sometimes have capital challenges.

"We have been advising them to seek loans in local banks but unfortunately many of them come back empty handed saying that the banks have no enough money to lend them," he said.

The minister made it clear that the mineral extraction business requires three major things which are intensive capital, sufficient time to see outcomes as well as the availability of sufficient human resources.

He commended the NMB bank for recognizing the challenge and being able to provide enough support to improve the mining sector.

Biteko highlighted key areas which have good business

indicators in the mining sector as mineral processing, value addition as well as mineral trading.

Prof Simon Msanjila, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary wanted the bank to share its loans' chart which describes the low and higher amount of loans which they can issue so as to enable investors to be able to choose which loan is good for them.

He also urged NMB to also invest in the insurance sector as it was one of the areas which still needed more investment.

In her remarks, NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna acknowledged that the mining sector has remained strong and great savour even during the challenging period of Covid-19 pandemic where several sectors have been affected.

"Previously, the bank was somehow reluctant to put its hand in the mining sector but due to several strides and improvements done by the government in which the entire mining value chain, the bank has decided to chip in and start providing loans to enable traders and miners conduct the business successfully," she said.

According to her, so far, the bank has already dished out loans amounting to 10bn/- to small-scale miners.

In addition, the bank in collaboration with a bank from South Africa have provided training to miners while also NMB providing a US\$22 million loan to Geita Gold Mining (GGM).

Zaipuna noted that currently their bank has a capital reaching 1.1trillion/- and it was expanding its services to reach more people including major mining projects.

"So, the bank can issue a loan amounting to 240bn/- without any problem, investors are welcomed," she added.

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

Solicitor General saves 11.4trn/- through charges, compensation

THE office of the Solicitor General has saved 11.4trn/- through various charges and compensations in local and international courts.

Solicitor General Gabriel Malata made the remarks when opening a four-day training for state attorneys which is being held in Morogoro municipality.

The training which is being attended by retired judges was aimed at equipping attorneys on how to arbitrate various tribunals opened by the government both locally and abroad.

He said during 2019/20 there were cases that involved economic matters which the government was supposed to pay as compensation but the office of

the solicitor general won them.

The state attorney said the government opened up to 3715 locally and 451 were heard whereby his office won about 95-per cent of all the cases.

He said out of the cases which they won were worth 700bn/- while those which they did not were worth 20bn/- and they have appealed.

Speaking on the new case which has been opened recently in the United States which requires a \$55 million (100bn/-) compensation, the solicitor general said his office has won.

He said Tanzania emerged victorious in a payment case of 55,099,171.66 US dollars to the family of a prominent businessman, Devram Valambhia, now deceased, over a contract involving the supply of military equipment.

This followed the decision of the United States Supreme Court to reject a petition for clarification of exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act after the family of Valambhia unsuccessfully sought to pursue the payments in the question of about 130bn/-.

In the application, Valambhia's

family had sought to attach assets of the government to recover over 50 million US dollars issued by the High Court of Tanzania in 1991 in favor of a message to Tanzanians.

The deputy solicitor general Dr Boniface Luhende said the training is aimed at building capacity for the lawyers to enable them better handle both local and international cases.

The director for civil case George Mandepo said the main issue which they have is to handle cases adding that the training will give them the capacity to save government properties.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND
LICENSING AGENCY



PRESS RELEASE

EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Dar es Salaam, April 2021

The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) cordially informs Company owners and the general Public that, the Minister for Industry and Trade through Government Notice No. 189 of 12th February, 2021 extended the time for submission of information on Beneficial Owners for a period of twelve months from 1st January, 2021 to the Companies registered before 1st July, 2020.

The requirement to submit beneficial ownership information arises from the amendments of the Companies Act, Cap. 212 which were done through the Finance Act, 2020.

This extension of time has been granted in accordance with section 459A of the Companies Act, Cap 212 which empowers the Minister to extend the time for submission of Beneficial Ownership information.

BRELA in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade is in the last stages of completing The Companies (Beneficial Ownership) Regulations that will specify the modality of submission and keeping of beneficial ownership information. Once the Regulations are published, BRELA shall start receiving the said information.

For more details, kindly contact us through email address usajili@brela.go.tz, phone number +255 (0) 22 221 2800 or visit our office located at The Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives Building, 6th floor, Lumumba Street, Dar es Salaam.

Issued by;
The Information and Communication Unit BRELA

Ushirika tower, Lumumba Street, P.O Box. 9393, Dar Es Salaam, Telephone:
+255-22-2181344, 2180113, 2180141, 2212800, fax: +255-22-2180371, E-mail:
ceo@brela.go.tz, usajili@brela.go.tz, Website: www.brela.go.tz

SHIRIKA LA VIWANGO TANZANIA (TBS)



TAARIFA KWA WAAGIZAJI MAGARI KUTOKA NJE KUHUSU UWEPO WA MATAPELI

Dar es Salaam, 25 Aprili, 2021

Shirika la Viwango Tanzania (TBS) lina utaarifu umma kuwa limepokea malalamiko ya uwepo wa baadhi ya mawakala wasio waaminifu wanao wadanganya wateja wenye magari yaliyowasili bandarini kulipa gharama za ziada ili kuweza kutoa magari hayo.

Hivyo basi, TBS inapenda kuwataarifu na kuwatahadharisha waagizaji na wanaotoa magari bandarini kuwa;

1. Hakuna gharama zozote za ziada za utoaji magari baada ya ukaguzi bandarini tofauti na ada ya ukaguzi (Inspection fee USD 140 + TZS 30,000/ Service fee).
2. Malipo yote ya ukaguzi ni lazima yalipwe kupitia mfumo wa kielektroniki (control number) na risiti lazima itolewe.

Kwa maelezo zaidi tafadhali piga namba ya bure: 0800110827.



Gladness H. Kaseka

MKUU WA KITENGO CHA UHUSIANO NA MASOKO

'Zanzibar attains 90 pct in vaccinations among its children'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has managed, by over 90 per cent to vaccinate eligible children even though there are still children who have not received the vaccination.

To mark the African Vaccination Week (AVW) that kicked off yesterday, the Zanzibar Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, elders and children Nassor Ahmed Mazrui called upon parents and guardians to grab the opportunity provided by the Vaccination Week to send their children to vaccination centres for vaccination.

Addressing reporters in his office, Mazrui said the aim of the campaign is to stress on the need to vaccinate all children to protect them against various diseases that are preventable through vaccination.

He mentioned the children eligible for vaccination in the African Vaccination Week as including those who have attained two years but less than five years, and for 14-year-old girls.

Mazrui said vaccination is the right strategy to reduce various preventable diseases and reduce children's deaths.

He mentioned Zanzibar urban districts including Micheweni, Urban West 'A' and 'B' as among districts that did not attain the government set target for vaccination of children in 2020.

He called upon government officials and leaders to make more efforts in supervising the campaign because disease prevention removes burden from both the government and families of unnecessary costs.

For his part vaccination official from UNICEF Emmanuel Tessua said the National Vaccination Plan begun in 1985 in regard to five

vaccinations against five diseases and by last year there were nine vaccinations able to prevent 13 diseases.

He mentioned some of the diseases as including polio, measles, Rubella, tetanus, TB, pneumonia and flu.

The African Vaccination Week (AVW) is celebrated during the last week of April in synchronization with the other World Health Organisation (WHO) regions and the World Immunization Week (WIW). The day is led and coordinated by WHO Regional Office for Africa and implemented by countries.

AVW's goal is to strengthen immunisation programmes in the African Region by increasing awareness of the importance of every person's (particularly every child and woman) need and right to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

It also aims at keeping immunisation high on the national and regional agendas through advocacy and partnerships. It also promotes delivery of other high impact lifesaving interventions.



He mentioned some of the diseases as including polio, measles, Rubella, tetanus, TB, pneumonia and flu



Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (Talgwu) members follow a speech by Trade Union Congress of Tanzania president Tumaini Nyamhokya at a meeting held in Singida municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumbe Ismailly

Councillors urged to bring up reservations over allowances at ALAT regional sittings

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE Secretary of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) Elirehema Kaaya has called upon councillors to bring up the issue of allowances at ALAT sittings in the Coast Region for it to be dealt with speedily.

Kaaya gave the remarks here yesterday at Chalinze in Bagamoyo District during his one-day inspection visit of the ongoing strategic development projects.

He said during his visit to local councils the allowances agenda

has been aired by councillors, the issue that needs to be worked upon for improvement.

He said: "If at ALAT Regional meetings the agenda is accorded priority and reaches me, I will take it for onward transmission the minister responsible who will submit it to the president for action."

"I have received complaints from Council Chairmen in areas I visited on the issue of allowances, I have advised them to route their complaints to their ALAT leaders in order to be dealt with, the issue has been received and the

government will act on the issue."

He praised the existing cooperation between the council director Ramadhanani Possi and the councillors, the cooperation that has seen tangible development in the new Chalinze District Council.

He said he was impressed by the projects he visited including the modern market, a bus station and Msoga District Hospital.

At Msoga District Hospital he advised the construction of infrastructures for the harvesting of rain water to supplement water supply at the hospital.

Chalinze Member of Parliament

Ridhiwani Kikwete called on the ALAT Secretary to effect amendments to the revenue collection so that the internal collection is to remain at the council and be directed to development projects.

Chalinze District Council Chairman Geoffrey Kamugisha praised the Council Director for the implementation of Councillors' recommendations that have resulted in the implementation of big development projects in the district. He said their target in five years is to collect 20m/- from own revenue sources.



The Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) has begun scooping sand from clogged sections of Dar es Salaam's flood-prone Msimbazi and Jangwani valleys, with a view to easing the flow of water and effluent. Correspondent Miraji Msala captured the scene yesterday.

National Service 'saves' at least 8bn/- through the implementation of irrigation scheme in Morogoro Region

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Morogoro

THE National Service (JKT) has saved at least 8bn/- in the implementation of a robust project to construct a biggest irrigation scheme at Chita village in Mlimba District, Morogoro Region.

According to the acting commandant of the camp, Major Evergreen Bartazal, if the project, which its current budget stands at 4bn was carried out through contractors, it would have chopped from the State coffers about 12bn/-.

He said among others, the irrigation scheme will include other activities, including fishing, deals with rice farming of about 2,500 hectares.

Major Bartazal added that upon its completion, the project will be able to feed the army countrywide with an excess being reserved in the National Food Reserve Agency to feed the community.

"The schemes, apart from feeding the army camps in the country, will equally feed the community surrounding the area and its environs," he unveiled.

He added: "Through using experts within the army and youth at the Chita camp, upon completion, the robust project will cost about 4bn/-."

The Irrigation project is part of a robust project dubbed Strategic Agriculture, Pastoralism and Fishing, initiated by the Chief of the National Service (CNS), Major General Charles Mbuge.

Maj Gen Mbuge formed a special committee after a

directive from the executive that instead of depending on funds from the treasury to feed the army, it was high time for JKT to initiate projects that would see the army feeding itself for 100 percent as well as feeding the country in excess of the produced food.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Colonel Hassan Mabena, who doubles as JKT head of administration, started with emergency agriculture in 2019 but now, it is eyeing to have 28,000 hectares by 2024/2025.

In ensuring the initiative met the set targets, JKT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the ministry of Agriculture on February 26, 2020 which will see the country having enough raw material to fulfill the ambitious plan for the industrial economy by 2025.

In expanding the rice farm at Chita camp, Major Bartazal said there were about 150 acres of rice seedlings that were researched by Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) which would be planted in different JKT farms as well as distributed to farms owned by Tanzanian communities.

Acting commander of operation for Irrigation Infrastructures, Major Mbaraka Magogo, said the ongoing project at Chita camp was equally being implemented in collaboration with the Tanzania Irrigation Commission.

According to him, the scheme was progressing well and that the army was well prepared to ensure that all the infrastructure was completed on the scheduled time to have the targets met.

Iran eyes stronger ties with Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IRAN'S President Hassan Rouhani yesterday expressed hope for the expansion of relations with Tanzania in all fields.

In his message to his Tanzanian counterpart President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Rouhani

congratulated Tanzania on its Union Day.

Hailing the age-old relations between Tehran and Dodoma that are based upon mutual respect, the Iranian president hoped that cooperation between the two countries would grow in all fields to serve the interests of the two nations.

He also wished the Tanzanian president and people health and prosperity.

The 57th anniversary of the creation of the United Republic of Tanzania is celebrated on every April 26, known as the Union Day.

It marks the unification of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar in 1964.



He also wished the Tanzanian president and people health and prosperit

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014



AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
benki kwa maendeleo yako

AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021
(Amounts in millions of shillings)

AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
(Amounts in millions of shillings)

AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
(Amounts in million shillings)

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements
Name and Title Signature
Juliana Swai (Ag. Managing Director)
Bertha Simon (General Manager Finance)
Chemo Mutani (Chief Internal Auditor)

AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 MARCH 2021
(Amounts in Thousand shillings)

Sasa unaweza kulipia malipo yote ya Serikali (GePG) na Kodi za TRA kupitia Akiba Mobile na Matawi yetu yote ambayo hayana foleni.

AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF CHARGES AND FEES

Table with columns: NUMBER, ITEM/TRANSACTION, CHARGE/FEE, and detailed descriptions of charges and fees for various services like Current Accounts, BASHARA Accounts, Savings Accounts, Mobile Banking, Loans, and Overdraft.

We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.
Name Designation
Juliana Swai Ag. Managing Director
Bertha Simon General Manager Finance
Chemo Mutani Chief Internal Auditor

TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2021

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

New opportunities for integration being noticed in EAC Secretariat

THERE is a new leadership line up at the Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) in Arusha, with the erstwhile Kenyan CEO of the East African Business Council (EABC) and member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Dr Peter Mathuki taking over as EAC Secretary General in the place of Ambassador Liberati Mfumukeko of Burundi. This change of office bearers from a career diplomat to a business executive and lately a regional legislator needs to be seen in tandem with the shift in Tanzania where pro-business policy orientation is now at the helm of leadership action. It means that the usually optimistic EABC entourage has greater room to put its ideas to action, in a changing EAC.

The incoming secretary general said that speeding up integration was his top priority, which connoisseurs will acknowledge he has taken up that mantra seeing that times are changing, as the office of the EAC Secretary General is somewhat comparable to a foreign minister. It is not from these quarters that change can be expected, but on the basis of the orientation hammered repeatedly by Tanzania's incoming Head of State, Samia Suluhu Hassan, such EAC dynamism could actually be placed on the table. There is the usual question of non-tariff barriers that was noticed in the maize blockade saga that is now running out.

Dr Mathuki was lately addressing a business community evening reception organized by the private sector, where he said he will focus on achieving ease of doing business in line with the common market protocol. He acknowledged that the EAC is already a customs union and in principle geared to

establishing a common market, and has also explored ways of forming a monetary union. Not many among the region's younger generation would even be aware that there was an East African currency (the shilling) that died in 1966 paving the way for the creation of independent central banks in the region.

There was some progress during the fourth phase government in Tanzania about inching up to EAC protocols beyond the customs union format but did not go quite far. There was indeed a certain level of progress in linkages of monetary movement and levels of foreign exchange reserves as the region ostensibly geared to create an East African Monetary System (EAMS) by 2024, back in 2014. This matter was placed in the cooler during the fifth phase, and it might just be returned for discussion at present.

When it comes to the quest for an East African Federation that was mooted as the Charter of East African Cooperation in 1999, a first attempt to cultivate popular support for that objective fell flat in Tanzania in 2007, when President Jakaya Kikwete ran a sort of opinion survey on the matter. Activists especially at the University of Dar es Salaam, who now hold top government positions, led a universal rejection of that goal, and the matter ended there. What can be done is to strengthen avenues of cooperation within the common market framework, creating an easier environment for doing business, and ratifying more of the EALA pieces of legislation that often go unnoticed in the National Assembly. It would be a good start. In that sense the secretary general has reason to be optimistic, but must cross the river one step at a time.

Today's youth are generation that will end malaria scourge

THROUGHOUT history, Malaria has affected every country in the world. However, the highest prevalence of the world's malaria cases and deaths are now occurring in sub-Saharan Africa.

As we commemorate this year's World Malaria Day, we're asking for collective effort around the world to #DrawTheLine Against Malaria and for this deadly disease to end within a generation. The Draw The Line Against Malaria campaign is a positive, bold, ground-breaking campaign featuring a coalition of African stars, artists and champions, designed to inspire and unite the African and global youth generation to push for intentional action to end malaria within their lifetime.

Malaria is the oldest and deadliest disease on the continent and this can no longer be ignored. Infact, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that despite 90% of life-saving malaria prevention campaigns being rolled out as planned in 2020, disruption to malaria diagnosis and treatment could still pose a threat to thousands of lives across the African continent where 74% of the population is below the age of 35. Africa is indeed a young continent. Therefore, we need to bolster efforts to inspire and galvanise young people across Africa, and globally to fight against malaria.

World Malaria Day is an important initiative that requires us to reflect upon and recognise the global efforts that have saved more than 7 million lives since 2000 and supported in over 20

countries to end malaria for good.

It is unfortunate and disheartening that despite the progress made since 2000, malaria continues to claim lives and COVID-19 has exasperated this endemic disease. Therefore, it is our duty as citizens of this continent to come together to build formidable partnerships that will rival some of Africa's biggest issues.

As a leading entertainment powerhouse with powerful platforms that reach vast African and global audiences, ViacomCBS Networks Africa (VCNA) have partnered with the Zero Malaria Starts With Me (ZMSWM) movement to engage and mobilise young people in the fight against malaria. This generation has the power to end this preventable disease. Thus, we believe that using our platforms to shine a light on this disease will indeed make a difference.

Our commitment is enforced by the desire to drive purpose that leads to social changes in our society. It is simply not enough to talk about the scourge of malaria without empowering the next generation to hold leaders accountable to end a preventable and treatable disease that currently kills a child every two minutes.

Through our network championing and pioneering powerful and engaging edutainment content across channel platforms for children and youth from MTV, MTV Base and Nickelodeon, we have the power to reach thousands of youth across the continent.

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The case for a nationwide funeral feast

By Anna Trapido

THE excruciating experience of losing a loved one to COVID-19 has been made much worse by our inability to come together to prepare and share food.

Is there anything more awful than a Zoom funeral? Well, yes actually, dying from Covid-19 caught at an unauthorised, overcrowded gathering is far worse. Which is why the aforementioned virtual sendoffs are an essential part of our current protection against pandemic.

Over the past year, South Africans have had to reconfigure and reduce the number of mourners physically present at our sacred and secular remembrance rituals. Understanding and accepting the need for video conference burial and memorial services doesn't diminish the desire to truly come together in grief. No matter how many crying emojis, #RIPS are sent, our support systems have been profoundly impaired by social distancing requirements. Try as we might, it is difficult to show up for someone emotionally

without being present in person.

Most of all I miss funeral food. Not because I am greedy (although I am) but because cooking and sharing food so clearly communicates communal caring and carrying on. Food is the fuel of life. On our darkest days, it can offer a defiant assertion of faith in the future. And without that we have nothing.

South Africa has a wide variety of traditional funeral foods. These have hitherto not only been our go-to expressions of love and support for the bereaved but also declarations of respect for the deceased. Without food and drink, funerals feel unfinished. Reduced attendance means little or no ritualised food preparation. In many southern African culinary cultures, slaughtering of cattle is key to communication with ancestral realms but what would one do with masses of meat in the absence of a crowd? Smaller animals such as goats get the job done but as a mark of major life stage transition, the moment is muted. Cape Malay Qur'anic recitals on the third, seventh, 40th and 100th night after the death are religiously valid but can

be achingly lonely affairs without the customary post reading friends and family sharing rose pink gedatmelk.

Above and beyond the pain of subdued spiritual practice many of us have also missed out on the small but healing secular culinary customs by which the living traditionally honour the dead. Burdens are best shared around three-legged pots of Tswana tshotlho pulled beef and ting soured sorghum. Plates of wortel en ertjie kifyaat kos bring Cape Malay communities comfort in times of tragedy. Ndebele elders have lost endless opportunities to process pain as they reminisce on the morning after the funeral with amangqina trotters. Afrikaans aunties have been denied the reassuring rites ordinarily infused into turmeric, cinnamon, raisins, brown sugar and butter-laden begrafnis rys (funeral rice).

As we mark the pandemic's first anniversary, there are Xhosa widows beginning ukukhululwa kwezila (to take off black mourning clothes) without in-person community acknowledgement. While most

of us agree that it must be so, wounds that might otherwise be beginning to heal are left open and raw when societies do not come together to bear witness.

How can we ever repay the deep diphaphata flatbread and bjala marole beer (which literally translates as beer for cleaning the dust) debt owed to Pedi grave diggers who have excavated endlessly without their usual edible and quaffable compensation? Without food and drink rituals our collective dust is not cleared and we cannot move on.

If and, please God, when the pandemic is finally over, I propose that we should commemorate and venerate lives lost and rituals curtailed with a national funeral feast. We all need to feel the weight of bucket loads of dikuku Sekhukhuleni scons as we conduct condolence visits. We are all longing for the supportive glow at the back of the throat that comes with gemere ginger beer at Xhosa night vigils and the love layered into begrafnis reënboog toebroodjies on Afrikaner sout bordjies (funeral rainbow sandwiches on savoury platters).

Keys to African recovery: Vaccines, debt and commodities

By Rabah Arezki

AS recovery from the economic fallout of the pandemic occurs, richer countries appear to be progressing faster than poorer ones—many of them in Africa, where 60 percent of the world's poor live.

Asia, notably China, is leading the global recovery, followed by the United States and other advanced economies. Behind the brighter outlook for these economies is disproportionate access to vaccines and the use of massive amounts of fiscal and monetary stimulus, totaling trillions of dollars. Concerns have even started to shift from recession to the risk of overheating and inflation in certain economies because of the oversized nature of the stimulus measures—especially the United States, which recently adopted a \$1.9 trillion package to fight the effects of COVID-19.

By contrast, most of the developing world, especially Africa, is consumed by uncertainty about the economic recovery. Because of its large population—1.2 billion people—developments in Africa will weigh heavily on the world. The recovery from COVID-19 in Africa will depend on three factors—vaccines, debt, and commodities.

Access to vaccines, both globally and in Africa will help determine

when the continent can truly reopen for business—including the important tourism sector, which has been devastated. Recovery from COVID-19 in the travel and tourism sector, especially in Africa, will be slow. There is also risk of a resurgence of the pandemic due to new variants, including one that has spread from South Africa to its neighbors.

The international community must act on several fronts. It should limit the hoarding of vaccines by richer countries and frontload distribution through the COVAX mechanism, the multinational effort to provide vaccine to poor and lower-middle-income countries. At the current pace, Africa will not soon reach herd immunity—the point at which enough people are immune that the virus struggles to spread. That delay could allow new strains of the coronavirus to emerge, which might lead to an economic and humanitarian catastrophe. Advanced economies should stop opposing the temporary lifting of patents to allow for mass generic vaccine production. That would lower prices and increase vaccine supply, helping to ensure the pandemic will end and averting catastrophe.

African countries also must do their share to ensure maximum transparency and fairness in distribution of the vaccine—including enhancing logistics

chains. Whether it is for vaccine distribution or other forms of relief, such as income transfers, COVID-19 has shown that ensuring government resources reach their intended targets through transparency and accountability of governments is a basic element required to build trust with citizens.

Debt distress is another hurdle developing countries, particularly in Africa, must clear to ensure recovery. Several African countries defaulted on sovereign obligations in 2020, including Zambia, and these defaults are likely to accelerate in 2021 because fiscal and monetary buffers are exhausted. Preventing unsustainable debt loads that preclude borrowing and ensuring orderly debt resolution are top priorities.

The G20 Common Framework adopted in November 2020 provides hope for bilateral official debt relief, as well as private creditor relief on comparable terms for poorer countries. But coordination at the regional and global levels will be essential. Some rating agencies have warned countries approaching the G20 for help that they risk being downgraded. That is likely to reinforce the fear countries typically have of losing their access to capital markets by seeking debt relief. Historically, however, waiting too long to

restructure debt has proven costly for the continent. Regional development banks can play an important role in coordinating and supporting individual countries trying to deal with debt burdens and reignite growth. But again, developing countries must do their share. Rebuilding strong governance systems, perhaps through fiscal rules and fiscal councils—at national and regional levels—to promote both discipline and solidarity will be crucial. Stronger governance would help reignite growth and align debtors' and creditors' incentives. Only economic growth can provide systematic and orderly resolution of debt.

Not everything is grim, however. Commodity prices are on the rise. A new commodity super cycle seems to be in the making—driven by a combination of factors, including a strong Asian recovery and a big US stimulus package on the demand side and pervasive shortages on the supply side due to the lack of investment since the 2014 collapse in oil prices. Such a super cycle might be the last one for oil, however, because major economies appear committed to replacing fossil fuels. An appropriate governance framework to manage proceeds from commodities in good and bad times is important to fostering the local private sector and creating much-needed jobs.

Studying marine life's brief break from human noise

NEW YORK,

TRAVEL and economic slowdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic have combined to brake shipping, seafloor exploration, and many other human activities in the ocean, creating a unique moment to begin a time-series study of the impacts of sound on marine life.

Our community of scientists has identified more than 200 non-military ocean hydrophones worldwide and hopes to make the most of the unprecedented opportunity to pool their recorded data into the 2020 quiet ocean assessment and to help monitor the ocean soundscape long into the future.

Our aim is a network of 500 hydrophones capturing the signals of whales and other marine life while assessing the racket levels of human activity. Combined with other sea life monitoring methods such as animal tagging, the work will help reveal the extent to which noise in "the Anthropocene seas" impacts ocean species, which depend on sound and natural sonar to mate, navigate and feed across the ocean.

Sound travels far in the ocean and a hydrophone can pick up low frequency signals from hundreds, even thousands of kilometres away.

Assessing the risks of underwater sound for marine life requires understanding what sound levels cause harmful effects and where in the ocean vulnerable animals may be exposed to sound exceeding these levels.

In 2011, experts began developing the International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE), launched in 2015 with the International Quiet Ocean Experiment Science Plan. Among our goals: to create a time series of measurements of ambient sound in many ocean locations to reveal variability and changes in intensity and other properties of sound at a range of frequencies.

The plan also included designating 2022 "the Year of the Quiet Ocean." Due to COVID-19, however, the oceans are unlikely to be as quiet as they were in April, 2020 for many decades to come.

COVID-19 reduced sound levels more than we dreamed possible. IQOE, therefore, is focusing project resources to encourage study of changes in sound levels and effects on organisms that occurred in 2020, based on observations from hundreds of hydrophones worldwide in 2019-2021.

Of the 231 non-military hydrophones identified to February 2021, the highest concentrations are found along the North American coasts – Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic – Hawaii, Europe, and Antarctica, with some scattered through the Asia-Pacific region.

Several have agreed to their geographic coordinates and other metadata being shown on the IQOE website (<https://www.iqoe.org/systems>).

Sparse, sporadic deployment of hydrophones and obstacles to integrating measurements have narrowly limited what we confidently know.



We are therefore creating a global data repository with contributors using standardized methods, tools and depths to measure and document ocean soundscapes and effects on the distribution and behavior of vocalizing animals.

New software, MANTA (at <https://bit.ly/3cVNUox>), developed by researchers across the USA and led by the University of New Hampshire, will help standardize ocean sound recording data from collaborators, facilitating its comparability, pooling and visualization.

As well, an Open Portal to Underwater Sound (OPUS), is being tested at Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven, Germany to promote the use of acoustic data col-

lected worldwide, providing easy access to MANTA-processed data. The aggregated data will permit soundscape maps of entire oceans.

Meanwhile, scientists over the past decade have developed powerful methods to estimate the distribution and abundance of vocalizing animals using passive acoustic monitoring.

The fledgling hydrophone network contributes to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), a network of observing assets monitoring currents, temperature, sea level, chemical pollution, litter, and other concerns worldwide.

Seldom has there been such a chance to collect quiet ocean data in the Anthropocene Seas. COVID-19 drastically decreased shipping, tourism and recreation, fishing and aquaculture, naval and coast guard exercises, offshore construction, port and channel dredging, and energy exploration and extraction. The concurrent price war that caused oil prices to dive to zero further quieted maritime energy activities.

The last comparable opportunity followed the terrorist attacks on the United States in September 2001, which disrupted not just air travel; they also led to a shipping slowdown and ocean noise reduction, prompting biologists to study stress hormone levels in endangered North Atlantic right whales in the Bay of Fundy.

With their 2001 data, research revealed higher September stress hormone levels over the next four years as the whales prepared to migrate to warmer southern waters where they calve, suggesting that the industrialized ocean causes chronic stress of animals.

We are on the way to timely, reliable, easily understood maps of ocean soundscapes, including the exceptional period of April 2020 when the COVID virus gave marine animals a brief break from human clutter.

Let's learn from the COVID pause to help achieve safer operations for shipping industries, offshore energy operators, navies, and other users of the ocean.

This Earth Day, people's perspective is what is most needed

NEW YORK

THE United Nations - which is desperately seeking funds to help developing nations battling a staggering array of socio-economic problems, including extreme poverty, hunger, economic inequalities and environmental hazards - has continued to be one of the strongest advocates of disarmament.

The world body has relentlessly campaigned for reduced military spending in an attempt to help divert some of these resources into sustainable development and humanitarian assistance.

Today marks Earth Day and all around the globe, advocates and activists, concerned citizens and the like will gather to raise awareness about the climate crisis.

World leaders will be among them, notably U.S. President Joe Biden speaking as his administration kicks off its Leaders Summit on Climate, while a growing number of migrants and asylum-seekers at the U.S. southern border, a vast majority from Central America fleeing compounding crises, continue to have their rights and protection needs unmet.

Today, my organization Climate Refugees will also gather in an Earth Day event, Frontlines: Climate Risks & Migration with US Congressman Joaquin Castro of Texas, and longstanding activists and advocates in immigrant and migrant rights, climate policy, and environmental justice working with frontline communities.

We will look for a reflective conversation on Central American migration to discuss solutions, and what can be done by the Biden administration and the international community to protect the world's most vulnerable, ahead of climate negotiations at COP26 in Glasgow.

For most of the world, climate change is by no means only an environmental concern. For communities dependent on the land and natural resources for livelihood, even survival, climate change is a socio-economic and political concern as well.

As we shared in a recent report, in response to President Biden's executive order to better understand the impacts of climate change on migration, a deeper review of Central American migration will reflect the interconnections between climate change impacts, the killing of environmental leaders, historic oppression of Indigenous Peoples, the ways in which people are losing access and being moved off their lands, specific industries, and direct or indirect drivers of conflict and violence by gangs.

Climate change effects in Central America's Dry Corridor are contributing to pre-existing poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization and historic oppression of populations living in the region's agricultural backbone.

This is no different to the all-too familiar situations observed in traditional refugee contexts where conflict generally exacerbates underlying poverty, exclusion and marginalization of certain populations that force individuals to flee.

The Dry Corridor covers nearly 30 percent of the entirety of Central America, home also to the greatest population density where a number of Indigenous groups reside, and where rural poverty rates are higher than the national averages, and food insecurity has soared.

This region is home to another type of convergence as well: extreme climatic events like the recent hurricanes Eta and Iota, tropical storms and drought, which render social, economic, environmental and political vulnerability on the region, its people, and ultimately, its national economies.

The expansion of mega development projects, extractive industries on mostly Indigenous lands and small-holder farmers' land rights, hand-in-hand with gang violence, can't be overlooked as contributory forces driving



displacement either.

Several migrants we've spoken to have included sustained climate changes amongst the reasons for their displacement, and the resulting challenges when crop failures equal sustained losses and adaptation is hindered by ever smaller plots of land.

As much as we know about 'climate migration', we still know very little. What we know is that every situation will look different, largely because there is no single driver for movement that can be singularly attributed to 'climate change.' Instead, climate change is exacerbating underlying tensions and contributing to social disruptions.

Even in situations of disasters, we can move people out of harm's way in order to save lives, but it's their protection needs to the increased frequencies of disasters, as well as before, during and after a disaster that requires cohesive global action.

The Biden administration must realize these changed dynamics in policies both at home and abroad. To do so is to understand that many migrants fleeing Central America's Dry Corridor are likely both asylum-seekers as defined by international refugee law, as well as individuals displaced by climate change, a category not protected in that area of law.

Central America's poorest, marginalized and Indigenous are emblematic of a global phenomenon that climate change presents: the intersection of climate change and race.

The climate crisis disproportionately impacts marginalized populations, many of whom may be displaced or forced to migrate because of years of unequal access to

opportunities and gaps in human rights, a topic my organization delved into with human rights and environmental justice experts in this event.

Philip Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights' report on Climate Change and Poverty, revealed developing countries will bear 75 to 80 percent of the financial costs and losses associated with the climate crisis, despite contributing only 10 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, creating a situation in which those in extreme poverty now also live in extreme weather.

He warned of increasing divisions as well, the risk of a 'climate apartheid', where the wealthy escape the negative impacts of climate change, leaving impacts to be borne by disproportionate groups ostracized by divisions, including race.

In the U.S., people of color are far more likely to live near pollutants, Black communities face higher risks from air pollution, and Black mothers are most affected by pregnancy risks associated with climate change, linking race, even more than poverty, to environmental pollutants, something long stated by environmental justice and Indigenous rights activists who articulated the systemic nature of environmental racism.

Those same activists were instrumental in bringing to light the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental factors to the international stage at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which helped to form the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This November, as world leaders gather at yet another UNFCCC Conference of the Parties - COP 26 - in Glasgow,

Scotland, world leaders will likely gather to tell us "climate change affects us all", and risk forgetting, "but not equally."

They may speak of solutions that provide "dignity" for the world's impacted, as if dignity were something they never had. They might project images of war-ravaged refugees, as if this is an accurate depiction of the intersection of climate and displacement, failing completely to understand the impacts of climate on entire societies.

They may speak of climate risk populations as poor and destitute, when in fact poor is relative and those with options are exhausted, rapidly running out of fight and solutions.

The poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized are actually the one's systematically left behind, the oppressed and the disenfranchised.

As the emissions continue to go unchecked, the planet warms and impacts disproportionately punish these groups of people, they know and we know we can no longer be expected to wait for the world's leaders to get this right. **Agencies**

Reducing maternal, newborn deaths across rural Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

DESPITE advances in maternal and newborn health over the past two decades, nearly 300,000 women across the world die every year from pregnancy and childbirth complications.

Moreover, many children, like Helena's, are born premature, the leading cause of death of children under 5.

In Tanzania, almost 20 women die every day due to childbirth-related complications, leaving families devastated and many children motherless. For every woman who dies, 20 or 30 suffer injuries, infections or disabilities.

The situation is worse in rural areas like Miswaki Village where competent health workers are either unavailable or ill-equipped and long-distances, impassable roads and poverty further limit access to quality care.

With support from the Canadian government, Jhpiego and its partners—Amref Health Africa, Tanzania Midwives Association and the Canadian Association of Midwives—joined with the Tanzanian government to carry out the More and Better Midwives for Rural Tanzania Project to improve the quality of care women and newborns receive.

The More and Better Midwives project supported 20 health training institutions, including the Kisare Nursing School where Midwife Rose studied, to update the schools' curriculum and faculty and prepare students to provide quality, respectful midwifery care when deployed. The project began in spring 2016 and ends this March.

"We teach our students to regard a pregnant woman or one who is in labor as if she was their mother or sister. Walk in the shoes of that mother. Assume you are in her situation. Do what you are going to do next as you would have liked that done unto you by giving her appropriate quality care you would have demanded from a health provider," said Elijah Ernest, a midwife and senior tutor at Kisare Nursing School. "Today it is this mother. Tomorrow it can be you."

The project's focus is on competency-based, gender-sensitive learning where students participate in hands-on practice with life-size, anatomical models. It works to ensure equitable advancement and leadership opportunities for female and male midwives.

Another priority is developing empathy in health workers, a key factor in improving a client's experience of pregnancy and childbirth care. The More and Better Midwives project has graduated 2,036 new nurse-midwives, equipping them with the clinical skills and confidence to assess, prevent and manage complications at birth in rural areas.

These are the same skills Midwife Rose recently exhibited at the Miswaki Dispensary. It was midday and the crush of clients had eased. Birds were chirping and a choir could be heard rehearsing at a nearby church when Rose's mobile phone rang, its chirp signaling an urgent call.

"I am in pain. I cannot move. I cannot walk," said the alarmed voice on the other end.

Rose immediately recognized the caller as TatuShabani, whom Rose had



Helena Paschal brought her baby girl, Neema John Lameck, to Miswaki Dispensary in Tabora, for routine care. Born premature, Neema, is now nearly four months old and is healthy and strong. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

attended at the Miswaki antenatal clinic about a week before. Tatu, a 28-year-old mother of a 7-year-old girl, had a history of persistent high blood pressure, a condition that had resulted in the loss of her second pregnancy. Rose had advised Tatu and her husband JumanneRamadhani to plan for Tatu to deliver at Ndala Hospital, an advanced health facility some 90 kilometers away, to be certain of appropriate and timely

care. But Tatu's onset of pain overtook the couple. Rose dispatched the local ambulance to retrieve her client.

"When she arrived . . . the blood pressure was dangerously high. We had to think fast and make a decision," said Rose.

With Tatu's cervix fully dilated, an indication that the baby was imminent, traveling to a faraway hospital was not possible.

Rose and her colleagues initiated the pre-eclampsia management protocol she learned through the More and Better Midwives project. They rushed Tatu to the one-bed labor room and followed the steps to successfully manage Tatu's severe pre-eclampsia, a result of high blood pressure. The young midwife's decision in this remote village saved Tatu and her new baby girl, who she named Pili.

Generation Africa is back with third annual US\$100,000

By Special Correspondent

RETURNING for its third year, the ground-breaking US\$100,000 GoGettag Agripreneur Prize Competition continues to inspire agrifood entrepreneurs from Cape Town to Cairo to use their energy, courage and creativity to solve the biggest problems facing Africa's food systems.

This year's competition aims to expand the GoGettag community of agripreneurs, providing them with access to education, mentorship and investment networks as they launch, grow, or scale their agrifood ventures.

The GoGettag Agripreneur Prize Competition is open to African citizens between 18 and 35 years old who are founders or co-founders of social or commercial agrifood businesses headquartered in Africa. After a challenging selection process ending in a grand finale pitch competition in July 2021, two winners, one woman and one man, with scalable and impactful business or social ventures will each receive US\$50,000 for their businesses. The award ceremony will take place alongside the prestigious Africa Food Prize. Applications can be submitted

here: <http://GoGettag.africa>.

Head of Generation Africa Dickson Naftali says, "This is an incredibly important year for global food systems. COVID has exacerbated food insecurity, inequalities and poverty. The pandemic has challenged conventional logic around food production and food security as global supply lines came to a standstill. It is obvious that things must change. Generation Africa believes that food systems can change if we collaboratively support young African agrifood entrepreneurs, as well as small and medium agribusinesses across the

continent."

Through the GoGettag Agripreneur Prize Competition, Generation Africa seeks to reward visionary young Africans who demonstrate an entrepreneurial mindset and innovative problem-solving in developing and growing their agrifood businesses. Beyond the two grand prizes, last year's competition awarded four additional prizes of US\$2,500 to enterprises that played an inspiring role in their communities. These Impact Awards were created to celebrate businesses with tangible social impact. Generation Africa hopes to discover

more deserving recipients in the 2021 competition.

Cash prizes are not the only motivation for entering the competition. "Last year, a thousand members of the GoGettag community received free access to the Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness courses organized by the Agripreneurship Alliance. And all who join the GoGettag community get instant online access to high quality training material to help guide them through the business start-up process," says Amanda Namayi, GoGettag Lead.

The Generation Africa GoGettag online platform is

also a community building initiative to give a voice to the young agripreneurs of Africa. Through research surveys, conversations and high-level meetings, Generation Africa works to ensure opportunities and challenges are understood and taken seriously in agenda-setting forums across the continent and globally.

Since its launch in 2019, Generation Africa has brought on-board USAID as a co-founding partner. Additionally, influential new collaborators, Nourishing Africa and One Young World have joined the exciting Generation Africa ecosystem development movement

to reach and inspire agrifood entrepreneurs on the African continent in innovative ways.

Speaking from the AGRA head office, Amanda says, "Even with the COVID crisis, last year more than 3,000 applicants from 29 African countries, registered to compete, with 12 exceptional businesses making it through to the Top 12. It was an impressive turn-out. This year we look forward to thousands more entrepreneurs hearing our message, joining GoGettag, and caring to compete for the grand prizes. GoGettag is a movement for change, and these are the changemakers!"

Climate change has dented global agricultural productivity - study

By Special Correspondent

GLOBAL agricultural productivity has declined by about 21 per cent in the last 60 years as a result of climate change - the equivalent of seven years' lost production - a study has found.

The decrease was most pronounced in warm regions such as Africa (30 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (26 per cent), according to research published in Nature Climate Change which looked at data from 1961 to 2020.

The study, by scientists from Cornell, Maryland, and Stanford universities, warns that global agriculture is now becoming even more vulnerable to climate change, despite advances in technology.

Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, professor of applied economics at Cornell University and lead author of the study, said: "These numbers don't mean that we are producing less than we did back in 1961 - we've actually produced more year after year. Instead, our study is saying is that global agricultural productivity is almost 21 per cent lower than it could

have been in a world without climate change."

Researchers analysed annual official records of agricultural productivity in 172 countries, along with data on climate parameters.

This showed them "how much agricultural productivity rose or fell in a given country, if a specific year was warmer, colder, wetter, or drier than normal," among other variables, Ortiz-Bobea said.

nce they found this statistical relationship - known as an econometric model - they put it to the test in both the real world, and a parallel world where anthropogenic (man-made) climate change does not exist.

To avoid bias, researchers kept the alternative world almost the same as the real one, considering the last six decades in both with the same type of economy, the same use of fossil fuels, and even the same greenhouse gas emissions.

"The only difference was that in the fictional world emissions didn't have the ability to alter the climate," said Ortiz-Bobea.

When comparing the two

worlds, scientists discovered that climate change caused the equivalent of seven years of stagnation in agricultural productivity. This means that the level reached in 2020 is equivalent to the productivity that could have been achieved since 2013 in a world without climate change, according to a press release from Cornell University.

The slowdown in productivity comes despite significant improvements in agriculture, indicating that scientific and technological developments in agriculture are not translating into greater resilience to climate change, scientists warn. This may be because investment has been lacking and failed to reach regions that need it most, such as Africa or Latin America, suggests Ortiz-Bobea.

However, Carolina Ureta-Sanchez, from the Center of Atmospheric Sciences at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, who didn't participate in the study, says it may not give the whole picture.

"This research doesn't consider small-scale agriculture which persists in different parts of the world, like Africa and Latin



America, probably because this type of production is usually not included in official records," the expert in climate change and agrobiodiversity said.

"So it's important that future

research takes small-scale farmers into account, as they are the guardians of a huge diversity of seeds, techniques and crops that could help us to deal with climate crisis in a better way."

Nevertheless, Ureta-Sanchez acknowledges that the research "teaches us to address climate change by looking back at the past and that definitely helps us manage our future".

US-China Cold War could lead to more dangerous nuclear stand-off

NEW YORK,

DESPITE the negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), we are confronted by the increasing dangers of great power war, even nuclear war.

Instead of making necessary investments to ensure public health, reverse climate change and ensure the security of their peoples, trillions of dollars are being wasted to construct new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, including new hypersonic delivery systems.

The U.S. and Russia are the lead drivers of this race to annihilation, with more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. The U.S. is in the process of upgrading all its nuclear weapons and deploying an entirely new and more deadly nuclear triad at an estimated cost of two trillion dollars.

Faced with U.S. conventional supremacy and the expansion of NATO to its borders, Russia has increased its reliance on nuclear weapons and is deploying new and more exotic nuclear weapons.

We face the existential danger that escalation of the conflict in Ukraine and accidents and miscalculations as the two powers confront one another in the Baltic and Black Seas, could escalate beyond control.

In each case, in addition to the drive for imperial power, military-industrial complexes contribute to the nuclear crisis. There also demands coming out of Ukraine to the effect that if it is not allowed to join NATO, it should construct its own nuclear arsenal.

Potentially more dangerous is the new U.S.-Chinese Cold War. Here the Thucydides Trap, the historic dynamic of inevitable conflict between rising and declining powers, is driving this dimension of the nuclear arms race. In its effort to retain its regional (and global) hegemony, the U.S. is moving to deploy standoff nuclear-armed cruise missiles targeted against China.

It is also pressing increased deployments of its "missile defenses" which can serve as shields for U.S. first-strike swords along China Asia-Pacific periphery. These, in turn, lead Chinese policy makers to seriously consider increasing the size of their much smaller nuclear arsenal and the possibility of abandoning their no first use doctrine.

The explosion of spending for nuclear weapons and their delivery systems is not limited to the great powers. The Johnson government in Britain has just shocked the world with the announcement that it will increase the size of its nuclear arsenal by roughly 30%.

France is deploying new nuclear armed submarines designed to threaten nuclear war throughout the 21st century. Pakistan is in the process of trying to match India's nuclear triad. Israel is secretly expanding its Diamona nuclear weapons site.



And having been repeatedly threatened by U.S. conventional and nuclear attacks, North Korea has publicly announced it will continue manufacturing more nuclear weapons and diversifying their delivery systems which threaten South Korea, neighboring nations and even the United States. This is suicidal madness.

Here in the United States, as Tax Day and Congressional debates over the national budget approach, popular movements and the Congressional Defense Spending Reduction Caucus are demanding significant reductions in military spending. Funding for the replacement of the nation's ground based and first strike ICBMs and

"more usable" low-yield battlefield weapons are thought to be most vulnerable to funding cuts.

The Russell-Einstein Manifesto warned the world at the height of the first Cold War in 1955, humanity faces the choice of life or death for our species. They appealed to the world to press for nuclear disarmament, to "remember your humanity and forget the rest."

Fifty years ago, the nuclear powers committed in Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to engage in good faith negotiations for the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

The world's nuclear powers must be held to the NPT commitments. Governments won't deliver us the nuclear

free world humanity requires for survival. It can only be achieved by popular pressure.

I encourage people around the world to join the International Peace Bureau initiated Global Days of Action on Military Spending, now under way and continuing to May 17 and to press on beyond to stanch the existential nuclear danger with nuclear disarmament actions and demands for Common Security diplomacy.

World military spending rises to a hefty \$2.0 trillion despite UN pleas for cutbacks

UNITED NATIONS,

THE United Nations - which is desperately seeking funds to help developing nations battling a staggering array of socio-economic problems, including extreme poverty, hunger, economic inequalities and environmental hazards - has continued to be one of the strongest advocates of disarmament.

The world body has relentlessly campaigned for reduced military spending in an attempt to help divert some of these resources into sustainable development and humanitarian assistance.

But according to a new report released April 26 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), world military expenditure rose to nearly \$2 trillion in 2020, an increase of 2.6 percent, in real terms, from 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which brought the world to a virtual standstill for the last 14 months, apparently has had no impact on military spending.

Ironically, four of the five biggest spenders were permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC), namely the US, China, Russia and UK. The fifth biggest spender was India, currently a non-permanent member of the UNSC.

Military spending by China, which is currently in a new Cold War with the US, grew for the 26th consecutive year.

The latest figures of rising arms expenditures by some of the big powers makes a mockery of the UN's long-standing pleas for cutbacks and diversion of funds from the military into sustainable development.

William D. Hartung, Director, Arms and Security Program at the Washington-based Center for International Policy told IPS: "At a time when a global pandemic, climate change, and racial and economic injustice pose the greatest risks to human lives and livelihoods, the increase in global military expenditures in 2020 marks a dismal failure by policymakers across the world to address the most urgent challenges we face".

He argued that even a fraction of the nearly \$2 trillion spent on the military last year could have gone a long way towards sustainable investments in public health, environmental protection, and combating inequality.

"World leaders can and must do better," said Hartung.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) points out that over the past century, governments have sought ways to reach a global agreement on reductions in military expenditures. Various proposals were discussed in the League of Nations, and later in the UN. Early proposals in the UN focused on reducing the expenditures of States with large militaries, and on freeing up funds for development aid.

"But proposals for cutting military spending did not materialize," says UNODA. However, they led to the development of the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures in 1981 - later renamed United Nations Report on Military Expenditures (MilEx) - under which countries are encouraged to report on their military expenditures.

Dr. Natalie J. Goldring, a Senior Fellow and Adjunct Full Professor with the Security Studies Program in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, told IPS "the latest military spending data from SIPRI are difficult to reconcile with the reality of the world we live in today".

In a year in which the global community was dealing with the horrors of the Covid-19 pandemic, SIPRI's data show that military spending continued unabated. Military spending increased in nine of the 10 countries with the highest military expenditures, she pointed out.

Even though the global economy as measured by global gross domestic product (GDP) decreased by 4.4



percent, she said, global military spending increased 2.6 percent over the year. Global military spending is going in exactly the wrong direction.

"Unfortunately, the United States continues to lead the world in military spending, accounting for 39 percent of the global total," said Dr Goldring, who is Visiting Professor of the Practice in Duke University's Washington DC program and also represents the Acronym Institute at the United Nations on conventional weapons and arms trade issues.

According to SIPRI's data, that's more than the rest of the top 10 military spenders combined. And it's more than twice the total of the countries which are most commonly perceived by US policymakers as its main military competitors, Russia and China, she added.

Dr. Alon Ben-Meir, professor of international relations at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University, told IPS it is indeed ironic that four of the five permanent members of the UNSC are the largest military spenders.

"The more ironic problem is the fact that all of these countries spend a small fraction of these amounts on social programs, which explains to a great extent the growing poverty in all of these countries".

Needless to say, he noted, the key to reducing military budgets is directly connected to the level of tension between the various countries.

"I do not expect any serious discussion about world disarmament unless many of the consuming conflicts are resolved, and in particular the growing, rather than diminishing, tension between the United States, Russia, and China," Dr Ben-Meir declared.

"The recent increases in US military spending can be primarily attributed to heavy investment in research and

development, and several long-term projects such as modernizing the US nuclear arsenal and large-scale arms procurement," said Alexandra Marksteiner, a researcher with SIPRI's Arms and Military Expenditure Programme.

Meanwhile, China's military expenditure, the second highest in the world, is estimated to have totalled \$252 billion in 2020. This represents an increase of 1.9 per cent over 2019 and 76 per cent over the decade 2011-20. China's spending has risen for 26 consecutive years, the longest series of uninterrupted increases by any country in the SIPRI Military Expenditure Database.

In an open letter to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last September, the Berlin-based International Peace Bureau called for world disarmament and the reduction of global military spending.

"We write to you on behalf of the International Peace Bureau and more than 11,000 signatories to express our support for your call for a global ceasefire. We would also like to emphasize the need for (nuclear) disarmament and the reallocation of money from the military to healthcare, social, and environmental needs - to the fulfilment of the Social Development Goals."

This pandemic has also made clear that states need to re-prioritize their spending. While many of the problems raised by the pandemic could have been at least partially solved, it was the lack of funding which hindered it, the letter declared.

Last month, the United Nations was hoping to raise some \$3.85bn from more than 100 governments and donors at a virtual pledging conference. The funds were meant to avert widespread famine in the world's worst humanitarian crisis in Yemen,

But the total pledges amounted to only \$1.7bn - less

than half - in what the UN secretary general described as a "disappointing outcome". "Millions of Yemeni children, women and men desperately need aid to live. Cutting aid is a death sentence," António Guterres said in a statement.

In its latest study, SIPRI said even though military spending rose globally, some countries explicitly reallocated part of their planned military spending to pandemic response, such as Chile and South Korea. Several others, including Brazil and Russia, spent considerably less than their initial military budgets for 2020.

"We can say with some certainty that the pandemic did not have a significant impact on global military spending in 2020," said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, Researcher with the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Programme. "It remains to be seen whether countries will maintain this level of military spending through a second year of the pandemic."

Dr Goldring pointed out that in 2020, approximately 1.8 million people around the world died of covid. SIPRI's military spending figures suggest that the countries with the highest military expenditures decided that business as usual was the correct direction to follow, despite the covid pandemic.

"This is a time for reevaluating priorities. Countries should be giving priority to the health and welfare of their people, rather than continuing to fund the military-industrial complex. Cutting military spending would free funds for human needs and sustainable development."

"The UN has suggested diverting funds from military expenditures to fund sustainable development. But in reality, this isn't a question of diverting funds - it's devoting them to what they should have been allocated to in the first place."

"In the early days of his Administration, President Biden has not shown an inclination to reverse the United States' excessive military spending patterns. He is proceeding with expensive new nuclear weapons and continuing to propose bloated military budgets.

There's still time to reevaluate this approach, restructure US military spending, and focus on human needs. Cutting the military budget would also free US financial resources to help deal with the urgent global problems of the covid pandemic and the climate crisis."

"More than a decade ago, then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "The world is over armed, and peace is underfunded." Unfortunately, this statement continues to be true."



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Bolt closing gender income disparities as women drivers line up

By Smart Money Reporter

WOMEN drivers are enrolling on Bolt's platform in large numbers to earn more cash hence closing the gender income inequality especially in urban areas.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week, the women drivers said the Bolt Application is helping to close the gender gap because its enabling them to boost their incomes which gives them financial independence from depending on men.

"Working as a driver on the Bolt platform has given me added financial freedom. It has transformed my car into a valuable asset that enables me to earn more money," said Esther Chali of Dar es Salaam.

Chali who is also a shop owner said when business slows down, she makes money by picking up and dropping off passengers hence complementing her shop income. The self-employed single lady who also runs a fruit and juice shop, has since employed two assistants, thanks to her appreciating income from the ride hailing platform.

"I have been driving for a year and a half now and as my own boss, I choose when, where and how long work. My income is guaranteed as I keep up to 85 percent of all the fares paid by passengers," she added.

Chali explained that she also earn more commission by recruiting more drivers to join the Bolt platform. "It is a great way to earn income without having to worry about hidden fees and taxes," she noted.

Chali's peer, Jamila Lada seconded her by saying that the



ride hailing platform has also boosted her income. "Although I used to be a fish trader, I was always interested in becoming a driver. I always felt there was big potential in the transport business, but wasn't sure where to start from," said Lada who is a mother of three.

Her dream was realised fully because of entry into the market of ride-hailing platforms including Bolt. "I was a regular user of Bolt and by chance, one day when I ordered for a driver who came to pick me and was a woman. I asked

her a lot of questions concerning her job and later she assisted me to join the platform," Lada said adding that the woman connected her to someone who was looking for a driver.

She pointed out that although she is employed, she is more independent and her payment is helping supplement her family's income. "This job is much easier than selling fish which used to take up most of my time and energy. I have even decided to close my fish business and I'm driving on full time basis

now," she noted.

Lada has an ambitious dream in the future and thus, "One day I hope to buy my own car or Bajaj so I can be self employed for good," she pointed out saying that initially her husband and some members of her extended family were concerned about her safety, especially when working at night.

However these concerns were put to rest because Bolt gives both drivers and passengers instant access to emergency services and response, should they find themselves in a potentially dangerous situation.

Bolt also continually works with security agencies and the government to ensure their driver's safety. "I drive with confidence because through Bolt's technology, my movement is always tracked down. It has greatly increased not only my own sense of security, but that of

women passengers as well. Our families also feel more confident," Lada added.

Commenting on the role that women drivers are playing, Bolt Country Manager, Remmy Eseka said as the world drives towards gender parity, the ride-hailing technology and sharing business models are overcoming barriers to women's access to opportunities.

"Ride hailing has created jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities for women who are now driving towards financial freedom," Eseka said adding that hundreds of women have enrolled on the platform.

"Any driver with the right qualifications, regardless of their gender, can download the Bolt App and register to offer services and earn income. Right now, we have over 1,000 women drivers in markets across Africa," he noted.

Cover to cushion Kenyans seeking Middle East jobs

NAIROBI

THOUSANDS of workers seeking employment overseas in regions such as the Middle East and Asia will soon enjoy insurance cover in the government's bid to improve their welfare.

Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) chief executive Godfrey Kiptum said last week the country wants to replicate models in countries such as Ethiopia where the cover was rolled out. Mr Kiptum says the cover will be part of efforts to expand coverage of insurance to the vulnerable Kenyans, many who opt for overseas domestic jobs amid rising cases of human rights violation.

"This is something we are working on in cooperation with other government bodies," he said without giving details of the cover. Many mi-

grant workers in the informal sector miss out on social protection programs such as public health cover, making them vulnerable.

Speaking in Nairobi during the fourth UNEP-PSI (Principles of Sustainable Insurance) forum, Mr Kiptum said the cover is part of the efforts to deepen insurance penetration by roping in vulnerable people.

UNEP-PSI was convened to discuss what insurers can do to ensure they adopt practices that can embed their business models to Sustainable Development Goals. It was not immediately clear if the State is targeting to pump in money to ensure the targeted people pay highly discounted premiums.

ZEP Re chief executive Hope Murera said a similar cover has been successful in Ethiopia where the reinsurer covers domestic workers go-

ing for employment in the Middle East. "In Zambia, we are partnering with the government over the same. Insurance is the missing link in the financial inclusion agenda," said Ms Murera.

The planned cover comes on the backdrop of an increasing number of Kenyans migrating to other countries in search of employment. Between March 2019 and January 2020, some 29,448 Kenyan migrant workers were cleared to work in Saudi Arabia as homecare managers.

Many Kenyans are rushing overseas on the promise of well-paid work and the desire to escape joblessness at home. Kenyans are present in most regions of the world, including Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania.



Insurance Regulatory Authority CEO Godfrey Kiptum.

Corporates join forces with US, UK, Norway to save tropical rainforests

WASHINGTON

COMPANIES such as Salesforce, Airbnb, Unilever and Amazon have teamed up with the governments of the US, the UK and Norway to raise \$1 billion to protect the world's tropical rainforests.

The public-private alliance, called Leaf Coalition, will benefit billions of people around the world who depend on the rainforests. Other companies in the group include Bayer, Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey, GlaxoSmithKline, and Nestle.

"Climate change is the greatest threat to our planet, and the Leaf Coalition offers us an opportunity to bring together governments and companies to fight it," Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and chief executive, said.

"In uniting behind a common cause, the countries and companies of the coalition have a chance to end deforestation by 2030. We are excited to support this important initiative and encourage others to do the

same," he added.

In October 2019, Amazon co-founded The Climate Pledge initiative to encourage organisations to achieve net-zero annual carbon emissions by 2040, a decade ahead of the Paris Agreement's 2050 goals. In June last year, it also rolled out a Climate Pledge Fund, with an initial funding of \$2bn to invest in sustainable technologies and services.

The Leaf, formally the lowering emissions by accelerating forest finance, aims to include additional countries and companies in the coming months. It is designed to accelerate climate action by providing results-based finance to countries committed to protecting their tropical rainforests.

The funds will be mobilised to finance various climate activities globally and this coalition is expected to become one of the largest ever public-private efforts to protect tropical forests and support sustainable development, Amazon said.

"The Leaf Coalition is a ground-



The Leaf Coalition aims to provide results-based finance to countries committed to protecting their tropical rainforests.

breaking example of the scale and type of collaboration that is needed to fight the climate crisis and achieve net-zero emissions globally by 2050," John Kerry, US President Joe Biden's special presidential envoy for climate, said in a statement.

"Bringing together government and private-sector resources is a necessary step in supporting the large-scale efforts that must be mobilised to halt deforestation and begin to restore tropical and sub-tropical forests," added Mr Kerry.

The current participants of Leaf will

pay for high-quality emissions reductions from tropical and sub-tropical forest countries, supporting efforts to reduce and end deforestation. Emergent, a US non-profit company, will help facilitate transactions and serve as the administrative coordinator.

Deputy ICT minister touts digitisation as telco opens shop in Dodoma city



Deputy Minister of information and communication technology, Andrea Kundo (L, in specs) listens to a Vodacom Tanzania shop attendant (R) after opening it at the weekend. Photo courtesy of Vodacom.

By Smart Money Reporter

TELECOMMUNICATIONS companies have been commended for playing a major role in the country digitization process which fits well into the global market economy.

Deputy Minister for Information Communication Technology, Engineer Andrea Kundo said in the capital this week that telcos like Vodacom Tanzania Limited are doing a good job to invest in digital platforms in the market.

"The world is now on economic digitization and Tanzania is also catching up on the same. It is our responsibility to use the available communication resources to adapt to economic digitization and hence continue growing our country's economy," Eng Kundo said while opening a new Vodacom shop in Dodoma city.

He said that communication is a key sector in the country's economy hence reliable communication services to customers will boost growth. "The communication sector plays a key role in economic development. I take this opportunity to commend Vodacom Tanzania for their decision to launch this

shop closer to their customers in the capital," he added.

Eng Kundo further noted that Vodacom's new service of Tech Zone has come at the right time and called on Dodoma residents to utilise it in boosting their economic activities. "Services like these are not available in the whole country thus Dodoma residents have an opportunity as Vodacom has brought it closer to you," the Deputy ICT Minister added.

Briefing the Deputy Minister on the new shop, Vodacom's Corporate Affairs Director, Rosalynn Mworira said that the new facility is one of a few shops which will be receiving cheque from post-paid customers. "We know that Dodoma is the capital city, hence we decided to direct this shop to receive cheques as we know that the government mainly pays in cheques," Mworira said.

Seconding Mworira's observation, Vodacom's Director of Business Unit, Linda Riwa said that the company understands the importance of investing in digital infrastructure to

contribute towards economic growth.

"Our mission is to make sure that customers get our services easily and this new modern shop is one among more than 100 other country wide which offers customers all services at one stop centre," Riwa said.

She revealed that apart from the shops, Vodacom has over 250 service desks attending customers and that the company is willing to expand its network to ensure that the whole country has modern state of the art communication facilities.

In a vote of thanks, Vodacom Tanzania's Central Zone Head, Grace Chambua said that the telco understands the importance of communication hence the company has upgraded all of its communication towers to 3G and 4G.

"As we all know that the government has shifted to Dodoma, Vodacom Tanzania has invested in over 350 new communication towers and connected over one million new customers," Chambua said adding that the new modern shop is part of such a massive investment.



Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda's Minister of Environment.

Rwanda's green fund restores 30,000 hectares of watersheds

KIGALI

RWANDA Green Fund (FONERWA) has protected and rehabilitated 30,000 hectares of watersheds and water bodies as a way to build climate change adaptation and resilience, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, the Minister of Environment said.

She was speaking in a virtual session during Leaders' Summit on Climate, adaptation and resilience held on Earth Day. The summit was convened by US Special Envoy John Kerry where Mujawamariya shared Rwanda's efforts in climate change adaptation and resilience. "On Christmas day in 2019, Rwanda experienced a terrible rainstorm. The heavy rain flooded roads, destroyed bridges and demolished houses and crops. Tragically, 12 people lost their lives.

Just two weeks earlier, the government had relocated people living in wetlands especially in the City Kigali. This could have been much worse without the government's decisive action," Mujawamariya told the meeting. She said that the challenge that is being faced is building resilient livelihoods for citizens while also rehabilitating ecosystems.

"That is why we created Rwanda Green Fund—a financing vehicle and catalyst for green investments that responds to the country's needs.

The fund has mobilized approximately \$200 million, created over 140,000 green jobs and protected and rehabilitated 30,000 hectares of watersheds and water bodies," she

said. She added that the fund's investments have inspired more than 40 green villages country-wide, the introduction of electric motorbikes, new ecotourism sites among others. "Upscaling such initiatives and diversifying sources of finance, including carbon trading and private financial instruments is critical to implement our ambitious climate action plan," she said. Statistics show that the secured 21,798 hectares against erosion, scaled up forest and forest and agro-forestry on 42,344 hectares and connected 71,546 families to off-grid clean energy.

Green Bank

The green fund is also seeking to capitalize Green Investment facility with \$60 million, Teddy Mugabo Mpinganzima, the CEO of Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) recently told The New Times. The Green Investment facility is being designed using the "green bank" model to address local market gaps in private finance using financial tools, she said adding it also aims to strengthen Rwanda's ownership of climate finance by empowering the country to better access international finance (non-grant) resources. Rwanda seeks a \$11 billion (Rw10.2 trillion) plan to combat climate change and build adaptation to its effects in the next 10 years.

Of the needed funding, around \$5.7 billion will be spent on climate mitigation measures while over \$5.3 billion will be invested in climate adaptation priorities. The 10-year climate plan could reduce greenhouse gas emission by 38 per cent equivalent to 4.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030 in Rwanda.

Kenyan startup Tanda set for E. Africa regional expansion after funding boost

NAIROBI

KENYAN agency banking startup Tanda is expanding its operations regionally after securing funding from early-stage African tech investor Havaic, Zedcrest Capital, DFS Lab, Victor Asemota and three other investors.

Tanda has also secured key strategic partnerships with Mastercard and Interswitch which will further accelerate its growth. The company's expansion comes on the back of successfully pioneering and proving the viability of the interoperable agent and merchant model in Kenya, a model that has only been validated in West Africa prior to Tanda.

Founded in 2018, Tanda enables shops in Kenya to be access points for financial services including banking, insurance, and utility payments. Tanda has enabled banks, telcos and a variety of digital service providers to serve their customers through a nationwide network of commission-based agents, with distribution costs that are a fraction of traditional channels. The independent agent network operator says it aims to make informal banking an accessible and lucrative growth channel for its agents and service providers.

Expansion to Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda

Today, Tanda's platform and network supports 58 banks and saccos, four telecoms, 18 billers, 12,000 merchants and agents and has served over 300,000 unique customers, all of which have processed millions of transactions to date. Tanda has

now set its sights on growing its Kenyan footprint to 100,000 agents and merchants and an expansion to Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda within the next 24 months.

Geoffrey Mulei, CEO of Tanda, says, "Our team will continue to run aggressive agent and customer acquisition drives across the region, while securing more strategic partnerships in these new markets to further support Tanda's growth and strategy as we pursue our goal of digitising payments across Africa. Tanda is excited to be at the forefront of the rapid shift towards innovative digital-first solutions, especially in markets that are ripe for disruption."

Commenting on Havaic's decision to invest in Tanda, Rob Heath, partner at Havaic says, "Tanda is solving one part of the very deep and complex problem of financial inclusion that is not only Kenyan, but a problem across all emerging and undeveloped markets. Havaic believes that the wider Tanda team has the right mix of skills, technical expertise, geographic market knowledge and real-world experience to understand the challenges facing those left behind in the financial ecosystem."

Heath adds that Tanda's founding team have a successful history of building agency networks from the ground up and a background in managing family micro-retail operations. "This knowledge was shown not in flashy presentations and buzz words, but with real growth on the ground and solid corporate partnerships where other early-stage businesses would normally struggle to get a meeting."



Geoffrey Mulei, CEO of Tanda.

Total declares force majeure on Mozambique LNG project

MAPUTO

FRENCH energy group Total on Monday declared force majeure on its \$20 billion Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Mozambique and withdrew all personnel from the site after Islamic State-linked insurgent attacks last month.

Dozens of civilians were killed in March in the coastal Mozambique town of Palma, near gas projects worth \$60 billion that are aimed to transform Mozambique's economy. The attacks have dealt a blow to plans by Total and rival Exxon Mobil, which also has an LNG project in Mozambique, to turn the African nation into a major LNG producer to Australia, Qatar, Russia and the United States.

It also comes as major energy firms reassess their approach to LNG, once seen as a fuel of the future because it has lower emissions than coal or oil but now subject to re-evaluation in the drive to cut carbon emissions even more deeply.

"Considering the evolution of the security situation ... Total confirms the withdrawal of all Mozambique LNG project personnel from the Afungi site. This situation leads Total, as operator of Mozambique LNG project, to declare force majeure," the company said.

Total, which aimed to produce its first cargo from the project in 2024, suspended work on March 27 after the militant attack. Declaring force majeure implies a weightier suspension and allows Total to cancel contractors. Force majeure was "the only way to best protect the project interest until work can resume," a Total spokeswoman added.

Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi this month said the government would work to restore peace in the country after last month's militant attack near the multibillion-dollar gas projects backed by global oil companies. The Mozambique government is due to hold a news conference on the situation on Monday morning.

The LNG project includes development of the Golfinho and Atum natural gas fields in the Offshore Area 1 concession and the construction of a two-train liquefaction plant with capacity of 13.12 million tonnes per annum (mtpa). Total is operator of the Mozambique LNG project and obtained a \$14.9 billion debt financing package in July to fund its rollout.

Addressing gender barriers in acquisition of national identity cards across the country

By Anna Mushi



IN almost all financial transactions an identity card is needed. To open an account, pay a utility bill, start a business or even access a phone, one needs to have a valid ID issued by the government. Yet, access to identification still remains a challenge for many, especially in rural areas. Take the case of Zainab.

Zainab is a young lady with a grade four education. She is a breadwinner for her family, and her main economic activity is buying and selling second hand clothes. She buys clothes on credit from a wholesaler once a week and pays back once she has sold the batch. Since she doesn't hold an ID, the wholesaler had to visit her place of domicile in order to get a letter from local authorities, who guaranteed her true identification.

Zainab also has to use a SIM card that was registered for her by a friend, as she had no ID to register under her own name. This can pose potential risks for both Zainab and her friend in the future; especially if Zainab was to access and default on a mobile loan. Such cases are a reality for many women living in the rural areas.

According to the 2012 Population and Housing Census, women account for 51 percent of the Tanzanian population. FinScope Tanzania 2017, indicated that women lag behind men in their abilities to read and write in Kiswahili (67 vs 78 percent) and English (22 vs 31 percent), their numeracy skills were significantly below national average (37 percent for division skills against the average of 46 percent).

Seventy percent of women are active in the economy, with 36 percent in farming (which is the main income-generating activity for women), closely followed by 16 percent in casual labour, 14 percent in trading, four percent in formal employment and about 2% are surviving from support such as social safety nets.

Yet, 28 percent of women remain mainly dependent. The median monthly income for women who are involved in revenue generating activities stands at 36,667/-; half that of men. Only 28 percent claim to personally own land, seven percent have some form of proof of ownership, while only 2.3 percent have an actual Certificate of Occupancy (CRO). In 2017, the main form of identification for many women was the voters ID.

However, recent measures by National Identification Authority (NIDA) and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to ensure that every SIM card holder has registered their SIM card(s) with the national ID might have significantly increased the number of women holding a national ID. Looking at the above data, despite the opportunities it presents, it clearly indicates that women face considerable challenges in accessing services related to ID acquisition.

These barriers include: low literacy

levels; lack of decision making in the household- leading to lack of freedom as they are even restricted from travelling far away from their homes, which can be detrimental if ID registration offices are far from their localities; lack of financial resources to pay for transport and other ID acquisition costs; time constraints, as women spend a significant chunk of their time doing unpaid work; and lack of information and awareness on the importance of IDs and how to acquire one.

Furthermore, due to a number of prevailing gender inequalities many women are unlikely to have birth certificates and sufficient background information about the origin of their families, which is in the registration process. On the other hand, global evidence has proved ID to be a key enabler to women's economic empowerment and improved well-being.

IDs provide women with the opportunity to access, control and own resources such as land and inheritance rights; access to the justice system, government services and benefits such as social security protection, education, and health care. In other words, legal identity emancipates a woman, improves her legal status, increases her movement and autonomy, and is a steppingstone towards empowerment, freedom, and agency.

Looking at it from an inclusive finance perspective, ID serves as a key driver in bridging the existing gender gap in financial inclusion and promoting women's access and usage of formal financial services. Globally, no significant improvement has been recorded since 2011- the gap is still at seven percent and in developing countries it stands at nine percent (WB 2017).

In Tanzania, progress has been made towards financial inclusion of the overall population, with 65% inclusion in 2017 compared to 44 percent in 2009 (FinScope Tanzania 2017), which was largely achieved by mobile money usage.

Nevertheless, the gender gap persists. We still have an 11 percent gender gap in mobile money usage and nine percent gap in bank account ownership. Many women are concentrating in informal financial intermediations, borrowing money from friends, families and community saving groups.

When ID is linked with the financial ecosystem, it provides an opportunity to transform the lives of women, especially the low-income women. ID serves as a commanding Know Your Customer (KYC) tool to help financial service providers design and roll out financial solutions and products for women that are served with dignity, which in turn will increase women financial freedom and privacy of their money.

With digital footprints, ID provides an opportunity to design digital wallets with use cases that promote low-

income women to make savings, and absorb shocks through products such as health insurance. ID also increases women's visibility and establishes their financial history, which unearths future possibilities of using the information as an alternative collateral, since many women do not have assets.

Considering the potential ID has in transforming lives and boosting economic growth for women, the Tanzania National Identification Authority (NIDA) needs to ensure that a gender intentional ID acquisition process is put in place. Deeper understanding and consideration of the realities women are facing is of paramount importance in informing a gender responsive approach.

Characterization of these women will lead to the design of a less cumbersome registration processes, which includes: simple registration forms and support to fill when necessary; bringing the registration services closer to women, since distance and permission to travel have been noted among barriers; women responsive awareness and capacity building campaigns using relevant channels such as women leaders and influential leaders; female driven use cases that will promote more uptake of ID; and implementation of a strategic male engagement approach to support their partners to obtain the legal identity. Lastly, working with other stakeholders in the ecosystem, such as banks and mobile network operators to develop an easy ID registration and acquisition process is key. For ID to serve as a powerful KYC tool for women and girls, constantly updating information is critical to help introduce tiered-KYC for bank accounts and mobile wallets.

Anna Mushi (pictured) is Head of Gender at Financial Sector Deepening Trust.

Bitcoin bounces strongly after hitting lowest since early March

NEW YORK

THE largest cryptocurrency is on track for its biggest gain since Feb. 8 after dropping as low as \$47 079 in early Asia trading before rebounding. It rose as much as 9.6% to \$52 747 and was trading around \$52 500 as of 12 p.m. in Hong Kong.

"The world is moving from centralised to decentralised; if you believe in that theme, it means the drop is a great buying opportunity," said Michael Sikorsky, chief executive officer and founder of Copia Wealth Studios, in a note Friday. "Volatility has always created opportunity, and people keep being surprised by the new highs month over month and year over year."

The digital asset stumbled after reaching a record \$64,870 on April 14, buoyed by enthusiasm from the Coinbase Global listing. It fell below the 100-day moving average late last week for the first time since early October after JPMorgan Chase & Co. cautioned that its upward momentum could be at risk. The collapse of two crypto exchanges in Turkey at the end of last week also may have depressed sentiment amid debate about whether cryptocurrencies could be in a bubble.

"Bitcoin created a large gap down last week that could stick around far longer than bulls would want to see," said Rick Bensingor, president of Bensingor Investment Strategies, in a note Monday. Billionaire Elon Musk, who is the past has affected crypto prices with comments on Twitter, posted another potential reference to cryptocurrencies on Saturday. "What does the future hodl?" He asked, using a term often seen as meaning "hold on for dear life" that crypto supporters use to refer to buying and holding their digital assets.

Bitcoin futures weren't pricing much more in the way of further gains Monday. April contracts rose to \$52,345, while those for May through September were in the \$52 000s, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Aggregate CME futures open interest had moved higher last week after falling on April 20 to the lowest level since March 11. Some cryptocurrency-linked stocks rose along with Bitcoin. Monex Group Inc. gained 5.9%, while Remixpoint increased 8.8% and Ceres added 5.7%.

Bitcoin has done well over the medium term, retaining a gain of about 80% year-to-date as big-name investors endorse it and institutions from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to Bank of New York Mellon advance their offerings around cryptocurrencies. JPMorgan's John Normand reiterated in a note Friday that Bitcoin's ascent has been steeper than any other financial innovation or bubble of the past 50 years.



Bitcoin graph.

Nigerians shun Naira for foreign currencies

LAGOS

Nigerians have been accumulating foreign currencies to protect their wealth from naira volatility and surging inflation, according to a research paper in a journal published by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

"Higher real-exchange rate volatility is associated with an increased level of currency substitution," central bank economists including Isaiyah Ajibola, Sylvanus Udoette, Rabia Muhammad and John Anigwe said in the paper available on the central bank's website. There is a need to contain "exchange-rate volatility and inflation as a way of curbing the spate of currency substitution in the country," they said.

One measure of currency substitution, the ratio of foreign cash deposits to naira deposits on demand in the banks exceeded the International Monetary Fund's 30% threshold from 2009 following the global financial crisis, the researchers said. It hit a peak of 98.2% in 2014 before declining to 83% in 2018. A broader measure of foreign currency in banks to naira savings, demand and term deposits, stayed largely within the IMF limit over the study period from 1995 to 2018.

Africa's largest economy devalued the local unit twice last year after a crash in the oil price triggered by the coronavirus pandemic hampered revenues.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

L'Oréal Paris to cut 50pc of carbon footprint by 2030

PARIS

BEAUTY brand L'Oréal Paris has committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 50% per finished product, and will contribute €10m to environmental projects whose beneficiaries are communities of women around the world.

These announcements form part of the brand's 'L'Oréal for the Future, Because our Planet is Worth it' sustainability programme revealed on Thursday, which lays out a new set of ambitions for 2030. These ambitions build upon its sustainability achievements to date and are aligned with the goals of the larger L'Oréal Group.

"Now is the time to reconcile innovation, sustainability and progress, to make the shift to a circular economy and to reduce the impact of our products," said Delphine Viguier-Hovasse, global brand president, L'Oréal Paris.

"We are not starting from scratch. Between 2005 and 2020, our factories and distribution centres have already reduced CO2 emissions by 82%, water consumption by 44%, and waste generation by 35%. There is still much work to be done but we

will remain strong in our resolve to make a difference and play our part in this race against climate change."

Optimising packaging

Reducing the weight of products: To help conserve natural resources and reduce the carbon footprint of products, the brand is working to reduce the weight of packaging. For example, it lowered the weight of the aluminium used in the L'Oréal Paris Men Expert Carbon Protect Aerosol by -5.1 grams per bottle, representing 135 tonnes of aluminium saved annually.

Also, by reducing the weight of the Revitalift jar, L'Oréal Paris reduced the use of glass for this product by 11 grams per jar, saving 434 tonnes of glass annually. Furthermore, the weight of boxes and instructions for hair colour ranges have been reduced, representing an important saving of paper every year.

By 2030, the brand will reduce by 20% in intensity the quantity of packaging. This economy of materials represents a significant optimisation of weight and space in transport, contributing to reduce carbon emissions due to transportation.

Using 100% recycled plastic: L'Oréal Paris



Delphine Viguier-Hovasse, global brand president, L'Oréal Paris.

is working on accelerating the shift to a circular economy, where materials are kept in use for as long as possible, by optimising packaging recyclability, striving to conserve resources and prevent plastic pollution. This includes using more recycled content in packaging, with the objective of reaching 100% recycled or biobased plastic by 2030

(or 0 virgin plastic).

Embodying change: Since 2020, the L'Oréal Paris haircare range, Elvive, has undertaken a major transformation by targeting 100% recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) for shampoo and conditioner bottles in Europe.

Engaging consumers: To seek alternatives to single-use packaging and propose refill or reuse systems while engaging consumers, L'Oréal Paris will join Loop initiative and take part in a project to trial new types of durable packaging. The new shampoo and conditioner packaging will be made of aluminum, and sold with a deposit, on the retailer's website. After using the products, consumers will be able to return the packaging to the retailer that will collect and return the packaging to L'Oréal Paris for cleaning and refining.

Improving formulas

To reduce its environmental impact, the brand is improving the biodegradability of its formulas and reducing its water footprint. Among the products launched in 2019, Elvive Full Resist Power Mask and Men Expert Shaving Barber Club Crème

de Rasage have levels of biodegradability exceeding 94% (97% and 94% respectively).

Furthermore, to address a more conscious use of water during use phase (which represents 50% of the CO2 footprint of the brand, linked with heating the water for rinsing products) and help reduce the time needed in the shower, the brand also develops formulas that need less water to be rinsed (e.g. More than Shampoo), as well as new beauty routines that require fewer rinsing steps (two-in-one products or non-rinse haircare treatments such as Dream Lengths Management).

Producing sustainably

L'Oréal Paris factories continue their ongoing efforts to reduce carbon emissions, water consumption and waste generation. Between 2005 and 2020, L'Oréal Paris factories and distribution centres have reduced CO2 emissions by 82%, water consumption by 44%, and waste generation by 35%.

Today, L'Oréal Paris products are made in 26 factories around the world. Eleven of them are already carbon neutral (using 100% renewable energy, without offsetting) and the rest will reach this goal in 2025.

WORLD

Politics clouds US climate pledge

WASHINGTON

A PLEDGE by the United States to cut its carbon dioxide output by up to 52 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030 is an ambitious commitment, but the country's strong swings in climate policy leave a question market over the target, researchers said.

The goal, unveiled at the start of a two-day virtual climate summit last week, is ambitious as it exceeds the average annual rate needed to reach net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050, Dan Lashof, director of the World Resources Institute and his colleague Greg Carlock, wrote in a commentary on Friday.

The administration of former US president Donald Trump spent four years weakening important climate and pollution regulations installed in the previous administration, and some of the most damaging floods, hurri-

canes, droughts and wildfires in US history have taken place in the past five years, they said.

While US President Joe Biden vowed that "the commitments we've made must become real", referring to reduction promises made by the US and other countries at the summit, experts following the event said his administration may face a steep road ahead in attaining the climate goal given concerns about policy stability and legislation.

Oliver Geden, a senior fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, voiced caution.

It's not only about well-meaning intentions of current governments, but also about expectations regarding policy stability, he said. "That's where US and EU differ a lot on #climate," he said in a tweet.

Geden was probably referring to the fact that unlike the pledges from the European Union, the US administration's 2030 climate target is



President Joe Biden speaks to the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate, from the East Room of the White House, April 23, 2021, in Washington. (AP)

not enshrined in law.

Sanjay Patnaik, director of the Center on Regulation and Markets at the Brookings Institution, said that while the summit is a signal that the US is back at the negotiating table on the international climate front, many questions remain on how the US gets to the goal "credibly".

"Because for the last 20 years, we have seen really strong swings in US climate policy, oscillating between taking substantial policy measures on climate, and doing little to address climate change."

Flurry of executive orders

Within the first 100 days of his

taking office, Biden has issued a flurry of executive orders on climate, including one for the US to rejoin the 2015 Paris Agreement that Trump rejected as a plot to hobble the US economy, and taken a "whole-of-government" approach to address climate issues.

"The problem with executive orders is that they can be reversed very easily by someone who comes in next," Patnaik said.

The New York Times said that a big infrastructure overhaul proposed by Biden, estimated to cost up to US\$4 trillion, includes tax incentives for clean energy and electric vehicles.

Agencies

CPC's hard-earned governance has a solid foundation

BEIJING

LOOKING back on the past 100 years, the cause of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has always been advanced through overcoming various challenges.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Sunday visited a memorial park dedicated to the Battle of the Xiangjiang River during the Long March in the 1930s, where he paid homage to Red Army soldiers who died in the battle.

From October 1934 to October 1936, the Red Army, which was the forerunner of the People's Liberation Army, carried out the legendary Long March, a daring military maneuver that laid the foundation for the eventual victory of the CPC.

In the winter of 1934, the Red Army, through the hard-fought Battle of the Xiangjiang River, successfully crossed the river and broke

through the Kuomintang troops' blockade, but tens of thousands of them sacrificed their lives.

Battles such as this have tested the will, courage, and strength of the CPC and highlighted the CPC's resilience in overcoming major challenges.

The revolutionary martyrs did not sacrifice in vain. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the CPC has led the Chinese people to create economic miracles and long-term social stability.

The spirit of dedication carried over in the age of peace. Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty, ensuring that absolute poverty no longer exists in the world's most populous country.

Numerous examples like these have demonstrated that



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits a memorial hall in a memorial park dedicated to the Battle of the Xiangjiang River during the Long March in the 1930s, in Caiwan, a town in Quanzhou County in the city of Guilin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, April 25, 2021. (Xinhua)

the 100 years of the CPC not only depict extraordinary success but also a history of dedication. These sacrifices will never be forgotten by the Party, the people, or the republic.

With firm belief and consistent actions of putting the people at the very center, the

CPC remains committed to serving the people and relying on them in all endeavors, and it engages in a tireless effort to make life better for them.

That explains why the Chinese people's support rate for the CPC and the government has been above 90 per-

cent for years. The CPC as China's governing party is a choice of history.

Public support is the key to the CPC's strength and confidence in long-term governance. It is important to draw lessons from history and be clear-headed and determined to prepare for future tests in delivering performances that can withstand the test of time in the new era.

To fully build a modern socialist country by the mid-century would be no walk in the park. It will take more than drum beating and gong clanging to get there, with the whole Party working even harder toward this goal.

Reviewing the history, the spirit of tenacity and perseverance in overcoming challenges will be a valuable source of strength, empowering the Party to lead the Chinese people to make new remarkable achievements.

Xinhua

Rescue ships find more authentic evidences of wreckage from Indonesia's missing submarine

JAKARTA

THE Indonesian Military (TNI) on Sunday afternoon said that rescue ships have found the location and more authentic evidence of wreckage of the missing submarine KRI Nanggala-402 in the ocean floor off Bali's northern coast.

At a televised joint press conference, TNI said that one of its military ship KRI Rigel last night performed a more accurate scan of the location using multibeam sonar and magnetometer and produced more detailed underwater imagery, while Singaporean ship MV Ship Rescue also lowered its remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to visually amplify



An Indonesian Navy ship departs to carry out the search and rescue operation of submarine KRI Nanggala-402 at Tanjung Wangi Port in Banyuwangi, East Java, Indonesia, on Sunday. (Xinhua)

underwater imagery using a camera.

"We have obtained images that have been confirmed as

part of the KRI Nanggala-402 including the rear vertical rudder, anchor, outside parts of the pressure hull, the em-

bossed diving rudder, other parts of the ship including the crew's safety suit MKII," TNI Chief Hadi Tjahjanto said.

The military chief said that based on this authentic evidence, the KRI Nanggala-402 can be confirmed that it has drowned and all of its crew have died.

"With deep sadness as the TNI Commander, I declare that 53 personnel who were on board the KRI Nanggala-402 have died," Tjahjanto said.

The German-made-submarine lost contact after requesting diving permission to fire the Surface and Underwater Target (SUT) Torpedo at 3:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday.

The ship has 53 people aboard, namely 49 crew members, one commander, and three arsenal personnel.

Somali government says foiled militia attack in Mogadishu amid tension

MOGADISHU

THE Somali government said it foiled attempts by an organized militia who entered the capital Mogadishu to cause panic and fear among the residents.

"The Ministry of Internal Security... warns against the politicization of our security agencies and negative portrayal of all the efforts of our brave forces, some of whom have sacrificed their lives, to protect our nation," it said in a statement issued on Sunday evening.

The statement came amid reports of fighting in Mogadishu on Sunday between rival security forces. Tension has been running high in Somalia after the lower house of parliament passed legislation on the extension of President Mohamed Farmajo's term by two years.

Farmajo, whose four-year mandate officially ended on Feb. 8, signed into law the parliamentary bill, which is opposed by the opposition, shortly after it was passed on April 12.

On Sunday, former president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Wadajir party leader Abdirahman Abdishakur accused Farmajo of deploying security forces to attack their respective residences, accusations denied by the government.

"It is very unfortunate that an army under the command of the former president (Farmajo) attacked my residence. I have already warned and reiterated the dangers of politicizing security," Mohamud said.

"Farmajo is responsible for the consequences." The Ministry of Internal Security, however, dismissed the accusations from Mohamud, saying he is heavily protected by the National Guard and as such, any threats to him and his family remain a matter of huge concern to the government.

Amid reports of fighting in Mogadishu, many residents were seen fleeing the capital on Monday as military build-up continues.

Prime Minister Mohamed Roble, in a statement issued on Sunday evening, urged those involved in the violence to maintain peace and spare civilians.

"I am saddened by the recent attempts to undermine the peace and the security particularly during this holy month of Ramadan," he said. "I believe that dialogue is the best option for us, a process that I have started and hoping to succeed."

Roble said the government will intensify efforts to resume talks aimed at ending the current political stalemate and expressed optimism that all existing concerns will be addressed.

Meanwhile, the United Nations appealed for maximum restraint by all parties to the conflict and urged them to pursue dialogue to resolve the political stalemate which has delayed elections.

"The UN in Somalia is deeply concerned about clashes occurring in Mogadishu. We urge calm and maximum restraint by all parties. Violence is not the solution to the current political stalemate.

We urgently call on all parties to resume immediate dialogue," the UN said in a brief statement yesterday. The latest political crisis came on April 12 when the Somali lower house of parliament voted to extend the terms of the executive and the legislative arms of government, despite stiff opposition from the upper house leadership and opposition leaders.

Efforts to reach an agreement on how to carry out presidential and parliamentary elections, which was originally scheduled to take place in February, have been stalled for months, with the regional states of Puntland and Jubbaland objecting on some electoral issues.

The opposition has refused to recognize Farmajo as president since his four-year term expired on Feb. 8 without planned elections taking place. *Xinhua*

Malaria in Rwanda declines by 3m cases in three years

KIGALI

RWANDA has recorded a sharp decline in malaria infection cases in the last three years, the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) said on Sunday on the occasion of World Malaria Day.

Malaria cases in Rwanda decreased from 4.8 million in 2017 to 1.8 million in 2020, and severe malaria infections dropped from 18,000 in 2016 to 3,000 in 2020, the RBC said in a statement. Malaria related deaths also fell from 700 in 2016 to 148 in 2020, due to the efforts made by the government of Rwanda, as well as the participation of the communities.

Destruction of mosquito breeding sites through larviciding by drones, early malaria diagnostic tests and treatment are effective in the fight against malaria in the country, the RBC's malaria division head Aimable Mbituyumuremyi told Xinhua in a telephone interview on Sunday.

"As we join the rest of the world to mark World Malaria Day, we are happy to see positive progress and great achievements in malaria eradication in our country," Mbituyumuremyi said. *Xinhua*

Beijing approves pilot zone to explore further in autopilot technology

A demonstration zone for boosting the development of intelligent connected vehicles (ICVs) was recently approved in Beijing.

The demonstration zone covers an area of 225 square km in Yizhuang New Town, the Daxing International Airport area, and six highway sections in Yizhuang, Daxing District in southern Beijing.

In the demonstration zone, autopilot vehicles are allowed to be running on highways for testing, and unmanned deliv-

ery vehicles are also permitted to hit the road. The demonstration zone encourages charged commercial services offered by unmanned vehicles, and supports mutual recognition of ICV test results achieved in different parts of the country.

The demonstration zone was jointly planned by the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology (BMBEIT) and the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area (BDA), and approved by municipal au-

thorities on April 10, aiming to nurture a sound business environment for relevant enterprises in the Chinese capital.

The implementation plan specified 18 key tasks and measures in five major categories, said Kong Lei, deputy director of the management committee with the BDA.

According to him, when autopilot vehicles are proved to be safe and free from accidents throughout the tests, the safety supervisors, who are mostly on the driver's seats to

take over the vehicle in case of emergencies, will be gradually sitting in the front passenger seats and then the backseats. Finally, the vehicles will be left fully unattended, he said.

So far, Beijing has opened up 200 roads, which extend a total of 699.58 kilometers, for autopilot tests. The safety test distance exceeded 2.68 million kilometers.

According to the implementation plan, Beijing will gradually open up six expressways and freeways with a total

length of 143 kilometers in the city accordingly for large-scale testing of autopilot vehicles, so as to speed up the application of autopilot under different scenarios, including trunk highway logistics, Kong said.

Jiang Guangzhi, deputy director of the BMBEIT, pointed out that the pilot zone is the first one in China centering on the innovation of management policies. It has systematically established a policy mechanism for road testing, demonstration applications,

commercial operation services, and roadside infrastructure construction and operation of ICVs.

The implementation plan encourages ICVs, based on comprehensive tests, to carry out large-scale trial operation and commercial operation in the pilot zone of unmanned car-hailing services, intelligent networked buses, autopilot logistics vehicles, and autonomous valet parking. Enterprises may charge in these services, Jiang said.

The pilot zone will lay down application standards and management methods for unmanned delivery vehicles, research into traffic rules and traffic management modes suitable for these vehicles, and grant them corresponding rights of way, thus establishing an operation safety supervision system for unmanned delivery vehicles and tackling problems related to the rights of way and on-road management of autonomous delivery vans. *People's Daily*

82 killed in Baghdad COVID-19 hospital fire

BEIJING

A FIRE caused by an oxygen tank explosion at a COVID-19 hospital in Baghdad took at least 82 lives and forced some people to leap through windows out of the burning building, witnesses and authorities said on Sunday.

As rescuers combed the smoke-charred building, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi blamed negligence and suspended his Health Minister Hassan al-Tamimi pending an inquiry into Saturday's blaze at the Ibn Khatib hospital.

Some 110 people were also injured, Interior Ministry spokesman Khalid al-Muhanna said. Most of the dead and injured were patients.

Already decimated by war and sanctions, Iraq's healthcare system has struggled to cope with the coronavirus crisis, which has killed 15,257 people and infected more than 1 million.

Security forces cordoned off the hospital, in the Diyala Bridge area of the Iraqi capital, where charred debris and shattered glass littered the ground outside.

As the flames spread on Saturday, relatives scrambled to save loved

ones, with some jumping to safety.

"I carried my brother out to the street. Then I came (back) and went up to the last floor which wasn't burning. I found a girl suffocating, about 19 years old ... she was about to die," Ahmed Zaki told Reuters.

"I took her on my shoulders and I ran down ... Doctors jumped onto the cars. Everyone was jumping. And I kept going up from there, got people and came down again."

'Evidence of negligence'

While many surviving patients were moved to other hospitals, several families were still outside the Ibn Khatib hours after the blaze was extinguished, still looking for relatives.

An emergency cabinet meeting called by Kadhimi ordered an investigation with findings due in five days. The governor of Baghdad and another senior health ministry official were also suspended and referred to investigators.

"Such an incident is evidence of negligence and therefore I directed that an investigation be launched immediately," the prime minister said in a statement, adding that the hospital's manager and heads of security and maintenance had been detained.



Mourners pray near the coffins of coronavirus patients who were killed in a hospital fire, during their funeral at the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, Iraq, on Sunday. (AP)

Weary of political violence, Iraqis also suffer frequent accidents due to underinvestment, corruption and wrecked infrastructure. Dur-

ing the coronavirus crisis, hospitals have been struggling from an influx of patients and short supplies.

"As soon as you arrived at the main entrance (of the hospital), it

was suffocating. No one could climb upstairs," said another witness, Mohammed Ali, 23, a student who lost his uncle. "The whole hospital was gutted, all burnt down." **Agencies**

New UN envoy hopes for durable peace in South Sudan

JUBA

NEWLY appointed United Nations (UN) top envoy for South Sudan on Sunday expressed strong hope for durable peace in the country.

Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, said the UN is strongly committed to working with South Sudanese to secure stability and eventual prosperity for the country.

"As partners in that process, the UN will continue to work with South Sudanese as well as regional and international partners to provide stability and, ultimately, secure prosperity for all citizens," Haysom said in a statement after arriving in Juba.

He arrived in Juba on Sunday to take up his role as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Haysom said South Sudan is entering a new phase and people's expectations are high, noting that there is real hope for progress in the implementation of the peace agreement and, ultimately, achieving a more durable peace.

The UN official said after completing mandatory quarantine in compliance with local COVID-19 protocols, he will begin a busy schedule of meetings with South Sudan's leaders, the diplomatic community, and other key stakeholders in the peace process.

"It is a privilege to continue my relationship with South Sudan by serving in this new role, leading UNMISS in its peacekeeping and peacebuilding work," said Haysom.

Agencies

Top US general says steps to end Afghan mission launched

THE commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan, US Army General Scott Miller, on Sunday said an orderly withdrawal of foreign forces and the handing over of military bases and equipment to the Afghan forces had begun.

Miller said he was acting on orders based on US President Joe Biden's decision to end America's longest war, deeming the prolonged and intractable battle in Afghanistan no longer aligned with American priorities.

Earlier this month Biden said he would withdraw troops from Afghanistan before Sept 11, the 20th anniversary of the militant attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon that launched the Afghan war.

Miller, who has been commanding the US forces and the NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan in their fight against the Taliban and other Islamist militant groups since 2018, said for-

eign forces will continue to have "the military means and capability to fully protect themselves during the ongoing retrograde and will support the Afghan security forces."

"I've had the opportunity to talk to Taliban members with the Taliban Political Commission, and I've told them a return to violence, an effort to force a military decision, would be a tragedy for Afghanistan and the Afghan people," Miller told reporters in the capital Kabul.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted by US-led forces. Since then they have waged a long-running insurgency and now control wide swathes of territory.

Security experts in recent weeks said they doubt if the Taliban will allow US forces, whom they call invaders, to peacefully exit the country at a time when clashes between the Afghan forces and the Taliban have not ebbed.

Foreign force withdrawal is slated to begin on May 1, in line with an agreement with the Taliban in 2020.

"As we retrograde to zero US forces, we will turn over the (military) bases primarily to the (Afghan) Ministry of Defense and other Afghan forces," Miller said adding that the Taliban have committed to break their relationship with al Qaeda, the Islamist extremist group.

The Taliban government's sheltering of Al-Qaeda was the key reason for the US invasion of Afghanistan after the September 2001 attacks.

A United Nations report in January said there were as many as 500 al Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan and that the Taliban maintained a close relationship with them. The Taliban denies al Qaeda presence in Afghanistan.

Agencies

Community-based elderly care offers new choices for Chinese seniors

"SUCH great elderly care services were never imaginable in the past," said Pan Jihong, 69, from Chaoyang District of Beijing.

Pan's husband has mobility problems and needs long-term medication as a patient of multiple geriatric diseases. "Every month I'd take him to three different hospitals to fetch four kinds of medicines," Pan said, adding that the scheduling was really annoying.

According to her, every time she and her husband went to a hospital, they had to spend a whole day there waiting in lines for registration, diagnosis, and payment, which was exhausting for both of them.

Thanks to a community-based elderly care program jointly launched in February by the community where Pan lives and the Hogo Living Technology Group, a tech service firm in Beijing, Pan's troubles were eliminated.

Under the program, the property management department of the community matched Pan's husband to an online hospital that offer online prescription extension and drug delivery services. Part of the expense is covered by the medical insurance.

According to an employee of the Hogo Living Technology



Volunteers offer free haircut services for senior citizens at a community-based nursing home in Feixi County, east China's Anhui Province, March 25, 2021. (File Photo)

Group, community-based elderly care offers daycare, nursing, housekeeping and consolation services, relying on the community organization and professional nursing companies.

It provides stay-at-home senior citizens, who were cared by their families, with more quality services, and compared with nursing homes, community-based elderly care is more convenient as the seniors can enjoy services at home.

Today, young couples are always facing difficulties when supporting their parents, as they shoulder pressure from both work and life. Nursing

homes to some extent alleviate the situation, but they are not able to satisfy diverse and individualized demands. Under such background, community-based elderly care marks another active exploration into senior care issues.

The aspiration of the seniors for high-quality life never fades as they age. Therefore, community-based elderly care must ensure the life quality of senior citizens, both on material level and cultural and ethical level.

"What helped me the most is the training course on the how-tos of smart phones. The teachers were patient and taught us how to operate smart phones. I

really admired those who could pay can call taxis with their phones, and now I can also do those things with just a phone," said Hu Wenping, who lives in Huangying Kangqiao Huaju community, Rengcheng District, Jining of east China's Shandong Province.

According to him, every week the community held activities to serve senior citizens, for instance smart phone training courses, handicraft workshops, and health lectures. He said he was also satisfied with the elderly-oriented renovation in the community.

People's Daily

Russia ready to take new anti-US measures if escalation continues - Lavrov

MOSCOW

Russia is prepared to take new retaliatory measures against the US if Washington keeps the escalation path, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on the Rossiya-1 TV channel.

"Everything was said in our response to the latest unfriendly US steps. We announced all measures, which have been taken and are ready to take more if this escalation continues," Lavrov said.

Russian-US relations significantly soured after Biden's notorious ABC News interview when he said that Moscow would have to "pay a price" for allegedly interfering in US elections and went on to uphold a disparaging remark about President Vladimir Putin.

Russia's envoy to the US Anatoly Antonov was then pulled, returning to Moscow for consultations. That said, he has been in the Russian capital since March 21.

On April 15, the White House announced more sanctions against Russia. Moscow retaliated with tit-for-tat moves on April 16.



Moscow is upbeat about Washington's proposal on holding the meeting between the Russian and US presidents, Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden, and is now considering this possibility, Lavrov told.

"At the same time, upon the instruction of Russian President Vladimir Putin, I mentioned what concerns the proposal of US Presi-

dent Joe Biden on holding the summit. It was positively perceived and is being considered now," Lavrov said.

On April 15, Biden announced that during his phone conversation with Putin he suggested holding a summit in Europe this summer.

According to him, the sides were discussing this possibility.

Australia's practices to reverse wheels of history will never be supported

AUSTRALIA'S federal government recently ripped up Victoria State's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) agreements with China. Such unreasonable political manipulation has undermined normal exchange and cooperation between the two countries and seriously damaged their mutual trust. It goes against the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people.

China has already lodged solemn representation with the Australian side and said it reserves the right to make further reactions over this matter. The Australian side must pay for its arbitrary decision.

Australia's decision exposed typical speculative mindset and marked a bad example in international rela-

tions.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in June 2019 that Australia has always, and will continue to, welcome China's economic growth. It also welcomes the contribution that the BRI can make to regional infrastructure investment and to regional development, he added.

However, the Australian side blatantly vetoed the agreements for win-win cooperation, saying they were inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy and the canceling was not targeting any specific country.

The fact is that Australia reviewed over 1,000 agreements and decided to cancel four, among which two agreements are signed with China. The claim that this decision is not aimed at any country does not hold water.

Some Australian politicians, sticking to the Cold War mentality and ideological prejudices, have actively responding to certain major countries' efforts to form exclusive cliques in recent years. Every once in a while, they would try to undermine normal China-Australia exchange and coopera-

tion and poison mutual trust between the two countries. Their repeated self-contradictory rhetoric was hilarious. On one hand, they hope to destroy the bilateral relationship with China. On the other hand, they are dreaming of making a fortune by riding on China's train of fast development. Does this really make sense?

It must be pointed out that the unreasonable practices of these Australian politicians totally go against the China-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership. What they are doing is reversing the wheels of his-

tory, which not only gives a blow to the confidence in cooperation of the two sides, including local governments and enterprises, but also seriously damages the image and reputation of Australia.

The BRI establishes a wide platform of global cooperation, and is a concrete step to build a community with a shared future for mankind. Following the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the BRI has blazed a trail of common development and is welcomed by the international community.

The decision of the Victo-

ria State to cooperate with China under the BRI framework could have improved the wellbeing of the people from both sides and delivered win-win results. The governor of the state said the cooperation aimed to raise employment.

Many people in the Australian business world criticized the federal government's canceling of the cooperation agreements and expressed their concerns. David Oleson, National President of the Australia China Business Council said compared with politics and strategies, China attaches more impor-

tance to the business opportunities brought by regional infrastructure investment. Similarly, the Australian business world also hopes to go beyond politics and grasp such genuine business opportunities, he added.

In the era of economic globalization, openness and inclusiveness are an irreversible trend. Building up walls to hinder economic laws and market rules will only hurt others without necessarily benefiting oneself.

The Australian side must abandon its Cold War mentality and ideological prejudices, view its cooperation with China objectively, and make choices that are really inconsistent with its interests.

People's Daily

SPORT



Simba Queens striker, Opa Clement (R), receives match ball from an official as the attacker netted a hat-trick for her club in a past Mainland Women Premier League clash at Bunju in Dar es Salaam.

Women Premier League golden boot race still challenging, says Opa

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THIS season's Women Premier League (WPL)'s leading goal scorer, Opa Clement of Simba Queens, has said that despite leading the list, she still believes the battle for the honour is tough.

Opa, who is also senior national women team's attacker, was adamant she is nevertheless ready for the race.

The striker showcased good showing and helped Simba Queens cruise to 5-0 demolition of Mwanza's Alliance Girls in a recent fixture.

Opa netted two goals, which have seen her register 25 goals and cling to the top spot in the showdown's goal scorers' list.

In the top flight's past few seasons, JKT Queens' attacker Fatuma Mustapha had

been the all-time leading scorer.

Fatuma has now been doing her best to outmanoeuvre Opa, in this case, anything could happen in the coming fixtures.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Opa said there is still work to be done as many teams are conceding a few goals.

She noted she has this season planned to lift the women top flight's goal getter's prize, as well as seeing to it Simba Queens win the top honour.

She said seeing to it she nets a goal in every match is her strategy, insisting she wants to net at least two goals in each of the fixtures.

The exploits, she disclosed, will see to it she keeps on creating a sizeable gap between her and her closest challengers.

A good coordination in Simba Queens, she noted, turns out to be a boost to their quest for an impressive spell this season.

Patrick Matasi ready to play for Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENYAN keeper, Patrick Matasi, has stated he will not hesitate to sign for Mainland Premier League's defending champions, Simba SC, if they come in for his services.

The former Posta Rangers' goalkeeper is being linked with a transfer to the Msimbazi Street giants for the past three weeks after reports emerged that the team's number one keeper Aishi Manula has attracted interest from top African clubs, which include Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and Al Merreikh of Sudan.

Matasi, who currently features for Ethiopian giants St. George SC, has open up that he will not think twice if Simba made an offer for his services.

He insisted Simba are currently the best team in Africa and every player would want to be part of their squad.

"I have been reading on social media Simba are interested in my services but to be honest they have not contacted me or my agent, but I am waiting to hear from them but if they indeed want to sign me, I am ready to make the move," Matasi said from his base in Ethiopia on Monday.

"To be honest, Simba are currently among the best teams in Africa, they are very well managed professionally and the best team in the East

African region, and every player wants to be part of their squad, so I am no exception."

Asked whether it will be a big challenge for him to make the transfer, Matasi explained: "No, it is not a big challenge for me, I have been in this industry for so many years and I understand what Simba fans want, and what the team wants to achieve."

"And also, it will depend on how fast I will settle in the team if they sign me, but what I can say, I will not hesitate to sign for them, I am ready and have been waiting to receive their offer."

The 33-year-old is one of the most established Kenyan goalkeepers having played in the Kenyan Premier League and for the senior national team Harambee Stars.

He also played for AFC Leopards, Posta Rangers, and Tusker in the top flight before he was signed by the Ethiopian side in 2018.

He was the number one goalkeeper when Kenya fought for a 2019 Africa Cup of Nations slot and he was used prominently during the finals in Egypt.

Matasi made his debut for the national team in 2017 and has so far featured in 27 games for the Harambee Stars, including the CECAFA finals when Kenya lifted the trophy under head coach Paul Put.

SPORTS

Manager dismisses rumours linking Simba SC defender with move to Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

HERRY Chibakasa, Simba SC defender Hussein Mohamed's manager, has dismissed reports that rivals Yanga recently put in a transfer request to sign the player.

Since last week, rumours have been rife on social media that Hussein, who is running down his contract with the Msimbazi Street giants, was a target for the Jangwani Street giants and was only waiting to complete his contract before moving to Yanga.

However, Chibakasa has now confirmed that indeed the left fullback has only two months left on his contract but no team from Tanzania, including Yanga, have shown interest to sign him.

He disclosed: "In regards to Yanga reports that they want to sign Hussein, I am only seeing them on social media."

He added: "I am only hearing people discussing the issue, in fact Ynaga are making the noise, but no one has approached either me or the player for his services."

He stated: "But if Yanga are interested, it is not a crime, they have a right to sign the player, but I now want to make the work easier for them, the sign-on fee for the player is 100m/- for one year of service, and his salary is 10m/- per month, and if it comes down, then we can take 8m/-."

Chibakasa further stated he is not sure if Simba are interested in extending the players' stay with them because they have not opened talks over a possible extension despite only two months remaining on his contract.

"His contract will now end in two months' time and we are waiting for it to end then we see what is next, and also make our decision," Chibakasa continued.

He disclosed: "I am not sure if Simba are interested in keeping him because every player they have extended his contract, they always do it six months before it expires, as for Hussein, they have not done that and it is now two



Herry Chibakasa

months, so we are not sure if they are really interested to have the player beyond his contract."

He stated: "We never agreed on anything with the person Simba sent during that period and he left and never came back, we are left with two months to end the contract and they have not returned, we will wait and see but we as well have one offer from a big team in South Africa, but I cannot issue further details."

On Sunday, Simba SC information officer Haji Manara stated they will do all they can to keep the player, who is also the assistant captain of the team.

Through his Instagram page, Manara wrote: "You are the most sung by Bongo artistes for their love for you. You are our captain, who is loved by everyone in Simba."

He noted: "This is the team of your life and this is where you grew up and got your name. You and I joined the club together in the 2014 season and you are my best mate. We have come a long way and we know a lot about the good, bad things, and challenges of this club."

He said: "There is no value for money that will make you leave Simba to go to another club in Tanzania."

Hussein has enjoyed a good run of form with Simba and his latest exploits saw him score the only goal as Simba beat Gwambina FC 1-0 to move top of the Vodacom Premier League table with 58 points from 24 matches while Yanga are second with 57 points from 26 outings.

VPL now touted as well organized soccer tourney



Dodoma Jiji FC players jubilate when they won a past Vodacom Premier League's tie, which took place in Dodoma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DODOMA JIJI FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RETIRED Kenyan striker, Ronald Okoth, has explained why he thinks the Mainland Tanzania Premier League is currently one of the best football competitions in Africa.

Okoth has cited financial benefits that players enjoy in Tanzania as one of the reasons he feels the East African league has made tremendous steps on matters of development.

"Notable clubs in Tanzania pay sign-on fees in excess of \$40,000 and salaries ranging up to \$4000 plus a fully furnished apartment," Okoth tweeted.

He pointed out: "Having been invited for a try-out with one of the clubs in Dar es Salaam sometime back, I must admit it's one of the most attractive and lucrative leagues in Africa."

He stated: "There is an additional bonus of Ksh 1000 (21,432.53/-) and Ksh2000 (42,849.22/-) paid to a player for scoring a goal in either the first or last five minutes of either half, Ksh6000 (128,535.80/-) for a man of

the match among other packages aside from our salaries."

He said: "And it would be paid on time because we had a solid sponsorship with Britam. Games were a must-win."

The Tanzanian competition has attracted prominent regional talents in the recent past.

Brazil's Gerson Fraga, recently offloaded by Simba, Clatous Chama and Larry Bwalya of Zambia, Meddie Kagere of Rwanda, Joash Onyango and Francis Kahata of Kenya, Chris Mugalu of DR Congo and Uganda's Taddeo Lwanga, all at Simba SC, are some of the prominent footballer plying their trade in the top flight.

At Yanga, Mukoko Tonombe and Tuisila Kisinda of DR Congo, as well as Kenya's goalkeeper Farouk Shikhalo are prominent foreign footballers.

At Azam FC, Never Tigere, Bruce Kangwa and Prince Dube of Zimbabwe and Uganda's Nicholas Wadada and Mathias Kigonya are the talents sourced from the regional market.

Okoth, former Kenya's Sofapaka and KCB striker, also stated he is hopeful that the Football Kenya Federation

Premier League will follow the Mainland Premier League to achieve success.

"Despite the challenges, our local league is slowly growing," he added.

"Hopefully one day we can make it as lucrative as other elites and pay all our players and managers at the top level decently in order for them to be able to make smart and comfortable future investments."

Although he revealed a love for South Africa's Premier Soccer League, Okoth wondered why the success of the competition cannot be transmitted to the national sides.

"I love South African club football, it is my first-choice foreign league that I enjoy watching. The league is endowed with beautiful football, professional clubs and players," he concluded.

He pointed out: "I still don't comprehend how they just can't replicate the same at the international level with all their organizational factors in place."

Currently, leagues in Tanzania and Uganda are still taking place while in Kenya it remains suspended due to the rising cases of coronavirus infections.

Hazard's woes leave Real Madrid nostalgic for age of Galacticos

MADRID

"TLL try," said Eden Hazard when asked in his first press conference at Real Madrid if he could now become the best player in the world.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were the immovable duo but still, the suggestion was not that Hazard settle for third, a position he had already come to hover around following seven brilliant years for Chelsea.

Hazard had been the Premier League's outstanding attacking talent and at Real Madrid, where the demands would be higher and the supporting cast more prestigious, it was not out of the question there could be more to come.

He could replace Ronaldo, fill Madrid's creativity gap, launch a new era and perhaps even win the Ballon d'Or. "If everything goes well, why not?" said Hazard. "It's in my head but I'm not thinking of it every day."

Almost two years later, Hazard counts it as a blessing to make it through a single match without another muscle creaking let alone an entire season worthy of international acclaim.

Real Madrid face Chelsea in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals on Tuesday and it would be a huge surprise if he were to start against his former team.

Hazard came off the bench against Real Betis on Saturday to play his first 15 minutes in almost three months.

"He played with spark, with energy," said Zidane. "We're going to need him."

When asked about the merits of Real Madrid's 'Galactico' signings such as Hazard, the club's president Florentino Perez said they are as much a projection of power as a way of bringing in a better striker or right-back.

"It creates a very special type of glamour," said Perez. "It lets the whole world know you have a world-class player in every position."

- Changed emphasis -

But the time when Real Madrid could afford to poach the world's best players every summer are now long gone, the spate of superstar signings in the first decade of the century dwindling to just two or three in the second.

Gareth Bale came in 2013 and

a year later James Rodriguez, the break-out player of the 2014 World Cup, followed.

And then the emphasis shifted, a change in approach directing Madrid's attention to younger talents, not always cheap to buy, but always with potential and the possibility of sell-on value.

The 2018-19 season was a miserable one for Real Madrid, poor results sharpening the sense of loss from Ronaldo's departure and a growing urge for the club to replace him with a superstar who could handle the responsibility.

Hazard seemed the perfect fit and even though, at 28, Madrid were signing him a couple of years later, they were confident he would deliver.

That he is still to do so is not only a great shame for him and La Liga but also for fans all over the world, who have been denied seeing one of the most enchanting footballers of his generation shine for the world's most successful club.

It has been restrictive too for Real Madrid, whose own insecurities were laid bare last week as the club tried to force through the European Super League.

Perez's obsession with the project is driven by a desire to keep up with the likes of Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain who are backed by the UAE and Qatar respectively.

In the two years before Hazard moved to Madrid, PSG signed Neymar and Kylian Mbappe. Barcelona bought Philippe Coutinho and Ousmane Dembele, while Atletico Madrid acquired Joao Felix. Liverpool bought Virgil van Dijk. To hesitate was to risk being left behind.

Real Madrid would love to be able to claw back some of the 100 million euros they spent on Hazard to help with a fresh assault for Mbappe's signature this summer, but who would make an offer for the Belgian now? And how much?

For a while Zinedine Zidane planned around Hazard, tweaking the team to suit him when he was fit.

But Hazard has become an irrelevance in recent months, as Zidane's side try to move on without him while Perez continues to count the cost of a transfer he must hope one day comes good. Chelsea would be a great place to start.

AFP

Ceferin: Super League 12 'will be punished'

LONDON

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has said all 12 teams will face consequences for initially joining the European Super League but that some teams will face lesser ones for quickly opting out.

The 12 sides – six from England and three from both Spain and Italy – announced on April 18 that they would be breaking away to form their own Super League, in a move that immediately attracted the ire of fans.

Following fan protests, all six English teams announced within 24 hours that they had revoked their decision to join the league and they were followed by Atletico Madrid and Inter Milan on April 20.

As things stand, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Juventus and AC Milan have not formally withdrawn from the competition.

"Everyone has to take consequences for what they did and we cannot pretend nothing happened. You cannot do something like that and just say: 'I've been punished because everybody hates me.' They don't have problems because of anyone else but themselves. It's not OK what they did and we will see in next few days what we have to do," Ceferin told the Daily Mail.

"But for me it's a clear difference between the English clubs and the other six. They pulled out first, they admitted they made a mistake. You have to have some greatness to say: 'I was wrong.' For me there are three groups of this 12 – the English Six, who went out first, then the other three [Atletico Madrid, AC Milan, Inter] after them and then the ones who feel that Earth is flat and they think the Super League still exists [Barcelona,

Real Madrid and Juventus]. And there is a big difference between those. But everyone will be held responsible. In what way, we will see.

"I don't want to say disciplinary process but it has to be clear that everyone will be held responsible in a different way. Is it disciplinary? Is it the decision of the executive committee? We will see. It's too early to say."

Ceferin praised the fans who were instrumental in getting their clubs to pull out of the league. Hundreds of Chelsea fans gathered outside Stamford Bridge before their game against Brighton on Monday while similar protests against club owners have been seen at Anfield, Old Trafford and the Emirates this week.

"Look, honestly speaking I was completely impressed by the reaction of the fans, the whole football community and not just the football community but I would say society. I never seen this," he added.

"UEFA did its part, the clubs that stood with us did their part. And of course the U.K. government out of all did the big part. But by far the biggest part was done by fans."

He also said that he was keen to meet with fans who had lobbied for teams to stay in the Champions League and not take part in the new Super League.

"I already spoke with my colleagues in UEFA to connect with those fan groups now and start discussing with them. The problem with fans being formally included in UEFA is that there are so many different groups. You have a group of Real Madrid who supported us and groups who supported the Super League. So, you have so many that we have to cooperate with some association which is again a problem," he said.

Gulf derby: prestige, pride riding on PSG v Man City clash

PARIS

THE Champions League semi-final between Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City on Wednesday is as much a clash of footballing titans as a proxy battle between competing Gulf nations and visions for European football's future.

It is the first encounter between Qatar-owned PSG and Emirati-backed Man City since the United Arab Emirates and a coalition of Saudi-led countries lifted their boycott of Doha, in place for three years.

The UAE along with Saudi, Egypt and Bahrain broke off ties with Qatar in June 2017 over claims it was too close to Iran and backed radical Islamist groups, which Qatar has always denied.

Families were divided, students expelled, businesses broken and religious pilgrimages denied when the spat erupted.

"Whilst the tie's geopolitical temperature is less than it would have been if the boycott was still ongoing, there's still a lot at stake," said Simon Chadwick, professor of Eurasian Sport at EM Lyon University.

Under Gulf ownership the two teams have been propelled into Europe's elite, uncharted territory for both sides, with both nations accused by critics of seeking to "sport wash" their human rights records and attain respectability.

- 'Gulf bragging rights' -

"Financially, both countries have invested a huge amount of money into their clubs hence reaching the Champions League final will be seen as an important return on investment," Chadwick added.

"At the same time, there are considerable reputational and image benefits that will be associated with winning. And of course, Gulf bragging rights are at stake.

"The animosities may have somewhat dissipated, the battle to be the Gulf's leading football nation remains."



PSG's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Barcelona. (Agencies)

While the visible effects of the boycott that included airspace and border closures and Qatari citizens unable to travel to rival nations have eased, ties remain chilly between Doha and Abu Dhabi.

A source briefed on the reconciliation process between Qatar and its erstwhile rivals told AFP that progress was being made in healing ties between Doha on one side and Saudi and Egypt on the other.

However little progress had been made in talks between Qatar and the UAE since the end of open hostilities, the source said.

The UAE and Qatar are still rivals on a spectrum of issues including Libyan politics, relations with Israel and approaches to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Regional expert Mustafa Qadri said that if Qatar and the UAE "can't go to war, they can at least engage in some hefty rhetoric and sabre rattling via the football pitch".

- 'Failed Super League' -

The fixture will also serve as a proxy tussle between the clubs that backed a breakaway Europe-

an Super League (ESL), including Manchester City, and those that didn't, namely PSG.

PSG's president Nasser al-Khelaifi was quickly rewarded for keeping France's highest profile club out of the rebel league.

He was last week appointed the new head of the European Club Association (ECA) replacing Andrea Agnelli, one of the key figures in the doomed Super League project.

Khelaifi, who also heads up sports broadcaster beIN, has made no secret of his desire for PSG to win the Champions League, having been pipped by Bayern Munich last year.

Khelaifi said he wanted "to reinforce (the) ECA in its role as the legitimate and singular voice of Europe's clubs".

Qadri said the row over the doomed rebel league could now spill into players' public appearances around Wednesday's clash, dubbed "El Cashico", the "Oil and Gasico" and even the "Abu Derby" by social media wags.

"Don't be surprised if one or two footballers from either side comes out with a below the belt sledge in the press conferences,

particularly after the game," he said.

Gulf sport researcher Raphael Le Magoaric said the Super League fiasco "shows the difference in the way Doha and Abu Dhabi think about the world sports scene".

"Abu Dhabi does not seek to seduce the players of world sport as Doha does, which explains why Abu Dhabi did not hesitate to break with the established order of European football. For Doha to break with the established order was to risk erasing years of seduction," he said.

Chadwick added that Qatar had always "chosen a more consensual approach (to UEFA) whereas Abu Dhabi's relationship with the governing body has been more confrontational".

"In theory, UEFA shouldn't necessarily be favouring one nation or one club ahead of another," he said.

"However, one does get the sense that the ascent of Qatar's influence inside UEFA has been given impetus by the failed Super League proposal."

AFP

Winning Carabao Cup takes Man City one step closer to Treble

LONDON

PEP Guardiola's reimagining of Manchester City has delivered its first trophy and the manner of victory over Tottenham Hotspur will only cement this approach for the bigger challenges ahead.

Both teams played with a center-forward in name only at Wembley. After a week of speculation over the extent of his ankle injury, Harry Kane declared himself fit to start but based on the 90 minutes that followed, there surely wouldn't be many at Spurs who would agree with his assessment. Tottenham interim boss Ryan Mason, who has a close, personal relationship with Kane, took the understandable view that the England captain had to play if they were to have any chance of matching City's firepower.

By contrast, Guardiola has long since detached himself from the idea that a conventional No. 9 is required to land the top prizes. Having regularly deployed one false nine or even two in a 4-4-2 shape with two midfielders occupying the most advanced positions, he went with the latter on Sunday as Kevin De Bruyne and Phil Foden started in what is always an interchangeable attack.

The City boss has flirted with using a false nine previously, usually as a surprise tactic to unsettle opponents, but it has increasingly become his preferred approach: De Bruyne played as a false nine when City beat Chelsea 3-1 in January, Foden took the role in their 4-1 demolition of Liverpool, De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva were used at Arsenal, Riyad Mahrez in the semifinal of this competition against Manchester United. The shift explains a large part of their Premier League revival, standing now as they do on the brink of regaining the title, and City were utterly dominant from the outset at Wembley, too.

Mason tried to instil a greater ambition into Spurs than they had often shown under Jose Mourinho by playing out from the back, but a key advantage to Guardiola's approach is the ferocious press set by De Bruyne and

Foden. Working off the ball has never been the strength of Sergio Aguero or Gabriel Jesus but City's front four, when Mahrez and Raheem Sterling pushed on, rattled Spurs into the sort of individual mistakes they have, in truth, been guilty of making all season long. It was a regular frustration of Mourinho's, and Mason was never going to eradicate it in a week.

In fact, they defended admirably here. Eric Dier blocked an early effort from Sterling before Toby Alderweireld produced a better one to deny Foden, deflecting his shot onto the post with Hugo Lloris beaten. Mahrez went close with a couple of curling efforts before Lloris saved expertly from Joao Cancelo on the stroke of half-time.

All Spurs could muster was one Alderweireld shot and the sporadic threat of a quick breakaway on the odd occasion they evaded City's press. Aymeric Laporte, Ruben Dias and later Fernandez were all booked as City's tactical fouls were shared around. Tottenham fans argued Laporte should not have been on the pitch to head home the winner, having evaded punishment for a tackle before he was eventually booked, but he probably would not have made the second challenge had the first not gone unsanctioned.

The bigger frustration for Spurs should be that after defending stoically for so long, their resistance was eventually broken by a set piece. Sterling bought a cheap free kick from Serge

Aurier, De Bruyne swung over a cross and Laporte nodded home.

Spurs had just two shots all afternoon. Ultimately, Mason could not engender the greater attacking verve his appointment had suggested, and instead Kane stood in silence watching City celebrate another trophy snatched from under his nose. Speculation over his future will continue given the gulf between the two teams. Son Heung-Min was in tears at the final whistle while Dier stared forlornly at the end where Spurs conceded after conducting an emotional television interview.

"Pain," said Mason when asked what the emotions were in the dressing room. "It hurts. I've been sitting in there as a player. I've played for this club and lost a cup final. I know what it's like. I know that feeling. It is normal they are hurting because it shows they care. This group cares deeply about this football club. They gave absolutely everything, 100% commitment. We tried, it wasn't enough today and that's tough to take."

City's intensity had dropped a little by the time they scored, but Guardiola was still satisfied not to call on Aguero or Jesus even in pursuit of a goal. With Aguero due to depart at the end of the season, he appears set for a peripheral role to finish a glittering City career while doubts are continuing to grow over whether Jesus will ever be the center-forward Guardiola desires. After all, they are linked with expensive moves for Kane and Borussia Dort-

mund's Erling Haaland for a reason.

What this summer brings remains to be seen. Guardiola seems certain now to rely on operating without a recognised striker as he looks to deliver a Treble with Wednesday's Champions League semifinal first leg against Paris Saint-Germain to come and two wins required to regain the Premier League title.

"Arriving in the last stages this season, and in previous season as well, it is because every game we take seriously," said Guardiola. "If not, it is impossible to win four Carabao Cups in a row. Now it is just rest and prepare the semifinal against PSG, and then after we are two games away to try to win the most important title. It is the one I am proud the most when we are able to do it. We need two victories in this crazy schedule, in the two games against PSG; we will try to win the first one against Crystal Palace."

City's four League Cups in a row means they match Liverpool's record haul of eight. He will be judged on City's return in other competitions, but the sense of achievement here was heightened with 7,773 fans inside Wembley, around 2,000 of which were City fans collected in the corner of the stadium to the right of Guardiola's dugout.

It is also Guardiola's 30th trophy as a manager. It will not be the one he looks back on the most, but it undoubtedly offers fresh indications of a bright future ahead.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Gulf derby: prestige, pride
riding on PSG v Man City clash

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Wydad Casablanca attacker Simon Msuva.

Msuva, Chilunda score in Morocco, Samatta unused substitute for Fenerbahce

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

Azam FC forward pulls clear in VPL top scorer prize's race

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE title of Vodacom Premier League's leading marksman has chopped and changed all season, but as the campaign approaches the final furlong, Azam FC and Simba SC's most prolific strikers look set to make it a two-horse race for the golden boot.

With just over six rounds of matches left to play, Azam FC forward Prince Dube now leads the way in the race for the Vodacom Premier League golden boot, overtaking his nearest rivals in Meddie Kagere and John Bocco of Simba after he scored during the weekend.

The Zimbabwean striker Dube scored the only goal to help Azam FC beat Yanga 1-0 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night.

He moved to 12 goals in the top flight for this season - putting him one ahead of Kagere in the golden boot challengers' list.

The former Highlanders' striker has had an injury-ravaged season but he remains Azam FC's most potent goal threat.

He has been directly involved in 18 goals which shows his influence on Azam FC.

His tally of six assists so far is a testament to his all-round contribution.

Dube's chances will be boosted by the fact he is Azam FC's first choice striker and penalty taker.

He is aiming to become the first Azam FC player to win the award since Ivorian striker Kipre Tchetché won it in 2012/13.

Simba's captain Bocco is not far behind, the forward, who as well turns out for Taifa Stars, has notched 10 goals and counting thus far.

It is all the more impressive when soccer fanatics consider that he has missed a lot of games due to injury lay off.

On Saturday, Bocco and Kagere were restored to Simba's lineup against Gwambina FC.

While Bocco missed his chance to go level with the leading goal getters, Kagere who played for 90 minutes also missed out on pulling clear.

The two Simba strikers will have another opportunity to close up the gap and pile the pressure on Dube and when their side plays host to Dodoma Jiji FC today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Simba SC seeks to move four points clear at 2020/21 Premier League top



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and 2020/21 CAF Champions League's assignments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC ran out 1-0 winners away to Yanga in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night, doing Simba SC a favour.

Simba SC claimed a hard fought 1-0 away to Gwambina FC in Mwanza on Saturday and climbed to the top of the table for the first time this season.

The top flight leaders will go four points clear of second-placed Yanga if the former take care of Dodoma Jiji FC, who visit Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today in a league tie.

Simba SC, the VPL defending champions, will be confident going into the clash having gone unbeaten in their last 17 league games stretching back to October last year.

They last tasted defeat in October last year - a 1-0 loss to Ruwu Shooting at Uhuru Stadium.

Although the likes of John Bocco and Meddie Kagere led Simba's attacking line in the clash against

Gwambina FC, the only goal came from defender Mohamed Hussein.

Simba will for that matter look to extend their goal scoring record to 18 matches.

Dodoma Jiji have gone two league matches without a win after they were held to 2-2 draw at home by Azam FC on Thursday.

Seif Rashid Karihe and Anuar Jabir will be the key players for coach Mbwana Makata's side who are targeting a fifth away victory of the season.

In head-to-head stats, Simba SC and Dodoma Jiji FC have met in just one previous top flight league match.

That encounter took place earlier this season, with the Msimbazi Street side claiming a 2-1 away win in Dodoma.

Elsewhere, the other league fixture on the day will see Gwambina FC host Mwandui FC in Misungwi.

Gwambina FC will target a return to winning ways after three back-to-back defeats to Simba SC, Yanga and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

The hosts will have plenty of space to deliver past the visitors' defense that has allowed a half century of goals this season.

Mwandui have shipped nine goals in the last three games within the last eight days and they will go into this off the back of four consecutive league defeats.

Such a dreadful spell of form leaves Mwandui FC at the very bottom of the league standing.

They are 13 points shy of the safe zone but it is very hard to imagine them shifting their fortunes around in the remaining six rounds as there is just nothing to suggest such a scenario.

When the teams met earlier this season, Gwambina FC claimed a 4-3 away win at Mwandui FC's backyard.

EATV

TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE

12:00 MPYA

12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)

13:00 Wanawake Live (r)

13:30 Kali Za Wana

14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi

14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)

15:00 Funguka

15:30 5SPORTS (r)

16:30 #HASHTAG

17:00 5SELEKT

17:55 Kurasa

18:00 eNewz

18:30 Music/Soap

19:00 EATV SAA 1

19:45 MJADALA

20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



eastafrika
RADIO

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast

10:00 MAMAMIA

12:00 Kipenga Xtra

13:00 Planet Bongo

16:00 EA Drive

20:00 Kipenga

21:00 The Cruise