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Having light meals doesn't necessarily boost weight loss, new study suggests

9-year-old SA conservationist says it would be 'epic' to clean beaches with Lewis Hamilton

Berlin street named after Lucy-Lameck

TPDC seeks partners in gas drilling, export

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) is engaging private firms to partner in exploiting the vast 40 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves in the country's deep sea zone.

Plans for the TPDC Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) project have been submitted by the project consultant and the procurement process is ongoing, an annual meeting of geologists was told yesterday.

TPDC Managing Director, Dr James Mataragio, said that once the CNG plant is in place and plans for production and distribution of gas take off, the country's economic status will change further.

"Tanzania will stand out as a crucial energy hub in East and Central Africa. We have already received distribution requests from countries such as Zam



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word in Gaborone, Botswana, yesterday with Democratic Republic of Congo President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi (C) and Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. The organ is managed on a Troika basis and is responsible for promoting peace and security in the SADC region. It is mandated to steer and provide SADC member states with direction regarding matters that threaten peace, security and stability in the region. The Vice President is representing President John Magufuli in the summit. Photo: Correspondent Nelson Kessy

“We are going to set up 100 filling stations all over the country in the next five years in collaboration with district councils and the private sector”

Minister meets players in Isles' blue economy strategic push

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Abdallah Hussein Kombo, yesterday held talks with key stakeholders in the sector on implementation of a strategy billed as economic game-changer. The recently-appointed minister exchanged views with fishing companies' executives, fishers' representatives and a commer-

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AfDB issues \$120m loan for 50MW power station

By Guardian Reporter

“THE board of directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) yesterday approved a \$120 million (over 200bn/-) loan to fund the construction of a 50 MW hydropower plant in Kigoma Region.

The Malagarasi Hydropower project is designed to provide reliable renewable energy to households, schools, clinics and small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

An AfDB statement said yesterday

“An AfDB statement said yesterday that the project components include a run-of-the-river hydropower plant facility and a 54 km, 132 kV transmission line connecting then national power grid

that the project components include a run-of-the-river hydropower plant facility and a 54 km, 132 kV transmission line connecting then national power grid.

There is also a distribution network expansion operation that includes rural electrification and last-mile connection, apart from project management and contract administration support, plus compensation and resettlement of the people affected,

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Cheating in Std 7 exams: Five teachers arraigned

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

FIVE teachers in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday appeared in court, charged with four counts of facilitating cheating in Standard Seven national examinations last month.

Senior resident magistrate Naomi Mwerinde of the Moshi District Court heard that the tutors illegally obtained exam questions in ad-



vance, prepared answers that they gave to candidates on the national exams day.

Their school— Siashimbwe primary school— is one of 38 institutions whose results have since been cancelled by the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

The teachers who are now beset with law troubles are Philip Karenga, Fredrick

Lyaruu, Florah Maambo, Eli-onora Shirima and Eutika Tasha.

Reading the charge sheet, state attorney Nitike Emmanuel said that in the first count, all the five are accused of failing to safeguard confidential documents contrary to the Criminal Procedures Act and the NECTA enabling law. “On October 7, 2020 the

accused persons gave candidates answers for arithmetic paper inside an examination room at Siashimbwe primary school in Moshi District,” the attorney charged.

In the second count, which also related to failure to safeguard a confidential document,

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Minister meets players in Isles' blue economy push

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cial bank executive to discuss financing of envisaged deep sea fishing projects plus empowering small-scale fishers and fishing projects.

The meetings coincided with the launch of the 'loans for fishers' drive by Equity Bank, a rising lender in the Isles and on the Mainland.

At the launch, the minister said the blue economy drive reflects rising demand in the international market, and given its location, Zanzibar is well placed to earn millions of dollars if adequate investments are channeled to the sector.

Executives of one of the companies he met yesterday, Salmini, has a trade pact to supply tuna to Finland, Turkey and China. "This company alone has been contracted to supply 5,000 tonnes of tuna per month and this means they will have to buy more from other fishers to be able to meet the tonnage," he said.

Addressing the fishers, the minister said financial institutions are ready to issue loans if there is no threat of defaulting, appealing to them to form and register groups. It is easier for lenders to engage with registered en-

ties with a legal status than individual fishers whose traceability can be challenging in case of a loan default, he stated.

"Zanzibar has more than 50,000 small scale fishers who depend on fishing. I urge lenders and fishers' committees and groups to meet and chart ways to unlock the sector's potential," he pursued.

Recently retired President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein told the 10th Zanzibar Business Forum in March that in implementing the blue economy strategy, three new ports will be built at the Mpigaduri passenger terminal area, the oil and gas terminal at Mangapwani and the fishery port at Malindi.

The recently revamped Zanzibar Fisheries Company (ZAFICO) is tasked with modernizing fishing by deploying equipment that can operate in deep sea, along with conducting sale of the catch.

A new fishing boat was procured with another under construction, meanwhile as an improved fish market was being built, with expectations that this will attract even more tourists to the Isles.

Implementation of the blue economy vision was being overseen by the Zanzibar Planning Commission, he had specified.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with other Muslim faithful moments after attending Friday prayers at Noor Muhammad Mosque in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

TPDC seeks partners in gas drilling, export

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bia, Kenya and Uganda," he said. He said the CNG plant will come along with a mini Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to distribute the gas to regions such as Morogoro, Dodoma, Mwanza and Tanga.

In 2015, the government announced that the country's proved natural gas deposits had increased from 46.5 tcf (trillion cubic feet) as of June 2014 to 55.08 tcf as of April 2015 following new discoveries

in the deep sea zone.

Dr Mataragio said the 40tcf gas reserve is intact, hence the need for engaging in works to exploit and turn it into real resources to improve the livelihoods of Tanzanians.

TPDC is conducting the groundwork for offshore drilling and processing, vital for accelerating industrialization, power supply and revenue generation by exporting liquefied natural gas, he stated.

So far, natural gas exploitation has saved 33trn/- cumulatively that

would have been used to import the commodity, while the government earned 600bn/- in taxes and levies, the director noted.

As for natural gas utilisation in the country, he said it now accounts for 60 per cent of electricity generated, with 48 factories, 500 households and 400 vehicles that have shifted to natural gas transmission.

TPDC through its subsidiary, TANOil Co. is returning to petroleum business, having already acquired parcels of land in Tanga, Dodoma

and Dar es Salaam regions to build strategic petroleum storage facilities.

"We are going to set up 100 filling stations all over the country in the next five years in collaboration with district councils and the private sector," he had earlier explained.

Natural gas production has increased by 100 per cent in the past five years from 100 million cubic feet per day in 2015 to 200 million cubic feet in 2020, he added.

Cheating in Std 7 exams: Five school teachers arraigned

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the prosecutor said the teachers obtained the Kiswahili question paper, prepared answers and distributed them to candidates.

The third count faces the first accused, Karenga who the state attorney said was found with an unauthorized document, namely answers for the Kiswahili exam, while the fourth count also concerns Karenga, being found with answers for arithmetic exam questions.

Emmanuel asked the court to adjourn the matter, criminal case number 473 of 2020 as investigations were not complete.

The magistrate said that bail was open but give conditions that each accused person deposit a 1m/- bond and two trustworthy sureties. The accused persons failed to meet the conditions and they were taken to a remand prison, with the case coming up for mention on December 11.

Announcing standard seven examination results last week, NECTA Executive Secretary Dr Charles Msonde said the examiner had nullified results for 38 schools with 1059

candidates involved.

Cheating involved head teachers, academic masters, class teachers, secondary school students and candidates, he said, citing a caase in one school in Arusha Region, where an academic master "had the audacity to hide in the toilet where candidates went one after another to take answers."

NECTA routinely takes action against examination cheating at all levels, from primary school leaving examination to form four and form six national exams.

In 2018, NECTA nullified results for 110 primary schools for cheating and other irregularities, with some impacted schools being Chemba district schools in Dodoma region, along with Hazina and New Hazina primary schools in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam; Alliance, New Alliance and Kisiwani in Mwanza, and Kondo Integrity (Kondo district).

The school managements were alleged to have colluded with district authorities to achieve pass number targets by revealing exam questions and answers to pupils prior to sitting those exams.



Handeni Urban legislator Reuben Kwagilwa (R) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, including on what he believes the government ought to do to arrest the hiking of cement prices. He cited ensuring a substantial rise in the production of the item as one way out, in part by making manufacturers abide by the investment and other agreements relating to their operations in the country. He is with his assistant, Hussein Sheng'wamkai. Photo: John Badi

AfDB issues \$120m loan for 50MW power station

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the statement indicated.

AfDB president Adesina Akinwumi is quoted as affirming that approval of the project is a reflection of the bank's commitment to assist the country to accelerate its transition to more inclusive and sustainable growth with clean, reliable and affordable electricity.

The project's overall cost is estimated at

\$144.14 million, with the bulk of the funding (\$120 million) sourced from the sovereign lending window, and an additional \$20 million contributed by the Africa Growing Together Fund, a co-financing fund with resources from China administered by AfDB, while the Treasury will provide the remaining \$4.14 million.

The hydropower plant's expected average annual output of 181 GWh will meet the electricity needs of as many as 133,649

households in the region, bringing the region's electrification rate more closely in line with the rest of the country.

The project is expected to create about 700 jobs during construction, cut the region's electricity generation costs to approximately \$0.04/kWh from the current \$0.33/kWh, and also reduce reliance on greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels. The cost of doing business will also fall because industry will no longer need to maintain

costly back-up generators.

The project is aligned with the National Development Vision 2025 and the Second Five-Year Development Plan (2016/17 - 2020/21) and complements other regional initiatives, including the North West Grid 400 kV Nyakanazi-Kigoma transmission line project, also financed by AfDB in tandem with the Economic Development Cooperation Fund of South Korea.

The Malagarasi Project will also directly

contribute to the AfDB's 'Light Up & Power Africa High-5' development priority, implemented through the 'New Deal on Energy for Africa' strategy.

Commenting on the board's approval, Henry Batchi Baldeh, the AfDB power systems development director stated that the project is a flagship physical infrastructure investment, meant increase the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix.

Government works on 15-year grand plan to boost protection of fisheries resources

By Guardian Correspondent,

Singida

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations has issued US\$195,000 (450m/-) to facilitate review and preparation of a 15-year mega-plan aimed at boosting protection of fisheries resources in the country.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Dr Rashid Tamamah revealed this here yesterday during the three-day stakeholders meeting which aimed to discuss and agree on various priorities which should be incorporated in the plan.

Dr Tamamah said that the government's zeal is to supervise and ensure that the fisheries sector contributes heavily to the country's income.

"To implement the plan which will be launched next year, we aim to strengthen efforts to ensure that fisheries resources are well protected and governed to bring long-lasting positive impacts to both the government and Tanzanians," he said, adding: "It is our hope that the plan will stimulate economic growth while also improving lives from household level to the national level."

He acknowledged that despite strides to modernize it, the fisheries sector still faces a number of challenges which also calls for coordinated efforts to fight them as they affect the sector's sustainable development.

"To address the challenges, the ministry

has been implementing several measures and initiatives including the forthcoming grand plan scheduled to commence next year," he said.

FAO's fisheries coordinator, Dr Oliver Mkumbo said the organization decided to fund the plan as part of its global plans aimed to eradicate hunger and food insecurity by 2030.

Head of fishermen from Kigoma Region Francis John commended the government for coming up with the plan among its priorities is to support small-scale fishermen and traders to improve their activities.

"Fishers in Lake Tanganyika are so happy to hear the government's supportive programmes that are going to improve their businesses, with the forthcoming improvements; the traders will be able to export their fish products in the global market including the United States, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom (UK) and Denmark.

Raphael John, one of the stakeholders said that the plan will facilitate improvement in the production of marine products including fish (aquaculture), a move which will contribute immensely to reduce dependence from abroad.

"In many developed countries, aquaculture has been given special priority, so it better now, we also invest in the area so that we do not rely solely on freshwater fish, we must start now before the natural resources in seas, rivers and lakes extinct."



Visibly enraged members of the opposition Chadema pictured outside the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The messages on the placards they are brandishing are to the effect that their 19 fellow Chadema members sworn in earlier this week as Special Seats (women) legislators deserve expulsion from the party. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Report: Manyara, Dodoma, Arusha notorious regions for FGM, GBV cases

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MANYARA, Dodoma and Arusha are the notorious top three regions leading in the horrid cases of Female Genital Mutilations, practices that are still carried out albeit clandestinely around the country.

Arusha is also billed high in escalating cases of sexual and gender based violence, also thrown in the mix.

Manyara leads the pack with 58 per cent such cases, followed by Dodoma which records 47 percent and Arusha filing 41 percent of all FGM cases reported in the

country, according to just released Anti-FGM project report compiled by the Arusha-based, youth and development organisation of Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW).

Launched by the Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Richard Kwitega at the DSW offices at Tengeru in Arumeru District on Friday, the report caps the Anti-FGM project which has been running here from June 2018 and climaxes in December 2020.

The project was being implemented in Arusha District Council covering the four wards of Olmotony, Musa,

Mwandet and Sokoni I. It was targeting to empower community capacities and securing supportive environment to counter Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) practices in the precincts.

According to RAS Kwitega, Arusha has seen a dramatic increase in cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence occurring in the region. "As of now, there have been 1302 women reported to be victims and some 1256 children also suffering from SGBV among them 1085 girls," said Kwitega.

In the previous fiscal year

Arusha reported 988 cases of Gender Based Violence against children which means the region has seen an increase of 22 percent of such incidences.

For his part, the DSW country director Peter Owaga, explained that the project also entailed empowering of young people especially girls to start income generating ventures for economic empowerment.

Anti-Female Genital Mutilation (Anti-FGM) project is an intervention designed to directly respond to the prevalence of violence against girls and young women in Arusha district Council by promot-

ing girl's right to equality and supporting the relevant community and legal structures to understand, detect, prevent and respond to cases of harmful traditional practices notably FGM and SGBV.

Data shows that in Tanzania 5.2 percent of females aged 13-17 years and 9.6 percent of females aged 18-24 years reported having undergone FGM at some point in their lives, it is also estimated that 30 percent of girls had experienced cases of sexual violence before the age of 18.

Harmful traditional and cultural practices are applied predominantly in rural areas of Tanzania and are found in

different manifestations such as FGM/SGBV, child marriage and teenage pregnancy, FGM is often practiced secretly in pastoral communities as a ceremony of purification whereby daughters are inaugurated into womanhood.

Data shows that 37 percent of girls in Tanzania are married before their 18th birthday and 59 percent of women marry before their 20th birthday. Child marriage directly threatens girl's health and well-being and is often followed by pregnancy and school discontinuity.

According to the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TPHS) of 2015-2016,

over 2796 of teenagers in the country have had a child or are pregnant. Moreover, in the past years, experience of sexual violence increases with age, from 11 percent of girls age 15-19 to 18 percent of women aged 40-49 years in rural communities.

Based on the Demographic and Health Survey (2015-16) report and field experiences, Arusha district is reported to have high levels of harmful practices and discrimination, with 41 percent of women and girls being mutilated.

Other Regions that have been found to feature high in FGM cases include, Mara (32 percent); Singida (31 percent);

PCCB calls for concerted efforts to fight sextortion

By Getrude Mbago

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has called for more collective efforts for both stakeholders and the government in the fight against sextortion facing female students in the country's colleges and universities.

A recent study conducted by the Bureau found that, majority of female students faces hurdles to achieve their university education goals due to increased sex abuse.

Speaking during the launch of the study findings in Dar es Salaam yesterday, PCCB's prosecutor Denis Lekayo said that despite affecting girls' dignity, sexual corruption goes further to affect the county's development.

He said that the study which was conducted in collaboration with the Women Fund Tanzania-Trust focused on two higher learning institutions- University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the University of Dodoma (UDOM).

Lekayo acknowledged that sex corruption is on the increase in most of the country's higher learning institutions affecting hundreds of young girls.

Sextortion is a form of corruption in which people entrusted with power such as

government officials, judges, educators, law enforcement personnel or employers - seek to extort sexual favours in exchange for something within their authority to grant or withhold.

"Over 50 percent of the interviewed students, tutors and schools' management admitted to have witnessed or faced sexual abuse in the school areas, a situation which calls for immediate and strong strategies to fight them," he said.

He said that the study found some of the causes of the problem include lack of transparent examinations system in colleges as in most of the universities, tutors are the ones granted more power to supervise the whole process of exams including putting performance grades to students.

"We recommend that systems in universities be revised and improved to enable lectures supervise ethical conduct because majority of female students finds themselves in hard time and are sometimes threatened by their lectures if they refuse to cooperate with him on what he demands including sex matter," he said.

He also highlighted other causes as shortage of basic services such as accommodation, loans and poor recruitment system which end up employing unethical tutors.



Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau director general Brig Gen John Mbugo briefs journalists in Arusha yesterday on the recovery by the agency of more than 294m/- in debts from cooperative societies and claims arising from frauds and embezzlement. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

According to him, despite the colleges having strong laws and rules, its implementation is still poor thus giving high chance for the acts to prevail.

"Most of the victims who we interviewed said that the lectures use their power to abuse them with others persuading them to give them good jobs, scholarships and higher grades in their examinations," he

added.

He called on the government and university management to continue improving teaching and learning environment while also training tutors regularly on their professional ethics.

He further urged not to succumb to sextortion and report cases to respective authorities and the PCCB for immediate action.

"The country has strong laws and policies to protect students and all Tanzanians against sex-based abuse of powers, I would advise students to be on the frontline to prevent sextortion in campuses by reporting cases," he said.

He said that PCCB zips on its dragnet in higher learning institutions due to the fact that scandals of sex corruption in universities have increased over the recent times.

Mary Rusimbi, executive director of WFT said the launch of the college based sexual corruption report goes in line with the celebration of the 16 days of activism against GBV.

She said that the initiatives compliment the implementation of the National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) 2017/2018-2021/2022 which aims to cut violence against women and children in half by 2022.

"Our overall goal remains the same that is to contribute towards women's rights and empowerment, and to women's and feminist movement building through implementing a functional and empowering funding mechanism for women in Tanzania," she said.

Rusimbi hinted on the note that higher learning institutions should formulate and abide by correct gender policy frameworks and provide periodic education on gender-based violence to academic staff and students.

Be proactive, use friendly language to lure more investors, TAWA staff urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

EMPLOYEES of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) have been urged to be proactive and use friendly business language to attract more investors to increase revenues from the tourism industry.

TAWA board chairman Major General Hamisi Semfuko made the call yesterday when speaking to staff of Ikorongo and Grumeti game reserves in Serengeti District, Mara Region

Semfuko stressed the need to focus more on various conservation issues in the reserves in order to bring about productivity.

However, he said the Ikorongo / Grumeti and Maswa should be model game reserves for attracting investors for the authority and Tanzania in general where he urged staff to work with integrity.

He said hard work and dedication will increase revenue especially from tourist hunting activities based President John Magufuli's speech he made of during the

inauguration of the 12th Parliament.

Leaders of game reserves cited Lack of reliable electricity, lack of vehicles, and shortage of staff houses as well as difficulty in accessing clean and safe water as among challenges thwarting conservation efforts in their respective areas.

TAWA acting Commissioner for Conservation, Mabula Nyanda urged staff to work diligently and refrain from corruption, which is a menace to conservation.

He said that the authority in collaboration with the Prevention and Combating

of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has been working hard to address corruption.

"We've mobilised ourselves to tackle the issue of corruption and began by holding to account heads of reserve centres who fail to submit reports of the said challenges on time," he said, noting: "It's shame for the big institutions like TAWA to be involved in issues of corruption."

The meeting was attended by members of the TAWA board of management and was chaired by the Acting Commissioner of TAWA Mabula Nyanda.



We've mobilised ourselves to tackle the issue of corruption and began by holding to account heads of reserve centres who fail to submit reports of the said challenges on time



It was a truly red-letter day for these graduands as they awaited being conferred with all manner of certificates and degrees at the 46th graduation ceremony of the Institute of Finance Management held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Tamwa in new drive to change youth, and community members' behaviour

By Guardian Reporter

In a bid to further combat acts of sexual violence against women and children, Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa), Zanzibar has organised a one-day walk aimed to change youth's behaviour and attitude towards sexual abusive acts including rape and sodomy.

Tamwa Zanzibar Director, Dr Mzuri Issa said in a statement that the solidarity walk will take place today from Machomane to Gombani stadium, South Pemba Region.

"This is due to the escalation of acts of sexual violence in Zanzibar, which are largely perpetrated by youth and middle-aged men thus ruining the future of survivors' lives," she said.

Dr Mzuri said: "The walk will be led by Gombani exercise group leaders while other groups will also join the fray with the same intention to curb the emotions of people with sexual mindsets. Thus, the Gombani group will offer a variety of programmes to train people with rape behavior so that they can practice them regularly and thus get rid of the rape concept

from their minds."

The operation is one of the activities of Tamwa, Zanzibar and stakeholders during the 16 days of activism which started on the 25th of this month and ends on the 10th of December, she said.

This important activity is in line with this year's national message 'Oppose Sexual Violence: Changes Start with Me' in line with the customized message from TAMWA Zanzibar: 'Exercise to control emotions: Leave a baby girl safe'.

Therefore, she said: "The operation is expected to bring together other stakeholders who fight violence against women and children to discuss the nature/situation of such acts in Zanzibar and strategies the way forward."

More than 300 stakeholders are expected to participate in the event, including social and governmental institutions.

She further called on the community to use this day as a catalyst for behavioral change and to nurture the exercise habit to protect themselves from; opportunistic infections as well as sexual violence in the community.

Health ministry cites nine priority areas for next five years

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Children and Elders has cited nine priority areas for the health sector in the next five years including reduction of maternal and child mortality.

The remarks were given here yesterday by Prof Mabula Mchem-

be, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, when opening the 21st professional valuation implementation conference in the health sector jointly organised by the ministry and the Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Government) and other stakeholders.

He said the meeting aims to have in place strategies on what was to

be done in the next five years, after reviewing strategies for the last five years.

He mentioned areas which the ministry would look into in the coming five years as including vaccination services, and health services given by health workers.

"Also medicine, medical equipment for the improvement of health services provision," he said.

He said the 5th strategic plan that was to begin was the result of the 4th that looked into achievements, and to improve areas that had impediments, hence having in place robust strategies for the improvement of the health sector.

"The three-day conference will also look into what to do for the improvement of mother and child care, services in our hospitals

and medical specialized services, but the main thing is to improve health services to the people," he added.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Health) in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said as supervisors in the policy implementation at regional level and local government

authorities, were ready to implement all directives and guidelines to come from the conference.

Edward Mbanga, Policy and Planning Director in the Health ministry said the policy meeting receive all issues from the health sector that had been evaluated and agreed upon and become goals and direction of the country's health sector.

Tanga RC suspends eight TRA officers at Horohoro border post

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner Martine Shigella has suspended eight TRA officials at Horohoro border post in Mkinga District.

The decision follows findings of a probe team that was formed to investigate various claims of misconduct within and outside the work station.

Earlier, before the decision was reached, Shigella thanked the probe team saying the allegations against the officials included complaints from traders of undue detention of the goods and soliciting bribes, allowing livestock crossing the border through unauthorised routes and other acts of misconduct.

"I want to say that the fifth phase government does not like seeing any person being victimised by a public official, or vice versa, the probe team has done its work well and provided appropriate recommendations," he said.

The RC mentioned the names of the of the suspended officials as Edward Ndupa, Tanga Regional Customs Manager, Bakari Athumani, Senior Customs Officer at Horohoro border post, Danda Hamis and Azizi Dutiro Assistant Customs Officers

Others are Julius Asila, Customs Officer, Bakari Ngosso, Assistant Customs Officer and Michael

Katamba, TBS Inspector at the border post.

Presenting its findings, the probe team's secretary Horombo Alexander said the probe was conducted in a period of three months starting September 18 this year.

He said the team discovered many issues some of which begun since the opening of the border station, especially on the issue of allowing livestock to cross the border into neighbouring Kenya through unauthorised routes.

"If you ask them the routes through which the livestock cross into Kenya, the answered they did not know while the centre has never collected any tax on livestock. But every day scores of livestock cross into Kenya while the border post was not aware," Alexander added.

He said there was a scanner at the border post, but after investigations, it was found out that the machine never detected illicit drugs or counterfeit money.

"After realising the scanner's defects we saw the need to increase staff from other departments- the police, security services, fire brigade, immigration and health," he said.

He called on the government to take stern steps against all the involve officials in embezzling public funds for personal gain.



Haroun Ali Suleiman (in blue tie), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Constitutional Affairs, Justice, Public Service and Good Governance), has an audience with Zanzibar High Court executives yesterday. Left is Zanzibar Chief Justice Omar Othman Makungu. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

UNICEF congratulates Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has congratulated the President of Zanzibar Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for winning this year's General Election.

In the congratulatory message, UNICEF congratulated President Dr. Mwinyi, saying his victory will further strengthen the relationship and cooperation that exists between the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the Organization.

UNICEF representative in Tanzania, Sha-

lini Bahuguma stated that the UN body has been working with Zanzibar government for a long time in serving, children, youth and women. She vowed that the organisation will continue working closely with the Isles' government on women and children issues.

For his part, Dr Mwinyi thanked UNICEF for the congratulatory greetings and explained that his government will continue to work with the organisation.

He said Zanzibar government recognises and appreciates the significant efforts

made by the UN body in ensuring that children, youth and women have access to their basic rights.

President Mwinyi assured UNICEF that his government will work closely with the organization in addressing the challenges facing children in parallel with finding solutions to those challenges.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam Prof William Anangisye commended Dr Mwinyi's victory, saying: "We'll continue working with the government in various development

aspects."

He said UDSM has been working with Isles' government through the Zanzibar-based Institute of Marine sciences (IMS), which was established in 1978 with the mandate to conduct research and offer postgraduate and undergraduate training and consultancy services in all aspects of marine sciences.

He said since last academic year, IMS introduced new course on marine science, pledging that the initiative is meant to reinforce the Zanzibar's blue economy—an

important aspect to the socio-economic development of Zanzibar.

Zanzibar is located in the Indian Ocean rim with a long coastline and vast ocean resources. The total population of Zanzibar was 1.3 million in 2012 with a density of 530 people per square kilometre. The future population of Zanzibar is estimated to increase to over 1.5 million by 2020, two millions by 2030 and over three million by 2040. This is effectively a doubling and will dramatically increase population density from the already high levels.



Manyara Media Club secretary Jaliwason Jasson (L) makes remarks at a meeting of the club's executive committee held in Babati yesterday. Others are club's chairman, Zacharia Mtigandi (C), and vice chairperson Mary Margwe. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

UCB vows to support seven AMCOS in northern regions

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

UCHUMI Commercial bank (UCB) has provided overdraft facilities worth 430m/- to seven Agriculture Marketing Cooperatives Societies (AMCOS) in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions between January and October this year.

Bank's credit officer, Elihuruma Nkini said that the overdraft was provided to seven AMCOS to enable them purchase coffee, paddy and onions from their members (farmers).

"The bank has been promoting financial inclusion to the wider communities through marketing, education as well as creation of attractive and affordable services.

During the period under review, UCB supported some community development projects for sustainable income generation, thus eradicating poverty among community members, Nkini said.

He named some activities carried out as providing financial and non-financial education to Savings and Credit Co-Operative Society (SAC-COS), Village Community Bank (VICOB), AMCOS and the community at large.

The education covered areas such as investment, saving, use of land, human rights, value addition, and environment conservation, the bank official said.

He added that UCB in collaborating with Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) and member-based network of small-scale farmer group networks in Arusha Region (MVIWATA-Arushu) conduct training in various aspects and link the groups and SACCOS with the bank.

"We have also promoting and formation of sustainable SACCOS, AMCOS and groups, as we believe that through groups it is easier to be served," he said.

UCB's Credit Manager Israel Lyatuu said that through that project, the bank also promotes development of affordable, accessible and sustainable financial products and services as per target group's requirements/needs.

"During the period under review, the bank introduced one new product which is Bodaboda loan product for youth as well as building saving culture to youth through promotion of special events which attract youth," Lyatuu said, adding:

"We have also enhancing collaborations and partnerships with different stakeholders who support financial inclusion as well as providing advocacy on policies and regulatory frameworks to various regulatory authorities as well as disseminate the contents of various laws/regulations to the community."

Lyatuu further added that, the bank is also conducting regular monitoring visits to all supported groups to ensure that they are performing well.

In addition to this, the bank has five coordinators in five church provinces which are in Kilimanjaro and Arusha. These coordinators are currently volunteering in monitoring the groups and sending monthly reports to UCB," he explained.

"UCB also provides financial support to associations of AMCOS which enabled them to source for good markets for farmer's products outside the country," he further explained.

More people in Manyara go for pyrethrum farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

FARMERS in Babati District, Manyara Region are now re-introducing pyrethrum farming after getting reliable market for the crop, which is used for the production of insecticide, cosmetics, food and pharmaceuticals.

Irrigation and cooperative officer in the district, Jetrida Kyekaka said that in the past, the crop was widely cultivated in the district, before farmers shun away for lack

of market.

The official said that pyrethrum is grown in well drained light and medium loamy soils are suitable. It grows best in areas, which have mild cool climate and a short winter and cool summer with an annual rainfall of 100 cm or more.

In Babati District, the crop is grown in three wards of Bashnet, Madunga and Qumey. "In these wards farmers used to grow pyrethrum, but they stopped due to poor market in those days. Pro-

duction dropped to 20 hectares annually. But, now farmers are growing up to 70 hectares per year," he said.

The move to revive pyrethrum farming started five years ago after the Pyrethrum Company of Tanzania Limited (PCT) shown interest of buying the pyrethrum flowers.

Kyekaka said that farmers are being encouraged after PCT provide pyrethrum seeds for free and empowering them with different farming techniques as well as giv-

ing them drying facilities. "They also offer 3,000/- per kilo of pyrethrum, which is a better price as compared to the past," he said.

Assistant registrar of cooperative unions in Manyara Venance Msafiri said: "We're working hard to promote the crop. What we do now is to identify farmers who doing pyrethrum farming in Babati and Mbulu districts."

"In December 15, we're meeting with pyrethrum growers and we want to encourage them to form a

cooperative union," he said.

Pyrethrum exports from Tanzania climbed by 15 per cent during the 2018/2019 season following improved production.

Exports rose to Sh15 billion, up from Sh13 billion in the previous year, according to the Tanzania Pyrethrum Board (TPB)'s latest report.

Over 900 tonnes of different products from pyrethrum flowers including crude extract, pyrethrum powder and dried marc

were exported to the US, China, Thailand, India Japan and Kenya during the season.

In Tanzania pyrethrum flowers are grown in the southern and northern highlands which have the right altitudes and climate conditions for cultivation of the crop.

Statistics from the board indicate the production of pyrethrum flowers increased to 2,500 tonnes in 2018/2019 from 2000 tonnes recorded in 2014/2015.

AfDB has impacted 355 million Africans - CEO

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, has said the bank's financing has had an impact on 355 million people across the continent.

Dr Adesina spoke Tuesday at the African Delivery Unit Exchange Conference in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Adesina said growth must translate into meaningful impacts on the lives of people and what should be measured is not the quantum of economic growth, but the quantum of growth in the quality of life of people.

"This is what President Kenyatta called 'deliv-

ery imperative' to close what he called 'the empty space' between policy and program conceptualization and delivery for people.

"That is what motivated me, when I was first elected President of the African Development Bank in 2015, to sharply focus our work on the High5s: Light up and power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life of the People of Africa.

"Focus is the foundation for success. In the past five years, our financing has impacted 335 million people."

Adesina listed some of the bank's investments to include the Lake Turkana project, the largest wind

power plant in Africa; the last mile electricity connectivity project now connecting over 1.2 million low-income Kenyans to electricity; and the world's largest concentrated solar power plant in Morocco.

"Our work on regional integration supported the landmark Senegambia Bridge, linking Senegal and Gambia, the 1,000 km Addis-Ababa-Nairobi-Mombasa highway linking Kenya and Ethiopia that has increased trade by 400% between both countries," he said.

Adesina said the AfDB is focused on supporting governments to translate their vision into reality.

"That's why the Bank has supported a few African countries to establish

Delivery Units to speed up their transformation processes. We are delighted to work on this with the former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair through the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

"President Kenyatta is rolling out fast, with impressive results, his impactful Big 4, agenda thanks to the President's Delivery Unit in Kenya. I commend all the Cabinet Secretaries supporting the President to deliver and close the 'empty space'.

"The key is faster, better, results. My experience, both as a Minister in Nigeria and as President of the African Development Bank, has taught me some lessons on delivery.



Arusha district commissioner Kenani Kihongosi (in suit) visits a water well construction site at Murieti in Olumoti ward, Arusha Region, earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Commissioner calls for concerted efforts to help out 'street children

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

ASSISTANT Commissioner for Social Welfare in the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Shilungu Ndaki has called on Tanzanians to hold hands with government in a bid to remove streets kids off the streets.

Ndaki made the call here yesterday when speaking during a national meeting that brought on board people from six regions as well as officials from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and Regional Commissioners and was organised by Railway Children Africa.

He cited violence, poverty, disease, traditions, cus-

tombs, broken marriages, superstitious beliefs, and a lack of responsible parenting skills as contributing factors for street children.

He said every day in Mwanza City about two children enter into streets through the Buzuruga and Nyegezi bus terminal, so it's time for local officials, neighborhood leaders, and villages to formulate a deliberate strategy to identify whose child is missing.

He said the government focuses on reducing street children related problem, urging parents and guardians to be responsible and realize their role so that every child has the opportunity to be cared for at the household level.

"We have a long way to go and to monitor the chal-

lenges of children working on the streets because after the children have various problems in their homes they run into the streets looking for happiness without knowing it is the worst but it is better for transport owners to control the challenge of children coming to town." Director of Railway Children Africa Mussa Mgata said that according to studies conducted by the organization in 6 regions in the country, which are Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mwanza, Iringa and Dodoma found the presence of 10,000 young people living and working.

He said trustworthy people have been living with the children for sometimes, while the search for their families continues with the aim of bringing them back,

where so far they have 295 people to trust, 256 women and 39 men in seven regions—Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mwanza, Iringa, Kilimanjaro and Dodoma.

"Our goal is to reach children and reach them more quickly here in Mwanza. We were reaching out to children but not in large numbers, but since we formed a Joint Coordination Committee in the region which is under the regional welfare officer we have been able to get good results by discovering them quickly," said Mgata.

Project manager Abdallah Issa said the situation in Mwanza has a total of 1,254 children living and working on the street with 976 coming in the morning and returning home with 278 sleeping on the street.

UNEP says Africa needs green stimulus to hasten recovery

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has said that a recovery plan based on green stimulus is urgently needed in Africa.

UNEP regional director for Africa Juliette Biao Koude-noukpo, said that the ravaging climate change and loss of biodiversity calls for urgent action in the continent.

According to him, the recovery plan is urgently needed since the climate, biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as human health, are fully integrated and interdependent.

Koudenoukpo told African major groups and stakeholder's virtual meeting in a speech read on her behalf by Mohamed Atani, UNEP head of communication and outreach unit, Africa office.

She said that actions by populations must be monitored since they influence the progression of the planet and the survival of societies.

"We can't expect our communities to continue destroying the foundation on which our existence depends on and envision a stable, safe and prosperous future for gen-

erations to come," said Koude-noukpo.

"The world would have already exceeded the safe warming threshold, with certainly disastrous consequences, especially on the poor and vulnerable," said Koude-noukpo.

She called for increased environmental action to protect and restore the environment, contribute towards building back different and better, increase resilience to future crises, and steer the continent on a more sustainable path.

She said that recovery from COVID-19 offers the world, in general, and Africa in particular, a historical opportunity for real transformation.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has proven how interconnected our world is and how interdependent our economic and social systems are," said Koude-noukpo.

She challenged participants to help raise awareness, educate, mobilize and engage members of communities and policymakers at all levels to deal with emerging environmental issues and unforeseen shocks with the view to reversing the current trends.



Technicians inspect a new building at Bugwema ward health centre in Musoma Rural constituency on Thursday. It is part of a project implemented jointly by residents of the area on self-help basis, the government and other stakeholders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Satellite images confirm uneven impact of planet's climate change

COPENHAGEN

UNIVERSITY of Copenhagen researchers have been following vegetation trends across the planet's driest areas using satellite imagery from recent decades.

They have identified a troubling trend: Too little vegetation is sprouting up from rainwater in developing nations, whereas things are headed in the opposite direction in wealthier ones. As a result, the future could see food shortages and growing numbers of climate refugees.

More than 40 percent of Earth's ecosystems are arid,

an amount that is expected to increase significantly over the course of the 21st century. Some of these areas, such as those in Africa and Australia may be savannah or desert, where sparse rainfall has long been the norm. Within these biomes, vegetation and wildlife have adapted to making use of their scant water resources, but they are also extraordinarily vulnerable to climate change.

Using extensive imagery from satellites that monitor Earth every day, researchers from the University of Copenhagen's Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources Management have

studied the evolution of vegetation in arid regions. Their conclusion is unequivocal:

"We observe a clear trend of arid areas developing in a negative direction in the most economically challenged countries. Here, it is apparent that the growth of vegetation has become increasingly decoupled from the water resources available and that there is simply less vegetation in relation to the amount of rainfall. The opposite is the case in the wealthiest countries," explains Professor Rasmus Fensholt of the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management.

Worse in Asia and Africa, better in South America and Australia

The researchers analyzed 15 years worth of satellite imagery of vegetation and rainfall -- from 2000 to 2015. To compare the evolution of vegetation in arid regions of the world, the researchers removed precipitation totals from the equation. In other words, they produced a calculation that accounts for the fact that some regions received more rain in past decades, while other regions received less.

This provides a more accurate picture of ecosystem health, as human influences

become easier to identify: In other words, whether resource use is balanced or whether an ecosystem's resources have been over-exploited, with potentially fatal consequences -- as imbalanced systems may be irreparable.

"Here, our results demonstrate that in arid regions, particularly those in Africa and Asia, less vegetation grows for the amount of rainwater that falls, while more vegetation grows in arid areas of South America and Australia," says lead author Christin Abel, a postdoc at the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management.

Infographic text: Areas with purple hues indicate where vegetation growth relative to rainfall is declining, while green hues reveal areas where vegetation has grown more than expected. White areas represent ecosystems where vegetation growth is in balance with the water resources available.

According to the researchers, there may be several explanations for why climate change and rising global temperatures are impacting vegetation in arid regions of the world's poorest countries. Among the most obvious is rapid population growth, in Africa for example, where

there is an increasing need to exploit land that is otherwise poorly suited for agriculture. Doing so produces lower yields and puts increasing amounts of livestock on too little grass in already fragile ecosystems.

Conversely, vegetation in arid areas of the world's wealthier countries seems to be coping better with climate change. This is likely due to the intensification and expansion of larger farms, where more economic resources allow for, among other things, irrigation and fertilization.

Food crises and more climate refugees

Dar's new state-of-the-art bus terminal starts trial operations

By Guardian Reporter

THE new modern terminal for buses travelling to the regions and neighbouring countries at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam has started trial operations.

Trial operations started on Tuesday for a vehicle entering and going out including parking slots.

Speaking during the trial operation, Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge said the aim was to how the vehicles would be lining themselves up before official inauguration.

Kunenge (pictured) said the terminal is 90 per cent complete and was ready for use and that the aim was to implement President John Magufuli's directive for its com-

pletion before the end of this month.

"We have conducted trial runs at the Mbezi-Luis Bus Terminal because we want to know how the vehicles will park, where they go in and out and what challenges there are so as to make changes before November 30," he said.

He said the terminal will have the capacity for 108 vehicles at a time.

"In the circumstances we must make sure we mobilise ourselves well and there are many issues that are being done in collaboration with various stakeholders including traffic management, bus owners, and the police," Kunenge added.

He said before the end of this month they would submit a complete report on the official start of its operations.

"We are working day and night to make sure we implement the President's directive to make the terminal ready by the end of this month," he added.

"The complex also houses a shopping mall, areas for parking passenger buses including overnight parking area where over 300 buses would park.

On October 8 this year while laying the corner stone for the terminal, President Magufuli issued directives for the terminal to be completed before November this year.



Institute of Accountancy Arusha business startup centre coordinator Pamela Choga (L) pictured yesterday briefing Dr Jim Yonas (to her left), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Works, Transport and Communications ministry, who was at the centre for the opening of an innovation competition. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

By Special Correspondent

DOB Equity has announced plans to invest in Victory Farms, one of East Africa's largest tilapia producers, to allow the firm to scale up production and increase its sales in the Kenyan market.

By investing in Victory Farms, the Dutch private equity fund aims to cash in on a slice of the estimated \$500 million Kenyan fish market.

Established in 2015, Victory supplies tilapia for the Nairobi market. It aims to become the world's first carbon neutral fish farm and has ambitious growth plans to provide affordable, accessible and

Dutch investor backs African tilapia sector

healthy protein to millions of people in East Africa.

Earlier in the year it received a loan from Conservation International Ventures, in order to help fulfil its plans to produce 60,000 tonnes of tilapia a year by 2025.

Victory Farms is a vertically integrated aquaculture business, owning hatchery ponds, deep water cages, a processing plant and cold chain distribution. The company has 20 branches in Nairobi, selling to hundreds of local food markets,

who go on to sell the fish through their own business.

DOB Equity explains that protein consumption in East Africa is on the increase and fish in particular, is a healthy source of protein with a better environmental footprint than other meats. Unfortunately, wild catch in Lake Victoria has reached its limits and in Kenya, tilapia stock is 80 per cent lower than twenty years ago. This supply deficit is currently being filled by lower quality imports from China.

Hayo Afman, co-CEO of DOB Equity,

comments: "Our latest deal in the East African aquaculture sector will allow Victory Farms to meet the increasing demand for protein, driven by population growth and increased disposable income."

Victory Farms' managing director, Joe Rehmann, says: "The entry of DOB Equity will help to further boost the firm's efforts to expand while helping them reach their goal of becoming the most sustainable fish farm on the planet."

"DOB Equity's investment has come at a crucial time for Victory Farms, we are on

track to sell 30 tonnes of fish per day, the equivalent of more than 20 million high-protein meals per year."

"We are thrilled to have partnered with DOB Equity, who share our vision of fostering social development by delivering safe and affordable food to the mass market in an environmentally sustainable way."

Bon Tjeenk Willink, investment manager at DOB Equity, says: "Kenyan consumption of fish is only one fifth of per capita global consumption and less than half of Africa's average. By partnering with Victory Farms, they will be able to fill Kenya's supply gap, which we look forward to helping the company achieve."

Africa: Fresh kick-off for agri-food affordable systems transformation

By Special Correspondent, Rome

GLOBAL leaders called today for an urgent action to transform agri-food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient in the face of COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, and ensure that everyone has access to affordable, healthy and nutritious food.

The discussion took place at a Special Seminar on Food and Nutrition, organized by FAO, entitled Urgent call for agri-food systems transformation to achieve healthy diets for all.

The keynote speakers included FAO Director-General QU Dongyu, Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development; Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians and SDG Advocate; Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand; Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union (AU) Commissioner; Cecilia Morel, First Lady of Chile; and Maria Juliana Ruiz, First Lady of Colombia.

In his opening remarks, FAO Director-General QU Dongyu

highlighted that solidarity, urgency and action were three crucial elements needed to achieve progress in transforming agri-food systems towards healthier diets. FAO estimates that more than 1.5 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet that meets the required levels of essential nutrients and 3 billion people cannot even afford the cheapest healthy diet.

"The resources - intellectual, financial and material - are not lacking, but unless we are well-organized and coordinated, the probability is that we will be too late and too ineffective for too many people in the Least Developed Countries, the Land-Locked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States", he noted.

The Director-General stressed that actions should be taken not only towards improving production, but also creating conditions for people to consume healthy foods, which requires integrated actions by all stakeholders at local, national, regional, and global levels, and across multiple fronts - not only in agriculture, but also in many other sectors such as trade, health, environment, education and

infrastructure.

He singled out three critical drivers - supporting countries, especially the least developed ones, to strengthen their resilience, first and foremost through increased investment; shifting agricultural policies towards sustainable production of more healthy foods, such as fruits, vegetables and fish, as well as aquaculture products, rather than high quantities of staple foods like rice, wheat, and maize; and implementing innovations and digital technologies in agri-food systems to increase agricultural productivity sustainably and integrate smallholders into markets.

QU also highlighted the importance of food loss and waste reduction as the key element "that will allow us to improve food security and nutrition, improve the use of natural resources, and reduce environmental pressures".

In her address, Queen Máxima of the Netherlands noted that many smallholder farmers were not well connected to value chains and had limited knowledge about options to access financial services, highlighting the great potential of new technologies and innovations in supporting bet-

ter agricultural finance and nutrition outcomes.

Queen Mathilde of Belgium stressed that in many rural societies in developing countries women were key players in food production and processing and main agents of family well-being. However, their rights to land and financial resources remain limited and their nutrition needs are often neglected. She called for greater consideration for women's work, better mutual respect and better division of labour to correct these injustices.

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in her video address reminded the audience that approximately one-third of food produced for human consumption was lost or wasted globally every year, adversely affecting food security, nutrition, well-being, livelihood, global economy, and the environment.

She called for strategies and actions to reduce food loss and waste to be urgently implemented throughout the food value chain at all levels from individual household to community, national and global levels involving farmers, food processors,

food services and businesses.

AU Commissioner Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko said that COVID-19 had exposed the fragility of the African food systems in accessing safe and nutritious food at affordable price. At the same time, she noted that COVID-19 also gave us an opportunity to "build back better and greener". This, however, requires deploying more scientific innovation, reducing post-harvest loss, investment in research as well as creating opportunities for young people and women in agri-food systems, she added.

In her remarks, the First Lady of Chile, Cecilia Morel stressed the need to address the problem of overweight and obesity that is leading to increasing levels of non-communicable diseases and an increasing burden on our health-care systems. To this end, she underscored the need for public policies promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables with a focus on access of the most vulnerable populations to healthy foods.

The First Lady of Colombia, Maria Juliana Ruiz in her video address stated that in order to tackle the multi-

ple challenges posed by the pandemic, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, we needed urgent action and a solidarity-based approach to transform our agri-food systems that is also aimed at achieving sustainability, which must go hand in hand with fulfilling 2030 Agenda's commitments.

Panel of experts

The event also included three different technical panels of experts.

FAO Chief Economist Máximo Torero delivered one of the keynote speeches and stressed that "we need to link recovery plans with catalytic investments and investment with significant returns on reduction of undernourishment to achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities)".

Panelists agreed that the impacts of COVID-19 on agri-food systems have been so damaging because they are not functional, and this needs to be addressed at all levels.

The panelists also highlighted the need to put the problem of healthy diets high on the political agenda and cited a shift of public procurement policies towards

healthier products and subsidizing the production of healthy food as possible political incentives. Another aspect mentioned was raising awareness among consumers about the impacts of unbalanced diets on their health and well-being.

Time to take action

In his closing remarks, the FAO Director-General called on participants to move from discussions to implementing policies and taking concrete actions. He alluded to the importance of political commitment and reinforced the need of working together by breaking silos and designing strategies more holistically, involving all key stakeholders such as NGOs, civil society, academia and the private sector.

He also mentioned the importance of increasing production, while developing a green economy, providing access to training, education and applied science as well as empowering women and youth as key elements of achieving agri-food systems transformation, highlighting that decisions should be taken based on science and evidence.

Hardwood industry leaders in China sign initiative to curb illegal wildlife trade

DEQING

INDUSTRY leaders representing 13 companies from the hardwood timber industry in China signed an "Initiative Against Illegal Wildlife Trade" co-launched by TRAFFIC and China Timber and Wood Products Distribution Association (CTWPDA) during the 10th Global Wood Trade Conference and 2020 China Global Sustainable Hardwood Conference held earlier this month in Deqing, Huzhou, China.

Timber enterprise representatives from 17 countries and regions participated both online and offline during the conferences this year, to discuss the future development of the industry in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These key meetings are the largest international wood industry exchange platforms in China, and TRAFFIC took the opportunity to draw delegates' attention to issues around sustainable timber procurement, overseas procurement regulations, corporate social responsibility guidelines, and approaches to counter illegal trade.

TRAFFIC also highlighted tools available to help companies achieve these aims over the next five years, including the new "Initiative against Illegal Wildlife Trade" and the "Corporate Social Responsibility Guidelines."

"China's timber industry plays a vital role in related industries in Europe. Accordingly, the supply chain legality, sustainability, and traceability should also be reinforced by Chinese companies, especially those investing in Africa," said Ms Margaux Verhaeghe, Foreign Policy Instrument, EU Delegation to China, during a video speech.

"TRAFFIC has made many efforts to promote responsible timber procurement and consumption. The EU expects that Chinese companies can co-operate with government departments, industry associations, and NGOs to strengthen supply chain management, improve product traceability, reject illegal wildlife trade, thereby promoting the green development of the Chinese timber industry and making positive contributions to international timber trade."

Pei Xiaoying, Director of Science & Technology Department, the former General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of P.R. China, said: "High-quality and sustainable development is a path worthy of everyone to explore. Effective exchanges with overseas economies such as the European Union, mutually recognised product sustainability schemes and

industry guidelines are important and essential for market expansion, positive competition, and healthy development of the industry.

We hope that with our joint efforts, China's timber enterprises can make even greater contributions to the sustainable development of the timber industry domestically and internationally."

International expectations regarding product legality, traceability and sustainability in China's timber and wood products industry are high, particularly in light of the dual effects of the pandemic and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Amir Rashad of Timber Exchange introduced an analysis of prospects for the timber industry in the Middle East and North Africa following the pandemic while Chen Hin Keong, TRAFFIC's Senior Timber advisor, spoke about the increasing role of Viet Nam as a processor and transit country in timber exports to China and the opportunities for implementation of bilateral and multilateral measures to improve legality and traceability in supplies.

Denis Mahonghol, Director of TRAFFIC's Central Africa Programme Office, spoke of the impact of timber imports and exports on African countries and local communities and of the rising expectations for the development of greener industries.

During the meetings, the recent amendments to China's Forest Law were discussed, together with the legal risks and implications for business operations. An in-depth analysis focused on measures to promote legal and high-quality investment and timber trade between China and Africa under the BRI.

Xu Ling, TRAFFIC's Director in China, spoke of the importance and need to take actions to reduce illegal wildlife trade and improve corporate social responsibility.

"Avoiding illegal trade of wild fauna and flora both protects biodiversity and the long-term development of the enterprise itself," said Ms Xu.

The 10th Global Wood Trade Conference and 2020 China Global Sustainable Hardwood Conference were hosted by CTWPDA and co-organised by TRAFFIC, with support from the European Union, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the German Government's Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (in Africa and Asia), implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).



Tanga district commissioner Thobias Mwilapwa (C, with microphone) makes remarks at road safety anniversary event at Ngamiani commuter bus stand in Tanga city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Ethiopian PM rejects Tigray conflict talks in AU meeting

NAIROBI

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed again ruled out dialogue with the leaders of the defiant Tigray region Friday but said he was willing to speak to representatives "operating legally" there during his meeting with three African Union special envoys trying to end the deadly conflict between federal troops and the region's forces.

The meeting came as more people fled Tigray's capital city ahead of a promised "final phase" of the army's offensive. Meanwhile, the number of people managing to cross the border into Sudan has slowed to a trickle, raising concerns they are being blocked from leaving.

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister, who has resisted international mediation as "interference," said he appreciated the AU envoys' "elderly concern" but told them his government's failure to enforce the rule of law in Tigray would "nurture a culture

of impunity with devastating cost to the survival of the country," according to his office. Abiy's government and the regional one run by the Tigray People's Liberation Front each consider the other illegitimate.

There was no immediate word from the three AU envoys, former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and former South African President Kgalema Motlanthe. AU spokeswoman Ebba Kalondo did not say whether they can meet with TPLF leaders, something Abiy's office has rejected.

"Not possible," senior Ethiopian official Redwan Hussein said in a message to the AP. "Above all, TPLF leadership is still at large." He called reports that the TPLF had appointed an envoy to discuss an immediate cease-fire with the international community "masquerading."

Fighting reportedly remained well outside the Tigray capital of Mekele, a densely populated city

of a half-million people who have been warned by the Ethiopian government that they will be shown "no mercy" if they don't distance themselves from the region's leaders.

Tigray has been almost entirely cut off from the outside world since Nov. 4, when Abiy announced a military offensive in response to a TPLF attack on a military base. That makes it difficult to verify claims about the fighting, but humanitarians have said at least hundreds of people have been killed.

The fighting threatens to destabilize Ethiopia, which has been described as the linchpin of the strategic Horn of Africa.

With transport links cut, food and other supplies are running out in Tigray, home to 6 million people, and the United Nations has asked for immediate and unimpeded access for aid.

Multiple crises are growing. More than 40,000 refugees have fled for Sudan, where people struggle to give them food, shel-

ter and care. One humanitarian agency says hospitals in Tigray are running out of drugs. And fighting near camps of Eritrean refugees in northern Ethiopia has put them in the line of fire.

Worryingly, refugees in Sudan have told The Associated Press that Ethiopian forces near the border are impeding people from leaving. Reporters from the AP have seen that crossings have slowed to a trickle in recent days. Ethiopia's government has not commented on that.

Nearly half of the refugees are children. The spread of COVID-19 is just one concern.

"We cannot keep social distancing here in the camp," said Mohammed Rafik Nasri, from the U.N. refugee agency. "It is really challenging among the several issues in need that are growing because the number is growing. Today we are receiving a convoy of 1,000 arriving in the camp. And shelter is one of the biggest challenges that we have at the moment."

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2020

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

Kudos to our scientists for discovering biological control of invasive weeds

HERBICIDES also commonly known as weed killers, are substances used to control unwanted plants. Selective herbicides control specific weed species, while leaving the desired crop relatively unharmed, while non-selective herbicides (sometimes called total weed killers in commercial products) can be used to clear waste ground, industrial and construction sites, railways and railway embankments as they kill all plant material with which they come into contact. Apart from selective/non-selective, other important distinctions include persistence (also known as residual action: how long the product stays in place and remains active), means of uptake (whether it is absorbed by above-ground foliage only, through the roots, or by other means), and mechanism of action (how it works).

Historically, products such as common salt and other metal salts were used as herbicides, however these have gradually fallen out of favour and in some countries a number of these are banned due to their persistence in soil, and toxicity and groundwater contamination concerns. Herbicides have also been used in warfare and conflict.

After two years of sustained attempts and improvement of formula, Tanzanian scientists have finally come up with an effective organic herbicide to destroy the stubborn invasive weeds that have been threatening Ngorongoro Crater wildlife.

In a meeting held at Ngorongoro recently, researchers from the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Tech-

nology, Dr Linus Munishi and Dr Isakwisa Ngondya said the painstaking study had to take into consideration the retention of the natural environment in the sensitive protected area.

Ngorongoro takes nearly 50 per cent of the total tourist traffic to the country each year and is also an important ecological link to the adjacent Serengeti National Park.

The weeds have hard shelled seeds bursting open in the fire, which surprisingly fuelled their further germination, so the burning exercise was seen to do more harm than good. A single such weed can produce over 150,000 seeds per season that are resilient to harsh environments, the scientists noted.

Dr Munishi said the fact that vehicles from other destinations enter or pass through the NCAA, chances are that they brought with them seeds of the alien plants. Wild animals in the Ngorongoro have started migrating away from areas covered by the alien weeds.

In a 2013 journal, another researcher, Filemon Elisante reported on the distribution and abundance of *Datura stramonium* in the Ngorongoro, stating that the spread of this alien invasive species was further catalysed by the construction of roads and viewpoints, road traffic, presence of tourist hotels and campsites, and movement of livestock.

Trials involving the use of Greenleaf *desmodium* plants have been shown to be effective in destroying the deadly *Gutenbergia cordifolia* weeds which are negatively affecting wildlife and other plant species.

Living in wildlife corridors means peaceful coexistence

WILDLIFE traditionally refers to undomesticated animal species, but has come to include all organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans. Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. Deserts, forests, rainforests, plains, grasslands, and other areas, including the most developed urban areas, all have distinct forms of wildlife. While the term in popular culture usually refers to animals that are untouched by human factors, most scientists agree that much wildlife is affected by human activities.

Humans have historically tended to separate civilization from wildlife in a number of ways, including the legal, social, and moral senses.

Some animals, however, have adapted to suburban environments. This includes such animals as domesticated cats, dogs, mice, and gerbils. Some religions declare certain animals to be sacred, and in modern times, concern for the natural environment has provoked activists to protest against the exploitation of wildlife for human benefit or entertainment.

The global wildlife population decreased by 52 per cent between 1970 and 2014, according to a World Wildlife Fund report.

A large-scale study of African elephant genetics in Tanzania reveals the history of elephant populations, how they interact, and what areas may be critical to conserve in order to preserve genetic diversity for species conservation.

The study, by researchers at Penn State, appears online in the journal *Ecology & Evolution* and

is the first to explore gene flow – a process vital to maintain necessary genetic diversity for species survival – between protected areas in Africa.

Many of the wildlife corridors the areas between these protected areas have closed completely due to human activity.

The researchers suspected that the East African Rift Valley that runs between several protected areas would prevent gene flow between elephant populations. But, interestingly, they found that elephants from Lake Manyara National Park were in some ways more genetically similar to elephants across the rift in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area – in the Serengeti region – compared to elephants in the closer Tarangire National Park.

The similarities among the two groups across the rift suggests that there was gene flow between Ngorongoro and Lake Manyara sometime in the past. The researchers also found that elephants in Tarangire were genetically similar to those more than 400 km to the south in Ruaha. This suggests extensive gene flow between the two populations before the corridors were closed between them.

The researchers also suspected that the Eastern Arc Mountains in southern Tanzania could prevent gene flow between populations on opposite sides of the mountains in Ruaha and Selous.

But while the populations had somewhat similar nuclear DNA, their mitochondrial DNA, which is passed on primarily through the maternal line, was much more varied.

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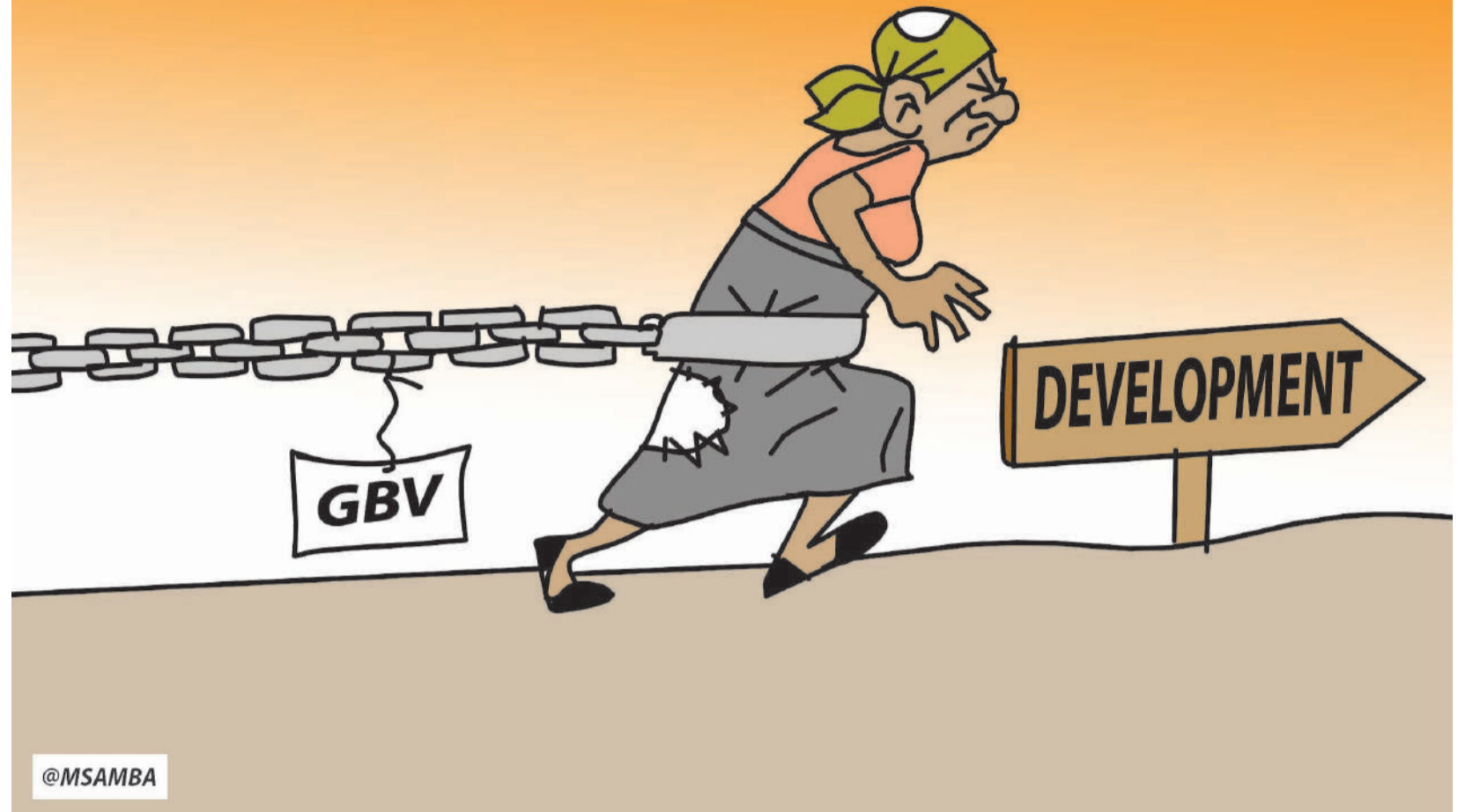
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16 DAYS



Ordinary South Africans define a decent life

By Isobel Frye

ARBITRARY statistical tools for defining poverty - including the outmoded \$1-a-day measure - are being overturned by models of dignity created by groups around the country.

What will it take to shock South Africa into recognising the extent of the impoverishment that characterises daily life for millions of South Africans? What tipping point must be reached before the right to a decent life for all becomes a reality, and what have we lost in our common humanity that makes it all right to live with such inequalities daily? Have we become so used to statistics that we deaden ourselves to what it means to live in and with poverty?

How else do we explain the ability of decision makers and policy crafters to continue day after day, as if the only crisis facing us is a recent and externalised virus?

In 2018, three independent think-tanks in South Africa came up with a novel way to better understand the reach and makeup of poverty in its many dimensions. After about five years of probing, reading and challenging our own thinking and that of other experts, we put away the reports and the formulae, the weighting and approximating of needs and thresholds and wants that make up the tools used by the experts in poverty studies. Instead, through 48 focus groups across the country, we asked a broad sampling of South Africans what they think are the essential things required to live a decent life. We asked people of different demographics and class, spatial location and language, to think about a decent life, a life of dignity. We did not ask about poverty.

The outcome was the development of the South African Decent Standard of Living measure. The work was supported by the Department of Social Development and the methodology chewed over by Statistics South Africa. The methodology is innovative and unique - and the findings are damning.

Defining poverty

For centuries, people have



been fixated with the science of describing who is officially "poor" and who is not, and whether impoverishment is a personal failing or a systemic societal problem.

A concept of poverty can, for instance, refer to not having enough food to feel full every day. It can also refer to someone feeling embarrassed that they cannot afford the same kind of phone as their peers. Relative to your community, you can feel shamed, inadequate or not good enough for not having "enough" money. Absolute and relative poverty are very different, and yet both are real and extremely powerful. But we seem unable to conceptualise and describe in any detail what these states comprise.

In past decades, many people have mixed up the idea of definition and measure in the worst possible way, accepting the World Bank's notion that poverty means \$1 per person per day. This poverty measure is the average of 10 poverty lines, which were derived for the poorest countries in the world at a given time. Simultaneously, the national US poverty line was just over \$11 per person per day. The \$1 measure bears no relevance to need or context, and yet became a standard that overnight was used to decide who was "poor" and who was not.

Defining poverty is a political act that always involves an arbitrary and usually hidden choice about who gets what, and what, if anything, should be done about this. In South Africa, we have three poverty lines that were adopted by Statistics South Africa: the food poverty line, the lower-bound poverty line and the upper-bound poverty line. In mid 2020, these were respectively set at R585, R840 and R1 268 per person per month.

The setting and use of poverty lines in South Africa have a shaming history. Poverty measures were used to set and justify virtual slave wages under apartheid. According to Wiseman Magasela: "In the early 1970s, white industrialists

adopted the Poverty Datum Line as a standard against which to set the wages of Black workers. Academic and research institutes such as the Institute for Planning Research at the then University of Port Elizabeth, the Bureau for Market Research at the University of South Africa, the Department of Economics at the then University of Natal, all contributed in various ways in calculating the Poverty Datum Line and its derivatives for African and Coloured workers. According to Edward Batson, the man who pioneered the PDL in South Africa, the PDL represented a 'sub-standard condition of living', it was a standard that is 'not human', is not even 'a minimum ideal', and is only a 'physiological minimum' representing 'existence at the lowest possible level'."

The legacy of the minimalist nature of the poverty datum line can be found in the current national poverty lines - lines that are defined by "experts". A United Nations Development Programme report published in 2020, the Covid-2019 Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment for the Most Vulnerable, describes the lowest of the three national poverty lines as referring to the "rand value below which individuals are not in a position to purchase or consume enough food to meet their minimum per-capita per-day energy requirement for adequate health". In other words, people who fall below this food poverty line starve.

Improving lives
Statistics South Africa's last official poverty report, found that 25.2% of people fell below this poverty line in 2015, and the percentage and number of people below this line has been rising steadily - even before the pandemic.

The National Development Plan in 2012 committed to moving everybody above the middle poverty line by 2030. In 2011, 36.4% of people fell below the middle line. This increased to 40% by 2015 and continues to increase, not decrease. It is interesting that in the June

2019 state of the nation address, the president said "no one would go hungry" by 2030. Was this a recalibration from the middle to the lowest poverty line as a goal?

This brings us closer to the concept of why a standard for improving people's lives should be set by ordinary folk and not through an obscure and often arbitrary statistical measure.

The act of setting a measure is deeply embedded in power relations and notions and normative judgments of what people deserve and who deserves what. Because there is no agreement defining wellbeing, and because South Africa has such a terrible legacy of the use of statistical niceties to legitimise apartheid wages, it is important in our democracy to ensure the inclusion of non-experts in these critical deliberations. This is what motivated the development of the Decent Standard of Living measure.

The Decent Standard of Living is a money amount that represents the median monthly income required to access the collection of goods and services, 21 in total, identified through the 48 focus groups as being essential for a life of dignity. In 2020, the median per capita monthly income is R7 541. Research found that only 3%, or about 1.7 million South Africans, would be able to obtain all 21. The multidimensional reflection of what constitutes a decent life in South Africa is so much richer as a policy tool as well as a national statement than a minimalist head-count measure used in a poverty line.

Values of decency and dignity are the bedrock of the South African Constitution. In building back, we need to see a national commitment to moving beyond the minimalist poverty lines and an embrace of multidimensional poverty measure tools - including the Decent Standard of Living.

Isobel Frye is the director of the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII).

Thank you for the memories: Diego warriors outfoxed themselves

FINALLY, he rests, the greatest of all time. Diego Armando Maradona passed on Wednesday at the age of 60 after suffering a heart attack in his native Argentina, just a couple of weeks after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. Eventually, it was his heart that collapsed and gave way after a high-octane, passion-filled 60 years lived on the edge. The Argentine maestro led a colourful life, eventful both on and off the pitch – astonishing fans with his breathtaking style and infuriating the establishment with his flagrant disregard of the rules both on and off the field.

Maradona, who was voted one of the two joint winners of the FIFA Player of the 20th Century award, along with Brazilian icon Pele, led Argentina to glory at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and also won championships with Napoli and his beloved Boca Juniors, granting him almost saint-like status in both Italy and Argentina. It was whispered that he was more popular than the Pope – and that is saying something if you consider the deep catholic traditions of both countries.

Maradona specialised in the spectacular. He was deceptively quick and totally unpredictable – the conductor of Argentina's attack. Able to spray passes as he linked up play with the likes of Jorge Burruchaga for Argentina or Salvatore Bagni at Napoli, he was also able to weave his way past bemused defenders with ballerina-like poise, often finishing off with devastating effect with his left boot, his most potent weapon.

He dominated matches like no player had ever done in the history of the game, his style captivating fans while bewitching his opponents over a two-decade long career that saw him thrust Argentina firmly on the world map.

"You took us to the top of the world."



Argentina President Alfredo Fernandez tweeted as news of his demise spread on social media. "You made us incredibly happy. You were the greatest of all."

Argentina's "golden boy" is best remembered for the two goals that sent England packing from the 1986 World Cup. Their quarter-final at the legendary Estadio Azteca was eagerly anticipated, coming just a few years after the Falklands War between the United Kingdom

and Argentina.

It was a game that had more than just a sporting edge to it – it had plenty of niggles and national pride was at stake and Maradona made sure Argentina would not lose a second war with a performance that few would ever forget.

Early in the second half, a hurried clearance from the England defence sent the ball high into their own penalty area and Maradona pounced, showing cat-like agility to leap above Peter Shilton, the England goalkeeper, as he tried to punch the ball clear. Replays showed that

Maradona punched, rather than headed, the ball into the net – coming more than three decades before the introduction of VAR, it was a foul the match-officials missed. The Argentine No. 10 would go on to dedicate the goal to the "hand of God."

While that goal has become arguably the most infamous in soccer history, Maradona's second in that game was voted the best ever seen at a World Cup. After receiving a pass inside his own half, Maradona waltzed past the entire England defence before rounding off Shilton and slotting the ball into the net from a tight an-

gle. It was pure genius from a man operating at the peak of his powers.

He also led La Albiceleste, as Argentina are known, to the final of Italia'90 only to be cruelly denied a second successive world cup title by a resilient West Germany. But his international playing career came to an ignominious end in 1994 with the shame of a failed drugs test at the World Cup in the United States. His notoriously wayward lifestyle, which had come to the fore when he was banned from football in 1991 for substance abuse during his days at Napoli, was catching up with him. It was his battles with addiction that would become regular global news for the rest of his life. Inevitably, health problems followed as Maradona partied through retirement, occasionally taking up coaching jobs with little or limited success – the highest profile of which was Argentina's capitulation at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, a tournament they came into as one of the favourites.

Maradona's life was something of a paradox – a drama that carried the good, the bad and the ugly. But there is no denying his status as one of the most inspirational players the game has ever seen. Legendary Uruguayan radio commentator, Victor Hugo Morales, summed it up best during that famous Argentina – England match in Mexico. The emotion with which he called the second goal will forever be etched into the collective memory of those who were privileged to have watched it. "What planet did you come from?" he shouted. Then, as he ran out of breath: "Thank you God, for football, for Maradona." To have said more would have been to spoil the moment, and fittingly, I too will not gild the lily – Thank you for the memories, Diego.

Turning the tide on gender-based violence in Nigeria in the midst of COVID-19

By Edward Kallon

If you are in a room with ten women, there is a high chance that three of these women have experienced physical, sexual, economic or psychosocial violence simply because of their gender, which is known as gender-based violence (GBV). Even though these three women know their perpetrators, only one of them knows about what health support is available, and only one would approach the justice system.

The two other women are shameful, they would not speak about the violence they experienced out of fear of stigma from their community, friends, and family, who might say she should be more careful or that she dressed improperly.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown, states reported more than a doubling of the already existing pandemic of violence against women. We call it the shadow pandemic because it is equally deadly, global, and harmful, but often invisible to the eyes of the public.

In June 2020, Nigeria witnessed something remarkable. For the first time, 36 governors united to speak up and out and declared a state of emergency on sexual and gender-based violence. This was the response to women and men across the nation standing together, defying COVID-19 restrictions, and protesting online and offline to demand decisive, cohesive action to tackle GBV on all fronts.

Starting 25th November each year, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, until Human Rights Day 10th December, the United Nations stands with all who stood in the streets in June to push for the GBV Declaration of Emergency or shared their anger towards the increase in gender-based violence.

During the 16 Days of Activism, the whole world, led by civil society, the United Nations, governments, media, and the private sector, join forces and call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The 16 Days of Activism Campaign forces us to have serious conversations and to map out actions that address the GBV pandemic.

The United Nations System in Nigeria urges the Government of Nigeria; civil society; the media; traditional, religious and community leaders; schools and institutions; the private sector; health practitioners, social workers, emergency responders – and all other stakeholders in positions of power and influence to take swift action.

Our appeal to the governors, together with key stakeholders is to take action and end gender-based violence in the following areas:

We must fund, and make sure funding is flexible and available for women's rights organisations, that essential services are available, and funds for GBV prevention included in fiscal stimulus packages.

Almost half of the Nigerian girls are married before they turn 18, we must acknowledge that the health sector is key to address the chal-



lenge and fund sexual and reproductive health care for these girls, and survivors of GBV, so they don't carry life long scars from early pregnancy, such as HIV or fistula. We must respond with adequate funds to address the GBV crisis in the North East, amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We must prevent gender-based violence from happening in the first place, declaring a state of emergency is the first step, what we need now is an action plan and campaigns that change behaviours and men speaking up and out against violence against women. Unequal power relations between men and women feed and fuel gender-based violence. Religious, traditional, community and political lead-

ers can undo harmful practices and dismantle stereotypes wherever they may be found.

We must respond to this violence. The police must have trained staff and gender desks to support survivors of GBV, and access to justice is critical to protecting women and girls. Federal and state legislators must tackle GBV via the domestication of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, develop a third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the passage of the anti-sexual harassment in tertiary institutions bill. The national gender machinery must be empowered to equip sexual assault referral centres and develop sex offenders' registers in the states.

The health sector is a key institution, without skilled health workers, evidence of GBV will not be collected, and no one will be held accountable. There are positive developments out of some states, but with 20 states yet to pass the VAPP, they only amount to a drop in the ocean in the grand scheme of things.

We must collect data on gender-based violence, so we know where and how to help to improve life-saving services for women and girls. The European Union and the UN Spotlight Initiative, collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, just launched a National GBV Situation Room and Data Dashboard, which means that six states now have a coordinated system to collect and coordinate GBV data in Nigeria.

Eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, tagged 'the shadow pandemic', is an urgent task with responsibilities for citizens; we all have a place in the 2020 theme "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" if we are to achieve success in protecting our women and girls. In our homes, our places of worship, our schools, our communities, and public places, we have to call out all appearances of GBV regardless of our relationship to the survivor or perpetrator.

"Together, we can and must prevent violence everywhere, from war zones to people's homes, as we work to beat Covid-19", says António Guterres, UN Secretary-General. The United Nations System in Nigeria remains committed to working with governments and partners to prevent and address GBV.

Together, we can end gender-based violence and ensure the safety and security of all women and girls. We must take action during this year's 16 Days of Activism.

Mr Kallon is the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria.

Living your life in style

By Special Correspondent

ALIFE lived in style is also a balanced life. Make sure you pay attention to all the values and dimensions of your life. One is family. If you have someone you care about, there is nothing to match that. One person caring for another is life at its best. Protect that relationship with a vengeance. If any obstacle gets in the way; if any hindrance gets in the way; if any roadblock gets in the way; tear down these things.

It was wisely said long ago, but is still true today: "There are many treasures, but the greatest of these is love." Family must be cultivated like an enterprise, like a garden. Time, effort, imagination, creativity, and genius must be summoned constantly to keep your family relationships flourishing and growing.

The next dimension of life is friendship. Friends are those incredible people who know all about you and still like you. Friends are those people who stay by your side when everyone else is leaving. As someone once suggested, "Be sure to make the kind of friends on your way up who will take you in on your way down." Life is a bit of both up and down, but with true friends—friends who care regardless of your circumstances—the ups are even more fantastic and the downs are less devastating.

Friendship is so vitally important to those in search of the good life. Make sure your friendships get the attention and the effort they deserve. Properly nourished, they will give back to you that priceless treasure of both pleasure and satisfaction called "the good life."

Remember, the good life is not measured by material wealth or possessions. The good life is an attitude, an act, an idea, a discovery, a search. The good life comes from a lifestyle that is so fully developed—regardless of your bank account—that it provides you with a constant sense of joy in living. It fuels the fires of motivation to adopt a lifestyle that makes living worthwhile. "What is wealth without character, industry without art, quantity without quality, enterprise without satisfaction, possession without joy?"

THE BALANCED LIFE

Psychologists have found two major things that we, as human beings, get the most happiness and satisfaction from. Number one is our work—our contribution to society, our continued progress toward reaching our goals, our area of influence and power.

Number two is love, the love we receive from our spouse, our children, our parents, our families, and our friends.



Knowing that one person, or several people, care about us and want to spend time with us is an important factor.

The professional goals that you have outlined for yourself take a lot of work. They require constant learning to improve yourself and develop your skills. Do not expect that your achievements will come to you on a silver platter. Do not work on what Jim Rohn calls, "wish-hope-and-prayer philosophy."

You cannot just expect to come home at night after a long day and expect your family life to be improving all by itself. You cannot just expect that your personal life will grow and flourish without attention, without your taking the time to feed and water and weed out the negativity that happens while you are away. Creating the perfect personal life takes just as much attention as creating the perfect professional life. It takes love, nurturing, kindness, sincerity, and caring. And that's one of the biggest mistakes that occur today. People spend all their time, focus all their energy, and give everything they have got to the job. It cannot work that way. Your family requires more than that.

The investment you initially made to your personal relationships is the investment you must continue to make. The

more you give, the more you get. If you stop giving, guess what—you will probably stop receiving, too.

Work hard. Play hard. Life has to be balanced, or your motivation will suffer along with your lifestyle. Life without balance can cost you your relationships. Life without balance can cost you your health. Life without balance can cost you your spirituality. Life without balance can cost you your wealth and your happiness. So find things to motivate you from all areas of life. Your success depends on it.

THE UNIVERSAL QUEST

George Leonard, in his book "Mastery," talks about "enjoying the plateau."

This is an important point. So often, we find ourselves racing to get ahead, thinking so much about our next achievement that we cannot appreciate the time in between. We find ourselves losing our motivation.

Happiness is not in the getting. Happiness is in the becoming. Happiness is a universal quest. Happiness is a joy that comes as a result of positive activity. It has a wide variety of meanings, a wide variety of interpretations.

Happiness is both the joy of discovery and the joy of knowing. It is the result of an awareness of the full range of life. It is opening yourself to experiences, sounds, harmonies, dreams, and goals. It is the joy that comes from designing a life that practices the fine art of living well.

Happiness is being able to explore all that life offers. Happiness is quite often found in having options—options of doing what you want to, instead of doing what you have to. The option of living where you want to, instead of living where you have to. The option of looking like you want to, instead of settling for what you have to look like.

Happiness is receiving and sharing, reaping and bestowing. Happiness is found in taking the time to enjoy what you have accomplished: enjoying the plateau, giving yourself credit when credit is due, patting yourself on the back for a job well done. Happiness is the here and now. Happiness is not the end result. Happiness is part of the journey.

There is an old saying that goes, "The road to heaven is heaven." The happiness that you are searching for in the future must be found today. The success you are after in the future will only be found by working on it today. Motivation is generated when there is a balance between the need for active achievement and the satisfaction in taking the time to acknowledge what you have already achieved.

Take the time to reflect while you are enjoying your plateau. And while you are reflecting back on your past accomplishments, think about something else. Think about the potential within you that is still untapped. Consider the following two questions during your time of reflection.

Number one: what could I have achieved in the past, had I been more diligent? Could I have been more disciplined? Worked smarter instead of harder? Said "no" more often to social functions and community commitments? What could I have achieved in the past, had I tried things a little differently?

Only you can answer this question. It is very personal. While you are reflecting and enjoying your plateau, dig a little deeper and see if you cannot be just a bit more effective next time. Work a little smarter instead of a little harder.

Here is number two: how can I achieve more in the future? If you take sometime to thoughtfully answer question number one, you will probably have a clue as to what is needed in the future.

Do you need to work more diligently? Do you need to be more disciplined? Do you need to work smarter instead of harder? Do you need to say "no" more often? Do you need to manage your time better?

That is one of the keys to reflection. You can design your future better if you can learn from your past. You can face your future with more excitement, more anticipation, and more motivation when you design a future worth getting excited about. You can see your future and have it pull you forward. Just don't forget to pat yourself on the back for what you have done so far.

Trans men's reproductive health needs more research

By Dr. Lynae Brayboy | Clue

AN important aspect of reproductive health is contraception. Unfortunately, for many transgender men, this choice can be difficult. There is very little research to inform their choices and very few healthcare professionals with clinical expertise in trans reproductive care, which includes pregnancy, fertility and sexual function as well as contraception.

Taking testosterone can help produce desired, gender-affirming characteristics for many trans men. As well as facial hair and a lower voice, this can include amenorrhea, or the absence of spontaneous periods - something that may be welcomed.

However, it's important to note that testosterone is not a contraceptive and people can become pregnant despite not having a period. This means that reliable contraception is still very important for trans men who don't want to become pregnant, even when taking testosterone.

There is no clinical consensus on what the most appropriate contraceptive option is when it comes to the transition process for trans men.

A very commonly prescribed method is the oral contraceptive pill. Both components of the oral contraceptive pill work independently to impede the production and effect of androgens (hormones associated with male characteristics, like testosterone and androstenedione) that are made naturally by the ovaries and adrenal glands.

So there is a possibility that combined contraceptive pills could negate the desired effects of gender-affirming hormone therapy for trans men.

However, there is not enough data to really know with certainty whether this is the case. This is why we need further clinical research, and better enrollment of trans men in contraceptive studies in general: so we have more data.

One method of contraception that transgender men could consider could be methods that just use progesterin - a synthetic version of the natural female reproductive hormone progesterone. These have a singular impact on testosterone production, rather than the dual one that the combined pill has.

They could also consider a hormonal IUD (intrauterine device), a T-shaped device that sits inside the uterus and which has the benefit of



at least 20% of users having no period.

Finally, the etonogestrel progestin implant is the most effective form of birth control and many individuals experience infrequent period bleeding. But of course this implant, like the IUD, needs to be placed by a trained healthcare professional. Keep in mind that everyone is different so your bleeding profile could vary.

In the U.S., it was only in 1993 that the National Institute of Health policy required women to be included in all of the research that the body supported. Now, I think that it is time for the mandate to be re-evaluated, to make sure all genders are included.

There are an estimated 1.5 million trans people in the

United States, but unfortunately there is really sparse data about trans individuals across the field of reproductive health. Even emerging research, such as a study published this year on ovulation while taking testosterone by scientists at the University of Washington, concludes that further research is needed.

Anyone reading this - whether a trans person, an ally or otherwise - can petition their governmental representatives and local health officials to fund and approve studies. There is the PRIDE study, which is tracking the long-term health of LGBT+ people, but we also need new ones that specifically study both fertility, pregnancy and contraceptive options

for transgender and/or non-binary individuals.

We can also direct our attention towards volunteering for trans reproductive justice initiatives, shaping medical education, and increasing our own awareness of the increased violence against Black trans lives.

Trans health issues are public health issues and we need everyone's help to address the reproductive health disparities that exist.

The first African American Catholic cardinal confirmed as a climate change believer

BY JAMES BRUGGERS

WILTON Gregory, soon to be the first African American Catholic cardinal, has distinguished himself among archbishops with his embrace of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on the environment and climate change.

Gregory, 72, the archbishop of Washington, has, during his long career in the church, spoken out for racial justice, welcomed LGBTQ Catholics and led the church's "zero-tolerance" response to sex abuse in the United States after the crisis with priests that emerged in the 1990s.

But it was in 2015, with the issuance of the Pope's "Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home," that Gregory, at the time the Archbishop of Atlanta, asked for an action plan to implement Francis's seminal embrace of climate science. That action plan has been used as inspiration for other faith guides in Boston, Columbus, Minneapolis, San Diego and beyond.

"He's had very important leadership roles," said Rome-based Tomás Insua, executive director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, which works with the Vatican on climate matters. "He has been a well-respected leader for a long time. To have a Laudato Si' champion named a cardinal is always welcome news."

Insua said that Gregory, who plans to remain in Washington after he and 12 other new cardinals are elevated on Nov. 28, is well positioned geographically to make a difference on climate.

"What happens in D.C. is seen by more eyes than other dioceses," Insua said. "There is the potential for inspiring a lot of action. He will be there in a highly public role in the church."

In a diocese workshop held in April, Gregory spoke of the tragedy of refugees fleeing climate disruptions, how climate change disproportionately burdens poor people and people of color and how climate needs to be a calling for all faith traditions.

"This is not a Catholic issue," he said. "This is a human issue."

Sticking His Neck out for Climate Change

Gregory has been a priest for 47 years. He was bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, for 11 years, before being named Archbishop of the Atlanta Diocese in 2005, where he served for 14 years.

"He is quite extraordinary," said Susan Varlamoff, the University of Georgia biologist who spearheaded the Atlanta Archdiocese' climate action plan at Gregory's request.

"He is honestly willing to stick his neck out to do something that is right," said Varlamoff, a Catholic and retired academic environmental administrator.

The climate plan that she and other academic colleagues wrote a 52-page treatise on the science of climate change that offered Georgians motivated by their faith a road map for dealing with a warming earth.

It called for strengthened climate education at Catholic schools, prompted a series of local energy audits and efficiency improvements at churches and schools and asked priests to talk about climate change and encourage their parishioners to "call, write or e-mail their elected officials



Wilton Gregory, the archbishop of Washington will soon be the first African American Catholic cardinal

when critical environmental decisions are being made at the local, state and national level."

The Washington Dioceses, which serves 655,000 Catholics, is reviewing its own draft climate action plan now, said Genevieve Mougey, director of a newly reopened Office for Social Concerns in the Archdiocese of Washington.

It will be informed, she said, by the pope's call for what he describes as "integrated ecology," including "how racism fits into an understanding of climate change."

Concerned About Climate Change

When Pope Francis released Laudato Si' five years ago, scientists were warning that global warming, rising seas and supercharged weather were no longer distant threats.

While the impact of his message has been mixed inside the sprawling Catholic Church, an increased number of faith organizations have added their voices to the national debate on what to do about climate change, as weather extremes are supercharged by global warming.

On Nov. 16, 47 additional faith institutions around the world, including 42 representing Catholics, announced their divestment from fossil fuels, bringing the collective number to do so to nearly 400, according to the Global Catholic Climate Movement. The group has been working to persuade a growing number of Catholic institutions to pull their investments.

The pope in June called on Catholics to divest from fossil fuel companies.

As the Nov. 3 presidential and Senate elections approached, a poll found that American voters of faith, including evangelical and mainline Protestants, Catholics, Jews and religiously unaffiliated voters, overwhelmingly believe climate change is happening and are worried about it.

Eighty-two percent of nonwhite Catholics and 77 percent of white Catholics said they were worried

about climate change, according to the poll, which was conducted by the Yale University Program on Climate Change Communication, Climate Nexus and George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication.

"As more and more people experience the impacts of climate change, the more they are going to turn their focus toward it," said Dan Misleh, executive director of Catholic Climate Covenant, a nonprofit that works nationally to incorporate the encyclical's message in education and worship.

Initially, the encyclical received only a mixed reception in the United States, with some conservative Catholics describing the pope's opposition to fossil fuels as an attack on capitalism. "On the whole, liberals but not conservatives embraced it," said Ed Maibach, professor and director of the George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communications, citing research published last year in the online journal, WIRES Climate Change.

"But it's important to note that the pope did not get a whole lot of help from his U.S. Archbishops in carrying the message," Maibach said. "Archbishop Gregory was an exception," Maibach said. "His climate action plan in Atlanta was quite strong."

Maibach said that "it is likely to be helpful to have an American cardinal who is willing to be a strong, local messenger for the pope's encyclical, if indeed he is willing to serve in that capacity."

Millions Suffering from Climate Change

It is yet to be seen how Gregory's new position in the Catholic hierarchy might influence the climate work of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which interacts with Congress and the president on matters of public policy, from abortion to climate and the environment.

The conference has not been aggressive about pushing for comprehensive climate legislation, but it did oppose some of President Trump's pro-fossil fuel and anti-climate agenda, including withdrawing the United States from the Paris climate agreement,

repealing the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan and setting weaker motor vehicle fuel efficiency standards.

Catholic leaders met on Oct. 1 with the co-chairs of the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus, Sens. Michael Braun, a Republican from Indiana, and Chris Coons, the Delaware Democrat. At the meeting, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, the leader of the bishops' domestic justice office, talked about the need to help "millions of people suffering from climate change right now," and "plants, animals and ecosystems which must be protected."

Coakley said climate legislation "that protects species, biome, and processes as well as human interactions and wellbeing" will be the most durable solution, and he encouraged Republicans and Democrats to work together, according to a written statement of comments he made.

"We cannot rely on executive orders that can be rolled back to protect the environment," he said.

The Most 'Consequential' Problem

The make-up of the Senate for the next two years is still in question, with two Senate runoff elections in Georgia to decide control of the Senate and determine whether President-Elect Joe Biden will have a chance to enact significant portions of his \$2 trillion jobs-and-climate agenda.

Varlamoff, who worked with Gregory on the climate action plan for Atlanta-area Catholics, said she believes the incoming cardinal may find common ground with Biden, a Catholic who defended the pope's encyclical and rebuffed complaints by some Republicans and others who said the pope should stay out of climate politics. Biden, in a 2017 interview with America Magazine/The Jesuit Review, said that the pope has made it clear he's not a political arbiter.

"But what he talked about are basic fundamental assertions," Biden said. "The way I read (Laudato Si') it was an invitation, almost a demand, that a dialogue begin internationally to deal with what is the single most consequential problem and issue facing humanity right now."

Gregory recently told the Associated Press that he hopes the Catholic Church's U.S. leadership will broaden its concept of "pro-life" to include other issues in addition to fighting abortion.

That's a view also held by the Rev. Mitchell Hescoc, executive director of the National Evangelical Network.

"The definition is conception to natural death," Hescoc told InsideClimate News last summer. "Anything that takes away life, from the killing of life to pollution that is deteriorating the quality of life is a pro-life concern." know Gregory but welcomes his enthusiasm for Laudato Si'.

"The more we can educate Catholics and evangelicals about the value of Laudato Si' is a good thing," Hescoc said. "It's care for all life and care for our common home." Faith leaders say that scientific facts alone won't likely move the United States or the rest of the world to act on climate change.

"The conversation about climate ... is about science, energy policy and all this complex stuff," said Insua, of the Global Catholic Climate Movement. "Faith has the potential for reframing the conversations. Fundamentally, it's a spiritual and moral crisis. Our relationship with the earth is broken."

Restoration of degraded grasslands can benefit climate change mitigation, ecosystem services

By Special Correspondent

A Team of Kenyan and Swiss scientists assessed how invasion by *P. juliflora* and the restoration of degraded grasslands affected soil organic carbon (SOC), biodiversity and fodder availability.

The scientists include lead author Purity Rima Mbaabu, affiliated to Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation of University of Nairobi and Chuka University and Dr. Urs Schaffner from CABI's Swiss Centre in Delémont.

The study, published in Scientific Reports, revealed that degradation of grasslands in Baringo County, Kenya, has led to a loss of approximately 40% of SOC, the most important carbon pool in soils. These findings confirm that grassland degradation significantly contributes to the release of greenhouse gasses and thus to climate change. The authors also showed that 30 years of grassland restoration replenished SOC to a soil depth of 1 meter at a rate of 1.4% per year and also restored herbaceous biomass to levels of pristine grasslands, while plant biodiversity remained low. Invasion by *P. juliflora*, on the other hand, increased SOC primarily in the upper 30cm of the soil and suppressed herbaceous

vegetation.

Grasslands comprise 40% of the Earth's natural vegetation and contain a substantial amount of the world's SOC. In supporting the livelihoods of over 1 billion people worldwide, they provide a home to a wide variety of animals and plants and support other ecosystem services such as the regulation and storage of water flows, forage for livestock production and tourism.

However, grasslands are under severe threat from degradation, conversion to other land uses as well as encroachment by *P. juliflora* which has accounted for the disappearance of over 30% of grasslands in Baringo County.

The scientists say that efforts to reverse land degradation in Baringo County and other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa should consider restoration of historical grasslands and their associated ecosystem services. To meet the needs of wood, planting of native trees should be promoted on land which historically used to be forested.

Mbaabu said, "The importance of managing grasslands to optimize carbon sequestration for climate change mitigation is widely recognized. Soils are the largest terrestrial carbon reservoir containing more carbon than the vegetation and the atmosphere

combined. Yet, soil organic carbon, which makes up about two thirds of global soil carbon, is sensitive to land degradation with significant negative consequences for soil quality and productivity and an exacerbation of greenhouse gas emissions."

Prof Daniel Olago from the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation of the University of Nairobi emphasized that: "Halting and reversing land degradation and restoring degraded soils and their associated services in range-lands is essential for climate change mitigation and for ensuring resilient agro-ecological systems that underpin sustainable rural livelihoods and that meet medium to long-term sustainable development objectives such as the 2030 global sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063. The current choices on how to manage our soil resources will have wide-ranging consequences for human wellbeing for generations to come."

Dr. Schaffner said, "Our results provide evidence that the replenishment of the soil organic carbon stocks through restoration of degraded grasslands can be achieved within 20-30 years and does not lead to multiple trade-offs with fodder for livestock and other ecosystem



services. The extent to which grassland restoration will increase primary productivity and soil organic carbon, however, will depend on socio-economic factors including land tenure systems and en-

forcement of land use rights affecting the level and type of grazing management."

Prosopis was introduced into Baringo County in the early 1980s through the Fuelwood Afforestation Extension

Project which aimed to mitigate firewood scarcity and desertification. However, soon after its introduction Prosopis started to escape from the plantations and to invade the surrounding ecosystems.

Today, the costs of Prosopis and other invasive trees and shrubs, such as Lantana camara and Chromolaena odorata, in South Africa alone are estimated to cost USD \$1 billion a year.

Statement on recent decision of ECOWAS community Court of Justice

By Samuel Kofi Woods

HUMAN Rights Lawyer and Legal Consultant of the Liberia Law Society, Attorney-at-Law Samuel Kofi Woods, II has declared the decision of the ECOWAS COURT regarding the case of Associate Justice Kabineh Mohammed J'neh as HISTORIC AND MOMENTOUS: A TRIUMPH FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS. Attorney Woods who just returned from Abuja, Nigeria from the ECOWAS Court hailed the Law Society, Lawyers, civil society, Liberians and many others for supporting the search for justice.

On 10th November, 2020, the Government of Liberia received a rebuke from the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice. The 73-page Opinion of the regional court is uncomplicated in its reasoning and instructive in the basic principles of human rights. No doubt, Associate Justice Kabineh Muhammad J'neh won - that the Government of Liberia lost cannot be in dispute. However, to simply assess winners and losers out of the sub-regional reprove, is to distract from the more troubling implications of the ruling.

The Associate Justice had complained to the regional court that his removal violated his human rights to fair hearing, to an impartial trial, to work, and to the dignity of his person, all of which are guaranteed by the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international instruments to which Liberia is signatory, and are summarily prescribed under Chapter III of the Liberian Constitution. He claimed that his impeachment, trial, conviction, removal from office and replacement violated the Liberian Constitution, and further alleged that the Liberian Government "subjected him to impeachment proceedings with no Prescribed Rules of Procedure" thereby undermining his right to a fair hearing.

The Government of Liberia essentially contended that J'neh's impeachment and removal were "political", and that the regional court could not review the decisions of a national authority because doing so would grant onto the regional court the authority of appellate jurisdiction which it did not possess over national courts.

The ECOWAS Court of Justice disagreed with the Liberian Government and held that its jurisdiction extended to a review of the claims of citizens of the ECOWAS community insofar as such claims concern the violation of human rights which is not necessarily measured by the rejection of an accused



but by the weight of the claims of an accuser. Siding with the Associate Justice, the court directed his reinstatement and the payment of reparation for "moral prejudice suffered".

The Liberian Government, as a signatory to the ECOWAS TREATY and the Protocol establishing the Court as well as the several international legal instruments is duty-bound to comply fully with the ruling of the Court. Any decision and/or posture to disregard the ruling of the regional court can only serve to further convince all that the Liberian Government conducts itself in the unenviable darkness of lawlessness.

It is bliss of ignorance not to acknowledge that on trial in the regional court was the Liberian Government's commitment to the rule of law, good governance and its dedication to respect human rights. Therefore, by ruling in favor of the Associate Justice, the regional court actually found the Liberian Government to be wanting in its commitment to the rule of law, to the principles of good governance, and to the protections of the basic human rights, of not only a Liberian citizen, but also a high court judge who should be immuned from the threats of political recriminations for judicial decisions. Such immunity provides judicial officials assurances for much-needed judicial independence and courage in the award of fair and impartial decisions. The Liberian Constitution under Article 73 thereof, also provides this insula-

tion for judges.

Indeed, the ECOWAS Court of Justice will not ordinarily speak in such direct terms. They ought not to be expected to. But Liberians, and especially our leaders, are wise to wake up to what was not respectfully said by the Court so as to fully understand, and look to correct, what was silently expressed about the irrepressible duties we share, to treat each other consistent with the Liberian Constitution and international laws, under whose authority we exist, and are recognized to exist, as a free and independent nation.

Irrespective of differences, all Liberians should find the ECOWAS Court's Decision concerning. Especially in its call for Justice J'neh's reinstatement, the regional court effectively nullified, voided and repudiated the illegal impeachment and removal of the judge.

After the recent tragedy of our implosion, the harshness of which is still impressed on the psyche of the nation; how can the leaders of the country be investing time, resources and the capacities of their leadership into admitted political maneuvers? How can the Liberian Government be involved in the denial of the basic rights of a citizen, as well as risk undermining the integrity of the country's justice system in the exposure of judges to political recriminations for judicial actions, and as determined, violate the Liberian Constitution and related international conven-

tions on fundamental human rights?

Why must it befall a regional court to point us to the need to respect, uphold and protect our Constitution and international covenants especially in the protection of rights and commitments to the rule of law? How can we, again, be knowingly doing this to ourselves? What impression is conveyed about our country when the three Branches of our government were found to have been engaged in an illegal impeachment of a judge, thereby violating his fundamental rights?

Given that the basis for the appointment of Associate Justice J'neh's replacement to the Bench of the Liberian Supreme Court has been regionally determined to be illegal, and that Liberia recognizes the authority of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice; can any opinion, judgment or instruction of the Liberian Supreme Court which bears the signature of the replacement justice be considered legal?

The West African Court of Justice also found that Associate Justice J'neh suffered "moral prejudice" in the violation of his rights for which he has been awarded reparation of US\$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand). 'Moral Prejudice' is suffered as a result of "the admission of evidence of bad character showing the accused to be a morally bad person and leading the trier of fact to conclude that he is guilty" (Encyclopedia of Canadian Laws). The regional court found that Justice J'neh was made to suffer prejudicial and deceptive characterizations by the Liberian Government, only to secure a guilty verdict in pursuit of the illegal ends of J'neh's impeachment and his removal from office.

This is embarrassing!

Hopefully, it will compel a serious rethink about the current direction of the country. No government can succeed, and no nation can long endure in peace and security, where leaders blind themselves to the basic requirements of justice for all. A society is doomed when its leaders are motivated by prejudice, and rather than uniting the people, invest in their division, threaten political recriminations, and lead by fear. Prejudice, they say, blinds the vision of men, and a divided house will not stand. It is also true that leading by fear purchases neither truth, loyalty nor security.

It is wrong to think that ECOWAS judges are more learned in the doctrines and principles of natural justice and the rule of law than their Liberian counterparts. It is also wrong to believe that ECOWAS Court's judgments should necessarily be required to instruct Liberia in the pursuit of equality of all per-

sons before the law. No regional or international court ought to be required to remind administrations of Liberia's Government of its sacred responsibility to ensure no governmental action extends to compromising the fundamental guarantees of the protection of the rights of all citizens.

However, that which appears to be increasingly distinguishing ECOWAS judges can be found in the growing courage of the regional court to say what the law is, even in the face of the decisions of some national governments not to comply with its judgments. Little wonder therefore that a host of West African citizens are queuing up at the doors of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice to seek rights denied them in their own countries.

As good as this judicial mechanism is for the region, it must also seriously concern governments of the subregion, including the Liberian Government. Simply put, the run to the ECOWAS Court of Justice testifies to an erosion of public confidence in the sworn commitments of national governments to deliver justice to their citizens.

It was recently reported that the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) of Liberia are poised to petition the ECOWAS Court of Justice on the recent declaration of the Supreme Court to even hear its Petition for the Issuance of a Writ of Mandamus on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to clean-up the Voters' Roll. This is despite the fact that the clean-up was instructed by the Supreme Court in 2017, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the President in June of 2020, and recommended by the Technical Support Team of ECOWAS in 2017.

All Liberians should salute Associate Justice J'neh for the fortitude to pursue the violation of his rights to the ECOWAS Court. Had he not done so, notwithstanding the constitutional protection for judges in the performance of their duties, a dangerous precedent would have been established in the illegal impeachment of judges for judicial actions. It should also be noted that not many citizens who feel similarly aggrieved, and are being denied rights and privileges to which they are justly and equally entitled as citizens, have the means to place their grievances before the ECOWAS Court of Justice for redress.

Chinese-built solar power stations help 'light Africa'

By Lv Qiang

AS nearly one thousand photovoltaic (PV) panels sparked in the sun and colorful flags fluttered in the breeze in the tawny Gobi desert, an off-grid PV power station project undertaken by a Chinese company in Somali region, Ethiopia, was officially completed and electrified recently.

Thanks to the project, nearly 6,000 people from more than 2,000 families in Qorile village near the project got access to clean electricity as the village was brightly lit.

The day that the project was completed was a memorable day, as since when the dark night would be lit by electric lamps and children could read in the light, said a local villager, noting that they finally got electricity that they had been earnestly longing for.

Ethiopia suffers serious power shortages, with only about 30 percent of the people in the country having access to electricity. Since most of the rural areas of Ethiopia are far from the main power grid, building small-scale off-grid PV and wind power stations with energy storage systems based on natural resources has become an important solution to power supply in the country.

The four PV power stations built by Chinese company were the earliest among Ethiopia's first batch of 12 off-grid solar power stations to be completed, put into operation, and bring light to the villages where the stations are

located, said Seleshi Bekele, Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, at the completion ceremony of the off-grid PV power station project in Somali region.

The project has promoted the implementation of Ethiopia's plan to bring power to all citizens by 2025, Bekele noted.

The four off-grid PV power stations Bekele mentioned, including the off-grid PV power station in Somali region, are located in remote areas of the east, southwest, and west of Ethiopia. They were built by China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co., Ltd. (CET), a subsidiary of State Grid Corporation of China.

Equipped with energy storage batteries, these off-grid PV power stations can convert solar energy into electricity through smart off-grid PV systems. People can monitor data on the operation of these systems via mobile app.

The off-grid PV power station project in Somali region is among the first batch of the demonstration projects of the Lighting Africa program funded by the World Bank. It was also the first pilot project of the program in Ethiopia.

According to the Chen Chao, chief representative of CET in Ethiopia, the designed annual power output of the station is 1.42 million kilowatt-hours, and that the power station can guarantee the stability and reliability of electricity consumption for local residents.

The completion of the off-grid PV power station has changed the lives of people



Chinese and Ethiopian workers install and adjust solar panels. (Photo/Courtesy of CET)

in Qorile village. In the past, the only electrical appliance of most of the families in the village was mobile phone, and the hospital in the village relied on diesel generators for electricity.

After the PV power station was built, the village installed road lamps, and villagers started to buy higher-power home appliances like electric fans and televisions.

"Guaranteeing power supply for remote African villages makes us feel proud," said Zhang Zhihui, project manager of the off-grid PV power station project in Somali region.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the construction of the project encountered many difficulties. In an effort to ensure relevant construction tasks could be finished as scheduled while following strict rules for epidemic prevention and con-

trol, CET sent a dedicated medical team and a technical team to the construction site, and deployed anti-epidemic medical supplies for the project.

While doing a good job in epidemic prevention and control, the Chinese company has ensured high quality in the construction of the project, said Bekele.

These Chinese builders should be applauded for holding fast to their posts during the pandemic, Bekele said, nothing that this demonstrated the strength and sense of responsibility of Chinese companies.

The government of Somali region awarded CET a certificate in recognition of the outstanding contribution the company made to the development of Somali.

These Chinese-built power stations have set good examples for the Lighting Africa initiative, said the World Bank, adding that the organization would use these projects as models and intensify efforts to continue promoting similar projects in the more than 200 Ethiopian villages that don't have electricity, so as to benefit 5.7 million families by guaranteeing that 35 percent of the country's power supply is provided by off-grid PV power stations.

People's Daily

BUSINESS

MYTH

Having light meals doesn't necessarily boost weight loss, new study suggests

BALTIMORE

Squeezing most of your calories into your morning meals and eating smaller meals during the day doesn't necessarily increase an overweight person's chances of losing weight - this is what a new study is suggesting.

Researchers from the Johns Hopkins University followed 41 obese adults with an average age of 59 over 12 weeks on various eating plans including a big breakfast. 90% of the participants were black women with pre-diabetes or diabetes.

Twenty-one of the adults followed a time-restricted eating pattern, limiting eating to specific hours of the day and ate 80% of their calories before 1 p.m. The remaining 20 participants ate at usual times during a 12-hour window, consuming half of their daily calories after 5 p.m. for the entire 12 weeks.

"We have wondered for a long time if when one eats during the day affects the way the body uses and stores energy," said study author Dr Nisa Maruthur, associate professor of medicine, epidemiology and nursing at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"Most prior studies have not controlled the number of calories, so it wasn't clear if people who ate earlier just ate fewer calories. In this study, the only thing we changed was the time of

day of eating," she added.

All the participants were provided with pre-prepared healthy meals and were measured every 4, 8 and 12 weeks of the study. The analysis found that people in both groups lost weight and had decreased blood pressure - regardless of when they ate.

"We thought that the time-restricted group would lose more weight yet that didn't happen. We did not see any difference in weight loss for those who ate most of their calories earlier versus later in the day. We did not see any effects on blood pressure either," Maruthur added.

The researchers are now collecting more detailed information on blood pressure recorded over 24 hours as part of a wider study into the implications. They will be compiling that information with the results of a study on the effects of time-restricted feeding on blood sugar, insulin and other hormones.

"Together, these findings will help us to more fully understand the effects of time-restricted eating on cardiometabolic health," Maruthur said. The findings will be presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2020. The meeting will be held virtually from Friday, 13 November to Tuesday, 17 November.



Checking weight on a weighing scale.

HEROINE

Berlin street named after Lucy Lameck

BERLIN

Councillors in the German capital, Berlin, have voted to replace a street name honouring a colonial governor in East Africa accused of having ordered massacres with one of a leading female Tanzanian independence activist.

Wissmannstraße, named after Hermann von Wissmann, is set to become Lucy-Lameck-Straße. She was Tanzania's first female cabinet minister as well as a leading figure in the country's independence movement.

Von Wissman was governor of Ger-

man East Africa (now Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) in the late 19th Century and is believed to have behind the mass killings of local people, German newspaper Der Tagesspiegel reports.

Berlin Postkolonial, one of the groups behind the call for the name change, welcomed the local authority's decision. In a statement it said that the campaign had prevented "the further honouring" of Von Wissmann and in its place put "a Tanzanian woman who actively opposed colonialism and racism."

PARTNERSHIP

Bank pledges to back Zanzibar in executing development plans

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

CRDB Bank Plc's board of directors has reiterated that it is ready to work in partnership with Zanzibar Government under President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi according to his vision and plans to transform lives of Zanzibari for the better.

Speaking after visiting several private and public sector projects which are aligned with Dr Mwinyi's policy speech delivered when he inaugurated the new House of Representatives recently, CRDB Board Deputy Chair, Professor Neema Mori said the bank will always in partnership with both the government and private sector to transform people's lives.

"We have heard and understood the direction in which President Mwinyi wants to take Zanzibar to after listening to his opening speech of the House of Representative after elections last month. As CRDB's board members we have come to meet officials from both the public and private sector and agree on what the bank can do to support their projects," Prof Mori said.

During the visit, the bank's board members met and discussed issues of interest with United Petroleum Limited which is part of Bakhressa Group of Companies dealing in petroleum products trading, Fumba Housing Project which is owned by European investors and Vigor International Group's subsidiary



CRDB Bank Plc delegation led by deputy chair Professor Neema Mori and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela in a souvenir photo with United Petroleum officials at the firm's construction site in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

companies which are in manufacturing, transportation, tourism and health care. The board also visited Zanzibar Electricity Company Limited (Zeco).

"At all of these places we talked with customers on how the bank can support their businesses which are supporting government efforts to create jobs, improve housing for the public and also power generation," she stated.

CRDB's CEO and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the visit was also meant to have a

firsthand account of the projects' and see how the bank can assist speed up their implementation to meet Dr Mwinyi's priorities as he starts his first five year term.

"We also want to support the blue economy and the agriculture value chain which not only employs more people but also contributes much to Zanzibar's economy," said Nsekela. He added that CRDB has been a long term partner of the Isles government by providing various services and products to individuals and institu-

tions. Nsekela said the bank will focus its support in all key areas cited by President Mwinyi which also include tourism, trade, digitization of revenue collection and improving banking services by ensuring that the majority of the people on the islands have access to formal banking services. "Our CRDB Mtaani kwako campaign is also taking place here in Zanzibar as part of efforts to advance the government's financial inclusion agenda," Nsekela added.

ACTIVISM

9-year-old SA conservationist says it would be 'epic' to clean beaches with Lewis Hamilton

CAPE TOWN

Three years ago, a six-year-old Romario Valentine was assigned the role of an orca in his school play. The little, excited about his upcoming performance, asked his parents just what an orca is and so began a search through everyone's favourite neighbourhood search engine, Google.

What started as 'wanting to find out more' soon grew into a full-blown passion that saw Romario become one of the most prominent wildlife activists in South Africa. Now nine-years-old, Romario has come a long way since the play and has been involved with tonnes of projects to preserve, protect, and save nature. Especially marine life, which became a massive part of his life over the last 36 months.

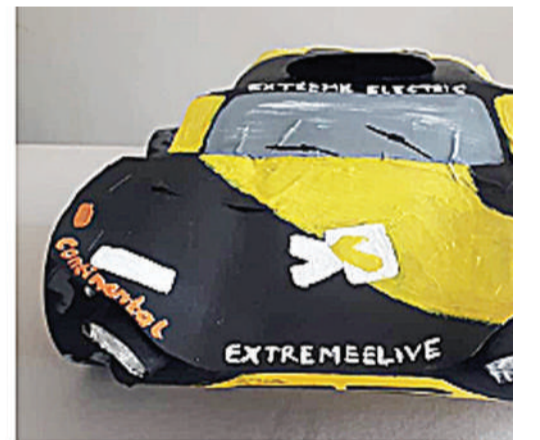
Romario opened to Wheels24 about his passion for marine life, Extreme E (the new racing series that will kick off in 2021), and Lewis Hamilton. When Romario and his parents did their research on orcas a few years back, they soon realised just how endangered these animals were. Not only orcas but many other sea creatures, as well. A huge contributor to this endangerment was pollution - a human-made form of hazard to nature. This sparked something in Romario, and so began a personal mission to take care of the environment.

Romario says: "After researching with my mom, I discovered the damage pollutants were doing to orcas and turtles which could lead to their extinction and cause an imbalance in the ocean's ecosystem. I decided to make it my mission to protect marine life and our environment." "Parents must educate their children on how to look after the environment for future generations. To the children I would say work hard, be benevolent, and never give up."

As the conversation continues, you can pick up that Romario is not your ordinary kid. He has a healthy and rich vocabulary and presents himself admirably. On social media, too, he



A combo photo showing Romario Valentine in different aspects, including cleaning the beach.



is the same passionate kid that lives for nature and his fight to preserve it. In the last three years, he has done more than 130 beach cleanups and became Ocean Sole's youngest Ambassador in September 2020. (Ocean Sole recycles flip-flops found on beaches and turn them into marine and wildlife art).

During the lockdown, Romario, with the help of his parents, raised more than R30 000 for the Umgeni River Bird Park's 900 endangered birds. These, he says, are some of his best and greatest achievements. However, just because Romario is a busy bee, his mom makes sure that his schoolwork is always up to date. He says: "My mom helps me manage my time efficiently. Over weekends, I clean the beach and

work on my projects, and when I have spare time during the school week."

Hamilton is his role model. Romario is not just passionate about the environment and marine life, but also motorsport. And his favourite racing driver: Lewis Hamilton. The highly motivated boy gleefully says that he watches Formula 1 with his parents and admires Hamilton for his "champion spirit and fearless driving style." As if to say it was destiny, Hamilton announced earlier this year that he'd be entering a team in the newly found Extreme E championship in 2021.

Extreme E, founded by Alejandro Agag, the man responsible for Formula E, will race in five locations around the world to highlight the damning

effects of climate change. The electric racing cars will be powered by Hydrogen Fuel Cells, given them zero carbon emissions.

And if you watched Extreme E's virtual launch in October, you'd have seen Romario making an on-screen appearance and asking a very relevant, and smart, question. With Lewis being a part of Extreme E, it is right up Romario's alley and something he can't wait to see his champion excel in.

Romario says: "Lewis never gives up! He inspires me to work hard and never give up on my goals. I want to be a champion in sport and the environment. I hope one day Lewis will clean the beach with me. That would be epic!"

EMPOWERMENT

Code Like a Girl inspiring next generation of tech experts

By Guardian Reporter

IT is generally acknowledged by the government, businesses, employers, and the education and training sectors that there is a dearth of females engaged in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at all levels.

According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - UNESCO, women and men tend to take different career paths and the science field is no exception. Overall, women account for a minority of the world's researchers.

According to UIS data on Sub-Saharan Africa, nine million girls aged between 6 and 11, will never go to school at all, compared to six million boys. Their disadvantage starts early: 23 percent of the girls are out of primary school compared to 19 percent of the boys. By the time they become adolescents, the exclusion rate for girls is 36 percent compared to 32 percent for boys.

The National ICT Policy of 2016, for example, openly states that there is increased gender inequality in ICT initiatives and therefore aims to ensure and enhance equitable participation of both genders and social diversity groups in the development and use of technology.

"There is a persistent



The 2019 Code Like a Girl cohort celebrate completion of their training.

stereotyped view that the sector is better suited to men, a lack of understanding about what ICT jobs entail, and in some cases misinformation on how easy or difficult science and ICT subjects are," said Dr Khadija Mkocha, a telecom engineer and lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam's College of Communication and Information Technology (CoICT).

Dr Mkocha admits that difficulty to attract and retain female students in ICT is well recognized, and the already low number of female students studying ICT in

secondary school tends to decrease further at higher learning institutions.

There are a number of reasons why girls who are interested in science and technology don't pursue technology-related degrees. This situation has often been attributed to gender differences in interests, lack of role models and motivation, experience, personal characteristics, low self confidence in abilities, self-efficacy, socialization and fear of competing in a male dominated industry.

A variety of strategies aimed at improving female participation in

ICT studies have been proposed to encourage more girls and women believe in themselves and actively pursue tech interests. One such successful initiative is "#Code Like a Girl" program that offers ICT based training such as basic knowledge of computer languages and development programs including HTML, CSS, GitHub, and Bootstrap to girls aged between 14-18 years. In partnership with Tanzania Data Lab (dlab), an innovation hub run under the University of Dar es Salaam's CoICT, Vodacom Tanzania Plc aims to encourage more girls

consider taking ICT and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects which are currently more popular with boys.

The program which started in 2018 and has already benefited 600 girls to-date, targets those who come from underprivileged backgrounds hence not ordinarily get such opportunities. The program brings together and encourages young girls to embrace science and information technology so that they can be equipped to take full advantage of existing and emerging opportunities in the fast growing digi-

tal world.

Vodacom Tanzania Director of Human Resources, Vivienne Penessis said the program is part of the telco's broader goal that seeks to empower women by helping young girls improve their knowledge and skills in technology.

"As a company we aspire to be the best employer for women but in this fast paced technology world we know the skill-set needed in our industry and we want girls to be interested, for example coding is becoming one of the most in-demand skill across industries as an increasing number of businesses rely on computer code," Penessis said.

Speaking at the recent passing out ceremony for 66 girls who participated in the just ended "Code Like a Girl" training program in Dar es Salaam, Dr Mkocha said that there is need for the country to achieve gender parity in the science and technology field.

"Technology is the future and girls therefore need to be developed as tech leaders. You have received practical skills on coding with a purpose. You should now put these

skills into practice, keep learning and improving your skills because this field changes very rapidly, and if you don't use your skills then they're bound to become obsolete," she advised the trainees.

Vodacom's representative during the ceremony, Nayman Mushi encouraged the girls who participated in the "Code Like a Girl" program to go out and inspire other girls to also pursue science related subjects.

"Technology is one of the most innovative and exciting industries to enter into because emerging technologies are making their way into most aspects of our lives. Vast opportunities exist in this field and it's interesting to see what the future may hold for those who take this path," Mushi said.

The course's best performer, Khadija Halifa said that besides gaining practical coding skills and learning how to design websites for her business, the Code Like a Girl training course helped her to gain confidence that she can also pursue a career in information technology.

"I have just completed my form four exams and this course has been an

eye opener on what I would like to pursue in higher education. I used to think that IT courses were very difficult but the practical skills I've gained here have made me realize that there is opportunity in this field," Halifa said.

Halifa's observation was backed by her peer, Jamila Abdul who also thanked Vodacom and D-Lab for the breadth of their efforts in pursuit of solutions to the challenge of under-representation of girls in science and technology. "We need more practical measures like these which provide incentives and mentorship programs to girls and women, so together we can address the disparities between male and female students studying science and technology courses," Abdul said.

Vodacom's 'Code Like a Girl' project is a practical intervention aimed at promoting women's participation in information technology-related careers. It provides practical experience of computing hence helping girls and young women gain the right attitude, background knowledge, develop skills with exposure to female role models in ICT careers.

INNOVATIVE

Female brewer using sorghum and rooibos to shake up SA's craft beer industry

JOHANNESBURG

Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela, 35, is brewing up a storm with her world class African inspired beers that use local ingredients like rooibos and sorghum.

Nxusani-Mawela is standing out not only as one of South Africa's first black female brewers, but is also holding her own in an industry dominated by men with her bold plan to create a truly South African style of beer.

"It was a continuation of a passion that's been with me for a while. Using uniquely African ingredients and creating our own African style. It's something that we need to have [in the South African craft brewing industry], to grow our own identity as brewers on the continent," said Nxusani-Mawela.

Her secret to success has been using locally sourced hops and other ingredients to make her Tolokazi Craft Beer and Cider brand - named after the

women that brewed traditional African beer, known as umqombothi, where Nxusani-Mawela grew up in the small town of Butterworth, in the Eastern Cape. "I feel we must be true to who we are and not just copy what other countries do. We want people to come to South Africa and say they came and had the best most unique beer ever," she said.

"We need to start making uniquely African beers," she says. "My dream is to see beers that are using African ingredients being recognised on the global brewing stage. What I would really like to see is visitors coming to South Africa and tasting beers that they have never had in their life before, and that they couldn't taste anywhere else in the world." According to beer blogger and travel writer Lucy Corne, who runs South African craft beer blog Brewmistress, one of Nxusani-Mawela's standout drinks is an umqombothi-inspired Pilsner which uses



Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela stands in the Brewsters Craft brewery in Roodepoort.

10% sorghum.

"The standout of the range is her sorghum pilsner. It's a very gentle beer and it's got that nice little quirk to it in that it uses sorghum, a grain used in traditional African brewing. It's very well brewed and refreshingly perfect for the South African

summer," Corne told Business Insider South Africa.

With a bright gold glow and a slight haze thanks to the sorghum, Corne says the Pilsners has a sweet initial taste that ends with a crisp bitterness that would leave you guzzling them by the case alongside

your Summer braai. "[Nxusani Mawela has] been a great inspiration, especially to a lot of young black women. She's been incredibly successful with her brand and has especially been getting a lot of attention in Europe and positive press," said Crone.

Nxusani-Mawela

holds a BSc Honours in Microbiology from the University of Pretoria and has a Master Brewer qualification from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling. She spent 8 years working at SABMiller perfecting her craft and love for brewing using indigenous ingredients before joining the Kyalami based micro-brewer Brewhogs. She then took all her experience and launched her own company Brewsters Craft, making her the first black woman to found a microbrewery in South Africa.

Based out of Roodepoort, the company has capacity to make 1,000 litres of beer and does contract manufacturing for 12 brands. In 2019, Nxusani-Mawela added her own Tolokazi to the mix. The company employs eight staff of which 7 are proud female trailblazers in the craft beer industry, one of which is Yankela Mbakaza the Head Brewer at Brewsters Craft.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Environmentalists in African nations call for nature-based solutions

KIGALI

African environmental advocates have called for adoption of nature-based solutions to halt depletion of vital ecosystems in the continent.

In a statement released from Nairobi on Thursday during the African major groups and stakeholders' virtual meeting, the environmental advocates urged leaders to support ambitious, accelerated and transformative actions to deliver solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

"Set the pace in the context of sustainable development, by driving African climate action towards pursuing and achieving a world on a pathway of resilience, transition to low carbon and carbon neutral economies," the environmental advocates said.

The environmental advocates called for the strengthening of multilevel, regional and national environmental governance in Africa for climate action. They recommended that governments invest in enhanced institutional capacity building, development of integrated policy instruments and free movement of technological innovation.

"Climate change remains a key challenge to sustainable development in Africa and that distribution of impacts disproportionately affects Africa due to uneven distribution of physical climate change hazards, exposure or vulnerability," they added.

The environmental advocates suggested that a plan be developed in the continent to explore and utilize green economy pathways, increasing resource efficiency, environmentally sound business models and sustainable finance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to climate change in line with the Paris Agreement.

They observed that extreme weather events such as heatwaves, heavy rain, drought, wildfires and coastal flooding events had negative impacts to human health, livelihoods and human rights. The advocates urged African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN) that are due to meet next week virtually, to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation and loss of ecosystems and species through the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

FRUSTRATION

Poor homes to wait longer for State masks after tailors fail quality test

NAIROBI

The poor and vulnerable households will wait longer to receive State-financed reusable face masks after samples provided by local tailors and fashion designers failed to meet standards. Parliament heard that the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) had rejected all samples bidders provided after they failed technical evaluation of quality tests.

"During the procurement process, the participating bidders submitted samples, which all failed technical evaluation of quality tests," Health Cabinet secretary (minister) Mutahi Kagwe told the Senate Health Committee. Mr Kagwe said the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (Kemsa) requested the bidders to resubmit samples for fresh technical evaluation and the final-

ising of the procurement process.

"The bidders are yet to resubmit their samples because Kebs is in the process of reviewing the standards or specifications for reusable face-masks. "Kebs has indicated that the new standards/specifications are expected to get the council approval by mid-November, 2020," he told the Trans Nzoia Senator Michael Mbiti-chaired committee.

He said once Kebs approves the samples, the Kemsa is expected to conclude the procurement end of this month. The distribution would start by December 31, said the minister. The Senate invited Mr Kagwe to shed light on the status of distribution of the reusable face mask for the vulnerable persons in the society.

He said the procurement and distribution of the reusable face masks are being done through the

Kemsa in collaboration with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) to identify and spread the business opportunity to many producers of facemasks among the small and medium-sized enterprises, as opposed to giving the business to one supplier. The government, through the Kemsa, enlisted KNCCI to lead identification of SMEs to manufacture reusable masks for distribution to poor and vulnerable households.

The plan is meant to spur economic growth by empowering local women and youth groups or enterprises. The Kemsa and KNCCI were to ensure that the masks meet the standards set by the Kebs. The move was also meant to help local small and medium businesses stay afloat and save jobs in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.



Kenya's Health cabinet secretary, Mutahi Kagwe.

ENTERPRISING

Sought-after streetwear and collectible shoes to be sold in new Dubai Mall store

DUBAI

A streetwear resale store with a luxury twist is set to open at Level Shoes in The Dubai Mall this month.

Called Presentedby, the shop will stock rare, in-demand items and collectibles that have sold out in retail outlets around the world. Think Nike Air Mag trainers worth \$190,000, Supreme-branded bikes and other products stemming from sought-after, one-off designer collaborations.

"The concept in itself isn't new," explains Presentedby's co-founder Nohman Ahmed. "But for many resellers, it's all about volume. For us, it's about the concept and leading the consumer by emotion. Presentedby is a refined model of the secondary and resale market, with a luxury spin to it."

Ahmed, along with siblings Riz and Imran, are



From left to right, Imran, Riz and Nohman Ahmed, founders of Undercover Brothers.

the founders of Undercover Brothers, the company they started in 2012, which has its headquarters in London and is best-known for its shoe care brand Crep Protect. In 2017, the brothers opened the first Presentedby store in the British capital, headed by their brother-in-law Ridwane Ettoubi.

"We didn't want to be just another store that sells sneakers," says Ettoubi. "We wanted to be a place of discovery and interaction. We want to tell the story of each product. We like to think of ourselves as a refined regeneration of the sneaker and streetwear community," he adds.

The Dubai boutique is scheduled to open on December 9, and will be Presentedby's fourth location, after London, Paris and Doha. Dubai was a natural choice for the team's global expansion plans, says Ahmed.

"We've had massive sup-

port at our London store. It's been recognised by A-listers, from footballer Neymar to rapper Coi Leray, who shopped there. We deliberately positioned ourselves at a location that is not in a heavy footfall street because we wanted to be a destination where people come to us. That brings us the right type of consumer," he explains.

"So we've been very selective about the partners we work with. Since Dubai has become a shopping capital, we wanted to align ourselves with the glitz and glamour of the city. And Level Shoes was the obvious choice. Chalhoub Group, which owns Level Shoes, understood our concept from the start. And because it represents some of the top luxury brands, it was a match made in heaven."

Presentedby will bring coveted items closer to collectors and fans in the region when it opens in Dubai, adds Ahmed.

"In terms of sneaker drops, the Middle East is a little behind, not because the consumer is not there, but purely because of product allocation. We wanted to make sure that we furnished the market. "The demand is very much there, the purchasing power is there. And no one has been able to bring the experience alongside product availability in one package. We can do that," he says.

While trainer-makers eye resellers with a level of wariness, the resale market is booming. Cowen Equity Research, which once called trainers an "emerging alternative asset class", estimates that the resale market could potentially reach \$30 billion by 2030, according to Yahoo Finance. Ahmed and Ettoubi believe concepts such as Presentedby will actually help shoemakers, as they cater to a core market and also ensure that the authenticity of product is kept in check.

CENSURE

Halima Aden now reveals regret over representation of hijab in fashion shoots

NEW YORK

When Halima Aden made the cover of Vogue Arabia in 2017 as the first hijab-wearing woman to cover a Vogue title, it was certainly a momentous occasion. However, some criticised the appearance of the young Somali model styled in a covered yet form-fitting dress, while being worked on by male make-up artist Hung Vanngo.

At the time, the young model celebrated her feat, but in a series of Instagram Stories on Tuesday, November 24, Aden revisited many of these early career highlights from a new perspective - one that questions how her modelling journey has impacted her spiritual one.

"This wasn't 'representation', this was mockery. I was too young and naive to see it back then," she says of her 2017 Vogue Arabia cover. Her faith, she states, was strongest when she was around her family, and her hijab was "on point" when she was surrounded by her Somali culture.

"Thanks to Covid-19 and the break away from the industry, I have finally realised where I went wrong in my personal hijab journey," she says, before sharing images of past fashion shoots and pointing out what she now believes are mistakes made in her representation of the hijab.

Aden's first beauty campaign was for Fenty Beauty, and she

thanked Rihanna for letting her wear a plain black headscarf that she brought with her. "I wish I never stopped bringing my black hijab to set. Because the minute I got comfortable ... well, let's just say I got too carried away," writes Aden.

Aden also brings up the hijab she collaborated on with American Eagle Outfitters, tearing into the campaign image that featured a pair of jeans piled over her head. "As if we ever needed these brands to represent hijabis. They need us. Never the other way around. But I was so desperate back then for any 'representation' that I lost touch with who I was," writes Aden.

Of a shot in which she is covered in green fabric and an intricate, yellow head wrap, Aden writes: "I remember want[ing] to be the 'hot hijabi', as if that didn't just defeat the whole purpose. A hot mess is what it was, truthfully."

In all of the photographs Aden reposts, her hair and body are covered, but her comments suggest that the styling, in many ways, was not reflective of "true" hijab. She has starred in countless runway shows, magazine features and campaign shoots, shattering stereotypes of Muslim women and opening the door for future hijab-wearing models. Yet, she states in her Instagram Stories that there's a "lack of Muslim women stylists" in the industry.



Halima Aden, pictured walking for Dolce & Gabbana, has called for more Muslim stylists in the fashion industry.



ITV

SATURDAY 28 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Isidingo rpt
00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 29 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:30 Jukwaa la fikra
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:14 Bongo Movie: Chuntama
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 30 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera News
12:30 Mtego rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
19:00 The Base

TUESDAY 01 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Sherehe za siku ya ukimwi duniani - Live
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kesho leo rpt
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Yu wapi
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Tanzania yetu
21:30 Chetu ni chetu
22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

WEDNESDAY 02 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
19:00 Ijue Sheria

THURSDAY 03 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue Sheria
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Arts & lifestyle rpt
13:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV

FRIDAY 04 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
11:00 The Base
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
17:30 Ibada ya kislamu
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Utalii
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTV

SATURDAY 05 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Isidingo rpt
00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 06 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Movie rpt: Chuntama
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:14 Bongo Movie: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

CAPITAL

Sat 28 Nov
08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinay delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slingshot
14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: Deathproof
23:00 Series rpt: Godwin

SUN 29 Nov

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
15:15 Aibu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 30 Nov

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

Tues 01 Dec

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

Wed 02 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Culinay delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru

WORLD

President Trump says will leave office if Electoral College votes for Joe Biden

WASHINGTON/REHOBOTH BEACH, Del

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will leave the White House if the Electoral College votes for President-elect Joe Biden, the closest he has come to conceding the Nov. 3 election, even as he repeated unfounded claims of massive voter fraud.

Speaking to reporters on the Thanksgiving holiday, Republican Trump said if Democrat Biden - who is due to be sworn in on Jan. 20 - is formally declared the winner by the Electoral College, he will depart the White House.

Asked if he would leave the White House if the Electoral College votes for Biden, Trump said: "Certainly I will. Certainly I will. And you know that."

But Trump said it would be hard for him to concede because "we know there was massive fraud."

"It was a rigged election ... at the highest level," Trump insisted in a sometimes rambling discourse at the White House, while continuing to offer no concrete evidence of widespread voting irregularities.

It was the first time Trump has taken questions from reporters since Election Day, and at times he turned combative.

In the United States, a candidate becomes president by securing the most "electoral" votes rather than by winning a majority of the national popular vote. Electors, allotted to the 50 states and the District of Columbia largely based on their population, are party loyalists who pledge to support the candidate who won the popular vote in their state.

Biden won the election with 306 Electoral College votes - many more than the 270 required - to Trump's 232, and the electors are scheduled to meet on Dec. 14 to formalize the

outcome. Biden also leads Trump by more than 6 million in the popular vote tally.

Trump has so far refused to fully acknowledge his defeat, though earlier this week - with mounting pressure from his own Republican ranks - he agreed to let Biden's transition process officially proceed.

Frenzied efforts by Trump and his aides to overturn results in key states, either by lawsuits or by pressuring state legislators, have failed, and he is running out of options.

"President-elect Biden won 306 electoral votes. States continue to certify those results, the Electoral College will soon meet to ratify that outcome," Michael Gwin, a spokesman for the Biden campaign, said when asked about Trump's comments. "Biden will be sworn in as President on Jan. 20, 2021."

Showing that he intends to stay in the political fray until the end of his term, Trump said on Thursday he would travel on Dec. 5 to Georgia, a once solidly Republican state he lost narrowly to Biden, to campaign for two Republican U.S. Senate candidates.

The two runoff elections in Georgia on Jan. 5 will determine whether the Republicans keep their majority in the Senate.

"I just want to tell my people: don't be disappointed yet because this race is far from over," Trump said.

BIDEN, AND TRUMP STAY CLOSE TO HOME AMID PANDEMIC

Biden and Trump both stayed close to home to celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday as the coronavirus pandemic raged across the country.

Biden spent the holiday in the small seaside town of Rehoboth, Delaware, where he and his wife Jill have a vacation home. The Bidens



President Donald Trump

are hosting daughter Ashley Biden and her husband Dr. Howard Krein for the holiday meal.

The former vice president, appearing with his wife in a video message posted to his Twitter account on Thanksgiving, said his family typically holds a large gathering on the island of Nantucket off Massachusetts, but would remain in Delaware this year "with just a small group around our dinner table" because of the pandemic.

In the presidential-style address to a nation that has lost more than 260,000 lives to the coronavirus, the Democratic president-elect said on Wednesday Americans were making a "shared sacrifice for the whole country" and a "statement of common purpose" by staying at home with their immediate families.

"I know this isn't the way many of us hoped we'd spend our holiday. We know that a small act of staying home is a gift to our fellow Americans," said Biden. "I know better days are coming."

Trump often likes to celebrate holidays at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. But on Thursday he remained in the Washington area, spending part of the morning at his Trump National Golf Club in Virginia where he played a round of golf.

Trump says will leave office if Electoral College votes for Biden

It was a far cry from last year when he made a surprise visit to Afghanistan, where he served turkey to U.S. troops before sitting down to eat Thanksgiving dinner with them.

This time, Trump spoke by video link from the White House to members of the military at home and abroad.

In contrast to Biden, who pleaded with Americans to celebrate the holiday safely by wearing masks and socially distancing, Trump in his Thanksgiving proclamation on Wednesday urged Americans to "gather" for the holiday.

On Thursday, the president tweeted "HAPPY THANKSGIVING!" in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision late on Wednesday to block New York state from imposing attendance limits at religious services. Governor Andrew Cuomo dismissed the ruling as "irrelevant," saying it related to specific areas that were no longer considered at high risk.

Xi calls for closer China-ASEAN ties

NANNING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday called for cultivating a closer community with a shared future for China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Xi (pictured) made the remarks via video when addressing the opening ceremony of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Xi said seven years after he announced an initiative for China to work with ASEAN countries for a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and for a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future, "the China-ASEAN relationship has grown into the most successful and vibrant model for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and an exemplary effort in building a community with a shared future for mankind."

When confronted by the sudden onslaught of COVID-19 this year, China and ASEAN have helped each other and took on the challenge in solidarity.

"Never before have the destinies of people in different countries been so closely connected," as the world is undergoing momentous changes unseen in a century, Xi said.

China continues to regard ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and a key region in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, he said, adding that China will work with ASEAN to advance all-round cooperation and maintain the good momentum for development and prosperity in the region.

Greater cooperation for economic recovery

Xi suggested that the two sides need to enhance strategic mutual trust and further synergize their development plans.

More efforts will be made to build the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, strengthen cooperation on infrastructure connectivity, speed up the development of existing economic corridors and key projects, and continue to develop the China-ASEAN Multimodal Transport Alliance.

Xi said as next year will mark the 30th anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue relations, China will work with ASEAN to take their strategic partnership to a higher level.

He said the two sides also need to elevate economic and trade cooperation and facilitate an early and full recovery of the regional economy.

China welcomes the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and looks forward to its early entry into force, he said.

China will work with ASEAN countries to sustain the smooth flow of trade, promote mutual investment, open up markets wider to each other, and foster deeply integrated industrial, supply and value chains, Xi said.

Provided that all necessary COVID-19 containment protocols are duly observed, steps should be taken to facilitate the movement of people and goods, he added.

Promoting digital economy, COVID-19 fight

Stressing the need to deepen cooperation on the digital economy, Xi said China and ASEAN could create more highlights of cooperation in such areas as smart city, 5G, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, big data, blockchain and telemedicine, and strengthen the protection of data security and policy communication and coordination.

China will work with ASEAN on the China-ASEAN Information Harbor to advance digital connectivity and build a digital Silk Road, he added.

The two sides also need to strengthen cooperation against COVID-19 and enhance capacity building in public health, according to the president.

Xi said China stands ready to work with ASEAN to enhance policy dialogue on public health, information sharing and cooperation on the production, development, and deployment of vaccines.

When its COVID-19 vaccines are available for use, China will actively consider the needs of ASEAN countries, he said.

China will provide financial support to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, train 1,000 administrative and specialized personnel in the health sector for ASEAN countries, and work with ASEAN countries to develop the regional reserve of medical supplies for public health emergencies and launch a liaison mechanism for public health emergencies.

Xi said China will embark on a new journey next year toward fully building a modern socialist country and the country will stay as committed as ever to further opening-up.

Countries around the world, ASEAN members included, will all benefit from it, he said.

Xinhua

Turkey does not expect sanctions over Russian S-400s under Biden

ANKARA

TURKEY does not expect ties with the United States to be strained under President-elect Joe Biden and does not anticipate sanctions over its purchase of Russia S-400 defence systems, a senior official in President Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party said.

Relations have been tense between Ankara and Washington over issues from policy toward Syria to the US refusal to extradite a cleric Turkey blames for a 2016 coup attempt.

Turkey has relied on the good personal ties between Erdogan and US President Donald Trump to smooth over divisions, but Biden is expected to be tougher on Turkey over for-

eign and defence policies and Ankara's human rights record.

Ankara's purchase last year of the S-400s, which are not compatible with NATO defences, raised the prospect of US sanctions early next year if Congress approves a defence spending bill which the House of Representatives has already voted to include language requiring the president to sanction Turkey.

In an interview with Reuters, AK Party Deputy Chairman Numan Kurtulmus played down that prospect.

"The US President will most likely watch the balance in the Middle East very carefully for US interests, and will not want to continue the tense ties with Turkey," Kurtulmus said. "...I believe they will take positive



steps in the future."

Promised reforms

Washington says the S-400s pose a threat to the capabilities of its F-35 stealth fighter jets and has removed Turkey from the jet programme where it was a manufacturer and buyer.

Ankara says the S-400s will not be integrated into NATO and has called for a joint work-

ing group to discuss US concerns. Kurtulmus repeated that Turkey would not bow to pressure to return the Russian systems, or leave them unused.

"Sorry, but we didn't procure these to hide them. We got them to meet Turkey's security needs," he said.

While Erdogan has downplayed the possible fallout

from these sanctions and vowed counter-sanctions, he has also promised economic and judicial reforms, following an overhaul of Turkey's economic leadership amid a plunge in the lira.

Asked if the reforms were aimed at easing tensions with the United States and the European Union, which will also evaluate possible sanctions against Ankara next month, Kurtulmus said the government would act only for Turkey's interest.

"We act by thinking about what reforms we need, what steps to democratization will benefit our people and move on that path, not by thinking what act or rhetoric would please them," he said.

Agencies

Ugandan police urged not to block, disrupt presidential campaigns

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S Electoral Commission has urged police to stop blocking or disrupting presidential campaigns ahead of the Jan. 14, 2021 polls.

In a letter to Martins Okoth Ochola, inspector general of

police, Simon Byabakama, chairperson of the electoral body, said the commission has received complaints from some presidential candidates and seen media reports that security forces are affecting candidates' access to scheduled venues for campaign meetings.

"This has resulted in unnecessary confrontations, with physical clashes involving security officials and the candidates and their supporters, which has portrayed the conduct of this activity in a negative way,"

Byabakama said on Thursday. "Please note that conducting

campaigns as per harmonized program is a recognized activity under the presidential elections act and the roadmap for the 2021 general elections," he said. "Uganda police is required to ensure that this electoral activity takes place in a peaceful manner and in accordance

with the law and guidelines," he said. The electoral body earlier this month identified 11 presidential candidates, including incumbent President Yoweri Museveni and his main opposition competitor, music pop star Robert Kyagulanyi, to run in the 2021 general elections. Xinhua

Application of AI in sports industry yields great fruits

HOW does it feel to have a robotic coach?

Recently, a row of ping-pong robots were seen using mechanical arms to serve at the training center of the China Table Tennis College of Shanghai University of Sport in east China's Shanghai, while young players on the other side of the tables were preoccupied with hitting the balls with different landing points back.

These robotic coaches are ping-pong robots independently developed by Shanghai Pong-bot technology Co., Ltd. They were named Pang-bot, and have been put into the market in batches.

Japanese technology company Omron's ping-pong robots displayed at the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) can also play table tennis with people.

The robots of Pong-bot and Omron use

high-speed cameras to measure the movement of the ball and use artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms to predict the trajectory of the ball, creating more possibilities for table tennis.

When talking about the application of AI technologies in the sports industry, the battle pitting man against machine in the board game Go, known as Weiqi in China, is the subject of much discussion.

AlphaGo, Google DeepMind's AI Go-playing program, defeated South Korean top professional Go player Lee Sedol and Chinese Go master Ke Jie in 2016 and 2017, respectively, surprising numerous Go players and fans.

With the in-depth application of AI technologies in the board game, AI Go-playing programs have been used to boost players'

performance.

In April this year, the Chinese national Go team renewed its contract for another three years with Chinese tech giant Tencent's AI Go program FineArt.

Go players can improve their skills via AI Go programs in the whole process from the opening moves, actual combats, pre-match preparations to post-game review, while helping the latter improve their performance.

It's the Go game that benefits most from the games between man and machine. Progressing with AI, the game of Go has added new contents and scenarios to the application of new technologies in the new era. At the same time, the Go games between coaches and players will finally lead to more accurate and efficient application of AI in the

board game.

For a very long time after the debut of AlphaGo, AI-based Go software had been just a research program of tech giants. Now, ordinary Go fans can also use such Go software. Individuals have also developed similar software for public sale or open-source software that can be downloaded by all. Some Go fans who know about relevant technologies even adapt software by themselves.

The shortage of competent Go teachers, which used to plague the Go training industry, has also been alleviated because of the application of AI in Go teaching.

The AI-empowered curriculum system that has emerged in recent years has fully stimulated young people's interest in learning the Go game and made it possible to improve their skills in a relatively short period

of time. AI has been applied in every link of the Go game, including competition, learning, training, research, and instructions, becoming a tool to unleash human potential.

Today, AI robots are already not news in the sports industry, and many people have already played against them.

During the 12th Guangxi Sports Festival that kicked off in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in August, many badminton enthusiasts played against an AI-empowered badminton robot that held a racket in its hand.

AI has also brought about new possibilities to professional sports in other aspects, such as assisting judges, replacing reporters in writing formalistic sports news, and helping fans to find more suitable seats.

People's Daily

Britain presses on with AstraZeneca vaccine amid questions over trial data

LONDON/MANILA

BRITAIN gave AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine a vote of confidence on Friday when it asked its regulator to assess it for a rollout after experts raised questions about trial data and the company said it may run another study to gauge the shot's efficacy.

The UK government has secured 100 million doses of the vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, the most supplies it has ordered of any shot to fight the pandemic.

The British drugmaker expects 4 million doses to be available in the country by the end of next month, and Health Secretary Matt Hancock aims for a rollout to begin before Christmas.

"We have formally asked the regulator to assess the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, to understand the data and determine whether it meets rigorous safety standards," Hancock said.

"This letter is an important step towards deploying a vaccine as quickly as safely possible."

Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) started an accelerated "rolling re-

view" of the vaccine at the start of this month as data comes in on safety and efficacy.

In the global race to develop vaccines against COVID-19, AstraZeneca's candidate is viewed as offering one of the best hopes for many developing countries because of its cheaper price and ability to be transported at normal fridge temperatures.

Officials in the Philippines said on Friday they would secure 2.6 million shots of the AstraZeneca shot - the country's first supply deal for a COVID-19 vaccine - and were negotiating a possible purchase of a further 1 million doses.

The announcements came despite some scientists raising doubts about the robustness of results showing the shot was 90% effective in a sub-group of trial participants who, by error initially, received a half dose followed by a full dose.

AstraZeneca had released trial data on Monday that showed its experimental vaccine prevented on average 70% of COVID-19 cases in late-stage trials in Britain and Brazil.

While the success rate was 90% in the sub-group, some experts said the



relatively small number of participants made it harder to be confident in the findings.

AstraZeneca said the administering of the half dose in the trial had been reviewed and approved by independent data safety monitors and the UK regulator, adding that the regulator publicly confirmed there was "no concern".

CEO Pascal Soriot said on Thursday, though, that the drugmaker was likely to run an additional global trial to assess the efficacy of its vaccine using the lower dosage.

CONFUSION 'PROBLEMATIC'

Pauline Londeix, co-founder of French drug transparency group OT-Med, said the apparent confusion over the trial results was "very problematic for public confidence in vaccines".

"It has largely to do with the race drugmakers are engaged in currently, which leads them to present vaccine candidates in the best possible way and not release full protocols and results. It is the op-

posite of what is needed in our view."

Nonetheless, Britain's top science adviser said on Thursday that the interim results showed the AstraZeneca vaccine was successful.

"The headline result is the vaccine works and that's very exciting," Patrick Vallance said during a news conference with Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Shares in AstraZeneca were down 0.8% at around 0830 GMT. They have fallen about 7% since it reported the vaccine data on Monday.

Only 2,741 volunteers were in the sub-group of the AstraZeneca-Oxford trial that gave the 90% efficacy read-out, a fraction of the tens of thousands in trials that resulted in the above 90% efficacy data released earlier this month for Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's vaccines.

"Sub-group analyses in randomised controlled trials are always fraught with difficulties," said Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at Britain's University of East Anglia.

Agencies

Continued flow of Ethiopian refugees raises concerns over humanitarian catastrophe on Sudanese border

KHARTOUM

THE continued flow of Ethiopian refugees into Sudan has raised concerns over a humanitarian catastrophe, said Sudanese experts on Thursday.

"The border area adjacent to the Ethiopian Tigray region is witnessing continuous influxes, a situation entailing dangerous dimensions," Al-Sir Khalid, head of the refugee commission in Sudan's Kassala State, told Xinhua.

According to the most recent estimates of the United Nations, over 40,000 Ethiopian refugees fleeing the war in the region of Tigray have crossed the border into Sudan, which is beyond Sudan's accommodation capabilities.

Sudan's government has expected the number of the Ethiopian refugees fleeing into the country to reach around 100,000 before the end of the current year.

"There is a lack of response from the partners and humanitarian organizations to displacement requirements, including food, water, health services and shelter," Khalid noted.

"The Ethiopian refugees have a very large impact on eastern Sudan's areas given the tense situation in the Sudanese state of Kassala, which borders the Ethiopian Tigray region," Osman Faqiri, a Sudanese security expert and activist on eastern Sudan issues, told Xinhua on Thursday.

"The situation in eastern Sudan cannot bear other problems and complications," he added. Xinhua

EU finance players await 'peak' Brexit uncertainty

LONDON

EUROPE'S financial sector will be facing "peak uncertainty" as financial regulators and players prepare for the harshest effects of Brexit, which will see the United Kingdom complete its departure from the European Union by the end of December.

A combination of politics around trade talks, EU concerns about Britain diverging from continental rules, and Europe's push for greater control of euro-denominated activities has left the sector facing unanswered questions about its operations after Jan 1, a Financial Times report said.

"This is the period of peak uncertainty," David Schwimmer, chief executive of the London Stock Exchange Group, told the Financial Times.

The United Kingdom's finance sector is expected to be hit by uncertainty over the future of its market access, with the UK departing from the European Union with or without a trade deal in place.

Financial services fall outside the range of Brexit trade talks, and so the effects on banks and regulators of the UK exiting from the EU single market on Jan 1 leave unanswered vexing questions about their operations.

The possibility Britain could diverge from the current rules and regulations has left the sector in a lingering state of ambiguity, the Financial Times reported.

"It looks like the EU will make sure there is a cost to Brexit, but it's really important for global business to be able to participate in the biggest markets," Schwimmer said.

"Less fragmentation and more cooperation and continuity of service are in everyone's interest."

The EU was against UK proposals to include a regulatory cooperation element in the trade talks, despite its importance to the British and European economies. The EU argues that

the British might find a way to retain market access indirectly.

It's understood the two sides might agree on so-called equivalency rules that will allow the cross-border share trading market to remain intact, but due to political sensitivities, a decision on that would not come while trade talks are undecided.

"It will go to the wire," one senior executive at a European bank told the Financial Times. "We're expecting to hear something concrete from the European Commission near the end of the year."

As the biggest share trading center in Europe, London handles as much as 30 percent of the 40 billion euro

(US\$47 billion) daily market.

Without equivalence, EU-based institutions will be barred from trading in London, and so some trading might move to cities such as Amsterdam and Paris.

It was reported on Tuesday that the EU chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, threatened to pull out of the trade talks that remain stalled over fishing rights and state aid for companies, or the so-called level playing field.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the European Parliament the bloc is prepared for the UK to leave without a trade deal. Agencies

Chinese consumption goes greener

AS China continues enhancing its environmental protection efforts, the Chinese people are enjoying greener ways of consumption.

"We trained our employees to guide the customers to order food in accordance with their actual appetite, and we also encourage the customers to wrap up the leftovers," Zhou Yu, vice general manager of a restaurant in southwest China's Chongqing municipality told Luo Xiaojun, an official with the commercial commission of Chongqing's Jiangjin district, who was surveying the operation of local catering industry.

Zhou told Luo that the restaurant was about to offer dishes in smaller and half size, and the price would also be adjusted accordingly.

Yan Yunneng, who runs a restaurant in Jiangjin district, said at least a can of kitchen waste was generated per day, but now the volume is halved as most diners can finish all their food.

"We used to order as much as possible when we treat friends to meals to show our generosity, but now it's the other way around as we must clear our plates," said Gong Nanyang who lives in Jiangjin district.

Apart from dining, the Chinese people are also buying greener vehicles.

When Zhou Enchao, a man from Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province, planned



New energy vehicle 'HiPhi X' is exhibited at the 3rd China International Import Expo, Nov. 6. File Photo

to buy a new car a year ago, his friend recommended him new energy vehicles (NEVs), saying NEVs are environmentally friendly and free from road restriction policies. This was appealing to Zhou, who always drives to work. "Sometimes my gas-fueled car was not allowed to go on the road due to the restriction, especially when I needed to drive to meet my clients," he told People's Daily.

Later, Zhou learned from a local car dealer that NEVs are free from vehicle purchase tax, which might save him at least over 10,000 yuan (\$1,518).

Besides, he could also enjoy a 12,000-yuan auto replacement subsidy. The government would offer an extra of 5,000 yuan if his car being replaced was produced locally in Zhengzhou.

The car dealer told Zhou

that the energy consumption of NEVs was extremely low, compared to average small engine vehicles that generally cost half yuan per kilometer.

"We also offer free charging poles and installation, and this service saves you 6,000 yuan. The government also requires new residential complexes and malls to be equipped with certain amount of charging poles, so charging won't be a problem when you go out dining or shopping," the car dealer said.

The batteries had lifetime guarantee, and the replacement was free, it added.

Seeing all the benefits, Zhou and his wife decided to buy an NEV. Now, the man is very satisfied with his new vehicle after 10 months of driving, saying it was a good deal as he enjoyed a large amount of subsidies, and the car was

economical and environmentally friendly.

The green concept is now infiltrating into every part of Chinese consumers. When comparing jeans on an online shopping site, Ye Min, a woman who works for an internet company in Shanghai, resolutely selected a pair produced with environmentally friendly methods. The jeans' production adopted a professional closed system able to recycle 98 percent of water, and the jeans were dried with recycled hot air. The sludge waste generated during the making of the denim cloth was also used to fabricate bricks.

Renewability and recycling are important for Ye when she selects commodities. "I have friends and colleagues that share the same mentality with me."

Sixty percent of this blouse was made by regenerated cotton, and this bag was made out of four plastic bottles," she told People's Daily, pointing to the stuffs she carried made by environmentally friendly materials.

Environmental protection calls for efforts from everyone, and will change the lifestyles of generations. Only the change of habits and the ways of consumption can make environmental protection a red line that shall never be crossed, and thus enhance people's awareness for green lifestyles.

People's Daily

Pandemic puts bicycle trade on a roll

LONDON

CYCLING is enjoying a renaissance in the United Kingdom as people shun overcrowded public transport and cramped sidewalks during the novel coronavirus pandemic in favor of the calm of the open road.

It is a boom that has led Halfords, a British retail giant specializing in car parts, camping equipment, and bicycles, to announce a doubling of its half-year profits, and an intention to hire 1,500 new staff.

The company's performance is in marked contrast to that of many other enterprises that have struggled to survive two national lockdowns in the UK aimed at preventing the spread of the virus and the COVID-19 disease it causes.

Graham Stapleton, Halfords' chief executive, told Sky News: "We are very pleased to have achieved such a strong first-half performance against the backdrop of one of the most challenging trading environments in recent history."

He said the company had to scramble to find "more stock from existing and new suppliers" in order to keep up with demand and has been importing between 20,000 and 30,000 bicycles a week to supplement those made in the UK.



The authorities are set to invest US\$234 million into high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure across England.

Agencies

UN decries police use of racial profiling derived from big data

GENEVA

POLICE and border guards must combat racial profiling and ensure that their use of "big data" collected via artificial intelligence does not reinforce biases against minorities, United Nations experts said on Thursday.

Companies that sell algorithmic profiling systems to public entities and private companies, often used

in screening job applicants, must be regulated to prevent misuse of personal data that perpetuates prejudices, they said.

"It's a rapidly developing technological means used by law enforcement to determine, using big data, who is likely to do what. And that's the danger of it," Verene Shepherd, a mem-

ber of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, told Reuters.

"We've heard about companies using these algorithmic methods to discriminate on the basis of skin colour," she added, speaking from Jamaica.

Shepherd, a historian, led the 18 independent ex-

perts in drafting a "general recommendation" to the 182 countries that have ratified a binding international treaty prohibiting racial discrimination.

Minorities and activists have complained about the growing use of artificial intelligence, facial recognition and other new technologies, she said.

"It's widely used in the United States of America, and we've had complaints from black communities in the European Union as well. And Latin America where people of African descent and indigenous people complain about profiling," Shepherd said, citing Brazil and Colombia. "These are the hotspots where we hear

about cases of profiling being more prevalent."

Protests against racism and police brutality erupted across the United States following the death in May of George Floyd, an African-American who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Many police use "predic-

tion" profiling systems that lead to identity checks, traffic stops and searches, based on previous arrest data about a neighbourhood, Shepherd said.

The committee recommends that people who have been targeted deserve compensation, she said, adding: "If they live to tell the tale, by the way, because we know sometimes it ends up badly."

Agencies



Namungo FC head coach, Hemed Morocco.

Namungo FC seeks to overcome Al Rabita

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

NAMUNGO FC head coach, Hemed Morocco, has said his side will seek to dominate proceedings in the first leg of the preliminary round of CAF Confederation Cup against Al Rabita of South Sudan, to be played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam today.

Despite not being aware of their opponents' qualities, Morocco insisted Namungo FC will do all they can to score goals early on with a view to putting themselves in a good position to advance to the next round.

Speaking at Uhuru Stadium in the city during his squad's drills, Morocco said they are fine and are continuing with training, with all players doing well.

"We have planned to finish the game early, we need a big win to stay in an advantageous position in the return leg," the coach disclosed.

He said he is currently working on sharpening his outfit's attacking part, noting the forwards committed a lot

of mistakes in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) tie against Yanga, which took place in the city mid this week.

The match ended with Namungo FC, currently placed 10th in the VPL table, settling for 1-1 draw with Yanga, the domestic top flight's leaders.

"I don't want to see that happen again, we need to work for every player to fulfill his responsibility to represent the country well in this tournament because it is our first time," Morocco noted.

Morocco joined the Lindi-based side recently after the outfit had parted ways with coach Thierry Hitimana.

Namungo FC has secured a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup after finishing second in the previous season's Federation Cup competition, which was won by Simba SC.

Simba SC had already made it to this season's CAF Champions League, given the team lifted the last season's Vodacom Premier League top honour.

Azam FC forward jets off to South Africa for treatment

By Correspondents Joseph Mchekadona and Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League giants, Azam FC, says the team's prolific striker Prince Dube will depart for South Africa tomorrow to seek treatment for an injury he picked in the squad's league clash against Yanga, held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

The match, which took place at Azam Complex, saw Yanga register 1-0 victory over Azam FC.

The Zimbabwean international, who has scored six goals for Azam FC this season, sustained the injury on the 15th minute of the match and was substituted.

In the absence of Dube, Azam were failing to penetrate into Yanga's defense and the game ended in favour of Yanga.

A press release issued by Azam FC disclosed Dube sustained the injury, known as Ulnar in medical terms, on his left hand.

He will board Kenya Airways (KQ) plane to South Africa, where he will be treated at Cape Town-based Vincent Pallotti Hospital by Orthopaedist, Robert Nicolas.

The report from the club noted Ulnar is a fracture which starts from the elbow up to the last figure.

However, the club did not say the period the leading striker will be out of action.

Azam FC stated since 2011 the club has been sending its players to the South Africa-medical facility for medication and wished Dube a quick recovery.

Some of Azam FC players, who went for medication at the Cape Town hospital under the auspices of the team, are John Bocco, Frank Domayo and Shomari Kapombe.

Many local clubs, normally, abandon their players when they get injured while Azam FC is one of a few outfits in the country which provide medical services to their players when they are injured in matches.

Due to failure by clubs to offer their respective players proper medical attention, many players end their careers prematurely.



Azam FC forward, Prince Dube.

2020's Miss Tanzania contestants enter camp in Dar



The Look Company's Director, Basilla Mwanukuzi (3rd L), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam recently on the 2020 Miss Tanzania contest's camp, which began mid this week. Looking on are a section of the contest's supervisors. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

CONTESTANTS for this year's Miss Tanzania beauty pageant entered camp in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, the contest's organizing firm, The Look, has disclosed.

Basilla Mwanukuzi, The Look Company's Director, stated 20 models are taking part in the camp, located at Serene Mbezi Beach Hotel, which is expected to end on December 5.

She disclosed: "The models' recruitment process was officially

opened at the regional level in March this year."

"20 participants were selected in the recruitment and they have started a special camp for the process of finding the 2020 Miss Tanzania contest winner," she stated.

She pointed out that each participant is required to prepare a project for the contest.

The model who will be crowned Miss Tanzania, according to Basilla, will also be required to present a project, which will be included in the Beau-

ty and Goals category of the Miss World contest.

"All these 20 contestants have their own projects and one of the contestants who will win the 2020 Miss Tanzania pageant will represent her project in Miss World contest," she explained.

She stated the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the organizers' strategies, when it came to selection of contestants in the Northern Region.

"As a result, we had to conduct the exercise online and we got about 100 eligible participants,

we filtered 50 beauties and eventually settled for 20 beauties who have officially entered the camp," she noted.

She mentioned the zones that were included in the selection of participants as the Lake Zone, Southern Highlands, Central Zone, as well as Dar es Salaam.

She also explained that they have this year already started preparing a strategic plan in advance to help the community around them.

Basilla stated the 2020 Miss Tanzania contest

winner will receive a Subaru car and other participants will receive cash prize, shoes and a bed from the contest's sponsors.

She pointed out Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Tulia Ackson, will be the contest's guest of honour.

The contest will take place at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC) on December 5.

Entrance fees for the pageant are 100,000/-, 65,000/-, 50,000/- and 25,000/-.

Dar culinary contest set to climax Sunday

By Guardian Reporter

THIS season's culinary contest, known as 'Safari Lager Nyama Choma', which has been running for 15 days, will come to an end at Governors Pub in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam on Friday, with the event involving entertainment and all kinds of vibes.

T Breweries Limited (TBL) Group, which had been involved in the competition via the Safari Lager brand in the past, has opted to bring back such a prestigious event that goes hand in hand with entertainment.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Safari Lager's Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, clarified that this time the competition is organized by Real Brand Ltd and it involves 60 bars.

All bars, she disclosed, are located in Dar es Salaam and were nominated by fans via the Safari Lager social media pages and were given special numbers.

She stated that people had a direct access to voting and rating meat prepared by the participating bars after testing it.

The TBL Group official pointed out Fred Uisso and Hassanali Mhisa are the competition's judges.

Uisso is currently running a famous and most loved reality TV cooking show, known as 'MasaptaSapta', aired by one of domestic Television stations, and he has inspired majority of food lovers.

In 2016, he participated in the World Chef Champions (Steak Recipes and Chefs Challenge category), held in USA.

Mhisa is a tutor and Head Chef at Zanzibar Transworld Academy, he is among a few passionate chefs in Tanzania specialized in hot kitchen, pastry and barbeque, with seven-year working experience in the similar field.

He finished second in the Africa's Nelson Mandela Culinary Challenge held in South Africa.

The 'Safari Lager Nyama Choma' contest winners, Pamela noted, will receive 2m/- in cash prize.

The winners will as well get a branded apron, chef hat and will participate in the 'Nyama Choma' festival slated to take place in the city from December 4-5.

The winning bar will as well take part in a party and. The bar will further enjoy promotion via Safari Lager social media accounts.

After the Dar es Salaam event, Kilimanjaro will next host the contest, with bars which will join the competition enjoying the same treatment, flavour, vibes.

The 'Safari Lager Nyama Choma' competition, apart from aiming at motivating bars to value their BBQ services by adding value to it, has also motivated the entertainment areas to value hygiene in their services which is among the most important aspect in BBQ.

Mourners, police clash as Maradona is laid to rest

BUENOS AIRES

POLICE and fans clashed on the streets as thousands of people came out to bid an emotional farewell to Argentina football legend Diego Maradona on Thursday.

Maradona died on Wednesday from a heart attack at his home, despite attempts to revive him, two weeks after he had been released from hospital following brain surgery. He was 60.

Several vehicles accompanied the car carrying Maradona's body from the San Fernando hospital to the Casa Rosada's presidential palace in Buenos Aires.

However, the day was marred by disturbances that broke out at least twice as fans eager to view the casket clashed with security forces in front of presidential palace, interrupting the flow of visitors.

Early in the morning some fans grew impatient as police tried to maintain order, throwing bottles and pieces of metal fencing at police outside the presidential offices in the heart of Buenos Aires. Officers at one point used tear gas to try to control them.

Clashes again broke out in the early afternoon as police fired rubber bullets at fans trying to force their way ahead.

Argentina President Alberto Fernandez, who declared three days of national mourning, had offered the use of the government building to Maradona's family.

"His unparalleled footballing skill transformed him into one of the best-known people in the world, crossing frontiers and being universally recognised as the world's best player," the official mourning decree read.

Fans began queuing in the early hours of Thursday morning outside the government building before the doors opened to the general public at 6 a.m. local time (4 a.m. ET).

Maradona's former wife Claudia Villafane and two of his five children, Dalma and Giannina, were among the first to arrive to the Casa Rosada and enter the Hall of the Patriots where the 1986 World Cup winner's body lay.

Argentina Football Association president Claudio Tapia, several of Maradona's former teammates and personalities from Boca Juniors, the club Maradona played for before signing with Barcelona in 1982, also paid their respects.

Viewing was halted shortly before 6 p.m. local time as the family wished and the body of the Argentine icon was taken away for burial, frustrating many who were waiting to pay their respects and causing new tensions at the gates of the cemetery.

About two dozen people gathered at Jardín Bella Vista cemetery for a private religious ceremony and the burial. Maradona was buried next to his parents, Dalma and Diego.

Wednesday's Copa Libertadores quarterfinals tie between Boca and Internacional had been postponed by Conmebol following Maradona's death.

Argentina's Football Association said in a statement: "There is no better example than to name Maradona to summarise in one person all the quality of an Argentinian footballer. Maradona is a synonym of Argentina."

There were emotional scenes outside the Casa Rosada as fans struggled to cope with the death of Maradona.

Argentinian side Gimnasia y La Plata, the club Maradona coached before his operation, suspended all activities for 72 hours.

Argentina captain Lionel Messi, who Maradona managed as national team coach from 2008 to '10, mourned his death and wrote: "He is leaving us but he is not going, because Diego is eternal."

Pope Francis, who met Maradona several times at the Vatican and is a big football fan, said in a statement that he would pray for his fellow Argentinian.

The country's professional league announced that the Copa Liga professional will be renamed as the Diego Maradona Cup.

Maradona enjoyed his best years playing for Napoli, from 1984 to 1991. He scored 115 goals in 259 games, helping the Italian club clinch two Serie A titles, in 1987 and 1990, as well as their only European trophy, the UEFA Cup in 1989.

Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis said his club is considering merging Maradona's name to their existing San Paolo stadium.

Since ending his playing career in 1997, Maradona had dealt with a series of health issues relating to his long battle with drug and alcohol addiction.

"If I die, I want to be reborn and be a footballer," Maradona said in 1992. "I want to be again Diego Armando Maradona. I'm a player that has given joy to people and that is more than enough for me."

(Agencies)

Maradona's passing will be mourned across South America

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

GAMES have ploughed ahead in South America in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Only one event, the death of Diego Maradona, could stop the show.

The Copa Libertadores clash between Internacional of Brazil and Argentina's Boca Juniors was postponed after confirmation of the news that Boca legend Maradona had passed away Wednesday at the age of 60 at his home on the outskirts of Buenos Aires following a heart attack.

At the time the match was due to kick off, Internacional paid tribute to Maradona by lighting up their stadium in the blue of Argentina -- a remarkable occurrence. Blue is the colour of Grêmio, Inter's local competitors in Brazil's fiercest rivalry. Inter would never normally embrace the colour. But then the passing of Maradona is no ordinary occurrence. And it is an event that is not only deeply felt in Argentina.

The Brazilian artists Mulamba posted on social media a photo of Maradona wheeling



Diego Maradona plays to the crowd in what was his final international match for Argentina, against Nigeria at the 1994 World Cup in the U.S. (Agencies)

away in triumph after scoring against England at the World Cup in 1986, illustrating a key point: Maradona's body is making the shape of South America.

He belonged to Argentina, of course. And to Naples. But he also belonged to his home continent. He could almost have been invented to illustrate the history and the importance of South American football.

The game caught on in the port cities of the Cono Sur in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was a time of mass immigration and rapid urbanisation, when a new working class was open to fresh traditions.

Football was introduced by the British, ar-

iving full of prestige. It moved swiftly down the social scale, taken up by the locals and reinterpreted, emerging as a balletic, graceful affair ideal for those of a low centre of gravity. And this reinterpretation led to international triumphs and recognition for a part of the world that was usually starved of such things.

This sets the broad canvas onto which Maradona painted his masterpieces. Partly of Italian immigrant stock, partly indigenous American, he could almost have emerged from the South American collective imagination of what a football star should be -- a kid born on the wrong side of the tracks of the

urban sprawl, dark, short and squat with unruly hair. A kid quick of body and sharp in mind, part gleaming smile, part malicious cunning.

And if Maradona appears almost as a scripted character from a work of fiction, so does the game that defined his life. His performance against Belgium in the semifinal of the 1986 World Cup was even better. And in the final he came up with the pass that set up the winning goal. But it is the quarterfinal against England that has provided the prism through which the extremes of his life have been viewed. The war over the Falkland Islands between Argentina and the U.K. just four

years earlier supplied a specific Argentine dimension to the occasion. But scoring those goals against that opposition is also a South American revenge fantasy -- for the way that they believed the then-English-run FIFA looked down on the continent in the 1960s and, more deeply, for the power they had wielded on the continent at the height of colonialism.

Maradona's notorious "Hand of God" goal -- when he punched the ball past goalkeeper Peter Shilton and into the net without the officials seeing it -- was seen as a homage to South American street smarts. His glorious second -- scored after a supreme solo run with the ball that began in his own half -- as a testament to natural talent. Put together, they serve as a living register of a continent's potential, and maybe also of its fascination with curves rather than what some might see as a limiting obsession with the straight line.

Maradona rode those curves with a spontaneity that was engaging and charismatic. There is an obvious contrast here with the colder, more calculating Pele. The Pele story fits the classic three-act model: The hero emerges in a

blaze of glory, the hero goes through setbacks and is doubted, the hero comes through to win in the end.

The life of Maradona does not fit such a neat pattern. It is as mazy as one of his dribbles. Had he died in 2004, it would have been easier to pigeonhole as a cautionary tale of the dangers of hubris. But there were twists in the storyline as he got back into shape and launched a coaching career. It now seems clear that he needed the discipline of coaching.

Argentine football shut down in March because of the pandemic, and by the time it returned -- less than a month ago, on his 60th birthday -- he was no longer in a fit state to work.

When his death was announced on Wednesday afternoon, the Argentine press went with a recent photo of him to illustrate the news. This 21st century Maradona will surely now fade into history. The Maradona that will remain will be the one from 1986, immortalised in the act of striking a blow for Argentina, for South America, and for millions around the world, who could relate to this stocky little man from the shanty towns of Buenos Aires.

Haaland, Conte, Real Sociedad - what to watch out for in Europe this weekend

LONDON

ERLING Braut Haaland is after more goals, Real Sociedad are hoping to maintain their brilliant start in La Liga and the under-pressure Antonio Conte needs his Inter Milan side to get back to winning ways.

AFP Sport previews the standout football action on the continent this weekend:

- Is there any stopping Haaland?

- Borussia Dortmund v Cologne, Saturday 1430 GMT

Haaland may fancy his chances of adding to his remarkable goals tally this weekend as Dortmund host struggling Cologne.

The Norwegian's brace against Club Brugge in the Champions League took him to 17 for the season in all competitions, with nine in Dortmund's last four matches. He scored four times at Hertha Berlin last weekend.

Haaland has also now scored 16 Champions League goals in just 12 appearances -- Lionel Messi had two goals and Cristiano Ronaldo none after the same number of appearances.

It appears there is no stopping the 20-year-old and certainly not Cologne, who are second-bottom and still to win after eight Bundesliga games this season.

- Pressure building on Conte

- Sassuolo v Inter Milan, Saturday 1400 GMT

Antonio Conte's position as Inter coach is looking a little shakier after their 2-0 home loss to Real Madrid on Wednesday left the Nerazzurri

looking at a group-stage exit from the Champions League for the third season running.

"If I don't get to eat my panettone this year it will be because I don't deserve to," Conte said on Thursday in reference to the traditional Italian Christmas delicacy. The phrase is often used when a coach is at risk of losing his job.

Inter's form in Serie A is better but after eight games last season's runners-up are fifth, five points behind leaders AC Milan and three points behind unbeaten Sassuolo in second.

A defeat this weekend would leave Conte right up against it before his side play for their Champions League lives against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

- All not well at PSG

- Paris Saint-Germain v Bordeaux, Saturday 2000 GMT

PSG are two points clear at the top of Ligue 1 going into their clash with Bordeaux, which they will be expected to win. However the pressure is building on their coach too, with Thomas Tuchel's team not in a comfortable position in the Champions League either.

They beat RB Leipzig on Tuesday but their performance was poor and a defeat against Manchester United next could leave last season's runners-up at risk of a group-stage exit.

Tuchel appeared agitated and irritated when he spoke to the media after the Leipzig game and his mood will be scrutinised again on Saturday as PSG look to bounce back from losing their



Erling Braut Haaland

last Ligue 1 outing, 3-2 at Monaco.

- Messi to return for Barcelona?

- Barcelona v Osasuna, Sunday 1300 GMT

Lionel Messi had a midweek off from Champions League duty as he

was rested for Barcelona's 4-0 win at Dynamo Kiev.

That was because Messi needed a break, and also because Barca coach Ronald Koeman needs the Argentine to help turn around their

worrying form in La Liga.

They host Osasuna having won just once, and lost three times, in their last six league games to slip to 13th, 12 points behind leaders Real Sociedad albeit

with two games in hand.

Another slip-up here would be little short of disastrous for Koeman, who is without defensive talisman Gerard Pique for two months with a knee injury.

- Real Sociedad chase seven in a row

- Real Sociedad v Villarreal, Sunday 2000 GMT

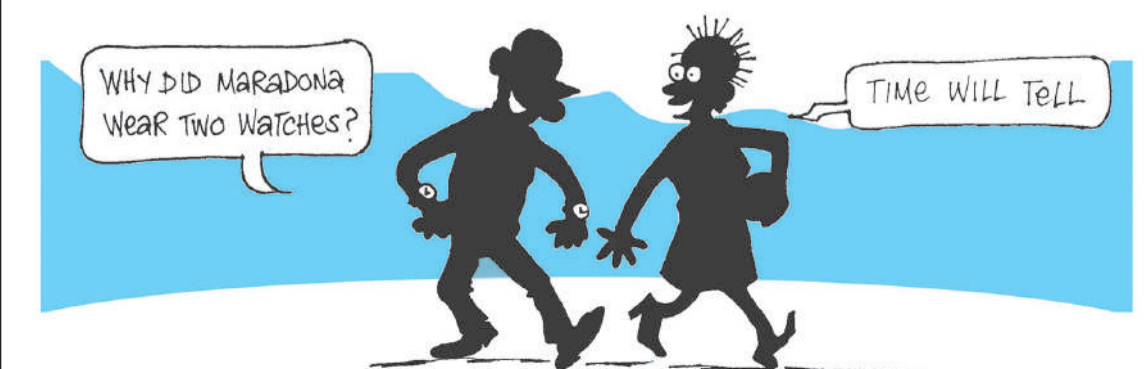
The game of the weekend in La Liga is in San Sebastian as Real Sociedad chase what would be a club record seventh straight league win when they host Villarreal.

La Real are three points clear of Atletico Madrid, albeit having played two games more, and have been inspired by the goals of Mikel Oyarzabal as well as the form of the evergreen David Silva, back in his homeland after a decade at Manchester City.

However Silva is set to miss Villarreal's visit with a hamstring injury, and Unai Emery's team will hope to take advantage -- they are in good form too, sitting third, four points off the pace.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Taifa Stars slip in November FIFA Ranking

SPORT

Maradona was one of the greatest, soccer's ultimate flawed genius

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Taifa Stars winger, Farid Mussa (R), dribbles past Equatorial Guinea defenders when the teams locked horns in the Group J clash of the Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers, which took place in Dar es Salaam last year. Taifa Stars won 2-1. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

While the podium remains unchanged, Belgium have widened the gap on their immediate pursuers France.

Third-placed Brazil are closing in on Les Bleus after extending their perfect start in South American qualifying for Qatar 2022 World Cup.

In a related development, Uganda has slipped three places to 79th. Despite the fall, Uganda remains CECAFA region's best footballing country.

Kenya has also dropped one place to stay 104th.

Burundi are among the biggest beneficiaries in this month climbing up 10 places after gaining about 20 points.

They notched 2-1 victory against Mauritania in Bujumbura and later posted a credible away draw against the same opponents in the 2021 AFCON Qualifiers.

Senegal maintained their status as the top-ranked team on the continent at number 21 in the world, followed by Tunisia (26th), Algeria (30th), Nigeria (32nd), and Morocco (39th).

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, have dropped one place in the latest ranking which was issued on Thursday by the world football governing body, FIFA.

Taifa Stars are now ranked 135th on the global ranking following their disappointing results against Tunisia in the return leg of the 2021 Africa

Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers' Group J against Tunisia last week.

Tanzania's AFCON qualifying pool rivals, Tunisia, stayed level at 26th despite their victory over Taifa Stars in the first leg of the qualifiers.

Equatorial Guinea, placed in Group J of the qualifiers with Taifa Stars and Tunisia, climbed up by 10 places to position 134th in the world.

Coach Etienne Ndayiragije's Taifa Stars were held to a 1-1 home draw

by Tunisia, Carthage Eagles, in an encounter which was played in Dar es Salaam.

Three days earlier, Taifa Stars had succumbed to a 1-0 away defeat to the North Africa giants in Tunisia.

As a result, Taifa Stars are placed third on the Group J standings having accumulated four points from their first four matches.

The clashes include a 2-1 victory over Equatorial Guinea on matchday one in October 2019 and a 2-1 loss

away to Libya in Tunisia in November, 2019.

The top two teams from Group J will qualify for the 2021 AFCON finals which are set to be hosted by Cameroon in January 2022.

Meanwhile, with no fewer than 160 full internationals played in November, including qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, CAF Africa Cup of Nations, and the UEFA EURO, the latest edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking sees plenty of movement.

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

Find out how using glass blocks from Canghul Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tantix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

VPL leaders Yanga target routine victory against JKT Tanzania

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THREE days after easily seeing off Azam FC, Vodacom Premier League's top-of-the-log side, Yanga, return to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam when they take on struggling JKT Tanzania on Saturday afternoon.

Yanga are on a 12-match unbeaten streak since the kick off of this season's Vodacom Premier League and they are favourites against a JKT Tanzania side that is on a four-game winless run.

The JKT Tanzania have won only two of their opening 12 matches. As such, they find themselves sitting fourth from bottom in the league standing, with 10 points to their name.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and JKT Tanzania have met in four league matches since the latter was re-branded in 2018/19.

The Jangwani Street-based Yanga have three wins while one match has been drawn.

Ditram Nchimbi, Michael Sarpong and Yacouba Songne will be vital for Yanga while the visitors will rely on Daniel Lyanga and Adam bin Adam for inspiration.

Saturday afternoon features an early relegation six-pointer involving hosts Mbeya City FC who will look to claim back-to-back league wins for the first time this season when they host Mtibwa Sugar at Sokoine Stadium.

Mtibwa Sugar suffered a 1-0 midweek away loss to Polisi Tanzania in Dar es Salaam and saw the former's winless run stretched to four matches.

Morogoro-based Mtibwa Sugar are placed 14th on the log with 12 points from 12 matches.

Another evening game features two newly-promoted sides, Dodoma Jiji FC and Ihefu FC, facing off at the former's home turf, Jamhuri Stadium, in what could be a thrilling encounter.

Hosts Dodoma Jiji extended their winless run in the league to seven matches with a 1-0 loss at home to Mbeya City FC on Tuesday to drop to the relegation zone.

Bottom-placed Ihefu FC has gone 10 league matches without a win after losing 1-0 away to Coastal Union.

The Mbarali District-based team have picked a mere six points in 12 league outings.

The league actions will continue on Sunday with three matches, surprise high-flyers Ruvu Shooting host a rejuvenated Kagera Sugar, Polisi Tanzania will take on Coastal Union while Mwadui FC visits Tanzania Prisons in Rukwa.

Morogoro to host 2020 National Volleyball Club Championship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS year's National Volleyball Championship is set to take place at Bwalo Courts in Morogoro from December 2-6.

This will be the second time in a row for the region to host the showpiece.

The five-day competition, which is an annual feature, brings together top clubs from different regions in the country to battle it out for top honours.

According to the organisers, the would-be winners in both men and women categories will earn cash prizes of 2m/- apiece.

The runners-up will rake in 1m/- apiece in cash prize and outfits which end third will be awarded 500,000/-.

Jointly organised by the Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA) and the Morogoro Regional Volleyball Association (MOREVA), the event will see both men and women teams take part.

Alfred Selengia, TAVA Secretary General, said on Wednesday that all preparations for the event are in top gear.

"We are happy that for the second year in a row, MOREVA will be able to host this event, we complement them for their commitment towards development of this prestigious event," he said.

Selengia stressed that MOREVA has for the past two years done a wonderful job in putting in place good infrastructure that has given them yet another chance to host the tournament.

He stated: "The courts are in good shape and meet required standard to host the high-level competition, last year was a



Dar es Salaam volleyball players in action at a recent tournament, which took place at JMK Youth Park. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FARU VOLLEYBALL CLUB

good experience."

"It is important for us to treat players with good facilities so that they can showcase their skills."

Selengia said 13 men and eight women's teams including defending champions in both categories, Jeshi Stars of Dar es Salaam, have confirmed their participation in this year's event.

He mentioned men's teams that have confirmed competing in the championship as Jeshi Stars, JKT, Chui, UDSM Volleyball Club, all from Dar es Salaam, Shinyanga Volleyball Club and Arusha Combine.

Best Six Club and Must

Volleyball Club, both from Mbeya, Mwanza Transit Camp (MTC), Dodoma Combine and Hazina, both from Dodoma, and hosts Moro Stars and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Volleyball Club will as well feature in the tournament.

Women's teams are Jeshi Stars, JKT, Stars Girls, Chui and Magereza, all from Dar es Salaam, Hazina Dodoma and Mkalapa Girls of Mtwara.

Selengia added that the tournament is very important as it will identify Tanzania's representatives at forthcoming international competitions, to be played next year.

Tanzania's Ambassador to Nigeria vouches for Simba SC's success in CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Ambassador to Nigeria, Benson Bana, has stated he is confident of seeing Simba SC get positive results in the CAF Champions League preliminary round's first leg against hosts Plateau United, slated for tomorrow in Jos.

Bana visited Simba SC's camp in Abuja mid this week and was presented with the outfit's jersey that will be used in the premier continental club tournament.

Simba SC's coordinator, Abbas Ally, said that the outfit's preparations for the match are in place and the players are ready for the game, which is expected to be quite competitive.

The side's leadership has made it clear that the club was well received in Nigeria after making early preparations and the team will be under government protection.

Simba SC arrived safely in Nigeria on November 25, with Ally taking the lead in overseeing accommodation plans.

The co-ordinator said the Nigeria environment treated the squad well and he received a lot of support from the Nigerian Football Federation.

He added that security in Jos is understood to be unstable, except for the locals who see everything go on well. He pointed out Simba have made it clear that, according to their hosts, they will be protected.

Meanwhile, former Simba SC midfielder, Gerson Fraga Vieira, has undergone knee surgery in his home country, Brazil, after suffering knee injury while on duty for the squad in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

Reports suggest the 28-year-old midfielder will be out of action for more than six months.

Fraga was injured in a VPL match between Simba SC and Biashara United, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in September.

Simba SC recorded a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Biashara United.

The midfielder was forced to return home to Brazil, after his contract was terminated by Simba SC management, and he continued his initial treatment before undergoing surgery.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

