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TANZANIA

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AU suspends Sudan until it settles crisis

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union Peace and Security Council yesterday took a decision to suspend Sudan from activities of the continental body, until the ongoing political crisis is resolved.

In a statement issued after a crisis meeting was held, the AU demanded the establishment of a civilian-led transitional authority, saying it was the only way to allow the Sudan to exit from the current crisis.

The decision follows an upsurge in violence in Sudan this week as its ruling military council and opposition groups contest the authority to take charge of the transition to democracy.

The government and the opposition have issued contradictory death tolls from Monday's raid on a protesters camp in the capital Khartoum. While the opposition says the death toll has surpassed 100, Sudan's health ministry on Thursday said 61 people were killed.

On Wednesday the Eritrean government officially reacted to ongoing events in Sudan but did so via Addis Ababa, the seat of the AU. Eritrea's Information Ministry in a June 5



The AU's posturing on the events unfolding in the Sudan is a recent and vivid illustration of this deplorable state of affairs

statement titled: AU stance may exacerbate the situation in the Sudan, blamed the body for what it said was internationalizing the crisis.

"Its evident weaknesses aside, what has become more perplexing in the past years is its unwitting role to provide suitable pretexts for external intervention.

"The AU's posturing on the events unfolding in the Sudan is a recent and vivid illustration of this deplorable state of affairs," the statement read in part.

It is the second time in the space of a month that Asmara is acting on the political crisis next door. Eritrea tasked the AU to have a hands-on approach in Sudan and do better than it has done so far.

A delegation sent by President Isaias Afwerki was in Khartoum last month with a firm promise that the Sudanese people had the support of Eritrea. The delegation met with leaders of the military junta and with the protest leaders separately.

Uplift in dairy sector: 15 milk processing plants constructed



There is an overhead pedestrian bridge across this Buguruni section of Dar es Salaam's usually busy Mandela Road, formerly a black spot where also now lies an iron fence. Both measures have been taken specifically to make the highway safer, particularly for pedestrians. Yet, there are people still far from impressed who routinely put themselves in danger's way by crossing the highway on foot - as captured yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpocho

We now have a level playing field. Smuggling of dairy products was a threat to locally made goods and hampered our efforts to expand

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FIFTEEN milk processing factories with the capacity to handle 90,400 litres of milk per day have been constructed in the 2018/2019 financial year.

The Acting Registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) Dr Sophia Mote said here yesterday that the new factories are a result of 'Operation Nzagamba' directed at taming and regulating the livestock sector as well as ensuring improving revenue collection in the sector.

The new value addition opportunities come as a breath of fresh air to pastoralists and dairy farmers as they stand to earn more money by selling raw milk to processors.

Dr Mote said that the new factories are set to create employment opportunities for the youth and boost state coffers.

She listed the factories set up in different regions as including Galaxy Foods and Beverage Manufacturers of the Kilimanjaro Fresh' branded milk, with a capacity to process 75,000 liters per day.

The rest are Machame Dairy Products, Bayana Milk, Dar es Salaam Zoo Farm Milk Fresh, Gonza Milk, Mzeituni Business, Katavi Dairy Milk Supplier, Nronga Dairy, Sebadon Milk, Mazimbu Cheese, Gema Milk, Taishi Milk, Singida Milk, Neema Brands and Bidernan Dairy, the latter located in Tanga region.

The General Manager for Galaxy Food and Beverage Ltd, Irfhan Virjee commended the government for controlling importation of dairy products saying the move protects local investors

Join SADC to EAC communication services - TCRA

By Correspondent Semu Mwakyanjala

TANZANIA has called for harmonization of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Communications Organisation (EACO) for rapid development in the two regional blocs.

Opening a two-day EACO-SADC preparatory meeting for World Communication Radio (WRC-19) hosted by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the TCRA Board Chairman Dr Jones Killimbe said preliminary common positions on



WRC-19 would greatly benefit the two regional blocs and Africa at large.

Dr Killimbe said harmonised operations to regulate and develop a vital but exponentially fast-growing communication sector are of paramount importance to bring about sustainable development in the regions, as this would subsequently upgrade people's living standards.

He said that with great technological developments, the information and communication technology sector has become

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Hunters want to cull crocs for US market

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

OPERATORS of hunting firms now want the government to ease regulations to allow them kill more crocodiles believed to have multiplied in recent years so that they reap on US decision to lift the ban on wildlife trophies from Tanzania.

Apart from its lucrative skin, crocodile meat is a sought-after delicacy in high-end hotels and restaurants around the world.

"As per current regulations, each firm is allocated only four crocodiles per year on condition that the animals to be killed must be aged," said Hillary Daffi, a local hunter who operates Marera and Bullet Safaris.

Julius Saitoti, the chairman of Simba Professional Hunting Association said now that the United States has lifted the ban on wildlife products from Tanzania,

the trackers deserve a better quota on crocodile whose numbers are believed to be high in the country at the moment.

The hunters were speaking in Arusha yesterday during a training session organized for the by the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), on how the trackers can make use of the digital portal in bidding for local hunting blocks electronically. Around 26 are on bidding list at present.

Wildlife experts estimate that there could be over 500,000 African crocodiles but a larger percentage of the species is found in Tanzania.

They are thought to among the earliest species but the number of crocodiles roaming fresh water bodies is reported to be high, such that late last year, wildlife authorities were contemplating culling the ferocious

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Taking A New Look At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995

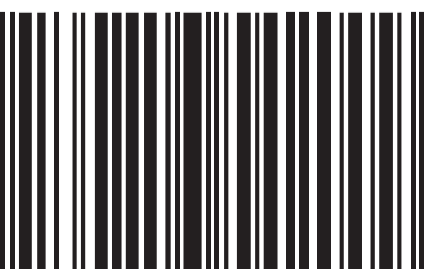
Higher speed needed in handling appeals by persons with albinism

RATHER subtly stealing from one of Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, Jr's hugely memorable speeches, Under The Same Sun (UTSS) founder and CEO Pastor Peter Ash of Canada is on record as having once declared: "I have a dream that one day people with albinism will

take their rightful place throughout every level of society and that the days of discrimination against persons with albinism will be a faint memory."

Now, UTSS modestly describes itself as an NGO working to promote the

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# Dairy sector uplift: 15 milk processing plants built

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and ensures a market for locally produced goods.

Virjee said that reduced imports of dairy products will boost livestock keepers as they will be sure of markets.

"We now have a level playing field. Smuggling of dairy products was a threat to locally made goods and hampered our efforts to expand," noted Virjee.

Contributing to the Livestock and Fisheries budget speech in Dodoma recently, MPs applauded the government for protecting local milk processors.

They highlighted that controls in the dairy sub-sector will boost revenues and ensure economic growth.

Simanjoro MP James ole Millya said local milk processors are now assured of markets, tasking the ministry to identify and support potential investors in the sector.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina insisted that the government is determined to protect its resources, local investors, consumers, employment opportunities and revenues. He called upon interested investors in the dairy sub-sector to grab the many available opportunities since there is a reliable market.

"We have grand plans to improve the sector including production of better livestock breeds and creation of a friendly investment and business climate," he said, attributing these initiatives to 'Operation Nzagamba'.

Mpina assured investors of security and market protection, insisting that no substandard milk and beef will penetrate the country's market.

The ministry is implementing 'Operation Nzagamba' in collaboration with other agencies like the police, intelligence and security department, the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments).

Official data indicates that Tanzania has a total of 30.5 million cattle, 18.8 million goats and 5.3 million sheep.

The 2018 data from Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) shows that the livestock sector contributes 7.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) whereby 30 percent of it is from the dairy industry.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says that Tanzania has a low level consumption of milk and dairy products at 45 liters per capita annually, against the recommended 200 liters annually.

The yearly amount of milk produced in Tanzania is 2.4 billion liters but less than 10 percent of the milk produced is processed, the UN agency noted.

*"We have grand plans to improve the sector including production of better livestock breeds and creation of a friendly investment and business climate"*



Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (C) exchanges views with Southern Africa Development Community (Sadc) executive secretary Dr Stergomona Tax (R) in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday relating to a meeting of the regional body to be held in Tanzania this August. With them is the ministry's permanent secretary, Dr Faraji Mnyeye. Photo: Foreign Affairs

## Hunters want to cull crocs for US market

FROM PAGE 1

reptiles.

Speaking in Kilombero recently, District Wildlife Officer Madaraka Amani said that there have been hundreds of cases of people being attacked by crocodiles. "At least 35 victims were badly injured, five losing limbs with two reported deaths," Amani said.

There has been no countrywide census on crocodiles but it is estimated

that the number of the reptiles in the Selous (the largest) Game Reserve alone is over 100,000. This is according to Benson Kibonde, a zoological expert coordinating hunting activities at Mkwawa Safaris.

"Tanzania possibly has the highest number of African crocodiles at the moment as all the water bodies in the country are filled with nourishments needed by the ancient lizards," he said.

Late 2017 many hippos died in Rufiji, Ruaha and Kilombero rivers and the

floating dead bodies provided ample feed for the crocs helping them to replenish abundantly, the zoologist noted.

But for Joseph Magana, the Land and Natural Resources Officer at Ifakara District Council, the vast Kilombero basin could be home to the highest number of the reptiles (*Crocodylus Niloticus*).

"Many have started roaming villages and township. We have written to the Tanzania Wildlife Management

Authority (TAWA) so that they issue hunting permits to enable the culling of crocodiles," said Magana, pointing out that some residents in the area killed in self-defence a large reptile about 12 feet long.

TAWA Senior Public Relations Manager Twaha Twaib admitted that the number of crocodiles was on increase as the last time the reptiles were hunted for culling was seven years ago. "This means that time is ripe for a fresh harvest," he added.



Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) board chairman Dr Jones Killimbe (C-in suit) exchanges greetings with delegates shortly after opening the preparatory meeting of the 19th World Radiocommunication Conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of TCRA

## Join SADC to EAC communication services - TCRA

FROM PAGE 1

one of the principal pillars of human development and prosperity.

"Talk has shifted to smart cities, artificial intelligence, big data and the Internet of Things (IoT). Today, there is a pressing need for the world to be in constant communication and for everyone and everything on earth and in space to have the necessary infrastructure to communicate with the integrated system that humanity is

designing for the future," he asserted.

Dr Kilimbe who was the guest of honour at the meeting said that the SADC and EACO preparatory meeting for WRC-19 set for Egypt in November provides the best platform as it comes at an opportune moment.

There is a growing demand for more spectrum due to multiplication of mobile traffic as well as the development of new innovative services, he pointed out.

He also mentioned 5G networks,

maritime, aeronautical and railways transportation as linked to global safety as well.

A representative from Botswana and SADC Chair of the WRC-19 Process, ThapleoMaruping and Eng. Andrew Kisaka, the principal broadcasting officer at TCRA and EACO Chair of the WRC-19 Process, outlined the milestones realized.

Eng. Kisaka said SADC and EACO comprised of 14 and six members respectively with Tanzania in both

spheres have cherished a common stand for years since 2007 under the influence of decisions made by the African Telecommunication Union (ATU).

The WRC-19 agenda items have been categorized as land mobile and fixed services, broadband application in mobile services, satellite services, science services, aeronautical, maritime and armature and finally general issues, with 25 agenda items to be considered, he added.

## Climate change likely to threaten human existence by 2050, new report warns

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A report released by the Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration, an Australian think tank, warns of a threat to human existence because of climate change.

Unlike previous reports on the matter, including the IPCC report, this report flags that scientific predictions till now have underestimated the severity of the crisis, and says the world is on path to 3 degree Celsius or more warming by 2100.

Unlike what the IPCC report predicted, the latest report says the "1.5°C boundary is likely to be passed in half that time – around 2030, and the 2°C boundary around 2045, due to accelerating anthropogenic emissions, decreased aerosol loading and changing ocean circulation conditions."

"With the commitments by nations to the 2015 Paris Agreement, the current path of warming is 3°C or more by 2100. But this figure does not include 'long-term' carbon-cycle feedbacks, which are materially relevant now and in the near future due to the unprecedented rate at which human activity is perturbing the climate system. Taking these into account, the Paris path would lead to around 5°C of warming by 2100," says the report.

This is alarming as climate change is already adversely impacting agriculture input and water resources, leading to a decline in crop yields and rising food prices driven by drought, wildfires and harvest failures. "These have already become catalysts for social breakdown and conflict across the Middle East, the Maghreb and the Sahel, contributing to the European migration crisis," says the report.

It envisages a "hothouse Earth" scenario by 2050, and says in this context that "the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and a sea-ice-free Arctic summer

will be evident well before 1.5°C of warming, Greenland Ice Sheet well before 2°C, and widespread permafrost loss and large-scale Amazon drought and dieback by 2.5°C.

Sea levels will have risen 0.5 metres by 2050, and will further increase by 2-3 metres by 2100. "Thirty-five per cent of the global land area and 55 per cent of the global population" will face "more than 20 days a year of lethal heat conditions, beyond the threshold of human survivability".

Further, it says that "deadly heat conditions persist for more than 100 days per year in West Africa, tropical South America, the Middle East and South-East Asia, contributing to more than a billion people being displaced from the tropical zone".

Water availability will affect about two billion people worldwide, and agriculture will become nonviable in the dry subtropics. "The lower reaches of the agriculturally-important river deltas such as the Mekong, Ganges and Nile are inundated, and significant sectors of some of the world's most populous cities – including Chennai, Mumbai, Jakarta, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Shanghai, Lagos, Bangkok and Manila – are abandoned," it says.

Even with 2°C warming, more than a billion people might have to be relocated. It advises that a zero emission industrial system be built very quickly. "This requires the global mobilisation of resources on an emergency basis, akin to a wartime level of response," says the report.

*"Thirty-five per cent of the global land area and 55 per cent of the global population" will face "more than 20 days a year of lethal heat conditions, beyond the threshold of human survivability".*

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya, Vancouver

# Health minister affirms govt's commitment towards equity in access to health services

MINISTER of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummu Mwalimu has said that the government is committed towards ensuring equity in access to health services.

Mwalimu made the remarks here yesterday when speaking at the Women Deliver session organised by The Rockefeller Foundation that brought together community health advocates, leaders, and health systems experts to discuss the potential of data science to link communities

to primary healthcare and promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The session is part of the Women Deliver Conference 2019, the world's largest gathering on gender, girls and women right.

She said that Tanzania sees the potential of data in ensuring equity in health, maximizing

the impact of community health workers and contributing to better systems.

The minister however pointed out that reconciling competing priorities that compete for the meagre resources available is a major brake that holds back Tanzania's desire to accelerate digital data collection at both facilities and to

healthcare users.

Despite the challenge, according to Mwalimu Tanzania is still committed to investing in digital data collection so as to strengthen its health systems and ensure equity.

"I see a future in data strengthening in Tanzania, particularly considering that the new generation of health workers in Tanzania are digital savvy," she told the gathering.

She added Tanzania has good strategies that aim at shifting from storing data on hardcopies to digital storage.

Some of the strategies according to Mwalimu include installing computer systems in all health facilities across the east African nation.

Amref Health Africa Group CEO and Co-Chair of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 2030, a World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank initiative for achieving UHC by 2030, pledged to support the Ministry of

Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children through capacity building and other relevant areas related to digital data integration.

Kenyan President, Uhuru Kenyatta described girls and women empowerment, gender equality as not just rights issues, but also economic, political and moral issues.

"Women's rights are human rights, and women's rights are not rights issues only, it is also an economic, political, as well as a moral issue," said Kenyatta at the Women Deliver Conference 2019, the world's largest gathering on gender, girls and women right.

According to Kenyatta, if our world is to prosper for good value to all citizens, good leadership that responds to the aspiration of its population, it must respond to the needs and aspirations of all its people and not just depending on half of its population.

He said, Kenya's position with regard to gender equality is enshrined in its constitution, and hence it is central to the government of Kenya to ensure that development agenda leave absolutely nobody behind, with robust policy and legal frameworks, to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non discrimination.



Children have time for Eid el Fitr fun in Dodoma city's Nyerere Square on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

# 12,000 farmers trained to fight cassava diseases

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

OVER 12,000 farmers from 12 regions in the country have benefitted from a project aimed at eliminating cassava diseases - 'Building Economically Sustainable Cassava Seed System Tanzania (BEST)' which started in 2017.

The regions are Mwanza, Mara, Kagera, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Geita. Others are Mtwara, Lindi, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Tanga and the Coast region.

Speaking to The Guardian in an exclusive interview in Mwanza yesterday, Manager of BEST, Stephen Magige said that the project has come with alternative ways to curb diseases that negatively affect cassava crop.

The project that started in 2017 is scheduled to phase out in 2021 with a target to reach 500 entrepreneur farmers in the regions and up to now there are 367 farmers, he said.

He noted that project is being implemented by Mennonite Economic Development Associate

(MEDA) where entrepreneur farmers of the crop are taught modern ways of cultivating it and are inspected as well as approved by Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) responsible for managing quality of seeds of different crops in the country.

According to him, after the seeds are approved by TOSCI, entrepreneur farmers are allowed to sell them to other farmers for affordable price provided that they can gain profit to make the project sustainable.

He noted that in the past, farmers used to get seeds from their own farms or nearby farms a situation that contributed much to transmission of cassava mosaic and cassava brown streak diseases by 80 per cent.

But with this initiative farmers are able to get seeds that are resistant to diseases and also sell them to other farmers therefore obtain income, he said.

He pointed out that this method is sustainable

as seeds produced are sweet leaving alone their ability to resist diseases. Main stakeholders for implementing the project are International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) that has mandate to manage agricultural researches in the country.

Entrepreneur farmers still continue to produce the seeds as they get profit and farmers buy them since they benefit as well, he noted.

He stated that MEDA was established by Mennonite Canada in 1953 and now operates as a separate entity and is not affiliated to the church, but it uses modal of the church as a founder in the sense that in case there are challenges in the community regarding the seeds, the church can use business solutions to address the problems to fight poverty. BEST Cassava project is being funded by Bill and Belinda Gates Foundation.

# President Magufuli to meet TNBC members, businesspersons from across Tanzania today

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli is today expected to meet businessmen and women from all districts in the country and members of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC).

According to a statement from the Presidential Directorate of Communication unit, the meeting is expected to start at 9:30am. They are also expected to represent their colleagues.

The statement said further that the meeting will be broadcasted live via televisions, radios and various social media outlets.

"All the invitees are expected to arrive at the Kikwete Hall at State House from 8 am to 8:30am," read part of the statement.

An invitation letter signed by the minister of state in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Selemani Jafo some three days ago, called on all Regional Commissioners to submit a list of five large-scale businessmen on time.

It is expected that proprietors of large-scale businesses will have an opportunity to discuss various issues with President Magufuli.

The minister said the list of businessmen should consist of names, type of business and phone numbers.

The minister urged Regional Commissioners and District Commissioners not to hesitate to include names of politicians and government executives who are among the large-scale businessmen.

This will be second time for the Head of State to host businessmen under the TNBC, the first one was in March last year.

At the meeting President Magufuli received many complaints from the local business community including tax debts which have accumulated due to stiff fines and high interest rates.

The president then directed Finance and Planning Minister Philip Mpango to address the complaints.

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**All the invitees are expected to arrive at the Kikwete Hall at Statehouse from 8 am to 8:30am**

By **Guardian Correspondent,**  
**Morogoro**

## PASS, SUA equip graduates with entrepreneurship skills for success in agribusiness

**YOUNG** graduates from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) who are yet to secure jobs have been provided with entrepreneurship skills to be able to establish and develop various businesses in agricultural sector.

The training was provided by the university through its incubation centre programme under the Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) which is supported by the government of Denmark. So far, SUA has trained 20 graduates.

Project Manager Richard Bruno said recently that through the incubation centre the young graduates have been equipped to conduct modern tomato cultivation whereas they have generated 15m/- in four months.

"The graduates have been able to generate money in the first four months of the project starting February this year," he noted.

Danish Ambassador to Tanzania, Einar Jensen said the Danish government is supporting the PASS incubation

centre programme with purposes of enabling graduates to establish and engage in agribusiness as well as ensure the country's food security.

PASS aims at preparing graduates to become entrepreneurs and owners of large scale agricultural projects. Priority is given to entrepreneurs involved in greenhouse production, fish breeding, poultry, goats, processing and small-scale production of agricultural products for domestic and overseas markets.

According to Jensen the programme is expected to boost the country food production whereas they have firstly decided to encourage them to engage in tomatoes cultivation since the product has a huge market within and outside the country.

PASS Director, Nicomed Bahay said the programme focuses on graduates from agricultural universities because most of them have been hardly

employed by the government. He said the graduates will now use their profession to improve the country's agriculture sector as Tanzania plans to become an industrialized middle income nation by 2025.

Bahay added that after the training the graduates will be linked with banks and financial institutions to secure loans for establishment of larger agricultural businesses.

PASS Board Chairman, Prof Andrew Temu called upon the government to assist the youth by providing land for them to implement entrepreneurship in agricultural projects.

A programme beneficiary, Zephania Philimon said they are now equipped with all the needed skills to engage in agricultural business as well as market searching techniques.

Another graduate, Naomi Mkumbo said they are now producing 600 kilogrammes of tomatoes per week which are sold at different regions across Tanzania.



Simanjiro district commissioner Zephania Chaula (3rd-R) and Charles Mnyalu (2nd-R) serve Eid el Fitr lunch to children at an orphanage at Mererani on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# International partnership investigates causes of prostate cancer

By **Guardian Reporter**

UNITED Kingdom and Kenyan experts are leading a major new international research project to investigate the causes of prostate cancer in East African men.

Researchers from the University of Birmingham, the University of Nottingham, and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) will investigate the importance of immune cells and immune signals in male patients in Kenya and the UK.

The international team is backed by a £660,000 research grant jointly

awarded by the UK Medical Research Council and the Kenyan National Research Fund.

In previous work, the team discovered that a protein called PRH stops prostate cells from replicating and invading other tissues. They showed that PRH controls the activity of many genes important in allowing prostate cells to respond to signals from immune cells and that as prostate cancer becomes more advanced the activity of PRH is decreased.

The new project will see researchers finding out how changes in the levels and activity of PRH alter the response

of prostate cells to immune signals. The team will collect blood, urine, and prostate tissue samples to determine PRH protein levels in men in Kenya and in the UK. They will also measure the levels of inflammatory signals and immune cells in the blood samples.

Project leader Dr Sheela Jayaraman, from the University of Birmingham Cancer and Genomic Sciences, said: "This project is the result of many years of work in this area and I am excited that we are joining forces with colleagues in Nottingham and Kenya to investigate this disease. "Radiotherapy and drug treatments are effective treatments for

patients with moderately advanced disease, but have serious side effects including osteoporosis and bone fracture. In less advanced cases treatment may be unnecessary as the cancer is unlikely to spread. Better ways of identifying patients who need treatment and better treatments would be of immense value to patients and result in major cost savings."

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and this disease has a particularly high incidence in men of African origin. Around 47,000 new cases are diagnosed each year in the UK and this is increasing as men live

longer. The incidence of prostate cancer in Kenya and other low- and middle-income countries is also rising and in these countries the cost of treatment and the cost of lives lost to this disease are major barriers to economic development. Inflammation in the prostate is common and an important factor in prostate cancer, but inflammation can have many causes including bacterial and viral infections and autoimmune responses.

Professor Kevin Gaston, from the University of Nottingham (UoN) Cancer Centre said: "Prostate cancer is a global problem and we are proud to be part

of this new international project. This work will tell us whether measuring levels of immune signals in blood and PRH in prostate cancer might be a good way to predict which patients require treatment."

Dr Veronica Manduku, Deputy Director of the Kenya Medical Research Institute, said: "This work to explore the role of PRH and inflammatory markers among prostate cancer patients will help us to eventually develop strategies to tailor treatments to those that require it most rather than provide blanket treatments. This will also help us manage costs of care."



A Dar es Salaam resident pictured yesterday carrying empty plastic bottles he had collected from various parts of the city in a way as part of an environment cleanliness drive but also for onward sale. Photo: Selemami Mpochi

## Dar beach set for cleaning to mark World Oceans Day

By **Guardian Reporter**

INTERNATIONAL food and drinks processor Nestlé has said its employees will tomorrow clean Dar es Salaam's Coco Beach to mark the World Oceans Day. Nestlé's regulatory and scientific affairs manager in Tanzania Marsha Macatta-Yambi told The Guardian yesterday that the exercise is scheduled to start at 6.30am and end at 12.00 noon.

"I call upon residents of Dar es Salaam to join us for the activity tomorrow so that we make the city's main public recreation space clean," she appealed.

She called upon Tanzanians living near the Indian Ocean especially in big urban centres with high rates of pollution like Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Lindi, Mtwara and Zanzibar to play their part by cleaning a beach of their choice in their town tomorrow.

Macatta-Yambi said Nestlé has decided to undertake the activity to support global efforts to remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life.

The purpose of the day, according to the United Nations, is to inform the public on the impact of human actions on oceans, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.

The UN stresses that oceans are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. They are a major source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere.

This year's theme of the World Oceans Day 2019 is Gender and the Ocean.

According to the UN, the theme has been chosen in efforts to build greater ocean and gender literacy, and to discover possible ways to promote gender equality in ocean-related activities such as marine scientific research, fisheries, labour at sea, migration by sea and human trafficking, as well as policy-making and management.

"The importance of gender equality – in particular for the effective conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources – is increasingly recognized. However, there is very little data and research on these issues, and a concerted action towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is still needed in all ocean-related sectors to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5," the UN says on its website.

This year, the UN launched 'Play It Out', a global campaign against plastic pollution, noting that decades of overuse and a surge in single-use plastics has led to a global environmental catastrophe.

"Today, 13,000,000 tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean every year, what among other damage, kill 100,000 marine animals annually. While most plastics are expected to remain intact for decades or centuries after use, those that do erode end up as microplastics, consumed by fish and other marine wildlife, quickly making their way into the global food chain," says the UN.

### Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

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**KILIMANJARO**  
DRINKING WATER



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

## 'Catastrophic' healthcare costs put mothers and newborns at big risk

By Guardian Reporter

PREGNANT women are putting theirs and their babies lives at risk because of 'catastrophic' and prohibitive healthcare costs before, during and after childbirth, UNICEF said on Monday.

In a new report highlighting how few of the world's poorest pregnant women have a doctor, nurse or midwife at their side when they need them most, the UN Children's Fund said that more than 800 women die every day from complications, while many more mothers live with "debilitating" outcomes.

At least 7,000 stillbirths also occur every day - half being babies who were alive when labour began - while 7,000 babies also die in the first month of life, UNICEF said.

"For far too many families, the sheer costs of childbirth can be catastrophic. If a family cannot afford these costs, the consequences can even be fatal", said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "When families cut corners to reduce maternal health care costs, both mothers and their babies suffer."

More than five million families across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean spend at least 40 per cent of their non-food household expenses for the entire year just on maternal health services, according to UNICEF.

Approximately 1.9 million of these families are in Africa, while around three million are in Asia. Compared with most rich countries, where a skilled birth attendant is present at almost all deliveries, the tally drops significantly in least developed countries, the UNICEF research shows.

These States include Somalia (9.4 per cent) and South Sudan (19.4 per cent), along with Madagascar (44.3 per cent), Papua New Guinea (53 per cent), Afghanistan (58.8 per cent) and Myanmar (60.2 per cent), based on 2013-2018 data.

Within countries, the gap is also stark between those who can afford help and those that cannot. In South Asia, for example, three times as many wealthy women receive four or more antenatal care visits than women from poorer families. When it comes to women giving birth at a facility, the gap between the poorest and the richest women is more than double in West and Central Africa, according to UNICEF.

### 'Wide gaps' persist

"Although global coverage of skilled birth attendance has shown impressive gains in recent years, wide gaps in coverage across countries persist," it said in a statement.

According to UNICEF's analysis, from 2010 to 2017, health personnel increased in many countries. However, this increase was "minimal" in the world's developing countries, where maternal and neonatal mortality levels have been highest.

For example, from 2010 to 2017, coverage increased from four to five health workers per 10,000 people in Mozambique, and from three to nine in Ethiopia. In contrast, Norway saw that number increase from 213 to 228 health personnel over the same period.

"Doctors, nurses and midwives play a critical role in saving mothers, yet millions of births occur every year without a skilled attendant," UNICEF said. Focusing on uneven access to emergency care across the world, the UN agency underscored the lifesaving value of a caesarean section, or C-section.

Globally, around 30 million C-sections were carried out in 2015 - almost double the number in 2000, but their prevalence in Latin America and the Caribbean - in 44 per cent of all births in 2015 - was more than 10 times higher than in West and Central Africa.

"This low percentage of C-sections in West and Central Africa is alarming,

suggesting a dire lack of access to this potentially lifesaving intervention," UNICEF warned. Globally, the report also notes that pregnancy-related complications are the number one cause of death among girls between 15 and 19 years old.

### Child brides at greater risk

This is partly because adolescent girls are still growing and are at great risk of complications if they become pregnant. Yet the report finds that child brides are less likely to receive proper medical care while pregnant or to deliver in a health facility, compared to women who married as adults.

In Cameroon, Chad and the Gambia, more than 60 per cent of girls now aged 20-24 who married before turning 15 have three or more children, compared to less than 10 per cent of women at the same age who married as adults.

Despite its concerns, the UN agency maintains that overall, the number of women and girls who die each year from issues related to pregnancy and childbirth has dropped more than 40 per cent in the past 20 years, from 532,000 in 1990, to 303,000 in 2015.

The UN agency also expressed hope that the inclusion of a skilled health worker in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 Agenda would spur efforts to reach universal health coverage and reduce maternal and newborn deaths.

In an effort to protect the world's newborns, UNICEF's Every Child ALIVE campaign calls for greater investment in health systems, recruitment and training of doctors, nurses and midwives; clean and functional health facilities with water, soap and electricity for every mother and baby, life-saving drugs and equipment during delivery, and for the empowering of adolescent girls and families to demand quality care.



A Dar es Salaam resident prepares fresh flowers for sale from a spot near St Peter's Catholic Church yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

## Agriculture leads in greenhouse gas emissions in Rwanda, report shows

KIGALI

THE agriculture sector is the leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Rwanda, said a report released by Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

In 2015, emissions from the sector accounted for 70.4 per cent of the national total, largely due to fertilizer, urea

application and enteric fermentation, revealed the REMA report on climate change.

The report noted that although the emissions from waste are not significant at the national level, the African country needs better management of both solid and liquid waste in reducing emissions.

Controlling the sources of emissions is the best way to go, which requires combined efforts from individuals to government, involving policies, laws, regulations and actions to improve the air quality, said Fatima Mukarubibi, permanent secretary in the Rwandan ministry of environment, when speaking at the launch of the report.



Commuter bus crew uniforms and an assortment of other clothes hang from a tree at Dar es Salaam's Magomeni Mikumi bus stop yesterday. The reason was not immediately established. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

## Journals updated on safety, media law

By Friday Simbaya, Mbeya

FIFTY-FIVE journalists from the Southern Highlands regions of Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Rukwa are being drilled here on security management, risk assessment and media laws.

The three-day workshop which kicked off yesterday and ends tomorrow has been organized by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC).

In an interview yesterday, the THRDC Capacity Building and Empowerment Officer, Advocate Deo Bwire said the objective of the training is to equip the journalists with knowledge on identifying risks and security challenges and coming up with ways that prevent attacks and respond to attacks so as to

reduce the frequency of attacks.

The training also aims at raising participants' awareness on available domestic, regional and international legal mechanisms regulating freedom of expression and state conduct on the media.

Advocate Bwire noted that the training involves some practical sessions on digital security, thus participants are requested to take their laptops with them.

"At the end of the training, participants are expected to be familiar with tools of risk assessment and to have a thorough understanding of the legal framework governing freedom of expression and the media at the domestic, regional and international levels," he elaborated.

THRDC believes that freedom of expression and the media can effectively be used to protect and promote human rights if states adopt policy, legal and institutional frameworks that meet international human rights standards.

International and regional human rights laws and instruments provide a robust and universal framework for the promotion and protection of universal human dignity, online and offline.

Advocate Bwire underlined that the training looks at the Media Services Act (MSA) 2016, the National Security Act (2016), the Statistics Act (2015) and its 2018 amendments, the Cybercrimes Act (2015), Online Content Regulations of 2018 and the Access to Information Act of 2016 which have been operational for the past four years.



### ADVERTISEMENT

## INVITATION TO TENDER FOR APPOINTMENT TO FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is a multi-donor funded, not-for-profit organisation, established in 2010 to promote regional trade and prosperity in East Africa. TMEA wishes to appoint service providers to a framework agreement whose expertise shall be called upon via competition and contracts awarded from time to time amongst the service providers on the framework agreement, in response to specific defined pieces of work.

Three individual Framework Agreements will be established for the following requirements:

- TMEA/FWA/COMMS/06/2019 Provision of photography and videography services; and**
- TMEA/FWA/COMMS/07/2019 Events and public relations management services.**

Each Framework Agreement is open to **consultancy firms/consortiums** as indicated in each Framework Agreement bid document. The successful bidders shall be appointed to each Framework for a period up to 6 years. All Framework Agreement bid documents and specific requirements can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries, quoting the specific Framework Title and Number, should be emailed to [frameworks@trademarkea.com](mailto:frameworks@trademarkea.com).

The closing date for submission of tenders is **11 July 2019 on or before 4.00 p.m.** (Kenya Time). Interested and qualified bidders **MUST** submit their bids via the TMEA Procurement mail box using the email address, [frameworks@trademarkea.com](mailto:frameworks@trademarkea.com). Please note that each email sent together with attachments should not exceed **5 MB**.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.



## JOB VACANCIES

### KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against tuberculosis (TB), the deadliest infectious disease in the world. KNCV is an international center of excellence for TB control that promotes effective, efficient, innovative and sustainable tuberculosis control strategies in a national and international context. Our multidisciplinary team of passionate professionals covers a broad range of expertise such as programmatic TB control, research, clinical management, social science, education, digital health, and project management.

Over the past century KNCV has made a significant contribution to the successful fight against TB in the Netherlands, and since the 1970s, we have shared our knowledge and expertise with the rest of the world. We operate from a central office in The Hague, the Netherlands, a regional office in Central Asia and country offices in Africa and (central) Asia. KNCV raises funds from private, institutional, corporate and government donors.

### IMPAACT4TB Project

Latent tuberculosis (TB) infection (LTBI) is the seed bed for developing TB disease and continued transmission. WHO policy to give at least six months of isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) to people living with HIV (PLWHIV) and child contacts has existed since 1993, yet the uptake of IPT in high burden countries remains poor. A short-course regimen of isoniazid and rifampentine weekly for three months (3HP) is now available for TB preventive therapy (TPT). 3HP is associated with less toxicity, better adherence and similar efficacy to IPT and may be logistically easier for programmes to scale up. The IMPAACT4TB project is conducted by a consortium led by the Aurum Institute with core partners Clinton Health Access Initiative, Johns Hopkins University, KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and the Global Drug Facility in 12 strategically selected countries that have a high burden of TB. KNCV is leading the implementation process in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi and Indonesia.

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following fulltime positions:

### Field Technical Officer for the IMPAACT4TB Project (two positions)

Duty Stations: Arusha and Mbeya, Tanzania

Information and application via [www.kncvtbc.org/tz1901](http://www.kncvtbc.org/tz1901)

**As Field Technical Officer you** advise TB and HIV stakeholders at regional and district level in the area of TB Preventive Therapy (TPT). You act as a mentor for regional and district TB (and HIV) officers on TPT and co-facilitate all technical trainings to the intended health care workers. Further you build capacity of Care and Treatment Clinic (CTC) and TB Clinic staff through on the job training and coaching on TPT and contribute to the development of the 3HP delivery plan and implement with the regional teams the outlined project activities.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have a Medical degree; a Master's in public health or any other relevant area will be an added advantage. A minimum of three years' experience working in public health and/or tuberculosis program/projects and interventions. Good knowledge of HIV, TB and LTBI from a clinical and programmatic perspective and familiar with local NTLN and NACP policies and guidelines. Proven track record in people, project, and finance management.

### Monitoring & Evaluation Officer for the IMPAACT4TB Project

Duty Station: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Information and application via [www.kncvtbc.org/tz1902](http://www.kncvtbc.org/tz1902)

**As Monitoring & Evaluation Officer you will** provide field technical support on monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management. You assist the Project Manager in the preparation of work plans/selection of indicators and annual implementation plans with a view towards meeting the M & E requirements of IMPAACT4TB. You collect, report and analyze information on the IMPAACT4TB country project activities and train, supervise, and oversee entry of enhanced M & E data from the two sentinel sites; and ensure proper capture into the REDCap database. Further, you are responsible for project data and REDCap database management.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have a Bachelor's degree in Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Management, Administration, Information Management or any other relevant academic background; Master's degree will be an added advantage. At least 4 years of Monitoring and Evaluation experience, preferably with patient-based data. Hands on experience in TB surveillance and or study data collection is an advantage. Experience in a non-governmental or donor funded project is an added advantage.

### Field Data Collector for the IMPAACT4TB Project (two positions)

Duty Stations: Arusha and Mbeya, Tanzania

Information and application via [www.kncvtbc.org/tz1903](http://www.kncvtbc.org/tz1903)

**As Field Data Collector you will** supervise and train the health care workers responsible for collecting and recording the data from sentinel sites and ensure accurate data is captured and recorded into the respective data collection tools in a timely fashion. You gather and enter data from the IMPAACT4TB sentinel sites and transfer to the M & E Officer as required. You ensure timely and complete reporting from all field implemented activities in accordance with approved reporting formats. Further you will identify strengths and weaknesses in existing data collection and management system and propose solutions and train and mentor the health workers in a regular manner so as to record accurate data. You will compile data and prepare monthly progress reports in line with the required formats.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have a post graduate diploma in Data/Information Management or any other related field. At least 3 years' experience in health information and data management. Experience working in a non-governmental health project is an added advantage. Capacity to produce high quality briefs and detailed performance reports.

### Finance & Administrative Officer

Duty Station: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Information and application via [www.kncvtbc.org/tz1905](http://www.kncvtbc.org/tz1905)

**As Finance & Administrative Officer you will** support the Project Managers with financial, administrative and HR issues. You ensure the financial, administrative and human resource related policies and documents are updated and implemented. You supervise the Administrative Assistant and ensure the accounting transactions are in accordance with local law, generally accepted Accounting Principles, KNCV and donor policies, and any cost principles imposed by KNCV or the projects. Further you support the Project Managers in development of project budgets and cash flow projections and keep timely, complete and correct financial transactions. You will facilitate accurate and timely submission of monthly financial reports and review monthly balance sheet reconciliations including bank reconciliation.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Management or CPA. Minimum of 5 years' experience in accounting, finance, administration and human resources, preferably with an international organization. Experience with donor funded projects in a public health related field preferred. Demonstrated experience and skills in planning, budgeting and forecasting, financial management and financial reporting.

### Administrative Assistant

Duty Station: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Information and application via [www.kncvtbc.org/tz1906](http://www.kncvtbc.org/tz1906)

**As Administrative Assistant you will** support administration and financial matters within the project implementation. You set up appointments/meetings with government, partner organizations and other stakeholders. You organize, coordinate and arrange all meetings and travels involving the project. You prepare and distribute minutes of meetings during administrative and coordination meetings and other activities involving KNCV and partners. Further you support senior staff to prepare liquidation report of their duty trips that have been completed and provide administrative and budgetary support in planning, budgeting, organizing, implementation and monitoring of training activities. You pay relevant allowances to training facilitators and participants consistent with KNCV policies and project specification.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have a Bachelor's Degree in Administration, Finance, Logistics or any relevant area. Minimum of 2 years of relevant experience. Working experience with international NGOs is an added advantage. Good level of proficiency in Windows Excel and knowledge on Exact accounting package will be an added advantage.

#### What do we offer?

**A full time (40 hours) fixed-term contract for a year, with the intention to extend the contract. An informal work atmosphere in an international environment where initiative is appreciated. A highly motivated team of experienced, self-driven colleagues. The salary is dependent upon the position and relevant working experience. KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation has its own HR Manual.**

#### Application and Information

More information on the vacancies can be found on [www.kncvtbc.org/vacancies](http://www.kncvtbc.org/vacancies). You can apply for these positions by submitting your CV, including a motivation letter and 3 professional references before **20 June 2019**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our HRM Team in Tanzania via +255 22 2664859 or mail to [recruittanzania@kncvtbc.org](mailto:recruittanzania@kncvtbc.org).

**Please note that we only consider the applications that are received through the KNCV website. Applicants that are sent to recruit email account are not taken into consideration.**

## 3bn/- lent to Kilombero community groups and individuals with CROs

By Mashaka Mgeta, just back from Morogoro

FINANCIAL institutions in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region have provided a 3bn/- loan to the community groups and individuals who were awarded certificates of right of occupancy (CROs) through the Land Tenure Support programme (LTSP).

Land officer at the LTSP Faraja Nkwera revealed that the amount was recorded from the loan registration desk in Kilombero district council, where three banks, Postal, CRDB and NMB respectively lent to the nine major clients.

Nkwera was speaking to the delegation of Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) who visited the project areas to monitor and evaluate the engagement of key stakeholders to the activities conducted by their members.

LTSP which started last year, have reached 58 out of 99 villages in Kilombero district, while 19 villages were left because of a re-allocation made by the local government authority from rural to township setting.

"It was a success story for us when financial institutions agreed to accepting CROs as guaranty to provide loans to our people," Nkwera said.

On the other side, a farmer at Idunda village in Ulanga district, Gualberto Abdallah (45), said the LTSP has enabled their community members to participate in land use planning, ownership and identify their boundaries.

He highlighted that despite the benefits of LTSP, the utilization of new technology in land use planning has caused a number of land disputes between individuals or the villages.

"It happened that certain villages were recognizing the boundaries which existed for number of years, but when LTSP personels came to the same areas and use tablet and satellite in land planning, some boundaries were re-allocated to be part of other villages and therefore cause problems among ourselves," he noted.

Some residents from villages faced by such disputes have blamed one of the staff members on the district land department, that he supervised the process of putting the initial village boundaries, and then involved in LTSP to 'disturb' and take piece of their land to another village.

"Before the implementation of LTSP, previous boundaries were known and respected by each of us, but surprisingly, that staff from the district council came with LTSP experts and show them new boundaries which took pieces of our land," one of the Idunda residents exposed.

Idunga was among the villages in Ulanga district with land dispute after the coming of LTSP, saying that their land was re-allocated to the neighbouring villages of Chikuti and Ikungua respectively.

Land Planning Officer in Ulanga district, Venance Huruma, confirmed about the allegations established by villagers against a staff from the land department, and explained that was because of the knowledge gap existing on LTSP and other land related issues.

According to Huruma, poor technology was initially used in land planning and caused about 8-10 kilometers of land remained with 'no man ownership' between one village and another.

## Stakeholders in children's issues in Arusha appeal for formation of special court for child abuse cases

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

STAKEHOLDERS dealing with child affairs in Arusha District Council have suggested the need for the establishment of a special court that will be dealing with child abuse cases, which are on the rise in northern Tanzania.

They were speaking on Tuesday at a one-day meeting, organised by Arusha-based SOS Children's Villages, which involved community development officers from different wards of the council, lawyers, police dealing with child abuse cases, officials from courts and hospitals.

Paulina Masoka, a community development officer in Mwandeti Ward, Arusha District Council said that many cases of child abuse go unreported due to apathy by parents and society in general, leaving the victims suffering in silence.

She said that many cases are not reported because these incidents of cruelty or ill-treatment happen within the family or (involve) close friends or relatives.

"By establishing this court, it will be easier for children to freely report cases, rather than the current system whereby they are required to report to police," she suggested.

"This will also speed up child abuse related cases as I am sure people who will be in that court will be professional."

A lawyer from the Legal and Human Rights Centre in Arusha, Caroline Shoo also cited difficulties in getting evidence as a serious challenge in executing child abuse related cases.

She also suggested the need for coming up with special body that will be solely dealing with child rights issues. "This will make people and children to feel more free to report abuse related cases."

Lucy Masanga, representative of gender desk at Ngaramtoni Police post said: "We've been receiving different child abuse cases, but most of the time there is lack of cooperation from family members and the society at large."

"To us, we see this as a serious challenge that needs to be addressed if we're to protect children rights in this country," she said.

Innocent Estomih, a programme coordinator at the Arusha-based SOS Children's Villages said: "There are serious challenges in dealing with child abuse cases, as many of them stuck in police stations and courts even if the lawyer is there."

"One of many challenges in dealing with child abuse related cases is many people refusal to provide evidence in courts. This makes many cases to go unheard and justice denied to the victims," he said, suggesting the need for collective measures to ensure child rights are protected.

The meeting brought on board key players in child affairs in order to extensively discuss challenges facing children and come up with better ways of ensuring that minors are safe.



A vendor hunts for customers for toys including floating balloons along a Kijitonyama stretch of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road yesterday. But business was conspicuously slow, a major explanation being the scarcity of people on the city's streets owing to the Eid el Fitir holiday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

## CAPE TOWN

# 'Sweet potatoes ideal dual-purpose crop for African smallholder farmers'

ORANGE-fleshed sweet potato leaves and roots are more ideal for boosting food security and solving nutritional deficiencies in resource-poor households rather than promoting their large-scale production for sale, a study suggests.

According to a 2012 survey conducted by South Africa's Agricultural Research Council, about 44 per cent of preschool children and 25 per cent of women at childbearing age in the country were deficient in vitamin A.

Aware of micronutrient deficiencies known as 'hidden hunger' being a major problem affecting mostly rural resource-poor households in Sub-Saharan Africa, researchers say that supplementing diets with food rich in micronutrients including vitamin A is a potential solution.

"In most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the storage root of orange-fleshed

sweet potato is consumed whereas the leaves are underutilised," says Melvin Nyathi, researcher in vegetable and ornamental plants at the Netherlands-based Wageningen University and Research, and lead author of the study published in the Journal of Water Management last month (20 May).

"In most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the storage root of orange-fleshed sweet potato is consumed whereas the leaves are underutilised."

Melvin Nyathi, Wageningen University and Research

In December-May 2014 and November-May in 2015, the researchers conducted a field study on the suitability of orange-fleshed sweet potato leaves and roots having a dual purpose of increasing food security and addressing nutritional deficiencies. The experiments

assessed the production conditions of rural resource-poor smallholders including use of fertilisers. "Utilising orange-fleshed sweet potato as a dual-purpose food crop is not an ideal practice for market-oriented farming; the loss of marketable storage root was about 50 per cent under well-fertilised conditions," says the study. "[It] can be considered for less market-oriented rural resource-poor households."

Nyathi explains, "Key findings of this study showed that utilising orange-fleshed sweet potato as a dual-purpose food crop will improve nutritional food security of rural resource-poor households because the leaves are available for consumption as a relish during the growing period and at the end of the growing period, the storage roots become available."

## Research: Education levels affect heart health status

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

FINDINGS from a sweeping global study conducted by the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Health Sciences professor Scott Lear have revealed a direct correlation between socioeconomic status and one's susceptibility to heart attacks and strokes.

Professor Lear, who holds the Pfizer/Heart & Stroke Foundation Chair in Cardiovascular Prevention Research at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada, is the principal investigator of the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study site in Vancouver. The latest findings of the study have been published in an international health journal, *The Lancet*.

Researchers carried out the wide-ranging and ongoing study over a period of 15 years in 25 countries and based their findings on data collected from over 225,000 participants in countries as diverse as Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Argentina, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Canada and Sweden, to name a few.

Data was collected from families and households through two questionnaires. A third questionnaire was used to collect data on cardiovascular risk factors, which also included a physical examination. Socioeconomic status was assessed using education and a household wealth index as the main determinants.

While the study initially focused on wealth as the main indicator for predicting heart health, researchers soon found that it could not be used as a standardized measure. But education levels could.

"How much money you have tends to be a strong

predictor of health outcomes, but education seems to be a far more robust measure to use across countries," Lear says.

"With education being such a strong indicator or determinant of health, education is actually what we consider a modifiable factor, whereas wealth is not as modifiable. If we give people money they don't suddenly become healthy, but if we strive to better educate our population, that will result

in improved health because there is a more direct link between education and health outcomes."

He points out that the study's strength also lies in its range and variability achieved from different geographical settings.

"We have countries with varying types of healthcare services and we can identify what works and what doesn't... one of the unique aspects (of the study) is bringing together countries

from all over the world that have a range of development.

"That allows us to look at factors that would vary to a greater extent than they would if we just looked exclusively at western countries."

This latest instalment in papers published under the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) Study is a result of extensive research conducted by an international team.



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### Vacancy: CTM Webstore Sales Consultant

<p><b>Job Title:</b> CTM Webstore Sales Consultant</p> <p><b>About the position:</b> The CTM Webstore is looking for an experienced sales consultant in the Online Store and related Omni channel environment.</p> <p>You will be office based but will be required to visit clients either at their offices or at their residents and sites from time to time.</p> <p>You will assist potential customers to purchase flooring, bathroom, Kitchen and related products for new builds and renovations. You will be responsible for following up and closing leads via telephone and email. You will need to provide clients with excellent service and go the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction and brand building.</p> <p>Online Sales consultants must have a flair for design and be able to work on large domestic projects where plans of buildings will be measured and quantities of products calculated during the quoting and invoicing process.</p> <p>Your role will involve the ability to effectively aggregate stock and ensure orders are delivered accurately and timeously.</p> <p>This position will be based in Dar es Salaam at the Kawe CTM store on Mwai Kibaki Road and reports to the Webstore Store Manager.</p> <p><b>Remuneration:</b> Remuneration will be based on experience and will be market related.</p> <p><b>Key Responsibility Areas:</b></p> <p><b>Sales</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Canvass and convert warm leads – both telephonically and via email.</li> <li>2. Assist inbound callers with product &amp; design</li> </ol>	<p>advice with the objective of getting them to purchase.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Ability to meet set monthly sales targets consistently.</li> </ol> <p><b>Customer service excellence</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide customers with an exceptional shopping experience.</li> <li>2. Minimization and resolution of any customer complaints.</li> </ol> <p><b>Competencies:</b></p> <p>You should have good experience in retail sales in the flooring, bathroom and home furnishing industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast learner in a rapidly changing environment</li> <li>• Sales and customer service driven</li> <li>• Excellent written and spoken communication skills</li> <li>• Attention to Detail</li> <li>• Time Management</li> <li>• Planning &amp; Organizing</li> <li>• Adaptability / Flexibility</li> <li>• Task Oriented</li> <li>• Accountability &amp; Dependability</li> <li>• Sound Arithmetic skills</li> <li>• A flair for Design and Creativity</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Ability to multitask and meet deadlines</li> <li>• Responsible and accountable</li> <li>• Results driven</li> </ul> <p><b>Support offered</b> Extensive on the job training. You will be expected to work independently and drive sales with the backup support of the Webstore Manager.</p> <p><b>Application Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should you be up for the challenge and have the necessary skills make a success of this opportunity then send a covering letter and CV to Joseph Nsendo (<a href="mailto:webstore@ctm.co.tz">webstore@ctm.co.tz</a>)</li> <li>• <b>Closing date: 15th June 2019</b></li> </ul>
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# 'Striking' differences in rates of HIV/AIDS within African nations revealed

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE the rapid scale-up of antiretroviral therapy (ART) since 2000, HIV/AIDS is still the most common cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa, according to data from the Global Burden of Disease.

A new scientific paper reveals striking variation in HIV prevalence at provincial and district levels. The paper, published in *Nature*, provides precise geographic estimates of HIV prevalence and numbers of people living with HIV to identify priority areas for health care support to reduce the burden of HIV.

"Changing the trajectory of HIV/AIDS in Africa requires that we continue to seek better ways to know the epidemic. This paper will support policymakers and health care providers in locating hotspots of HIV/AIDS at national and subnational levels, and will help guide smart investment of scarce resources for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment," said Dr. John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

The study, conducted at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, is the first to map HIV prevalence among adults ages 15-49 comprehensively at a granular, subnational level for all 47 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The results show high variation in prevalence and changes in prevalence over time within countries.

Since 2015, the World Health Organization has recommended ART for all people living with HIV, because early treatment enables them to live longer and healthier lives and reduces the potential for transmitting the virus. Despite the rapid scale-up of ART, 34% of people in East and Southern Africa and 60% of people in West and Central Africa living with HIV are not currently on

treatment, according to UNAIDS. Growing population size and continued high incidence of HIV infection, combined with increased life expectancy among people living with HIV (PLHIV), has led to an increase in PLHIV in sub-Saharan Africa: between 2000 and 2017, the number of people aged 15-49 years living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa increased by 3 million, though HIV prevalence declined.

"Global funding for HIV/AIDS has declined since 2013, but our research shows the substantial burden that still exists and reveals where geographically targeted interventions might make a big difference. Our goal is to provide robust data that can be used to help prevent future infections and ensure appropriate care for people living with HIV," said IHME's Dr. Laura Dwyer-Lindgren, lead author and Assistant Professor of Health Metrics Sciences.

Key findings from the study include: most countries (36 of 47) had a more than two-fold difference in prevalence between second-level administrative subdivisions (such as districts or departments) in 2017. In one-fourth of countries, the largest difference was more than five-fold.

While the country-level analysis shows a clear divide between countries



**The work done at IHME and on the Local Burden of Disease team is supported by a large network of collaborators, who play a critical role in the analysis of data and the use of published data**

in Southern sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the continent, subnational-level analysis reveals areas outside Southern sub-Saharan Africa with high HIV prevalence, including parts of Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, and Tanzania where prevalence exceeded 10% in 2017.

Both the direction and rate of change in HIV prevalence from 2000 to 2017 varied between and within countries, highlighting the changing landscape and underscoring the need for current, local data.

The spatial concentration of people living with HIV (PLHIV) was highly variable. While a large number of PLHIV were concentrated in a small number of areas, an equally large number were widely distributed in areas with lower spatial concentrations of PLHIV.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded the study as part of a five-year grant that enables IHME researchers and collaborators globally to map a range of health metrics in 5x5 square kilometre units. The research is part of the Local Burden of Disease project at IHME led by Dr. Simon I. Hay, Director of Geospatial Science at IHME and Professor of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington.

The estimates highlight transnational trends, suggesting that international collaboration could help address persistent high prevalence in some areas.

"The work done at IHME and on the Local Burden of Disease team is supported by a large network of collaborators, who play a critical role in the analysis of data and the use of published data in policy. We are always seeking to build our collaborative network and are very grateful to all who contributed to this study," said Dr. Hay.

The paper builds on many previously published analyses, incorporating a broad array of data sources and presenting the results in a publicly accessible web-based visualization tool.



## DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC

### NOTICE OF THE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of the Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange PLC (DSE PLC) will be held on **Tuesday 25th June 2019 at Crystal Ballroom, Ground Floor, New Africa Hotel**, Corner of Azikiwe Street / Sokoine Drive, Dar-es-Salaam at 9.30 a.m.

The Agenda for the meeting will be:

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the DSE PLC;
3. Matters Arising from the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the DSE PLC;
4. To Receive and Adopt:
  - 4.1 The Board's Report for the year ended 31st December 2018;
  - 4.2 The DSE Group Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the year ended 31st December 2018;
  - 4.3 Fidelity Fund Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the year ended 31st December 2018;
5. To Ratify Auditors' Fees;
6. Appointment of External Auditors for the year 2019;
7. To Approve Directors' Fees for the year ending 31st December 2019;
8. To Approve Proposed Dividends for the year ended 31st December 2018;
9. Election of Members to the DSE Board of Directors; and
10. Any Other Business.

Notes:

1. A member wishing to attend the meeting will do so at their own costs and must come with a copy of his/her Depository Receipt together with an identification card like voter's card or employment card or passport, for identification.
2. Annual Reports for the year 2018 and copies of the proxy forms will be available at the DSE Offices situated at 3rd Floor, Kambarage House, Ufukoni Street, Dar es Salaam as well as the Licensed Dealing Members of the DSE (Stockbrokers) effectively from Monday 10th June 2019.
3. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting and who is unable to attend, can appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf by submitting his/her proxy form to the Company Secretary at the DSE Offices not later than 14:00 hours on Monday 24th June 2019. In case of corporate body, the proxy must be under its common seal.
4. The Register Closing date for determining shareholders entitled to vote will be Wednesday 19th June 2019.

By order of the Board

**Mary Stephen Mniwasa**  
Secretary to the Board  
4th June 2019

FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2019

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

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## Higher speed needed in handling appeals by persons with albinism

FROM PAGE 1

rights and wellbeing of marginalised persons with albinism - commonly PWA, for short - worldwide.

It is also known as a global faith-based agency committed to ending discrimination and violence against PWA and facilitating their social inclusion and participation.

Tanzania is no stranger to albinism in general and the plight of PWA in particular and this has been known for so long, and is so well documented complete with graphic details, that it hardly makes news any more.

What one might find surprising and therefore worth looking into with an especially inquisitive eye could be the fact that, despite the experience Tanzanians have on albinism, no one can say for sure that the country is a safe haven for PWA.

Indeed, even the likes of UTSS will talk of some indications that PWA in the country are now a much less hunted 'community' than was the case several years ago.

However, it is yet to be confirmed through authoritative surveys whether this is a true and comprehensive enough representation of the sustainability of the situation on the ground.

Put rather differently, no one can as yet say for sure whether the discrimination or stigmatisation persons with albinism have known for decades on end has eased significantly enough for us as a nation to brag about having made impressive headway in disabusing ourselves of long-held myths or misconceptions about albinism and gone on to unconditionally appreciate the undeniable fact that PWA have no inherently or uniquely crippling "incompleteness" as human beings.

Numerous authoritative studies have proved this beyond any shadow of doubt, many coming up with dumbfounding success stories revolving around PWA - and this in all kinds of disciplines, professions and sectors.

Peter Ash's own story effectively debunks longstanding myths relating to albinism: he was the youngest of a family of three boys, but he and one other brother were the only members of the family that have albinism. Additionally, he once reported that he is married and has a son but neither his wife nor their son has the genetic condition.

Surprise, surprise, one might say. Not quite, science has since conclusively

shown. Experts say it would be totally wrong to blame a child's albinism only on the perceived fault of the mother. They are emphatic that, regardless of race, a couple will beget a child with albinism only if both the mother and the father carry the albinism gene.

Further moving to demystify albinism, experts also dismiss the belief that constantly exposing children with albinism to the sun stands to help the children develop resistance to sunburn and therefore protect them from skin cancer and darken their skins as a "weapon" against discrimination.

To the contrary, experts prescribe the use of protective items such as sunglasses, hats and long-sleeved shirts or blouses as well as the application of sun screen to dramatically reduce the chances of skin cancer and premature death induced or precipitated by unprotected exposure to the sun.

Experts further warn that all PWA are "legally blind" in the sense that they have reduced vision and light-sensitive eyes and need to wear sunglasses or special spectacles - or even use magnifiers - particularly when outdoors.

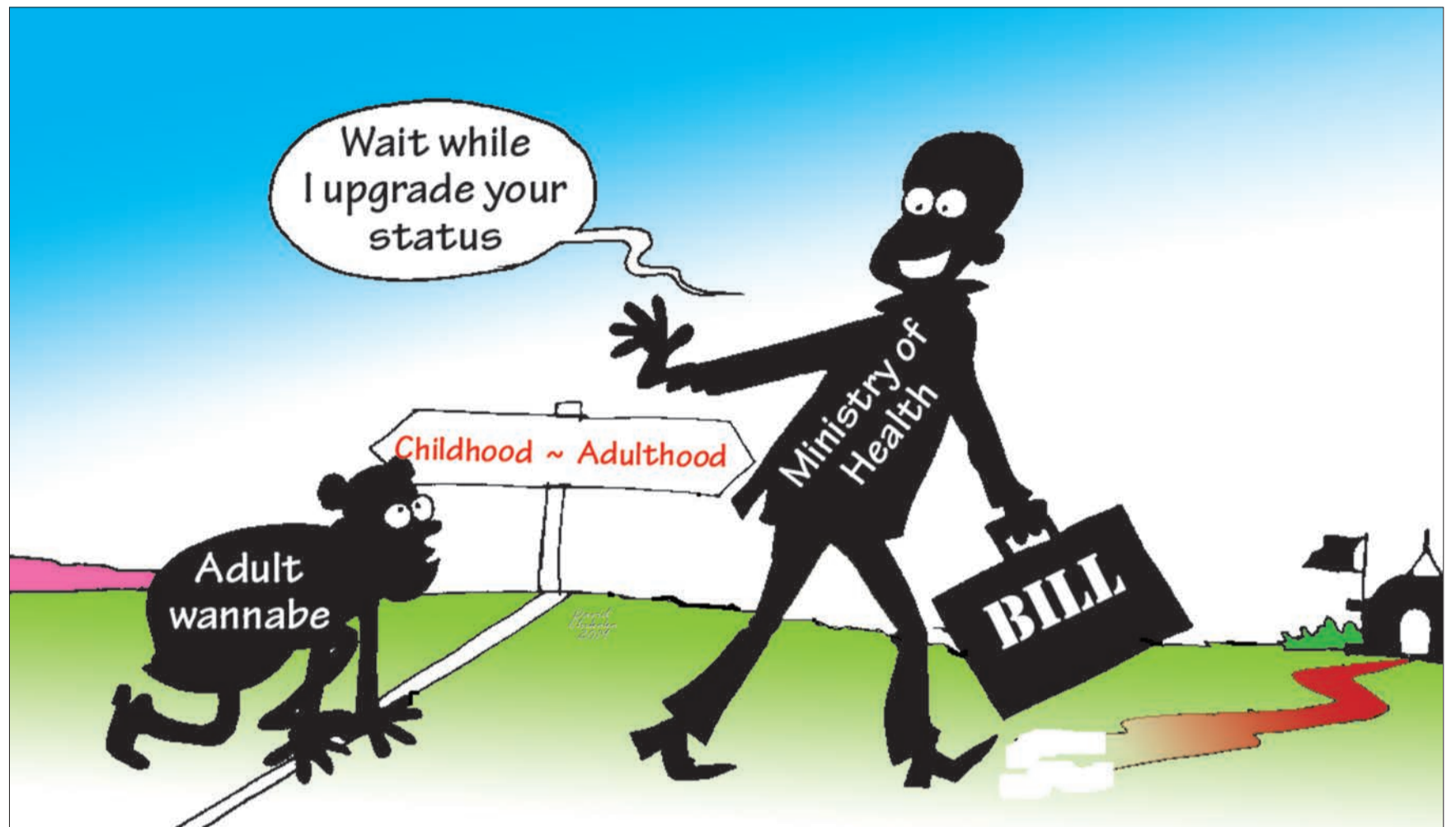
There is also the need for PWA to sit strategically enough during class time to follow whatever is written on the board at the front - a justifiable demand which some teachers may however choose to ignore.

Some myths about albinism are especially laughable, which is all the more reason for experts and agents like the media and human rights crusaders to debunk them. One is that albinism is communicable and therefore physical contact with any PWA "surely" leads to "contamination with the albinism virus" - when there is actually no such "virus".

The situation not being as promising for PWA as one would wish or expect, what could one propose as the best way forward? Not easy floating a panacea, one must admit.

Fortunately, PWA themselves are not demanding much from society apart from an informed appreciation of their unique physical condition and unconditional access to the enjoyment of as many rights as are enjoyed by all other people.

Not a big deal, for sure. So, why are some people dragging their feet so cynically when it comes to heeding appeals to this effect - or merely adding some voice to them - including desisting from addressing PWA using "labels" they find repugnant?



## New initiative on youth's sexual, reproductive health, rights coming

VANCOUVER

**W**OMEN Deliver, Girl Effect and the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada) on Wednesday announced a new research initiative focused on engaging youth as researchers and advocates around youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The multi-country project will take place in India, Malawi and Rwanda and is lined up to engage youth as advisors, researchers and advocates. The initiative is meant to generate insights that will shape the investment case for youth-friendly SRHR interventions, such as modern contraception or gender-based violence counseling.

In addition, the results are expected to equip youth with the evidence needed to carry forward their own advocacy efforts.

"If we want youth policies and programmes to work and get bang for our investment buck, we need to involve youth all the way. They are the experts on their own lives and know what they need," said Women Deliver President and CEO Katja Iversen.

"They (youth) are the game-changers and the best spokespersons for their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Youth are the key to success, and we need to listen, learn, involve, and take action accordingly," added Iversen.

The project will rely on Girl Effect's award-winning Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors (TEGA) programme, a mobile-based peer-to-peer research methodology where young women aged between 17 and 24 years are trained to become fully qualified researchers within their communities.

"Our sector needs accurate, fast and authentic data and insights about young people and the unique challenges they face in order to design, iterate and evaluate programmes to ensure they are as effective as possible," said Girl Effect CEO Jessica Odede.

She elaborated: "TEGA's unique approach unlocks conversations that might otherwise be lost or not included when collecting data in traditional ways, and ensures even the hardest to reach voices are included. Better yet, the TEGA programme is a form of employment and empowerment for our young researchers too."

Multiple data and knowledge gaps remain regarding youth's sexual and reproductive health. Youth are often not engaged in shaping health services largely owing to systematic barriers



and persistent marginalisation.

Initiatives that engage youth throughout have the potential to better address the needs of communities in a sustainable way. The research, funded by Global Affairs Canada, is widely expected to equip decision-makers with the information they need to create more inclusive health systems.

Through consultations, youth will shape the primary research question and TEGAs will collect the corresponding data. Further, a youth advisory board on research will facilitate input from Women Deliver Young Leaders - outstanding young advocates of gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women - on the initiative.

"Applying meaningful youth engagement to the research process, including implementation and dissemination, shifts power to young people themselves," said Sruthi Chandrasekaran, a researcher at Ibis Reproductive Health and Women Deliver Young Leader (Class of 2016), adding: "Our movement must honour and trust young people as experts of their own sexual and reproductive rights."

The initial research findings will be shared at the 25th Anniversary of the International Conference for Population and Development in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

"This research will come at a critical time in the world's effort to achieve the 17 global Sustainable Development

goals results.

Anchored in sexual and reproductive health, Women Deliver crusades for the rights of girls and women across every aspect of their lives - this in the belief that investing in girls and women will deliver progress for all.

Every three years, Women Deliver galvanizes momentum at the global Women Deliver Conference - the agency's signature event. It's a bold and diverse gathering, a fuelling station of ideas and generator of action bringing together thousands of decision-makers from civil society, governments, the private sector and international agencies as well as advocates, activists, and journalists to identify solutions and drive change for girls and women.

Girl Effect meanwhile sees a different future. Accordingly, it inspires girls in navigating the pivotal time of adolescence so that they are enabled to make choices about their health, education and economic futures - no matter where in the world they live.

The agency uses its unique and in-depth insights about the real needs of girls, along with innovative behaviour change science, to create branded media girls love - virtual and real-world spaces where they can be inspired, informed and connected to services and to others.

Working with our partners, Girl Effect reaches millions of girls in more than 60 countries through the technology that girls use every day.

For its part, Global Affairs Canada manages Canada's diplomatic relations, provides consular services to Canadian nationals and promotes the country's international trade while leading its international development and humanitarian assistance.

Organisers billed the Women Deliver 2019 (June 3-6) Conference, held here, as the world's largest on gender equality and the health, rights and wellbeing of girls and women in the 21st century. It was expected to serve as a catalyst for advocates working to achieve a more gender equal world.

More than 6,000 world leaders, influencers, advocates, academics, activists and journalists were due to flock to the conference with the drive to accelerate progress for girls and women everywhere.

The event was expected to present new knowledge, promote world-class solutions and engage a broad spectrum of voices - alongside focusing on several issues from health, nutrition, education, economic and political empowerment to human rights, good governance, and girls' and women's agency and equality.

## Opportunities on silver platter for millions of youth in Africa to make the most out of

**P**AN - AFRICAN telecommunications, media and technology group Econet and global crop nutrition giant Yara International ASA last week announced the launch of what is known as Generation Africa.

The two firms have declared that they see the partnership initiative bringing the dynamism of youth entrepreneurship to Africa's agri-food sector.

They say the drive is designed to inspire young African entrepreneurs to join the all-important sector and benefit from the viable business opportunities it is set to make available.

This should be excellent news if indeed the initiative will reach thousands of young people through a competition that will award outstanding business ventures in the agri-food sector.

It is reported that Africa's agri-food sector will present a US\$ 1-trillion business opportunity by 2030, largely by linking up with the ongoing technology revolution.

So, with innovations benefiting Africa's agri-food chain chiefly in the way it grows, harvests, processes,

stores, transports, packages, sells and consumes food, the continent will doubtless witness a revolution in the true sense of the word if it seizes the opportunities promised.

The Yara top leadership has declared that the just-launched drive "will help youth entrepreneurs launch, grow and mature agri-food businesses that will drive job creation, inclusive growth and better food supply".

It is meanwhile also reported that Africa has some 600 million hectares of arable land but still imports an annual US\$35 billion worth of food, with the estimate for 2015 being US\$100 billion while over 60 per cent of young people across Africa lie unemployed.

The bottom line here hinges on the need to have a bigger presence of innovative entrepreneurship to help tame rural-urban migration by making agriculture more attractive and paying, by creating more and more rewarding jobs in the private and informal sectors and by raising nutrition levels both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Econet and Yara may not stand as continental trailblazers as such, but they are fronting a noble mission meriting emulation and support.



## UNITED NATIONS

Climate-related displacement and food insecurity is not a future possibility, but it is already happening and it's only projected to worsen without urgent action in coming years.

Yesterday, ahead of World Environment Day, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) sounded the alarm on the growing impacts of drought in Somalia.

"UNHCR and humanitarian partners fear that severe climatic conditions combined with armed conflict and protracted displacement could push the country into a far bigger humanitarian emergency," said UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch.

As a result of below average rains and a worsening drought, an estimated 5.4 million people are likely to be food insecure by September in many parts of the Horn of Africa nation. Of those, over two million will be in severe conditions and in need of immediate emergency assistance.

The drought has also forced nearly 50,000 people to flee their homes in search of food, water, and aid. More than 7,000 were displaced last month alone.

"People who are already displaced because of conflict and violence are also affected by the drought, at times disproportionately," Baloch added.

## Mobilisation needed for climate-related disasters



In 2011 Somalia also experienced severe drought and many were forced to leave their homes and make the long journey to an aid camp in the Somali capital Mogadishu. File photo

The latest crisis is occurring at the wake of a two-year drought that ended in 2017, which displaced over one million.

According to UNHCR, weather-related hazards such as storms, droughts, and wildfires displaced 16.1 million people in 2018.

Climate-related crises are only

expected to occur with greater frequency across the world.

In a new, terrifying report, Australian think tank Breakthrough National Center for Climate Restoration warned that climate change poses a "new-to-mid-term existential threat to human civilisation."

"This policy paper looks at...

the unvarnished truth about the desperate situation humans, and our planet, are in, painting a disturbing picture of the real possibility that human life on earth may be on the way to extinction, in the most horrible way," said Admiral Chris Barrie in the foreword.

The assessment warns that the

world's currently on its way to least 3° Celsius of global warming and projects that by 2050, one billion people in regions such as the Middle East and West Africa will have to relocate due to unliveable climate conditions.

There will also be severe decreases in water availability and a collapse

in agriculture and food production.

"The scale of destruction is beyond our capacity to model with a high likelihood of human civilisation coming to an end," the report states, noting that such climate impacts will accelerate conflict and instability.

But not all hope is lost.

The report urges governments to have strong leadership and mobilise resources "akin in scale to the World War II emergency mobilisation" in order to quickly build a zero-emissions industrial system.

"A doomsday future is not inevitable! But without immediate drastic action our prospects are poor. We must act collectively," said Barrie.

UNHCR similarly called on more international action to prevent climate-related disasters, increase efforts to strengthen resilience, and protect those already affected by climate change.

Last month, aid agencies launched a 710-million-dollar appeal in response to the drought in Somalia. Only 20 percent has so far been funded.

"With climate change amplifying the frequency and intensity of sudden disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and tornados, and contributing to more gradual environmental phenomena, such as drought and rising sea levels, it is expected to drive even more displacement in the future," Baloch said.

## 'We live in fear': Facing dry times, rural South Africans rethink water

KWAMUSI, South Africa  
At the height of the 2015 drought that parched South Africa's eastern KwaZulu-Natal province, Julie Mkhize had to pull carcasses of dead cows from the dried riverbed near her village, after the desperate animals perished seeking water.

Soon people in her rural community were collapsing as well from dehydration, with 10 dying from drought-related illnesses as drinking water ran short, Mkhize said.

In the years since, the village has seen water flows recover. But this year they are beginning to shrink again, producing deep-seated fear in Kwamusi, a village of 4,000 more than two hours' drive northwest of Richard's Bay.

"Cows, donkeys, goats, children, farmers and families are all competing for the same water," said Mkhize, 63, a small-scale vegetable farmer, sitting in the shade of a community produce-packing shelter.

"We live in fear of the drought, every day."

Around the world, stronger El Nino weather patterns and climate change are bringing harsher and more frequent droughts - and already-dry southern Africa has been particularly hard hit.

Water shortages have killed crops, forced farmers to migrate to look for work, hobbled the hydropower dams much of the region depends on for electricity, and threatened the region's rich wildlife as water-holes disappear.

In 2017, South Africa's Cape Town made headlines as its mayor launched a countdown to a feared "Day Zero" when taps were expected to run dry - a crisis averted only by the city making an aggressive push to conserve water.

But much of the water-scarce country still suffers from poor water management, according to South



Africa's Institute for Security Studies.

Scientists predict that as temperatures continue to rise with global warming and populations keep on growing, the region will see harsher water shortages - and will need to find clever solutions to ensure there is enough water for all.

With supplies scarce, fights over water are on the rise globally, with water think tank the Pacific Institute recording a surge in the number of related conflicts from about 16 in the 1990s to about 73 in just the past five years.

DRIP BY DRIP  
In Kwamusi, a drip irrigation system - funded by the Siyazisiza Trust, a non-profit food security group - means Mkhize's vegetable cooperative, the Siza Bantu Nazareth Garden, can now grow and sell crops even through dry periods.

Slim hoses woven through the garden allow river water to slowly drip into plants, minimizing losses to evapora-

tion.

Since 2012, KwaZulu-Natal has suffered below-average rainfall, said Phatisa Mfuyo, a spokeswoman at the province's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development.

But Kwamusi's hoses have cut the water needed for irrigation and helped the 18 members of the cooperative maintain a steady income of at least 200 rand (\$14) per person per day.

That's a huge improvement from 2015, when "we ate mostly cabbage", remembered Lucas Thungo, the only male member.

"We couldn't even eat our staple food of pap (maize porridge) because it required using too much water."

KwaZulu-Natal's periodic water shortages have sometimes been called a "green drought" because sporadic rains still bring new plant growth.

But the province's rivers - the bigger source of water - are fast being used up, ac-

ording to a report by the Institute for Security Studies.

"I know it looks beautiful now, but wait until the drought," Thungo said. "Then all you see are rocks and dust. Everything becomes ugly. Even the relationships between different communities change for the worse."

### 'THE NEXT WAR'

About 120 km (75 miles) south of Kwamusi lies the village of Nxamalala, just a few kilometers from the controversial \$17 million homestead of disgraced former President Jacob Zuma, accused of using taxpayer funds to pay for the compound.

Residents in Nxamalala say drier conditions are provoking a growing "water war" between adjoining communities.

"Sometimes if you go to a nearby water source, other communities are standing guard at the water. They will beat you if you come near it," said Talent Zuma, 31, who is not related to the former

president.

"People say the next war will be over water, but here it feels like it has already begun."

During the 2015 drought, more than 1,000 chickens raised by Zuma's farm cooperative died.

"Eventually the animals start crying out for water. They will either eventually die from walking far distances searching for water, or we will have to sacrifice them," he said.

Community members also remember how the 2015 drought brought itchy skin, fainting spells and, for some, kidney failure and cholera.

### SHARING WATER

In many rural villages, limited access to water has resulted in near-daily negotiations about how the little available should be shared and used, and how more might be acquired.

In the drought-parched village of Vuna, talks have led to water being trucked in, bath-

ing water being shared - and plenty of thirsty animals.

The village's Kuthalani cooperative - the name means Hard Work - sits about 20 km north of Kwamusi, accessible only down a narrow walking path of deep red sand.

The four grandmothers who run the cooperative's one-hectare farm plot, hidden amid thorny acacias and imposing mountains, ululate as Brandon Nthianandham, Siyazisiza's rural community worker, arrives, bearing sugarcane cuttings as a gift.

"This community is probably the most impacted by the drought," Nthianandham said. But regular flash floods on the nearby Vuna River also wash away trees and soil, he said, pointing to a large downed tree on the river's banks.

When rain does not come for long periods, Vuna - like Nkandla - must buy water as both the river and municipal water supply is unreliable, residents said.

"We pay R800 (\$55) to buy water from a delivery truck in drier months," said Zikhuphulile Nkosi, 76, the Vuna cooperative chairwoman. "This usually lasts for one month, and then we resort to drinking river water."

But buying water tends to be a last resort as it is an expense most cannot afford, she said.

Instead, the community starts by informally prioritizing how limited water supplies will be divided.

"We cherish the government water supply for drinking. For everything else, like bathing, we all move toward the river, which makes it more polluted," said Nkosi.

In Nkandla, home to former President Zuma's compound, families are also looking hard at how best to use water.

"First we must cook. We must feed the children," said Nomathemba Mashange, 51, head of the

Thelumoyaphansi cooperative in Nkandla.

"Then we will use water to bath. Sometimes two to three of us will use the same water. Then this water is used for irrigating the crops. The livestock become our last priority."

Animals are largely left to fend for themselves, residents say, or slaughtered when they can no longer walk to find water.

In dry periods, when rural people drink more river water, they also suffer diarrhea and cholera regularly from the soap, sewage and animal waste washing down from communities upstream.

"We have all had cholera at some point," Nkosi said.

As government-supplied water arrives only irregularly, "we are forced to drink water we know is contaminated", she said.

### DIGGING DEEP

Sometimes even the river runs dry. When that happens, the four grandmothers in Vuna pick up spades and dig into the riverbed to reach water trapped deep in the sand, and insert large plastic containers to collect it.

A plastic cover keeps livestock away. "Otherwise the goats and cows will come and drink our precious water," Nkosi said.

Sometimes the grandmothers stand guard, armed with rocks to scare off approaching animals. "Their hooves push the sand back in, filling the river with sand again," Nthianandham said.

When the river is deep enough, the women set up a petrol engine beside it and pump water to their crops, including sweet potatoes that produce good harvests even with little water.

The soft sand allows the sweet potatoes to expand, yielding large tubers the women can sell in towns, Nthianandham said.

Agencies

## NAIROBI

Peter Mwangi defined a chilly Wednesday morning to drive more than six kilometers from his home on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital Nairobi to the city's expansive grounds where the fifth edition of China Trade Week Kenya is taking place.

The middle-aged father of three was in a jolly mood as he sampled electrical appliances displayed at the exhibition stands inside the Kenyatta International Convention Centre's (KICC) Tsavo Ballroom.

Speaking to Xinhua at Zhejiang Sharbo Electric Appliance Company Limited's stand, Mwangi confessed he has developed a strong affinity for Chinese manufactured goods since he became an entrepreneur in the last one and a half decade.

"I have been importing solar panels, electrical appliances and sanitary products from China for more than ten years and I can confirm they are of high quality and pocket friendly," said Mwangi.

"It is an honor for me to visit this expo and have a look at new solar solutions from China that I believe will be received well by my local clients," he added.

Mwangi was among hundreds of Kenyan entrepreneurs who attended the opening ceremony of this year's China Trade Week Kenya presided over by senior government officials.

The sharp-witted entrepreneur said he intended to engage with Chinese exhibitors and learn about latest development in solar technology and forge long-term business partnerships.

## Made-in-China products resonate with budding Kenyan entrepreneurs



"Hopefully, I might be able to find new partners to help grow my business and become the leading distributor of solar panels in this region," said Mwangi.

More than 500 exhibitors are participating in China Trade Week held from June 5-7 to showcase high-end manufactured products from China ranging from construction materials, furniture, textiles, to air condition and water treatment gadgets.

Eugene Wamalwa, Kenya's

cabinet secretary for the Ministry of Devolution and ASAL said the expo took place against a backdrop of robust bilateral trade between China and East Africa's largest economy.

"The China Trade Week presents a platform for us to exchange knowledge and ideas that can promote fruitful economic partnership," said Wamalwa.

Zhao Xiyuan, minister counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya said that regular exhibitions are key to boost China-Kenya trade that has

been growing at a rate of five percent since 2015.

Kenyan visitors at the Chinese Trade Week who included entrepreneurs and the curious public marveled at the cutting edge products displayed at elegantly decorated exhibition stands.

Amos Toel, a middle-aged Nairobi-based entrepreneur said that he was impressed by Chinese manufactured items ranging from automobile parts, lighting equipment, textiles to industrial machinery.

"My visit to this year's China Trade Week was not in vain. I stumbled upon products whose quality is beyond reproach yet they are affordable," said Toel, father of three, adding that he looked forward to importing electrical appliances from China.

Organizers of this year's edition of China Trade Week Kenya said they expected more than 30,000 visitors as the premier event gains traction in Kenya and across the east African region.

David Wang, chairman of MIE Groups, a consultancy firm that organizes China Trade Week said it had struck a chord with local entrepreneurs keen to learn about products manufactured from China.

"We consider it a milestone to host another edition of China Trade Week that has attracted a higher number of visitors keen to purchase goods and network with exhibitors to learn new ideas on how to expand their businesses," said Wang.

Gilbert Injaga, a budding entrepreneur in his early 40s agreed that China is a prized destination for Kenyans looking for cheaper but high-quality manufactured goods.

"I have spent time visiting exhibition stands and have learnt that the products on display are very outstanding," said Injaga.

"My friend who owns a petrol station requested me to look for pipes and valves to be installed in a new premises he is about to open," he added.

Injaga revealed that he has been visiting China since 2015 to source for electronic goods like computers and mobile phones for sale at his mid-sized shop in Nairobi.

Charles Wari, a Nairobi-based businessman told Xinhua beside Shanghai Balance Automotive Equipment Company Limited's exhibition stand that importing goods from China is key to boost growth of his medium scale enterprise.

"Having spent adequate time scrutinizing products on display, I am convinced that China is the place to be for our local entrepreneurs keen to grow our businesses," said Wari.

### BY JOHAN BURGER AND CHRIS BOTHA

If a crime victim in South Africa doesn't open a case with the police, can the police still investigate?

During the launch of Pieter-Louis Myburgh's Gangster State on 9 April, African National Congress Youth League supporters stormed the bookshop, ripped books apart and forced the author to flee for his life. Police were called but made no arrests because, according to a police spokesperson, they couldn't investigate 'until the owner of the shop opens a case to say there was damage to property'.

At the time of this statement no such case was opened. But based on media reports, the police must have witnessed some of the criminal activity that took place. Not only was there malicious damage to property, but also other possible crimes such as public violence, intimidation and theft. These should have warranted immediate arrests or a police-initiated investigation independent of a formal complaint.

In the high-profile case of artist Babes Wodumo in March, a video she took was circulated showing how she was allegedly assaulted by kwaito star Mampintsha. Unlike the bookshop incident, the police said that while they preferred a complaint by the victim, they 'have the ability to ... investigate without formal charges being laid'.

According to the police, in such instances they can 'take over the case as a state case' if 'witnessed' by

## Can the police investigate a case that hasn't been reported?



The South African police have a positive duty to act against crime even when a complainant is absent. File photo

a police officer or someone else. The police essentially act on behalf of the state despite the absence of a formal complaint by a witness or victim.

On 13 May Police Minister Bheki Cele said the police were taking statements from politicians and others for allegedly involving themselves in double-voting during the 2019 elections. This happened after Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) national chairperson Dali Mpofu admitted in a televised interview that he asked EFF members to

test the system. Again this shows the police's readiness to initiate an investigation in the absence of a formal complaint.

The apparent inconsistency regarding when the police act without a formal complaint may be linked to confusion about the law governing their duties. When formal complaints are opened by victims or witnesses the police's role is clear - they must investigate. What is less clear is their duty to investigate without a complainant having opened a criminal case,

but where crimes have been brought to their attention or perpetrated in their presence.

The duty and powers of the police are prescribed by law in the constitution, the SA Police Service Act, 1995 and others. The Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 says police are authorised to arrest anyone without a warrant when that person commits or attempts to commit an offence in their presence, is reasonably suspected of having committed an offence referred to in Schedule 1 of the act,

or has escaped or attempts to escape from lawful custody.

Crimes listed in Schedule 1 range from violent crimes such as murder to property crimes such as theft, and any conspiracy, incitement or attempt to commit any of these offences.

South Africa's courts have also often pronounced on the legal duty of the police. In Minister of Safety and Security v Van Duivenboden 2002 (6) SA 431 (SCA), Nugent, Justice of Appeal, found that: '... the State has a positive con-

stitutional duty, imposed by s 7 of the Constitution, to act in protection of the rights in the Bill of Rights'.

This means the police are legally obligated, once they witness or are informed of a crime, to act in the interest of protecting the rights of victims, whether the victim formally lays a complaint or not. The police's position is different to that of ordinary citizens in that they cannot simply walk away from a criminal offence and do nothing.

This is explained by Melunsky, Acting Justice of

Appeal, in *S v Williams and Others* 1998 (2) SACR 191 (SCA), citing Booysen, Justice, in *S v Barnes and Another* 1990 (2) SACR 485 (N): 'Although mere failure to report the crime to the authorities would not render a member of the public guilty of being an accessory after the fact of that crime ... a police officer is in a different position as it is his legal duty to bring criminals to book'.

This doesn't mean the police must always arrest someone if a crime has been committed. The police should always consider less invasive ways to ensure that an alleged perpetrator is available to help with an investigation or appear in court to face charges. In less serious crimes the police can request that person to accompany them or report to the police station without arrest.

The police must clarify their response to crimes committed in their presence or when they come to their attention without a formal complaint. They have a legal duty to take appropriate action and police managers must ensure that their policies and training help police to respond accordingly.

South Africa's new cabinet should ask for a clear and measurable five-year police reform plan to professionalise the South African Police Service. This will not only improve public safety but also reduce police abuses, free up more money for effective policing tactics, and build public trust in this important institution.

# Tanzanian builds drones using local know-how and bamboos

By Evan Ackerman and Michael Koziol

IT'S late afternoon on the shores of Tanzania's Lake Victoria, and Bornlove Ntikha is building a drone out of bamboo. One large piece forms the body of the drone, and smaller crosspieces are secured with zip ties. The motors at the ends of the crosspieces are held in place with 3D-printed mounts; more zip ties and tape keep the battery and electronics in place. With a small handsaw, Ntikha trims some bamboo twigs down to size. He's decided that his drone needs longer landing legs.

"In Kiswahili we call it 'mianzi drone,' for the Swahili word for bamboo," Ntikha says. "We built it two days ago, in two hours. With controls, motors, receiver, power system, GPS, 3D-printed parts—it's about US \$150. And bamboo is around for free."

The bamboo grows at the Malaika Beach Resort in Mwanza, near the southern tip of Lake Victoria. Mwanza is the second-largest city in Tanzania (after the business hub, Dar es Salaam), and its economy is heavily dependent on the lake for fishing and trade. But moving goods among towns on the lake's winding shores and numerous islands is often slow and inefficient. So in late 2018, the Tanzanian government and the World Bank held the first Lake Victoria Challenge (LVC) to explore how autonomous cargo drones might help things. The event brought together academics, industry leaders, and East African government officials to attend presentations and watch flight demonstrations.

A handful of European drone companies exhibited their machines, all of them very capable, all built with custom hardware and software and encased in sleek fiberglass and carbon fiber. But these drones are too expensive for East Africa. Here the drones need to be cheap, both to build and to repair—and that means bamboo and zip ties instead of fiberglass and carbon fiber.

Ntikha's flight wasn't part of the official LVC program, but he came to show what a local drone enthusiast can do with simple materials. While government regulators attended a cocktail party hosted by the LVC, Ntikha's bamboo drone tentatively took to the air and hovered. The handful of onlookers might not be writing the rules, but they're the ones figuring out how drones will work in Tanzania, on the ground and in the air.

Ntikha's rustic-looking drone actually uses an advanced feature called an unmanned traffic management system, which broadcasts the drone's position to make it safer to fly in crowded airspaces. Most commercial drones don't yet have this capability, but Ntikha is prepared for a day when his country's skies will be crowded.

That day may come soon. All across Tanzania, from the shores of Lake Victoria to the bustling streets of Zanzibar City, on the largest of the islands off Tanzania's eastern coast, local entrepreneurs are building a drone industry that meets the needs of East Africans. These pioneers have to overcome immense hurdles in a country where regulation is still being developed, parts are hard to come by, and expensive drones can seem out of reach. The rewards, however, may be worth the effort: If the country's drone revolution takes off, Tanzanians will manage their farmland, plan their cities, and upgrade their infrastructure in ways that aren't even on the radar for the United States and Europe. Tanzania



Bornlove Ntikha uses bamboo for the frame of his DIY drone. Ntikha wants to show that drones can be built out of locally available materials, which will make them cheaper and more accessible.

could very well become a leader in the drone world.

Freddie Mbuya's house in the Mikochei neighborhood of Dar es Salaam is hard to miss: An exterior wall facing the road is completely covered in a mural depicting Mbuya and his family as human-size meerkats. From that house he runs Uhurulabs, a nonprofit organization that enables Mbuya to pursue his wide-ranging technological

interests. "Uhuru in Kiswahili means 'freedom' or 'independence,'" Mbuya says. "Uhurulabs is a place where people can do innovative things, and perhaps make money. The goal is not to make money but to push the Tanzanian technical envelope. And our focus right now is on 3D printing, blockchain, and drones."

In Mbuya's home office and workshop, drones and drone

components cover the furniture, fill the corners, and hang from the ceiling. "I truly think that drones could have the potential to be a game changer in Africa," he says. "Drones are definitely allowing us to leapfrog past traditional technologies, and it's being done out of necessity."

He sees the biggest potential in land surveying and says that only about 3 percent of Africa is mapped using

techniques other than satellites. "Given that land is probably our second most important asset—after our people—it would be important to actually know where things are, and who owns what, to start getting more value out of it." For example, many farmers don't know the exact extent of their land, which makes it harder to buy it or sell it, or to take out loans to improve it.

Up until now, surveying has been done by crewed aircraft. In 2004, when aircraft were used to survey the island of Zanzibar—a part of an archipelago that forms a semiautonomous region of Tanzania comprising nearly 2,500 square kilometers—the effort cost \$2.5 million. "About two years ago, we said, we can do that for much cheaper, using drones!" Mbuya says, laughing. "We did it. And our cost was between \$250,000 and \$300,000." While Mbuya says his team "cheated" by using university students, he adds that these students learned valuable skills, and that some of them, now graduated, are doing commercial drone work.

With its low-flying drones, the Zanzibar Mapping Initiative (ZMI) also provided images of much higher resolution than crewed planes or satellites can manage. Another advantage of using drones is that clouds never get in the way, potentially obscuring the ground you want to map. Other survey projects in Tanzania have taken note and followed suit. In Dar es Salaam, several nonprofits are collaborating on the Ramani Huria ("our map" in Swahili) project, which is using drones and a community-driven mapping system called OpenStreetMap to map the entire city in unprecedented detail.

Communities have rallied around the Ramani Huria project because the government's standard ways of tracking changes in the city can't keep up with reality. The population of some Dar es Salaam neighborhoods is growing at a rate of 20 percent per year, with new residents building informal dwellings out of whatever materials they can find. In the Ramani Huria project, drones can fly over neighborhoods as often as every six months, creating maps to help the city government understand how neighborhoods are growing, where services are needed, and what areas are at risk for seasonal flooding.

Access to mapping drones is still a challenge. The ZMI used eBee drones from the Swiss company SenseFly, which cost between \$12,000 and \$25,000 each. "It's an incredibly powerful platform," says Ivan Gayton, who manages the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap project in Dar es Salaam, but for most local groups and entrepreneurs "it's really not within reach."

Gayton says hobby drones, such as DJI's Mavic or Parrot's Bebop, are more realistic for projects in Tanzania. They're not quite as reliable or as capable as the professional gear, but they're good enough, and the price is right. "We can put a platform together for \$600 that's ample for the mapping we want to do here," Gayton says. And it's not just the upfront cost that's an issue, he notes. When an eBee gets damaged, there's no way to repair it in Tanzania—it has to be shipped back to Switzerland to be fixed, which is costly and slow. Gayton says Africans require more open and DIY drone technologies. "Go to the market and watch how they're repairing cellphones," he says. "We rip things apart to get at the guts, and we repair them. Proprietary closed black boxes just don't work in Africa."

That's why today's consumer-grade

machines are the best tool for the job. But even the hobby drones can be expensive: Parrot's latest model of its Bebop costs \$600. DJI's latest models of its popular Phantom and Mavic drones both retail at \$1,500.

Fortunately, Leka Tingitana is here to help. As managing director of the nonprofit organization Tanzania Flying Labs, Tingitana teaches Tanzanians how to fly drones and helps them develop successful business models. "If you cannot afford a drone, it should not be a barrier for you to run a drone business," says Tingitana. Tanzania Flying Labs runs a training program for aspiring drone operators; people who complete the program are eligible to borrow the lab's drones for their work projects.

One of the lab's graduates is Rose Funja, the founder and managing director of Agrinfo. Her startup supplies information to farmers, including highly detailed aerial images. "Whenever we talk to the farmers, we don't talk about the [drone] technology that we're using," she says. "It's about the value that we can bring."

On a sunny day in November, she takes a borrowed Parrot Bebop drone to Hashim Jabil's mango farm in the Mbopo district north of Dar es Salaam. Standing between squat mango trees, Funja flies her drone back and forth over the farm, occasionally pausing it over points of interest. She uses the onboard camera to capture the farm's finer details by hovering only a dozen meters or so above the ground.

Jabil says his 6-hectare (14-acre) farm is a typical size for Tanzania. The mango trees, laden with ripe fruit, seem spaced out at random. Jabil says drone surveying has great value: "If I'm applying for a loan to do development on my farm, or if I want to sell the farm, it can help me." In fact, without a map showing the farm's exact size and boundaries, a farmer can't apply for a deed.

Another Tanzania Flying Labs offshoot is Drone Wings, a startup based in Zanzibar that uses DJI Phantoms and SenseFly eBees to create aerial maps for use in city planning. Drone Wings cofounder Abdul-rahman Mohammed Hafidh points out a construction site on the main road that connects the State University of Zanzibar to the old city of Stone Town. Every year, the heavy rains of April and November flood the road, forcing students to take a circuitous route that turns a 30-minute drive into a 4-hour journey. But now, thanks in part to images and data from Drone Wings, the Zanzibar government is upgrading the section of the road that experiences the worst of the flooding.

Drone Wings wants to map the other roads and numerous homes on Zanzibar that flood during the rainy seasons. For Hafidh, the imaging Drone Wings can provide is key for proper planning—which, in turn, is the key to "a sustainable, resilient city."

Africa has a history of rapidly adopting emerging technologies. Perhaps the best example of this technological leapfrogging is mobile money, an industry that initially sprung up because people lacked access to brick-and-mortar banks. Now, mobile payment companies link together the African economy to an extent not seen in the United States and Europe.

For aerial surveys, Tanzanians have already leapfrogged past crewed aircraft to drones. The organizers of the Lake Victoria Challenge hope that drones can also help Africans dodge an infrastructure obstacle by replacing the motorbikes that are currently used on rough roads to make deliveries.



Freddie Mbuya shows off bits and pieces of different drones in his workshop. Always tinkering, he's interested in, among other things, constructing his own fixed-wing drones.

## 'Ugali' costing more in Kenya than in rest of East Africa

NAIROBI

HOUSEHOLDS in Kenya are paying the highest price for maize compared to those elsewhere in East Africa, even as the Ministry of Agriculture maintains large-scale farmers are hoarding the commodity.

The retail price of white dry maize across the country has crossed the Sh40,000 (\$450) a tonne mark or Sh3,600 for every 90kg bag, latest data by East African Grain Council's regional agricultural trade intelligence shows.

The data shows that the commodity is retailing at Sh3,600 per 90kg bag in Machakos and Makueni, Sh4,050 in Nairobi and Sh4,059 in Mombasa. This is almost double the retail price of Sh24,400 (\$244) per tonne or Sh2,196 per 90kg bag in Mwanza and Sh1,764 in Mbeya, all in Tanzania.

Maize is currently retailing at Sh2,745 per 90kg bag in Dar es Salaam but as low as Sh1,647 at Tunduma, near Tanzania's border with Zambia. Elsewhere, the commodity is retailing at Sh3,141

per bag in Lira and Tororo (both in Uganda), Sh2,736 in Gitega and Ngozi (Burundi) and Sh3,618 in Kampala, the EAGC's RATIN data shows.

The high prices of maize in Kenya have pushed up the cost of flour above Sh15 per two-kilo packet of the highest grade. The Agriculture ministry maintains that large-scale farmers are hoarding the commodity.

The ministry says the stock available at the National Cereals and Produce Board's strategic reserve can only last up to the end of this month.

## UBA Tanzania celebrates Africa Day in style

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Bank of Africa (UBA) Tanzania has celebrated this year's Africa Day in a style by dressing in different continent's traditional attires.

Themed: "Healthy Lifestyle Prolongs Life", the African Day was formerly known as African Freedom Day and African Liberation Day. It is an annual event, commemorating the birth of the African Union on May 25, 1963.

The bank embraces

African history through attire, unity and healthy traditional foods.

"Africa Day is celebrated in various countries on the African continent, as well as around the world," said Mussa Kitambi, bank's head of corporate banking.

He said: "In commemorating this day different activities take place starting from the breaking the coconut, cutting cake with customers, and traditional dance with staff, traditional dance and flash mob at the airport and staff

engagement."

Kitambi commended staff members for their hard work over the years and noted that the annual event had become a lifestyle for the bank.

He said: "We are proud to be celebrating this day with the rest of Africa. Today is a day to remind ourselves that we have all it takes in Africa, be it fashion, talent, and creativity."

"The message is about being African and being proud of our heritage. We want to showcase who we

are and what we have."

Kitambi said UBA is a core African bank with deep African roots that has continually supported the continent in various ways over the years, adding that the bank was proud of its African heritage.

He said that in line with UBA's development initiative around the world and Africa, the bank has always deemed it appropriate to observe Africa Day. "Africa Day is being celebrated in all UBA offices across the nations and international

offices worldwide as the Bank believes in showcasing the rich culture of Africa" he added.

He stated that every year, staffs in all UBA subsidiaries go all-in to participate in this important event, which has become an annual lifestyle for the bank.

It is no coincidence, he added, that the bank prides itself as Africa's Global Bank, because indeed, this is what the bank stands for, and it is manifested in its policies and activities.

# Toll in Sudan army attack jumps as China, Russia block UN action

KHARTOUM

Doctors in Sudan say the number of people killed since security forces stormed a protest camp in the capital has jumped to at least 60, as European countries condemned the crackdown against the pro-democracy protesters but the UN Security Council failed to reach a position.

The death toll rise came as the ruling military government said on Wednesday it was open to new negotiations with an opposition alliance.

Security forces fired live ammunition at dawn on Monday as they wiped out the sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum that had for weeks become the protesters' main rallying point in their long struggle for civilian rule.

The opposition-linked Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said on Wednesday the death toll since the operation on Monday - the last day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan - had risen from 35 to at least 60 people, with hundreds of others wounded.

The committee said it held "the militias of the [military] council ... responsible for this massacre".

Protesters have previously singled out the Rapid Support Forces, paramilitaries with origins in the 16-year-old war in the western region of Darfur, whose commander is deputy chairman of the ruling military council.

Sudan's military ruler on Wednesday offered to resume a dialogue on a

transition to democracy, one day after he scrapped all agreements with the opposition coalition.

In a message for the Eid al-Fitr broadcast on state television, Lieutenant-General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan paid homage to the uprising that began in December and culminated with the military overthrow and arrest of President Omar al-Bashir in April. He was still ready to hand over power to an elected government, he said.

"We in the military council, extend our hands to negotiations without shackles except the interests of the homeland," Burhan said.

He previously announced he was skipping any negotiations with protest groups and said he would organise elections within nine months.

## Gunfire and gas

Activists Mohammed Najib and Hashim al-Sudani said there were street battles late on Tuesday and early Wednesday in Khartoum's Bahri and Buri districts between protesters and security forces mainly from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

"In Buri, there were lots of shootings and tear gas," al-Sudani said. "They tried to force people into narrow streets" to beat them.

Hundreds of residents of the northern suburb of Bahri blocked streets with barricades made from stones and waited by them in silence, a witness told AFP news agency. In the distance, gunfire could be heard.

Burhan announced on Tuesday the military council was scrapping a plan for a



three-year transition period and would hold elections within nine months - a plan rejected by the opposition.

"We consider it a statement of a coup and a counterattack on the people's revolution," Omer Eldigair, head of the Sudanese Congress Party, told reporters.

"We refute it all, from its beginning to the end. We refuse the call for an early election and we consider the statement of the military council conforms with the counter-revolution and is linked to the interests of the old regime."

## China, Russia block statement

Separately, the Security Council met on Tuesday at the request of Britain and Germa-

ny to hear a briefing from UN envoy Nicholas Haysom, who has been working with the African Union (AU) on a solution to the crisis in Sudan.

But China, backed by Russia, blocked a bid to condemn the killing of civilians and issue an urgent call from world powers for an immediate halt to the violence, according to diplomats.

During the closed-door session, Britain and Germany circulated a press statement that would have called on the TMC and protesters to "continue working together towards a consensual solution to the current crisis", according to a draft seen by reporters.

But China strongly objected to the draft while Russia insisted that the council should

await a response from the AU, diplomats said.

"I am told that China adamantly refused the draft statements, saying it was an internal matter," Al Jazeera's diplomatic editor James Bays, reporting from the UN headquarters in New York, said. "They were backed in that by Russia, and Kuwait said the draft needed amendments," he added.

Russian Deputy Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy said the proposed statement was "unbalanced" and stressed the need to be "very cautious in this situation".

"We don't want to promote an unbalanced statement. It could just spoil the situation," Polyanskiy told reporters after the two-hour meeting.

After the Security Council

failed to agree on a common position, eight European countries said in a joint statement that they "condemn the violent attacks in Sudan by Sudanese security services against civilians".

Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, The Netherlands and Sweden said the TMC's "unilateral announcement to cease negotiations, appoint a government and call for elections within a too short period of time is of great concern".

The European statement added: "We call for an agreed transfer of power to a civilian-led government as demanded by the people of Sudan."

For his part, Haysom, the UN envoy, told reporters: "I don't want to engage too much in

a discussion of who should do what because we are still hoping to play a role in bringing the parties together, we haven't given up hope that a solution is still possible."

## 'We will continue this revolution'

Diplomats looked to a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council on Wednesday to provide a response to the crisis, while others said the UN Security Council could revisit the issue and try to agree on a common stance.

"We need urgently a return to the negotiating table," German Ambassador Christoph Heugens said before the meeting. "Legitimacy cannot come from the barrel of a gun."

Negotiations between the TMC and protest leaders broke down recently over disagreements on whether a planned transitional body would be headed by a civilian or a military figure.

The bloody dispersal of the sit-in poses a new challenge to the popular protest movement, but organisers vowed to keep up pressure in the streets.

"Next week, we'll begin our civil disobedience," Mohamed Nagy Allassam, of the Declaration of Freedom and Changes Forces protest group, said.

"The military council has cut off the internet, they cut off the telecommunication networks to cover their crimes. We promise we will unveil the military's ugly crimes committed on the streets - from killing to rape to humiliation to fear. We will continue this revolution."

Agencies

# World's displacement crises worsened by lack of funds, political will or media attention

UNITED NATIONS

The world's 10 most displacement crises - rendering millions of people homeless - have continued to worsen due either to political neglect, a shortage of funds or lack of media attention, according to a new report released by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

NRC Secretary-General Jan Egeland says humanitarian assistance should be given based on needs and needs alone. However, every day millions of displaced people are neglected because they have been struck by the wrong crisis and the dollars have dried up.

The countries faced with displacement crises last year were largely in Africa, with Cameroon heading the list, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic, Burundi, Mali, Libya and Ethiopia.

The remaining three, according to the NRC, were Ukraine, Venezuela and Palestine.

"This depressing list must serve as a wake-up call for all of us. Only by drawing attention to these crises, learning about them and placing them high on the international agenda, can we achieve much needed change," said Egeland, a former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Dr Martin Scott, from the University of East Anglia, UK, and lead author of a recent report into HYPERLINK "http://humanitarian-journalism.net/blog/state-of-humanitarian-journalism-2/" t "blank" The State of Humanitarian Journalism, told IPS although reports like this are an important first step in raising the profile of these crises - but it is not enough to simply lament the lack of coverage.

"What's needed is a clear-headed



Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council Jan Egeland visited Buea in South West in Cameroon Tuesday 23 April. There he met with a group of women who have been displaced by the mounting crisis in the Anglophone parts of Cameroon. File photo

assessment of why these displacement crises receive so little coverage. Partly, it's a reflection of the broken business models of most international journalism - which means news outlets often struggle to provide consistent coverage of real public value," he argued.

But it is also a reflection of the political priorities of powerful countries - which news outlets often reflect, Dr Scott added.

These reports, he pointed

out, also draw attention to what's not working, in general, within international journalism.

"But there are news outlets which do, regularly, report on crises like these - such as Devex, News Deeply, The New Humanitarian and Inter Press Service (IPS)," he noted.

"It is important to highlight their work - so that audiences know there is coverage of these crises out there," he declared.

Singling out Cameroon, Ege-

land said the international community is asleep at the wheel when it comes to the crisis in Cameroon. Brutal killings, burned-down villages and massive displacement have been met with deafening silence.

He said conflict has so far uprooted half a million people in South-West and North-West Cameroon. Hundreds of villages have been set ablaze. Hospitals have been attacked. Health workers fear being abducted or killed.

Over 780,000 children have seen their schools close and thousands of people, currently hiding in the bushes, have received no humanitarian relief. Still there has been no large relief programmes, minimal media interest and too little pressure on parties to stop attacking civilians.

"This culture of paralysis by the international community has to end. Every day the conflict is allowed to continue, bitterness is building and the region edges closer towards full-blown war," said Egeland, who recently visited the central African country.

The Norwegian Refugee Council is calling for increased attention to the crises on the list to prevent the suffering of millions of vulnerable people.

"This depressing list must serve as a wake-up call for all of us. Only by drawing attention to these crises, learning about them and placing them high on the international agenda, can we achieve much needed change," Egeland said.

Asked if the United Nations and the international community were lagging behind in their support, NRC's Tiril Skarstein told IPS: "We believe that the international community is not doing enough to solve these crises. The lack of political will to find solutions to these crises is often a result of lack of geopolitical interests in the area."

However, he pointed out, there are also some countries on the list where several world powers have competing interests, leading to a deadlock and a lack of political solutions for people on the ground, like for example in Palestine and Ukraine.

Asked if the shortfall in funding is due to neglect on the part of Western donors or domestic economic and financial constraints within donor nations, he said humanitarian assistance should be given based on needs alone.

Still, it is easier to attract humanitarian funding to some crises than others. Often, "we see a close link between the amount of media attention a crisis

receives and the amount of humanitarian funding. Some of the crises at the neglected crises list were less than 40 percent funded last year."

But there is also a general funding shortfall, he conceded.

Last year, only about 60 percent of the total humanitarian appeals by UN and partner organizations were funded.

"This means that we need all donors to increase their humanitarian support so that we can meet the actual humanitarian needs, and we also need new donors, including several emerging economies, to step up."

Asked why these crises were affecting mostly African nations, compared to Asian and Latin American nations, Skarstein told IPS "unfortunately, the crises on the African continent seldom make media headlines or reach foreign policy agendas before it is too late."

The lack of funding and political attention has devastating consequences for the civilians who receive neither protection against attacks, nor the necessary relief when they have had to flee their homes in search of safety, he argued.

Most of those who flee head towards neighboring countries or are displaced within their own country. "However, the fact that most of these people do not turn up at our doorsteps here in Europe, for example, does not remove our responsibility to act," he noted.

According to NRC, the crisis in Cameroon has its root in the country's troubled colonial history. After World War One, the former German colony was split between a French and British mandate.

The country has now both English and French as official languages, but people in the English-speaking parts have been feeling increasingly marginalized, NRC said.

And in 2016, civilians took to the streets, and a heavy crackdown by security forces led to widespread violence and the formation of armed opposition groups.

IPS

By Property Watch Reporter

## REPORT SAYS MASSIVE SOLAR POTENTIAL IN EAST AFRICA BUT ONLY 3.9PC INSTALLATION

**E**AST African nations of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have massive potential to generate solar power but have so far only tapped 3.9 percent of the total installed PV capacity in Africa.

In a new report by Rotterdam based Solarplaza International BV, the four countries have a combined photo-voltaic (PV) capacity of 199 megawatts, which is a very smaller fraction compared to other African countries.

"Nonetheless, there have been significant efforts from some of those countries to boost their PV capacity. Kenya was the clear winner, as it was able to add 55 MW of PV capacity to its power generation mix in 2018, the highest of the four countries," the report said.

Christened Regional Solar Report ahead of the upcoming Pan-African conference on Unlocking Solar Capital Africa due to be held in Senegalese capital of Dakar next October, the report further noted that not only did Kenya add the largest amount of PV capacity, but it also commissioned the largest solar power plant in the region, the 55MW Garissa Solar Park, which shows the potential that the country has towards utility-scale development.

"Uganda also broke records in 2018, when it added an astounding 20 percent of extra power generation capacity, partly due to the commissioning of the 24MW Kabulasoke solar power plant," noting that the country's mini-grid sector is showing the most potential as it expects to commission 65 mini grids in the coming years, mostly located on Lake Victoria, with another 22 solar-hybrid mini grids in the pipeline.

Ethiopia and Tanzania did not add



Access-Power's Soroti District solar plant with capacity of 50GW per annum is one of the largest in East Africa. File photo.

much PV capacity in 2018, however both countries show the highest amount of potential when it comes to utility-scale solar projects. Ethiopia has the lowest installed solar energy capacity of the four countries, but has an impressive pipeline of 1.1 GW of large-scale solar projects, by far the largest in the region.

"Tanzania, on the other hand, does not boast such an extensive pipeline, however the country is working on the largest solar PV project in the region, namely, the GOMW Shinyanga Solar Power Plant," the report added.

Overall, Tanzania's investment landscape in renewables is looking more promising since the announcement of the African Development Bank to invest US\$70,000 in the country's Rural Energy Agency via its Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa trust fund.

In total, these four countries have pledged to add a minimum of 1,000MW of solar PV capacity by 2020 which is an ambitious target that will help propel the region to expand its electricity networks and significantly increase electrification rates.

"However, adding so much capacity through large-scale projects might prove to be too much for the fragile electricity grids, which means that the new capacity should also be spread across mini/micro grid initiatives and off-grid projects, especially for remote communities," the Solarplaza International BV report advised.

It still needs to be seen how the region will develop in 2019, especially with the emergence of PV tenders and PPAs, and the ever-increasing presence of foreign investors interested in reaping the rewards present in Eastern Africa's solar energy sector, the regional report concluded.

## Suma JKT, Chinese investors building 12 bn/- plant for making street lights

By Beatrice Philemon

**C**ONSTRUCTION work of a 12bn/- street lights manufacturing plant which started in Dar es Salaam in April will complete next August, Suma JKT's Project Supervisor, Captain Engineer James Mhame has said.

Eng Mhame told Property Watch in Dar es Salaam this week that the LED lighting manufacturing plant currently under construction at Malakuwa JKT area, is a joint venture with Chinese investor, Everhigh Skyzone.

He said the plant will also manufacture outdoor lights, household lights and related

accessories and will create direct employment for 50 Tanzanians while hundreds more indirectly.

Eng Mhame said the modern factory equipment will manufacture energy saving lights. The plant will have capacity to produce 360,000 units per annum and will supply both the domestic and foreign markets.

"Suma JKT is in the forefront of implementing government's industrialization agenda practically," the Project Supervisor noted saying that consumers will soon be able to buy cheaply energy saving

lights made locally. Thirteen different types of lights will be manufactured by the plant.

Vice President of the China based company, Hassan Baalbaki who was recently in the country to follow up on the project said the joint venture with Suma JKT is an investment that brings modern technology to Tanzania.

"We have decided to partner with Suma JKT in Tanzania because we want to support President Magufuli's efforts to make the country a semi-industrialized middle income economy by 2025," Baalbaki said.

He said the investment will also impart knowledge and skills among Tanzanians who will work at the factory but also earn the country foreign currency as some lights will be exported to other African countries.

"With this factory, Tanzania will be among few African countries that have modern LED lights manufacturing technology," he added.

Suma JKT has already established a textile plant, mineral water packaging plant, grain milling plant and furniture manufacturing plant since President John Magufuli took power in November 2015.

## Early wildebeest migration leaves tourist hotels with empty beds

NAIROBI

Hotels in Maasai Mara have been left with empty beds after the annual wildebeest migration that drives tourists in droves to the national game reserve started a month earlier. The early migration started last Friday from Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, catching the hoteliers on the wrong foot.

A majority of the hotels and tented camps at the Mara have been experiencing a low-season for the past four months, with the earliest bookings scheduled for July and August — a period when the migration traditionally happens.

Tour operators and hoteliers normally report near full capacity, in large part because of safari-lovers going to watch the spectacular scenes of the hundreds of thousands of wildebeests crossing

the Mara River in search of greener pastures, and running into hungry crocodiles along the way.

Presently, hotels and tented camps in the Mara have an occupancy of between 30 per cent and 50 per cent compared to rates of between 90 per cent and 100 per cent during the normal wildebeest migration seasons, said the game reserve's chief warden, Moses Kuyiona.

"The bookings are still at the lower side, with most clients booked not because of the migration, just normal visitors on safari," Mr Kuyiona said in a phone interview yesterday.

The early start of the wildebeest migration is linked to prolonged dry weather that has reduced pastures in Tanzania's northern Serengeti, prompting the animals to cross to Kenya where the delayed rains started last month.

The spectacle, ranked as one of the new 'Seventh Wonders of the World', normally starts in mid-June to October. Ecologists argue that in light of climate change, weather patterns have become unpredictable and do not follow a specific timeline as it used to be a few decades ago.

Hoteliers who hoped for greater sales during the migration period are concerned about the impact of the early migration on business. Antony Ole Tira, the proprietor of Matira bush camp said they were operating at between 10 and 20 per cent. Mr Tira said they were readying themselves for the peak season starting towards the end of June. Kenya's earnings from tourism jumped by almost a third in 2018 from the previous year to Sh157.4 billion, after the number of visitors rose by 37 per cent.

## Global house prices cooled in 2018, says HSBC

BEIJING

Global house prices have cooled over the past 18 months, with no indication of an alarming 'bubble', according to HSBC.

"For now, global housing markets do not appear to pose any immediate threat to household consumption," the bank said. "Tight labour markets, positive real wage growth and low interest rates should keep house price growth steady in most countries."

However, if unemployment rates rise as the global economic outlook sours further, or conversely central banks start tightening more, "housing markets may start to come under more pressure", it added.

Nominal house prices across the world grew by 4.5 per cent year-on-year on average in the fourth quarter of 2018, following five consecutive years of average price growth, according to the research.

Two countries have seen a sharp correction in house prices in the period. One is Sweden, whose house prices fell by 10 per cent in early 2018. Although



**For now, global housing markets do not appear to pose any immediate threat to household consumption**

Swedish housing prices stabilised by the spring, they have yet to recover with a 2 per cent decline registered in the fourth quarter. "Aside from a collapse in construction, we have not seen the weakness spread to the rest of the economy," HSBC said.

The second country is Australia, which recorded a 7 per cent decline in house prices in the fourth quarter of last year. "The correction has - at least so far - been orderly, with the low level of unemployment meaning there are few signs of distressed sales, and loan arrears have remained low."

Turkey is also seeing house prices fall, with a circa 14 per cent year-on-year drop in the last three months of 2018. US housing data shows valuations remain high, but prices have not bubbled up

and the drop in mortgage rates should provide a cushion, the report added.

Meanwhile, in China, house prices are down in the largest cities, while smaller cities are seeing steadier growth. Housing construction has picked up, which could weigh on prices going forward, HSBC added. However, local governments have scaled back policy tightening seen in 2018, and this could reduce the pace of any slowdown.

House price growth is typically used to gauge the health of an economy, HSBC noted. "If an economy has a healthy labour market - where unemployment rates are low (and not rising), real wage growth is positive, debt levels are low, interest rates are expected to stay low and house price growth is not too strong, then it is hard to be too concerned about the housing market outlook," it said. Both Australia and Sweden have such underlying fundamentals, it added.

However, if house prices rise without these fundamentals in place, the trend may be less sustainable. Equally, if house prices start to fall, it will be crucial to monitor the extent of any impact on the broader economy.



Mara Serena Safari Lodge in Maasai Mara Game Reserve. File photo.

By Francis Kajubi

**I**n a bid to capture the country's renewable energy market, Mobisol Tanzania Limited will open up branches in natural gas rich regions of Lindi and Mtwara in July this year.

The company's Sales Manager, George Naivasha said in Dar es Salaam this week that the company sees huge potential in the two regions for its products. "We see the two regions as having a big market for our solar products hence plan to open branches there soon," Naivasha said.

Mobisol Tanzania which is a subsidiary of Germany based Mobisol Group has widely distributed its solar products in northern regions of the country but the south remains an important growth market for renewable energy sources.

He said despite the competition being posed by Tanesco in the two regions, Mobisol see huge potential in rural areas where the power utility and Rural Electrification Agency are yet to supply villagers with power from the national grid.

"We are going to open two new branches next month in Lindi and Mtwara regions. We are aware that the two regions are already supplied with national grid power but that isn't a threat to us as our findings have established that is opportunity of up to 50 percent of the market," he argued.

According to him, Mobisol Tanzania also has plans to extend its products market to Zanzibar by the end of this year, where also competition is high just like in Dar es Salaam where the company is doing fine.

"Although there is fair supply of electricity in Dar es Salaam, we still have managed to sell more than 100 solar panels a month. With the Southern regions, we are very sure

## MOBISOL EXPANDING TO LINDI, MTWARA REGIONS NEXT MONTH



Mobisol Tanzanian technicians installing PV panel at a rural house in Arusha region.

of selling more panels regardless of REA presence," the Mobisol Tanzania Sales Manager added.

He asserted that Mobisol's products are made to customers cheaply through a rent-to-own

scheme offering which allows customers to pay for solar systems in installments paid through mobile money accounts.

"Our modest solar system can illuminate entire households and

also power electronic gadgets such as laptops, radios, television, refrigerators and recharge cell phones. Much larger systems can run bigger businesses," he noted.

Mobisol started operating in

Tanzania four years with its base in Arusha region which was the first to get solar products. Next month, Mobisol marks two years since starting operations in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

## Ethiopia signs deals for its longest bridge project

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia has signed a deal with a Chinese firm, China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) to design and build the country's longest bridge.

The Chinese firm secured the project by placing an offer, which was 15.3% higher than the engineers' estimate. Three of the companies were disqualified at the technical stage, leaving CCCC as the sole bidder whose financial offer was opened on February, 2019.

The bridge will be constructed across the Abay River at a cost US \$49m. It will have a 21.5m width and the capacity to accommodate a three-lane carriageway, a bicycle path and a walkway. The government of Ethiopia will be covering the entire cost of the project.

Construction works on the project is estimated to take three years upon which will replace the 60-year-old existing bridge, 'Bahir Dar Abay' that has deteriorated and aged. The Ethiopian Roads Authority, had two years ago hired CCCC to maintain the old bridge.

The Bahir Dar Abay bridge will be the longest bridge in Ethiopia once completed, taking over that claim from the 319m Bashilo River Bridge that opened for traffic in October 2006. The 305m bridge over the Baro River in Gambella Regional State and the 303m Abay Bridge were the second and the third longest bridges in the country.

Being one of the nation's largest capital expenditures, road maintenance and construction cost the country US \$1.1bn in the last fiscal year. The spending has shown a 2.4% decline from the preceding year, which stood at.

CCCC, a company that is behind many major mega projects in the country, including the construction of Kombolcha Industrial Park, the nation's first, Addis-Adama Expressway, Africa Avenue (Bole Road), Measo-to-Djibouti railway and the expansion of the Addis Abeba Bole International Airport, secured the project after vying against three other Chinese firms.

The company currently has four ongoing road projects with ERA including Hawassa Airport-Bishan Guracha (Tikur Weha); Jijiga-Gelesh; Cherereti-Hagermekor; and Arsi Negele-Hawassa.

## Turkish ship-builder silent on Sh1.8bn KFS ferries deal

NAIROBI

A Turkish ship-builder has snubbed the Auditor-General's questions on how much it has received from the Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) for an undelivered vessel, amid queries on the Sh1.8 billion deal.

Auditor-General Edward Ouko says the Turkish supplier is yet to respond to a January 9, 2019, e-mail seeking confirmation of the exact amount the firm has received from KFS and the balance. KFS management has failed to disclose full information about the stalled procurement of a Sh1.8 billion vessel from Turkey, with auditor saying it is yet to fully account for the payments.

"In light of the foregoing, it has not been possible to confirm the validity, accuracy and completeness of the building and supply of two new ferries at a cost of Sh1,519,379,614 paid to the contractor as at June 2018," reads the audit report. Mr Ouko says KFS made a down payment of Sh598,023,000 to the locally appointed agent of the Turkish firm in August 2015 but failed to withhold the six percent Value Added Tax (VAT) of Sh35,881,600 and another 20 percent withholding tax totalling Sh119,604,600.

The Auditor General faulted KFS for failing to adhere to professional advice from Kenya Revenue Authority to subject payments to the above taxes. The report says that despite a signed agreement dated June 27, 2015 indicating that the new ferries were to be delivered after 17 months, they had not been fully delivered during the conduct of this audit in November last year.

The KFS entered into a contract with a Turkish builder to build and supply two ferries at a total cost of Sh1.8 billion. The first ferry — MV Jambo — was delivered in July, 2017, but the second one — MV Safari — is yet to come. The firm was to deliver the ferries after 17 months or by November 2016, according to the contract signed on June 27, 2015.

The Parliamentary Transport Committee earlier censured managing director Bakari Gowa after he failed to disclose the amount of money paid to the manufacturer of the stalled ferry.



Workers at a housing construction site in Nairobi. The Kenyan Government aims to deliver 500,000 units in major towns across the country over the next four years.

## IFC injects Sh200m into mortgage firm

NAIROBI

The International Finance Corporation is set to invest \$2 million (Sh202 million) in Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC), a public-private company that will provide long term funding to banks and Saccos to enable the institutions to expand their mortgage loans.

The global financier becomes the latest to provide funding capital to KMRC in which the Kenyan

government will hold a 20 percent stake while the rest of the equity will be spread across local banks, Saccos and development finance institutions.

"IFC is looking to invest in straight equity of up to \$2 million (Sh202 million) equivalent in common shares of KMRC," the institution says in its investment disclosures.

IFC did not say what stake it will get for its investment. Other companies that have

participated in KMRC's capital raise include Co-op Bank which invested Sh200 million in the institution.

The global financier says it is particularly keen on addressing "the primary market failure of lack of access to viable financing, including in the underdeveloped counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir, West Pokot." Creation of KMRC is

part of the government's ambition to deliver 500,000 houses in major towns across the country over the next four years. Besides the capital provided by its shareholders, KMRC will also issue bonds to expand the pool of funds available to bankroll banks and saccos making housing loans.

The company will be regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya as a non-deposit taking financial institution, with the Capital

Markets Authority (CMA) providing oversight over its bond issuance operations.

KMRC has attracted more than 20 investors so far including eight commercial banks, one micro finance bank, and 11 saccos. Other firms expected to invest in the institution include Shelter Afrique. It is envisaged that private companies will make a combined equity investment of up to \$12 million (Sh1.2 billion).

The World Bank recently approved a loan of \$250 million (Sh25 billion) for

KMRC whose total funding requirement is estimated at Sh26.4 billion. The government made an initial investment of Sh1 billion. Demand for houses in the project is expected to be spurred by the National Housing Development Fund which has faced opposition from employers among other stakeholders.

## CONSTRUCTION

## OKLAHOMA

In the seven years since the housing crash ended, home values in more than three-quarters of US metro areas have climbed faster than incomes, according to an Associated Press analysis of real estate industry data provided by CoreLogic.

That gap is driving some first-timers out of the most expensive cities as well as pressuring them to buy something before they are completely priced out of the market. The high cost of home ownership is also putting extreme pressure on 20- and 30-somethings as they try to balance mortgage payments, student loans, child care and their careers.

"They do want all the same things that previous generations want," says Daryl Fairweather, chief economist for the brokerage Redfin. "They just have more roadblocks, and they're going to have to come up with more creative solutions to get the homes that they want."

A Redfin analysis found these buyers are leaving too-hot-to-touch big-city markets – among them, San Francisco and Seattle, where the tech boom has sent housing prices into the stratosphere. The brokerage found that many millennials are instead buying in more reasonably priced neighbourhoods around places like Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City and Raleigh, North Carolina. That, in turn, is driving up housing prices in those communities.

Jake and Heather Rice, both 35, moved to Utah last year from Mountain View, California, where the biggest employers are tech giants such as Google, Symantec and Intuit and the median home price is a dizzying \$1.4 million or so.

The couple and their three children settled into a 418 square metres house in fast-growing Farmington, just far enough away from Salt Lake City to feel rural but minutes

# YOUNG HOMEBUYERS IN THE US SCRAMBLE AS PRICES RISE FASTER THAN INCOMES



Homes in suburban Salt Lake City.

from a major shopping centre and Heather's sister. They did not disclose the purchase price for the sake of privacy, but they said their monthly mortgage payments will be \$3,000, roughly the same as the rent for their former two-bedroom, 93 sq metres apartment in Mountain View.

"We didn't expect to stay in Cali-

fornia because of how ludicrous the prices had become," says Mr Rice, a mechanical engineer who works in the medical device sector.

Nationally, home prices since 2000 have climbed at an annual average rate of 3.8 per cent, according to the data firm CoreLogic, while average incomes have

grown at an annual rate of 2.7 per cent. And in the metro areas with the strongest income growth – for example, parts of Silicon Valley – home prices have risen even faster.

The Salt Lake City area is among the hottest spots for first-time buyers in part because of a stag-

gering burst of home construction and a surge of high-tech jobs. The suburb of Lehi, which served as a film location for the 1984 Kevin Bacon movie Footloose, about a rural town that banned dancing, is in what is now known as "Silicon Slopes" because Adobe, eBay and Microsoft have opened offices there.

Of course, the influx of people

from unaffordable cities is contributing to the very problem they were trying to escape: home prices in the greater Salt Lake City area surged 10.8 per cent in the past year, while average incomes rose only 3.9 per cent, according to figures from CoreLogic and the US Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Scott Robbins, president of the Salt Lake Board of Realtors, sees the price growth as having changed the habits of first-time buyers. They are putting less money down and carrying more debt. And some first-time buyers are looking at condos and duplexes instead of houses. There is also more pressure on families to earn two incomes, rather than letting one choose to be the stay-at-home parent. This could be a particular challenge in the Salt Lake City area, where families are generally larger, and about 28 per cent of the population is under 18, compared with nearly 24 per cent nationwide.

"The one thing that really would make it even more sustainable is if wages would increase," Mr Robbins says. "Whereas before you could have a young couple buy a place and only one of them would work. Now, you need both of them to work."

Andy and Stacie Proctor made a bid on a house in the Salt Lake City suburbs, only to rescind it upon learning there were 13 rival offers. At one point, they almost decided not to buy a house just yet, figuring the bubble was going to burst eventually, says Mr Proctor, 35, who hosts the podcast More Happy Life.

But there was also the opposite risk: "There is the question about whether it's going to keep going up," his wife, Ms Proctor, 31, says. The couple ultimately made a successful offer on a three-bedroom house for \$438,000 in Vineyard, Utah. It includes an apartment that could be rented out to defray their mortgage payments. That will make it easier for them to afford starting a family.

## Amazon to open pop-up stores in UK town centres as it faces criticism over paying taxes

## LONDON

Amazon began opening pop-up stores across the UK selling everything from groceries to electronics as the e-commerce giant faces growing criticism that it is shirking its tax burden in the country.

Some observers said Amazon's move to the high street is the company's attempt to improve its public image after retailers and campaigners accused it of avoiding paying all of its UK tax.

The rapid growth of tech companies has stretched international tax rules to the limit, leading the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to pursue global reforms. The Paris-based institution is looking to build a new policy to prevent firms from simply declaring their income in low-tax jurisdictions, depriving other countries of billions in revenue.

Despite criticism that Amazon doesn't contribute enough to the UK's economy, Doug Gurr, UK Country Manager at Amazon, told Sky News that the company paid £63 million in British business taxes last year. Amazon pays its employees in the form of shares, which it can offset against corporate tax.

Although physical retailers account for 82 per cent of sales in the UK, many players are struggling to turn profits with the increasing threat of e-commerce – and now Amazon is bringing online retailers to physical spaces.

The year-long pilot programme will explore a new model to help up-and-coming online brands grow their high street



An Amazon collection locker is seen inside the Amazon-backed pop up store 'Clicks and Mortar' in Manchester, Britain.

presence. Independent research on the success of the pilot will be submitted to the British government, following the call for new ideas to develop the Future High Streets strategy – meaning that such shops may become more prominent on the high street in the future.

"Small businesses are one of our most important customer groups, and we're thrilled to work with Enterprise Nation to design a comprehensive package to help entrepreneurs across the UK grow their businesses, both in-store and online," Mr Gurr said.

The shops, called 'Clicks

and Mortar', are part of a programme by small business support group Enterprise Nation, Amazon, insurance provider Direct Line for Business and payment processor Square. The first store opened in St Mary's Gate in Manchester, in the north of England on Monday.

The pilot programme looks to enable more than 100 small online businesses – including Swifty Scooters, Torro Cases and Altr for Men – to sell on the high street for the first time in 10 Clicks and Mortar shops across the UK.

"UK shoppers like to shop both online and in high street

stores, and our intention is to help small businesses succeed by combining the best elements of online and high street retail," said Emma Jones, founder of Enterprise Nation, which supports over 90,000 of Britain's small businesses. "This new concept will provide small businesses with the space, technology and support to experience physical retail for the first time, while enabling customers to discover new brands on their local high streets."

Amazon has already explored the idea of introducing its cashier-free Go store to London's high streets. The Amazon Go stores are currently operating in 11 locations in the US. Amazon's foray into bricks-and-mortar comes amid trying times for British retailers. Pharmacist Boots said at the end of May that more than 200 stores could face closure following a review.

UK clothing and home-wares store Debenhams narrowly avoided administration in April, but was saved in May after creditors backed a restructuring plan that would see the closure of up to 50 stores.

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's restaurant group, which includes 22 Jamie's Italian outlets, plus the Fifteen and Barbecoa restaurants in London and a Jamie's Diner at Gatwick airport, went into administration last month.

## China grants 5G licences as Huawei strikes deal with Russia

## MOSCOW

China approved four operating licences for 5G networks and the country's largest technology company struck a deal with Russia to develop a 5G network in the country amid escalating trade tensions with the US.

The country's three state-owned wireless carriers and China Broadcasting Network Corp. were granted licences for full commercial deployment, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The operators, China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom Hong Kong, have been testing the technology in several cities including Beijing and Shenzhen.

Full deployment of 5G networks in a country with almost 1.6 billion wireless phone subscriptions is expected to boost local companies designing gear for applications in autonomous driving, robotics, remote surveillance and virtual reality. The faster-than-expected approvals also come as Shenzhen-based Huawei Technologies, the world's largest manufacturer of networking equipment, has vowed to maintain its lead in the face of a U.S. campaign pressuring allies not to use the company's products.

The battle over 5G network suppliers is part of a broader push by the Trump administration to check China's rise as a global technology powerhouse. China continues to welcome foreign enterprises to its 5G market, Minister of Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei said Thursday, after the licences were announced.

Shares of some 5G-related companies fell in Hong Kong and Shanghai trading after the license announcement, trimming gains made earlier in the week on expectations the companies would benefit from the push for the new networks.

China Tower Corp., the three major carriers' infrastructure provider, fell 3 per cent as of 10:50am in Hong Kong, paring its advance in the past four days to 9.1 per cent. ZTE, which makes handsets and telecom gear, dropped 4.3 per cent, trimming its four-day rally to 7.1 per cent.

## 'Ikea's new robotic furniture could be the future of urban living'

## STOCKHOLM

With cities getting fuller and homes getting smaller, Ikea has unveiled a new generation of robotic furniture which could be the answer to the growing problem of urban living.

The Rognan furniture system has been designed

to serve multiple functions within a small space, acting as a sofa during the day, and transforming into a bed at night. But this is much more than a sofa bed. The design also features desk space and built in wardrobes and shelves, and moves across the room via motors.

The Rognan system was

developed alongside US startup Ori Living, and is said to add up to eight square metres to a living space. Ikea says the system has been built with studio living in mind.

"Cities are booming and at the same time living spaces are shrinking," Ikea said. "More and more people are living and moving into cities where

approximately an extra 1.5 million people join the urban population every week."

The product will launch first in Hong Kong and Japan in 2020, where living space is notoriously small. "Rognan transforms small spaces into comfortable, multifunctional homes," a spokesperson for Ikea added. "It changes

to meet your needs, from sleep, to getting dressed, to having guests, and more. The population of cities is growing, and our living spaces are shrinking." The Swedish furniture giant is expected to release more information about the system later this year.

# WORLD

## Republican, Democratic senators seek to block Trump Saudi arms sales

WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN and Democratic U.S. senators said on Wednesday they would introduce legislation to block President Donald Trump's plan for \$8 billion in military sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates without congressional review.

Backers said the introduction of the 22 "resolutions of disapproval," one for each of the 22 arms deals cleared by the Trump administration, was intended to "protect and reaffirm Congress' role of approving arms sales to foreign governments."

The announcement followed furious rejection in Congress late last month of the administration's declaration that a growing threat from Iran was an emergency that forced it to sidestep lawmakers' review of major arms deals and approve precision-guided munitions, aircraft engines, mortars and other equipment for Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan.

"We are taking this step today to show that we will not stand idly by and allow the President or the Secretary of State to further erode Congressional review and oversight of arm sales," said Senator Bob Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Trump's fellow Republicans control a majority in the Senate but some have been pushing back lately against his proposals. On Wednesday, hope grew for a deal to avoid U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods after many Republicans opposed the idea because of its potential impact on cross-border trade and U.S. businesses.

Menendez, and Republican Lindsey Graham, a close Trump ally who also is a critic of Saudi Arabia's human rights record, led the push for the resolutions. Members of Congress had been blocking sales of offensive military equipment to Saudi Arabia and the UAE for months, angry about the huge civilian toll from their air campaign in Yemen, as well as rights abuses such as the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at a Saudi consulate in Turkey.

Two other Republican senators - Rand Paul and Todd Young - and three Democrats - Chris Murphy, Patrick Leahy and Jack Reed - also joined the announcement. Declaring the emergency, the Trump administration informed congressional committees on May 24 that it was going ahead with 22 military deals worth \$8.1 billion, circumventing a long-standing precedent for lawmakers to review major weapons sales. The decision angered members of both parties, who worried that Trump's decision to blow through the review process would eliminate Congress' ability to prevent not just Trump but future presidents from selling weapons where they liked.



President Donald Trump

Separately on Wednesday, the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee announced a June 12 hearing titled "What Emergency? Arms Sales and the Administration's Dubious End-Run around Congress," with testimony from Clarke Cooper, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs.

Announcing their plan to introduce the 22 resolutions, the senators said Trump's "unprecedented" action is at odds with longstanding practice and cooperation between Congress and the executive branch.

Senator Chuck Schumer, the top Senate Democrat, said resistance to the arms sale plan could be a sign that some Republicans were willing to constrain the president after backing almost all of his policies.

"Let's hope that these murmurings among Republicans ... are real and they will actually stand up to him," Schumer said. Reuters reported on Tuesday that lawmakers were working on responses to the administration's action and could file legislation within days. A separate set of legislative responses is being considered in the House.

The Arms Export Control Act gives Congress the right to stop a major weapons sale by passing a resolution of disapproval in both the Senate and House.

Opponents of the sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE said strong bipartisan support for disapproval resolutions would send a forceful message to the administration - as well as defense contractors and the three countries - that Congress was unhappy about the process and could retaliate. They also said it was possible, given the level of congressional anger over Trump's use of the emergency declaration, that some of the resolutions would garner the two-thirds majorities in the Senate and House needed to override a Trump veto if necessary. Agencies

Agencies



China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology grants 5G licenses for commercial use to China Telecom, China Mobile, China Unicom and China Broadcasting Network in Beijing yesterday. (Xinhua)

## China grants 5G licenses for commercial use, starting new era in telecom industry

BEIJING

CHINA'S Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) yesterday granted 5G licenses for commercial use, marking the beginning of a new era in the country's telecommunication industry.

China Telecom, China Mobile, China Unicom and China Broadcasting Network are the first batch of companies that obtained the 5G licenses.

The 5G technology will establish a high-speed, mobile, safe and widespread new-generation information infrastructure, MIIT Minister Miao Wei said at the license presentation ceremony.

The 5G technology is expected to bring new opportunities and buoy the growth of China's digital economy, Miao said, adding that it will accelerate the digital transformation of many industries, and will be more intensively used in sectors such as Industrial Internet and Internet of Vehicle.

The technology is expected to generate 10.6 trillion yuan (about 1.54 trillion U.S. dollars) worth of economic output and over 3 million jobs between 2020 and 2025, according to a research report by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

China, as always, welcomes enterprises at home and abroad to actively participate in the building, application and promotion of its 5G network and share the sector's development dividends, the MIIT said. Xinhua

## Trumpeting 'America First' harms Americans first

BEIJING

TRUMPETING "America First" rhetoric, the U.S. administration has been antagonizing major trading partners by rolling out tariffs on the grounds of being taken advantage of, but the protectionist and unilateral measures would only harm Americans first.

The United States has touted tariff hikes as a way of reducing trade deficits with China and even misguided the public by scapegoating China for its domestic problems. However, the picture of China the U.S. administration has been attempting to depict is not convincing. Recent figures and statistics showed the trade frictions the United States has initiated have not boosted its economic growth. On the contrary, various global and U.S. domestic institutions have warned of drag-down to the U.S. economy.

If the United States imposes 25-percent additional tariffs on all imported goods from China, the U.S. GDP will decline by 1.01 per-

cent, with 2.16 million job losses and an additional annual burden of 2,294 U.S. dollars on a family of four, according to a February report by Trade Partnership, a U.S. think-tank.

A paper published in May by economics researchers from Harvard University, the International Monetary Fund, University of Chicago and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, using data collected at the border and at retailers, showed "nearly complete pass through of tariffs to the total price paid by importers," which indicates that "the tariff incidence has fallen largely on the United States".

The spillover effects are also corroborated by Chinese statistics showing that against the backdrop of the U.S.-initiated trade disputes, direct investment by Chinese companies in the United States shrank by 10 percent year on year to 5.79 billion dollars in 2018.

Instigating and accelerating trade wars harm not only the



United States and China but also the world at large at a time when countries have become ever more intertwined, said Zheng Yongnian, director of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore. By weaponizing tariffs, the United States breaks the multilateral trading system, brings chaos to global supply chains, dampens market confidence, and poses serious threats to the trend of economic globalization.

It is the Cold-War mindset that eats at some Washington politicians, who portray the U.S.-China relationship in nationalistic terms, Diao Daming, an associate professor with China's Renmin University, told Xinhua in a recent interview. Washington's extreme right provocateurs have identified China as the greatest economic and national security threat the United States has ever faced, but at the subnational level the scenario is that China is being welcomed as an energetic and trustworthy partner. At a China-U.S. governors forum held recently, Governor of Kentucky Matt Bevin said: "When China is strong, it is good for America. When America is strong, it is good for China."

The past 40 years have attested that the world's two biggest economies stand to lose from confrontation, and cooperation is the only correct choice for both countries. A healthy China-U.S. relationship, despite its complexity and diversity in nature, would benefit people on both sides of the Pacific commensurately.

The handful of China hawks in Washington should drop unfounded allegations and political speculations. Being obsessed with "America First" would only harm the American farmers, workers and businesses, exactly those who Washington claims it is trying to protect. Xinhua

Agencies

## UK PM candidate Gove: rushed no-deal Brexit would give Labour's Corbyn power

LONDON

MICHAEL Gove, one of the leading contenders to replace British Prime Minister Theresa May, said he would delay Brexit rather than rushing into a no-deal exit that could trigger an election that would propel Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to power. The Brexit crisis that has engulfed British politics for three years has deepened with the impending departure of May, who was unable to get parliamentary approval for the withdrawal deal she had negotiated with Brussels. The United Kingdom was supposed to have left the EU on March

29 but its politicians are still arguing over how, when or even whether the country will leave the club it joined in 1973.

Britain is now due to leave on October 31, but Gove said he would seek a further delay if efforts to renegotiate the deal were close to a breakthrough. "Would it really be in our best interests to opt for a no-deal exit when just a little more time and effort could make all the difference?" Gove said in an article in the Daily Mail newspaper.

He said to rush into a no-deal exit would lead to a Labour government propped up by the Scottish National Party which wants another referendum on Scottish independence. "That would surely hand Downing Street to a Jeremy Corbyn government propped up by Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP. That would mean Brexit was lost, the future of our Union at risk and the levers of power handed to a Marxist," he wrote. Gove, one of the highest-profile Brexit campaigners during the 2016 referendum, scuppered Boris



Johnson's 2016 leadership bid by withdrawing his support at the last moment to run himself. Seen as one of the most effective members of May's cabinet, Gove, as May's environment minister, backed her Brexit strategy. "Always choose Brexit over no Brexit," Gove said. "If, finally, it comes to a decision between no deal and no Brexit, I will choose no deal."

"Every contender in this race for the Conservative leadership should answer what they would do faced with the choice of either delaying Brexit or fighting a general election before Brexit is secured," Gove said. Agencies

Agencies

## UN allocates 45m USD to avert famine risk in Horn of Africa

NAIROBI

THE United Nations on Wednesday allocated 45 million U.S. dollars to help stave off famine risks in the Horn of Africa region. Mark Lowcock, under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator said the funds from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) will scale up urgent humanitarian support to drought-affected people across parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya who are facing acute food problems following another season of failed rains.

"We need to move to a system where we act much earlier on the warning signs of drought and hunger so that we can cut response time and costs and reduce deaths and human suffering," Lowcock said in a statement. He said the CERF allocation will complement the three governments' efforts through targeted assistance to men, women, girls and boys, especially those with disabilities. Lowcock said the bulk of the funds, 30 million dollars, will go to Somalia where 2.2 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity by September, over 40 percent more than in January. The UN official said 10 million dollars will be used in neighboring Somali region of Ethiopia which is experiencing a second consecutive drought season while still reeling from the effects of the prolonged drought during 2016 and 2017. He urged donors to increase their support for drought response, in addition to critical assistance to the ongoing nationwide response to internal displacement.

Lowcock (pictured) said 5 million dollars will complement the Kenyan government's hunger safety net program where parts of the arid and semi-arid regions are hard hit by drought following a delayed start to the March to May rains.



## World Bank lowers 2019 global growth forecast, maintains projection for China

WASHINGTON

THE World Bank has lowered its global growth forecast for 2019 to 2.6 percent, while maintaining its growth projection for China at 6.2 percent, according to the newly released semi-annual Global Economic Prospects report. "Heightened policy uncertainty, including a recent re-escalation of trade tensions between major economies, has been accompanied by a deceleration in global investment and

a decline in confidence," the report released on Tuesday said. Global gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2019 was downgraded to a "weaker-than-expected" 2.6 percent, 0.3 percentage point below previous estimate in January, the report said.

Global growth is projected to inch up to 2.7 percent in 2020. "The global economic outlook, in both the near and long-term, is confronting substantial challenges," World Bank President David Malpass told reporters in

a teleconference Tuesday morning, noting that downside risks to growth include rising trade barriers, a build-up of government debt, and deepening slowdowns in major economies. Global trade growth in 2019, in particular, was revised down a full percentage point, to 2.6 percent, the weakest since the global financial crisis, the report said.

Ayhan Kose, director of the prospects group at the World Bank, said in the teleconference that the current 2.7 percent forecast for global growth

in 2020 could be cut by a full percentage point to 1.7 percent if trade tensions continue to escalate. Growth among emerging market and developing economies is projected to fall to a four-year low of 4 percent in 2019, as a number of economies are coping with the impact of financial stress and political uncertainty, the report said. Growth is forecast to recover to 4.6 percent in 2020.

In the report, the World Bank maintained its growth projection for China this year at 6.2 percent, citing

"a deceleration in global trade, stable commodity prices, supportive global financial conditions, and the ability of authorities to calibrate supportive monetary and fiscal policies to address external challenges and other headwinds."

Growth among advanced economies, meanwhile, is anticipated to slow to 1.7 percent in 2019, with the euro area growth projected at 1.2 percent, the report said. The U.S. growth is forecast to ease to 2.5 percent this year, and deceler-

ate to 1.7 percent in 2020. "Stronger economic growth is essential to reducing poverty and improving living standards," said Malpass.

"It's urgent that countries make significant structural reforms that improve the business climate and attract investment," he said.

Governments also need to make debt management and transparency a high priority so that new debt adds to growth and investment, Malpass said. Xinhua

Xinhua



# China, Russia commemorate 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties

MOSCOW

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, attended on Wednesday a gathering marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The gathering was held after Xi and Putin signed a joint statement to upgrade bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era.

Addressing the audience at the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, Putin said the bilateral relationship has gone through an extraordinary course of development over the past seven decades.

With mutual support and assistance, the two countries have promoted their relations to an unprecedentedly high level, he said.

China has been Russia's largest trading partner, and fruitful results have been achieved in cooperation in energy, aviation, science and technology, and other areas, Putin said.

He hailed the two countries' significant contributions to safeguarding international and regional security and stability, solving hotspot issues and addressing new challenges and threats faced by humanity.

Russia and China jointly support multi-polarization of the world, safeguard international law as well as the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and promote the formation of a new international order based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, he said.

In his speech at the gathering, Xi said the two countries are embracing yet another historic moment in bilateral relations.

The past 70 years have fully



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin attend a gathering marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia diplomatic relations at the Bolshoi Theater of Russia in Moscow on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

proved that China and Russia are good neighbors and true partners, as they were before and will be in the future, Xi said.

The two countries will always cherish their unbreakable bond forged with lives and blood during the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic

War and the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, in which the army and people of the two countries fought side by side against fascism, Xi said.

Just one day after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union recognized the coun-

try and set up diplomatic relations with it, Xi recalled, noting that many Soviet experts helped new China lay its industrial foundation.

In the 21st century, China and Russia signed the landmark Treaty of Good-neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation and lifted their ties

to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, setting a paradigm for building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for humanity, he added.

Having withstood the test of changing global and domestic landscapes over the past seven decades, China-Russia ties are increasingly mature, stable and resilient, Xi said.

The China-Russia relationship in the new era should be built on mutual trust and strong strategic support, Xi said, adding that they should better support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and keep a firm hand on the strategic direction of bilateral relations.

The two countries should deepen the convergence of their interests, continue synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union, and create a new pattern of mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said.

People-to-people exchanges should be enhanced so that the traditional friendship between the two peoples can be carried on, he said.

Xi also called for joint efforts to safeguard world peace, promote multi-polarization of the world and democratization of international relations, and build a more prosperous, stable and fair world.

At the gathering, the two heads of state watched a short video on people-to-people exchanges as well as a show presented by Chinese and Russian artists.

About 1,600 people from all walks of life from China and Russia attended the gathering.

Before the event, the two heads of state toured a photo exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their countries' diplomatic relations. **Xinhua**



## Netanyahu taps Likud ally as Israel's justice minister

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has appointed a close Likud party ally as justice minister.

Amir Ohana's appointment on Wednesday came as Netanyahu heads an interim government following the dissolution of parliament last week. The prime minister also faces a hearing before the attorney general over corruption allegations and possible indictment.

Ohana is an ardent Netanyahu backer and has voiced support for a bill to grant a seated prime minister immunity from prosecution.

It remains unclear how, if at all, Ohana's appointment could impact the cases against the prime minister.

Netanyahu has also reportedly asked the attorney general for a second deferral of his hearing because of the snap elections called for September.

With his appointment, Ohana also becomes Israel's first openly gay Cabinet member. **Agencies**

## Sudan opposition rejects army's offer of talks, dozens killed

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S military rulers offered to resume talks with opposition groups on Wednesday, two days after security forces mounted a deadly raid on a protest camp, but the opposition rejected the invitation.

Medics linked to the opposition said the death toll from Monday's operation and subsequent unrest had risen to 108 and that it was expected to increase. State news agency SUNA early on Thursday put the number much lower, at 46, citing a health ministry official.

The raid, which followed weeks of wrangling between the ruling military council and opposition groups over who should lead Sudan's transition to democracy, marked the worst outbreak of violence since the army ousted President Omar al-Bashir in April after months of protests against his 30-year rule.

The Transitional Military Council canceled all agreements it had reached with the opposition immediately after the raid, but it rowed back on Wednesday amid mounting international criticism of the violence.

"We in the military council extend our hand for negotiations without shackles except the interests of the homeland," its head, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, said on state TV.

But a Sudanese alliance of protesters and opposition groups rejected the offer, saying the military could not be trusted.

"Today the council invited us to dialogue and at the same time



Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

it is imposing fear on citizens in the streets," Madani Abbas Madani, a leader of the Declaration of Freedom and Change Forces (DFCF), told Reuters.

Madani said Burhan's invitation had come before the arrest of one of the opposition alliance members, Yasir Arman, deputy head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) rebel group.

Gunfire, street blockades and opposition medics said 40 bodies that had been pulled out of the Nile on Tuesday were among the 108 killed. The bodies were taken to an unknown destination by pickup trucks belonging to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, the medics said. Reuters was not immediately able to verify the report.

A military council spokes-

man could not immediately be reached for comment, but the council said on Twitter that some Rapid Support Forces members had been attacked and that people had put on their uniforms to impersonate them in an attempt to harm their reputation.

The mood in the capital, Khartoum, remained tense on Wednesday, with demonstrators blocking streets in several districts. Gunfire rang out in the distance.

Most shops were shuttered on what would usually have been a bustling Muslim Eid al-Fitr holiday. Minor protests erupted outside mosques after Eid prayers, but there were no reports of significant clashes with security forces.

The deputy head of the military council, General Mohamed

Hamdan Dagalo, commonly known as Hemedti, said in a televised speech that it had launched "an urgent and transparent investigation" into the recent violence.

"Any person who crossed boundaries has to be punished," he added.

The military has denied trying to clear the sit-in protest outside the defence ministry on Monday. Its spokesman said forces moved in to deal with disruptive groups nearby and the violence spread from there.

Saudi Arabia, which has close ties to Sudan's military council, said on Wednesday it was watching developments with great concern and called for more dialogue.

US national security adviser John Bolton said in a Twitter post that Monday's violence by Sudan's security forces was "abhorrent" and demanded that the military council facilitate moves towards a civilian-led government.

The main protest organizer, the Sudanese Professionals Association, has called for an international committee to investigate Monday's deaths in what it branded a "massacre".

Several airlines have canceled flights to Khartoum, including Bahrain's Gulf Air, flydubai and EgyptAir.

Sudan has been rocked by unrest since December, when anger over rising bread prices and cash shortages broke into sustained protests against Bashir that culminated in the military removing him after three decades in office. **Agencies**

## Aussie govt denies involvement in police raids on journalists

CANNBERRA

THE Australian government has denied any involvement in federal police raids on journalists.

Officers from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on Wednesday entered the headquarters of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) with a warrant for the seizure of documents relating to a story published in 2017 about alleged war crimes committed by Australians in Afghanistan.

Asked about the raid after an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Britain, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters that he had no prior knowledge of the AFP operation.

"These are matters that were being pursued by the AFP operationally, at complete arm's length from the government, not with the knowledge of the government, not at the instigation of government ministers," Morrison said.

"These were matters that had been referred to the federal police some time ago, last year, preceding even my time as coming to be prime minister," Morrison said.

"I can understand why these issues can cause great anxiety, particularly to members of the press," Morrison added.

The Canberra home of one of Australia's leading political journalists, News Corp Australia's Annika Smethurst, was raided by the AFP on Tuesday



morning over a report in 2018 that the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) could be given the power to spy on Australians.

News Corp has reported that further raids were planned for Thursday but have been put on hold.

Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton, whose portfolio includes the AFP, also distanced himself from the investigations.

"The AFP have an important job to undertake and it is entirely appropriate they conduct their investigations independently and, in fact, it is their statutory obligation," he said.

"I have had no involvement in the AFP's investigation into these matters. Following the execution of each search warrant on June 4 and June 5 respectively, my office was informed that search warrants had been executed," he said.

The raids have been condemned by the ABC, News Corp and other media organizations.

"We stand by Annika and we will not resile from our cam-

paign to protect the public's right to know about important decisions governments are making that can and will impact ordinary Australian citizens," Michael Miller, News Corp Australasia executive chairman, said in a statement.

Leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) Anthony Albanese said that the government had "serious questions to answer" about the investigations.

"It is quite frankly I think outrageous that seven officers spent seven-and-a-half hours in her home, going through everything throughout her home, in the kitchen, in all of the rooms," he said about the raid on Smethurst's home.

"I would find it extraordinary if no one in the government knew anything about this," Albanese said.

In a statement, the AFP said there was no link between the investigations other than both being alleged breaches of the Crimes Act for the publication of classified material. **Agencies**

## China echoes UN's environmental call with green drives

HANGZHOU

THE main event of this year's World Environment Day was unveiled early Wednesday in Hangzhou, capital of eastern China's Zhejiang province.

Echoing this year's theme "Beat Air Pollution," the organizer said the four-day event will be "zero carbon" as an estimated 721 tonnes of carbon dioxide produced while hosting

the event will be offset by planting trees at the Saihanba forest farm in northern China's Hebei Province.

Addressing at the main celebrations, Joyce Msuya, deputy executive director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), gave some stunning figures.

"An estimated nine out of 10 people worldwide are exposed to air pollutants that exceed

World Health Organization air quality guidelines," she said. "According to the World Bank, air pollution costs societies more than 5 trillion dollars every year."

Highlighting how dirty air is affecting the lives of everybody in the world, she cited China, this year's host country, to demonstrate that beating air pollution is not mission impossible. FROM VICTIM TO ACTOR

China used to face a severe air problem. Statistics from meteorological authorities showed that from Jan. 1 to April 10, 2013, Chinese cities reported an average of 12.1 smoggy days, the highest since 1961 for the same period. During this time, Beijing reported 46 smoggy days, 6.5 times that of normal years.

The central government soon unveiled a five-year national clean air action plan in 2013,

aiming to improve air quality through measures such as closing polluting factories, limiting car use and replacing coal with clean energy.

In the past five years, China's central government alone has invested over 60 billion yuan (about 9.47 billion U.S. dollars) into air pollution treatment, according to Li Ganjie, minister of environmental protection. In Beijing, the number of

days with heavy air pollution has been reduced from 58 days in 2013 to 15 days in 2018, after the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region took a coordinated effort to address air pollution.

A report on China air quality improvement published on Wednesday's event also marked the progress China has made in its battle against bad air.

According to the report, between 2013 and 2018, the

average concentration of PM10 nationwide had fallen by 27 percent, and the average concentration of PM2.5 in the first 74 pilot cities implementing Ambient Air Quality Standard fell by 42 percent to 42 micrograms per cubic meter.

"China's success in reducing air pollution in less than a generation is incredible," said Msuya. **Xinhua**

The  
Guardian

www.theguardian.com

# SPORT



Rafael Nadal

Roger Federer

## Hope for Federer if he breaks Rafa's rhythm

PARIS

SHORT of booting him in the shins at a change of ends, Roger Federer has used just about everything in his vast armoury to try and beat Rafael Nadal at the French Open – so he will need something different when they meet on the Parisian clay for the first time in eight years today.

Five editions of arguably the sport's greatest rivalry have taken place on the Parisian claycourts, the first in 2005 when Nadal burst into the public consciousness by taking the title on his debut and the most recent in 2011.

Each time Federer was beaten, unable to contain the marauding Mallorcan whose left-handed topspin game tormented the Swiss great like no other player has ever managed.

There were passages of play in some of those matches when Federer appeared to have found the secret.

He won the first set 6-1 in the 2006 final, only to fade away in four sets while a year later the opening two sets were also shared before Nadal stormed to victory.

On one occasion, however, Federer was humiliated, winning only four games in the 2008 final – a few weeks before Nadal beat him in his "own back lawn" in the Wimbledon final.

It is eight long years and many Grand Slam titles between them since they last met at Roland Garros, which is why Friday's clash, the 39th time they have met, is eagerly anticipated.

Federer said he must be "fearless" but what can he do to win three sets against the king of clay when in their previous French Open duels he has never won two?

Talking to Reuters, three-times French Open champion and Eurosport analyst Mats Wilander believes Fed fans have reason to be optimistic for Friday's showdown.

"Roger has clearly decided that he doesn't want to play Nadal the way he used to play him, which means 'I'm going to miss before

you get a chance to get a rhythm'," he said.

BASELINE PATTERN  
"That's the key. With Roger he's so dominant that he never had to play in a way to make the other guys worse, now he's figured out how to make Nadal's game worse."

Wilander believes Federer will adopt tactics Pete Sampras used to employ and play the match on his terms.

The Swede says Federer will gamble early in rallies. If he wins the point, great, if he loses it Nadal would have been deprived the kind of baseline pattern he thrives on.

"Take it early, hit it hard," Wilander said. "He's adopting a little bit of the Pete Sampras tactics, which I thought was 'I'm going to try for two points, and if you get 30-0 I'm not going to try any more, because I don't want you to get any rhythm, I'm going to throw it into the stands."

"Maybe out of necessity he's adopted these tactics which we all thought he should have adopted some time ago, but didn't because he was winning everything anyway."

Tennis - French Open - Roland Garros, Paris, France - June 2, 2019. Spain's Rafael Nadal hits his harm on the TV camera wire as he celebrates after winning his fourth round match against Argentina's Juan Ignacio Londero. Picture taken June 2, 2019. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier

Nadal has been in frightening form since arriving at his old stomping ground, losing just one set, but then so has the 37-year-old Federer who, despite missing the last three French Opens, has played like he has never been away.

Ever the innovator, Federer is perhaps a better player now than when he won his only French title in 2009.

His backhand is more explosive, his use of the drop shot has improved and he is even serving and volleying at times on clay.

He may not prevail, but expect something different today.

REUTERS

## Raptors hit big shots, beat Warriors for 2-1 NBA Finals lead

OAKLAND, CALIF.

FOR every amazing shot in a career night by Stephen Curry on his home court, Kawhi Leonard, Kyle Lowry and Danny Green kept finding dazzling answers of their own.

The Toronto Raptors decided to "let it rip," and now they have the momentum again in these back-and-forth NBA Finals.

Leonard scored 30 points on a night Curry went off for a playoff-best 47, and the Raptors beat the banged-up Golden State Warriors 123-109 on Wednesday for a 2-1 series lead.

Curry also had eight rebounds and seven assists but couldn't do it all for the two-time defending champions, down starters Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson and key backup big man Kevon Looney because of injuries.

"They outplayed us. They deserved it," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I'm very proud of our effort, and now we've just got to bounce back and hopefully get back in here Friday night and hopefully get a little healthier and get some guys back."

Splash Brother Thompson missed his first career playoff game after straining his left hamstring late in Game 2, while Looney is out the rest of the series after a cartilage fracture on his right side near the collarbone that also happened Sunday. Durant, a two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP, has been sidelined nearly a month because of a strained right calf.

Game 4 is Friday at Oracle Arena, where Warriors fans will be rooting for the returns of Durant and Thompson.

Before the game, one of the Raptors wrote "let it rip" on the locker room board.



Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) shoots over Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry during the first half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, June 5, 2019. (AP Photo)

Lowry contributed 23 with five 3-pointers and Green had 18 points with six 3s after Pascal Siakam got the Raptors rolling early. Toronto shot 52.4% and made 17 from deep.

"I give our guys a lot of credit. I thought we answered a lot of runs," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Each time they chipped, we kind of answered back. And that's kind of what

you got to do if you're going to keep your lead."

The Warriors trailed 96-83 going into the final quarter. Curry's three free throws at 10:37 made it a seven-point game before back-to-back baskets by Serge Ibaka.

Siakam scored 18 points and established the momentum for Toronto from the tip, hitting his first three shots and setting

a tone for a defensive effort that stayed solid without the foul problems that plagued the Raptors in Game 2.

"Every time we made a run or got the crowd into it they either made a tough 3 or there was a tough foul call and they slowed the tempo down or something went their way," Curry said. "You have to tip your cap to all the guys who made pivotal plays in the right times."

Golden State greatly missed not only Thompson's touch from outside but also his stifling defense.

Nurse challenged his team to produce more defensive stops in order to get out in transition – "make them miss more," he said.

The Raptors re-watched the costly 18-0 run by Golden State in Game 2, then got six blocked shots from Ibaka.

"We know that they're going to make good runs and make shots but we watched that third quarter in Game 2 and we've just got to continue to play with pace," Lowry said. "That was the one thing about it, we played with pace, half-court, full-court, and that was a big thing for us."

Curry shot 14 for 31 including 6 of 14 on 3s while making 13 of 14 free throws in his sixth career 40-point playoff performance.

Nurse pulled out a box-and-one to try to stymie Curry in Golden State's 109-104 Game 2 win, then the Raptors made Curry's short-handed supporting cast try to beat them this time – and it sure worked.

AP

## ...Raptors coach Nick Nurse making the right moves

OAKLAND, CALIF.

TORONTO coach Nick Nurse plays to the beats to his own drum.

And that's not even one of the instruments that he's messing around with these days.

Nurse's office in Toronto has a guitar stand on one side of his desk and a piano on the other. He's trying to master both; the guitar travels with him on the road and he's been known to strum it while studying film.

The piano doesn't exactly fit in the overhead storage bin of the plane so it stays behind.

Nurse says he's not any good yet.

His team, however, is making plenty of beautiful music so far in these NBA Finals.

The moment has not been too big for Nurse or the Raptors.

They lead the title series 2-1 after a 123-109 win over injury-depleted Golden State on Wednesday night, an outcome that puts the two-time defending NBA champions in trouble. The maestro of the best season in Toronto history is a 51-year-old NBA coaching rookie, one who's making plenty of right moves.

"He looks young," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "But he's pretty old."

Nurse might have been an unknown to casual NBA fans when he got the job a year ago following the firing of his former boss in Toronto, Dwane Casey. Nurse was an assistant on Casey's staff, largely credited with running things on the offensive side of the ball. He had good relationships with players, but the task of replacing someone who was

the NBA's coach of the year and got fired anyway was daunting nonetheless.

He has handled it with ease.

"Each game's critical, and the next one will be as critical as (Game 3) was," Nurse said. "So it's been like that all through the playoffs, and we just got to guard and play who is out there. That's all we can do."

The guy he's going against has eight rings already. Steve Kerr won five as a player, has three more from his first four seasons as coach of the Warriors and still very much has a chance at a fourth in five seasons.

But this is no coaching mismatch.

"I've watched Nick closely," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, the president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, said earlier in the series. "We played against him twice this

AP

## Picking two spinners v South Africa was 'massive factor' in win - Kohli

SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND

INDIA'S gamble in playing two spinners in their opening World Cup match against South Africa proved to be masterstroke as the bowlers spurred them to victory on Wednesday, captain Virat Kohli said.

The Indians, who are chasing their third World Cup title, condemned the South Africans to their third successive loss in the tournament after Yuzvendra Chahal bamboozled the batsmen with his leg spin as he grabbed four wickets for 51 runs, while fellow spinner Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with a wicket.

India coasted to a solid, if unspectacular, six-wicket victory with 15 balls remaining after opener Rohit Sharma carried his bat to score an unbeaten 122.

"Picking the two spinners were a massive factor for us," Kohli told a news conference.

"The last time we played them, they were trying to hit boundaries rather than take singles and as a captain I will take that any day as there is more of a risk factor in such strokes."

The spin duo picked up the baton after Jasprit Bumrah gave the Indians



Opener Rohit Sharma scored a composed unbeaten century as India got their Cricket World Cup campaign off to a solid start with a six wicket victory over a sloppy South African side at a vibrant Rose Bowl on Wednesday. (Agencies)

a great start by dismissing South African openers Hashim Amla and Quinton de Kock inside six overs with a devastating spell of swing bowling. "Obviously, Bumrah is bowling

at a different level and Chahal as a youngster never refuses to take the ball in any condition," added Kohli. With South Africa restricted to 227-9 from their 50 overs on a batting-

friendly wicket, India knew they did not have to take many risks to get the win on the board.

Kohli also rated Sharma's century as the best the opener has scored

among the 23 tons he has notched up so far in his career.

Sharma, who got off to a nervous start with a couple of half chances, stroked 122 runs off 144 balls, peppered with 13 boundaries and two sixes.

"Some of the balls were bouncing around and there is always the temptation to hit yourself out of trouble but he brilliantly controlled his innings and held up one end and we never thought he was going to throw his wicket away," Kohli said.

India travel to the Oval in London on Sunday to face Australia in their next game.

Meanwhile, South Africa are refusing to admit that their World Cup race is all but over with all-rounder Chris Morris telling fans to stick with the team despite a third loss inside a week.

They were beaten by six wickets by India at the Rose Bowl on Wednesday – leaving the side with a massive task if they are to get through to the semi-finals.

South Africa were beaten in the tournament opener by England on Thursday and were then upset by Bangladesh on Sunday. The defeat by

India means they would realistically need to win all of their remaining six round-robin matches to stand any chance of progressing to the last four. "Stranger things have happened at the World Cup before," said Morris after top scoring for South Africa with 42 as they struggled to 227-9.

India reached the target with two and half overs to spare.

"Obviously we are disappointed to lose three games so far but we ask the fans at home to stay with us and back us as much as you can and we will try and perform for you," he told a news conference.

Morris said it had been a much better performance by the South Africans after their opening two losses.

"Our body language was not there in the first two games but today we addressed that. Overall I thought we were quite good," he said.

"A few opportunities came our way but then didn't go our way."

"At the end of the day if a good Indian team took so much time to get to the 227 target, it shows we bowled well. Maybe with a bit of luck, things could have gone our way."

REUTERS

## African Champions League final now to be replayed

PARIS

THE second leg of the African Champions League final will be replayed after the original fixture was abandoned and the match awarded to Esperance after opponents Wydad Casablanca left the pitch following a disputed decision.

The Confederation of African Football's executive committee, meeting in Paris on the fringes of the FIFA congress, decided on Wednesday to re-stage the match at a neutral ground in a decision that could spark an immediate legal challenge.

Wydad Casablanca refused to play on after having a 59th-minute effort disallowed in the return leg of the final in Tunis last Friday.

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system was not working and after a delay of almost two hours the match was awarded to home side Esperance, who were handed the trophy and winners' medals.

The first leg in Casablanca on May 25 ended 1-1 and Esperance were 1-0 up in the return a week later when Wydad thought they had equalised only for the referee to signal for offside.

That sparked protests that con-

tinued for around 90 minutes before the game was eventually called off in scenes that bordered on the farcical, with even the CAF president Ahmad coming down to the side of the pitch to try and resolve the matter without success.

No official announcement, or explanation behind the decision, was immediately made by CAF. However, committee members and the two clubs confirmed the decision.

Esperance are expected to appeal against the ruling, club officials said on Wednesday.

The Moroccan Football Federation, whose president Fouzi Lekjaa is a powerful figure within the CAF executive committee, said that the players had not been informed about the VAR technology being faulty.

Rules set by the game's lawmakers, the International Football Association Board, state that a match cannot be invalidated because of VAR technology malfunctioning or if there is a wrong decision involving VAR.

Any replay would have to be staged after the Africa Cup of Nations finals, which are being hosted in Egypt from June 21-July 19.

REUTERS

## Brazil's Bolsonaro defends soccer star Neymar against rape accusation

BRASILIA

BRASIL'S President Jair Bolsonaro on Wednesday came out in support of Neymar, the national soccer star who has been accused of raping a woman last month in Paris, an allegation he denies.

"Today I'm supposed to be at the game between Brazil and Qatar," said Bolsonaro at an event in the city of Aragarças. "I hope to hug Neymar. He is a boy who is in a difficult moment but I believe in him."

A woman accused Neymar, 27, of raping her at a Paris hotel last month, according to a police report seen by Reuters at the weekend. Sao Paulo police are investigating the accusation.

Following media reports on the matter, Neymar posted a long video on Instagram in which he denied the accusations against him, said he was a victim of extortion, and shared WhatsApp messages with the alleged victim, including racy photos he had received.

That led police in Rio de Janeiro to open a fresh investigation into whether he had committed a crime by posting the intimate pictures on-

line.

The Brazilian national soccer team is preparing for the Copa America - a tournament played by South America's 10 national teams - plus invitees Japan and Qatar, kicking off on June 14.

Bolsonaro added that Neymar retained his support ahead of Wednesday night's game.

"Neymar, tonight, we're together, you're going to score two goals," the president said.

Bolsonaro spent nearly three decades in Congress before being elected president last year.

In 2003, he pushed Congresswoman Maria do Rosario of the leftist Workers Party and told her that he "would never rape you because you do not deserve it" and because she was "very ugly."

Bolsonaro repeated the comment in 2014 in the chamber and was convicted on a charge of inciting rape last year. In February, Supreme Court Justice Marco Aurelio Mello ordered Bolsonaro to pay a fine of 10,000 reais (\$2,577.78) to Rosario.

REUTERS

## Portugal penalty becomes Swiss penalty after VAR intervention

PORTO

A PENALTY to Portugal suddenly turned into a penalty for opponents Switzerland after an extraordinary incident involving the VAR system at the Nations League on Wednesday.

Portugal were 1-0 ahead early in the second half when Swiss midfielder Steven Zuber, running onto a through ball from Xherdan Shaqiri, went down under a challenge from Nelson Semedo and appealed for a penalty.

Play continued, Portugal then went straight down the other end and were awarded a penalty for a foul on Bernardo Silva.

Amid furious Swiss protests, referee Felix Brych, after consulting the video assistant, then decided to review the Swiss incident on the pitchside monitor and awarded them the spot kick.

It was similar to an incident in a Serie A match this season when a goal for SPAL became a penalty for their opponents Fiorentina.

With the score at 1-1, Mattia Valoti scored from a counterattack to put SPAL in front - but the referee decided to review an incident at the other end in a previous move. The decision: a penalty to Fiorentina, which they converted and went on to win 4-1.

The incident will raise the question of how long referees should allow play to continue before stopping for a review.

Brych was clearly listening to observations from the VAR officials through his earpiece as Portugal attacked but there was no convenient moment to stop play.

And had he decided against awarding the Swiss a penalty - would he then have reviewed the foul on Silva to confirm the penalty for Portugal?

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said it was a matter for European governing body UEFA.

"I was asked about it in our last game because we didn't have VAR and everyone was complaining about a penalty that wasn't given," he said, referring to the 1-1 draw with Serbia in March.

"It's not up to me to judge these matters," he said.

"I think VAR is important, I think it can help but those who are in charge have to pay attention to this...otherwise we will all start saying that VAR is no good, when it could be a really useful tool but sometimes it isn't."

Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic said the incident was "funny" but praised the referee for following the right procedure.

REUTERS

## Ronaldo defeats Swiss and age with finishing school

PORTO

THERE were moments during Wednesday's Nations League semifinal between Portugal and Switzerland when Cristiano Ronaldo was beginning to look like a 34-year-old reaching the twilight of his career.

The pace that once terrified defenders, the quick changes of direction, the energy and the constant movement are no longer part of his game.

Yet that is to miss the point about the late-career Ronaldo - the man can still put the ball in the net like very few others and has refined his game so that is now almost all he focuses upon.

The Juventus forward won Wednesday's game with a hat-trick consisting of three superbly-taken goals, as the hosts reached Sunday's final with a 3-1 win over Switzerland.

It was his seventh hat-trick for Portugal and a remarkable 53rd for club and country.

England or the Netherlands await for the reigning European Champions in the first final of this new competition and Ronaldo will be relishing the chance to put their young guns in their place.

It was tempting, before the game, to wonder whether this would be the night when Ronaldo handed over the starring role in his national side to the 19-year-old Joao Felix, whose 20 goals this season for Benfica have earned him the attention of Europe's biggest clubs.

After all, Ronaldo had not scored in any of his last four appearances for Portugal, his last goal coming against Morocco at the 2018 World Cup.

If not Felix then perhaps Bernardo Silva, so impressive for English champions Manchester City this season, would be revealed as the real force in Fernando Santos's team with his creativity, invention and touches of genius.

But no, this is still Ronaldo's team - he is the man who makes the difference, who delivers when it is most needed.



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo scores his third goal during the UEFA Nations League semifinal football match against Switzerland at Estadio do Dragao in Porto, Portugal on Wednesday. (Agencies)

Interestingly two of Ronaldo's goals came after Felix was substituted in the 70th minute.

The Portuguese fans are certainly content to still have the former Real Madrid striker as their main protagonist, with the home supporters chanting his name at the end of the game.

Some UEFA organisers may also have been happy that the story of this first Nations League semi-final game was about the continuing quality of a man who has provided so much entertainment.

Until Ronaldo's match-winning strikes in the 88th and 90th minutes, the story of this game was going to be about the VAR video review system.

In particular it would have been about the farcical way in which German referee Felix Brych awarded a penalty for Portugal but then ended up reviewing a previous incident at the other end and giving Switzerland a spot kick that was highly questionable no matter how many times it

was replayed.

That bizarre incident swung the game from what would have been a likely 2-0 lead for Portugal to 1-1, giving the Swiss a lifeline.

Ronaldo had opened the scoring with a superbly struck, dipping free kick which was helped in by an insecure Swiss wall and the inability of keeper Yann Sommer to see the shot.

Yet for large stretches of the match, Ronaldo looked far from a threat and it was Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri who stood out on the field with his constant probing, forcing the Portuguese defence back onto their heels.

Ronaldo used to do that, in his days of greater mobility and stamina, but he has long since re-invented himself into a central striker who makes the most of what time has not robbed him of - his deadly marksmanship.

And when he struck it was in ruthless fashion.

His first-time finish for the second was so stunning that it would be easy to forget the brilliant cross-field pass

from Ruben Neves to Bernardo Silva which created the opening.

The third was trademark Ronaldo - on the break, found on the left, he ran at the Swiss defence, wrong-footed them with a clever step-over and cut inside before drilling the ball into the corner.

It felt like it could happen from the moment Ronaldo collected the pass - predictable but unstoppable yet again.

"We're used to this kind of thing, he's been doing it for ages and it isn't a surprise to anyone now," said Bernardo Silva.

"He scored three... nothing new for him. He's often the difference maker."

The only question is just how many more years he can carry on doing this?

His successful reinvention has already prolonged his career and the bad news for defenders is that playing like this, he might still be scoring for many years to come.

REUTERS

## Woman says she told Neymar, 'Stop. Stop. No!'

RIO DE JANEIRO

A WOMAN who has alleged that Brazilian football star Neymar raped her last month in Paris spoke publicly for the first time in a television interview that aired Wednesday in Brazil.

Najila Trindade Mendes de Souza told Brazilian TV SBT that she had agreed to have sex with Neymar, but when she told him they couldn't because he didn't have a condom, he "turned aggressive."

"When I asked him if he brought a condom, he said no. So I told him that nothing would happen," Mendes de Souza said. "He didn't listen, he turned, and he committed the act ... I said, 'Stop. Stop. No! Stop.' But he didn't say much. He only acted."

"I just want justice. He left me very traumatized. I want him to pay for what he did."

Neymar, who has said he had two encounters with Mendes de Souza in France, has denied any wrongdoing.

He also is being investigated by Rio de Janeiro's cybercrime division for posting images of Mendes de Souza on social media without her authorization. Neymar said he posted the images and text exchanges to try to show that their relationship was consensual.

"We exchange Instagram messages, and he asked me when I could go to Paris, and I said, 'Right now, but can't afford the trip.' He said that he can handle it, and he paid for my flight ticket and hotel room," Mendes de Souza said during the interview.

A spokeswoman for Neymar, Day Crespo, has said that "because of the secrecy [of the investigation] we cannot comment."

But on Wednesday, the player's lawyers disputed a statement from Mendes de Souza's initial legal team saying that Neymar's representatives had asked for a meeting to discuss a settlement. The player's attorneys issued a statement saying that it was Mendes de Souza's lawyers who sought the May 29 meeting, at which no agreement was reached.

The first complaint presented by Mendes de Souza's legal team cited



Neymar

Mendes de Souza

"aggression" or "physical violence" by Neymar. Mendes de Souza filed the more serious rape complaint against Neymar on Friday with police in Sao Paulo, and she has changed lawyers.

When the television interviewer asked if what happened on May 15 was rape or an "aggression," Mendes de Souza responded that it was "aggression together with rape."

During the interview, Mendes de Souza described herself as an "ordinary person who works, studies. I'm a model and a student of interior design who likes sports, training and dancing," as well as being "a daughter and mother."

The TV station broadcast Mendes de Souza's comments as Neymar sus-

tained a ligament rupture in his right ankle during Brazil's national team friendly match with Qatar in Brasilia. Meanwhile, Neymar is out of Copa America after suffering a right ankle injury in a 2-0 win over Qatar on Wednesday night.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward left Brazil's friendly victory in tears after twisting his ankle following a hard tackle early in the match. He was replaced by Everton around 21 minutes into the game as goals from Richarlison and Gabriel Jesus sealed the win.

The Brazilian Football Confederation said in a statement early Thursday that Neymar had a ligament rupture in his ankle and will not recover

in time to play the South American tournament.

"After suffering a sprain in his right ankle during Wednesday's game against Qatar, Neymar was evaluated and subjected to complementary imaging tests that confirmed ligament rupture in the ankle," the statement read.

"Due to the seriousness of the injury, Neymar will not have the physical conditions and sufficient recovery time to participate in the Copa America."

"As of this Thursday, the technical committee of the Brazilian national team will begin the definition of a substitute."

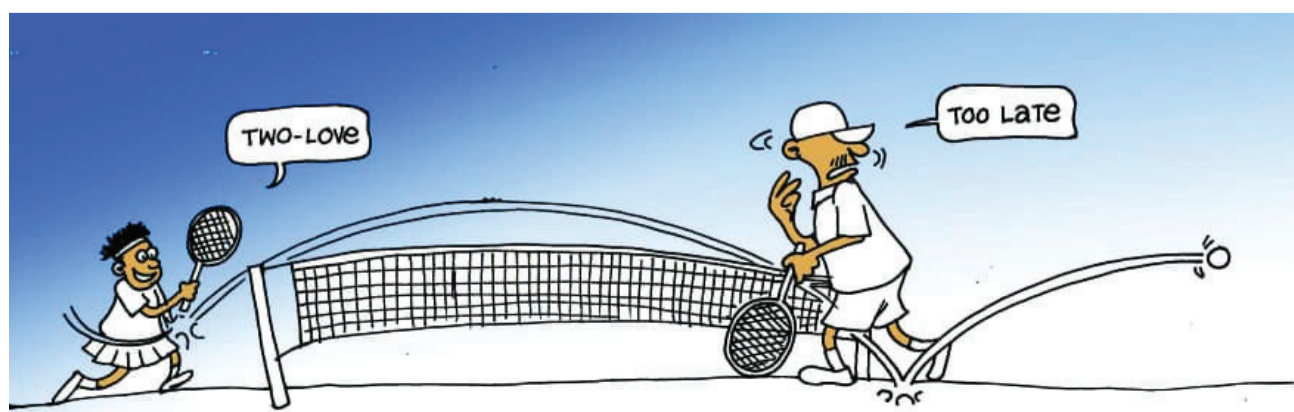
Brazil coach Tite will have until June 13 to call a replacement for the 27-year-old. The Canarina take on Honduras on Sunday in their final warm-up game before they begin Copa America against Bolivia on June 14. Brazil, the tournament host, also faces Peru and Venezuela in Group A.

Neymar left the Mane Garrincha stadium on crutches before the match ended. He was accompanied by his father and Brazil's confederation head Edu Gaspar.

The friendly was the first major public appearance for Neymar since a woman accused him of rape at a Paris hotel on May 15.

(AGENCIES)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Ronaldo defeats Swiss and age with finishing school

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

**5 EATV**

**TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**FRIDAY**

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane  
11:00 DADAZ (live)  
13:30 Kaili Za Wangi  
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:30 #HASHIAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 #Newz  
18:30 Skongwa  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)**  
is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

**east africa RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Brighton lead Aston Villa in £12m transfer chase for Samatta



Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta (L), attempts to dribble past teammate, Shiza Kichuya, during a training session at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

**B**RIGHTON head a queue of English Premier League clubs interested in signing Tanzania's senior national soccer team's striker, Mbwana Samatta, who turns out for Belgium's KRC Genk.

The Seagulls, newly-promoted Aston Villa, Leicester, Watford and Burnley are all eyeing up the £12million-rated Tanzania international.

And Samatta, 26, is understood to be keen to move to England after an out-

standing season in Belgium's top flight.

He scored 23 goals to help Genk lift the title and also won the Ebony Shoe - an award given to Belgium's best player of African descent.

The gong has previously been picked up by Romelu Lukaku, Vincent Kompany and Michy

Batshuayi.

Samatta will lead the line for Tanzania at the African Nations Cup later this month - the first time his country has qualified for the event since 1980.

But after the tournament has finished, he hopes to leave Genk, who he joined in January 2016 from Congo club TP Mazembe,

and come to the Premier League.

Brighton have been monitoring Samatta for some time and ex-boss Chris Hughton was a big fan, while new chief Graham Potter also rates the forward.

But they face competition from a number of their top-flight rivals, as well as clubs on the Continent, including Roma and

Lyon.

Samatta is part of Taifa Stars' squad which will be battling it out in the Africa Cup of Nations for the second time.

The squad made its first appearance in the continental tournament in 1980.

Taifa Stars have been attending training sessions at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam this week to prepare for the tournament that will take place in Egypt.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, disclosed the training was moving on smoothly, with players participating in morning and evening sessions under head coach, Emmanuel Amunike.

The side, he noted, will today jet off to Egypt for a one-week camp to shape up for the showpiece.

Stars are set to play two international friendly matches against hosts, Egypt, and Zimbabwe in the final stage of preparations.

The Tanzania side will lock horns with Egypt on June 13 and the former will then take on Zimbabwe three days later.

Tanzania are in Group C of the showpiece with continental powerhouses, Algeria and Senegal, and East Africa neighbours, Kenya.

Tanzania will take on Senegal in the opening match on June 23.

## Amir, Shadab make Pakistan smile again

LONDON

NO wise man ever said that leg spin and left-arm pace make the world right. Let's just say that that speaks more to the wisdom of Pakistani men in particular, given how right their world has always looked with one of each.

The simple fact of Mohammad Amir and Shadab Khan playing together in only two of Pakistan's 11 losses in a row was not an insignificant contributor to their world being so wrong recently. Since the Champions Trophy final, where both were so key, they've played together in less than half of Pakistan's ODIs. And the fact that they finally both bowled against England was, it follows, a fairly significant contributor to the ending of that losing streak.

The pair took four wickets between them including the two, five overs apart, of Joe Root and Jos Buttler. That was the winning of the game. It was a collective bowling triumph - this was a bowling side that had the second-highest average coming into the World Cup and worst strike rate (from January 2018). They were also, on average, taking the fewest wickets per match.

Hasan Ali was in a rut, Shaheen Afridi's youth was catching up with him, Mohammad Hasnain was exciting but the time when rawness worked as surprise was gone two decades ago, and Wahab Riaz was on holiday until two weeks ago. This wasn't an attack that looked like it could defend 348 precisely because it hadn't only earlier this month.

But the individual wins can't be ignored. Amir had gone through a drought unlike any in his career, and it had driven him mad - as much from the criticism as from the frustrations of bowling adequately but not picking up wickets. Who'd have blamed him if he thought he was undergoing some kind of karmic retribution, now that the legal toll had been taken?

The headline was that he swung that first ball and boy did he ever swing it, full and late, curving in and turning Jonny Bairstow, for one ball only, into a tailender. For many Pakistani fans, that alone was worth the admission price and they won't be the only ones who will cling to its memory: at some point in this tournament, even if it is for just that first over, it'll be something Amir and whoever he is bowling to will remember.

The swing went quickly, but only for Amir to unveil the non-sexy bits. He's always been a sharp reader of contests and batsmen, just that everything else has often overshadowed that. One instance was the set-up of Root. Two balls angled across him to start, but neither wide enough to let him breathe out, a quick, accurate bouncer to squeeze harder, another angled across but no room so that an inside-edged boundary was and wasn't an exhale, and then the mirage: fuller and wider. Come and get me, I'm your oxygen.

It played on a pattern in Root's career, having worked him into a state before doing it. Babar Azam dropping it at slip was the fingerprint on this otherwise perfect, gleaming black mirror, but the dismissal of Buttler later was plenty consolation. Amir, unafraid to go wide despite having been twice slice-driven over mid-off off such deliveries, went this time with a cutter and so got a little extra bounce for the edge - both those sliced fours had come soon after Buttler was beaten by almost this exact delivery.

AGENCIES

## Zambia set to take on Botswana in COSAFA Cup final



Segolame Boy of Botswana (L) is challenged by Sepiriti Malefane of Lesotho during the 2019 COSAFA Cup semi-final match at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, South Africa on Wednesday. PHOTO: SAMUEL SHIVAMBU

DURBAN

ZAMBIA will meet Botswana in Saturday's 2019 COSAFA Cup final after the pair won through two keenly-fought semi-final matches at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in South Africa on Wednesday.

Botswana edged Lesotho 2-1, while Zambia needed penalties to see off old foes Zimbabwe in what was a repeat of the last two COSAFA Cup finals.

The Warriors proved victorious on both those occasions, but this time it was Zambia who came out on top, albeit via the lottery of penalties after the teams had played to a 0-0 draw.

The first real opportunity of the match fell to Admiral Muskwé, who failed to connect with a Divine Lunga cross, but it looked as though the opener would come at the other end.

Zambia were awarded a penalty, but Austin Muwowa saw his effort saved by Zimbabwe goalkeeper Elvis Chipezeze, who bravely got to the ball before Muwowa could stab home the rebound.

Tinotenda Kaderwere, one of the heroes of Zimbabwe's final win last season, had an excellent chance to win the game late on, but fired over the bar from close range when it is seemed easier to score.

Khama Billiat seemed to clip as he took the first penalty for Zimbabwe in the shoot-out and it was saved by Zambia goalkeeper Sebastian Mwangi, and when Muskwé skied the Warriors second kick, they were always up against it.

Zambia held their nerve to score all of their penalties and win a place in Saturday's final, where they will look to lift the regional trophy for the first time since 2013.

Botswana clinched a place in a second ever COSAFA Cup final with a 2-1 victory over Lesotho in a pulsating first semi-final.

They were ahead inside seven minutes as Mothusi Cooper provided the cross and veteran forward Joel Mogorosi headed the ball into the back of the net.

Segolame Boy fired just wide soon afterwards and new TS Galaxy goalkeeper Ezekiel Morake had to make a number of good stops before The Zebras doubled their advantage.

Boy fired a rasping shot into the back of the net to send the Botswana fans wild and the team into the halftime break with a 2-0 lead.

Lesotho came back strongly in the second period though and after Morake had denied them a few more times, Sera Motebang headed home with 10 minutes to play to set up a nervy finish.

Botswana's only other final appearance was in 2016 when they lost 3-2 to South Africa.

Lesotho will now play Zimbabwe for the bronze medal at the same venue on Friday evening at 19h30 (17h30 GMT), having also finished third in 2018.

South Africa and Malawi will contest the Plate final at the same venue at 17h00 (15h00 GMT), in what will be a first COSAFA Cup meeting between the sides since The Flames won a shoot-out on their way to lifting the Plate in 2015.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

MY MAN IS SUCH A CHEATER THAT I'M NOT SURE IF THE CHILD I'M CARRYING IS HIS!

