



BUSINESS



11.9 MILLION/- DISBURSED TO GROUPS IN DODOMA PAGE 3

EDUCATION



DANISH ORGANISATION DONATES TO PRIMARY SCHOOL PAGE 5

DEVELOPMENT



SADC HAILED FOR STRATEGIES TO PROTECT REFUGEES PAGE 6

INFRASTRUCTURE



AFRICAN NATIONS TO INVEST IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT ROADS PAGE 7

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Staff and Management of The Guardian Newspaper wish our esteem readers and advertisers Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Editor

Vaccination advocacy lags as jab donations reach 6m

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has received a total of 6,408,950 Covid-19 vaccine doses with authorities now seeking to upgrade campaigns to have more people vaccinated, including taking doses to churches in Christmas services today.

Vaccines available include Sinopharm, Janssen and Pfizer-BioNTech delivered through the COVAX global vaccine sharing facility, starting mid this year.

The rise in available vaccine doses follows the reception yesterday of 376,320 doses of Moderna vaccine doses, sufficient to inoculate 188,160 people against Covid-19 infection or serious effects.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, said the total consignment of 6.4m vaccines will protect 3,204,475 people countrywide, mainly requiring a person to take two jabs to reach reliable immunity against the virus.

At an airport ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Dr Gwajima saluted the COVAX facility working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the GAVI Alliance and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for facilitating the donations.

She emphasised on the need for people to turn out for vaccination, underlining that the vaccines are safe and WHO approved. They will help to enhance the pace in attaining

To reach the government's target of vaccinating 3,000 people in Singida, we must follow people at their localities, working places and farms

the 60 percent target of vaccinated people among the adult population.

"These vaccines are in hospitals and special health centres, we encourage the public to go and get the jabs to help strengthen their bodies' immunity," she said.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for valuing people's health, leading and encouraging them to get vaccinated for the country's progress.

He wanted leaders of all levels to strengthen awareness programmes and ensure that people are educated to know the importance of the vaccines.

Prior to this, Tanzania had received 500,000 Pfizer vaccine doses in November from the US government and in early October it received 1,065,600 doses of Sinopharm vaccines donated by the Chinese government via the COVAX facility.

In July, the government received over a million doses of the single-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine from the United States, with other donations following later.

Regional authorities in Singida intend to use today's Christmas congregations to encourage people to get vaccinated

TURN TO PAGE 2



Nuns decorate a symbolic manger at St Joseph's Cathedral in Dar es Salaam ahead of the Christmas Eve, the night vigil in celebration of the birth of Jesus, reflecting the poverty of his birthplace, more than 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, in what is now Palestine. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



IGP stresses customer care, bribe avoidance

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

INSPECTOR General Police (IGP), Simon Sirro (pictured), the head of the police force, yesterday directed police commanders at all levels to adhere to professional ethics by observing good customer care and avoiding corruption.

The IGP's remarks come a few weeks after President Samia Suluhu Hassan exposed weaknesses in police force operations like using offensive language, taking bribes and using excessive force instead of being friendly with citizens.

Closing a leadership training course for corporal rank at the Kambapori camp in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region, he said offensive language could lead to conflicts and unjustified actions inside and outside the force.

He listed vital safeguards that should be strictly observed by police officers to strengthen effectiveness and performance, noting that taking or promoting bribes ruins the police force image and builds mistrust among the people.

He emphasised educating the public on the negative effects of crime, as some

TURN TO PAGE 2

Community health e-payment format rolling out next month

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is set to simplify the improved Community Health Fund (CHF) payment system by enabling electronic payment, reducing costs of the scheme and improving revenue collection and cash flow management.

Rasheed Maftah, the acting director for health services in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) (PO-

RALG) said at a workshop in Morogoro recently that the CHF e-payment system would be rolled out nationwide mid next month, with over one million active members.

At the three-day workshop on using CHF e-payment format, the director urged participants to build capacity among CHF teams at district, ward and village levels, on how to use the CHF e-payment system, and this effort be completed

TURN TO PAGE 2

Govt probes cattle salt 'contaminated' imports

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

EXPERTS at the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) are conducting tests on samples of imported animal feed salt that is said to have affected thousands of livestock in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region.

Animal feed salt is usually distributed to livestock farmers in the district by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), following a directive by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to provide surrounding pastoralists with artificial feeds to discourage them from grazing in the protected area. It has natural salt which is suitable for the animals' health, experts affirm.

A few days ago hundreds of livestock keepers in the district expressed concern that they risk losing

their livestock after feeding them with the salt provided by NCAA which they said has made the animals purge heavily.

Yesterday a team of experts from NCAA led by the district veterinary officer, Dr Chobi Chubwa and ward councillor Simon Saitoti arrived in Dar es Salaam carrying a sample of the contested animal salt, taking the samples to GCLA offices in Temeke district. Other samples will be taken to the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro for further tests, officials said.

Before embarking on the city trip, the officers interrogated Mark Panga, director of Panga building Materials firm who was contracted to import the animal feeds by NCAA.

He reportedly told the officials that he followed

TURN TO PAGE 2

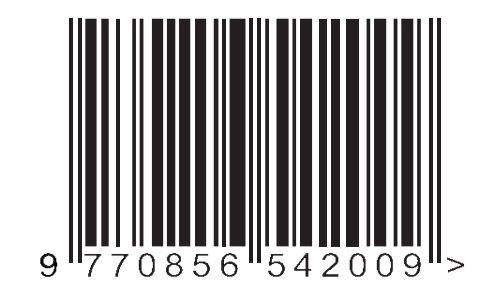
Taking A New Look At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Weird Christmas traditions from around the globe

WHILE Christmas may have started as a Christian holiday, and is often still celebrated as such, people from all over the world have embraced the festive season and added their own traditions along the way. British kids are well acquainted with Father Christmas, Santa Claus or Saint Nick.

For most people in Africa, Christmas is a time to spend with friends and family, go to a Christmas service in church and enjoy the Christmas festivities. Each country on the continent has its own unique Christmas traditions, a nice Christmas braai, Santa arriving on a camel and the buying, giving and wearing of your new Christmas clothes! Sounds pretty normal, especially if you read some of the peculiar Christmas traditions take place in some parts of the world. Christmas isn't celebrated everywhere in the world. Although the original meaning of Christmas often gets forgotten in the food, presents and decorations, it's still a Christian holiday. Considering only 1 percent of the Japanese population is Christian it's not that surprising Christmas isn't a national holiday. But that doesn't mean one can't have Christmas traditions, a Japanese entrepreneur most have thought when he opened a new KFC restaurant in 1974. This smart man was absolutely right, because after a

TURN TO PAGE 8





Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, Umyy Mwalimu (C) accompanied by Iramba district officials in Singida region to inspect Shelui - Tintigulu road project being constructed at tarmac level by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA). Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Govt allocates over 7bn/- for road projects in Iramba district

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government through the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) has allocated 7.3bn/- for the construction of roads within Iramba District Council in Singida region.

This was revealed by Minister of State, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, Umyy Mwalimu during her tour in the district. She said the government's intention is to open rural roads to enable citizens to conduct their economic activities smoothly.

Inspecting the 7 kilometres Shelui -Tintigulu road, Mwalimu urged contractors to make sure the road is constructed at required standards to facilitate economic activities amongst the villagers. "The government's intention is ensure all roads are passable throughout the year; roads shouldn't be a challenge for villagers in conducting their economic activities, construction of the Shelui -Tintigulu road will open-up economic opportunities as well as communication services in three wards and six villages," said the

minister.

Minister Mwalimu also directed TARURA Manager in Shelui District, Eng. Evance Kibona to ensure that they complete designing of the Nshoka Bridge along the Shelui - Tintigulu road so that its construction goes together with construction of the road.

"I have inspected the road construction, the project is progressing on well; but we need to construct a bridge at the Nshoka river to make sure it is passable during the rainy season," she said.

Earlier, TARURA manager in Iramba District, Eng. Evance Kibona said they started to implement the road project in December 11th this year and they are expecting to complete it in June 2022.

He said the 7 kilometres tarmac road will cost 524m/- until completion. Once completed, the road will benefit over 14,000 people in six villages.

Eng Kibona said that Iramba District allocated 860m/- for road projects in the 2020/2021 financial year and that in the coming fiscal year, they are expecting to increase the budget to 7.3bn/-.

Vaccination advocacy lags as job donations reach 6m

FROM PAGE 1

against COVID-19. The move is part of the door to door vaccination encouragement drive started last week, where the government launched the second phase of the inoculation campaign.

Health administrators target vaccinations of 80,000 to 100,000 people countrywide on a daily basis, the launching affirmation noted.

The regional medical officer, Dr January Milulu said they will effectively use this festive season to promote COVID-19 jabs, with hopes

that the region can vaccinate up to 360 people per day. Inoculation campaigns will be conducted at other opportune areas including markets, he stated.

Dr Milulu met with other health officials before embarking on a house to house campaign to ensure that residents turn out for COVID-19 inoculation jabs.

He was persuaded that the Christmas congregations could also be used to vaccinate people against the disease, saying that health officials would visit prayer houses to send the message, and

having jabs on hand. Vehicles with a public address system for outreach to residents to enhance awareness would be located in churches, he stated.

An average of 100 people were receiving the jabs since the rollout was launched late July, a figure that the regional leadership wants increased to 360 per day.

In previous months, an idea echoed by Dr Baraka Nzobo, a public health specialist in the ministry though he expressed expectations of higher inoculation after the festive season. Rollout officers need

to reach residents and vaccinate them at home, farms and other public venues, she emphasised.

"To reach the government's target of vaccinating 3,000 people in Singida, we must follow people at their localities, working places and farms," she said, noting that the second phase of the vaccination campaign mainly focuses on rural communities.

Over one million Tanzanians came out for vaccination starting July 28 when President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the campaign, to the end of October, officials added.

Govt probes cattle salt 'contaminated' imports

FROM PAGE 1

procedures required by the tender, purchasing the salt from across the border at Nakuru, and that he had earlier asked for advice from NCAA on the kind of animal feeds that were needed.

Ward councillor Saitoti said all was not well in his ward after the animals were fed on the imported salt, noting that the ward received 900 bags, distributed to 5,000 cattle keepers, and the animals started developing suspicious health conditions upon feeding on the salt. DC Raymond Mangwala said he has visited the ward and ordered that the distribution of the salt stop with immediate effect.

In 2016, the premier directed the NCAA to provide surrounding pastoralists with some vital services so that they don't graze cattle in the crater zone, whereupon NCAA established a dip tank and a dam to preserve water to be used by livestock during the dry season. It also started providing artificial animal feeds.

The Ngorongoro Conservation area spans vast expanses of highland plains, savannah woodlands and forests set out in 1959 as a multiple land use area, with wildlife coexisting with semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists practicing traditional livestock grazing. It includes the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera.

Community health e-payment format rolling out next month

FROM PAGE 1

by the second week of January.

The training involved regional coordinators, information technology officers and district council teams from across the country, where the director acknowledged assistance of the Swiss TPH/HPSS project in development the CHF e-payment system.

It is integrated in the Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG) system that is administered by the Treasury in accordance with the Public Finance Act (PFA) of 2001 as amended in 2017 (Cap. 348), and Treasury circular No. 3 of 2017, where the Act requires departmental accounting officers to collect public funds through GePG.

The government has adopted the use of GePG system in the collection and management of public funds. To ensure revenues from improved CHF are properly managed in accordance with government financial management principles.

To achieve this, PO-RALG in collaboration with Swiss TPH/HPSS Project decided to develop CHF e-payment system that will facilitate the collection of CHF payments through various mobile phone and bank services. An online entry says the Swiss government's health promotion and system strengthening (HPSS) project is a people-centered project that follows a comprehensive systems approach.

It is administered by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC) and implemented by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute working with PO-RALG, facilitating training for improved CHF regional coordinating teams on the use of the CHF e-payment

system.

The capacity building workshop ahead of the national rollout in the next few weeks comes after a successful pilot exercise was conducted in Shinyanga region, the director noted.

The Swiss TPH/HPSS Project supports innovative government health programs through the Health ministry and PO-RALG since 2011, providing technical support in various health initiatives, including improved CHF.

Elizeus Rwezaura, an official of the Swiss TPH/HPSS project lauded the participants for commitment to further improve CHF by an e-payment system, promising the agency's help in case of need for technical support during the rollout exercise.

The Community Health Fund was introduced in 2001; where each district sets up a CHF unit for pre-payment arrangement where residents in the district are encouraged to join by contribution specified amounts and be assured of cost coverage for health care needs on the basis of a benefit package set out by CHF.

The government embarked on reforming the CHF format in its administration, enrolment of members and the benefit package, targeting quality healthcare through a viable health insurance system. Involving the informal sector in order to achieve the goal of universal health coverage is among its key objectives, the director noted.

"A reformed and improved model of the CHF, operated by the government, as a non-profit scheme aimed at protecting citizens against high healthcare costs is presently being implemented in the whole of Mainland Tanzania," he added.



Dodoma residents make a Last minute Christmas shopping at Way Street in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

IGP stresses customer care, bribe avoidance

FROM PAGE 1

people make mistakes due to lack of education, "so we should strive to provide education that will help them to detest crime" and assist the police when such incidents happen.

He similarly stressed that members of the public should be heard and have their rights respected in accordance with laws and regulations of police conduct, urging police commanders to especially bring to a halt using excessive force when police officers carry out their duties.

"There is another challenge that

has arisen, when investigators put on trial innocent people. This leads to criminals being released, a situation that contributes to cruelty, hatred and even murder," he declared, urging Police Training School (PTS) authorities to put in place effective training programs for police to increase efficiency in operations.

PTS Principal Ramadhan Mungi said the school received 1,712 recruits, whereby 1,697 passed and 15 were dismissed for misconduct and illness.

In the course of this year PTS had three phases of training at corporal level, with 8,171 corporals

now increasing workforce muscle in police stations, he stated.

Daniel Amani, the Catholic Church supervisor at the school, urged the officers to go and work hard, adhere to morals and adhere to religious instructions.

"Discipline in your responsibilities will help you perform more efficiently. I urge you to go and hate corruption, stop using excessive force and do justice," the chaplain underlined.

A fortnight ago, when officiating at a Kurasini Police Academy graduation event in Dar es Salaam, President Samia said there was rampant corruption among police

officers, such that some officers even extort bribes from visiting tourists.

Directing the IGP to take immediate action to restore public confidence in the police, the president said some words used by police officers amount to racial discrimination. "You should learn to be friendly to people and use wisdom in making any decisions," she emphasised.

Police actions push civilians to take the law into their own hands, so the IGP needs to take bold action to restore discipline in the police force and enable the force to win the public trust.



Daniel Pareso a farmer from Karatu district in Arusha region shows journalists his farm he had prepared to plant wheat for the 2022 season on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

Government directs all the councils across country to strengthen revenue collections

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

DEPUTY Minister, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Festo Dugange has directed all councils in the country to strengthen revenue collections and set aside 40 per cent of the income to support projects initiated by citizens.

He wants councils' executives and staff to work hard to achieve the revenue collection targets so as to help complete buildings of schools, dispensaries and health centres.

Dugange made the directives yesterday during his tour in Shinyanga region to inspect the construction of health centres and classrooms.

He said citizens have been motivated to build various buildings including dispensaries and health centres, but the government has been slow to support completion of the buildings, so all councils in the country should ensure that they allocate 40 per cent of revenues to complete the construction.

"We thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for issuing the funds for the

construction of health centres and classrooms across the country," he said.

He however, expressed satisfaction with the pace of construction of health centres and classrooms, in the two councils he visited to inspect the projects including Kishapu and Shinyanga, and ordered them to complete them on time so as to commence operation next year.

The deputy minister also instructed all councils in the country to continue to allocate 10 per cent of income to provide loans to women, youth and people with disabilities.

Executive directors (DEDS) of the two councils, Emmanuel Johnson of Kishapu and Jomaary Satura of Shinyanga Municipality, pledged to implement all the directives issued by the deputy minister.

The leaders commended citizens in the districts for their commitment to contributing to development activities including construction of buildings as well as participating in digging foundations for the construction of health centres and classrooms.

11.9 million/- disbursed to seven groups in Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A total of 11.9m/- in loans had been issued by Dodoma regional government for special groups—women, youth and people with disabilities (PwDs) in seven district councils to help them to expand their businesses and improve investments.

Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Dr Fatma Mganga said when speaking at the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC)'s meeting to evaluate the implementation of the economic empowerment policy.

The forum also brought on board women entrepreneurs, people with disabilities and various development stakeholders.

He said the funds were disbursed to the

groups in Bahi, Chamwino, Chemba, Dodoma city, Kondo, Kondo town, Kongwa and Mpwapwa councils.

She said 7,004,724,612/- was directed to women groups, 4,264,231,059/- went to youth groups and 652,795,298/- for PwDs groups.

Dr Mganga said a total of 12,427 women and 2,249 men have benefited from the funding.

She said women have shown great success in repaying loans at 43 per cent, followed by people with disabilities at 35 per cent and young people at 28 per cent.

In addition, she said the assessment showed that the funds provided to the groups were directed to various projects including small scale poultry factories, sunflower oil processing, flour milling and food restaurants.

"These funds provided to women, PwDs and youth groups have also facilitated access to credit for groups that were previously not able to access funds in financial institutions," she said.

Aziza Mumba, assistant RAS on economic sectors, said that despite the achievements of the loans, there is a challenge of lack of human resources in managing the issuance and repayment of loans.

She said there has been a challenge of shortage of financial resources and staff to accommodate a large number of loan applications.

To address these challenges, there is a need for each council to invent new sources of income so as to increase the amount of lending to entrepreneurial groups applying for credit.

Mumba, however, suggested the increase of training for entrepreneurs on value addition and linking them with market chains.

Tunnu Pinda, wife of former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda called on the entrepreneurs to seek loans in institutions that provide low interest loans that will benefit them economically.

She said that the gender equality propped up by the government has greatly helped women to recognize their value and capacity to overcome vulnerability.

"Most women now live in decent housing, educate their children, focus on food security and all this comes from investment profits, in general we are good. Currently, 50 per cent of women own bank accounts," she said.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



MR ALPHONSE JUSTINE NJUU has passed away on 21/12/2021 at Mikocheni Dar Es Salaam Kairuki street. He will be buried on Monday 27/12/2021 at kinondoni grave yard at 04:00 pm. The Lord has given and the Lord has taken, the Lord's name to be praised. AVYUBU 1:21 AMEN.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA
TANZANIACOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS /TRUSTEES/ NATIONALITY	SHARES %
Rufiji Media Holdings Limited (Rufiji FM)	Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio)	1. Mohamed Omary Mchengerwa (Tanzanian)	60
		2. Maalim Omari Mchengerwa (Tanzanian)	5
		3. Unallotted shares	35

Pursuant to Section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of The Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P. O Bo 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz



UNITRANS TANZANIA LIMITED

Unitrans Tanzania Limited has the following exciting opportunity at Kilombero and Kilosa Districts, Morogoro Region where is subcontracted for various agricultural operations to the sugar industry.

We are currently looking for a suitably qualified, and experienced individuals to fill in the following posts.

The below vacancies call for dynamic and qualified proactive individuals with strong background on their professionals.

1. DRONE PILOT (4 POSTS)

Job purpose

Fly drones and process data for our clients

Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Operate the drones and comply with safety daily checks, documentation and flight regulations (detailed duties and responsibilities are available at site).
- B. Process and upload data
- C. Housekeeping that involve accessories stores, ground crew, tools, and equipment

Required qualifications

- Dedicated and efficient
- Must be a Tanzanian
- Must be a remote licensed pilots
- At least 2 years' experience flying a drone for aerial mapping and surveying
- Achieved English Language Proficiency

- Must be able to pick up about 20kg
- Must have a valid travelling passport
- Must be / have completed secondary school education (form IV and above, pass on geography subject will be added advantage)
- Ability to work independently and under pressure (problem solving skills)

2. ASSISTANT FINANCIAL MANAGER (1 POST).

Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Assisting in financial reporting
- B. Management accounts and management reporting
- C. Budgets
- D. Statutory compliance
- E. Monthly financial activities

Required qualifications

- Holder of bachelor degree in accounts and finance or equivalent
- CPA (T)
- Working experience as accountant/ auditor of at least 3years
- Ability to work independently and under pressure (problem solving skills)

Interested candidates may apply and email their CV's to iness.nangali@unitrans.africa not later than 02nd of January 2022.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Dr Irene Isaka (left), the Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority (PPRA) chief executive officer awards a certificate of attendance to Jackline Nyangalima for attending a training session for women entrepreneurs on the Public Procurement Act (Cap. 410) and its regulations in Iringa yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya



Kinondoni district commissioner, Godwin Gondwe (R) hands over foodstuffs donated by Airtel to Latifa Mahmud, an assistant supervisor for Ijango orphanage centre at Sinza in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Airtel communications director Beatrice Singano. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Caroline Mthapula, the district administrative secretary in Simanjiro district of Manyara region, addresses members of the road board in a recent meeting. Looking on is the regional commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere (C). Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



Mtwara district commissioner (C) Dustan Kyobya participates in preparations for the construction of Mtonya secondary school at Mikindani in the district lately. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri



Saniniu Laizer primary school head teacher Swedefrida Msoma speaks at an education stakeholders' meeting at Naisinyai ward in Simanjiro district, Manyara region, recently. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



Muheza district traffic police commander in Tanga region, Richard Muwe speaks to passengers to use seat belts for their safety, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Sigino ward women in Babati district in Manyara region in a group photo after attending a reproductive health seminar recently. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson



Zanzibar Attorney General Dr Mwinyi Haji Talib listens during a session of the House of Representatives at Chukwani on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Women encouraged to make use of technological advancements

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

WOMEN in the country have been encouraged to make use of technological advancements and join online purchasing systems to participate in public tendering opportunities.

The government through PPRA has developed an online public procurement system, "Tanzania National e-Procurement System - TANePS, which become operational in January, 2020. All public institutions are already connected to the system.

TANePS is also integrated to government electronic systems, including the Government Payment System (GePG) and the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) system.

Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), Beng'i Issa said this on Thursday during the opening of training on Public Procurement Act and how to use TANePS organized by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) for women in Iringa and neighbouring regions.

The training was attended by 150 participants, who are women entrepreneurs engaging in various economic activities.

Issa said that women have been given priority of being a special group in the Public Procurement Act, hence the need to make sure they know how to register and use the system to grab opportunities.

"Make the most of technology to grab opportunities through TANePS. This training will help you to understand the Public Procurement Act; you should encourage other women to use the technology to access public tenders and become

economically viable," said Issa.

The NEEC Executive Secretary urged women to form groups and register them to qualify for tenders as stipulated in the Public Procurement Act.

She said the law requires government institutions to set aside 30 percent of its procurement budget for specific groups which are women, elderly, youth and people with disabilities.

PPRA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Irene Isaka said only 40 groups met the registration criteria and were listed by PPRA. She said that 54 percent of the country's entrepreneurs are women.

She added that PPRA will continue to empower women to support the government efforts to empower women economically.

Chairperson of the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) in Iringa Region, Flora Sumaye thanked PPRA for the training which enables them to access public tender opportunities.

The training was funded by the government through PPRA, under the auspices of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and has so far been conducted in five regions, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam and Iringa.



...you should encourage other women to use the technology to access public tenders and become economically viable



One of participants makes clarification during a public procurement law training which was organised by PPRA in collaboration with National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) and attended by 150 participants yesterday. Most of the women entrepreneurs are engaged in economic activities, in areas that are service delivery, product distribution and in the area of construction. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Muheza

DANISH based-Seniors Without Borders (SWB), has donated an assortment of items to Swafaa Islamic primary school in Muheza District, Tanga Region to support smooth teaching and learning.

The donated items included ten computers, text books, desks, tables, chairs and school children playing kits.

Speaking to this paper, Swafaa Islamic school's manager Yasin Yusufu commended the organisation saying that the donation will increase studying morale among the students as well boost performance in examinations.

Danish organisation donates to Islamic primary school in Muheza

"We understand the school performance is contributed by various factors but mostly are teachers, students themselves, teaching facilities as well as teaching environments. Therefore we have decided to take this initiative to support the school with facilities so that they can have better performance in their studies."

He said the donation came after the school's management wrote to asking for help and the organization saw it better to extend the support.

Chairman of Seniors Without Borders, McDonald Powell said

the organisation has donated many items to different countries across the continents including humanitarian aids and school items.

"For Tanzania, this is our first time to donate these items, we promise to continue supporting the school whenever they ask us to do so because of our long established friendship," he said.

A Tanzanian who is living in Denmark who made friendship connection between the school and SWB, Fadhila Challanghe said she asked the NGO to support the school due to its academic progress

in which every year during standard seven National Examination results became top three scorer out of 120 registered primary schools in Muheza and remains among top ten schools in Tanga region.

"Academic progress background is the factor that inspired me to convince the SWB to bring this donation," she said.

She said the donation will enable pupils at the school to study in a conducive environment and comfortable environment which will also help improve academic performance.



Mineral minister Dr Doto Biteko speaks with small miners at Ntambale - Wisolele village in Shinyanga region. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Zanzibar appoints master concessionaire for the newly-built terminal 3 at AAKIA

MARITIME and Mercantile International and Emirates Leisure Retail have been appointed master concessionaire for the newly-built terminal 3 at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA).

Emirates Leisure Retail (ELR) and Maritime and Mercantile International (MMI) will be responsible for all food and beverage, duty-free and commercial outlets in Abeid Amani Karume International Airport from 2022.

They will deliver a mix of Zanzibar-inspired food and beverage outlets, alongside a multi-category duty-free shopping experience designed to showcase some of the world's best brands.

Andrew Day, group CEO of Emirates Leisure Retail and MMI, said: "We're very excited to be taking the next step with Abeid Amani Karume International Airport and look forward to working with other partners in delivering a truly innovative and seamless food and beverage and retail consumer experience that transforms the way travellers spend time at an airport."

UK-based Eight Inc. will work with MMI and ELR to develop a new blueprint concept, which, according to the companies, is set to create a unique airport customer

experience.

Eight Inc. will explore and create the passenger journey, across all duty-free, food and beverage and commercial spaces, incorporating a full suite of integrated digital solutions.

The agency will redefine travel retail and create a sense of place for travellers, bringing together local Zanzibar character and design with the latest technologies, including a seamless payment solution that will enable travellers to pay for their food and beverage and retail purchases in one simple transaction.

According to its stakeholders, the new project will become the world's first integrated F&B and retail experience in travel retail, providing travellers with a unique, integrated airport experience.

Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume International Airport has been identified as a key investment and redevelopment pillar to support Zanzibar's growing travel and tourism economy.

The newly-built terminal 3 is expected to serve over 1.5 million passengers and servicing over 4,000 flights annually at the airport.

Six East African youth projects raise awareness about African world heritage

PARIS, France

THE six winning projects for the first Africa World Heritage Day (AWHD) youth competition for Eastern Africa have been successfully completed this December.

Organised in collaboration with UNESCO National Commissions in the beneficiary countries—Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, the youth-led projects took different approaches to raise awareness of the importance of world heritage among youth in the Eastern Africa region.

In Tanzania, Brenda Kisaka's project developed radio programmes, held roundtable discussions and a series of webinars to promote World Heritage in Eastern Africa.

Through the engagements, the programme reached not only Tanzanian youth, but also youth from the EAC youth ambassadors, youth organizations in eastern Africa and SADC youth parliamentarians.

The youth in the different platforms united in the call for the promotion and protection of world heritage sites in Africa.

Peter Mbando, EAC Youth Ambassador from Tanzania said: "For the youth to conserve and promote their heritage sites, creative and dynamic campaigns should be done in the local language. In Tanzania, the use of Kiswahili language to promote heritage sites in both online and offline campaigns will not only promote heritage sites, but will also promote the Swahili language, which is our heritage as Tanzanians."

In Eritrea, Michael Berhe and his team collected data, designed a prototype, coded and tested the mobile App that aimed to increase awareness of Eritrea's first world heritage site, Asmara; a modernist

African city.

To raise awareness of their project, the team granted several media interviews including with Voice of America, the Eritrean National Newspaper, and raised awareness through various popular social media outlets.

Sewnet Tesfaye Lema from Ethiopia visited several schools and universities to establish world heritage clubs and set up training and capacity-building workshops with youth and journalists on the protection and promotion of world heritage sites in Ethiopia.

Through popular FM and community radio stations, he also conducted awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of safeguarding and protecting world heritage sites, which is especially important during the on-going conflict in the north of the country.

Maureen Kombo from Kenya focused on mobilizing youth in integrating community-based solid waste management strategies in preserving Lamu's heritage.

To this end, she interviewed the site manager for Lamu Old Town, community leaders, County government officials and youth on strategic ways to protect and conserve the Lamu heritage, and how to tackle the challenges of solid waste management in the county.

Through discussions with key youth groups based in Lamu, Kombo and her team inspired action from the groups, who actively participated in beach clean-ups, garbage collection and formulation of strategies for long-term waste management.

Through the Buganda Youth Council and Nkobazambogo, in partnership with the Buganda Kingdom, Uganda's Dr Kabanda Umar held a series of activities that aimed to empower the youth through culture and heritage.

SADC hailed for developing policies and strategies for protecting refugees

By Guardian Reporter

MALAWI President and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Dr Lazarus Chakwera has said that migration, when well-managed, is an enabler of development.

President Chakwera was delivering a keynote address on the occasion of the commissioning of the first Southern Africa Migration Report and the 70th anniversary celebrations of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on December 17th, 2021.

He commended SADC member states for their commitment in passing laws which protect and promote the rights and interests of refugees and migrants.

He said such laws are important in the development of strategies and policies which facilitate regular pathways for them in search of better life.

President Chakwera highlighted that "Africa Migration Report: Challenging the Narrative" that was launched in 2020 successfully challenged the myth that suggests that Africans mainly migrate to Europe.

He said what the report showed instead, which corresponds well with experience as Africans, is that Africans migrate more within the African Continent, particularly within their own region and to neighbouring countries.

The empirical data has significant implications on the strategies employed by the Region to address migration issues.

SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Mpedi Magosi applauded IOM for having worked closely with governments and other actors to support Member States to respond to both Cyclone Idai and Cyclone Kenneth in 2019, the two devastating cyclones which resulted in combined displacements of at least 650,000 persons in Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

He thanked IOM for providing

shelter and other essential commodities as well as providing support services including displacement tracking and advisory support.

The Executive Secretary said as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, SADC Region counts on IOM's support in ensuring that the global community adopts prudent, appropriate and non-discriminatory responses that foster great international cooperation in the response.

He noted that no country or region can successfully shield itself from the pandemic without coordinated global efforts, especially concerning the movement of persons.

The IOM or as it was first known, the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), was established in 1951 out of the chaos and displacement of Western Europe as a result of the Second World War of 1939-45.

From its formative years as an operational logistics agency, it has expanded its scope to become the leading international agency working with governments and civil society to advance the understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Migration was acknowledged as an enabler of development in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, particularly SDG Target 10.7, which aims to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

He noted that no country or region can successfully shield itself from the pandemic without coordinated global efforts, especially concerning the movement of persons



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (R) listens to head of Kwala Quarantine centre Dr. Othman Makusa (L) during his visit to inspect the land set aside to construct new quarantine centre in Coast region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

UN Secretary General appoints U.S judge to serve as Mechanism Judge for the IRMCT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has appointed Judge Margaret Anne McAuliffe deGuzman of the United States of America to the roster of judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism), effective from December 22.

Judge deGuzman brings to the Mechanism academic and professional experience spanning more than two decades.

Since 2009, she has worked at Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, where she currently serves as the James E. Beasley Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for International Law and Public Policy.

In addition, she has since 2016 consulted on projects related to international criminal law, human rights and transitional justice at the Public International Law & Policy Group in Washington, D.C., where she is a Senior Legal Advisor.

Previously, Judge deGuzman held various legal positions at both the national and international levels.

Judge deGuzman has published extensively in the field of international criminal law and is an active member of many professional boards and organizations.

She is currently the Co-chair of the Women in International Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law and has been an editorial board member of the African Journal of International Criminal Justice

since 2014 and of the Forum for International Criminal and Humanitarian Law since 2011.

Judge deGuzman was appointed to the Mechanism's roster of Judges following the resignation of Judge Theodor Meron on 17 November 2021 and will serve the remainder of Judge Meron's term of office, which expires on 30 June 2022.

In accordance with its Statute, the Mechanism has a roster of 25 independent Judges who serve both the Arusha and The Hague branches of the Mechanism.



Morogoro Urban MP Abdulaziz Abood (C) accompanied by Mbuyuni ward Councillor Samwel Msuya (R) inspect the construction of 8 classrooms at Magadu - Mbuyuni secondary school in Morogoro municipality through the Covid -19 stimulus package yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

By Special Correspondent

ITC Secure and Cassava Technologies announce security partnership

ITC Secure (ITC), a leading advisory-led cyber security services company and a Microsoft Gold cyber security partner, and Cassava Technologies entered into a joint venture (JV) to build and launch an extensive portfolio of cyber security services, powered by Microsoft Azure cloud technologies in Africa.

Hardy Pemhiwa, the CEO of Cassava Technologies said: "Digital transformation in Africa is accelerating the adoption of cloud services which is creating an urgent need to better protect users and business-critical data. Cassava Technologies footprint covering more than 15 countries in Africa,

we are well-positioned to meet the growing needs of businesses and individuals and expand access to cyber security and other digital services. We look forward to bringing ITC's world-class cyber expertise, coupled with Microsoft's industry-leading technology, to build Africa's digital future."

Andre Pienaar, the Chairman of ITC Secure, said: "The strategic partnership between ITC Secure and Cassava Technologies, as a pan-African technology leader, will

bring Microsoft's cutting-edge cloud security solutions to the African market to drive the growth of the technology sector and innovation across Africa."

Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of ITC Secure USA said: "The combination of ITC Secure and Cassava Technologies will help guide us to the future while addressing the growing needs of individuals and organisations in the African market for a secure digital world, built on the best solutions and delivered by

the best experts."

ITC's 24/7 Operations Centre, based in London, is at the forefront of delivering managed security services. As part of the JV, ITC and Cassava Technologies will build a state-of-the-art SOC in Africa. The centre will leverage Cassava Technologies' in-depth knowledge of the African continent and ITC's extensive experience in cyber security, to enable the rapid delivery of cyber services and operations on the continent.

FAO welcomes \$10m US contribution to its Covid-19 response efforts

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has welcomed a \$10 million contribution from the United States of America to its COVID-19 response efforts to help counter other challenges that threaten human, animal and environmental health, including future pandemics.

The US State Department said in a letter to FAO that the funding is intended to support the agency's COVID-19 response and recovery programme, part of its broader one health programme.

"We thank the US government for its generous support to FAO's COVID-19 response and recovery program and one health tripartite risk assessments at national levels," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said.

Dongyu added: "A science-based One Health approach across agri-food systems is critical for early warning and prevention of zoonotic diseases."

The funding aims to help strengthen national and international one health systems through enhanced Multisectoral early warning, risk assessment, risk reduction and the progressive management of emerging and endemic zoonotic and high impact animal and plant pests and diseases, including those with epidemic and pandemic potential.

The contribution from the United States will benefit countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Near East.

Launched in mid-2020, FAO's COVID-19 response and recovery programme aims to proactively

and sustainably address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

In line with the UN approach to 'build back better' and in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, it aims to mitigate the immediate impacts of the pandemic while strengthening the long-term resilience of sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems.

A key priority area focuses on preventing future pandemics, given that an estimated 60 percent of all infectious diseases are caused by zoonotic pathogens, with the majority originating in wildlife.

FAO's one health programme helps safeguard human, animal, plant and environmental health right through the food value chain, from production to consumption and waste management.

With its expertise in implementing the one health approach, FAO supports countries in strengthening integrated surveillance, early warning and information systems; developing better biosecurity for pest and disease management; reducing risks through multisectoral partnership for preparedness, anticipatory action and response; enhancing capacities in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) control and more broadly, shoring up one health systems at national, regional and global level.

FAO collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite and expands its collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to mainstream and support one health implementation globally.

Experts urge African nations to invest in climate-resilient roads

ABIDJAN

AFRICA'S current roads infrastructure meets only 17 percent of the continent's transport needs.

However, according to Olufunso Somorin, the African Development Bank's East Africa Regional Principal Officer for Climate Change and Green Growth, the low figure has some upside.

He says that the gap presents an opportunity for African countries to build climate-resilient roads as the impacts of climate change become more and more pronounced.

Dr Somorin was among several experts representing government, development finance institutions, the private sector, and academia who took part in a virtual meeting held 6-8 December 2021 to discuss ways to make African roads infrastructure more resilient to climate change impacts.

The Uganda National Roads Authority and the World Road Association hosted the webinar, themed, 'Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience of Road Networks' (in low and middle-income countries).

"Africa is at a 'positive disadvantage' as only 17% of the road infrastructures required on the continent have been built. For the remaining 83 percent roads that are yet to be built, an opportunity lies for ensuring that they are resilient to both current and projected climate impact," Somorin said.

Discussions at the three-day event centered on challenges, opportunities and innovations for building infrastructure to withstand rising extreme weather events on the continent.

In his opening remarks, Claude Van Rooten, the President of the World Road Association, said many countries are fortunately building back better after the Covid-19 pandemic, with emphasis on inclusive and resilient growth.

"Roads are enablers to meeting

this objective and therefore, they should be built in ways that are both resilient and contribute to reduced carbon emissions through decongestion of vehicles," he said.

Dr Mark Rubarenzya, the Head of Research and Development at the Uganda National Roads Authority, posited that resilience must be factored in at the planning stage.

"Action needs to begin right at planning to ensure that adaptation and resilience measures are properly integrated into road design and budgeted for," he added.

Vivian Depoues of the Institute for Climate Economics added: "Countries and organizations ought to include surprises such as extreme and unforeseen weather events, which could cause immense damage. Appropriate planning tools should be developed to facilitate such planning."

Participants broadly agreed that the building of resilient roads required the participation of different stakeholders, including government ministries, development partners, civil society, private sector and communities.

Phil Paige-Green, an Independent Expert from South Africa, called for the engagement of communities from the planning stage of projects. "They must be informed about climate risks to roads infrastructure and how they can contribute to the critical resilience interventions required," he noted.

The African Development Bank is a key investor in road infrastructure development across the continent as part of its 'Integrate Africa' pillar objective.

Over the last 10 years, the Bank has invested more than \$9 billion in roads, financing more than 16,000 km of road and facilitating the movement of more than 100 million people. Climate mitigation and adaptation interventions are firmly integrated into the project designs.



Deputy minister in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Dr. Festo Dugange (R) inspects Negezi health centre project in Kishapu district, Shinyanga region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Famous digital platforms will now operate as sister companies

By Guardian Reporter

FAMOUS digital platforms, Kumatana.com and Zoomtanzania.com will now operate as sister companies after a Tanzanian firm Afrieuro Digital Ventures successfully obtained exclusive rights to market and operate the two classified sites which are both broadly used in Tanzania.

The two platforms have been long time competitors, but will now join forces to offer similar and secured digital experience for buyers and sellers online.

Afrieuro Digital Ventures General Manager Makusaro Tesha said "This is an amazing opportunity for us, but particularly for the Tanzanian internet users since we will be able to further develop the

already strong online marketplace presence and provide even more sales opportunities and a better user experience across all categories."

Because of its high brand awareness rate in Tanzania and mobile adoption of users,

Kumatana.com will be kept as the brand name in the future but for now both websites will be kept as they are.

In the beginning of next year the plan is to launch a new website that will merge both brands.

"From a technical standpoint, the new platform will be a new version that will combine the best of the two platforms, but also bring new and exciting features so that we can provide a safe, fast and user-friendly experience to buy and sell online", said Tesha.



Some of the customers trying their luck by spinning the wheel of fortune to win different prizes from Coca-Cola during the annual Christmas Carols 2021 event as part of the ongoing Real Magic campaign across the country. The event was organised by Clouds Media Group in partnership with Coca-Cola Tanzania as the main sponsor whereby several gospel superstar musicians were invited to perform at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nigeria destroys more than 1 million expired COVID vaccines

ABUJA

NIGERIA has destroyed more than a million doses of expired AstraZeneca vaccines in a bid to assure a wary public that they have been taken out of circulation.

The destruction came recently, more than a week after health authorities said some COVID-19 doses donated by rich Western nations had a shelf life that left only weeks to administer the jabs.

About one million COVID-19 vaccines were estimated to have expired in Nigeria in November without being used.

At a dumpsite in Abuja, a bulldozer crushed AstraZeneca shots that were packed in cardboard boxes and plastic as reporters and health officials watched.

Faisal Shuaib, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency executive director told reporters that a shortage of vaccine supplies on the continent had forced Nigeria to take the doses, knowing full well they had a short shelf life.

"We have successfully withdrawn 1,066,214 doses of expired AstraZeneca vaccines. We have kept our promise to be transparent to Nigerians. The destruction today is an opportunity for Nigerians to have faith in our vaccination programme," Shuaib said.

Governments on the continent of more than one billion people have been pushing for more vaccine deliveries as inoculation rates lag richer regions.

The lower vaccination levels raise the risk of higher infection and death rates from COVID-19, especially as new, fast-spreading variants emerge such as Omicron.

Health Minister Osagie Ehanire has said Nigeria will no longer accept vaccines with a short shelf life, citing a presidential committee decision.

Africa records surge in COVID-19 cases as Omicron spreads.

The World Health Organisation said 12,971,729 vaccine doses have been administered in Nigeria as of December 19.

Africa's most populous country, with a population exceeding 200 million, has recorded 227,378 COVID-19 cases and 2,989 deaths since the pandemic started.

Health experts have said Nigeria needs to triple its vaccination drive from about 100,000 doses a day to meet its target to inoculate more than half its population by the end of next year.

Recently, like many other African countries, Nigeria has seen a surge in vaccine supply, which has highlighted other issues relating to distribution and hesitation by citizens to get inoculated.

“We have kept our promise to be transparent to Nigerians. The destruction today is an opportunity for Nigerians to have faith in our vaccination programme”

By Special Correspondent

WILDLIFE authorities have started capturing 20 roan antelopes to be translocated to Kenya.

Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Allan Kijazi said: "The capturing of the animals will take about five days before it is completed."

Kijazi said all the 20 roan antelopes will be captured from Rungwa game reserve, a protected area in central Tanzania that covers

Tanzania begins capturing 20 roan antelopes for translocation to Kenya

an area of 9,000 square kilometers.

The translocation of the 20 roan antelopes follows an agreement on Dec. 10 between Tanzania and Kenya to exchange roan antelopes and female black rhinos in a move aimed at boosting the reproduction of the two species.

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan offered Kenya the 20 roan antelopes at a request by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Tanzania has currently about 4,000 roan antelopes while Kenya has only 12 of the species, according to President Samia.

President Samia said President Kenyatta had accepted Tanzania's request for black female rhinos that will be sent to northern Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where there are two black male rhinos, to boost reproduction.

Weird Christmas traditions from around the globe

FROM PAGE 1

festive marketing campaign to lure the Japanese to KFC with the not so imaginative slogan 'Kentucky for Christmas', a new Japanese Christmas tradition was born. Till this day, millions of Japanese families put a large bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken on the table during the Christmas holidays.

Do your kids think Santa is kind of intimidating? Good thing they don't know about Icelandic folklore.

Decorating is part of many Christmas traditions around the world. But some people take decorating to another level. Especially when it comes to Christmas lights to decorate the outside of your house. It can get pretty crazy. This extreme decorating is seen in more than one country, but the Americans absolutely take the cake. Americans absolutely love Christmas and it shows in the hysterical ways they decorate. Their lights are so bright and so abundant that they can actually be seen from space! It's not just the lights though, its all kinds of figures; from the reindeer to complete depictions of the north pole. And just some lights isn't enough. To really shine you have to make sure the Christmas lights react to music. It may not be a very environmentally friendly way to celebrate, but it sure is impressive and overwhelming.

Another unusual tradition to celebrate Christmas we find in the

town of Oaxaca, Mexico. Christmas eve in this town is celebrated as Noche de los Rabanos, which means Night of the Radish. During this night hundreds of people try to make the most impressive and beautiful cut out of a giant radish. This weird way to celebrate probably originates from smart local farmers who wanted to make sure their radishes sold.

In Germany, if you want to earn an extra gift, you have to make sure you are the one who finds the hidden pickle in the Christmas tree. It's said that Santa hides the pickle in the tree. These days the pickle isn't always a real pickle, but it can also be an ornament in the shape of a pickle. Some Americans have taken over this German tradition. Although it's not exactly clear if the Christmas pickle originates from Germany. Just as with the radish, this tradition may actually be a marketing stunt.

Going to mass on Christmas morning is a common tradition in many countries. The inhabitants of Venezuela's capitol Caracas, make it unique by the way they get to mass. Many streets in the city are closed to traffic on this particular morning, because most churchgoers get there on their roller skates. Legend goes that kids in Caracas go to sleep with a lace tied around their big toe and the other end out of the window so that when people come skating by they don't forget to gently wake the sleeping kids by tugging on the shoelace.



DRC prospective admission radically alters EA Common Market substance

WITH the Democratic Republic of Congo now likely to be admitted to the East African Community (EAC) early 2023, there is considerable redrawing of the EAC investment map that is in the making. Part of the equation relates to the success or otherwise of current efforts to pacify eastern parts of the Congo, a zone that is guerilla infested at least since 1965, with causes varying from Pan-Africanist revolution of the past century to more pragmatic, not to say criminal, curtailing of law and order to wantonly reap minerals.

For once, this prospective admission of DRC gives impetus and added legitimacy to the ongoing operation to clear eastern DRC of guerilla gangs spreading mayhem and havoc in villages along a swath of territory. In the past month they had the audacity of bombing the centre of Kampala, compelling the Ugandan authorities to make some firm decisions. That was also timely as the EAC summit was due in a few weeks, and DRC would have had a tougher case to convince the leaders their country was likely to be a good addition to the EAC, not importing plenty of troubles. So it's a more legitimate regional operation.

Observers shall recall that admissions of Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan did not essentially change EAC balance of forces, but softened the contentions by forging of new alliances. Kenya was in a good synchrony with Rwanda over a number of issues while Tanzania was in greater convergence with

Burundi, while South Sudan has remained an extension of Uganda's ethnic mix and trade flows, with Kenya more tuned to strategic investments in that country. Admitting DRC will be a different issue, in particular as some progress is being made to bring to reality the long stalled common market structures.

In that regard a number of items will come to the table in a manner that wasn't the case earlier, as DRC is one among countries that have dual citizenships, as well as Kenya - without sorting out the status of the issue in the other countries. During EAC integration debates in past years, for instance in 2007 when fourth phase president Jakaya Kikwete was in support of speeding up prospects of federation towards 2012 - just five years from that time - a chorus of 'no' greeted his efforts. Many in the legislature and among radical activists were insistent that Tanzania would lose its land to foreigners buying plots, etc.

It must be admitted that at that time the country wasn't as sensitive about investments so as to create jobs; there is greater urgency on that question at present. Which implies that unless MPs accept to alter the citizenship rules investors will reside in Kenya and in particular DRC as they have plenty of land to spare, and sell goods across the vast borders, not invest here if they have no guaranteed residential status. It hence requires that land occupancy becomes individualised as in towns, to ease purchasing of land by investors.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts	Newsdesk	Advertising
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO	News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz	Mobile: 0782253676 E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: www.ippmedia.com epaper.ippmedia.com



By Madi Jobarteh

GIVEN the storm that has arisen in the wake of the December 4 presidential polls, many people have reached out to me asking how elections are conducted in the Gambia and if it could be manipulated or cheated. Of course, over the past few days, I have also heard so many outrageous stories being peddled that the election was stolen. Thus, as someone who has been involved in elections management in the Gambia over the past 15 years, this is what I tell those people.

First of all, the materials used for elections in the Gambia are the metallic ballot drums with a nozzle and a bicycle bell fitted inside the drum just below the nozzle, and translucent crystal balls or marbles. Probably this is the most primitive, direct and simplest election materials in the history of the modern world. Yet, by its crudeness it is also the safest, most secure and most difficult to manipulate or cheat.

In Gambian elections, the polling staffs includes staff from IEC and party agents. Every party or candidate in the election is required to provide an agent at every stage of the election. Together they all sit at the polling desk to receive voters. These agents are provided the voter roll so that together with the IEC staff, they also check if a voter's name is on the list or not before the voter is handed a marble by the presiding officer. Hence no one can vote without a party agent not knowing and seeing the name of that voter in the voter list for that polling station. If he does not see it, he can raise objection and record and report to his or her party.

First of all, before voting starts, all polling staffs (both IEC and party agents) swear to an oath of due execution of office and secrecy, publicly. Then the presiding officer opens the ballot drums one by one so that all polling staffs look into it to confirm that they drum is actually empty. Then the drums are sealed with some kind of tough material which cannot be untied except broken or cut. Each seal has a serial number which polling staffs (including party agents) are required to record. This is the basic opening procedure before voting starts.

Before the ballot drums are placed in the voting booth, they are tied together by metallic binding wire by their handles such that one cannot move one drum alone but will need to move the entire set of drums together. And I can tell you that these drums are damn heavy. These opening of polls procedure also include the presiding officer counting the marbles she has received which are recorded by all

Why elections cannot be cheated in the Gambia on election day?



Gambia elections: Adama Barrow declared presidential election winner

the party agents present, as well as by observers and the journalists if they want to.

Next, at the polling station, there are domestic and international observers in addition to media. There are also voters who are already in the queue watching everything from a distance. The security officers on elections duties are also present and witnesses to every step of the procedure. Therefore, the setup is such that the election materials are secure and safe at all times and viewed by all.

When voting starts, the presiding officer sits closest to, but outside from where the ballot drums are placed so that she can hear the bell ring when a marble is dropped inside. If the presiding officer did not hear a bell ring after a voter gets in and comes out, she can ask the voter whether he voted or not.

Furthermore, she can decide to go inside the booth to confirm but she has to be accompanied by the security officers and party agents. Sometimes some voters put a marble in their pocket and leave or just place it on top of the drum instead of dropping it inside. The presiding officer can intervene to either retrieve the marble or show the voter how to vote.

At the close of polls, the presiding officer asks the party agents and the security to go inside the voting booth to retrieve the drums which are still tied together. But first the nozzle through which marbles are dropped is sealed to prevent any more voting.

Then the left-over marbles are counted and recorded as in the beginning. Remember at every stage of these procedures from the beginning to the counting of the vote, various forms are signed by the IEC officers and party agents to ensure confirmation.

After this, the drums are then taken out and placed in the middle of the polling station in full view of everyone before they are opened one by one.

Once again, the polling staffs including party agents cross check the seals and their numbers to make sure that they are the same numbers they had recorded during the opening process. When everything is confirmed then the seals are broken with a plier or knife.

It is now that counting on the spot begins drum by drum on a counting tray which can carry either 100 or 200 marbles at a time when filled. The process continues this way until the end. It is also necessary to note that the polling station is not to be populated by everyone. Rather, there are accredited persons listed who can be present in the polling station, especially at these procedural stages to ensure non-interference. The security has the power to remove any unaccredited person. The observers and media can also report the presence of such persons.

At every stage of the counting process, the figure is recorded by all polling staffs and party agents on prescribed forms. The number of votes for each candidate are announced loudly for all to hear. When counting is done, then the Presiding Officer takes the result to the collation centre for verification by the Assistant Returning Officer. The results are escorted by security officers and party agents from the polling station. At the collation centre, there are also two party agents to observe the tabulation and upon satisfaction they sign the result form.

Next the Assistant Returning Officer sends the results in a sealed envelope to the IEC Regional Office who also verify. At the Regional

Office, there are also two party agents who also observe the verification and upon satisfaction they sign the result form. Next the results are transmitted to the IEC headquarters where there are again party agents to verify the results and then sign the results form. It is after all these processes of verification in the presence of party agents, that the IE Chairman would now announce the results to the nation.

Therefore, the results that go to the Assistant Returning Officer and then to the Regional Office and then to the IEC headquarters is the same result that party agents already have and know. By that time, they would have already informed their party structures about the results.

Remember, when in 2016 elections IEC announced the first results, by then Yaya Jammeh had already known that he had lost to Adama Barrow by 19 thousand votes which he himself said. Therefore, how can anyone cheat elections in this country? Even Yaya Jammeh could not cheat on election day and he never attempted because it is practically impossible.

The only way to cheat on election day in the Gambia will be to burn down the entire polling station, or destroy ballot drums, or prevent party agents, observers and the media from being present at the polling stations or bribe all of them not to record or make false claims. Who can do this?

Therefore, the claim that December 4 presidential elections are stolen is utterly false and outrageous.

Therefore, to those who are in doubt about the credibility of elections in the Gambia, rest assured that there is no cheating on election day in the Gambia, so far. Never. It is not possible. If it happens, no one will be in doubt.

Why agricultural biodiversity is key for sustainable food systems



A woman in a sorghum plantation. Several studies have drawn a clear line between food choices and mortality. Photo/Library

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

SEVERAL studies have drawn a clear line between food choices and mortality with results indicating that unhealthy eating habits increase the risk of death associated with chronic diseases, including heart complications, stroke and diabetes.

Many urban dwellers in Tanzania's major cities such as Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma have adopted a lifestyle of taking junk food and carbonated drinks because they are readily available without critically thinking of the health consequences.

While an occasional meal of fast food does little harm, eating junk food on a regular basis can lead to an increased risk of obesity and chronic illnesses like cardiovascular disease, type two diabetes and some cancers.

According to the 2021 Global Nu-

trition Report, Tanzania has shown limited progress towards achieving diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) targets but the country has shown no progress towards achieving the target for obesity, with an estimated 15.2 per cent of adult women aged 18 years and over and 5 per cent of adult men living with obesity.

Tanzania's obesity prevalence is however lower than the African regional average of 20.7 per cent for women and 9.2 per cent for men according to the report.

The report that provides a concise data-focused update on the state of diets and nutrition globally noted, that low income countries continue to have the lowest intakes of key health-promoting foods such as fruits and vegetables hence the highest levels of underweight, while higher-income countries have the highest intakes of foods with high health and environmental risks, including red meat, processed meat and dairy, hence the highest levels of overweight and obesity.

The report noted that poor diets and malnutrition can be addressed holistically

and sustainably to create a healthy future for all.

"Policy initiatives are urgently needed to transform food systems, increase intake of health-promoting foods, and reduce animal-based foods, to ensure diets are healthy and sustainable for people and the planet. Stakeholders and commitment-makers must give special attention to nutrition action that supports equitable, healthy and sustainable diets for all," the report says.

In Tanzania, some progress has been made towards achieving the target of reducing anaemia among women of reproductive age, with 38.9 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 years now affected.

"Tanzania has made some progress towards achieving the target for stunting, but 31.8 per cent of children under 5 years of age are still affected, which is higher than the average for the Africa region (30.7 per cent)," reads the document.

On the flipside, Tanzania has a national Food and Nutrition Policy that among other things provides guidelines and tech-

niques to combat food and nutrition problems and enable Tanzanians produce and use food that can adequately meet nutritional needs.

Agricultural biodiversity is a vital component in the pursuit of food production from sustainable systems. Not only does it boost yields but also increase nutritional diversity and helps to maintain and drive a host of essential ecosystems.

It contributes to sustainable food systems by providing a set of resources that help meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that can also provide food for generations to come, with minimal negative impact to the environment thus reducing the need to rely upon high levels of often expensive and frequently environmentally damaging external inputs.

According to Bioversity International, a global research for development organization, there is an urgent need to increase the profile of agricultural biodiversity as a multi-pronged solution to several pressing issues in global agriculture.

"Sustainable agriculture and agricultural biodiversity feature in both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (29), to differing extents, as a means to address environmental and social challenges," the organization says.

Over the last few decades, crop yields per unit area in many (although, critically, not all) agricultural regions and systems around the world have greatly increased, due to agricultural intensification such as inorganic fertilizer application, synthetic pesticide use, crop specialization.

"Crop yields are projected to decline with climate change. At the same time, variability of year-to-year yields is likely to increase. This can have dramatic impacts on income risk, stability of supplies and food security.

But according to the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) Coordinator Abdallah Mkindi, there is need to enact coherent and inclusive agriculture policies so as to address the mismatch between food and nutrition security needs in Tanzania.

Mkindi noted recently that this will help to mitigate health risks to people exposed to increased intake of conventionally produced foods that are prevalent in the market.

"There is need for establishing sustainable food policies to ensure safety and security of food production. These policies should put emphasis on the use of traditional species and farming practises to ensure that foods products are safe for human consumption," he said.

He noted that players in the agriculture sector should ensure that the entire food value chain is in line with the country's traditions and values.

"Many of the people engaged in agriculture are small scale peasants who rely on traditional seeds for the next farming season, government should make provisions for certifying traditional seed species to ensure food safety," he said.

Mkindi said sensitisation of farmers on the dangers of overreliance on farm inputs that include pesticides and fertilisers is equally important as they pose serious health risks not only to people but the environment as well.

"We need to focus on sustainable agriculture practices to ensure food security without compromising our environment," he added.

He called upon all players in the country's agriculture value chain to play their part in ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

"Achieving sustainable agriculture management practices is a long term goal so everyone needs to play their part," he said.

Policies and enabling environment

For conservation of agricultural biodiversity to happen successfully and contribute to sustainable food systems, conservation actions need to be supported by appropriate policies and mechanisms.

National programmes that involve different sectors of government are a prerequisite for effective conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity to support sustainable food systems.

A sustainable food system is ultimately dependent on the availability of and access to a wide diversity of animals and crops which represent the foundation of agriculture.

It is equally important for Tanzania to preserve traditional animal and crop species not only to save them from extinction in the future but also to ensure safety of food and nutrition security.

This can only be possible if the country comes up with inclusive agriculture policies that cater for all players right from grassroots level to ensure a win-win situation in the agriculture sector.

Various stakeholders including the government, private sector, seed companies and small scale farmers however need to play their part to ensure healthy conservation systems necessary for sustaining the food system are always available for agricultural improvements.

My take on quest for new constitution, democratic space in Tanzania

By Telesphor Magobe

THERE is now divided opinion in Tanzania on whether people need a new Constitution or not. In today's column I won't discuss the opinion of those who are against the new Constitution.

Time and time again critics have been picking holes in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977), arguing that in some way the current Constitution does not serve the interests of Tanzanians today for it was written during the one-party era to serve party interests and so it lacks political legitimacy (even if it has legal legitimacy) in the era of political pluralism.

They also argue that it contains excessive clawback clauses that limit the enjoyment of constitutional rights to the extent of making them obsolete. So far, there is no researched article I know of that has been published to discredit the critics' stand in favour of the current Constitution. This may be indicative of the plausibility of the critics' arguments.

British political scientist and historian Vernon Bogdanor in an article "Introduction to Constitutions

in Democratic Politics" published in 1988 says "Constitutions...both liberate and bind; they provide a framework of ordered freedom with a set of rules which prevents both majorities and their elected representatives from doing what they might otherwise wish to do."

The author, referring to Constitutions in the 159 member states to the United Nations at the time, argues further that while "a number of democratic constitutions contain Bills of Rights, something characteristic of constitutions of [today], they are generally honoured more in the breach than in the observance."

Another author W.F. Murphy in an article "Constitutions, Constitutionalism and Democracy" published in 1993 argues that "in many countries the constitution is treated with neglect or contempt."

What these two authors have written about is quite relevant to the realities of most African countries, including Tanzania where despite having weak institutions (checks and balances) citizens almost always bank on the goodwill of the rulers of the day for the betterment of their countries. This being the case, after their end of tenure, there is always a new start for each

leader comes with his or her vision and there is hardly sustainability of what has been put in place.

In this way and unless people change and take responsibility, there won't be strong institutions to make public leaders accountable to their people, instead there will be only people who in practice are 'accountable to their leaders'.

Yet, Article 8 of the Constitution of Tanzania stipulates that 'sovereignty resides in the people and it is from them that the government shall derive all its power and authority, the primary objective of the government shall be the welfare of the people and the government shall be accountable to the people'.

One critic of the current Constitution was Justice James Mwalusanya who in his article "Conditions for the Functioning of a Democratic Constitution" published in 1994 says "Constitutions which do not embody a national consensus do not command political legitimacy. They are more or less imposed and no one cares about them, neither the rulers nor the ruled."

On basic rights and duties he says "Our Bill of Rights is not a working Charter of Rights. It is replete with so many derogations and clawback

clauses such that what it gives by one hand, is taken away by another."

Another critic of the current Constitution, Florence Luoga, in his article "Conditions for the Functioning of a Democratic Constitution in Tanzania" published in 1994 argues that the Constitution has been "formulated in a manner which sustains the ideal of supremacy of the ruling party and the so-called centralised democracy." He refers to it as "an obsolete instrument which has been superseded by events and trends." "Its very foundation," he argues, "is offensive to the ideal of democracy in a pluralist society and, as such, functionally undemocratic."

Like Justice Mwalusanya, Luoga too argues that "The freedoms and liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are inadequate and highly circumscribed by the extensive use of clawbacks...The Bill of Rights...is couched in a language...which confers powers to the government to enact laws which impair the exercise of personal freedoms and liberties. This has also eroded the reality of democracy and enabled the government to operate autocratically and without regard to the rights of the people of Tanzania."

Article 64(5) of the United Repub-

lic of Tanzania stipulates that when "any law conflicts with the Constitution, the latter shall prevail and that law, to the extent of the inconsistency with the Constitution, shall be void". This is what we all know of national constitutions everywhere across the world.

Yet, Article 30(2) (an example of a blanket clawback clause, according to Luoga) states that "provisions contained [in the Bill of Rights] do not render unlawful any existing law or prohibit the enactment of any law or the doing of any lawful act in accordance with such law for the purposes of - (f) enabling any other thing to be done which promotes or preserves the national interest in general." This Article dilutes the Bill of Rights and makes it if I may say so almost unenforceable.

In an article "The Tanzanian Bill of Rights" published in 1988 Luoga says only four Articles in the Bill of Rights are couched in a language which is absolute (free of the clawbacks). These, he says, include Article 12 (the right to equality, recognition and respect for one's dignity), Article 13 (the right to protection of and equality before the law), Article 22 (the right to work) and Article 23 (the right to just remuneration).

He says the remaining nine Articles in the Bill of Rights are qualified. "Clawback clauses are extensively used to qualify [them]," he says. The exercise of Article 20 of the Constitution (the right to freedom of association), for instance, is circumscribed by Section 43(4) of the Police Force and Auxiliary Services (Chapter 322) and Section 11(2) of the Political Parties Act (Chapter 258).

So, there is still a long way to go in the quest for democratic space which reflects the spirit of Article 8 of the Constitution as stated above and the true exercise of constitutional rights as provided for in the Constitution. Therefore, it makes sense to press for a new Constitution which reflects a pluralist society we have, protects the Bill of Rights (without excessive clawbacks) and which provides for checks and balances for the striving of a democratic society.

Today's legal maxim: "The grantor of anything to another grants that also without which the thing granted would be useless."

The author is Dar es Salaam based lawyer. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Severe water stress, absolute scarcity for 2 to 4 billion humans by 2025

MADRID

NOW it comes to the scary water crises, as it is estimated that, globally, over two billion people live in countries that experience high water stress.

On this, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) also reports that "other estimates are even more pessimistic, with up to four billion people - over half the population of the planet - already facing severe water stress for at least one month of the year while half a billion suffer from permanent water stress."

About 71% of the world's irrigated area and 47% of major cities are to experience at least periodic water shortages. If this trend continues, the scarcity and associated water quality problems will lead to competition and conflicts among water users

This means that about 71% of the world's irrigated area and 47% of major cities are to experience at least periodic water shortages. If this trend continues, the scarcity and associated water quality problems will lead to competition and conflicts among water users, it adds.

Climate crisis aggravates the risk

"Climate change will increase the odds of worsening drought and water scarcity in many parts of the world. Drought ranks among the most damaging of all natural hazards. While droughts affect every climate zone, drylands are particularly susceptible to drought and its impacts."

Currently, most countries, regions and communities use reactive and crisis-driven approaches to manage drought risk. To address this issue, healthy land is a natural storage for fresh water. If it is degraded, it cannot perform that function. Managing land better and massively scaling up land rehabilitation are essential for building drought resilience and water security, explains UNCCD.

"Land restoration is the cheapest and most effective solution to improved water storage, mitigating impacts of drought and addressing biodiversity loss."

Not enough rain? Too much rain?

Meanwhile, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification explains that communities all over the world have suffered some of the most brutal effects of drought and flooding this year.

"Flash floods in Western Europe, Eastern and Central Asia and Southern Africa. And catastrophic drought in Australia, southern Africa, southern Asia, much of Latin America, Western North America and Siberia are cases in point. The impacts extend well beyond the individual events."

For example, the rise in food insecurity in the Southern African



Up to four billion people - over half the population of the planet - are already facing severe water stress for at least one month of the year, while half a billion suffer from permanent water stress. Credit: Jeffrey Moyo/IPS

region and unprecedented wildfires in North America, Europe and Central Asia.

What is going on?

This is much more than bad weather in some cases, and is increasingly so, adds the UN Convention.

"Extreme events, including both droughts and floods are on the rise. With more land projected to get drier and more and more people living in drylands in the future, the discussions centred on the shift more than 60 countries are making from "reactive" response to droughts and floods to "proactive" planning and risk management designed to build resilience."

Production systems, so constrained

For its part, the report The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture warns that production systems where the land and

water resources supporting agricultural production are constrained to a point where their capacity to meet current and future needs is seriously jeopardised.

Constraints may be further exacerbated by unsustainable agricultural practices, social and economic pressures and the impact of climate change.

Land and water resources are central to agriculture and rural development and are intrinsically linked to global challenges of food insecurity and poverty, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as degradation and depletion of natural resources that affect the livelihoods of millions of rural people across the world, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s report.

Food demand to surge

Current projections cited in the report indicate that the world population will

increase from 6.9 billion people today to 9.1 billion in 2050. In addition, economic progress, notably in the emerging countries, translates into increased demand for food and diversified diets.

World food demand will surge as a result, and it is projected that food production will increase by 70% in the world and by 100% in developing countries.

"Yet both land and water resources, the basis of our food production, are finite and already under heavy stress, and future agricultural production will need to be more productive and more sustainable at the same time."

Increased competition for land and water

And there are warning signs. Rates of growth in agricultural production have been slowing, and are only half the 3 percent annual rate of growth seen in developing countries in the past, says

the report.

In 2007 and 2008, any complacency was jolted by food price shocks, as grain prices soared. Since then, the growing competition for land and water is now thrown into stark relief as sovereign and commercial investors begin to acquire tracts of farmland in developing countries. Production of feedstock stability of land and water resources.

"Deeper structural problems have also become apparent in the natural resource base. Water scarcity is growing. Salinisation and pollution of water courses and bodies, and degradation of water-related ecosystems are rising."

Waters are shrinking

In many large rivers, only 5% of former water volumes remain in-stream, and some rivers such as the Huang He no longer reach the sea year-round.

Large lakes and inland seas have shrunk, and half the wetlands of Europe and North America no longer exist. Runoff from eroding soils is filling reservoirs, reducing hydropower and water supply, it explains.

Groundwater, over-pumped

Groundwater is being pumped intensively and aquifers are becoming increasingly polluted and salinised in some coastal areas.

Large parts of all continents are experiencing high rates of ecosystem impairment, particularly reduced soil quality, biodiversity loss, and harm to amenity and cultural heritage values, the report continues.

Agriculture, a major contributor to greenhouse emissions

Agriculture is now a major contributor to greenhouse gases, accounting for 13.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2007). At the same time, climate change brings an increase in risk and unpredictability for farmers - from warming and related aridity, from shifts in rainfall patterns, and from the growing incidence of extreme weather events.

"Poor farmers in low-income countries are the most vulnerable and the least able to adapt to these changes."

Also aquaculture

The steady increase in inland aquaculture also contributes to the competition for land and water resources: the average annual per capita supply of food fish from aquaculture for human consumption has increased at an average rate of 6.6 percent per year between 1970 and 2008, leading to increasing demand in feed, water and land for the construction of fish ponds.

The deteriorating trends in the capacities of ecosystems to provide vital goods and services are already affecting the production potential of important food-producing zones, according to FAO.

"If these continue, impacts on food security will be greatest in developing countries, where both water and soil nutrients are least abundant."

"On present trends, a series of major land and water systems and the food outputs they produce are at risk."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAYVO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIYA YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Chaggas pursues cultural tourism to earn dollars

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WOODED by the rich cultural heritage and attractions of affluent Chagga tribe, tourists are flocking to the area at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro for a taste of local hospitality over the Christmas and New Year's break.

Cultural tourism allows visitors to feel authentic cultural experiences such as natural scenery, folklore, ceremonies, dances, rituals, tales, handcraft, art, and hospitality, giving a unique insight into the Chagga people's way of life.

The program, which influences visitors' decisions to travel to a place, is hailed for providing employment and jobs to locals and offering markets for their products.

Although Tanzania has many tourist attractions, cultural tourism, which includes more than 120 ethnic groups with distinctive cultures, traditions, and norms, has received little attention.

The Chagga, settled on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and its cultural traditions have remained strong for decades, according to its elders.

As the country's tourism sector recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, which almost certainly brought the hospitality industry to its knees, women's groups in Kilimanjaro are organizing cultural tourism activities that attract hundreds of tourists looking for unique cultural and travel experiences.

Cultural tourism is rapidly expanding in Tanzania, attracting a large number of foreign



visitors each year seeking an authentic experience of the people's way of life.

The Nkweshoo cultural tourism program in Machame has a multifaceted infrastructure for showcasing the Chagga people's rich heritage and contemporary cultures.

Through the program local female entrepreneurs and community leaders use multiple tools to identify assets for attracting foreign visitors who prefer to live among families.

Stella Shoo, a coordinator with the Nkweshoo cultural tourism project, believes that Christmas and New Year are ideal times to attract tourists interested in experiencing the hospi-

talities of the Chagga people.

"This is the only time when everyone is in town, so it is the best opportunity for tourists to get a feel for the vibe," she said.

In Chagga tradition, family members must return to their villages for the holidays of Christmas and New Year in order to be accounted for and introduced to new members of their families, Shoo said.

Those who are unable to attend must provide a valid reason, according to her, or they will be considered outsiders.

"Chagga people travel home in December for many reasons, mainly for a family reunion, especially if the

parents are still alive," she said.

According to her, parents enjoy seeing their sons and daughters return to the village with their children.

Cultural tourism, which allows visitors to immerse themselves in the way of life of the locals, has helped inject tourism dollars into the local community and the development of sustainable income for women's groups, Shoo said.

"Cultural tourism is a year-round source of income for communities," she explained.

The Chagga have a population of about 2 million people and are one of East Africa's wealthiest and most educated tribes. With their exposure

to European education, the Chagga society wields enormous political and financial clout.

Walking through dense coffee and banana plantations, tourists have been thrilled by the spirit of hard-working among the locals.

At the Marangu town nestled on the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the locals have planned walking tours through valleys and waterfalls depicting mountain village life.

"Our guests are very pleased to see these attractions and experience the unique Chagga hospitality," she commented.

To most tribal families, the end of the year is the time to re-examine

oneself, take stock of the year, and lay down strategies for the New Year.

"We usually perform sacrificial rituals for our ancestors, such as slaughtering goats and cows," said Joshua Meena, an elder in the Machame district.

Manka Shirima, a tour guide with the Marangu cultural tourism program, stated that they have received over 120 tourists from various countries who have experienced Chagga cultural traditions since the beginning of December.

Tourist funds, she asserted, have helped boost the local economy and supported women's groups in becoming more self-sufficient.

"The tourists we receive enjoy staying with local families and experiencing the unique Chagga hospitality," Shirima said.

The Chaggas, who are well-known for their drinking habits, usually introduce their guests to Mbege, a local brew made from finger millet and bananas.

Some of the foods prepared during Christmas include mtori, ndafu, meat, and chicken, and some families also prepare pilau.

The tribesmen would cluster under the shade of banana and coffee plantations for other hours-long enjoyment after eating the most delicious cuisines.

Libby Jackson, a tourist from New Zealand, said her stay with a Chagga family in Machame taught her invaluable lessons about hospitality.

"They are very kind people. Staying with them is an amazing experience because they keep you entertained throughout your stay. The food too is delicious," she said.



According to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), one of the main benefits of ripping is that can help to break up the hardpan which results from traditional plowing year-after-year, thus improving water infiltration and soil moisture

Boosting climate smart agriculture through access to ripping technology

By Natasha Foote

WITH soil health high on the policy agenda, EURACTIV took a look at how advances in tractor technology can help boost climate-smart agriculture and promote no-till agriculture through the lens of a project in East Africa.

Soil health is at the heart of the EU's new Green Deal and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, both of which aim to tackle biodiversity loss, reverse climate change and support sustainable land use.

Most recently, the EU adopted a soil strategy designed to offer an overarching policy framework for soil restoration, including plans for a soil health law by 2023.

But despite gaining increasing policy recogni-

tion, soils are in a sorry state across the world. According to current estimates, 33% of the Earth's soils are already degraded while more than 90% are at risk of becoming degraded by 2050.

One way in which farmers are working to address these issues is via no-till, or reduced-till, agriculture.

A key component of the so-called Conservation Agriculture (CA), this practice involves planting crops without tilling the soil, which is the conventional way of preparing the soil for planting by digging, stirring, and turning it over.

While tilling kills unwanted plants and allows for easier planting, it is costly and time-consuming and can lower the quality of the soil through soil compaction and ero-

sion. "No-till farming is an excellent soil conservation practice that's been proven to help reduce soil erosion and runoff," Barbra Muzata, head of communications for agrochemical company Corteva Africa Middle East, said.

As part of the company's 2030 Sustainability Goals, she is involved in a number of projects intended to educate farmers on best practices, including soil health, and nutrients and water stewardship.

"Farmers are practising conservation agriculture on large-scale farms to improve soil fertility, increase yields, and boost profits," she added.

One innovative tool that can be used to reduce reliance on tilling is ripping.

Ripping mechanically breaks up compacted soil

layers using heavy tynes or blades which break up compacted soil layers but crucially, unlike tilling, without turning them over.

According to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), one of the main benefits of ripping is that it can help to break up the hardpan which results from traditional ploughing year after year, thus improving water infiltration and soil moisture.

This can improve crop productivity and build resilience to both drought and flood conditions in a way that also reduces soil erosion and degradation.

Despite the potential benefits that ripping technology holds, its uptake has been slow and access to such technology remains low in some ar-

reas of the world, such as across East Africa.

As such, a number of public-private partnerships have sprung up with the aim to encourage innovative techniques to promote the use of conservation agriculture and showcase to farmers the advantage of climate-smart farming.

One such project, spearheaded by several private players including Corteva and agricultural machinery companies John Deere and Hello Tractor, together with civil society organisations such as PAFID (Participatory Approaches for Integrated Development), is soon to be underway in Narok, Kenya, after several setbacks due to weather and COVID-related complications.

The project, coordinated by CGIAR and funded

by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), envisages four demonstration plots aimed at showcasing how ripping technology can improve agricultural productivity, resilience, and soil carbon storage.

A key innovation of this project is the integration of minimum till tractor services into a digital platform service for booking and routing tractors, created by agro-tech company Hello Tractor, enabling tractor providers to add ripping to the services they provide.

In this way, the project aims to broaden access to ripping services, including to smallholder farmers, according to CGIAR.

Moses Abukari, programme manager with the East and Southern Africa region at IFAD, said this is especially important given that, as it stands, the seasonal demand from farmers for conservation agriculture services is "increasing and currently outstripping the providers' capacities due to limited equipment".

Such programmes also have a lot of potential to generate employment and incomes while bringing multiple benefits to farmers, he said.

Experience shows that such programmes can also be especially beneficial for women, Abukari added.

This is because the conservation agriculture services are "time and labour-saving" but also because they boost crop production with "little or no soil disturbance and help conserve inputs," he said.

According to Abukari, the next step is to build on the sustainability of the project, which includes ensuring that service providers are registered and can "build a credit history to access financing from banks to buy more equipment".

Regulation is needed, he explained, to ensure the standardisation and quality control of the appropriate technology.

"Local equipment manufacturers need to be set up but they can't progress without having first public investment in CA equipment, including the capacity building of farmers and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) providers," Abukari added.

Researchers receive NIH grants to develop new treatments for neglected tropical diseases

By Special Correspondent

RESEARCHERS at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have received two grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) totaling more than \$5.5 million to develop new treatments for two types of devastating parasitic infections common in sub-Saharan Africa, and Central and South America: river blindness and intestinal worm infections.

Both are classified as neglected tropical diseases by the World Health Organization (WHO). Such diseases are concentrated among people living in poverty in tropical or subtropical climates, where resources to develop new treatments are often lacking.

One project will focus on onchocerciasis, a roundworm parasite that causes river blindness. Onchocerciasis infections are spread by black flies that thrive near fast-moving rivers. About 270,000 people have become blind, and 1.2 million are visually impaired by river blindness. Current drugs are limited in that they only prevent transmission of the parasite and can't eliminate an established infection.

Collaborators also include a team that studies soil-transmitted helminths. That team is led by Raffi Aroian, PhD, at the University of Massachusetts T.H. Chan School of Medicine. Other collaborators, led by Sara Lustigman, PhD, head of the Laboratory of Molecular Parasitology at the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, the research branch of New York Blood Center Enterprises, are studying onchocerciasis.

The researchers' aim is to attack elements of the parasite's metabolism that are essential for the survival of the organism, with the goal of finding drugs that may be able to attack more than one species of parasite at once. For river blindness, they primarily are seeking new treatments that can kill the adult parasites, since current therapies only target the larval stages of the parasite's life cycle.

"We have identified some potentially promising therapeutic targets that interfere with the way the organisms process energy or carry out other tasks necessary for survival," Janetka said. "We're going after some innovative targets that are relatively new treatment strategies, especially for parasitic worms. It's possible that a drug we develop could inhibit all the worms. A pan-parasitic worm therapy would be wonderful, but there also will be the potential to develop more than one drug, each optimized for different species."

The impact of air pollution on child health

AIR pollution is a global public health crisis, and air pollution levels in India are among the highest in the world, posing a heavy threat to the country's health and economy. According to the 2019 World Air Quality Report, India is home to 21 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world. In these cities, air quality can be as much as 10 times over the safe limits of air pollution recommended by the WHO.

Why is air pollution such a significant issue?

Loss of life

According to the State of Global Air 2020 report, air pollution was the fourth leading risk factor for early death worldwide in 2019, and is estimated to have caused 1.7 million premature deaths in India in that year. The burden of disease due to air pollution is higher in low- and middle-income countries, causing about 91 percent of premature deaths.

Economic losses

While the hazardous impact of air pollution on health is well recognised, its negative economic impact is less investigated. Lost output from premature deaths and morbidity attributable to air pollution accounted for economic losses of USD 28.8 billion and 8 billion respectively in 2019. In India, economic losses from air pollution were equivalent to 1.36 percent of the country's GDP.

Why are children at higher risk?

According to a WHO report, every day around 93 percent of the world's children under the age of 15 years breathe air so polluted that it puts their health and development in serious danger. Children are at greater risk than adults from the many adverse health effects of air pollution owing to a combination of behavioural, environmental, and physiological factors. Some key reasons for this higher risk include:

Children are more susceptible because their lungs, brain, and immune system are still developing and their respiratory tract is more permeable.

Children breathe more air per kilogram of body weight, so their exposure to air pollution is much greater than adults. The conse-



A view of India Gate, a war memorial located in New Delhi, covered by a thick layer of smog. Credit: Malav Goswami/IPS

quences of their exposure—through inhalation, ingestion, or in utero—can lead to illness and other lifetime

health burdens.

What are the effects of air pollution on children's health and development?

Air pollution is one of the leading threats to child health, globally accounting for almost one in 10 deaths

in children under five years of age. Around 8.8 percent of deaths in children under the age of five in India in 2017 can be attributed to air pollution, according to a Lancet study. Some of the effects on children's health and development include:

1. Serious respiratory illnesses

Air pollution causes more than 50 percent of acute lower respiratory infections in children under five years of age in low- and middle-income countries. It can lead to asthma, childhood cancers, chronic diseases, poor lung function, pneumonia, and other types of acute lower respiratory infection.

This study from Delhi observed a statistically significant positive association between air pollution (PM10 level) and the prevalence of lower respiratory tract symptoms. These symptoms were more prevalent in girls than in boys. Every third child in Delhi has impaired lungs due to the high level of pollutants that are present in the city's air.

2. Premature births, infant deaths, and a negative impact on child growth

Pregnant women exposed to polluted air are more likely to give birth prematurely and have small, low birth-weight children. A recent study from India revealed a negative impact of exposure to air pollution during the first trimester of pregnancy on child growth indicators.

Air pollution contributed to nearly 5,00,000 infant

deaths worldwide in 2019. In India, a fifth of neonatal deaths from all causes can be attributed to air pollution.

This Lancet study indicates a plausible link between air pollution and stunting in children.

3. Negative impacts on children's neurodevelopment

Prolonged exposure to polluted air negatively impacts neurodevelopment in children. According to the WHO, new research has shown an association between prenatal exposure to high levels of air pollution and developmental delay at age three, as well as psychological and behavioural problems later on, including symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and depression. Air pollution affects children's learning process by exacerbating respiratory illnesses, fatigue, school absenteeism, and attention problems.

What is the way forward?

India has taken the following steps at the central and state levels to control pollution and improve air quality:

1. National Clean Air Programme

Government of India's National Clean Air Programme is a powerful step in acknowledging and resolving the problem of deteriorating air quality. It is a national-level strategy to tackle the country's air pollution challenge, calling for a 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter pollution by 2024.

2. Performance-based funds transfers to cities

In 2020, the central government allocated approximately USD 1.7 billion to fight air pollution in 42 Indian cities that have a population of more than one million. This is conditional on these cities reducing their air pollution levels by 15 percent every year. It is the world's first performance-based fiscal transfer funding programme for air quality management in cities.

3. Coordinated action to improve air quality

Parliament approved a law in August 2021 to establish the Commission of Air Quality Management for better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.

However, much more needs to be done. The air pollution challenge in India is inherently multi-sectoral. Policies and investments supporting cleaner transport, power generation and industry; energy-efficient homes, and better municipal waste management will reduce key sources of outdoor air pollution. Experiences in tackling air pollution in cities suggest three possible ways forward:

Disseminating information about the problem and health risks.

Providing incentives to cities/states and other stakeholders for tackling air pollution.

Building institutions that support air quality management. This requires sufficient funding and a sustained focus on capacity building.

The right combination of political will, appropriate implementation, and a strong compliance mechanism from both government and the private sector are required to move forward. Given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement that India aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, the time to act is now.

The author of this opinion editorial, Dr Vinod Kumar Anand, is a technical adviser for maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) at Save the Children India.

This story was originally published by India Development Review (IDR)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 189 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 Letters: ASS,
 4. Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,
 5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE
 6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN
 7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across
 1. Tanzania's Capital
 6. Nation created in 1948
 7. Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ
 9. turn away
 10. Second largest city in Tanzania
 11. step in a process
 13. mischievous person
 16. skilful
 17. large round citrus fruit
 19. sell goods by going from place to place
 20. utter words

Down:
 1. images seen while you sleep
 2. a place far away
 3. the mixture of gases surrounding the earth
 4. personal, secret
 5. beloved
 8. consisting protein that is produced by a living organism
 12. an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action
 13. a surface which is higher on one side than the other
 14. keep away from someone
 15. demonstrate by evidence
 18. a donkey

SOLUTIONS

<p>READY SCOPED FARMER RARE ETLA SAHARA SAME ISLAND PK TENAYAHP DLOILER SNAKE IRAQ ANYONE AM MASTERS ASST YMEDDLA GEARKI CLANE TANAPA PLANTATIONS ICFROST OERI MASHERHAY LAGTACETG EOWLN ONEYTSUE</p>	<p>1. Dar es Salaam 2. Antarctica 3. Air 4. Secret 5. Love 6. Eritrea 7. Easter 8. Collagen 9. Turn away 10. Mombasa 11. Step 12. Yorker 13. Hill 14. Avoid 15. Demonstrate 16. Skilful 17. Orange 18. Donkey 19. Itinerant 20. Utter</p>
---	--



Kenya Civil Aviation Authority director-general Gilbert Kibe.

SANCTIONS

Unvaccinated travellers barred from entry points

NAIROBI

All travellers arriving in Kenya through any point of entry will be required to have a Covid-19 vaccination certificate in a move aimed at taming the spread of the virus.

Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) director-general Gilbert Kibe said on Thursday the new directive would not affect travellers aged below 18. The new rules further state that there will be no paper verification of Covid-19 test results and vaccination certificates upon arrival in Kenya. Airlines should ensure that all travellers have uploaded both documents into global haven before boarding.

The new measures are aimed at curbing the rising cases of Covid-19. Kenya has seen coronavirus resurgence with a rapidly rising caseload since confirmation of the highly infectious Omicron variant last week.

The positivity rate – the ratio of positive tests – rose from 29.6 percent on Monday to 32.5 percent on Thursday, which is among the highest since Ken-

ya recorded the first coronavirus case on March 12 last year.

“All passengers arriving into Kenya through any point of entry must have a certificate of Covid-19 vaccination. Travellers below the age of 18 are exempt from this requirement,” said Mr Kibe in the Notam issued on December 21.

The aviation regulator further said travellers from 11 countries will have to undergo a mandatory rapid antigen test before entry to check the spread of the Omicron variant. They include South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Ghana, Namibia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zambia.

The KCAA said the list would be updated depending on the evolution of the variant globally. The new directives come at a time countries such as Ghana are fining airlines \$3,500 (Sh396,000) for every passenger they fly in who is not vaccinated against Covid-19 or who tests positive for the virus upon arrival.

LUCKY

Madagascar minister swims twelve hours to shore after helicopter crash

MAPUTO

A Madagascan minister was one of two survivors to have swum some 12 hours to shore Tuesday after their helicopter crashed off the island's northeastern coast, authorities said. A search was still ongoing for two other passengers after the crash Monday, whose cause was not immediately clear, police and port authorities said.

Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of state for police, and a fellow policeman reached land in the seaside town of Mahambo separately on Tuesday morning, apparently after ejecting themselves from the aircraft, port authority chief Jean-Edmond Randrianantenaina said.

In a video shared on social media, 57-year-old Gelle appears lying exhausted on a deck chair, still in his

camouflage uniform. “My time to die hasn't come yet,” says the general, adding he is cold but not injured. The helicopter was flying him and the others to inspect the site of a shipwreck off the northeastern coast on Monday morning.

At least 39 people died in that disaster, police chief Zafisambatra Ravoavy said Tuesday, in an increase from a previous toll after rescue workers retrieved 18 more bodies. Ravoavy earlier told AFP that Gelle had used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation device.

“He has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a thirty-year-old,” he said. “He has nerves of steel.” Gelle became minister as part of a cabinet reshuffle in August after serving in the police for three decades.

ASCENSION

Equity Bank's Isabel Maganga joins list of Tanzanian female banking chiefs

By Guardian Reporter

THE list of Tanzanian women taking over at the helm of the banking industry has continued to surge thanks to Equity Bank Tanzania Limited's board of directors which picked Isabel Maganga as acting Managing Director.

In a statement yesterday, Equity Bank's Head of Communication and Marketing, Godwin Semuny said Maganga's appointment is effective 23rd December 2021. She takes over from Robert Kiboti whose tenure of office has ended earlier this month. Kiboti who is returning to Equity Group headquarters in Nairobi, was appointed Managing Director at Equity Bank Tanzania in 2018.

Other female CEOs in the banking industry include: NMB Bank Plc's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna, Mwanahiba Mohammed who is Managing Director of Ecobank Tanzania and Uchumi Commercial Bank's Managing Director, Angela Moshi. With over 40 banks in the market, positions of CEO and Managing Directors continue to be dominated by men but women are on the rise.

In the statement, Equity Bank said Maganga is a career banker with over fifteen years of experience. She holds a Master of Science in Finance and Investments from Coventry University, a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Management from Sokoine University of Agriculture. She also holds a Diploma in Banking from Milpark Business School and she is a certified professional banker and certified expert on SME finance. Prior to her



Equity Bank Tanzania's new acting managing director, Isabel Maganga.

appointment, Maganga was the Head of Commercial Department at Equity Bank Tanzania.

Speaking while welcoming Maganga in her new role, Equity Bank Tanzania's Board Chairman

Raymond Mbilinyi said, “We are delighted to appoint Maganga as the new Managing Director of the bank in an acting capacity, as we bid farewell to Kiboti. We are confident that her experience will

enable her to lead the bank to the next level, to scale and serve more people in pursuit of our purpose of transforming lives, giving dignity, and expanding opportunities for wealth creation.”

INNOVATIVE

This South African distillery infuses elephant dung as main ingredient to make gin bottle

CAPE TOWN

In November 2018 Les and Paula Ansley launched their first bottle of gin infused elephant's dung, Ndlovu Gin Original. Ibhugane short for dung beetle is their distillery located in the Cape Winelands' town of Paarl.

After relocating back to South Africa from the United Kingdom, the couple took their family on a safari drive and were amazed by what the safari ranger had to say about elephants' dung.

An uncommon fact is that elephant dung can be a source for healing water, painkillers, and insect repellent. The mammals consume approximately 200-250 kilograms of plants a day. On their drive, the family discovered that elephants digest only 30% of what they eat and the remaining 70% is left on the field floor as waste.

This fact seems to have stayed with Paula for quite some time. Les Ansley tells Business Insider South Africa that he was awakened by a sharp jab in the back by his wife who one morning tossed him the most peculiar question – what if they made gin from elephant's dung?

Under the mentorship and guidance of Roger Jorgensen the couple crafted their spirit. Jorgensen is commonly known as the ‘father of spirits’ with his own spirit distillery located in the Cape Winelands established in 1994.

Making the gin is not a long process the owner explained. Their spirit has base of the traditional London Dry Gin which is one of the predominant flavours with ingredients like Juniper, Angelica, Orris Root, Coriander, and bits of citrus that make up the gin.

“Gin is a popular drink that adapts to changes and trends,” says Ansley, and because of this the process to make the perfect Indlovu gin is not long. Making the perfect bottle of Indlovu Gin begins by first collecting the dung; wash off the sand and mud; cleansing it then leaving it to dry till they

get a fluffy botanical which is then immersed into the alcohol.

Infusing the elephant dung is similar to making a cup of tea, “sort of think of the dung like a teabag,” Ansley said, it is immersed in the base alcohol like a teabag in hot water and then left alone to “brew” this allows the alcohol to extract all the flavours from the dung.

All the dung is explained to have its own unique flavours, because of the plants the elephants eat which may vary from season to season. In the winter the elephants can eat prickly pears and other shrubs whereas in the summer they may eat more citrus fruits. What they eat contributes significantly to the flavours extracted by the alcohol. Take the Indlovu Original Gin it has the elephants' favourite flora like Acacia, Guarri, and Erica fynbos.

Working in partnership with the country's first elephant orphanage, Hoedspruit Elephant Rehabilitation and Development (HERD) which is built alongside the home of the Jabulani herd,

Ibhugane gives 15% of the proceeds to HERD at Jabulani Safari. Their partnership is described as a “perfect fit” by Ansley because of the conservancy's particular focus on elephants opposed to their former partner Africa Foundation which focused on all wildlife. Dung referred to as “botanical” is collected from elephants in Hoedspruit or the Botlierskop Game Reserve.

They have since also crafted a specific spirit, Jabu Gin for the luxury game lodge with botanicals collected specifically from the Hoedspruit elephants at Jabulani Safari. The company does not intend on releasing any new gin as yet, however, you can select from their three existing gin bottles that are already available in major retailers such as Tops Spar, Makro, and Online on Takealot. The price for an Original bottle varies according to retailer but can be found on Takealot for R545.00.

Indlovu Gin Original, Pink Prickly Pear and Vanilla and Citrus and Orange are all tailored around what the elephants enjoy eating.

The Pink is infused with prickly pears and vanilla and the Citrus with marula fruit and oranges. “We wanted to keep the original idea, if we made a strawberry gin there would be no continuity or feel of the product,” said Ansley.

“You'd think people would hesitate to buy the gin but, “people love it, a lot of people are buying into it and love that they are contributing to wildlife conservation,” said the owner. The Indlovu Gin Original was made with dung from elephants from the Botlierskop Game Reserve. Clear gold in colour it is said to have a smooth creamy taste with notes of citrus, Angelica, earth, spice and more according to their official site.

The gins are exported duty free to multiple European countries among them the likes of the Netherlands and Sweden, and more recently to the United States of America. With no particular popular favourite locally, according to the owner the Pink does well in Durban and the Citrus in Gauteng and the Cape.



Les Ansley holding Indlovu Gin bottles.

TECH SAVVY

Video streaming boom in Africa

LAGOS

Africa saw the largest increase in video streaming services in the third quarter (Q3) of 2021. That's according to a report by online video optimisation and analytics firm Conviva in its State of Online Streaming Q3 2021 report.

Says Conviva: "Given that streaming is up 266% over the past three years and so many people predicted the pandemic lockdown period to be the pinnacle, it's almost inconceivable that it continued to grow this quarter, up 21% over Q3 2020.

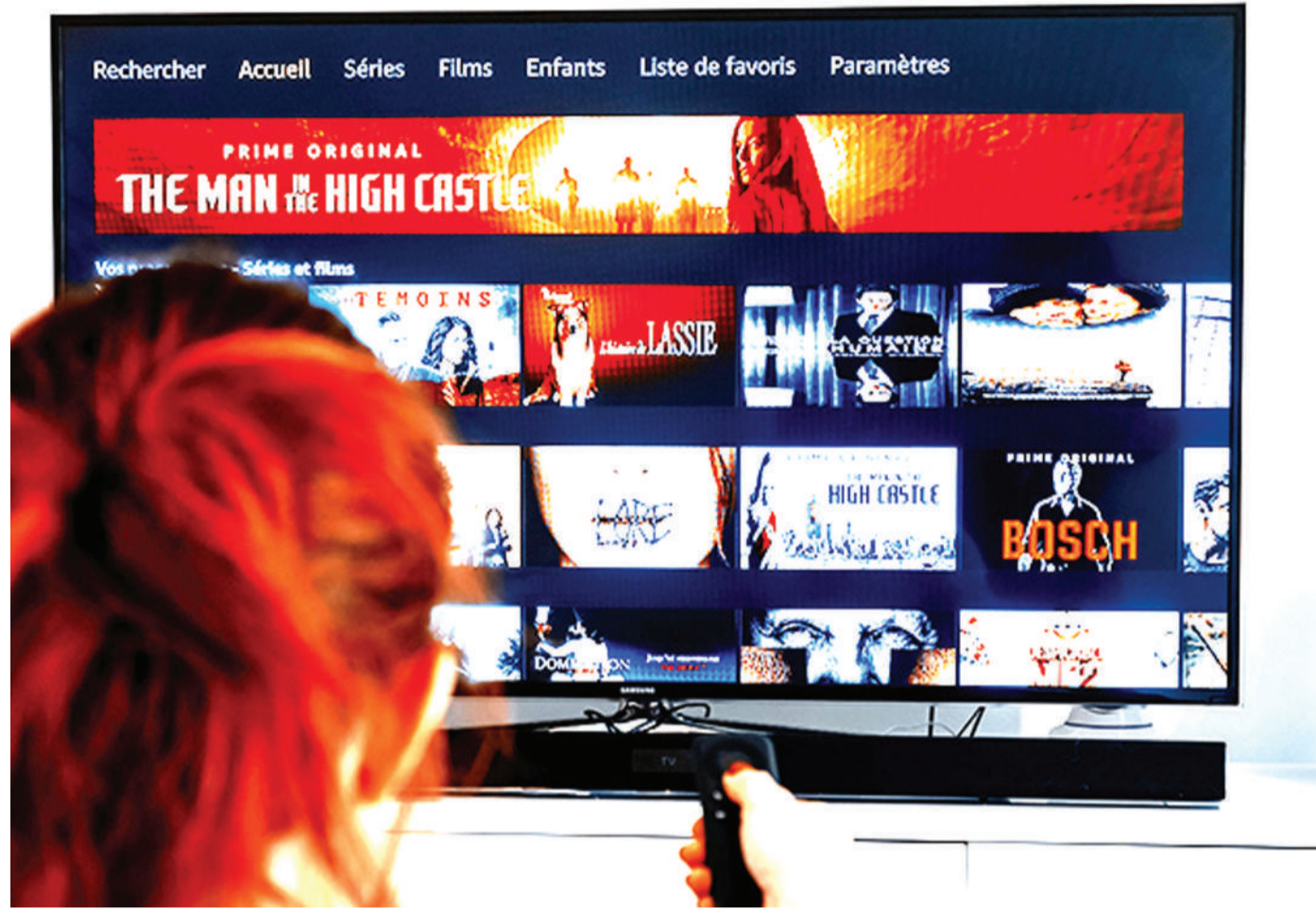
"Not only that, but streaming platforms are investing heavily in video content on social media, particularly YouTube. So, it seems that streaming video - whether it's a massively popular streaming show, a trailer promoting that show on YouTube, or a range of TikTok video fan reactions - will continue to entertain populations the world over."

According to the firm, globally, streaming increased yet again this quarter, up 21% over this time last year, led predominately by Africa, which saw a massive 273% increase. It notes that between Q3 and the last quarter, ad impressions and ad attempts were up over 30%, a good sign for publishers and advertisers alike.

Despite seeing a slight decrease in share over Q3 of last year, big screens still accounted for almost three quarters of viewing time worldwide, says the firm. It adds that engagement and quality of the experience for viewers are highly correlated with viewers tuning out as buffering increases or picture quality declines.

Conviva points out that Q3 2021 marks the first quarter that all six regions measured tallied buffering under 1%, after significant improvements in recent quarters. The average streaming platform increased their content by 97% on YouTube, resulting in an 8.4% increase of average views per account and an increase in engagements of 24%, says Conviva.

By region, big screen preference varied wildly. For instance, it says in North America, Roku accounted for a remarkable 39% of view-



A woman watching live-streamed videos on a billboard.

ing time, while it only saw slim share in Europe and Oceania with 6%, 5% in South America, and in Africa, was just 1%.

In Europe and Oceania, no big screen device dominated. Europe broke down with the top devices having only a few percentages among them - Samsung TV at 19%; Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV, Linux STB each at 12%; Android TV at 11%; and LG TV with 10% share.

While Oceania was similarly close;

Chromecast with 21%, Samsung TV and Android TV both at 17%, PlayStation with 11%, and Apple TV at 10%. Conviva notes that Africa had a much wider spread with Linux STB taking in the most share at 29% while Chromecast, Android TV, and Samsung TV followed with around 15% share each. LG TV with 8% and PlayStation and Apple TV, both with 7%, rounded out the top devices in Africa.

While big screen viewing time in Asia is

only 12% share of the overall viewing time in the region, with 52% share, Android TV clearly won the most share of any big screen device in any region as Asia's big screen of choice. It was followed fairly closely by Amazon Fire TV with 22% and then, there was a cliff. The other devices barely chart with the next closest share being Samsung TV with just 8% and LG TV at only 6%.

RESISTANCE

Bar owners accuse KRA of defying court on taxes

NAIROBI

Bar owners claim the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has defied the courts and enforced a 4.97 per cent jump in taxes on beer, bottled water, juices and cigarettes which had been stopped this month. The bar owners say the KRA system for filling tax returns still reflect higher excise duty charge on the commodities, creating confusion among manufacturers on the status of the freeze.

Pubs Entertainment and Restaurant Association of Kenya (Perak) say they will file a contempt suit against the taxman if it defies the court order to suspend the higher tax that has the effect of increasing beer tax.

It also has the implication of making the firms non-compliant with the tax laws because they are yet to file returns for beers sales made in November. The KRA had on November 2, with the backing of a legal notice, raised the duty charged on about 30 products.

High Court on November 19 ordered that consumers of beer, bottled water, juices and cigarettes will continue paying the previous prices after it froze the KRA move to adjust excise duty by 4.97 per cent.



"As at yesterday when the taxpayers were filing the returns, KRA systems had not been adjusted in compliance with the court order," Pubs Entertainment and Restaurant Association of Kenya (Perak) said.

Justice James Makau directed KRA to maintain the status quo to be maintained, which triggered confusion on whether the court meant the 4.97 percent rise should be maintained or frozen. On December 15, the judge clarified that the status quo meant the higher tax should be frozen pending the determination of the suit.

"As at yesterday when the taxpayers were filing the returns, KRA systems had not been adjusted in compliance with the court order," Pubs Entertainment and Restaurant Association of Kenya (Perak) said.

The taxman had initially targeted about Sh3.7 billion in additional revenue from inflation-adjusted taxation this fiscal year ending June 2022. Manufacturers affected by the excise taxes have opposed the annual inflation adjustments, arguing that it leads to price instability and distorts the overall inflation.

They have proposed that the increment be spread over three years to give them enough time to adjust. The firms have also argued that uncertainty around the rate of annual changes would make it difficult for them to make long-term investment decisions.

Firms like East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL) have been raising beer prices by Sh10 per bottle in response to the inflation-adjusted tax. Bar firms sued KRA for discrimination in implementation of the tax after the authority omitted fuel prices from the duty due to a court order.

RESISTANCE

Student in Sh102m row says KRA cleared cash

NAIROBI

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) cleared the Sh102 million sent to a 21-year-old Kenyan student by his Belgian boyfriend in August, money that is now subject to forfeiture by the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA).

Felesta Nyamathira Njoroge says in court filings that the taxman froze the money on August 18, about two weeks after her boyfriend - Marc De Mesel wired the millions to her accounts. The KRA cleared the money two weeks later.

The taxman froze the cash under section 43 of the Tax Procedures Act but upon conclusion of investigations, the student at Nairobi Technical Institute says, the accounts were unfrozen. "Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) returned a not guilty verdict and unfroze the account of the

applicant on 30th September 2021," her lawyer said in the submissions filed in court.

Ms Njoroge was, however, unlucky because immediately she thought of withdrawing the money for investment, the bank informed her that she could not operate the accounts until it was cleared by the legal department.

A few days later, the ARA, obtained an order freezing the accounts, pending the conclusion of investigations into the source of the funds. Last month, Justice Esther Maina froze Sh102 million belonging to Ms Njoroge after the agency argued that the funds are believed to be part of a money-laundering scheme.

And last week, the court also froze a further 108.2 million sent by the Belgian to another student - Tebby Wambui Kago, bringing

the total amount frozen to Sh213 million. Justice Maina ordered the freezing of \$631,071 (Sh71.2 million) at Equity Bank and Sh37 million in the same bank in the name of Ms Kago and another Sh5 million at Stanbic bank in Njoroge.

The Belgian had indicated in the declaration documents that Njoroge was "free to use the money to secure financial security for our future children." Documents filed in court indicate that Ms Kago is an associate of Ms Njoroge, with both receiving the Sh210 million in eight batches over two weeks.

In her submission, Ms Njoroge says she wanted to invest the funds in several projects and she has no business explaining to ARA how she met De Mesel. She says the bid by the ARA to get more details about their relationship was not only il-

legal but also immoral.

"It is undisputed fact that the applicant is a full-time student and the subject funds were meant for her upkeep and general investment for her current and future social and economic security," he said. The agency argued that investigations established that the suspect funds were received from the same source and distributed in the same manner, to various accounts belonging to the two women.

"The pattern of transaction in the accounts in issue and the activities of one De Mesel Marc and the Respondents depicts money laundering activities and this honourable court ought to issue the orders sought," the agency said. Ms Njoroge, however, says the application by ARA is speculative and against her economic rights and courts



Kenyan student, Felesta Nyamathira Njoroge with her boyfriend.

should not be used to assist agencies the agency to interfere with her rights.

"The respondent obtained sweeping and radical orders against me without making any material disclosure as to whether financial due process was not adhered to in the transfer of the funds to me," she said. The court directed the case to be mentioned on February 28.

JEALOUSY

Is it normal to check what's on your partner's phone or are you insecure?

JOHANNESBURG

Cellphones can stir up trouble in a relationship, especially when trust issues are at play. But does this mean your partner is entitled to access your phone as though you are under guard?

It is somewhat of a norm for some people in relationships to have their partner go through their phone as though it is theirs. In some

instances, they will insist on knowing their partner's phone password or even want to know who you are talking to when you are on the phone or chatting online.

We ask life coach Thembi Hama if this behaviour is acceptable in a relationship and a bit of a concern. "Under normal circumstances, and ideally, checking each other's phone is unnecessary, and not even a ques-

tion. "People who check each other's phones have trust issues and insecurities, possibly resulting from previous incidents that made them believe they need to check up on their partner constantly," she says. At times, Thembi adds, it might not be previous incidents, but simply the person is insecure and could have nothing to do with the partner or relationship.

"Maybe they may have been cheated on before or are controlling by nature. All these things are not normal and not ideal for a relationship." You may call it cellphone etiquette, but when in a relationship, you need to be clear about the respectful use of cellphones.

"For example, telling a work-related caller to call back again during business hours or when you

are available, and being present more at home or for offline relationships," Thembi says.

But suppose the partner insists on constantly checking your phone. In that case, it might mean there are deeper underlying issues such as being controlled and, to an extent, mistreated in the relationship; and this then might be an alarm bell.

Here are three ways to

deal with trust and insecurity: Have constant relationship check-ups and reviews where you nip problems in the bud. That way, you prevent resentment; Keep things transparent and keep communication lines open. That way, there is no room for mistrust; and Be honest with your partner about your values and non-negotiable from the onset of the relationship to manage expectations.



A South African boy and his girlfriend reading text messages on a mobile phone.

ENTERPRISING

Meet the Indian grandmother who started a business at 90

NEW DELHI

Taking small steps with her walker, Harbhajan Kaur, 95, reaches her kitchen slowly, but is quick to take charge.

"Ah, now the besan is the right kind of brown we need," she says, picking up a ladle to stir the semi-soft mixture of chickpea flour and ghee in a heavy-bottomed kadhai (wok) simmering on a low flame. "Manav, it's now time to add the sugar," she tells her grandson, who slowly pours some sugar and stirs the mixture to get the besan barfi ready for setting.

A litany of such instructions, coupled with affectionate banter between the grandmother and grandson, lead to the melt-in-the-mouth signature sweetmeat made day after day in their Chandigarh home and sold under the brand Harbhajan's - Bachpan Yaad Ajayee (Made with Love). "Bachpan yaad ajayee" translates to "it will remind you of childhood".

Now shipped across India, barfi is Kaur's family legacy, a sweet she picked out from her father's repertoire of recipes. Four years

ago, with her family's backing, it became the signature dish of the brand born in Chandigarh, the joint capital of the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana.

It all started with a candid conversation with Kaur's youngest daughter, Raveena Suri, a few days before the matriarch's 90th birthday. Suri asked her mum if she had any unfulfilled desires. Kaur said while she was happy to see her children and grandchildren settled and busy with their lives, she also felt the need to do something and not sit idle at home. "I wanted to get a taste of being independent."

What's significant, Kaur says, is that her daughter took her words seriously. Within a matter of days, Suri found an opportunity for her mother - who loved preparing Indian sweetmeats and delicacies - to set up a stall at a pop-up market in the city. Five kilograms of besan barfi, badam sherbet and mango pickle sold out within the hour, giving Kaur a chance to earn the first 2,000 Indian rupees (\$26) of her life. More importantly, she received a lot of attention



Kaur with her grandson Manav, who helped standardise the recipes.

and affection from buyers owing to her age. Kaur with her grandson Manav, who helped standardise the recipes. And it is Kaur's inspirational story that the brand has built and thrived on over the years. "In the first two years, we only sold our

products to people who were known to us," says Supriya Suri, Manav's wife, who handles her grandmother-in-law's social media accounts. Kaur would make these dishes in her home kitchen along with a helper, and buyers would come to the door to collect them.

However, since June 2020 - when the Instagram account was launched - the orders came pouring in. Owing to the pandemic, the whole family were at home and got a chance to focus on the initiative and run it like

a proper business. Packaging and branding were worked upon by her granddaughter Mallika, and Manav got involved in production. He entered the kitchen and, with help from his grand-

mother, turned the measures from "fistfuls" and "bowlfuls" to grams and ounces, thus standardising the recipes. Trays and cutters were purchased to create barfis with the same dimensions. A website was set up in August, and Harbhajan's officially became a family passion project. But Kaur has always led the pack. She formulates every recipe and tastes every batch before they are packaged for delivery.

She credits her ingenuity and work ethic to her father, who was a passionate cook. "He didn't cook regularly, but whenever he did, he created magic with food," Kaur says. He loved making besan barfi on festivals and special occasions such as birthdays, following the same recipe since Kaur was a child. "I was quite a foodie with a sweet tooth, so I hung around helping him and learnt the recipe in the process," she says.

She picked up on the rest of the products, such as chutneys, pickles and sherbets, from her mother, who was the wind beneath her husband's wings, always helping him in the kitchen, but never taking the credit. For nearly 90 years, Kaur's life was much like her mum's - away

from the spotlight and working behind the scenes. Barfi aside, the brand also makes pickles, chutneys and sherbets.

"I wanted to study and do something with my life," says Kaur. But as luck would have it, when she was in class 8, her teacher died. Instead of replacing him, the school shut down classes for her batch. As was common at the time, Kaur was sucked into household chores and lost the chance to study further.

Cooking became thoroughly enjoyable once she got married. "My husband loved eating and I enjoyed cooking for him and the family," she says. "If I ever planned on eating out, my husband would say: 'Tera dhaba best hai' [your restaurant-quality food at home is the best]," recalls Kaur.

Recently, Kaur's family convinced her to put her photo on the packaging and now she has literally become the face of the brand. But for her, the business is not about being in the limelight. Rather she is happy that the initiative has filled her time and helped connect with the family. "These are my bonus years, and I'm glad I can bond with my children in this way," she says.

CENSURE

Lawsuits mount against Procter & Gamble over cancer-causing chemical in sprays - says court

CINCINNATI

Procter & Gamble Co. is facing at least 17 federal lawsuits surrounding some of its Old Spice and Secret antiperspirant sprays, alleging they are contaminated with dangerous amounts of a cancer-causing chemical, a review of court records shows.

Six of the lawsuits have been filed in federal court in Cincinnati. They are seeking class-action status. One of the most recent in Cincinnati was filed Dec. 17 on behalf of plaintiffs including two Kentucky residents and a Milford, Ohio, woman who said she used a Secret spray for at least two years.

The lawsuits come in the wake of a report issued in early November by Valisure, an independent lab in Connecticut, which found high levels of benzene - a known human carcinogen - in body-spray products from numerous companies.

Among the products tested by the lab, the highest amount of benzene was found in Old Spice Pure Sport antiperspirant and Secret Powder Fresh 24-Hour. The lab's analysis also found high levels of benzene in products from several other companies.

An Old Spice Pure Sport sample examined by the independent lab had an average benzene concentration of nearly 18 parts per million. The Secret Powder Fresh 24-hour aerosol measured 16 ppm. When its use is unavoidable, the Food and Drug Administration says benzene levels should be restricted to under 2 parts per million.

Among the spray deodorants and antiperspirants from other companies with high levels of benzene were: Tag Midnight Fine Fragrance Body Spray (14 ppm); Sure Lasts All Day Unscented (11 ppm); Equate Dry Spray Cucumber (6 ppm); and Suave 24 Hour Protection Powder (5 ppm).

Last month, Procter & Gamble voluntarily recalled 18 Old Spice

and Secret aerosol spray antiperspirants. The company said other Old Spice and Secret products were not impacted and could continue to be used.

And on Dec. 17, the company announced the recall of aerosol dry conditioner and shampoo sprays from Pantene, Aussie, Herbal Essences and Waterless. It said benzene had been detected in some of those products. The company said it undertook a review of all its aerosol products after Valisure reported finding benzene in the Old Spice and Secret sprays.

Benzene, P&G noted in a statement with the recall, is not an ingredient in any of its products. The company said the benzene came from the propellant, which is produced by another manufacturer, that sprays the product out of the can.

According to one of the recent lawsuits filed in Cincinnati, many of the products tested by the independent lab did not contain detectable levels of benzene. "It does not appear that benzene use is unavoidable for their manufacture," the lawsuit says. P&G spokesman Damon Jones said daily exposure to benzene at the levels detected in the recalled products "would not be expected to cause adverse health consequences."

"However, out of an abundance of caution, we have issued voluntary consumer recalls," Jones said. "Nothing is more important to us than the safety of the consumers who use our products and quality of the products we provide to our customers." Jones declined to comment on the lawsuits, saying: "We will make clear our position on the litigation in our various court filings."

According to one of the recent lawsuits, it is widely agreed upon, both by U.S. and international agencies, that benzene causes cancer in humans. It has been linked to cancers including leukemia.



ITV

SATURDAY 18 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Rebeca
21:30	Art and lifestyle
22:00	ITV TOP 10
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTW

SUNDAY 19 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

MONDAY 20 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top Ten

11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:10	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Albu yako rpt
18:15	DWTW: Kesho leo
18:45	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00	Afya ya Jamii
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW
22:15	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTW

TUESDAY 21 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:25	Jagina rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt:
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:45	Chetu ni chetu
22:20	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTW

WEDNESDAY 22 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsham za pwani
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Jagina

THURSDAY 23 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsham za pwani
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Jagina

FRIDAY 24 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsham za pwani
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Jagina

SATURDAY 25 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari

SUNDAY 26 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Sat 18 Dec

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30	Our Earth rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea
14:30	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
17:15	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Movie: The Sound of Murder (tape no:5865)
23:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
01:00	Al Jazeera

Sun 19 Dec

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
12:00	Jagina rpt



Procter & Gamble's Old Spice and Secret antiperspirant sprays.

WORLD

UN official concerned about alleged sexual violence in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS

A UN official on Thursday voiced grave concern over alleged acts of sexual violence by the Sudanese security forces during Sunday's demonstrations in Khartoum and called for accountability for those responsible.

Pramila Patten, the UN secretary-general's special representative on sexual violence in conflict, was deeply concerned about "credible reports of

serious human rights violations, including the use of rape and gang rape of women and girls to disperse protesters," said her office.

"I demand the immediate and complete cessation of all human rights violations and abuses including sexual violence. I call on the authorities to take effective measures to ensure ease of access to medical, legal and psychosocial support to the survivors, and put in place accountability mechanisms to



File photo of Pramila Patten, the UN secretary-general's special representative on sexual violence in conflict. (PHOTO / AFP)

prevent reoccurrence of such violence," she was quoted as saying.

"The perpetrators of these human rights violations must be identified and prosecuted. I join the call of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a prompt, independent and thorough investigation into the allegations of rape and sexual harassment."

Patten called on the international

community, including members of the Security Council, to use their good offices with leaders of Sudan to demand an end to all forms of violence and intimidation against civilians, including sexual violence. With further protests planned, it is crucial that security forces act in full respect for international law and standards regulating the use of force, said her office.

US makes fool of itself with dirty trick on China's Xinjiang

BEIJING

THE United States is making a fool of itself by signing a piece of legislation allegedly banning imports from China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and imposing so-called sanctions over debunked claims of forced labor.

The dirty trick is a new episode of America's malicious scheme to contain China by trying to stir trouble in Xinjiang based on fabricated lies about the northwestern Chinese territory in the name of human rights, and being driven by Washington's desperate attempt to retain hegemony.

As an old Chinese saying goes, as a clay figurine cannot stand rain water, lies cannot bear scrutiny.

The politically-charged venture and brazen interference in China's international affairs by the US side will only end up in a complete failure, further undermining America's credibility and image.

The so-called "genocide in Xinjiang," dubbed as the biggest joke and lie of the century, has already been busted easily. There is also no forced labor in Xinjiang, where employment is voluntary and based on free choice in the labor market.

In carrying out the disinformation campaign and misleading the public despite the truth, the US has been maliciously seeking to deal a blow to Xinjiang's industries and the Chinese economy at large.

The West led by the US has relentlessly smeared China's peaceful rise as a threat and tried unfairly to counter its development on multiple fronts.

With such despicable moves against the Xinjiang autonomous region, a critical link of the global supply chain for various sectors, the US will inevitably harm the interests of many businesses and consumers around the world, including those of its own.

This is a typical case of hurting others without benefiting oneself.

As a matter of fact, the label of "forced labor" fits the US better than anyone else.

There are between 400,000 and 500,000 child farmworkers in the US, and up to 100,000 people are trafficked into the country for forced labor each year, according to studies.

Meanwhile, a significant number of prisoners incarcerated in US prisons have been forced to work for nearly nothing.

"If the US cared about forced



In this Nov 26, 2019 photo, people visit a scenic spot of Ulunggur Lake in Fuhai County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. XINHUA

labor, it would deal with those issues. But the problem is that's not the issue. They don't care about that issue," Daniel Kovalik, who teaches international human rights at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, told Xinhua recently. "They use it selectively and they use it strategically to go after other countries."

In the short US history, there were also innumerable crimes against humanity committed against Native Americans - a de

facto genocide

"Our nation was born in genocide," American civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in his 1963 book *Why We Can't Wait*. "We are perhaps the only nation which tried as a matter of national policy to wipe out its indigenous population."

The people of Xinjiang are hardworking and brave, and products manufactured by them are of good quality and competitive prices. It will be a great loss for those buying into

the big lies made up by the US and choosing not to use Xinjiang products.

As for the US, if the country really intends to address the issue of human rights, it might as well begin to reflect and work on their own problems rather than farcically point fingers at others.

The international community, after all, has had enough of its hypocrisy and ridiculousness.

Indian court urges delay in state elections as Omicron spreads

NEW DELHI

AN Indian court urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to suspend political rallies and election campaigns in poll-bound states amid the rising number of Omicron cases, a variant of COVID-19.

Judges of the Allahabad High Court in the country's most populous Uttar Pradesh state said on Thursday the number of people infected with Omicron is on the rise and could result in a third wave of the coronavirus.

Elections to the state assembly in UP, home to over 220 mil-

lion people, are scheduled for early next year but final dates are yet to be declared. Three other states are also scheduled to hold local elections at the same time.

Political parties, including Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, have started holding rallies and meetings where crowds continue to ignore pandemic protocols.

The judges said, if possible, the elections that are expected to be held in February next year be postponed by a couple of months.

"The court requests the



honorable prime minister that looking at the situation of this frightening pandemic, to take strong steps and stop rallies, gatherings and cancel or postpone (the) upcoming election," the judges said.

"Because only if there is life, we have our world," they stated.

India's overall tally of the fast-spreading Omicron variant has reached 358 cases, across 17 states, authorities said on Friday, although no deaths have been reported so far.

Australia

Australia on Friday narrowed the wait time for people to receive COVID-19 booster shots as another record jump in daily infections resulted in canceled flights and sent Christmas travel plans into disarray.

From Jan 4, the country would offer booster shots to every person aged over 18 who

had their second shot four months earlier and the interval would be again reduced to three months by the end of the month, said federal Health Minister Greg Hunt.

Most states had been pressing the federal government to make more people eligible for boosters to stem the tide of Omicron cases, which reached 9,100 on Friday, up from the previous day's record of 8,200. While most new cases were previously in New South Wales and Victoria states, neighboring Queensland and South Australia clocked sharp increases.

COVID-19: South Africa to roll out boosters immediately

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa will start offering booster shots of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine from yesterday, the health department said in a statement, following its approval for use as a booster by the health regulator a day earlier.

Both J&J and Pfizer COVID-19 shots have been authorized as boosters by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), but the move opens up boosters to the general public for the first time.

So far, only J&J booster shots have been available for health workers. However the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has heightened the need for people to shore up their protections.

"From 24th December 2021 the National Vaccination Program will provide J&J booster vaccinations to anyone who received their last dose at least 2 months prior," the statement said, adding ideally it would also be within six months of their original shot.

Pfizer booster shots were set to become available in early January. However the health ministry said these would now be offered from Dec 28 for people who had received their second dose at least six months ago.

While SAHPRA had authorised the use of a different booster shot from that delivered for a person's primary vaccination, the health department's statement described boosters as "the same vaccine in the same dose administered to people who have had a primary vaccination series".

Agencies

South Korea's Moon pardons disgraced former president Park

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's President Moon Jae-in granted a pardon to former president Park Geun-hye, who is in prison after being convicted of corruption, the justice ministry said yesterday, amid a tight presidential race.



Park, 69, (pictured) became South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be thrown out of office when the Constitutional Court upheld a parliament vote in 2017 to impeach her over a scandal that also landed the heads of two conglomerates, including Samsung Electronics, in jail.

She was brought down after being found guilty of colluding with a friend to receive tens of billions of won from major conglomerates mostly to fund her friend's family and nonprofit foundations.

In January, South Korea's top court upheld a 20-year prison sentence for Park on the graft charges that finalized her downfall, bringing an end to the legal process.

Moon's office said the decision to pardon Park was intended to "overcome unfortunate past history, promote people's unity and join hands for the future."

"I hope this would provide a chance to go beyond differences in thoughts and pros and cons, and open a new era of integration and unity," his spokeswoman quoted him as saying.

Moon had previously pledged not to pardon those who were convicted of corruption. But many supporters and politicians of the conservative main opposition People Power party have called for Park's pardon ahead of the March presidential election, citing her deteriorating health and deepening political strife.

Opposition lawmakers have said that Park has experienced health problems while in prison, including undergoing shoulder surgery.

Park's imprisonment had become a political hot potato that divided the country, with conservatives having weekly rallies in downtown Seoul urging her release and criticizing Moon until the COVID-19 pandemic emerged.

A poll by Gallup Korea in November showed 48 percent of respondents were opposed to pardoning Park and Lee, but the numbers have dropped from around 60 percent early this year. The flag bearer of Moon's ruling Democratic Party, Lee Jae-myung, and People Power's candidate Yoon Suk-yeol are seen neck and neck in recent polls.

Lee said he understood Moon's "agony" and respected his decision for national unity, but Park should offer a sincere apology for the scandal.

Yoon said Park's pardon was welcome albeit late, but did not elaborate on reporters' questions over whether her potential resumption of political activity.

Park's predecessor, also conservative Lee Myung-bak, who is also imprisoned on corruption charges, was not pardoned.

Agencies

Greater Bay Science Forum 2021 concludes in Guangzhou

THE Greater Bay Science Forum 2021 concluded in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province on Dec. 13.

The three-day event, themed "Exploring the Future, Sharing Scientific Achievement," was initiated by the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), and designed to explore and discuss the trend of the global scientific development, as well as its future impacts.

It promoted scientific exchanges and mutual learning, and contributed wisdom and strength to regional and global scientific prosperity and development.

A high-level plenary session, six sub-forums and a tech & innovation summit were held during the forum in Guangzhou's Nansha district, the permanent site of the of the event.

ANSO president Bai Chunli, who's also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), noted that the Greater Bay Science Forum will be built into a "Davos forum" of the scientific world.

In recent years, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has made remarkable progress in building itself into an international innovation

and technology hub, attracting a number of top innovation resources from the rest of the world.

It is home to a batch of academic institutions and labs of important influence, as well as a series of major national science projects. Nearly 200 academicians from both China and abroad and Nobel Prize winners are currently working in the area.

The Greater Bay Science Forum 2021 built an exchange platform for world-class science and technology enterprises, financial organizations and governments, and this platform will have an

important impact on the future development of the Greater Bay Area's scientific industry and basic sciences, said Zhao Yuliang, an academician of the CAS and president of the Greater Bay Area National Institute for Nanotechnology Innovation.

The nanotechnology sub-forum of the Greater Bay Science Forum will help translate research outcomes of nanotechnology into actual productive forces, the man noted.

Multiple Nobel Prize winners and renowned academicians delivered keynote speeches at the opening ceremony of the forum

on Dec. 11.

Richard John Roberts, who was awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, and currently chairs the Laureate Science Alliance, explained how biotechnology is helping humanity in his speech.

He attributed COVID-19 testing and vaccine development to the genetic sequencing results of the novel coronavirus released by researchers in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province.

He called it an excellent example that shows how scientific exchanges and cooperation can help the world, as well as a typi-

cal case of China obtaining and sharing its research results with the rest of the world at the early stage of the COVID-19 outbreak. His views were echoed by many scientists participating in the forum.

At a sub-forum on life science, CAS academician and director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention Gao Fu called for global sharing of COVID-19 vaccines. "The virus doesn't come with a passport. We hope that people around the world can join hands to fight it," he said.

People's Daily

Trump appeals to Supreme Court seeking to keep records from House Jan. 6 panel

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday appealed to the Supreme Court, asking it to stop the National Archives from transferring his White House records to the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

Trump's lawyers filed an emergency petition with the Supreme Court, requesting that the justices conduct a full review of his case fighting the release of some 700 pages worth of records sought by the select committee.

While the Supreme Court justices are considering the legal and constitutional issues surrounding the case, the Trump team argued, the decision earlier this month by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to permit the transfer of the records should be put on hold.

"The D.C. Circuit's opinion endorsed the power of a congressional committee to broadly seek the records of a prior Presidential administration and, as long as the incumbent President agrees to waive executive privilege, gain unfettered access to confidential communications of that administration," read the petition.

"This troubling ruling lacks any meaningful or objective limiting principle. In an increasingly partisan political climate, such records requests will become the norm regardless of what party is in power. Consequently, this Court's review is critical.

The D.C. Circuit's decision was made on Dec. 9, in which the three-judge panel unanimously rejected the arguments by the former president's lawyers that their client could assert executive privilege to prevent the current administration from sharing the Trump White House's documents with the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol.

The court at the time of its ruling halted the transfer of the records for 14 days to allow Trump to ask the Supreme Court to intervene, and Thursday is the deadline for filing a petition.

"The disagreement between an incumbent President and his predecessor from a rival political party is both novel and highlights the importance of executive privilege and the ability of Presidents and their advisers to reliably make and receive full and frank advice, without concern that communications will be publicly released to meet a political objective," Trump's filing read.

Since suing the National Archives, which keeps the records at issue, and the select committee in October, the Trump team has been arguing that President Joe Biden's decision to waive Trump's executive privilege in the context of the case is unconstitutional.

They argued so again in the petition with the high court, saying "to the extent that the Presidential Records Act is construed to give the incumbent President 'unfettered discretion to waive former Presidents' executive privilege,' it is unconstitutional ...

There is nothing 'unfettered' about President Biden's calibrated judgement in this case."

A temporary stay of the D.C. Circuit's ruling could be granted unilaterally by the justice who receives the emergency application, which in this case is Chief Justice John Roberts, The Hill explained in its report.



The D.C. Circuit's opinion endorsed the power of a congressional committee to broadly seek the records

UN cancels humanitarian flights into and out of Sanaa airport

UNITED NATIONS

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights into and out of Yemen's Sanaa airport scheduled for Thursday have been canceled, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The civil aviation authorities in Sanaa have effectively prevented humanitarian flights into and out of the airport since Sunday, said OCHA.

"UNHAS is a vital link for the movement of aid workers and the delivery of humanitarian supplies into Yemen. As we reported earlier in the week, a UN team visited the airport on 21 December to assess the damage caused by airstrikes the night before and

noted that it remains operational for emergency humanitarian use.

The UN is exploring alternatives to move supplies and staff into and out of Sanaa," said OCHA. The Saudi-led coalition has been carrying out airstrikes on the Yemeni capital of Sanaa controlled by Houthis militia.

"We continue to call on all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and to take constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects throughout military operations as well as to preserve the civilian character of public infrastructure," said OCHA.

Xinhua

Victims, witnesses to terrorist attacks in Xinjiang and their families condemn terrorism at press conference

VICTIMS of and witnesses to terrorist attacks in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region as well as their families shared their personal experiences by making speeches or via pre-recorded videos at the 64th press conference held by Xinjiang on issues related to the region on Dec.13, strongly condemning violent terrorists and expressing firm support for the fight against terrorism and extremism.

During the press conference held both online and offline in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, five videos were played, which recorded how the "three evil forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism killed innocent people, attacked government agencies and committed terrorist attacks in China and abroad between 1990 and 2016. The scenes of many crimes of the "three evil forces" were exposed for the very first time.

According to a rough calculation, from 1990 to the end of 2016, the "three evil forces" orchestrated several thousand violent and terrorist cases and incidents in Xinjiang and other regions, killing a large number of innocent people and several hundred policemen and causing inestimable property loss, said Xu Guixiang, a spokesperson with the Xinjiang regional government.

In recent years, by fighting against terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law, Xinjiang has effectively eliminated the breeding ground of terrorism, curbed frequent occurrences of terrorist activities for a certain period and ensured the safety of the lives and property of people of all ethnic groups, winning wide support from the whole society, Xu pointed out.

The Xinjiang-related issues have never been about ethnicity, religion and human



Photo shows the 64th press conference held by Xinjiang on issues related to the region on Dec.13 2021. Photo/Xinjiang Daily

rights, but about violent terrorism, radicalization and separatism, noted Xu, adding that the attempt of anti-China forces in the U.S. and other Western countries to stigmatize Xinjiang's counter-terrorist efforts, label separatism as democracy, politicize human rights issues and justify their interference in affairs of the region will only end up in vain.

The anti-China forces in the U.S. and other Western countries have maliciously misrepresented Xinjiang's just actions to combat terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law for the purpose of protecting the basic human rights of people of all ethnic groups, including the rights to survival and development, as "genocide", which is without doubt one of the worst cases of slander in human history, according to Xu.

Their wicked, despicable and sordid deed has been strong condemned and opposed by Xinjiang's 25 million resi-

dents of all ethnic groups, Xu added.

"On Sept. 18, 2015, my father was brutally killed by a gang of violent terrorists," said Ajigul Turhun at the press conference, with her eyes filled with tears. Her father, a kind and warm-hearted herdsman, died when helping local policemen arrest terrorists in the 9-18 Baicheng Serious Violent Terrorist Attacks in 2015.

"Terrorists have no humanity and care little about human life. If they try to stir up trouble again, I will also fight against them bravely, just like my father did," she added.

Zhang Jianguo, a victim of the 225 Urumqi Serial Bus Bombings in 1997, was so angry when he recalled the tragedy happened on the bus he was taking, "I suddenly heard a bang, and the next thing I knew—the bus window was broken, the windshield was blown off, the backdoor was gone, and a lot of people were lying on the ground," Zhang recalled.

"I resent terrorists who planted those bombs. They destroyed our happy life and deserve to be punished severely," Zhang said.

Alimjan Mattohti, a witness to the 75 Urumqi Egregious Violent Terrorist Attacks in 2009, said that he was heartbroken when he saw thugs chase and beat innocent people and heard the anguished cries of those victims, including an emergency medicine physician who was on his way back to the hospital to save people.

"I detest religious extremists who distort doctrines and manipulate religion to cause ethnic separation and incite violent and terrorist activities. People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang will never let violent terrorists have their way in undermining ethnic unity, endangering social stability, and splitting the country," he said.

"I hate those violent terrorists and sincerely hope that the tragedy I've experienced will never happen again," said Li Faling, a victim of the 25 Urumqi Violent Terrorist Attacks in 1992. Nearly 30 years have passed since she was injured in a bus explosion in Urumqi, yet there are still four pieces of shrapnel in her legs.

People's Daily

Ethiopian army told to keep stronghold without further proceeding

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian government on Thursday announced a successful competition of the latest military operation against rebel forces in Northern Ethiopia.

Ethiopian government forces have "routed the terrorist group forces in the Afar and Amhara regions, and effectively prevented (the rebel group) from taking ammunitions it brought to the areas it had invaded to its final destination," state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) quoted Legesse Tulu, minister of Government Communication Service, as saying.

"The government has decided to order the army to keep the stronghold in liberated areas without further proceeding due to various reasons."

Noting that the aim of the operation was to liberate Amhara and Afar regions from the occupation of the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the minister stressed that the entire Afar and Eastern zones of the Amhara region have been cleared of the aggression of forces loyal to the TPLF as per the plan.

The conflict that started in early November last year in the country's Northernmost

Tigray region between the TPLF and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) following the TPLF's attack on the northern military command of the ENDF had over the second half of 2021 expanded further southwards, affecting neighboring Amhara and Afar regions.

The ENDF had initially taken control of Mekelle, Tigray's capital,

within less than one month from the ousted rebel group, which used to rule the Tigray region for about three decades.

In June, the federal government announced a unilateral ceasefire and withdrew its forces from the region, emphasizing the move would facilitate humanitarian assistance, peaceful livelihood and agriculture activities amid the approaching rainy season.

Forces loyal to the TPLF soon took control of much of the area in the region, including the regional capital.

The conflict has since expanded to Tigray's neighboring Amhara and Afar regions, which was followed by a six-month nationwide state of emergency rule by the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives (HoPR) to ward off forces of the TPLF – an entity design-

nated as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian parliament.

In line with the national call, which the Ethiopian government dubbed a "survival campaign," the country's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed joined frontline combat late last month, followed by strong mobilization among the general public.

The massive nationwide mobilization seems to have played a role as the ENDF, supported by regional allies and the popular movement, intensified its military operations against the rebel fighters.

Over the past month, the ENDF, together with regional forces and militia fighters, has claimed control of strategic cities and towns across Amhara and Afar regions, reversing months of battlefield gains by the rebel forces, eventually forcing the rebel forces to withdraw

BEIJING

CHINA posted faster growth in foreign direct investment (FDI) this year, with a growing appeal thanks to its steady recovery despite a COVID-19-induced global economic slowdown.

In the first 11 months of the year, FDI into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, surged 15.9 percent year-on-year, crossing a remarkable line to reach 1.04 trillion yuan or \$157.2 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The 11-month figure has already outnumbered that for the whole of 2020. The entire year figure for 2021 will likely achieve double-digit growth, rarely seen in recent years.

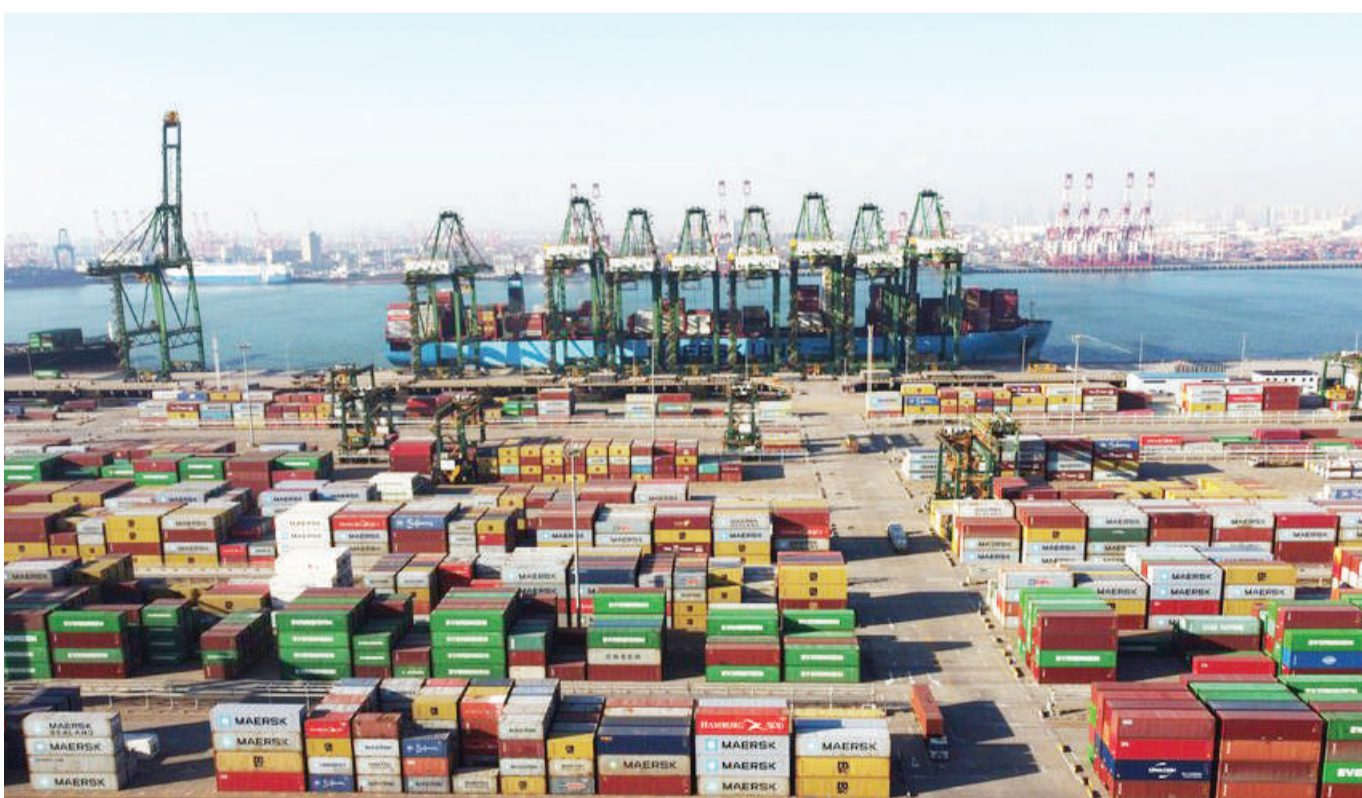
The foreign capital inflow is widely seen as a window to observe a country's opening-up level and reflects its economic vitality. FDI flows react more strongly to crises than trade and gross domestic products (GDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in a report.

"Foreign capital would flow to wherever the market flourishes and opportunities thrive," said Liu Xiangdong, a researcher with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges. He pointed out that China's stable economic performance and promising prospects were the underlying reason behind the impressive capital inflows.

STABLE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

While the pandemic inter-

What's behind China's robust FDI this year?



rupted the global economy and trade, China has defied the trends of a worldwide investment slump and posted stellar growth.

In the first three quarters, the country logged a 9.8-percent GDP expansion, well above its annual growth target of over 6 percent, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows.

Multinational companies have galloped to pump their cash into the Chinese market as the country's recovery

gained steam partly thanks to its effective pandemic response.

November economic data showed that the "real sector" of China's economy registered solid expansion. The value-added output for major companies in the manufacturing sector witnessed accelerated growth, while high-tech industries saw rapid growth.

The production of industrial robots in November jumped 27.9 percent year-on-year, while the output of

new energy vehicles surged 112 percent from a year ago. "The real economy continued to strengthen, and positive changes have gradually increased," said Fu Linghui, an NBS spokesperson.

The country has overcome the negative impacts of the virus and leveraged its advantages in complete supply chains and sound foundation of the manufacturing industry, filling the gap between global supply and demand, said Ren Hongbin, vice minis-

ter of commerce.

DEVELOPMENT DIVIDEND MAGNET

China's megamarket volume, policy dividends, and improved business environment also win over the long-term investment commitment from multinationals. The resilience of foreign investment has defied earlier expectations that multinationals would withdraw from the country.

In the first half of the year, the European Union saw its

actual investment in China grew 10.3 percent year-on-year. Foreign investments from countries along the Belt and Road and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations into the Chinese mainland jumped 24.7 percent and 23.7 percent, respectively, during the January-November period.

As China accelerated industrial restructuring, more foreign investment flowed into modern service industries and advanced manufacturing industries, according to Tu Xinquan, a professor with the China Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics.

In May, Roche, a Switzerland-based global healthcare company, invested over 200 million yuan in helping incubate and support innovative Chinese medical enterprises.

Automation giant Honeywell International also signed cooperation agreements with more than 20 Chinese enterprises on green and low-carbon development, advanced manufacturing, and digitalization at the China International Import Expo.

China actively promotes green and low-carbon transformation and brings broad development opportunities to multinational enterprises, said Steven Lien, president of Honeywell China and Aerospace Asia Pacific.

ROSY PROSPECTS AHEAD

The Latest forecasts of

China's economic growth for 2022 from major international organizations have manifested their confidence in its economy.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts that China's economy will grow 5.6 percent next year, 0.7 percentage points higher than global economic growth. The World Bank's prediction came in at 5.1 percent.

At the tone-setting Central Economic Work Conference earlier this month, China's top policymakers urged proactive efforts to align with the high-standard international economic and trade rules, deepening reform via high-level opening-up, and boosting high-quality development.

The meeting also stressed promoting institutional opening-up and attracting more investment from multinational companies.

German carmaker BMW recently announced its upgraded strategy for the Chinese market. "Next year, three new or upgraded plants will open in Shenyang and Zhangjiagang. We will soon be launching the second BMW electric battery vehicle from Shenyang," said Nicolas Peter, member of the board of management of BMW AG responsible for finance and China affairs.

He believed that the move would enhance China's position as one of BMW Group's top three new energy vehicle production bases globally.

Xinhua

The
Guardian

SPORT

Tucker, Campher sparkle as Ireland square T20I series

LAUDERHILL

IT went down to the final over, but Ireland managed to just about avoid another defeat in their rematch with USA in Florida, Lorcan Tucker's charmed 84 making the difference in a nine-run win on Thursday night at Broward County Stadium, as the series ended 1-1.

Having been asked to bat, Ireland struggled through much of their innings for the second day in a row, barring Tucker, who posted a second consecutive fifty after being dropped twice in what turned out to be a match-winning knock.

Just as he did a day earlier, Tucker arrived in the second over with Ireland in trouble after Paul Stirling fell missing a sweep against Nisarg Patel to be lbw for five.

And Andy Balbirnie's déjà vu came in the form of a second dismissal at deep square-leg, pulling Saurabh Netravalkar to Sushant Modani to fall for ten as Ireland ended the second over at 20 for 2.

After looking uncomfortable against the pace of Ali Khan in the last game, Tucker feasted on him this time, starting in the fourth over in a 180-degree turnaround in the wrong direction for USA's bowling ace.

Tucker clattered Khan for six and four, a portent of another key sequence to come at the tail end of the innings.

Another two boundaries were taken off Netravalkar in the sixth over as Ireland finished the powerplay at 59 for 2.

Ireland's post-powerplay issues that haunted them during the T20 World Cup did not exactly cease in Florida, as Tucker ran out of partners.

USA's spinners did well to rein in the scoring rate as the teenaged duo of Yasir Mohammad and debutant Vatsal Vaghela took two wickets apiece to put Ireland under pressure.

Yasir struck first with his legspin, getting Curtis Campher to slog sweep against the turn to produce a skied chance for Marty Kain on long-on for 17 in the seventh.

Shane Getkate then skied a drive off Vaghela's left-arm spin to Ritwik Behera at long-off for five, and Ireland's promising start dissipated by the halfway stage with the score 84 for 4.

Tucker was first dropped at extra cover off Yasir's bowling by Nisarg when on 39, and Vaghela then spilt a straightforward chance off his own bowling with Tucker on 50 as a mistimed drive fluttered gently back to at knee height only to be juggled and dropped.

While Tucker was relieved, the middle-order was not, as wickets tumbled during a six-over stretch from the 11th to the 16th in which Ireland went without a boundary.

Neil Rock (caught long-on for four), William McClintock (caught long-on for one) and Mark Adair (bowled for three) fell in consecutive overs as Ireland slipped to 102 for 7 in the 14th and looked in danger of not batting out their overs.

That came to fruition, but not before a crucial

sequence in which Tucker attacked Khan once more in the 18th.

Down to their final wicket after both Simi Singh and Barry McCarthy had fallen cheaply, Khan went in search of the one perfect yorker to put the innings on ice.

Instead, it backfired, as he missed his length and the result was Tucker driving him for two sixes and a four in a 17-run over.

A reverse sweep off Netravalkar produced another boundary in the 19th before Tucker fell trying to repeat the shot as Ireland ended their innings with seven balls unused.

Behera opened the chase for USA in a reshuffled batting order and was lucky to be given not out first ball on a strong lbw shout to a back-of-a-length ball from Mark Adair that skidded on to hit him in front of middle stump.

But Behera could not make much of the extra chance, struggling to find rhythm in an innings of 16 off 23 balls before he was caught hooking Adair in the eighth.

With fellow opener Ryan Scott run-out by sharp work from Campher off his own bowling, USA were behind the eight-ball after a slow start to the chase at 42 for 2 after eight.

After a 13-run opening over, USA went until the 14th before they scored another double-digit frame when Gajanan Singh finally opened up to slog sweep Ben White's legspin over long-on, giving USA some life.

But he fell to a dubious lbw decision against Campher for 22 in the next over to a ball that replays indicated was pitching comfortably outside leg despite going in the direction of off stump.

At 109 for 4 after 17 and 42 needed off 18 balls, victory seemed an outlandish thought for USA before momentum shifted back and forth in a wild 18th over bowled by Campher.

It started with a chest-high no-ball, which was heaved for six over midwicket by Modani.

Though he missed out on the free-hit, another straight drive for six followed to bring the equation down to a very manageable 30 off 16.

But Campher swung the pendulum back Ireland's way by taking three wickets in four balls.

Modani skied a drive to Tucker at sweeper cover for 27 before Marty Kain was bowled for 11 by a back-of-a-length delivery that skidded past a pull.

Mohammad's attempt at innovation failed when his attempt at a ramp over fine leg resulted in a cue shot off the toe back to Campher for a second-ball duck.

USA entered the final over needing 17 to win against Adair. After conceding 23 to Kain off the 20th a day earlier in which he erred horribly with his lines, Adair redeemed himself on Thursday night by getting his wide yorkers spot on.

Three dots and a bye came off the six legal deliveries in a seven-run over to clinch victory as Tucker took home both Player of the Match and Player of the Series honours.

AGENCIES



Fountain Gate FC's Sadick Ramadhan (L), gets the better of Pan African player, Maulid Jumanne, when the clubs met in this season's Championship fixture at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Premier League outfits ought to be careful with mini transfer window signings

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

THE most exciting time of the year has arrived in the local soccer scene, namely the mini transfer window.

One of my friends likes to joke that football players' registration in Tanzania is more interesting than the country's top flight.

This is a period that many teams boast about signing players and convincing fans that such footballers have great potential and are coming to completely change their squads.

Clubs' officials often use this period to cool down their respective clubs' fans by bringing in new players. Fans are deceived by very trivial issues.

Soccer followers will quickly forget their clubs' poor results on the pitch at a time the outfits rope in players that are counted as competent performers.

Tanzania is one of the few countries where a soccer player's registration is considered part of a team's success, with infrastructure and trophies set aside.

The biggest goal of the mini transfer window is to strengthen the squad towards the end of the season.

Here the team makes little adjustments due to perceived weaknesses as the season draws to a close.

The mini registration window is very different from the end-of-season window.

Teams can rope in many players during the end-of-season transfer window because the coach will have enough time to stay with the players during the pre-season.

It is different from a mini registration period when an outfit ropes in a foreign player as the league progresses.

The player and the coach do not get enough time to sit together to face each other.

It is for this reason that teams are required to make fewer entries in the squads.

An outfit that won promotion to the NBC Premier League was reportedly thinking of leaving out more than 15 of its players because it was not satisfied with their standards.

It is alleged that the players get extremely little time to play in the NBC Premier League.

Significant errors must have been made in the main registra-



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's defender, Kelvin Kijiri (L), negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania FC's fullback, Juma Ramadhan, as the two squads locked horns in this season's Premier League match in Arusha on September 27. PHOTO: KMC FC

tion window if an outfit contemplates offloading 15 players during the mini registration period.

A person might wonder where does an outfit gets the other 15 players to fill the gap left by the ones that have been offloaded?

When one thinks about finding an answer another question comes up when an outfit ropes in new footballers, how will the outfit see to it such footballers forge coordination within a short time while the league is in progress? It is ridiculous.

Some popular domestic clubs were reportedly waiting for their respective technical benches' reports to start looking for new players.

Clubs need to listen to their technical benches in technical decisions. What I do not agree with is the teams' decision to start looking for players.

An outfit cannot start looking for players when the registration period has begun.

A player registered during this period had to be monitored for a long time and he has to convince the outfit that he should be registered.

This is not the time for an outfit to start tracking down a player.

If an outfit starts tracking down a player this season and signing him, such an outfit stands to be in danger of not living up to expectations.

An outfit should better not register football players than make poor signings.

There is the same thing that is often done by prominent sides in the country, roping in foreign players to test them and find out whether they can prove their worth.

Such a tendency amounts to laziness. An outfit cannot test a player it believes has what it takes to do well.

But sometimes clubs find themselves registering unwillingly even if they are not overly satis-

fied with the level of footballers just because they have missed the right players.

Testing is not the right way to appreciate a player's quality.

There is a belief in the world that the mini registration period is not the right time for a club to get a good player.

The fact is that no self-proclaimed club is ready to let its best player leave in the middle of the season. They must have plans with him for the entire season.

A good signing fee will be the only reason which will make a club leave its best player in January.

Outfits will moreover let good players go for less because such footballers' contracts are nearing expiry and outfits are worried about losing the players for free at the end of the season.

If a soccer fanatic sees a player being released easily in January, the follower should doubt the move.

Simba SC player set for loan move

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

SIMBA SC has stated it is planning to release five of its players on loan.

Veteran defender, Erasto Nyoni, is one of the players that are to be sent to other sides on loan.

Nyoni's story is exciting for local soccer stakeholders, who view him as a professional who should be emulated by young players.

The versatile footballer served Azam FC for seven years (2010-17) after joining the club from Vital'O of Burundi.

Nyoni then joined Simba SC in 2017, currently, rumors are circulating from within the club that he is about to be loaned out.

Former Azam FC striker, Philip Alando, who played with Nyoni in the squad before becoming the latter's manager, was shocked by the news of the loan release.

Alando said Nyoni, despite his age, has maintained his form due to the discipline he shows on and off the pitch.

"If I were the leader of any team I would sign Nyoni, he can play more than one position, he has much experience and discipline. I have played with him and I know how he respects the game."

"That is why young footballers come and go, his age mates disappear, but he is still there," he said.

"If his club gets rid of him, the decision will not result from a drop in form, maybe the coach has a plan to have young players."

Alando said Nyoni is not only



Erasto Nyoni

a good player but also he likes to bring happiness to his teammates.

Former Gwambina FC coach, Athuman Bilal 'Bilo', pointed out he still feels Nyoni has a chance to stay at Simba SC because of his style of play.

"Having a player who can play more than one position is an ad-

vantage for the team."

"He also has the discipline to maintain the standard and he will be a leader to promising footballers. As far as his age is concerned, he deserves to leave with dignity," Bilal stated.

Former Simba SC goalkeeper, Steven Nemes, said: "A player

should be judged by what he shows on the pitch and not out of it, although I can't say much, Nyoni is a good example."

Kagera Sugar's youth team's coach, George Kavila, said he still believes Nyoni has what it takes to continue serving Simba SC.

Root might need to set new record to make sure England don't

MELBOURNE

THERE is a chance that 2021 finishes as a record-breaking year for Joe Root, and record-equaling for England, but for significantly different reasons.

Root currently sits fourth in the list for most runs scored by a batter in a calendar year, and needs 159 to go ahead of Mohammad Yousuf's golden 2006 mark. His team, meanwhile, is one defeat away from equaling the record for most Test losses in a calendar year, which is currently at nine, registered by Bangladesh in 2003.

The two records are closely linked. If Root achieves his in a single innings - ideally the first time England bat in the match - it will give them a chance of avoiding the second.

Having not passed 300 yet in the series, where they trail 2-0 after two games, they have to put up a total that will pressure Australia, even if the MCG pitch is on the livelier side, more than seen of late.

"It's been very enjoyable personally, in terms of batting, spending time out there making some big scores, but nothing compares to winning," Root said of personal success amid a struggling team.

"If I perform well in the last three Tests here, it gives us a good chance of getting the scores on the board to win games."

Root has twice fallen after passing 50 in this series, nicking Cameron Green on both occasions, with England having produced just four half-centuries - the other two coming from Dawid Malan.

Root carries a huge burden in this fragile batting order and desperately needs others around him to lift their games.

It is likely to change with Zak Crawley and Jonny Bairstow in the mix with Root imploring his fellow batters to keep it simple.

"It's asking all of our batters, whoever it is that does play, to do basic things very well. Give yourself an opportunity to go and make big runs and build big partnerships," he said.

"I bang on about that all the time but it's the fundamentals of batting, be willing to concentrate for long periods of time, being able to wear bowlers down, take themselves deep into an innings, and make those big scores that put you ahead of the game.

"If you look at these last two games, it's been mental [lapses], not through lack of confidence or anything like that, but the understanding of conditions and sniffing the danger. I think we can be a bit smarter about that."

He is also willing to carry that responsibility himself as he continues to search for a first Ashes hundred in Australia, having spent time working in the nets at the MCG to ensure he knows where his off stump is, so he can judge what to play and what to leave.

"That's the most frustrating thing on my part, an experienced batter shouldn't be making that mistake twice," he said. "Hence why I've been doing the work and I expect better from myself."

Despite the continued batting problems, it was the bowling that dominated the fallout from Adelaide after Root's comments that he felt England got the lengths wrong, which led to Ricky Ponting questioning why he did not push the bowlers into changing.

"I like to give our bowlers, especially the senior ones, that responsibility," Root said.

"They have more than 300 Tests between them and over 1000 wickets, and they know what they are doing. It's working alongside them, it's not a dictatorship.

Every now and again, you don't always agree on everything and that's fine. Ultimately, it's about coming to a point where you get the results you want. Unfortunately, in the last game, we didn't quite get there."

There has been the differing reaction from within the England camp with Stuart Broad saying in his Mail on Sunday column, which came out while the second Test was still progressed, that the economy rates would have "gone through the roof" by bowling fuller, while in the Daily Telegraph James Anderson suggested there could some validity in the criticism, although he referenced data that showed Australia was no fuller.

"We have to be better at assessing it during a game," Anderson said.

"We can't just go after the game 'we should have bowled fuller. If we are bowling too short, at lunch we need information back, saying we need to push our lengths up. We have to be a bit more proactive at that too as a whole group.

"In Australia, you have to hit the pitch hard and bowl every ball as if your life depends on it, as fast as you can, because you don't get anything here for just putting it on a length.

"You have to put your back into it. It is a balancing act to make sure it is full enough but not floaty.

"Look at the numbers. They show both sides bowled similar lengths. They did not bowl any fuller than us. But it is a case of the difference in techniques of the batters. It must be because they took 20 wickets and we didn't."

All parts of England's game are going to have to work harmoniously in Melbourne if this series is to be alive going into 2022, but it could well be Root who has to make the difference for them in the end.

AGENCIES

Are England enjoying themselves? Or has cricket turned into an obligation for them?

BY MARK NICHOLAS, ESPNCRICINFO

IT is that time of year, on repeat it seems, every four years. It is the time of Pommie-bashing down under, when England's shocking inability to cope becomes the Groundhog Day of its genre.

This is agony from afar - oh, the darkness of the early morn! - And gut-wrenching up close.

It's not just the drip of torture - we can steel ourselves for that - it's the overwhelming humiliation that gets you. Like English cricketers simply can't play.

Is the unilateral criticism fair? Or are the circumstances so extreme as to now provide a clear explanation?

Obviously enough, the players have made basic mistakes. Equally, selection has been odd.

The management of the team appears never to have been to Australia before, which of course they have been, all of them.

The captain is the first to have a second crack at the Great Southern Land since Andrew Stoddart in the latter part of the century before last. Stoddart won the first time but failed to defend.

Joe Root is on course for a double disappointment. Is the Ashes really the one event that defines an English or Australian career?

No! But the Ashes can make the man - check Lord Botham, Andrew Flintoff and Ben Stokes, allrounders who have stopped the nation.

Let's pause for a moment and consider the circumstances within which the current England players have had to perform - this is Covid we are talking - and the bubble.

Cricket is as much a game of the mind as it is a game of talent, application and of technique. Perhaps more so.

It requires patience and concentration, a kind deal of the cards and a fair wind.

Cricket is the most artistic of all games. Batting is frequently difficult and frustrating but even the most prosaic of batters can give pleasure with a mighty stroke or an unlikely rearguard.

It is a mainly instinctive skill and yet relies on method for its excellence.

Nothing, not even ballet, could be more graceful than Babar Azam's off-side play or an on-drive by VVS Laxman. Batting pleases the eye because it is a thing of angles and dimensions.

Above all, batting is fragile. One minute you have it, the next it is gone.

A single ball will undo hours, days, and weeks of preparation. For sure, batting - cricket indeed - is not to be trusted. It is played out on the edge of nerves.

It examines character, explores personality, and exposes vulnerabilities. A man scores a hundred one day and naught the next.

This is both wicked and unkind but also, it is tempting and exhilarating. Raise your bat once and you will ache to do so again.

For the moment, at least, England has mislaid the art of batting as a unit. This puts an undue expectation on Root - and, presently, the feisty Dawid Malan - as well as on the bowlers, the leading practitioners of whom are aged by the standards of high performance.

Though James Anderson played a stellar part in England's stunning 2010-11 triumph under Andrew Strauss and bowled with a huge heart four years ago, neither he nor Stuart Broad has always fired as effectively in Australia as they have done elsewhere. The answer, if you must, is to alternate between them.

The rest of the attack is in new territory: a territory that is harsh and unforgiving.

Ask Jack Leach, thumped in

Brisbane and binned. In contrast, Mark Wood appeared to revel in it but he was rested for Adelaide. Rested? For what? He came to play!

Ollie Robinson has manfully rolled in, Angus Fraser-ish, but the ball doesn't move sideways much, and when it does, and he needs it to do so a tad quicker. A yard on Robinson would feel like five to his opponent.

Chris Woakes has so far failed to master Australian conditions with the ball, and he's had a few cracks at it.

Back to the batting, where the rot started. Both Root and Malan sniffed hundreds but lost the scent. No raising of the bat for them, while no one else has been close.

Haseeb Hameed is rooted to the spot. A cutter of the ball denied his strongest suit by good bowlers, he looks like a fellow who went to the nets in desperate search of a front-foot drive, promptly eased a couple of long half-volleys through the covers, and then watched in horror as he chipped the next one into the hands of mid-on.

You couldn't make it up. Out there with him is Rory Burns, the game of cricketers but with a method too often exposed by the best users of the new ball.

And so on. Ollie Pope is wretchedly low on confidence, while Stokes tries so hard to occupy the crease and defy the bastard enemy that he forgets how damn good he is. Free up Ben, unleash hell!

What of Jos Buttler, whose highs and lows are bewildering, a clanger one minute, a hanger the next; a boundary a ball, a block for 207 of them.

There is no more thrilling talent out there but the inconsistency is a menace. Where has Jos gone, you think, and then he plays that Cook of an innings at Adelaide Oval, a knock if you can call it that, in which he scored nine runs between lunch and tea. In Dubai, against the same opponent at the T20 World Cup, he scored close to nine on every ball. Remarkable.

This brings us back to the question of circumstance. How demanding is it to live for much of an 18-month period in a bubble that includes numerous periods of quarantine, and still give this trickster of a game your best shot? Martin Crowe called it traffic - can't play with, can play without.

There is a lot of traffic in quarantine and not much less in the bubble. The wife's on the phone morning and night, saying it's all very well for you out there in the sunshine but the kids are coughing and spluttering their way around Grandpa's Christmas tree and Grandma's a bit jumpy about you know what, all masked up and that, in her own gaff.

And all the while, you are tripping the light anything-but-fantastic from hotel room to coach to ground and back again, wondering whether the next game will even go ahead.

Not easy and probably not much fun either. Think Miller and Compton, Lillee and Botham, Gough and Warne living in the bubble, never mind the quarantine. Hardly, where's the fun in that? Sure, the guys today earn big bucks but money cannot clear the mind.

So it doesn't really matter whether cricket is artistic, it just matters that you get the job done and make it home safe and sound.

Right now, for the England players, there is nothing especially beautiful about it either: there never is when you're losing by a distance. Beauty, pah! England was woefully under-prepared. Bubble or no bubble, Root and the lads not in Dubai could have been in Australia a fortnight earlier, thus making time for full-on first-class matches against the states or an Australia A's team.

Right now, for the England players, there is nothing especially beautiful about it either: there never is when you're losing by a distance. Beauty, pah!

England was woefully under-prepared. Bubble or no bubble, Root and the lads not in Dubai could have been in Australia a fortnight earlier, thus making time for full-on first-class matches against the states or an Australia A's team.

Right now, for the England players, there is nothing especially beautiful about it either: there never is when you're losing by a distance. Beauty, pah!

Right now, for the England players, there is nothing especially beautiful about it either: there never is when you're losing by a distance. Beauty, pah!



Rory Burns could not buy a run in his first three innings of the series. GETTY IMAGES

England cricket, should have insisted upon it, ensuring such matches was a pre-condition for the tour.

Of the team for the Adelaide Test, only Malan, Buttler and Woakes were in the T20 group, along with Wood and Jonny Bairstow, both of whom should play on Boxing Day in Melbourne.

That left a team of cricketers looking for a game. There was England Lions out there too, also eager.

Granted, this was more complicated than it appears because Queensland was in lockdown and therefore required of its visitors a period of quarantine.

No matter, England could have played one game in Adelaide against South Australia (with a pink ball) and then nipped up to the Sunshine State for a bit of quarantine and a game against Queensland.

Year upon year, touring teams come to Australia and get kicked about at the Gabba, as much because they are not ready for its stern test as because the Australians are so good on a ground that most plays to their strengths.

Yes, India beat them there at the start of this year but it was the fourth Test, and by then the Indians were flying up the eastern seaboard on something of a magic carpet.

The ball, the pitch, the light, the heat and humidity, the intensity - oh, man, the newspapers, the talkback radio, the TV reporters, the commentators, the spectators who know if you're any good, the bloke in the street who thinks he does, the beer, the wine, the surf - live it, love it, play great because of it. This is Australia, mate.

It is one thing to be less good than the Aussies but quite another to turn up late and fail to give yourself the best chance.

In 1986-87 Mike Gatting's team made a right mess of two of the three state games that preceded the first Test.

"Can't bat, can't bowl, cannot field" was the famous headline on a piece filed by the Independent's unflinching cricket correspondent Martin Johnson.

Then Allan Border sent England in to bat, and Bill Athey fought for his wicket like a man instructed solely to protect the trenches before Botham charged out of them to slaughter a withering attack.

If ever one innings changed the pre-conception of a cricket series, that was it, 138 he made, helmetless and gung-ho. (Hadn't that happened somewhere before?)

In 2010-11, Strauss' team made relatively light work of the state teams but found themselves drowning in a sea of Australian optimism after such moments as Strauss himself - having chosen to take first use of the pitch - slapping the third ball of the match into the hands of gully and Peter Siddle roaring

in to take a hat-trick.

But, like Gatt's buccaneering band, Strauss' disciplined players were by then embedded in the local culture, both on the field and off it, and duly battled the odds for two long days to save the game. No way was that possible if they had only just arrived.

This is not only England. Every team that comes to the Gabba undercooked gets eaten alive. Raw meat is all about the blood.

The Australians have not lost the first Test there since Gatting and Botham.

It is a fortress, and so, just quietly, is Adelaide and the pink ball day-nighter, yes, they are unbeaten at that little party as well.

In short, you can practice among yourselves all day long, but it is not the real thing.

Giles and Chris Silverwood, between the director, coach, and national selector of England cricket, surely take responsibility for the threadbare schedule.

Add in Root when it comes to selection, plus the nod of a couple of senior players - through Broad doesn't seem to be one, given his inexplicable omission from the first Test - and you have got the gamut of those running the show day today.

It is fair to be critical, though I'd go easy on the decision to bat first in Brisbane.

That was a dog of a toss to win because every piece of data on the ground points to the advantage of batting first, and the data has it. What's more, Pat Cummins would have batted first too.

As the rain fell in the days leading up to the game, Root will have scratched his head during numerous mid-pitch conversations about that 22 yards of Queensland turf and resolved to not do as Nasser Hussain, Len Hutton, and others from other lands had done before him.

He knew the pain of bowling first at the Gabba - probably has images of Phil DeFreitas and Steve Harmison writ large in the memory bank.

And yet, the grass on the thing, usually so straw brown, kept springing up from beneath the covers with a damp feel and green tinge.

As the coin hung in the air, Root doubtless thought, "Oh god, it's a bowl-first pitch for a bat-first match.

We have to look this bull in the eye and show him we mean business, but what exactly does that business look like this morning..." Pause. "We'll bat." Nice, thinks Cummins.

Root got it wrong. Even Mark Taylor, that old hawk of the bat-first message, said he would have bowled. Blimey - if only Root knew that.

Then, no Broad or Anderson but instead, Woakes and Leach. Was Anderson really injured or was he being

saved for Adelaide, where, the assumption was, the pink ball would swing as it did four years ago?

Assumptions, huh. Was Broad so badly out of nick? He had David Warner in his pocket, for goodness' sake, and more generally, loves a left-hander, of which Australians have a few.

The first match of the Ashes, the Gabba, you go with your best team, don't you, and let the devil...

Then Burns missed a half-volley, first ball of the match, falling across his stumps like an off-balance Gold Coast surfer.

Then England was three down, then six. Oh, the inglorious nature of a collapse.

You can't win a Test match on the first morning (though it's a daft cliché, because Australia did) but you can sure lose one.

On the subject of the toss, it is in that mantra that reasonable criticism of Root's decision can be found, simply for the fact that his ill-prepared team needed some time to bed in.

Imagine the Australian dressing room, delighted that England was choosing the options that most played into their hands.

We could tear strips off the Adelaide Test performance too - no Leach or Dom Bess, really? - But does it help?

And that was a grim toss to lose. The fact is that, again, England were not ready.

Had Adelaide been a four-day first-class match against South Australia, the players could have shrugged it off in the name of the learning curve.

Let us go back to India in February. Rather brilliantly England won the first Test, in Chennai, whereupon the in-form Buttler went home for a predetermined rest.

Bairstow wasn't even there - he was home too, having a kip perhaps.

Ben Foakes played in the second Test, along with Dom Sibley, Dan Lawrence, Moeen Ali (who went home soon after) and Olly Stone. (Burns, Root, Stokes, Pope, Broad, Leach made up the team.)

England were beaten, and then beaten again and again, by heavy margins.

Rest through rotation to compensate for bubble life has done little good for performance.

Winning away had never been straightforward but in the current environment has turned hellishly difficult.

The thinking behind rotation is flawed. The tough question is the one that asks whether the England players are enjoying themselves.

On any level, can they find a sense of adventure and fun in a land that has long offered the most exciting tour of all?

Or has the year of living limited and lonely turned the greatest game into an obligation?

Are the players comfortable with their thoughts or weary with regulation and instruction? Initially, some were undecided about going: what space do they occupy now?

The art of cricket is a beautiful journey and should become a beautiful result.

This beauty holds its place in our heart even at a time when all roads point to change.

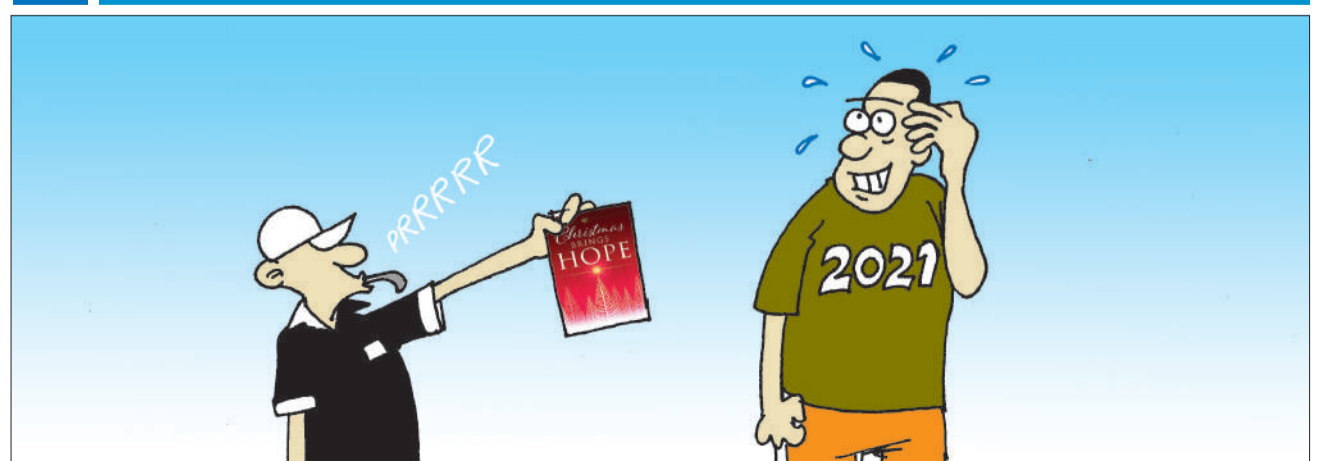
It is why there is an immense responsibility as we frantically modernize a game that has its roots in the past.

After all, it is the roots that define it. Right now, one imagines such thoughts are far from the minds of the beleaguered English cricketers.

Perhaps, Boxing Day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground will remind them of the glory of the game and, thus, bring excitement and inspiration.

England are quite good enough to beat Australia but first the traffic must clear and the collective mind become committed.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Are England enjoying themselves?
Or has cricket turned into an
obligation for them?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Shakib casts doubt over Test future

DHAKA

SHAKIB Al Hasan has cast doubts over his future in Test cricket, as he feels it is "close to impossible" to play all three formats, especially during the pandemic. Shakib (pictured) also said that he wants to pick and choose ODIs, and avoid playing those matches that are not part of the Super League.



Shakib has already skipped Bangladesh's upcoming Test series against New Zealand that begins on January 1. He cited family reasons, and although it created a bit of controversy, ultimately the BCB granted him the leave.

Shakib has been skipping many series since the 2017 South Africa tour, although he was also served a one-year suspension from October 2019 to October 2020 by the ICC.

"I know which format to give importance or preference," Shakib told the Dhaka-based TV channel NTV.

"The time has come for me to think about Test cricket. This is the fact, whether I will play Tests or not. And even if I do, how I will play the format. I also need to consider if I need to participate in ODIs where no points are at stake. I don't have any other option.

"I am not saying I will retire from Tests. It might even happen that I stop playing T20Is after the 2022 T20 World Cup. I can play Tests and ODIs. But playing three formats is almost close to impossible. Playing two Tests in 40-42 days is not fruitful.

"It encourages one to play selectively. I will definitely plan well with BCB, and then go forward. It will be the smart thing to do. If it happens in January, I

will know what I am doing for the rest of the year."

Bangladesh are currently vying for an automatic entry into the 2023 ODI World Cup through the Super League.

They will play the Super 12s in the 2022 T20 World Cup, while also taking part in the World Test Championship. In the Test tournament, Shakib has played very little cricket.

Tamim Iqbal, too, has skipped plenty of T20Is this year including the T20 World Cup, although he hasn't declared his retirement from the format.

The 34-year-old Shakib suggested that the pandemic, and the bio-bubble environment that has come with it, has played a part in this thinking process. He said that spending so much time away from his family isn't healthy.

"It was like life in a jail. It is not like the players roam around a lot during a series. But when you will know it mentally that you can't go out even if you want to, that's where the problem lies. New Zealand didn't even send their U-19 team to the World Cup, thinking about mental health. Coronavirus isn't going away easily. We have to find out a new way to survive this. I don't think bio-bubble and quarantine is the best way.

"When you can't meet your three little kids regularly, it becomes an unhealthy situation. It affects their growing up."

AGENCIES

Upanga SC B cricketers storm into DC-MCC T20 Cup tournament semis

By Guardian Reporter

AGUSTINE Mwamele starred with both bat and ball to catapult Upanga SC B side to this season's Balakrishna Foundation Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) T20 Cup tournament's semi-final after the outfit posted a comprehensive eight-wicket victory over Aga Khan SC B in a last-eight stage's tie which took place recently.

Aga Khan SC B could so far notch 90 runs, losing eight wickets in 20 overs, once the club took the crease first.

Except for skipper Arsalaan Premji that somewhat made his presence felt with his 29 runs, which included two boundaries, the remaining members of the batting unit were less convincing at the crease.

Efforts by Aga Khan SC B to get off to a good start were frustrated early on as top-order batsmen, Mit Sinai, and Akbar Khan, had a brief stay at the crease.

Sinai ended with a 10-ball 10 and fellow opener, Khan, stayed a bit longer to notch 13 runs that included two fours.

Aga Khan SC B's pursuit of an imposing score faced a blow after one of the key batsmen, Seif Athuman, faced early dismissal, notching a run from five knocks.

Experienced player, Yash Desai, deployed at low order, displayed resilience for a few overs to post 12 runs, which included a boundary.

Mwamele stood out of the rest of the members of Upanga

SC B side's bowling unit, ending with three wickets, leaking 26 runs in four overs.

Karim Kiseto was equally impressive given the cricketer took two wickets, giving away 12 runs in four overs.

Upanga SC B outfit's batting unit effortlessly got down to a successful chase, notching 93 runs losing two wickets in 15.3 overs.

Early dismissal of opening batsman, Dutt Patel, could hardly frustrate Upanga SC B side's efforts to post victory and book a place in the last four.

The fellow opener, Sadaf Saifee, chipped in with 19 runs before making his way back to the pavilion when he was caught by Aga Khan SC B outfit's Desai from Azhaar Premji's delivery.

With the outfit having amassed 40 runs after seven overs once the openers were dismissed, Mwamele got his hands on the bat and forged an unbeaten partnership with Hardik Patel, seeing to it their squad has the last laugh.

Patel was the batsman with the most runs in the successful chase, given he notched 38 runs not out which consisted of three fours.

Mwamele, who won the Man of the Match prize for his all-around exploits, ended with 27 runs not out which included two boundaries.

Upanga SC B side has, as a result, made it to a third consecutive semi-final in T20 tournaments, supervised by DC, having won the Division C T20 tournaments twice this year.

Aga Khan SC B cricketers were missing formidable batsman Dhruvit Mehta,



Upanga SC B's cricketer, Augustine Mwamele (R), is presented with Man of the Match prize by Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) official shortly after the former's squad took on Aga Khan SC B side in this season's Balakrishna Foundation Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) T20 Cup tournament's last-eight clash in the city recently. PHOTO: MCC

who is also the national U-19 cricket side's skipper, in the quarterfinal tie.

Upanga SC B outfit will now face Lions Cricket Club in the tournament's semi-final scheduled to take place next year.

The tournament, which is organized by MCC in association with DC and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), was officially inaugurated in Dar es Salaam in 2016.

The DC-MCC T20 Cup tournament, which was not held last year due to the coronavirus outbreak, has involved 16 teams this time around.

The teams that are participating in the tournament are Estim, Aga Khan SC, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Tamil Nadu Sports Club, GP Pak Stars, Alaf Aces, K&P Constructions outfit, and

Caravans Cricket Club.

Lions Cricket Club, Union SC, Sandy's Super Strikers, Annadil Burhani, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), Dar Black Panthers, Upanga SC, and hosts, MCC, complete the list.

The 16 teams, the organizers revealed, had been divided into four groups playing against each other in the round-robin phase, with the top two winners in each group qualifying for the quarterfinals.

The eight teams locked horns in the last eight last weekend, seeking progression to the semi-finals, with the last two reaching the finals.

Balakrishna Foundation is the competition's main sponsor. Other supporting sponsors include Estim Constructions Limited, Alliance Insurance Limited, Canara

Bank Limited, Nida Textiles Limited, NTS- Bosch, Tanzanair Limited, Kivingu, Cosmos Group, Alliance Finance Limited, Eleven Agri Limited, and Rickshaw Travels Limited.

Unoplast Tanzania Limited, Honest Logistics Limited, Davis & Shirtliff Limited, Hitech Sai, METL Group, Abacus, UC Unity, ABC Emporio, Flashnet, A-One Products, and Bottlers Limited are also the co-sponsors.

Essar Life of Style, Gathani Tanzania Limited, Aurubindo, Xtreme Fitness, Target Brands, Ahead Africa Solutions, Regal Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unity Computers, Tanzania Assurance Company Limited, and Wipro Technologies Tanzania Limited complete the co-sponsors list.

Rahul hints India may stick to five-bowler strategy

TSHWANE

KL Rahul has hinted that India are inclined towards playing five bowlers in the Boxing Day Test in Centurion, leaving them with a "very, very difficult decision" over which batter to pick at No. 5.

While addressing a press conference on Friday, Rahul, vice-captain in the absence of Rohit Sharma, was asked whether India would find it hard to manage the workloads of their bowlers in case they only played a four-man attack.

India have played five bowlers in each of their last 15 Tests, but with the all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja injured and out of the tour, it will be a less-than-straight-forward decision to stick with that combination in South Africa.

Nonetheless, Rahul's response suggested that five bowlers remains India's preferred option.

"I think more teams have started playing [five bowlers], because, you know, every team wants to pick up 20 wickets, and that's the only way you can win a Test match," he said.

"We've definitely used that tactic, and it's helped us in every Test match that we've played away from India. I think the workload also becomes slightly easier to manage with five bowlers, and when you have that kind of quality, you might as well use it."

With a five-bowler combination leav-

ing room only for five batters, it seems likely that Ajinkya Rahane - who averages 19.57 in 12 Tests this year - will be locked in a three-way tussle for the No. 5 slot along with Shreyas Iyer, who recently made a century on Test debut against New Zealand in Kanpur, and Hanuma Vihari, who warmed up for this series with three back-to-back fifties during India A's shadow tour of South Africa.

"Look, it is a very, very difficult decision to make, obviously," Rahul said.

"Ajinkya has been a very important part of our Test team and has played very, very crucial knocks in his career. The last 15-18 months, if I can think back, his knock in Melbourne was really really crucial, it helped us win a Test match.

That partnership with [Cheteshwar] Pujara at Lord's in the second innings where he got a fifty was really important, and that ended up in us winning the Test match. So he's been a key player for us in the middle order, and he's a very, very strong player.

"Shreyas obviously has taken his chances. He played a brilliant knock in Kanpur, got a hundred; so he's very exciting. And Hanuma has done the same for us, so yeah, it's a tough decision. But we'll start having a chat today or tomorrow, and you'll get to know [the No. 5] in a couple of days' time."

One of the challenges of a South Africa

tour, Rahul said, was getting used to the bounce of those pitches, which he suggested tends to be of a spongier nature than the bounce in Australia - at least in the early part of Test matches.

"I haven't played a lot of games here in South Africa, but from my experience, I think sometimes the pitches can be a little bit challenging because of the tennis-ball

bounce," he said.

"We've played in Australia where the pitches are fast and bouncy, but here it can be a bit spongy in the first couple of days, and then it starts to quicken up. So when I played last time, each time the wicket was a bit difficult, and you had to understand and adjust according to that, so that becomes a huge challenge for both batters

and bowlers."

On Thursday, South Africa fast bowler Duanne Olivier had suggested that the Centurion pitch for Boxing Day would be of a similar nature - slow to start before quickening up - and Rahul agreed with that assessment.

"Look, I think Duanne Olivier will know these conditions a lot better than us," Rahul said.

"Yes, even the last time we played here, the wicket started off a bit slow and then quickened up, and then got slow again. I think from whatever information we can gather about the Centurion pitch, it's been that kind of a pitch. And even in the centre-wicket practice, we experienced the same things, and we tried to prepare accordingly."

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

