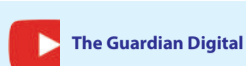




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TCAA rescinds ban on Kenyan carriers

Govt skeptical over latest UN human rights country report

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi has rejected acute remarks in the latest UN report on Tanzania that



The true picture in Tanzania does not correspond to what has been alleged. We have 17 presidential candidates, all of whom were conducting their election campaigns according to the timetable given by the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the campaign rallies are being attended by multitudes of people

registered its fear over the situation of democracy, saying it does not provide the true picture.

The office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights issued its latest report on human rights in various areas of the world and registered its fear over democracy and freedom of expression in Tanzania, saying these values were being undermined.

Responding to the remarks in an interview with the UK broadcasting agency (BBC), the minister said the government was shocked by its contents and he expressed the sentiment that the compilers of the report hadn't been in the country, as otherwise they couldn't have issued the sort of evaluation presented there.

"First of all we have taken steps to ensure that today Tanzania's Ambassador to the UN, Geneva Office, submits our official response on the report.

"The true picture in Tanzania does not correspond to what has been alleged. We have 17 presidential candidates, all of whom were conducting their election campaigns according to the timetable given by the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the campaign rallies are being attended by multitudes of people," the minister asserted.

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CCM's presidential candidate for Zanzibar, Dr Hussein Mwinyi, waves to his supporters at a campaign rally at Old Gombani on Pemba Island yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) yesterday lifted the ban on Kenya airlines after the neighbouring country removed Tanzania from its list of countries required to undergo 14-day mandatory quarantine upon arrival.

TCAA Director General Hamza Johari said in a statement that the decision to allow the four airlines back into Tanzanian skies was reciprocal after Kenya's gesture.

"In view of that and on a reciprocal basis, Tanzania has now lifted the suspension for all Kenyan operators namely, Kenya Airways, Fly 540 Limited, Safarilink Aviation and AirKenya Express Limited," he specified.

TCAA's counterpart, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority on Tuesday released a revised list of over 100 countries with Tanzania on it, meaning passengers are no longer required to undergo 14-day quarantine upon arrival.

In his statement yesterday, Johari said after this move, Kenyan carriers were free to resume flights right away.

TCAA nullified permits for Kenya Airways to

TURN TO PAGE 2



In view of that and on a reciprocal basis, Tanzania has now lifted the suspension for all Kenyan operators namely, Kenya Airways, Fly 540 Limited, Safarilink Aviation and AirKenya Express Limited.

JPM: Check safety in boarding schools

By Henry Mwangonde, Bukoba



That must be done before registering any school

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed the relevant authorities to conduct thorough inspections in all boarding schools in the country to ensure that operators of the facilities adhere to set safety standards.

Dr Magufuli was

addressing a campaign rally at the Gymkhana grounds in Bukoba municipality, where he said this must be done

as a precautionary measure to avoid incidents such as the recent blaze at a school in Kagera Region which killed ten pupils and injured several others.

Fire incidents cannot be allowed to continue claiming the lives of innocent pupils, he declared, insisting that action should be taken by inspecting

schools-especially boarding schools and ensure that fire fighting systems are working properly.

"That must be done before registering any school," the president underlined.

Fire broke out at close to midnight at Byamungu

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Lissu to overhaul tax laws, ease payments

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya



CHADEMA presidential candidate Tundu Lissu yesterday promised that under his government, traders will pay taxes that they can afford and not the current situation whereby people pay what the Tanzania Revenue Authority wants them to pay.

Lissu (pictured) spoke at Mbali town at the launch of campaigns for the party's Mbeya Rural constituency candidate Joseph Mwasote, where he said his government would deliver a new constitution under which all political powers will rest upon you the people and not the leaders.

He promised to review Tanzania's tax laws with a view to making them friendly to payers. He said the current tax regime is too rigid and discourages people to start businesses.

"Within 100 days in office I'll ensure that a bill is tabled in Parliament and tax laws are changed for the benefit of tax payers," he declared.

The best practices in tax collection is collecting

modest amounts from as many payers as possible, "not squeezing just a small group to pay more while the majority do not pay," he stated.

He emphasized that if he wins next month's general election, his government will not restrict farmers in the sale of their produce locally and across borders.

He said it is unfair that the government provides little or no extension services and then pops up during the harvest with restriction on sales in the name of food security.

Under his government farmers will receive adequate extension services which is their right, but the state will not interfere with the sale of produce which the farmers will do freely as they wish, the candidate

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India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sanjiv Kohli, presents medicines worth about US\$ 1.0 million to Chief Pharmacist Daudi Msasi in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. It was the second such consignment since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Tanzania in 2016. The first one, worth a similar amount of money and containing maternal and child health products, vaccines and anti-infection drugs, was delivered in September 2018. Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission



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Govt skeptical over latest UN human rights country report

FROM PAGE 1

He said in case democracy had been undermined, it wouldn't have been as it is, as campaign rallies have been peaceful.

"A candidate says what he wants to say and whoever he or she engages in insults, does so as he sees fit and no step is being taken against him or her," he further affirmed.

He said it isn't the norm for Tanzanians to disregard statements from different individuals but it is their habit to assimilate what is good and discard the bad, sort out truth from lies, or alleged scandals and praises as per the real situation.

"If you read the report you discover there was something that it tried to portray to the world, that the CCM government under President Magufuli has brought huge development strides in areas which in 2015 were fingered out," Prof Kabudi noted.

He cited issues of corruption and embezzlement of public funds that in the five-year period no one points a finger at President Magufuli for such ills.

Similarly, Tanzania used to be the hub of illicit drug trafficking, negligence in the public service, but now no one can point a finger at Dr Magufuli on those ills, he declared.

He said during the 2015 Election those were the agenda items for foreign countries sounded out by opposition parties "but all have been solved in the last five years."

"Let me say the truth - when an African leader makes achievements, when they fail to arrest him over corruption, embezzlement and other vices, they must start pointing to democracy and human rights," the minister remarked.

"Chapter Six of CCM Election Manifesto talks about human rights and development," he stated, elaborating that in European countries political rights are given top priority, while in African countries these rights are given the same priority like economic and societal rights.

"There is no country in the world where you can point a finger at that country and say it has no human rights challenges," he insisted, "so fingers are also being pointed at us."

Everyday Tanzania was taking steps to strengthen the human rights situation, he emphasized, specifying that Tanzania is the only country in the east and central Africa region where local governments employ legal aid providers for people who cannot afford legal aid in regard to criminal offences.

On media freedom and involvement of activists, Prof Kabudi said many journalists have no work contracts or social security cover.

"If you look at the law governing the media and journalists' rights for better work contracts, we have taken all steps to ensure the media operates freely," he added.



Chief Sheikh Abibakar Zuberi Bin Ally talks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday about fire outbreak which destroyed Byamungu primary school dormitory. 10 pupils died and 7 injured in Karagwe District, Kagera Region. Muft said they are waiting for the outcome of investigation from the government. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

TCAA rescinds ban on Kenyan carriers

FROM PAGE 1

land in the country with effect from August 1, 2020 after Kenya excluded Tanzania from its list of countries whose passengers are allowed to enter its territory without being quarantined for 14 days.

Days later, TCAA extended

the ban to three more Kenyan carriers namely AirKenya Express, Fly540 and Safarilink Aviation as it piled pressure on Nairobi to ease its Covid-19 travel restrictions in relation to Tanzania.

The ban on the four airlines hit Kenya where it hurts most, considering

how costly it is to suspend scheduled flights, with passengers demanding refunds and planes grounded.

After the Covid-19 pandemic reached the East African Community (EAC) region in March, Kenya and other countries adopted strict containment measures

including lockdowns while Tanzania went easy.

As other EAC countries continue to release Covid-19 data on recorded cases and fatalities, Tanzania last did so in April and then issued general statements on the situation in Covid-19 facilities, which were running towards closure

early to mid May.

Tanzanian truck drivers were being harassed seeking to enter other EAC countries, including being put on quarantine, while Tanzania has not been subjecting arrivals from other countries to such restrictions, officials noted.



Former Chumbuni MP in Zanzibar Ussi Salum Pondeza (2nd R) uses his mobile phone to send his comments to CRDB bank during the launch of CRDB QR Code system which will be used by customers to send their comments. The event was held at Kisiwandui branch in Unguja yesterday. Looking on are CRDB customer care manager Queen Odunga (L), Eastern zone manager Badru Idd and branch manager Mbwana Ahmed (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lissu to overhaul tax laws, ease payments

FROM PAGE 1

declared. Lissu said his government will put in place a proper mechanism to facilitate exports of not only cash crops but also cereals that are

needed by other countries. "The government will facilitate the export of our surplus produce so that our farmers can earn enough money to improve their

standards of living," he told the rally.

To this end, he aired the need to create special economic zones in border regions like the Southern Highlands to

promote and facilitate export of cereals and other produce to neighbouring countries.

He emphasized that instead of banning export of grain, the government should itself

compete with other willing buyers and purchase from farmers for its own food reserve at prices determined by the market.

This, he said, will benefit

farmers than the 'don't sell' approach which achieves the government's goal of food security but denies farmers much needed money for personal advancement.

JPM: Check safety in boarding schools

FROM PAGE 1

Islamic English Medium Primary School, in Kyerwa District, killing ten pupils aged between six and 12, leaving six others critically injured.

During the rally, attendants observed a one-minute silence in honour of the fallen children, lost in a tragic fire incident after their dormitory was gutted by fire.

The president also directed Kagera Regional Commissioner Brig Gen Marco Gaguti to ensure that the owner of the school, identified as Abdul Bushagama, who was in police custody pending investigation, is released forthwith.

The government would bear the costs of burial for the deceased, he declared. Kagera regional authorities closed the school for five days as a probe team comprising of officials from security organs was formed to train the light on the fire incident.

Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro who visited the scene of the accident on Monday said that DNA analysis will be carried out to identify the remains of the fallen pupils.

Sending condolences to the bereaved families, IGP Sirro said no stone will be left unturned in investigating the circumstances of the fire outbreak.

The fire outbreak happened at around midnight on Sunday night in a dormitory where 74 pupils were sleeping. The injured children were rushed to Nyakahanga Designated Hospital (DDH) for treatment. Kyerwa District Commissioner Rashid Mwaimu has sent condolence messages to parents who lost their children in the incident, appealing for calm and cooperation to establish the cause of the fire outbreak.

The boys school has a total of 127 pupils in Standard One to Six, while the dormitory that was gutted by fire had 74 pupils aged six to 12 years, officials noted.

Stamico buys modern 5.2bn/- worth drilling machines to boost local mining sector

By Guardian Reporter

STATE Mining Corporation (STAMICO), a wholly-owned government enterprise under the Ministry of Minerals has bought three modern machines with a technology to drill a quarry and secure a mineral never used in the country before.

The machines valued at 5.2bn/- can be manned through a computer by an expert, who

must not necessarily close.

Speaking at the inauguration of the machines in Dar es Salaam, yesterday the Ministry of Mineral Permanent Secretary, Prof Simon Msanjila hailed the State Company for the technology that would ease mineral quarrying and competition in the market.

However, he asked STAMICO to continue working diligently in the industry, saying: "These fruits have been realized with

STAMICO initiatives, you can use your resources to purchase machines of billions of shillings. We know the survey that has been done by Stamico in the mining sites in the country and now you have procured a tool to drill, hence, you also look for your own sites to mine."

"You have the mine of Kiwira that is doing well, but aim higher so that one day when a leading mine of any mineral is mentioned in the country, it should

be owned by Stamico."

For his part, STAMICO Director, Venance Mwase said the machines were bought from Epiroc Company in Sweden and Sonmak from Turkey.

"We bought the modern machines and one of them is Explorer 235 that can drill 500 meters deep, and in the mining sector they can fast enough drill 300 meters.

"It is only Stamico that has the modern technology and machine

to drill 200 meters on daily basis, others competing in the sector can only drill 100 to 150 meters per day," he pointed out. Elaborating, the director noted that the technology is environmental friendly and safe to use, adding that it guarantees its operators also security to the extent that none would be affected by dust.

"This machine is modern and its technology is high in use let alone the fact that no any company has ever used it in the coun-

try," Mwase added.

However, he applauded the mining ministry for cooperation and advice to his company to purchase the machines as well as giving go-ahead to experts to work with Stamico, adding that the machines are now ready to be ferried to different sites, where their use would be sought.

Commenting, Epiroc marketing manager, Menas Nkonyani thanked Stamico for trusting them with the business of buying

and procuring them to Tanzania.

For his part, Son-mak Chief Executive Officer, Joseph Mbunda clarified how Stamico has been closely working with them since they set foot in Tanzania in 2004, adding: "Stamico has been our customers, we praise them for trusting us and we promise to supply them with genuine machines capable of efficiently working to improve the mining sector in the country."

India donates second tranche of medicines, worth US\$1million

By Guardian Reporter

THE Indian High Commissioner in Tanzania, Sanjiv Kohli has handed over the second tranche of essential medicines, worth nearly US\$1million (2.3bn/-), to the government.

Daudi Msasi, Chief Pharmacist in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children received the donation on behalf of Tanzanian government.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Indian embassy in Dar es Salaam,



Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi who paid official visit to Tanzania on July 9-10, 2016 had announced the gift of essential medicines to Tanzania.

The first tranche of medicines that included maternal and child health products, vaccines, products against infections worth US\$1 million, was handed over to the government two years ago.

"The medicines donated were as per requirements projected by Tanzanian authorities," a statement reads in part.

In July this year, Kohli (pictured) was quoted as saying his government has also been supporting the country's health sector by bringing in required drugs. For many years patients with serious health complications have been going to India for more specialised treatment, the envoy underlined.

The country needs to invest more in sectors such as agriculture that can provide more income generating opportunities and help push up the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), he further noted.

"Agriculture is the most promising sector for cooperation between our two countries. We can cooperate in this sector through provision of technology and capacity building," he emphasised.

India is the third largest investing country in Tanzania with more than 300 enterprises contributing to government efforts through revenue payment and job creation.



Minerals ministry permanent secretary, Prof Simon Msanjila (L), cuts a ribbon to inaugurate three modern plants from the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. On his (R) is the corporation managing director Dr Venance Mwase. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Magufuli promises to connect all Kagera districts to national grid

By Henry Mwangonde, Bukoba

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli has promised that if re-elected he will connect the remaining districts of Kagera Region to the national grid.

Speaking when addressing a campaign meeting at the Gymkhana grounds in Bukoba Municipal Council yesterday Dr Magufuli said in the next five years his government will address power woes in the region especially after the completion of the Julius Nyerere hydro-power project which will generate 2,115 Megawatts.

"If you elect me again we will stop this tendency of getting electricity from neighbouring countries because we will have enough power which we will also sell it to other countries," he said.

Kagera's Muleba and Bukoba district

are not connected to the national grid whereby they are currently using electricity from Uganda.

In another development, the presidential candidate said directed cooperative unions in Kagera Region to ensure that coffee farmers are paid their money promptly.

He said the government was keen to ensure that the farmers enjoy their sweat and promised that if re-elected he will ensure coffee auctions were held in Bukoba.

"There are reports that some of the coffee was being smuggled to a neighbouring country where the farmers are paid higher prices. This trend cannot be allowed to continue. We shall make sure that the auction is held here," he said.

The government has already announced that farmers who collected their

coffee through cooperative unions in Kagera Region will be paid 12bn/-.

A report from the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) indicated that coffee collections during 2020/21 season had reached 79,245, tons (about 73 per cent) of cherry coffee while the target was to collect 108,000 tonnes.

As for clean coffee the collections stood at 44,695 tonnes (almost 63 per cent) while the target was to collect 70,000 tonnes.

Farmers were being paid initial payment of 1,200/- for a kilogramme for dry cherry and 1,250/-1,500/- for a kilogramme of parchment.

Dr Magufuli also directed the Bukoba Municipal Director, Maurice Limbe and the Bukoba District Commissioner, Deodatus Kinawiro to cooperate with officials of the Lands Ministry to ensure double allocation of plots in the Municipal Council is stopped.

He said he had reports complaints from Wananchi on double allocation of plots at Kyebitembe area.



CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli

MUHIMBILI NATIONAL HOSPITAL (MNH)



JOB VACANCY

Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) is 1500 bed capacity Hospital located in Dar-es-Salaam-Tanzania. It is the apex referral and National hospital for Tanzania and the only Haemophilia Treatment centre for Tanzania which attends all patients with haematological conditions including Haemophilia and Sickle cell disease referred from all over the country. MNH aims to achieve the highest standard of care for people living with Haemophilia and other bleeding disorders in Tanzania.

In order to achieve this goal, the Hospital is looking for a competent and experienced person to fill the position below.

Job Title : Project Officer
Job Type : Three years' contract
Reports to : Medical Advisory Lead for Tanzania
Salary : Negotiable

Job Summary

- The Project Officer will provide technical assistance to ensure that MNH Project goals and objectives are achieved.
- The Project Officer will assist with planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project, acting as an administrative liaison with the external project partner, NNHF, to ensure timely and quality achievements of projects outputs, results and objectives.
- Assists with the creation of the Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and schedules for the project and its components for the approval of the MNH.
- Assists with the enforcement of the overall budget for the project as well as for project components and conducts budget reviews and analysis in conjunction with the MNH.
- Assists the MNH with the development and implementation of a framework for each health facility to calculate their Level of Effort (LOE) contributed to the project.
- Develops Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in keeping with the MNH and NNHF procurement policy for the approval of MNH.
- Prepares regular reports to assist MNH to track the progress of project components to ensure schedules and deadlines are being met.
- Performs any other related duties that may be assigned to him/her from time to time.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Academic Qualification: Degree in Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Business Administration, Bachelor of commerce, or a related field. Masters degree is an added advantage.

Experience Level: At least three (3) years' experience providing support to medium and large scale projects.

Other Qualities:

- Dynamic professional with experience in project planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of medium to large projects.
- Strong project management and reporting skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with multi-disciplinary teams and stakeholder groups, nationally and regionally.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Health Sector Administration.
- Knowledge and understanding of the region and regional organizations (including, NCD Alliance)
- Knowledge and understanding of Performance Management Frameworks (PMFs).
- Good understanding of Results Based Management (RBM).
- Good working knowledge of internationally accepted rules governing procurement of goods and services.
- Proficient in the use of different project management software and the Microsoft Office Suite.
- A relevant Project Management qualification such as Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and experience.
- Any equivalent combination of experience and training.

MODE OF APPLICATION

Applicants must send application letter attached with certified copies of academic certificates and up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) with three referees with reliable contacts, postal address, e-mail, and mobile numbers to either of the following address:

Executive Director,
Muhimbili National Hospital,
P.O.Box 65000, Dar es salaam.

OR
Email: hrt@mnh.or.tz
Application Deadlines: 5th October, 2020

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 MARYAM SALUM MIRAMBO.....MDAI
 DHIDI YA
 VERONICA PHILIP CHACHA.....MDAIWA/WADAIWA
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 VERONICA P. CHACHA – POPOTE ULIPO
 MARYAM S. MIRAMBO amefungua shauri mbele ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba Mkojo Temeke (Usalama), Shauri husika limepangwa kusikizwa/kutajwa/maamuzi/hukumu tarehe 21/9/2020 saa 3:00 asubuhi. Unatakiwa ufike wewe au wakili wako au mwakilishi wako pasipo kukosa na ufite ufitezi wako ndani ya siku ishirini na moja (21) toka tarehe ya kupokea tangazo hili. Endapo hatutekeleza haya shauri itasikizwa upande mmoja na hukumu kutolewa. Amri hii imetolewa na kutwa Saini na Mhuri wa Baraza hili leo tarehe 15 mwezi 09 mwaka 2020.

CHADEMA will remove multitude of taxes on visiting tourists - Lema

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

CHADEMA parliamentary candidate for Arusha Urban constituency Godbless Lema has said in case his party gets elected to power, it will eradicate the multitude of taxes which he said was a problem in the tourism sector.

Speaking here on Tuesday the eighth campaign rally at Kilombero Market grounds, Lema said in the tourism sector there are more than 36 taxes which were great nuisance to visiting tourists and vowed his party would remove many of them.

He said Tanzania was among world countries with many tourist attractions, but incomes were not in tandem with the attractions.

He said each year Tanzania receives only one million tourists and the low figure is due to the multitude of taxes in the sector.

"Tourism in Tanzania is very expensive than in other countries in the East African Community such as Kenya and Uganda, and the multitude of taxes is one reason for many of them hesitating to come to our country," he said.

He said CHADEMA if it comes to power, will send a bill to parliament to amend some of the laws that have been the reason behind many tourists shunning to come to Tanzania.

Citing example, he said Malaysia has just a few tourist attractions compared to Tanzania but in one year the Asian country receives 20 to 30 million tourists.



Tourism in Tanzania is very expensive than in other countries in the East African Community such as Kenya and Uganda, and the multitude



ACB business development senior manager David Korosso (C) talks to journalists about the Government e-Payment Gateway services aimed to enhance collection of revenues from tax-payers. With him are ACB communication officer Dola Saria (L) and institutional deposits manager Fatuma Kigembe. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

GePG increases government revenue collections - report

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG) initiated in July 2017 has increased government revenue collections by over 44 per cent, an assessment done by the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has shown.

The system that facilitates all government entities to use single payment platform, to a greater extent is the force behind increased monthly revenue collections from 688 bn/- in 2015/16 to 2.6 tr/- by June 2020.

It has also helped reduce cost of revenue collections in government entities, reduce physical contacts as well as improv-

ing efficiency and effectiveness.

Presenting the assessment report in a meeting organised by the ministry of Finance and planning yesterday, UDSM's senior lecturer, Prof Joel Mtebe said the assessment was to establish effectiveness of the system in its three years of implementation.

He noted 84 per cent of the public servants interviewed showed it had really helped, reducing movements on revenue collections and money spent on the same, citing a case in Kasulu water authority that used to spend between 1 mn/- to 1.5 mn/- monthly on payments to motorcyclists collecting revenues. Now it pays nothing, he explained.

The same case, he said was with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) which had managed to save over 38 bn/- that was being paid to various aggregators per month as it does not need to pay anything using the system.

GePG, he said has also helped the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries reduce over 1bn/- it used to pay aggregators and now spend only 1.1 per cent of the amount on the same purpose.

"Introduction of GePG system has improved revenue collections, motivated public servants as well as controlling untrustworthy servants who used to leak finances," he said.

He added that 77 per cent of those interviewed said the system had increased effectiveness while 84 per cent said it had helped common people pay revenues easily through banks, mobile phones and other agents.

According to the report, over 90 per cent of the chief executive officers (CEOs) interviewed said there is increased transparency on revenue collections, especially using the dashboard. Over 90 per cent of interviewed public servants said the system had increased trust as most CEOs never trusted them.

Representatives from some of the agencies that use the GePG system testified that it

has helped bring great positive impacts in their operations, increasing revenue collections as well as other services.

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF)'s director general, William Erio said his organisation started using the system in April 2019 to collect members' contributions and rent from tenants.

He said through GePG, NSSF has increased revenue collections from 694 bn/- two years ago to 1.1 tr/- by June, 2020 since it had stopped financial leakages, adding that the fund's net value has increased 4.4 tr/-.

He added, "The system is very effective in revenue collections and we no longer have cases

where remitted bank cheques bounce due to inefficient money in the drawers account". He noted that the system simply reject such attempts.

According to the DG, before the system, NSSF had 78 bank accounts nationwide but current it has only three accounts and has managed to reduce transaction charges from 9.5 mn/- to 4mn/-.

Accountant General, Francis Mwakapalila also observed that the system is very good since it has brought a lot of improvements in government revenue collections.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Finance and Planning, Doto Biteko said the gov-

ernment would work on the report drawing experts from UDSM and see how to improve on the challenges. "The government will utilize the report for further development," he said.

He said the government introduced the system to help solve several challenges within the revenue collections system like hiked cost of revenue collections, unfriendly payment systems, inaccessible records of real time collections among others.

He added that it also aimed at improving transparency and control of public funds, explaining that increased revenue collections in the country is mainly attributed to GePG.

'We are working under difficult environment'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FISHERMEN and seaweed farmers in Tumbwe village, Pemba conduct their activities in a difficult environment because of lacking of modern working tools.

They aired their grievances during the visit of Zanzibar ACT-Wazalendo's presidential candidate, Seif Shariff Hamad as part of his campaign tour.

Masoud Abdallah Mwinyi, a fisherman in the village said many fishermen have been drowning due to smaller and unsafe fishing craft they use.

"We ask you, if you become president, or if you have any plans for us, please do so, find for us modern fishing boats and as well as for seaweed farmers," he said on behalf of fellow fishermen.

Halima Ali, a seaweed farmer said some people who were drown because they had no modern equipment to develop seaweed farming.

He said they have been wasting their opportunities by using smaller and unsafe craft in deep waters which cannot withstand big waves.

"in addition, we are not at all satisfied with the price for our seaweed, compared to the time spent cultivating the crop, she said.

Maalim Seif assured them that if he gets elected he will make sure fishermen are given loans to purchase low cost modern fishing boats for safe fishing.

"We plan to transform the lives of Zanzibaris in a short time without discrimination on party or religious lines," he said.

In regard to seaweed, Maalim Seif said his government will increase seaweed price from 6,000/- per kilo to 10,000/- and will provide seaweed farmers with modern equipment to do their work much better.



Tanga Regional Commissioner Martine Shigella talks after visiting water projects implemented at Horohoro and Mkinga. On his right is Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Capacity Development manager Upendo Lugongo and Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority director Geoffrey Hill. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimir

'NEMC had been active institution in last 5 years'

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) had grown and became an active powerful institution in the last five years, the NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka, said here yesterday.

He told reporters that during the last half a decade the government reinforced powers and authority of

NEMC by removing operational impediments that stood in the way of enforcing the Environmental Management Act, 2004 and its Regulations in protecting the environment and promoting government objectives.

Removal of the impediments made NEMC a powerful institution that has been highly supportive of government's efforts in implementing the

national industrialisation agenda and in strengthening the base of the middle-income economy, Dr Gwamaka explained.

He said particularly during the last five years, there were regular consultations between NEMC officials, investors and members of the business community. "Unlike in the past, there have been regular visits to sites and amicable consultations on the

need to protect environment for the good of the present and future generations," he said. NEMC supervised successfully the elimination of plastic carriers in the country, winning where many countries have failed.

Dr Gwamaka said public education conducted by the NEMC has paid off, adding that public education on protection of environment would continue so that government objectives

could be smoothly achieved. NEMC supervises climate change adaptation measures in all sectors of the economy.

Tanzania's industrial development currently hinges on light manufacturing and agro-processing industries, plants and mills. NEMC has ensured industries get environment impact assessment clearance and operational industries do not violate

the law. NEMC also has its eyes on game reserves and national parks which attract huge numbers of tourists.

The former Selous Game reserve, now Nyerere National Park for example, is the largest park in the south of the Sahara and is projected to attract millions of visitors in the coming decade.

Govt dismisses fear over adoption of new registration systems for guests in hotels

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has dispelled fears from owners of hotels in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions over the registration of guests through MNRT PORTAL system that comes into effect on October 1 this year, saying the procedure aims to obtain correct statistics that would help to improve the country's tourism sector.

It has also said the registration system will maintain confidentiality of guests and will be used for government purposes only.

This was expressed in Arusha by the Acting Director of the Tourism Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Philip Chitaunga when closing a two-day training seminar on registration of guests via MNRT PORTAL system for hotel services providers in the three regions.

He said registration of guests via the system will involve both domestic and foreign guests and the main aim is to get statistics to improve the tourism sector.

Chitaunga said in the tourism sector the system has been used in many

countries worldwide including the United States, Canada and UK, hence it was not a new concept being initiated in Tanzania.

He further said MNRT PORTAL system will also simplify work of hotel owners by reducing paperwork as instead of carrying loads of papers to the Ministry to pay for their licenses, they can do so electronically via their computers.

He said the system, to come into effect October 1 this year will concern hotels, lodges, guest houses and tourists' tents.

He said identification needed for registration is NIDA identity cards for Tanzanians and passports for foreigners.

Meanwhile Chitaunga said the new system is in the implementation of a legal requirement that requires every hotel owner to register guests via the new system.

Anne Sosteness, a hotel owner in Arusha who attended the seminar said the new system was good as it was safe for both hotel service providers and guests, and added that it reduces the amount of paperwork.



Fire and Rescue Force deputy operation commissioner Charo Mangare (R) visits Byamungu primary school situated at Itera ward in Karagwe District, Kagera region where 10 pupils died and 7 others injured due to fire outbreak on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

World Bank sets target for green, climate-resilient outcome in Africa

By Special Correspondent

WORLD Bank has launched a report on a business plan to help Sub-Saharan African economies achieve low carbon and climate-resilient outcomes.

The report dubbed the Next Generation Africa Climate Business Plan (NG-ACBP) calls for countries in the region to seize the opportunity to scale up climate resilience to grow their economies and reduce poverty, redouble efforts to increase en-

ergy access across the region, and take advantage of sustainable and innovative approaches to leapfrog into greener development pathways.

"This Next Generation Climate Plan is a galvanizing platform for Sub-Saharan Africa to prepare for and respond to the scale and magnitude of climate shocks and stresses and achieve a resilient low carbon future for all," the report says.

According to the report, with-out rapid deployment of inclu-

sive, climate-informed development, 43 million additional people could be pushed below the poverty line by 2030 in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Bank will implement the plan over the next six fiscal years (2021-26), leveraging effectively the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) financing to ensure a strong delivery on the climate agenda.

The strategy will be rolled out following one of the most cataclysmic moments in the region's development, even as the COVID-19 pandemic and its knock-on effects continue to reverberate globally, especially on already vulnerable countries.

According to the report, the loss of lives from COVID-19 is incomensurable and yet a compelling message emerging from the crisis is a global call for strong, early, and unified climate action.

The World Bank noted that the

unexpected emergence and unprecedented impacts from the COVID-19 crises will inform, influence, and shape the climate financing that will be delivered under this plan.

The lender observes that COVID-19 must be a centerpiece of the climate plan as Sub-Saharan Africa responds to and recovers from the pandemic and its economic consequences and the strategy must also maximize support to the COVID-19 recovery while pursuing synergies between green stimulus and invest-

ment response packages that contribute to long-term development.

"Greening the financial stimulus package proposed for COVID-19 could support the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient pathways for the most optimal long-term outcomes," it says.

"These stimulus packages could pivot dialogue with decision-makers toward policy reform actions that are more climate-friendly, including fiscal reforms, institutional capacity building, and incentives to promote the introduction

of new technologies and green jobs," it adds.

The report also addresses climate vulnerabilities related to Sub-Saharan Africa's core development priorities—food, water, energy, human and environmental security.

"It underscores the importance of pursuing climate-smart urban transitions, including green mobility, while supporting the region's ability to protect against climate shocks and pandemics," the report notes.

KNCU reviewing contracts with its two farms investors

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

KILIMANJARO Cooperative Union (KNCU) has embarked on reviewing contracts with investors of its two big farms in Siha District aimed at strengthening management of its resources.

This was disclosed by the KNCU Acting Manager Godfrey Massawe when speaking to this paper on the implementation of the exercise.

In his statement yesterday, Massawe said the union has done an evaluation of the two farms and discovered some contracts had deficiencies between the Union and the investors, for the farms' development, adding that there was no investment thereon that had been done.

Among others, KNCU claims that it has rescinded the 30-year contract with Ottaru Manufacturing & Trading Limited, entered in 2004.

The contract aimed for investment in coffee farming, livestock keeping and seasonal crops farming and whose annual rent was USD 23,520.

However, the rent has been fluctuating according to the contract and it went up to USD 29,000 for the 541-acre Lerongo Farm.

He said KNCU has already removed the investor from Lerongo farm due to failure in developing it including non-payment of rent as well as government taxes.

He said after removal of the investor they have already advertised tender for another investor capable to invest and pay KNCU's rent and government taxes and provide employment to the people.

He said after floating the tender they received responses from many investors "and now the KNCU Board is going through them as only a capable investor is needed."

A week ago, while campaigning in Siha on behalf of the constituency's Parliamentary candidate Dr Godwin Mollle (CCM), Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the government had discovered KNCU had abandoned the two farms and was planning to distribute them to the people.



Kilango primary school pupils in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region wash their hands before going to their classrooms as part of COVID-19 protection measures. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

'Govt spent 6.3 billion/- in Mkalama District water projects in five years'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has spent more than 6.3bn/- in the construction of water projects in various villages of Mkalama District in Singida Region to alleviate water problems facing residents.

This was disclosed on Tuesday this week by the Member of CCM Central Committee and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at an election campaign rally at Gumanga Bus

Stand in Mkalama.

Majaliwa who is in Singida Region to campaign for his party's presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli and other candidates for Parliamentary and Council posts said the Phase V Government has constructed more than 1,490 strategic water projects country-wide.

He elaborated that some of the projects were implemented during FY 2015/2016 and 2019/2020, adding that from the

amount 1.37bn was spent on construction water projects in Mughano, Ngimu, Mgori, Malolo, Kijota, Ghaluyangu and Mangida.

"Other water projects include those for Mwankoko 'B' costing 656m/- and Kisaki Village that cost 551m/-.

Other projects were those for Gumanga Village costing 428m/-, and Nyahaa Village (910m/-).

Majaliwa further said other water projects implemented included bore wells

drilling for Nduguti, Kisuluiga, Matongo, Ipuli, Mkiko, Mwanga, Wangeza, Kinampundu, Kinyangiri, Msingi, Senene, Milade, Mbigigi, Nduguti, Ibanga and Tumuli all of which costing 341m/-.

He said apart from these efforts, he said 1.37bn has been spent in water projects in ten villages of Ibaga, Lyelembo, Mpambala, Ikolo, Kinyambuli, Ipuli, Makuro, Donimic, Ishini Nkalalala and Lukomo.

In his statement yesterday, Massawe said the union has done an evaluation of the two farms and discovered some contracts had deficiencies between the Union and the investors, for the farms' development, adding that there was no investment thereon



TARI to produce 2 million tonnes of sunflower seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) is gearing to produce 2 million tonnes of sunflower seeds with capacity to generate at least 700,000 tonnes of edible oil in the next five years.

Institute's national coordinator for sunflower research, Frank Reuben said TARI at Ilonga Centre has developed a key road map to produce a total of 45 tonnes of pre-basic and basic seeds, to be distributed to different seeds companies for mass production.

Among the targeted seed companies are Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA), BioSustain Tanzania Limited, TERMAR, RUDDI, AGRI-SEED Technologies, Southern Highland Seed Growers, Lima Africa, Inades, Agricpays Tanzania Ltd, and registered farmers working with Clinton Foundation, World Vision Tanzania including other companies as well. "The companies will be responsible to produce at least 4,500 tonnes of seeds, to be certified by the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI)," he expressed.

He added, as per the planned schedule, the produced tonnes of seeds will be used to produce 2 million tonnes of sunflower grains for processing.

"The initiative is projected to play paramount role in helping the county containing shortage of edible oil, as well as reduce importation of sunflower seed varieties," he observed.

Reuben further unveiled other strategies on pipeline to be executed by the center with an eye to ensure for mass production of enough sunflower seeds, not

ing that plans are afoot for the center to embark on a major research programme to invent improved and hybrid seed varieties.

"At the center's Germplasm, we're currently possessing genetic conservation of 300 genotypes, to be used for the conduction of key researches in order to produce improved and hybrid sunflower seed varieties," he asserted.

He observed that the country's sunflower sub-sector has been experiencing lackluster development due to several challenges, among others, include absence of Agriculture Research and Communication Center (CGR) internationally for sunflower, as well as lack for enough funds.

However, TARI-Ilonga, has so far researched and invented at least two new sunflower improved seed varieties, which are in multiplication stage now to be distributed to farmers across the county. The varieties are TARI-ILO 2019 and TARI-NA 2019. The varieties are of high yield of grains and oil, resistant to pests and diseases, but also are tolerant to drought condition.

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

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), in 2016 indicated that, sunflower is the most likely subsector to yield investable opportunities in Tanzania.



Bikuu Hamad Omar of Tumbe village in Micheweni North Pemba explains seaweed farming challenges to Alliance for Change and Transparency Zanzibar Presidential candidate Seif Sharrif Hamad (not in the picture) on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

CCTTFA, MSCL sign MoU worth 209.4m/-

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

CENTRAL Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) worth 209.4m/- to sponsor its workers to undergo train-

ing with the aim to improve delivery of services.

CCTTFA is formed by five countries—Tanzania, Uganda, Congo DRC, Burundi and Rwanda and its aim is to enable transportation of cargo passing through the central corridor from Dar es Salaam port.

Speaking at the signing of the MoU, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MSCL, Eric Hamissi said

that CCTTFA is led by the Executive Secretary and coordinated by permanent secretaries of the ministry responsible for transport sector from the member countries.

Owing to the aim of the establishment of the institute, MSCL and the institute started talks since 2018 to see the possibility of that institute to assist MSCL to

build capacity of its functionaries in various areas of work, he said.

Hamissi noted that at last the talks have produced dividends after CCTTFA has accepted to sponsor training costs for the MSCL workers in different courses to enable them execute their responsibilities with more skills.

According to him, this sponsorship is to support efforts by

the government to bring reforms in the transport sector through a number of big development projects that involve the building of a new ship, slipway and rehabilitation on its ships in the Great Lakes region. The MoU signed today will last for a period of three years and workers of all cadres starting with seamen and management will get training to improve standard of

performance in their duties, he said. He noted that institutions that will offer the training are Dar es Salaam Marine Institute (DMI), National Institute for Transport (NIT) as well as National Institute of Productivity (NIP)

Speaking at the occasion, the Executive Secretary of CCTTFA, Captain Dieudome Dukundane from Burundi said that the re-

sponsibility of the institute is to be competitive so that they can support the growth of business in the member countries.

He thanked Tanzania for support to the corridor, urging it to ensure that it has quality ships and well qualified personnel to man them as there can not be competitive business without skilled labour.

Innovative countries will recover fast from COVID-19, experts say

By Special Correspondent, Johannesburg

AFRICAN countries that respond with innovative ways and make structural changes to their economies will recover fast, global risk and strategic consulting firm Control Risks has said.

Associate director of Control Risks, Barnaby Fletcher said this while launching the 2020 Africa Risk-Reward Index which examines the longer term implications of COVID-19 on Africa.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis, but Africa's recovery will be slower and more uneven than most. However, this recovery will be an opportunity for governments across the continent to address structural constraints and promote new solutions," Fletcher said.

He called for African countries to diversify their economies.

Fletcher believed that Africa will experience its first recession in 25 years while the economic recovery will be driven by private sector.

Jacques Nel, head of Africa Macro at NKC African Economics, said individual countries' response will also determine how they recover from the pandemic.

"The economic impact of COVID-19 will be varied but the recovery will be even more so. The optimists will hope to see a race to the top as governments undertake desperately needed reforms, while the pessimists will see a continent set-back more than a decade," said Nel.

He said South Africa will have to address the energy sector which is characterized by load shedding.

South Africa has to restore business and consumer confidence and restructure the economy. He pointed out that the government will have to come up with a recovery plan and convince the private sector about their plan, he said.



Allan Luleka a community inspiring teacher inspires parents at Iyenze and Kilago wards in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region on how to teach their Standard One and Three children in reading and writing. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Improve electricity infrastructure to curb fire outbreaks, Chief Sheikh tells school owners

By Beauty Mwakatobe, TUDARCO

CHIEF Sheikh Abubakar Zuber yesterday called on school owners to improve school infrastructure, including electricity systems, citing it as among the major sources of fire outbreaks in boarding schools.

Zuber made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to reporters

on the latest fire incident that killed 10 pupils in Kagera Region.

He asked school owners to take precautionary measures in order to control fire incidents.

According to him, Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) is waiting for a full report on what happened on the September 14 fire incident at the Byamungu Primary School in Kyerwa District, Kag-

era Region.

He consoled parents and guardians whose children lost their lives and those who were injured.

On Sunday night ten 10 pupils died while others were injured in a fire outbreak in a Byamungu Islamic English Medium Primary School dormitory, Kagera Regional Commissioner Marco Gaguti said the fire broke out on Sunday

at around 11pm, destroying a dormitory in Itera village of Kyerwa District. The school is for boys only.

RC Gaguti said the 10 victims were burnt beyond recognition and three of the seven injured pupils are in a critical condition.

He said the deceased, aged between six and 12 years, were critically injured

and had inhaled smoke after the children were overpowered by the flames.

"We've appointed a probe team, also involving police and fire department officials to conduct thorough investigations into the accident," he said.

The source of the fire was in the dormitory where 74 children were sleeping, he said.



Monduli district administrative secretary Robert Syantemi (C) cuts a ribbon yesterday to signify the electrification of Lendkinya health centre, a development expected to benefit some 9,000 villagers. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Media practitioners urged to address child and forced marriages in Rukwa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Sumbawanga

MEDIA practitioners have been challenged to play their role in tackling child and forced marriages in Rukwa Region, so as to help the region meet its ambitious goal of ending motherhood in childhood.

Imani Mbalwa, project officer of the Youth Education through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ) made the call recently when speaking at the training to equip journalists with skills and knowledge on how they can meaningfully participate in child early and forced marriage (CEFM) project.

YES TZ in partnership with Plan International Tanzania country office is implementing CEFM project, which is being implemented in district councils of Rukwa Region—Kalambo, Nkasi and Sumbawanga.

Mbalwa said media plays a key role in addressing child and forced marriages, hence it is high time for journalists to use your skills and chip in the war against the unethical behaviour.

However he described the training as important in building journalist capacity so that they can understand the project scope, objectives and targets and eventually be able to effectively take part in ending CEFM and its consequences in Rukwa region.

The official explained that the project will be implemented in 33 wards, 116 villages, whereas in Nkasi district council the project will be implemented in 13 wards, 46 villages, Kalambo district council 11 wards, 35 villages, while in Sumbawanga district council the project will be implemented in 9 wards, 35 villages.

Mbalwa further said that, the project will be implemented by four partners including YES TZ, and that YES TZ will focus on provision of sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) tar-

geting young people aged 10-24 years, both in school and out of school.

"YES TZ strongly believes that equipping young people with knowledge and skills on SRHR is critical to help them transition to adulthood healthy," Mbalwa said.

Among the issues to be addressed, besides equipping young people with SRHR knowledge so that they can make informed choices when confronted with SRHR challenges as they grow up, are; building the capacity of parents, relatives and guardians in communicating with their children on SRH issues, building the capacity of teachers so that they feel comfortable teaching and supporting pupils on matters relating to SRHR as well as building the capacity of healthcare providers to be able to provide adolescents, and youth friendly health services among other focus areas.

Zenati Mohammed, a journalist from Rukwa region, said that the training came at the right time as it gave them a variety of methods to address CEFM issues, considering that the region is one of the regions with the highest number of child marriage and teen pregnancies.

Isreal Mwaisaka, a journalist from Nkasi FM Radio, said the training will help identify problems and eradicate child pregnancy issues in the community.

For his part, Rukwa Regional Youth Officer Isaka Mponda said the region has 333,165 young people between the ages of 15 and 35 equivalent to 33.2 percent of the total population, of which 154,820 are boys and 178,345 are girls according to the 2012 census.

According to 2015/16 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) 27% of teenagers are either mothers or pregnant before their 18th birthday. This percentage is a 4% increase from 23% in the 2010 TDHS. Rukwa region has 29% teenage pregnancy, above the national level which is 27%.

Meghan Markle, Prince Harry donate to CAMFED to celebrate their birthdays

By Emily Dixon

MEGHAN Markle and Prince Harry celebrated their recent birthdays in an extremely lovely way—by making a huge \$130,000 donation to the nonprofit CAMFED, which supports the education of young

women and girls across Ghana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania. The Sussexes matched the contributions of their fanbase, the Sussex Squad, who started a fundraising campaign titled "#Inspired-ByMeghan #InspiredByHarry" to celebrate Meghan's

39th birthday on August 4th and Harry's 36th on September 15.

In a statement about their donation, Meghan and Harry said, "No better way to celebrate what really matters. Thank you to everyone who donated!" According to the CAMFED website, the

campaign has now raised £202,145 (about \$262,000), which is "enough to support 113 young African women through a whole year of technical & vocational training."

Angie Murimirwa, CAMFED's executive director for Africa, said in a video message to the Sussex Squad, "Your gift can help us get many more high school graduates to

training colleges. In turn we, their sisters in the CAMFED Association, will make sure that they have the support they need to do well when they get there. Support to make sure they overcome the disadvantages they face as girls from marginalized rural areas. As engineers, bricklayers, climate-smart farmers, vets, and nurses, my sisters will be even

more powerful role models in their communities: working together to change the status of women, showing what an education can achieve, and using their profits to send more girls through school."

A statement from the "global Sussex Squad" on the CAMFED website reads, "One of the great things about being fans of Harry and Meghan is

never being at a loss for inspiration to celebrate them in purposeful and meaningful ways.

Fundamental to their appeal is how earnestly they carry out their humanitarian work, serving and embracing young leaders around the world, who, as they flourish, make sure that no one in their communities is left behind."

Research on crops markets, deputy minister urges TARI

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has been called on to do research marketing crops for farmers inside and outside the country to enable them cultivate crops for better quality.

The call was given this week by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Omary Mgumba when speaking to workers and staff of TARI-Uyole Centre in Mbeya City after visiting various agricultural stakeholders and listened to their complaints including lack of markets for their crops.

Mgumba (pictured) said the institute has been doing a very good job in doing various researches on seeds but the main challenge is that some of the crops do not meet the market's requirements.

He said as for now people need to be educated on commercial farming

through better farming practices and direct them where markets can be found when they start farming.

"You researchers must do research for us - what the markets specifically need, quality of products needed, production costs, and at what time they are needed, that is where we shall be helping our farmers," the deputy minister said.

TARI-Uyole director, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said the government directives have been received and pledged to work on them since many of them are within the institute's reach.

He said they will ensure they continue doing constructive research including on crops and markets as directed by the deputy minister.

Some of agriculture stakeholders told the deputy minister said they will ensure they work together with the government in order for the farmers to produce quality crops.

One of the stakeholders Raphael Ndelwa, a crop buyer in Mbeya Region said residents work hard, but the problem facing them is lack of capital.

He said in the circumstances he decided to give farmers agricultural inputs to be repaid after sale of their crops, adding that the procedure has been of great success and had motivated farmers.



Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority director general Exaud Maro (L) briefs journalists at a capacity building workshop in Dodoma yesterday. The workshop, whose thrust is on guidelines on the disposal of waste water in residential areas, has attracted representatives of water authorities from 26 regions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Doctors prepares to implant world's first human bionic eye

By Victor Tangermann

A team of researchers at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, has built a bionic device that they say can restore vision to the blind through a brain implant.

The team is now preparing for what they claim will be the world's first human clinical trials of a bionic eye - and are asking for additional funding to eventually manufacture it on a global scale.

It's essentially the guts of a smartphone combined with brain-implanted micro electrodes, as TechCrunch reports.

The "Gennaris bionic vision system," a project that's more than ten years in the making, bypasses damaged optic nerves to allow signals to be transmitted from the retina to the vision center of the brain.

The system is made up of a custom-designed headgear, which includes a camera and a wireless transmitter. A processor unit takes care of data crunching, while a set of tiles implanted inside the brain deliver the signals.

"Our design creates a visual pattern from combinations of up to 172 spots of light (phosphores) which provides information for the individual to navigate indoor and outdoor environments, and recognize the presence of people and objects around them," Arthur Lowery, professor at Monash University's Department of

Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, said in a statement.

The researchers are also hoping to adapt the system to help those with untreatable neurological conditions, such as limb paralysis, to regain movement.

"If successful, the MVG [Monash Vision Group] team will look to create a new commercial enterprise focused on providing vision to people with untreatable blindness

and movement to the arms of people paralyzed by quadriplegia, transforming their health care," Lewis said.

A trial in July showed that the Gennaris array was able to be transplanted safely into the brains of three sheep using a pneumatic inserter, with a cumulative 2,700 hours of stimulation not causing any adverse health effects.

It's still unclear when the first human trials will take place.

"With extra investment, we'll be able to manufacture these cortical implants here in Australia at the scale needed to progress to human trials," Marcello Rosa, professor of physiology at Monash and MVG member, said in the statement.

The news comes after Elon Musk's brain computer interface company Neuralink announced its testing its coin-sized interface prototype in live pigs. The end goals are similar: to treat brain issues

including blindness and paralysis.

Whether the Monash device is technically the first bionic eye, though, may come down to semantics.

A separate brain implant, a "visual prosthetic" device, developed by scientists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, recently allowed both blind and sighted participants to "see" the shape of letters, as detailed in a paper published in May.

The Guardian

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Taking A New Look
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Rampant destruction of forests 'will unleash more pandemics'

A PANDEMIC is an epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread across a large region, for instance multiple continents or worldwide, affecting a substantial number of people. A widespread endemic disease with a stable number of infected people is not a pandemic. Widespread endemic diseases with a stable number of infected people such as recurrences of seasonal influenza are generally excluded as they occur simultaneously in large regions of the globe rather than being spread worldwide.

Throughout human history, there have been a number of pandemics of diseases such as smallpox and tuberculosis. The most fatal pandemic in recorded history was the Black Death (also known as The Plague), which killed an estimated 75-200 million people in the 14th century. Current pandemics include COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS.

A disease or condition is not a pandemic merely because it is widespread or kills many people; it must also be infectious. For instance, cancer is responsible for many deaths but is not considered a pandemic because the disease is neither infectious nor contagious. Scientists are warning world leaders that increasing numbers of deadly new pandemics will afflict the planet if levels of deforestation and biodiversity loss continue at their current catastrophic rates.

A UN summit on biodiversity, scheduled to be held in New York next month, will be told by conservationists and biologists there is now clear evidence of a strong link between environmental destruction and the increased emergence of deadly new diseases such as Covid-19.

Rampant deforestation, uncontrolled expansion of farming and the

building of mines in remote regions - as well as the exploitation of wild animals as sources of food, traditional medicines and exotic pets - are creating a "perfect storm" for the spillover of diseases from wildlife to people, delegates will be told.

Almost a third of all emerging diseases have originated through the process of land use change, it is claimed. As a result, five or six new epidemics a year could soon affect Earth's population.

In the case of Covid-19, it has cost the world trillions of dollars and already killed almost a million people, so clearly urgent action is needed.

It is estimated that tens of millions of hectares of rainforest and other wild environments are being bulldozed every year to cultivate palm trees, farm cattle, extract oil and provide access to mines and mineral deposits.

This leads to the widespread destruction of vegetation and wildlife that are hosts to countless species of viruses and bacteria, most unknown to science. Those microbes can then accidentally infect new hosts, such as humans and domestic livestock.

Such events are known as spillovers. Crucially, if viruses thrive in their new human hosts they can infect other individuals. This is known as transmission and the result can be a new, emerging disease. In the past many outbreaks of new diseases remained in contained areas. However, the development of cheap air travel has changed that picture and diseases can appear across the globe before scientists have fully realised what is happening.

The onward transmission of a new disease is also another really important element in the pandemic. In a paper published in Science last month scientists and economists propose setting up a programme to monitor wildlife, reduce spillovers, end the wildlife meat trade and reduce deforestation.

We need sustainable management of marine resources in Tanzania

MARINE conservation, also known as ocean conservation, refers to the study of marine plants and animal resources and ecosystem functions. It is the protection and preservation of ecosystems in oceans and seas through planned management in order to prevent the exploitation of these resources.

Marine conservation is driven by the manifested negative effects being seen in our environment such as species loss, habitat degradation and changes in ecosystem functions and focuses on limiting human-caused damage to marine ecosystems, restoring damaged marine ecosystems, and preserving vulnerable species and ecosystems of the marine life.

Marine conservation is a relatively new discipline which has developed as a response to biological issues such as extinction and marine habitats change. Commonwealth countries committed to saving the ocean will benefit from new knowledge gained from the Seychelles, which has just designated almost a third of its ocean as marine protected areas. Other than sustainable tourism, the new laws will ban almost all human activity in half of the protected areas, while allowing only low-impact sustainable businesses to operate in the other half.

The milestone is a culmination of six years of intense technical and legal work, scientific research, as well as community and political engagement.

Indeed, Seychelles has demonstrated remarkable leadership as the champion country for marine protected areas under the Commonwealth Blue Charter. It is immensely encouraging to see how the experiences, insights and lessons learned from Seychelles will inspire and catalyse other member states and Tanzania is no exception who also wish to

protect their ocean.

Marine protection goes beyond conservation, allowing for the development of 'blue' economies based on sustainable ocean activity. A healthy ocean also presents enhanced opportunities for economic recovery post Covid-19, and for building resilience and withstanding the impacts of natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Yes, indeed Tanzania should set its own targets and methods according to our own circumstances.

Tanzania should outline basic elements that led to Seychelles' success: political support, efficient partnerships, a robust framework for implementation, and patience. The starting point in all of this ought to be the political support and commitment.

There are about 33 marine protected areas along the Tanzanian coastline.

The coastline is endowed by numerous small near shore islands and islets as well as several large islands, coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea grass beds and sandy beaches which support plentiful marine organisms as spawning, breeding, feeding, and growth habitats that are worth to be managed and used sustainably. The coastline extends approximately 1400km in north-south direction from the Tanzania-Kenya border in the north to the Tanzania-Mozambique border in the south.

Several previous reports have identified most of the governance challenges facing coastal and marine

resources. We need to improve the situation on the ground for sustainably exploiting and managing coastal and marine resources of Tanzania.

Signs of environmental degradation, as well as a decline in natural resources and biodiversity, are beginning to become more obvious.

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Keeping up with the Joneses



Covid-19: Democracy and task of nation building

By Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

THE COVID-19 pandemic has brought about great changes globally, leaving varying effects in different parts of our world. From health, economics to education, politics and sports, the effects of the pandemic come with currents and tides that claim many lives and threaten the livelihoods of many people and the nationhood of some states. People-oriented programmes and policies have been halted while many governments have had difficulties meeting up with their responsibilities because of dwindling revenues.

This pandemic has continued to mount serious pressures on global systems. In Africa, even though the death rate has not been as bad as many had predicted, there are other concerns that the crisis places in the hearts of the different stakeholders. The pandemic comes at a time when the continent is challenged on many fronts: economic, political and security crises serving as impediment to the development quest of the continent.

One obvious takeaway is the need for developing countries, especially in Africa to raise their medical game.

If anything, COVID-19 exposed the challenges faced by countries with poorer medical facilities, thereby necessitating the need to review the state of the hospitals, upgrade them, build new ones and discourage medical tourism in general.

There is also the fear that COVID-19 could compound the problem of fragility in most African countries; with about 30 out of the 50 most fragile nations in the world being in Africa, according to the 2020 fragility index.

As the pandemic surges, leaders and indeed all citizens have a greater responsibility to protect themselves and pursue those ideas that define our humanity and shield our people from the dangers of servitude and despair.

Some of those ideas that the world must prioritise during this moment of global disorder are democracy and good governance. This is the time when we need to pursue all inherent philosophies in democracy in order to salvage our nations from the havoc that the pandemic poses.

As an individual, I am very passionate about democracy, the need for credible elections and good governance in Africa. Since leaving office as President of Nigeria in 2015, I have applied myself to promoting credible, transparent elections and peaceful transfer of power on the continent. This is also the focus of my Foundation, The Goodluck Jonathan Foundation (GJF), which directs its efforts toward consolidating democracy on the continent.

It is for this reason that I joined other world leaders under the auspices of the



Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan is a Nigerian politician who served as the President of Nigeria from 2010 to 2015

Kofi Annan Foundation to write an open letter on why democracy should not be the silent victim of the pandemic. In the letter we recommended seven principles that should be taken into consideration during this moment in order to safeguard democracies during this moment and even beyond as there were already signs that the pandemic was eroding democratic cultures in many parts of the world. This is evident in many reported cases of election postponement and the shrinking of democratic spaces as a result of emergency measures imposed by the government as a means of tackling the pandemic.

We advocated that there should be proportionality in carrying out measures that will affect the dates of elections. The letter also recommended that decisions should have broad political support, clear and transparent communication to the public, while actions should be based on the best available technical information, time-bound and mindful of particularly affected groups.

Democracy is critical to our progress and sustainable development, especially as Africans. The AU Agenda 2063 lays a great emphasis on the importance of democracy towards achieving peace and progress. Democracy goes beyond the ritual of periodic elections; it is a process of nation building and a tool for peace making. As the world confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a greater responsibility for African nations to work towards proper democratization of the continent, as the promises of democracy are those that will foster peace and lead to inclusive and prosperous nations. Val-

ues such as justice, freedom, equality are better realised in democratic settings.

I always tell people that Africa missed out on the industrial revolution. Again, we are already lagging behind in the race to space. We therefore have no reason to fail our people in democracy. True democracy guarantees free, fair elections and peaceful transfer of power from one administration to another and it is within our capacity to achieve that.

Before the end of this year, five nations in West Africa alone are scheduled to hold Presidential elections. They include Ghana, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Niger. That for me is a plus and an important step in the right direction.

However, holding regular elections alone does not really define democracy or guarantee good governance. We need to work on how to strengthen the pillars of democracy where they are weak, and enhance political stability across the continent.

You can always tell how credible or otherwise a democratic process has been from the level of protests, violence and the number of post-election litigations. For Africa to make more progress towards building liberal democracies, we should first take deliberate measures to strengthen the independence of the electoral management bodies.

I am also convinced that electronic voting will eliminate the worrisome issue of massive rigging and violence during elections because it will limit human presence during voting. It will bring an end to incessant deployment of miscreants during elections because there will be no room for ballot box stuffing or snatching.

It is sad that in some places, these miscreants are even celebrated, because of the ignoble roles they play during elections. I should point out that a society where thugs become role models is doomed to fail.

As we commemorate this year's International Day of Democracy, there is the need for Africans especially her leaders to evaluate the problems that have continued to beset us as a continent and take greater responsibilities towards addressing them. Democracy Day should not be another day for rhetoric and sloganeering, it should be a call to action and a day for commitment and responsibilities.

Political events in Africa in the last three years is a testimony to the fact that democracy on the continent is facing challenges; with the recent unconstitutional change of governments in Zimbabwe, Sudan and Mali. There is the need for all stakeholders, especially the African Union, (AU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other sub regional bodies to put in frameworks that will check the receding image of our democracies.

Democratising Africa, goes beyond conducting elections, it must involve building strong and stable institutions that will translate into equality, access to justice and guarantee peace for all. With strong institutions, Africa will overcome the re-emergence of strongmen tendencies among our leaders, and poverty, insecurity, and inequality will be reduced.

Jonathan, former president of Federal Republic of Nigeria, wrote from Yenagoa

Walking the talk: China commits more to digital security

By Francis Semwaza

THE increasing importance of technology for its being the carrier of the economy, politics and nearly all other aspects of human life today makes it highly sought after, and probably an abused platform by individual, corporate and state parties for the want of controlling it.

The analogy is simple: s/he who controls technology, controls everything. But the world should be in an awe contemplating the possibility of absolute control of technology, especially information and communication technology (ICT).

In the wake of the increasing global interconnectedness and dependency on technology, China has expressed the willingness and commitment to safeguard it from being preyed upon; it considers the task as an absolute necessity, especially in ensuring better progress toward economic growth and improved diplomatic relations across the globe.

From the WikiLeaks exposure of US abuse of its upper hand in technology as it was evidenced by its spying on its own people and the leaders of other countries - both allies and foes - leading to, among other things, the revelations of the late King Abdullah's medical records, the current President of Ghana, Nana Akufo Ado's personal habits, and several other incidents, things have never been the same starting the 2010s.

In particular, user-data abuse and other security concerns happen to be at the center, attaching themselves to domestic as well as international politics, sometimes creating room for unnecessary activism, and even leading to state-based exploitation of technology as a platform for abusive politics.

Having been recently victimized by this through the TikTok and WeChat bans imposed by the US, China's renewed commitment toward improved digital commitment both domestically and internationally, as recently announced by its State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, sets an example to be embraced by other countries that are willing enough to make the world a better place to live.

The Asian power is pushing for the respect of national laws of the countries in which the big technology companies operate; this includes the requirement to domestically store user and other data generated in that particular country, as well as for the companies not to exploit user dependence for data mining through back-door technologies.

But the recent escalation in user data abuse by ICT companies can be traced from as far back as to the start of ICT itself, and has some states complicit in the process. Since the first computer was for military use, at least as it was in the case of the US, then, all the other stages of the evolution may find links to the government operations of some kind.

Revelations from WikiLeaks sug-

gest the existence of a multitude of evidence attesting to the collusion between Western states and technology companies requiring the companies to provide room for state surveillance through the highly demanded products such as iPhone, iPad and other popular devices.

While it can be part of the evolutionary process and that technology can be considered as a double-edged sword in that it can be used for good or for bad, the recent developments, especially its being abused by the powerful countries, companies and individuals, call for more efforts at regulating it to create a relatively level playground and China's proposal for enhanced digital security is a step toward arriving at that goal.

As the currently imprisoned activist and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange insisted several times, the problem is having some countries with an upper hand in technology trying to bully others in the international system by telling them what to do as a means to perpetually keeping them under their wings.

Once powerful states stop exploiting technology as a pawn of politics; and especially once user- and other data infringement is controlled, there is a possibility of enhanced assurance in security which will lead to increased business between individuals, institutions and states.

No matter how hard this can be to attain given the political interests attached to technology today and the



evolution it goes through on a daily basis, China's proposed Global Initiative on Data Security proves its commitment to not only domestic security and welfare, but also for the greater good of the international community.

The proposal comes with the recognition of the fact over the impossibility of an absolute control of technology as innovation comes from every corner of the globe, and that

the world is so much interwoven through the sale of patents and under-license production outside one's national borders.

Francis Semwaza is a development communication consultant based in Dar es Salaam

The job is only as bad when you have it

THERE was a recent discussion that I was following somewhere very silently and why lie, it was very interesting to silently indulge especially during this time of the aftermath of the covid-19 pandemic. So if this information lands in the hands of the same people, this is my opinion based on my life in the employment space so do not shoot me as much, disclaimer loaded.

So when we say we HATE our employer, what exactly do we hate?

Is this the person who signed your letter, the system that you have found yourself in or the working conditions, really .. WHO exactly is this that you hate?

We all get to a point where employment is full of drama and so much crap, one wonders who actually does these Hollywood movies? They just need to get into some of these sectors in the job markets and will find that Steven Kings horror movies have no match to these work places.

This not with-standing, when one is in employment, the job contract may be written or implied and thus the two parties are obligated to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as stipulated in that particular agreement.

Can one walk out of a contract when it has been breached? By all means YES YES YES - and these yeses are not a marriage proposal acceptance, because sadly even in that marriage there is also a way out - let me not even go there considering ... Actually if it is so serious a breach, we have courts of law to litigate such matters and thus reach an amicable solution for both parties.

So how is it that one can be with a particular employer for over 20 years or so and they are still complaining how they hate that employer and especially NOW? Taking note that these are the same people who are about to enter into the retirement phase of their working life. Was it really that bad that one could not leave at all? Enough to incubate so much hate that it is now oozing at this stage in life or am I just getting to know how much this hate actually has been?

Why has this person still remained with this employer - even after children are born, there comes a time they kinda need to have the umbilical cord cut - oops there is no choice at that point - but really - may be a wrong analogy but you get what I mean?

Why stay with an employer for so long and all you do is whine in the name of my rights? Please note, I am not insinuating that employers are perfect - far from it. Neither am I saying that things going wrong should not be pointed out nor should they change for the better, BUT if it has not worked for you as the advocate for that sector - you still have a choice to leave just as per your agreement - contract.

Some of these employers we 'hate' may not obviously offer the high financial or other remuneration perks that other employers offer but they have a few of these mentioned below not for all thou but a majority,
Job security of tenure - you know what I



mean - unless otherwise.

Career progression over the years.

Education sponsorship both local and international.

Paid non active work days (before the covid situation).

Time off to study and build a career - self improvement.

No salary cut despite the prevailing state of the economy.

Guaranteed pension monies upon reaching retirement age.

Elaborate disciplinary process that almost makes it almost impossible to have employment terminated.

Plenty of time after normal working hours to do other stuff - if one is creative enough or to just chill out.

Performance management systems that may allow for a certain level of flexibility unlike in sectors that demand results or one is OUT ASAP!!!

Well, when one has been in the job market for a while then they can be confident and blast former employers for being not nice. However, if you have been in the job market and with one employer then how do you know that they are bad? What is your yardstick measure to term them as bad? What is your comparison based on? Who told you others are any better? We are so quick to say that the grass is greener on the other side, but what do you think has made that grass greener, than where you are? Do you know how much work has been put in to make it that green?
A certain authority on employment mat-

ters once told me 'You can change an employer because you are the one whose chooses them'. This one had been with the same employer for over 20 yrs until they changed recently. They are happy with the move because it prepared them for their current job role that is directly related to the previous employer - imagine if they had obvious bile over the former employer, it means there is a likelihood that the new employer would not want to associate with them.

An almost former teacher wrote this and I quote with permission..." Teaching, despite having a lowly remuneration and tons of frustrations from the employer has a hidden gem which is time. Time is a resource which can be exploited to create streams of income and your pay-slip become collateral for loans. Let the promotions pass you by as you strategize for a better life, God willing, to live your dream life into the sunset. It's not too late in the day."

Please note that we all have choices and our choices have consequences. We cannot live our lives complaining and whining about things that we can change. Why give a bad vibe to the same employer who has made you who you are over the years. You are making others who have admired your employer and have no jobs, loose hope in a better life for themselves due to your whining.

One of the things I have observed about bad mouthing an employer, is that it does not make them any better unless you do something about it. Either be an advocate in the areas that are causing a grievance, change it or just walk away with dignity. After all who said you must be the savior for the rest of the team? Do you

know that there is still someone who is not happy working for some of the top 10 employers according to Forbes? I can imagine what they would be whining about and yet majority of potential employees would love to be in their place - even if on an entry level - just to be associated with such an employer? And this is regardless of the education caps with have thrown in the air to celebrate academic achievements over the years. But for now, many of us are settled to what we have and learning to cope every day and giving thanks to God for it as we make our exit strategy - without the hullabaloo we are seeing. After all, how many more years, do we have to continue working with our current employer - hating or loving them? Is the whining really worth it NOW?

Fact is, no one has forced anyone one to remain with their employer especially at this moment in time. If one's lifestyle has not been adversely affected during this covid-19 pandemic but only the fact the one has been told to work from home. We also know that some of the jobs we do cannot entirely be done from home - let us be real too. Some of our employers demand us to check on office matters to ensure no real gaps exist and thus maintain some sense of continuity as we await 'normalcy' to resume. Yet it is such check up on work that tends to flare up emotions and give negative vibes of your employer? Or even other processes that seem to have delayed or even seem unfair and causing so much anxiety that hate is now showing up in the way we speak about our employers?

You are still receiving your full salary and your job is still secure no matter what hap-

pens and yet you have the energy to complain? Expand your vision out there and see what other employers in other sectors have done to their employees especially during this covid-19 period. People have lost jobs, livelihoods, regular incomes, families have been broken, emergence of mental issues due to lack of coping mechanisms during this period, loss of a sense of hope in life - just because they have an employer who is not like yours. Most of these are not even directly related to the pandemic per se. But nope, you will hate yours and will not hesitate to say it.

I guess we shall continue to see you continue to spew your sputum of hatred on the hand that has been feeding you and your family over the

years. I am told by motivational speakers that it's never too late to start again ie if you still want to be in the job market as an employee - at least this time round, it should be with an employer you like!

After all what have you done to make it a better place for yourself and others over the years you have been there? Enough people are out here jobless and looking forward for your departure to fill in your position and work with the zeal you too had those many years ago.

Being employed is never that serious and if you cannot handle it ... take a walk and let the rest suffer ... so to speak!!! Coming to think of it, may be it is your time to step aside and behinds a job is only as bad when you have one but not otherwise.



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Who is interested in 'slow journalism'? Mostly the same people who are into regular old fast journalism

By Joshua Benton

SLOW news has been pitched as a way to break through the noise and reach audiences exhausted by the daily headlines. But it's still fast-news junkies who are most attracted to it, according to new research.

Slow food, slow travel, slow cinema, slow fashion, slow gardening: there are so many slow movements that you might think Homo sapiens as a species was in an irreversible entropic downshift into the pace of slugs and snails. But, of course, slow movements exist mostly to be a counterpoint to the ever-increasing speed technology seems to have brought into our lives.

It wasn't that long ago that news was mostly something you consumed once or twice a day - a newspaper in the morning, perhaps, and Walter Cronkite (American broadcast journalist who served as anchorman for the CBS Evening News for 19 years) at night.

The frequent buzzes in your pocket, though, make it clear how far away that era feels in a time of mobile phones and constant connection.

So there's been a movement the past decade or so in favour of slow journalism - a purposeful stepping back from the news cycle to consume news at a slower but deeper pace. If it's really "news" at that point - perhaps "external information" might be better.

You can find it at publications with names like Delayed Gratification ("we take time to do things properly...we pick up the pieces after the dust has settled") and Tortoise ("slower, wiser news...calm, clear journalism you can trust"), or at ones that say they're "un-breaking news".

And part of its pitch has been that slow journalism might appeal to people who have otherwise stepped away from news consumption - people whose exhausted response to the unending river of headlines has been to avoid news altogether.

That theory is tested in a new paper in *Journalism Practice* by Kim Andersen, an assistant professor at the University of Southern Denmark.

Andersen sets out to see whether, in fact, slow journalism was more appealing to those who feel exhausted by the news. Here's the abstract:

Slow news can be seen as a potential solution to one of the central problems currently pertaining to journalism - that is, news fatigue. By publishing fewer stories and providing news curation, slow news media offer an alternative to the overwhelming supply of fast news in today's media environment.

However, we lack knowledge about the antecedents and consequences of slow news consumption: who are willing to use this type of journalism and, if they are, how will it affect their news fatigue?

In order to examine these questions, this study presents a longitudinal field experiment with two survey waves and tracking data of the respondents' consumption of a free membership to a Danish slow news media.

Results show that slow news will most likely attract consumers already engaged with news and that consumption to some extent is increasing their news fatigue. Thereby, the study illustrates how the good intentions of the slow journalism movement are not easily fulfilled.

In other words, if I may extrapolate a bit: people who like to consume news... like to consume news. There isn't a necessary contradiction between scanning headlines on Twitter and sinking into a long New Yorker piece - between top-of-the-hour news headlines and a ten-hour documentary series.

Niche formats like slow journalism are more likely to be add-on sources for people who already have an established news diet - rather than a liferaft for people who would otherwise be checked out.

Andersen's study used the Danish slow-journalism site Zetland. Its pitch: It's the site for "Danes who would rather have insight than breaking news". It's "a digital newspaper writing about contexts rather than sensations". Zetland has around 14,000 member-subscribers.

A group of Danish residents had Zetland's philosophy explained to them - mirroring Zetland's own marketing - and was then offered a free two-month subscription. If they said yes, they were told, the number of stories they consumed on the site would be tracked.

About one-third said yes to the offer - about half of those who actually used their membership to log on the



site. Everyone was surveyed before and after the sampling period.

Of the more than 2,000 people in the sample, in the end, only 180 accepted and then used their free Zetland subscription. About a quarter of those consumed only one or two articles during the two months, but the average in the group was about 11 articles.

One person consumed over 100; I very much hope they signed up for a paid subscription when the study was over. Zetland publishes a lot of long, in-depth stories, so that's not terrible engagement, but you can see that it follows the by-now-familiar power-law curve so much Internet activity does.

The surveys included items asking about how and how frequently people consume news, as well as how much they experience news fatigue.

Examples: "I feel overwhelmed by the amount of news available", "I feel exhausted by too much news", "I am tired of news filled with negativity".

Andersen wanted to see if news fatigue or news use affected slow-news consumption as well as how slow-news consumption affected news fatigue or news use.

The results: people who felt more news fatigue were less likely to use Zetland's slow news. But people who

were already consuming more news on a regular basis were more likely to use their Zetland subscription.

In other words, Zetland was more attractive to people who were already consuming a lot of news than to those who weren't. And it was less attractive to people feeling a lot of news fatigue than to those who weren't.

That...makes a lot of sense. People who already consume a lot of news are probably people who enjoy getting a lot of news, and they're more likely to be interested in trying out a new news source. And people who feel overwhelmed by the onslaught of headlines aren't likely candidates to become big consumers of something new.

But Andersen's findings do go against one of slow journalism's strongest pitches - that it could draw in new and different kinds of audiences than other, faster news sources already do.

Slow news has been recommended as a way to (re)engage people who are turning their backs to the news media owing to news fatigue.

By presenting the news in a slow manner with a few longer, in-depth stories and news overviews, this journalistic approach seeks to help those feeling overwhelmed by the endless amount of available information in today's news

environment.

This study has examined whether it is possible for the slow journalism movement to realise this good intention. Keeping in mind that this is a single-case study, the results have shown that slow news is most likely to attract those who already use a lot of news and are not feeling news fatigue.

In other words, slow news is most likely to attract those who may benefit the least. This possibility has previously been highlighted as a potential obstacle for the slow journalism movement and is now empirically confirmed by this study.

In addition, the results have also shown that when people consume slow news, they become more tired of news.

Thus, slow news, at least in the case of Zetland, ends up having the opposite effect than what the slow journalism movement is aiming for. These findings underline that the slow journalism movement needs to think carefully about how slow it should be to succeed in practice.

One additional explanation for why people end up experiencing more news fatigue when consuming slow news is that they are not adjusting their general news use accordingly. As shown in the results, those in the treat-

ment group did in general not use less news compared to those in the control group.

In other words, the slow news media complemented rather than displaced their existing news consumption. As a consequence, the slow news media became one additional media they had to cope with in their daily lives.

This is important knowledge not only for the slow journalism movement specifically but also for the news media industry in general searching for solutions to increasing information overload and news fatigue, ultimately leading to news avoidance.

As this study has shown, slow news might not be as promising a way to (re)engage news avoiders as one could hope for, as slow news is most likely to attract those already engaged with news but furthermore to some extent even increases their feeling of news fatigue.

This conclusion does not entail or suggest that this type of journalism has no relevance. Slow journalism still holds a potential for providing high-quality, in-depth stories with value for both the audience and society at large.

• WAN-IFRA

Egypt cuts highways across pyramids plateau, sparking outcry

MEMPHIS

EGYPT is building two highways across the pyramids plateau outside Cairo, reviving and expanding a project that was suspended in the 1990s after an international outcry.

The Great Pyramids, Egypt's top tourist destination, are the sole survivor of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the plateau is a UNESCO world heritage site.

The highways are part of an infrastructure push spearheaded by Egypt's powerful military and championed by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who is building a new capital city to ease the population pressure on Cairo, home to 20 million people.

The northern highway will cross the desert 2.5 kilometers south of the Great Pyramids. The southern one will pass between the Step Pyramid of Saqqara - the oldest one - and the Dahshur area, home to the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid.

Each highway appears to be about eight lanes wide.

Critics say they could cause irrevocable damage to one of the world's most important heritage sites. Authorities say they will be built with care and improve transport links, connecting new urban developments and bypassing central Cairo's congestion.

"The roads are very, very important for development, for Egyptians, for inside Egypt," said Mostafa al-Waziri, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. "Know that we take good care of our antiquities sites everywhere in Egypt."

Some Egyptologists and conservationists say the highways will disrupt the integrity of the pyramids plateau, pave over unexplored archaeological sites, generate pollution that could corrode monuments, produce litter and expose closed areas packed with hidden archaeological treasures to looting.

Al-Waziri said existing roads were much closer to the pyramids and carried a lot of tourist buses. "That is why we are doing a lot of development," he said, noting plans to use electric tourist buses within the plateau to avoid pollution.

Memphis

The highways, which will dissect the plateau into three, will cross a section of ancient Memphis, one of the world's biggest and most influential cities for almost 3,000 years.

"I was flabbergasted by what I saw," said former senior UNESCO official Said Zulficar, who visited a portion of the southern highway two months ago. "All the work that I had done nearly 25 years ago is now being put into question."

Zulficar led a successful campaign in the mid 1990s to suspend construction of the northern highway, a branch of Cairo's first ringroad. UNESCO said it had requested detailed information on the new plan several times and asked to send a monitoring mission.

The state press center referred a Reuters request for further comment on the plans to a communications advisor of the tourism and antiquities ministry, who could not be reached.

Construction began well over a year ago in desert areas largely out of public sight and became more visible around March, Egyptologists and



A camel guide leads a tourist on a camel at the Giza pyramids plateau overlooking the Giza necropolis on the southwestern outskirts of Cairo, capital of Egypt, March 13, 2020. The two pyramids as seen in the photo are the Pyramid of Khafre (Chephren) and the Pyramid of Menkaure (Menkheres). AFP

Google Earth images indicate.

On a recent visit, Reuters journalists saw heavy machinery clearing fields and building bridges and junctions along both highways. Hundreds of uprooted date palms lay in piles.

The southern highway is a part of Cairo's second ringroad that will connect the western satellite city of Sixth of October to the new capital city east of Cairo via 16 km of desert on the pyramids plateau, farmland and a corner of Memphis.

In 2014, the World Bank estimated congestion in the greater Cairo area cut about 3.6 percentage points off Egypt's output.

"The road cuts through archaeologically unexplored cemeteries of the little-known 13th Dynasty, in walking distance of the pyramids of Pepi II and Khendjer and the Mastabat el-Fara'un", said an Egyptologist who knows the area.

The person was among six Egyptologists Reuters spoke to. Most of them

declined to be named for fear of losing clearance to handle antiquities.

One said caches of statues and blocks with hieroglyphs had been unearthed since highway construction began; the antiquities authority said on its Facebook page these had been discovered on nearby private property.

Memphis, said to have been founded in about 3,000 B.C. when Egypt was united into a single country, was eclipsed but not abandoned when Alexander the Great moved the capital to Alexandria in 331 B.C.

It extended more than 6 square kilometers, the Nile valley's largest ancient settlement site.

The new road comes close to the ancient city's commercial districts, its harbour walls and the former site of an ancient Nilometer, used to measure the height of the annual flood, said David Jeffreys, a British Egyptologist who has been working on Memphis for the Egypt Exploration Society since 1981.

It also endangers a Roman wall that once bordered the Nile that Jeffreys said few people were aware of.

"Memphis has long been neglected, even by Egyptologists, as it is a complicated site to excavate," another Egyptologist said. "But it is enormously rich, bursting with temples, archives, administrative buildings and industrial areas." **Agencies**

Sorghum project to support Kondoa farmers adopt new techniques that boost yields

By Guardian Reporter

SAADA Athuman, a sorghum farmer born and raised in Busi Village, Kondoa District, has hailed the Tanzania Breweries Plc sorghum project that has transformed her family's life and provided a reliable market for her produced sorghum during an interview earlier this week.

Saada is among the 2000 smallholder farmers who were contracted to the TBL Plc's pilot project in collaboration with WFP and FtMA. The trilateral project aimed to equip farmers with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), improve the yield and quality of sorghum, as well as provide them with a guaranteed market for their produce.

Prior to joining the sorghum project, Saada and many other farmers in the area grew sorghum mainly for subsistence purposes. Having started farming on a 1-acre piece of land for a couple of years, Saada, has expanded her farming activities to 3 acres, with a lot to smile about.

"Growing white sorghum has enabled me to pay school fees for my children, renovate our family home and facilitate the drilling of a borehole that has catered for various domestic use," Athuman told a journalist during an interview.

"I would like to thank TBL Plc for their commitment towards the development of sorghum farming. Now that I have been a part of the TBL Plc sorghum project, my yields have increased by 70%. I am optimistic about

being part of the next sorghum season, which will enable me to not only expand the cultivation of white sorghum but also a guaranteed market to sell my produce," Saada added.

A councillor at Busi ward, Peter Sule, said that sorghum farmers have improved their livelihoods due to the reliability of a good market unlike other crops produced in Kondoa.

He also called on smallholder farmers to seize the opportunity to convert to commercial farming.

TBL Plc's Agriculture Manager, Joel Msechu, said under the contract farming agreement, the largest brewer in Tanzania has purchased sorghum produced by 2,000 sorghum farmers in the Dodoma and Manyara.

Msechu says: "Tanzania's smallholder farmers are an essential part of TBL Plc's supply chain. The programme has greatly improved sorghum farming and has proven to be conducive to improve both the yield and quality of sorghum in the country."

TBL Plc currently sources 74% of its raw materials locally and is committed to increasing its local sourcing over the coming years. The company sources around 9,000 tonnes of sorghum for the production of its fast-growing affordable brands - Eagle and BiaBingwa.

TBL Plc's contribution to local sourcing and intentions to develop the sorghum industry is aligned with the government's wider efforts to improve the livelihoods of many smallholder farmers and enhancing Tanzania's economy.



Saada Athuman, a sorghum farmer born and raised in Busi village, Kondoa District has commended the Tanzania Breweries sorghum project that has transformed her family's life and provided a reliable market for her produce. Saada and her husband Mohamedi Nkusa in front of their house drawing water for their livestock from a borehole

Nearly 2,000 people in Zanzibar equipped with skills to fight GBV

By Guardian Reporter

NEARLY 2,000 people in Unguja North Region have benefited with training on better ways to reinforce the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV), thanks to the initiatives made by Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar.

The one-week training has benefited people of various groups who will be able to use

their time and knowledge to educate others in the community on the impacts of violence.

TAMWA-Zanzibar monitoring and evaluation officer Mohamed Khatib said that public awareness programmes are important in scaling up the fight against GBV.

"We want to have a community which is free from GBV acts, our aim is ensure that our people are well informed on the im-

pacts of violence against women and children, so different groups which have received training today are going to disseminate the anti-violence information to the community back home," Khatib said.

He named one of the beneficiaries of the training as college and university students, activists and other stakeholders.

According to him, there was still a large wave of violence acts

and thus training the groups was key towards eradicating the actions.

"GBV including violence against children remains one of the most serious human rights violations in the country which calls for determined efforts to curb it. We should make sure that we work together to educate the public and contribute fully in the fight against the vice," she said.

Presenting report of a min survey conducted by the network in Unguja North Region, Kamu Vuai said there are several challenges which affect the group's efforts to fight abuse against children and women.

She said that there are some of the people in the community who are still reluctant especially in providing cooperation in violence cases.

"For example now, there

is a mother in one of the villages (shehias) in Unguja who hide reports of her child being raped. The mother decided to treat her child with traditional medicines believing that it will heal pain but the child's condition became even worse," she said.

According to Vuai, in the past two months, eight cases have been reported whereby seven of them are under preliminary

investigation.

Hadia Makame, one of the participants stressed on the need for more education and awareness programmes on GBV and violence against children.

"We commend TAMWA-Zanzibar for seeing this challenge and being able to invest its efforts to fight it. Training community groups enables us to participate fully in the war against violence," she added.

Minister commends YARA for giving fertilizer free of charge to 83,000 smallholder farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga yesterday commended YARA Tanzania Limited, a subsidiary of Yara International ASA, for its recently launched programme seeking to help over 83,000 smallholder farmers get NPK fertilizer free of charge.

"I am very much impressed the way farmers are being registered by dialling number *149*46*16#, Minister Hasunga said, calling for farmers countrywide to exploit the opportunity and better their lives.

He said YARA Tanzania through Action Africa initiative meant a lot for transforming the agricultural sector whose contribution to the national economy was of paramount significance.

Hasunga said the fifth phase government under stewardship of President John Magufuli was committed to transform the agriculture sector and that it was ready to work with all stakeholders in the lucrative sector.

Speaking at the same venue, the Songwe Regional Commissioner, retired Brigadier General Nicodemus Mwangela said the programme among others has come at the right time when farmers were preparing to start the farming season.

"Songwe Region is among the major producers of cereal



TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo (R) hands over a bag of improved oil palm seeds, which is part of the 70,000 seeds which were given to Bulombora Military Camp farm manager, Major Godfrey Mwakabole. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TARI offers 70,000 oil palm seeds to Bulombora camp

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has handed over more than 70,000 additional improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera) seeds to Bulombora Military Camp in Kigoma region to develop them into seedlings.

The new TENERA seedlings will be grown on an additional 1,000-acres of land in this starting agricultural season at Uvinza district.

The additional 1,000 acres of land was requested by the National Service Major General Charles Mbuge to Uvinza district council through Kigoma Region at the launching of planting exercise of TENERA led by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in May this year.

The Prime Minister Majaliwa responded immediately and directed the region to provide the Military Camp adequate land at Uvinza district to grow the edible oil crop.

Handing over the improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera), TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo applauded General Mbuge for leading the Military to effectively and efficiently contribute to addressing the problem of oil in the country.

"General Mbuge's request was followed by another directive from the Prime Minister that required TARI to produce more TENERA seeds for the oil palm farms.

"We have heeded the government directive. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed TARI to make sure that enough TEN-

ERA seeds are produced on time and distributed to all public and private institutions including Bulombora Military Camp," he added.

According to Dr. Mkamilo, under favourable conditions, the 70,000 improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera) seeds can produce an average of not less than 56,000 seedlings which are enough to cover 1,000-acres.

Receiving the seeds on behalf of Bulombora Military Camp commander, the farm Manager, Major Godfrey Mwakabole thanked TARI for close cooperation with the Military Camps in the region.

He said TARI has constantly been providing improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera) seeds for production and dissemination to the farmers and other stakeholders. We have been

directed by the government and Major General Charles Mbuge that production and dissemination of these TENERA is a continuous exercise. We believe even the youth who are serving their national service here will graduate with enough hands on skills," he said.

"We at Bulombora Military Camp, we have now enough knowledge and skills to develop TENERA seeds into seedlings. We therefore invite people around this area, be it individually or in smaller groups and other stakeholders as well to come and learn step by step so that they can grow successfully the crop in their own farms," he said.

Oil Palm project gives an opportunity the youth to learn hands-on skills and so far the

project has swayed a number of youth who wish to be agri-entrepreneurs.

One of the girls who is serving the National Service at Bulombora Military Camp Sala Marwa said they have been exposed to various agribusiness value chain enterprises and farming technologies.

She said the youth like her have gained knowledge and experience. Citing an example, she said that she has learnt preparation of the Oil palm farm, production and their agronomics.

"I know the importance of the Oil palm, their varieties and value chain. Forexample, processing of the crop can give you several products along the value chain such as edible oil and washing soaps," she said.

Kigoma Regional Agricultural

Advisor Joseph Lubuye commended TARI for the good work saying the region is currently promoting the crop and sensitizing people across the region so that once the rain season starts, many can be able to visit the district councils and take the seedlings.

"The district councils have put in place good plans for the crop and the farmers. We are currently getting many requests from small and large farmers who want to invest in plantations," he said.

Commenting on the regional preparation of planting season of the improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera), Kigoma Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Dr. Rashid Mchata said Kigoma region has prepared a total of 46,000 acres covering the land in the district councils

and other areas for planting the seedlings.

"TARI has done a very good work to produce and distribute the improved commercial oil palm variety to the farmers in our region. Our task is to make sure that we work with the district councils, and other institutions like the military to distribute them to the farmers for planting in this agricultural rain season," he said.

He urged TARI to work with the private sector through technology, and along the value chain so that the region can realize fast and better results.

"I urge you to work very close with the private sector, because they seem to have useful technologies that can contribute positively to the development of the crop in the region," he said.

Treatment of the elderly during the Covid-19 crisis is morally bankrupt

By Andy Slavitt

THE head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has called us (the US) out for "moral bankruptcy" in our Covid-19 response. He's exactly right.

People are no longer dying from the virus because we don't know how to prevent its spread. They're dying because we don't care to. Countries all over the world - from Africa to Asia to Europe - are showing us that contagion or infection is a choice we are making, not cards we have been dealt.

The former conservative prime minister from Australia thinks that we are spending too much money to save the lives of old people. He says we are too fearful to say out loud that we should "let nature take its course".

He estimates that what Australia spent equates to \$200,000 per year for every life saved if ten years were added to your life. He calls that "substantially beyond what governments are usually prepared to pay for life-saving drugs".

So let's go there. The reason you spent \$300 billion, and the US well in excess, is that we didn't invest fractions of that amount in the first place. Because we didn't value people's health. You want to make your citizens pay because the government failed to do its job.

South Africa has fewer than 2,000 new cases every day with much fewer resources. In fact, the African continent has fewer than one case per 1,000 and 28,000 deaths in total. 1.2 billion people. 28,000 deaths.

As we cross 200,000 deaths this week, I doubt whether history will fault us for "caring too much" or "spending too much" here in the United States.

Let's look at the "let nature take its course" alternative. What's the cost to people paying taxes their whole lives, working hard in a country, and then only to get dismissed because they are "elderly"?

Let's ask Scott Atlas, President Donald Trump's "science-y" advisor. He dismissively says risk of death is predominantly in people who are "elderly with chronic conditions".

First, try to overlook the boorish and boisterous sarcasm if you can. It's a lie. It's not age with pre-existing conditions. It's age or people with pre-existing conditions.

Atlas is using the term "elderly" to



describe people over 65 (88 per cent of deaths are people over 65).

My father was 64 when he died. He almost made it to Atlas's category - when people can be discarded. Today would have been his 81st birthday. I actually sang him "When I'm Sixty Four" in my shitty voice on that birthday. And those 17 years would have meant a lot. It's sadly not just old people. The number of people under 65 who have died is 24,000, about the same as all the people who have died in Africa. If someone told you last year that a bug would come and kill 24,000 middle-aged and young people in six months would you say "that's great"?

Four thousand Americans dying every month would be unprecedented by itself. Young people with pre-existing conditions are almost as at risk as older people.

Young people are hosts for Covid-19 and contagious often without their knowledge. We haven't found a way to separate young and old people. And why should we make that the permanent answer? Sadly, this is a virus of the blood vessels that lodges in organs and damages the body. It is creating a new form of mysterious chronic illness. If you haven't listened to the long-haulers episode, you're going to want to.

By my calculation, people who are classified as "elderly" and at the highest risk were born before or during the Depression and fought in World War II, Korea or Vietnam. Many lived through discrimination, immigrated to the US or made sacrifice in one, and much of our economy was built on their backs. They didn't do all this so that a radical radiologist could decide that their lives are worse.

It seems like anyone who ever met Atlas or who understands infectious diseases wants to dissociate with him. If I'm a senior, I'm not voting for the death panels guy. When the head of the WHO talks

about our morality - saying "when the elderly are dying it's not fine. It's moral bankruptcy", I say: Yes, finally, Amen...

More than anything I'm glad that people are finally saying this out loud. It's not veiled talk. It's not from Twitter trolls. It's from our (US) federal government.

Something tells me that people who are older or plan to get older have something to vote for this year, and I expect they will in record numbers.

In societies where elders are honoured around the world, the death toll is much lower. Here in the US, leaders sound very different notes. There is cruelty in the world. Our society should just prevent those people from making decisions for the rest of us. Again.

A Medium Coronavirus Blog dispatch. Andy Slavitt is former Medicare and Medicaid head for President Barack Obama.

China strengthens COVID-19 testing capacity nationwide ahead of flu season

CHINA'S virus prevention authority published a plan to further strengthen the country's capacity for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing by specifically deploying facilities in local regions, which experts said will fully prepare the country for any potential recurrence of the COVID-19 ahead of an upcoming flu season.

Every 1 million residents should have one hospital or medical institute that can carry out tests. Besides hospitals and other medical institutes, a total of 100 public test labs

will be deployed across the country to add to the testing capacity, and each will be able to test 10,000 samples a day, according to the new plan by the State Council's joint prevention and control mechanism, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Monday.

The country will be managed in eight regions, and each will have testing capacity of 500,000 to 700,000 a day, so that in five to seven days, all people in a region could be tested, read the plan.



A child is taking the COVID-19 nucleic acid testing in North China's Hebei Province, Xingtai City on August 24. File Photo

Staff training will be completed before October. A comprehensive, accurate and timely information management system for testing will also be established, according to the plan.

The plan was released ahead of the upcoming autumn and winter seasons as virus prevention work has been normalized, Wang Peiyu, deputy head of Peking University's School of Public Health, told the Global Times on Monday.

"During the flu season, many people might have symptoms similar to those of COVID-19, so all local regions should have the ability to distinguish between COVID-19 and flu."

It is also key to avoid outbreaks caused by imported cases. These may be different than those detected in China in terms of gene sequences, so

it will be harder to test for them, Yang Zhanqiu, a professor at the pathogen biology department of Wuhan University, told the Global Times on Monday.

By the end of September, each region should have designated comprehensive hospitals and hospitals for infectious diseases, and all levels of disease control and prevention institutions should have the capacity to collect and test nucleic acid samples. Each county should have at least one hospital with this capacity as well, the plan said.

By the end of 2020, all secondary comprehensive hospitals should have this capacity and cities should complete the construction of testing bases and public test labs. A fast reaction mechanism should be built to respond

to regional clustered outbreaks, allowing tests on a certain group of people to be completed in a short time.

Wang said that for big cities such as Beijing, these needs could be met as there are many qualified hospitals and specialized institutes. For smaller cities and counties, there will be at least one hospital that could ensure the tests are done, and the number of such hospitals and medical personnel who conduct the tests will be decided by the local population.

Mobile labs could support the work if needed, Wang added.

Wang and Yang said that with such measures and previous experience, China would be completely able to tackle potential outbreaks.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 136 00--

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 SOW, NOW,
4 letters HAIL, TOOL, ALOE, OMEN, RHEA
5 letters CANON, YEMEN, EJECT, ISLET, LEAVE, AHEAD, FACTS, BRAID, SWINE
6 letters DRIVER, NATIVE, CANADA
7 letters DROUGHT, ETONIAN, SEA BASS
8 letters OHM METER, IMMUNITY,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
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21

CLUES: Across

- 1 Tanzania's statesman
- 5 obtain in exchange for payment
- 6 a period of seven days
- 7 an assistant to a political leader
- 8 open to public inspection
- 9 a tall deciduous shade tree with spreading branches and broad top
- 10 support, encourage
- 13 longest river in Africa
- 15 town on the border of Kenya and Tanzania
- 18 People of Nigeria
- 19 a rowler
- 20 young form of a louse
- 21 North American plant with stems of showy snap dragon like-flowers

Down:

- 1 printed publication
- 2 a formal process whereby a politician is elected
- 3 pardon a sin
- 4 characterized by constant change mate and then produce offspring
- 7 Her capital city is Luanda
- 11 Children
- 12 a building devoted to the worship
- 14 once more
- 16 a thing that is not possible
- 17 the expression of creative skill
- 18 have an obligation to pay money

WORD-FIT

K A G A M E U S E
R A E R A S E D
A F R I C A E V E
A A C E D E N
L U G G A G E R
S H E L L E E K
H E T G E R
P E I T C A R I N A
E R O S R A N P
N W A S S E I
C O N D O M S A
E S E T R Y P

CROSSWORD

S I C K I T R S
I A M O M E N I
G O D D A M N A
N E S S A D E N
S T A I U T E D
H E A R E A
D O N O R R R
E F F R A G E D
S U F F I X S
I N Y A S A
M I N C E D G A S
P E E D A Y S



Thursday 17 September 2020

Following UN Green Fund accreditation bank embraces green economy rules

By The Banker Reporter

SEVERAL measures are being implemented by CRDB Bank Plc since being accredited by United Nations' Green Climate Fund to support green economy investments in November last year.

CRDB's Director of Corporate Affairs, Tully Mwambapa said in Dar es Salaam this week that several measures such as digitization of services are being implemented at all levels of the bank's activities including digital investments.

"Our investment in digital banking is aimed at reducing use paper and stationery in provision of our services to clients in the market," Mwambapa said adding that later this week the bank will launch a major activity aimed at supporting green economy investments.

She further noted that stated that apart from investing in digital channels, the bank is also strictly restricting investments in

projects that pollute the environment and contribute towards climate change and environmental destruction.

"Accordingly, our loan disbursements and other financing are strictly observing green economy regulations to avoid financing projects that harm the environment," the CRDB Corporate Director noted while stressing that in corporate social responsibility, the bank also focuses on education, health and the environment.

"This major greening activity that we will launch in Goba suburb of Dar es Salaam later this week is aimed at supporting government efforts in clean energy and environmental conservation areas," Mwambapa added.

In November 2019, Songdo, South Korean based Green Climate Fund announced that CRDB had been the first bank in East and Central Africa to be accredited following fulfilment of several conditions. "CRDB Bank is a very strong bank because it has a wide reach and presence,

extending to two countries and will hopefully go beyond," GCF's Director of Private Sector Facility, Ayaan Adam.

"This means the bank is aware of the realities of what is happening in the country and beyond hence being a better partner for the GCF," Adam added. Other GCF accredited African banks are Ecobank Ghana and Attijariwafa Bank of Morocco.

The UN's GCF accredited entities carry out a range of activities that usually include the development of funding proposals and the management and monitoring of projects and programmes relating to environmentally friendly projects. CRDB becomes the financial intermediary for the implementation of green financing in the country.

The accreditation was announced during the 24th Green Climate Fund Board Meeting held in Songdo after an extensive due-diligence assessment, conducted by GCF to ascertain the bank's preparedness in managing climate change programmes.



CRDB Bank's Corporate Affairs Director, Tully Mwambapa (C) in a jovial mood after the bank was accredited by Green Climate Fund in Songdo, South Korea in November 2019. File photo.

CBK income from selling forex to State doubles

NAIROBI

Demand for foreign exchange by the government to meet debt payments and international obligations helped the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) double its income from selling hard currencies in the year ended June 2019.

CBK said in its annual report for 2019 that its net gain on sale of foreign exchange currencies jumped to Sh8.93 billion in the 12 months to June 2019 from Sh4.55 billion in a similar period in 2018. This helped boost net trading income to Sh10 billion from Sh4.2 billion in 2018.

"Net trading income increased by Sh5.854 billion to Sh10.099 billion (2018: Sh4.245 billion) due to increased government payments during the year," CBK said in the annual report. When the government borrows in dollars, the Central Bank buys the forex and funds the consolidated account with Kenyan shillings for funding the government operations.

It sells back the dollars to the government when the Treasury is making payments for external loan interest and principal at the prevailing market rates, which due to weakening of the Kenyan currency has seen the government forced to offer more shillings to buy the dollars from CBK, hence the gain. CBK also sells dollars to commercial banks, which is one of the ways of controlling exchange rate volatility.

Kenya has increasingly tapped into foreign loans which now make up more than half of the entire debt portfolio of Sh6.8 trillion debt, which carries a huge currency risk in the event of shilling depreciation.

According to the National Treasury Quarterly Budget Economic Review, in dollar terms, external public debt stock increased by \$5.602 billion from \$23.95 billion in June 2018 to \$29.55 billion by the end of June 2019.

Although the debt is evenly distributed among bilateral lenders (33 per cent), multilateral institutions (30.2 per cent) and commercial banks (36.2 per cent) the terms of the commercial lenders are strict, short and expensive, squeezing the government hard and putting pressure on repayments.



Geita Regional Commissioner, Engineer Robert Gabriel.

Over 300 exhibitors to feature in third mineral trade exhibition

By The Banker Reporter, Geita

MORE than 300 exhibitors have confirmed to participate at the third mineral exhibition in Geita District which starts today, officials said.

"We have completed preparations for the exhibition which will feature both local and foreign miners, dealers and allied service providers," Public Relations Officer for Geita Regional Commissioner, Paulo Zaharo said this week.

Zaharo said the Geita Gold Exhibition as is officially known is now revolving into an international mining trade fair, will run for 10 days till 27th September. "After being staged for two consecutive years, our mineral exhibition will experience

many changes than last year's fair," he noted

Geita has already established a 24 hours non-stop export processing zone, the first of its kind in East Africa which comprises an economic and export zone as well as a gold trading center.

Speaking last week, Geita Regional Commissioner, Engineer Robert Gabriel said that with the theme 'Mining is economy, 2020 choose visionary leaders for development of the country,' the exhibition will allow stakeholders to showcase their potentials mining technology while exploring trade and investment in the industry.

The exhibitions are organized by the Geita Regional Commissioner in

collaboration with Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Small Industries Development Organization (Sido) and Mining Commission as well as the Geita Town Council.

Eng Gabriel also said that there is a promising market and investment opportunities in the region which has forced his region to set aside 100 acres of land for potential investors, who will also enjoy a number of incentives.

The exhibitions will also feature business clinics, where government officials will attend and respond to queries raised by stakeholders from the sector. The RC further said that exhibitors will be given an opportunity to tour the Geita Gold Mine

(GGM) and other attractive tourism sites in the region.

"We are expecting to receive more guests and exhibitors from within and outside the country," the RC noted. Some of the stakeholders who will attend the fair include geological survey institute, simple technology developers, Vocational Education and Training Authority, banks and others.

Geita Region accounts for 35 per cent of the country's total gold production per annum. Tanzania is fourth largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali. The gold is one of the country's top foreign currency earners accounting for more than 90 per cent of mineral exports.



Khaled Sherif, AfDB's vice president for regional development.

Africa is open for business, says AfDB

ABIDJAN

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, investment opportunities still abound in Africa. Global markets are shifting to South Asia and Africa. "In a sense, Africa is not very far for Asian investors who might be interested in the investment opportunities on the continent," said Tetsushi Sonobe, dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), at the presentation of the African Development Bank's (AfDB's) African Economic Outlook Supplement to Asian audiences.

Around 350 participants attended the virtual event, which was co-hosted by the Asia External Representation Office of the African Development Bank. The audience included government officials, representatives from the African diplomatic corps in Asia, development professionals, representatives of civil society, academics and think tanks, students, journalists, and the general public. Sonobe observed that Africa's GDP growth is projected to quickly rebound in 2021 following steady growth before Covid-19.

He identified some of the potential opportunities highlighted in report: "A large market with a very talented youthful population; a three-trillion-dollar market opportunity through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreements; greater manufacturing potential as low-cost manufacturing opportunities continue to move to Africa; improved business environment; and improving macroeconomic governance."

No one-size-fits-all solutions

Khaled Sherif, AfDB's vice president for regional development, integration and business delivery said despite the pandemic affecting all African economies, its magnitude will vary considerably from country to country, depending on the economic characteristics and initial conditions of the countries.

"This urges us to avoid the one-size-fits-all solution to address the effects of Covid-19 in Africa. For that, the AEO Supplement notes that the continent will need the support and expertise of all. This is an opportunity to enrich the debate on what appropriate measures are needed to support African countries to recover from the pandemic, drawing particularly from Asian experience," he said.

The policy recommendations of the supplement could be regarded as important opportunities for investments. Participants also observed that although Africa is human-resource-rich, Africa will need to work on closing its infrastructure gap - an issue the AfDB has made one of its top priorities.

The African Economic Outlook Supplement underlines the urgency to build the resilience of Africa's healthcare systems and economies to improve countries' preparedness for future shocks. This means that African countries will need to rethink their current development strategies and priorities, which have clearly shown their limitations.

"Policymakers must seize the new and real opportunities for participation in global value chains, particularly with Asia and within Africa and build the infrastructure needed to encourage large-scale teleworking, e-health, and distance learning architectures for a rapid, resilient, and sustainable recovery in a post-Covid-19 digital world," said Chuku Chuku, officer in charge of the bank's macroeconomic policy, debt sustainability and forecasting division. "The pandemic notwithstanding, Africa is open to business and we look forward to working with our Asian partners."

Minister Kairuki hails Vodacom's massive investment in market at 1.6trn/- mark

By The Banker Reporter

CORDIAL relations existing between the private and public sectors is essential for the development of businesses which in turn pay taxes to Treasury hence contributing towards rapid socio-economic growth of the country.

Minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investment, Angela Kairuki said recently when he made courtesy call at Vodacom Tanzania Plc where she commended the largest telecommunications company in the market that apart from creating millions of jobs both directly and indirectly, the telco has also invested in health, agriculture and education in support government initiatives.

"I commend Vodacom Tanzania for the investment they have made in the country in developing e-learning with their Instant Schools program that enables students and teachers to access education materials from primary to secondary schools free of charge," Kairuki said.

The telco has invested over 1.6trn/- between 2012 and March 2020 both in network expansion and development with focus on innovations in mobile services. With over 15 million subscribers, Vodacom boasts 31 percent market share with its brand mobile money plat-



Minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investment, Angela Kairuki (L) speaking to Vodacom Tanzania Plc officials when she visited the telco's head office in Dar es Salaam recently.

form, M-Pesa commanding 39.3 percent of the market's share.

The Dar es Salaam based telco also paid a whopping 1.9trn/- in taxes in the past five years to 2020 with an impressive annual growth average rate of eight percent. Vodacom's annual tax contribution will peak 435bn/- by end this year.

Kairuki said such an impressive contribution by the giant telco is appreciated by the government which promised to ensure that, "A conducive business environment prevails

in the domestic market."

In addition, Vodacom in partnership with Universal Communications Services Access Fund, has invested over 390bn/- in provision of computers, routers, data and training to bring digital technology in primary and secondary schools across the country reaching 16,555 students as part of its social investment in digitizing Tanzania.

The company's Managing Director, Hisham Hendi said that closer cooperation between the private and public sectors has

provided opportunities to unlock some of the challenges with a view to develop businesses in the country by having conducive investment conditions that allow rapid growth to the benefit of community.

"Vodacom is the only mobile operator to comply with the Tanzania's Electronic and Postal Communications Act No. 3 of 2010 (EPOCA), requiring domestic telecoms companies to issue at least 25 percent of their shares on Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange," Hendi said.

He noted that the DSE listing in 2017, allowed more than 40,000 Tanzanians to own shares in the profitable telco while also allowing transparency, both in terms of management and tax payments. "Our business and social investment programs are focused on areas that are also in line with the government's national development agenda and the international sustainable development goals in health, education and agriculture," he added.

Minister Kairuki's entourage to Vodacom included Tanzania Investment Centre's Managing Director, Dr Isaac Kazi, representatives from Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Communication and Dar es Salaam Regional officials.

During the visit, Kairuki's delegation had dialogue with Vodacom's senior management team with discussion centred around how to improve the investment and operational climate for businesses in the telecommunication industry locally with issues such as compliance, regulations and fees and fines in focus.

China lets traders push yuan toward best quarter on record

BRUSSELS

The yuan has strengthened 4.3% since the end of June to 6.77 per dollar. China's policy makers are in no rush to rein in a rapid advance in the yuan, as traders push the currency toward its largest quarterly rally on record.

The yuan has strengthened 4.3% since the end of June to 6.77 per dollar, set for the biggest ever quarterly gain in Bloomberg data going back to 1981. The currency is the best performer in Asia in the third quarter, with the buying momentum being close to the strongest since January.

The yuan is being supported by a slump in the dollar, while Chinese media has been attributing the gains to the nation's economic recovery. The People's Bank of China has also helped by not standing in its way, which for some in the market is an incentive for the currency to push higher. Beijing's daily fixings have tracked the spot rate, and officials have not expressed any concern over the currency's strength.

"There is scope for further yuan gains before the authorities start to become concerned about excessive strength," said Khoo Goh, head of Asia research at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group, adding that a lack of pushback from Beijing has encouraged him to become more bullish. "It is very likely for the yuan to hit 6.7 in the near term."

Beijing's apparent blessing of the rally is a far cry from a few years ago, when the PBOC sought to rein in gains for fears that it would hurt exporters. What's different now is China has changed its strategy for boosting growth. It's now more focused on cheapening imports and bolstering domestic consumption, and a stronger currency could help achieve that. The yuan's strength also helps remove a flashpoint in the country's relations with the US, as President Donald Trump had long been accusing Beijing of keeping its exchange rate artificially weak.

This doesn't mean the PBOC will allow the yuan to gain too fast. One indicator traders follow is the Bloomberg CFETS RMB Index Tracker, which measures the currency against 24 peers. While it shows the yuan has climbed 2.2% this quarter, it is still well off this year's peak in March.

The yuan is also close to the weakest level in six years versus the euro, the currency of a major trade partner. That suggests there's room for further gains. Beijing will likely slow the appreciation by issuing weaker fixings and relaxing capital controls if the yuan basket rises another 2%, Goh said.

Insurance management in Zambia via cloud-based contact centre

LUSAKA

Global cloud communications company Infobip has implemented a WhatsApp Business API solution for short-term insurance provider Hollard Insurance Zambia Limited (Hollard Insurance) to improve customer engagement in the region.

The implementation includes Infobip's chatbot solution Answers, and is supported by its newly launched offering, 'Conversations', a cloud-based contact centre solution. Siani Malama, Head of Business Development at Hollard Insurance, says this is the first implementation of Infobip's latest offering for the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Infobip Senior Sales Manager, Andre Joubert, further explains, "In SADC, Hollard Insurance Zambia is the first client to utilise Conversations in conjunction with Answers which enables it to deliver seamless support to its customers. The solution also offers the ability for Hollard Insurance to build, test and deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) and keyword-based chatbots.

These chatbots are managed via Conversations, leaving Hollard's agents with more time to focus on resolving complex queries in addition to monitoring all interactions exchanged between bot and customer in real-time." Malama adds that the company is excited to be the first insurer in the Zambian market to offer its 20,000-strong customer base the ability to communicate with it over WhatsApp.

"We want to be a trendsetter and use digital solutions to put our customer first. We are very excited about the Infobip offering, as it allows us to communicate frequently and transact with customers over their preferred channel, from the comfort of their home or office. This is our way of enabling more



Siani Malama, Head of Business Development at Hollard Insurance.

people to create and secure a better future," says Malama.

The companies say the solution will enhance CX and ultimately reduce administrative costs for Hollard Insurance in the long-term by eliminating some manual processes. Customers will have remote access to instantaneous customer care and a platform to manage their motor and home insurance at their convenience.

Malama continues, "Some of our func-

tions, such as policies and policy schedules can now be completed digitally and therefore will no longer need to be printed. Here, the solution will enable us to send documentation via WhatsApp which will drive down administrative costs and increase customer convenience."

Apart from currently providing customers with the ability to engage with the company on a self-service platform for FAQs and other conversations through the chatbot, Hollard

Insurance is considering adding additional functionality to the platform in a phased approach.

"We are looking to introduce a sales channel where a customer can purchase motor and home insurance products from the comfort of their home via WhatsApp. This would be an end-to-end process from purchasing all the way through to payment. It will not happen overnight but is part of our digital roadmap for the future," Malama concludes.

Bahrain's Bank ABC in talks to buy Egyptian unit of Lebanon's Blom Bank

CAIRO

Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, the kingdom's second-largest lender, said it is in talks to buy the Egyptian unit of Lebanon's Blom Bank. "Discussions are at a preliminary stage, but there is no certainty that any transaction will be completed," Bank ABC said in a

regulatory filing to the Bahrain bourse, where its shares trade.

"Bank ABC has a stated intention and strategy to consider inorganic growth opportunities and routinely evaluates such matters, and a further announcement will only be made if there is a material development." Last month, Emirates NBD, Dubai's largest lender by assets, said it is

also in talks to buy Blom Bank's subsidiary in Egypt.

In May, First Abu Dhabi Bank, the UAE's largest lender by assets, mutually agreed to suspend talks to buy the Egyptian subsidiary of Lebanon's Bank Audi due to "unprecedented circumstances and the uncertain outlook relating to the Covid-19 pandemic."

Blom Bank, like other Lebanese

lenders, needs to fulfill a requirement from Lebanon's central bank to increase its equity. The regulator issued the requirement last November as Lebanon faces its worst economic crisis in three decades. Lenders who are unable to raise their capital by 20 percent by the end of February 2021 will have to get out of the market.

Blom Bank's 2019 annual profit

of declined 77 percent year-on-year as it booked impairments of 493 billion Lebanese pounds (\$327 million) at the official exchange rate) to cover losses. Reuters reported the sale of Blom's Egyptian unit could raise as much as \$300m for the Lebanese lender. Blom Bank Egypt operates 39 branches in the North African country.



Chinese yuan bills.

How personal net worth defines an individual as an institution of their own

By Maximilian Msuya

LIFE can be so demanding to the extent of depriving one's chance and ability to pause and reflect. Self-check provides an opportunity to reflect and plan regardless of the life area in which it is to be done.

In a typical Tanzanian community, it is common to witness much emphasis being put on the importance of periodic health checkups. Today we will, however, deviate a bit and have a look at the importance of periodic checks on personal financial position.

What is your net worth? Before you take time and exercise your cerebrum trying to navigate through the possible answer(s) to this question, I urge you to take time and reflect on how different

companies and institutions within different industries, take quality time to do periodic checks on their financial position. Three financial statements are commonly prepared to facilitate this namely; the cashflow statement, the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet

statement. The management and the board of these institutions are expected to be true to the numbers reflected on such statements for them to depict the true picture of their institutions' financial position.

The very same approach should be used

while establishing your personal financial position. The rule of thumb before commencing this exercise is to be true to yourself no matter how hard or painful it might be. At this point you are the board and the management of your own.

To answer the question of your net worth; we are going to have a look at a personal balance sheet statement and its components, thus: Net worth = Personal assets (what you own) - Personal liabilities (what you owe).

Personal assets are all items owned by a person or a household that carry monetary value or you can turn into cash such as real estate (houses and land), cash in hand and at banks, cars and jewel. Personal liabilities are obligations that you have or amounts that you owe to others such as mortgage, outstanding loan and

post-paid utility bills.

In some circumstances some items can fall into both categories for instance if you take a cash loan from the bank, the cash obtained is an asset to you but also since you have created a debt, the same loan amount plus expected interest that will arise from it should be recorded as a liability.

How do I know if I have a positive or negative net worth?

Personal assets - personal liabilities = (-) then you have a negative net worth while personal assets - personal liabilities = (+) then you have a positive net worth.

How can I maintain a positive net worth?

You should always aim at maintaining and growing a positive net worth by investing in assets

which either appreciate in value over time or generate income and have low maintenance cost. It is said, know what you own and why you own it.

How often should I update my personal balance sheet?

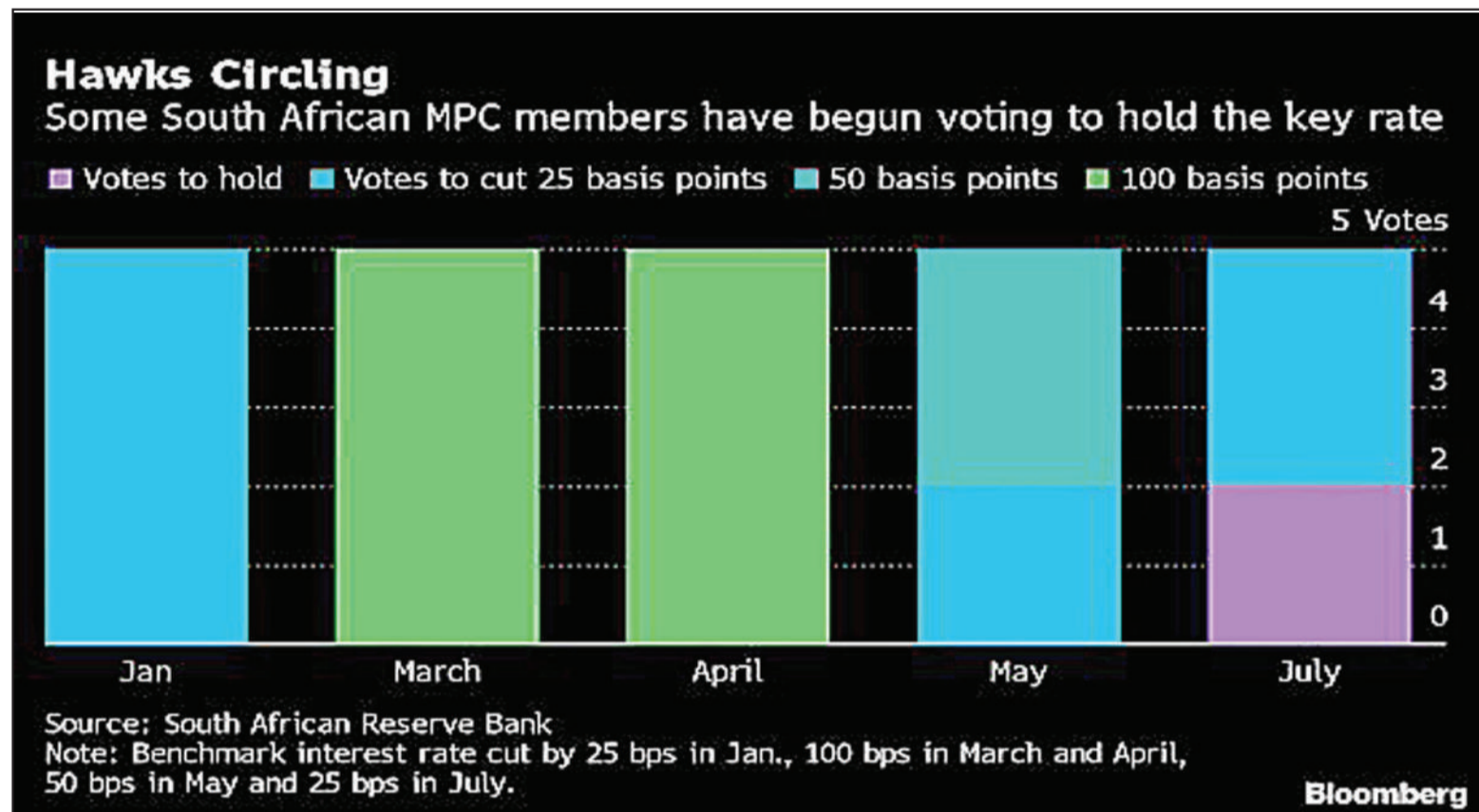
It is important to update your personal balance sheet from time to time, preferably semi-annually. In this digital era, you may consider using several legit personal finance applications available in the market to simplify this exercise.

Having an updated personal balance sheet carries several advantages including enabling you to prepare for your retirement plan. Hopefully, you will be able to answer the earlier question on your net worth and this will help you towards building a healthy and sustainable financial position.



Maximilian William Msuya

Principal, Financial Markets at Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited



African central banks may say they have done what they can for now

JOHANNESBURG

African central banks meeting in the next two weeks may decide that they've done all they can for now to shore up their economies against the havoc wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

Most in the region will probably hold rates as inflation remains above target, while policymakers in Morocco will consider the risk of deflation. A recession in South Africa and muted price growth in Kenya make those nations outliers still considering rate cuts, although their room for maneuver is also narrowing.

While a pickup in activity "could embolden most MPCs to stand pat," an easing bias will persist in countries where policymakers aren't convinced their economies are sufficiently recovering, said Jibril Qureshi, the Nairobi-based head of Africa research at Standard Bank Group. "We don't see much scope for meaningful rate cuts from these levels."

Here's what central bankers on the continent may do: South Africa, Sept. 17; Repurchase rate: 3.5%; and Inflation: 3.2% (July). South Africa's MPC meets a week after data showed virus restrictions put the economy into its longest recession in 28 years as second-quarter gross domestic product contracted more than the central bank's estimate. While the committee tempered expectations for further aggressive easing at its last meeting, Governor Lesetja Kganyago recently said muted inflation gives it room to respond if the nature of the shock caused by the pandemic is worse than forecast.

The market is split on the timing of a potential rate cut. Of the 17 economists in a Bloomberg survey, nine predict a 25 basis-point drop this week and the rest see the rate unchanged. Forward-rate agreements, used to speculate on borrowing costs, suggest a higher probability of it happening in No-

vember. Downward revisions to the MPC's GDP and inflation forecasts would support the case for a reduction, said Gina Schoeman, an economist at Citibank South Africa.

Nigeria, Sept. 22

Policy rate: 12.5%

Inflation: 13.2% (August)

Nigerian policymakers will probably leave the key rate steady even as Africa's largest economy is predicted to contract the most in nearly 40 years. Consumer-price growth has been stuck above the target band of 6% to 9% since 2015 and shows no sign of easing.

The MPC could lower the cash-reserve ratio from 27.5%, said Samuel Segun, an Africa analyst at SBM Intelligence. The rate weighs on the profitability of lenders and reduces access to finance for small businesses, going against the central bank's drive to support the economy, he said.

Morocco, Sept. 22

Interest rate: 1.5%

Inflation: -0.1% (July)

Morocco's central bank will weigh whether this year's unprecedented easing is enough to offset the economic impact of the pandemic. Just over half of the local investors polled by a unit of the kingdom's largest lender expect the central bank to hold the benchmark rate after 75 basis points of cuts this year. The nation is struggling to tame the virus, dimming hopes for a prompt and solid rebound in the crucial tourism sector.

Business owners, including the main CGEM lobby, are warning of deflation and hundreds of thousands of potential job losses - events that could spur protests in a country already struggling with youth unemployment. Morocco's stimulus options look "more difficult and complex," Larabi Jaidi, a member of the central bank's policy board, told local media.

Mauritius, September 23

Repurchase rate: 1.85%

Inflation rate: 1.5% (August)

The Mauritian central bank will probably hold its key rate at a record low even as inflation remains benign. While the MPC will weigh the need for further cuts to shore up an economy expected to contract by 13% this year, recent comments from policymakers about the country being in a better shape should see it vote for an unchanged stance, said Eric Ng, an economist and director of the Port Louis-based PluriConseil.

Egypt, September 24

Deposit rate: 9.25%

Inflation rate: 3.4% (August, urban)

After cutting by 450 basis points in 2019 and another 300 in a mid-March emergency session, Egypt's central bank will likely hold even as inflation is at its lowest in nearly a year. The bank is "happy to keep yields elevated to keep attracting foreign inflows" and is expecting a pickup in inflation later in 2020, says Mohamed Abu Basha, head of macroeconomic research at Cairo-based EFG Hermes. While the pandemic cut into some of Egypt's main sources of hard currency, such as tourism and remittances, and spurred capital outflows from March to May, investors began returning in June after the country secured financing from the International Monetary Fund.

Angola, Sept. 28

BNA rate: 15.5%

Inflation: 22.81% (August, Luanda)

Angola's central bank hasn't cut its policy rate this year and is unlikely to do so, even as the economy continues to face a triple shock from the virus, the oil-price drop and a reduction in crude output to meet its OPEC+ commitments. While the MPC should focus on fighting inflation that is at the highest level in more than two years, the benchmark rate is unlikely to go up, said Carlo Rosado de Car-

valho, an economist at Luanda's Catholic University of Angola. Consumer-price growth has been fuelled by the kwanza's 23% decline against the dollar this year.

Ghana, September 28

Policy rate: 14.5%

Inflation: 10.5% (August)

Ghana's central bank will probably keep its key rate at an eight-year low for a third consecutive meeting as inflation remained above target in August. "The elevated liquidity injection and support for the government budget still remains a risk to inflation," said Courage Martey, economist at Accra's Databank Group. "This will mean that monetary policy cannot be bullish in terms of cutting rates to support growth."

Kenya, Sept. 29

Central bank rate: 7%

Inflation: 4.4% (August)

Kenyan policymakers have room to cut by 100 basis points as the country moves toward a full reopening of its economy, according to Ken Gichinga, chief economist at Nairobi's Mentor Economics. "With the easing measures, the MPC can now apply an accommodative stance to pursue growth," he said. Virus restrictions dulled the impact of rapid-fire cuts earlier this year, resulting in high liquidity but little monetary circulation. Kenya's pricing mis-allocation, where government securities offer higher yield than the real economy, has crowded out private-sector lending, Gichinga said.

What Bloomberg's Economist Says...

"Major central banks in sub-Saharan Africa are likely to hold rates at their next meetings as headline inflation remains above target as a result of higher food prices and currency weakening. However, in South Africa, we see space for a further 25 basis point interest-rate cut as both GDP and inflation outcomes have undershot the Reserve Bank's expectations." - Boingotlo

Banking start-up aims to lure Covid-19 savers with the \$10m prize

NEW YORK

At a time when some Americans are being tempted to pour their savings into risky investments, the son of a Wall Street veteran is encouraging them to set aside more money.

Adam Moelis, whose father Ken Moelis runs investment bank Moelis & Co, has managed to attract new accounts worth almost \$40 million in two months at his start-up, Yotta Savings. The hook is that Yotta gives people a sweepstakes ticket for every \$25 they save. A weekly draw gives customers the chance to win between 10 cents and \$10m.

With 6,500 customer accounts, it still has a long way to go before it can catch up with competitors. Another banking challenger, Current, has gathered more than 1 million accounts since its 2015 founding. And several other rivals are entering the fray. Additionally, millions of people signed up this year with investing apps such as Robinhood, lured by a booming stock market while low interest rates make savings accounts unattractive.

Yotta isn't making money now, though ultimately Mr Moelis and co-founder Ben Doyle want to offer a debit card and generate revenue from interchange fees. They are also hoping the savings accounts will nudge users to start checking accounts.

Yotta offers a savings rate of 0.2 per cent, with an implied rate of return at about 2 per cent when potential winnings are taken into account. The rate at Goldman Sachs Group's Marcus savings accounts, by comparison, has

dropped to 0.6 per cent, compared with 2.25 per cent a year ago.

Yotta has distributed about \$125,000 in total winnings so far, and uses the interest earned on total deposits to fund the prizes. No one has won the \$10m jackpot yet. Its savings accounts are backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp and the funds are placed in an account with Evolve Bank & Trust, another financial technology firm. While the concept of using a sweepstakes to encourage savings isn't new, Yotta is drawing in clients at a tumultuous time for the personal finances of Americans.

Lower interest rates and reduced spending during Covid-19 lockdowns are spurring some to take money from their swelling savings accounts and invest in assets such as stocks and Bitcoin. Others have been weighed down by the economic toll of the pandemic and are either raiding their savings to make up for a lack of income - or don't have much savings at all.

A May survey by robo-advising firm Betterment found that 20 per cent of millennials and Gen Zers are saving less than \$100 monthly, and a third are dipping into retirement savings early to pay off debt or for leisure activities. "The reality is I think everyone needs a safety net, or a cushion, whether that's just six months of expenses," Mr Moelis said. "Even for someone who can invest in stocks, you need an emergency fund. There are people in our demographic that keep money in a chequing account that's earning literally zero."



Yotta Savings lotto application displayed on a smartphone.

BANKING&FINANCE

WORLD

Trump says he wanted to kill Assad after earlier denying it

By Bloomberg

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he was set to assassinate Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in 2017, contradicting his earlier denial that he'd sought to kill him.

"I would have rather taken him out," Trump said Tuesday on Fox News. "I had him all set, Mattis didn't want to do it."

Trump (pictured) said during the Fox interview that he does not regret deciding against moving forward with the killing, but faulted former Defense Secretary James Mattis, whom he called "highly overrated" and a "bad person." The ex-Pentagon chief, who left the administration in January 2019, has been critical of Trump.

"To me he was a terrible general, he was a bad leader," Trump said of Mattis.

A book written by journalist Bob Woodward in 2018 said Trump urged Mattis to come up with a plan to kill Assad, but that the then-Defense secretary did not go along with the president's demands.

The discussions about killing Assad, according to the book, came after a chemical attack on civilians in April 2017 that was blamed on the Syrian government.

The US launched cruise missiles at Syria in response to Assad's chemical attack, but the targets were limited to military installations.

After details of Woodward's book became public, Trump denied that he'd sought Assad's death.

"No, that was never even contemplated, nor would it be contemplated," the president told reporters in September 2018. "And it should not have been written about in the book.



It's just more fiction. The book is total fiction."

During the Tuesday interview, Fox News host Brian Kilmeade tried to temper Trump's criticism of Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general who led US troops in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Kilmeade said while the two men did not "gel," Mattis is a "great American."

"I don't say he is a good American or a bad American. I just say he didn't do a good job. I let him go," Trump said of Mattis.

Mattis in December 2018 resigned in protest of Trump's

decision to withdraw US troops from Syria.

Trump has faced scrutiny of his views on military service members after the Atlantic magazine reported this month that he privately referred to US Marines buried at a cemetery in France as "losers" and "suckers." Trump again denied making the remarks on Tuesday, calling the story "phony."

EU chief unveils blueprint to get Europe back on its feet

BRUSSELS

THE EU's chief executive yesterday painted a sober picture of Europe grappling with a pandemic and its deepest recession in its history, but laid out ambitious goals to make the 27-nation bloc more resilient and united to confront future crises.

In her annual State of the Union address, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen doubled down on the flagship goals she set out on taking office last December: urgent action to tackle climate change and a digital revolution.

She unveiled a plan to cut the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent from 1990 levels by 2030, up from an existing target of 40 percent, and pledged to use green bonds to finance its climate goals.

"There is no more urgent need for acceleration than when it comes to the future of our fragile

planet," the former German cabinet minister told the European Parliament.

"While much of the world's activity froze during lockdowns and shutdowns, the planet continued to get dangerously hotter."

Von der Leyen (pictured) also called for greater investment in technology for Europe to compete more keenly with China and the United States, and said the EU would invest 20 percent of a 750 billion euro economic recovery fund in digital projects.

Officials said that, far from backing off the plans she laid out at the beginning of her term because of the coronavirus crisis, von der Leyen believes they will be key to Europe's long-term economic and political survival.

The EU has been buffeted for years by crises, from the financial meltdown of 2008 to feuds over migration and the protracted saga of Britain's exit from the bloc.

Solidarity among the 27 mem-



ber states frayed badly at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when countries refused to share protective medical kit with those worst-affected and closed borders without consultation to prevent the spread of the virus.

The bloc's leaders also jostled for months over a joint plan to rescue their coronavirus-throttled economies.

But in July they agreed on a stimulus plan that paved the way

for the European Commission to raise billions of euros on capital markets on behalf of them all, an unprecedented act of solidarity in almost seven decades of European integration.

Von der Leyen told the EU assembly that "this is the moment for Europe" to trust each other and stand together.

"The moment for Europe to lead the way from this fragility towards a new vitality," she said. "I say this because in the last months we have rediscovered the value of what we hold in common ... We turned fear and division between Member States into confidence in our Union."

Chances for a Brexit deal fading Turning to the troubled talks with London on the future relationship between the world's fifth-largest economy and biggest trading bloc, von der Leyen said every passing day reduces chances for sealing a new trade deal.

She stressed that both the EU

and Britain negotiated and ratified their Brexit divorce deal and warned the UK, which has proposed a bill that would breach elements of the pact, that it "cannot be unilaterally changed, disregarded or disappplied."

"This is a matter of law, trust and good faith... Trust is the foundation of any strong partnership," she said.

She said EU states must be quicker in their foreign policy to support pro-democracy protests in Belarus or to stand up to Russia and Turkey.

"Why are even simple statements on EU values delayed, watered down or held hostage for other motives?" she asked.

"When member states say Europe is too slow, I say to them be courageous and finally move to qualified majority voting," she said, referring to blockages over finding unanimity among the EU's 27 states.

Agencies

Some Indian hospitals scramble for oxygen as virus cases top 5m

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S coronavirus infections surged past 5 million on Wednesday, piling pressure on hospitals grappling with unreliable supplies of oxygen that they need to treat tens of thousands of critical patients.

In the big states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, that are also some of the worst-affected by the virus, demand for oxygen has more than tripled, doctors and government officials said, prompting urgent calls for help.

"Desperate patients have been calling me through the night but I don't know when I will get stock,"

Rishikesh Patil, an oxygen supplier in the western city of Nashik, told Reuters.

The health ministry reported 90,123 new infections on Wednesday, taking the total caseload to 5.02 million.

The death toll from COVID-19 is now at 82,066, the ministry said, with 1,290 fatalities recorded in the previous 24 hours.

India has the world's fastest growing novel coronavirus epidemic and added its last million infections in just 12 days. It is only the second country in the world to have more than 5 million cases, after the United States.

At least 6 percent of India's nearly 1 million active cases need



People take a walk in the morning wearing face masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus inside a park in Kolkata, India, on Tuesday. AP

oxygen support, health ministry official Rajesh Bhushan told reporters. Supplies were adequate but state governments should

monitor usage and flag shortages, he said.

"The problem happens when at a facility level, if there is no

inventory management. Every state should ensure this," Bhushan said.

In the capital of India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, the total requirement of oxygen cylinders stood at 5,000 cylinders compared with 1,000 cylinders in normal times, a government official said.

The worst-affected state of Maharashtra has decided to reduce supply to neighbouring states to meet its growing demand, a state government official said.

Vehicles carrying oxygen will get right of way and can use sirens to ensure they reach hospitals faster.

Agencies

South African president under pressure to fire defence minister for 'abusing state resources'

CAPE TOWN

CALLS emerged on Monday for President Cyril Ramaphosa to fire his defence minister for "abusing state resources."

The opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) said in a statement that



Ramaphosa has no other option but to fire Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula for "willfully" allowing a delegation of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) to travel with her on a military jet to Zimbabwe. Mapisa-Nqakula travel to Harare, Zimbabwean last week for talks with Zimbabwean officials on the current situation in the neighboring country.

The defence minister brought along with her an ANC delegation comprising ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from political parties and civil organizations. The trip, undertaken without adherence to social distancing or permission to leave the country when international travel was banned under the COVID-19 lockdown, was lambasted as a flagrant blurring of state and party lines and abuse of state machinery, which amounts to theft from the people by the ANC.

Amid a public outcry, the ANC said earlier on Tuesday it will reimburse the government for flying the party's delegation with Mapisa-Nqakula (pictured) to Zimbabwe. But the party stopped short of making an apology.

As directed by Ramaphosa, Mapisa-Nqakula on Monday submitted a report to the president on the circumstances that led to the minister sharing the flight to Harare with the ANC delegation. The Presidency confirmed on Tuesday that Ramaphosa was studying the report. The DA hailed the latest development as "a huge victory for South Africa in holding the ANC to full account for its nefarious and thieving ways."

Following pressure from the public and the DA, the ANC has not only admitted that it abused state resources, but has also indicated that the party would reimburse the government for the costs incurred on behalf of its delegation, said Kobus Marais, DA Shadow Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. The defence minister "simply must go" for the gross violation of her oath of office, a dereliction of duty and a complete disregard for ethical standards, Marais said.

The DA will lay a complaint with Parliament Ethics Committee against the minister in this regard, according to Marais.

Xinhua

Expert says risk of encountering someone emitting coronavirus after recovery is very low

MOSCOW

A LONG period of emitting the coronavirus after recovery is very rare and the chance of meeting this infection carrier in the street is very low, specialist in dangerous infections Vladislav Zhemchugov said yesterday.

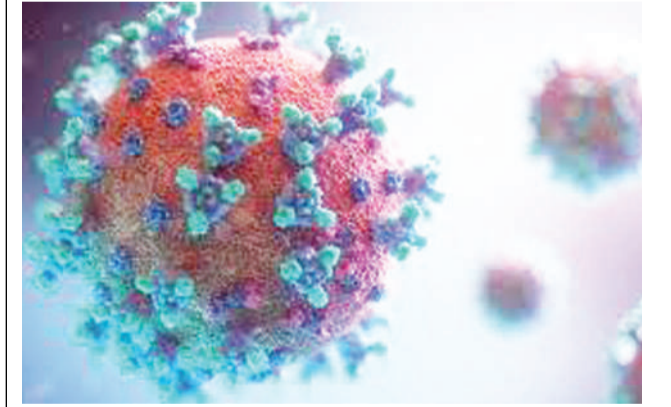
Russia's chief sanitary doctor and head of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing Anna Popova said that according to foreign specialists those who have recovered from the disease may emit the virus for up to 90 days. In Russia, there have been cases when patients emitted the virus for 48 days after recovering.

"It is necessary not to sow panic that this is the case for everyone, but these are really isolated cases. I believe it could be one [person] in 10,000.

Accordingly, meeting such a person <...> is very difficult, I think," Zhemchugov said in an interview with the Russia-24 channel.

Chief specialist for infectious diseases of Russia's Health Ministry, Professor Vladimir Chulanov, earlier told TASS that the recovery is confirmed by two negative tests for the coronavirus and there are no grounds for imposing any restrictions on those who have recovered from the novel coronavirus infection COVID-19.

Agencies



THE 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) kicked off in Beijing on September 4. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the Global Trade in Services Summit of the event via video link.

The 2020 CIFTIS, as the first major international economic and trade activity held by China both online and offline since the outbreak of COVID-19, has attracted worldwide attention.

Trade in services is the most dynamic part of today's global trade, as well as a source of potential for global growth. When the world economy is facing a possible depression, the CIFTIS, with the theme of "Global Services, Shared Prosperity," further demonstrates China's resolution to open wider, and displays the country's higher-level opening-up that aims at achieving common development with the world.

During the CIFTIS 2019, President

China always an important propeller for global opening-up

Xi sent a congratulatory letter, noting that there are broad prospects and huge potential for the development of service trade. In the letter, he called on countries to seize the opportunity and work together to forge a bright future of global services with mutual, shared benefits.

Currently, 60 percent of the world's economic output came from the service industry, and service export, which accounts for 20 percent of the world's total export volume, contributes to nearly half of the total value added in global foreign trade.

Peter Bakker, President and CEO of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), noted that China's holding of the CIFTIS at the critical moment promote global trade and bolster confidence in global

economic recovery.

The story of "Global Services, Shared Prosperity" further indicates the value of the stable dividend brought by China's economic development. In the past 6 years, the CIFTIS has attracted 184 countries and regions, nearly 300 international organizations and overseas business associations and more than 10,000 companies, achieving an accumulated intended transaction amount of \$529.33 billion.

Its exhibition area expanded to 165,000 square meters in 2019 from 50,000 square meters 6 years ago, and the intended transaction amount also rose from \$60.11 billion to \$105.06 billion in the same period. The development of the event exactly mirrors how China has constantly shared its economic dividend with the world.

Thanks to the remarkable achievements made by China in coordinating epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development, the country saw a 3.2 percent year-on-year economic growth in the second quarter, as a result of which Fitch Ratings and Moody's both increased their ratings for China's economic outlook.

This year the CIFTIS covers an exhibition area of around 200,000 square meters, and a total of 18,000 enterprises and organizations from home and abroad have registered for the event. All the top 30 countries and regions in terms of service trade have sent exhibitors, and 399 of the Fortune Global 500 companies have confirmed participation. It indicates that the world places huge value on the historic opportunities created by

China.

The story of "Global Services, Shared Prosperity" showcases China's continuous practices of opening-up. China is constantly deepening cooperation on service trade investment with global countries to promote trade liberalization and investment facilitation. The CIFTIS is the world's largest comprehensive exhibition regarding service trade, as well as an important window for Chinese service industry.

China issued an overall plan for deepening the pilot of the innovative development of trade in services last month, expanding the number of piloted areas from 17 to 28. It proves that to expand the opening-up of the service sector is an important measure for China to promote high-level opening-up.

From the "Chinese manufacturing" of the China Import and Export Fair, to the "Chinese market" of the China International Import Expo, and to the "Chinese service" of the CIFTIS, China has sent a strong voice of opening wider to the world. Its practice well explains how it is standing on the right side of history, and demonstrates its ambition to achieve common development with the world.

The story of "Global Services, Shared Prosperity" demonstrates China's sense of responsibility to conform to the trend of times and safeguard free trade as a major country. At present, economic globalization is encountering headwinds, together with a rising trend of unilateralism and protectionism. However, economic globalization comes with the development of history; it is unstoppable despite countercurrents.

People's Daily



Han Xiaowen, a popular livestreamer, sells succulent plants via livestreaming at an agricultural demonstration park in Gengche township, Suqian, east China's Jiangsu province. File photo

Chinese village suffering from pollution caused by plastic waste processing becomes beautiful again

WITH residences nestled among green trees and a water platform located at the end of an alameda, Liuxu village in Gengche township, Sucheng district, Suqian, east China's Jiangsu province, has completely shaken off its old nickname of "plastic village" and taken on a brand new beautiful look that even surprises people living in the village.

Gengche township had been one of the largest plastic waste processing bases in eastern China before 2015, when countless pieces of plastic waste were transported to Liuxu village to be processed into recycled plastic particles. The old development pattern with poor economic results had caused severe environmental pollution for Liuxu village.

"Our houses were surrounded by garbage, water in the rivers and ponds smelled, and people driving through our village were so sick of the stink that they wouldn't even open their car windows," recalled a local villager named Wang Zhenhua.

At the beginning of 2016, the local governments decided to prohibit plastic waste processing industry and banned all 59 relevant trading yards from operation. Meanwhile, 200,000 tons of plastic scrap was dug out of rivers, ponds, as well as irrigation canals and ditches in Liuxu village by excavators.

The village then reclaimed more than 2,600 mu (about 173.33 hectares) of farmland, improved 500 spots of rivers, ponds, canals, and ditches, and planted 720,000 seedlings, gradually restoring the pleasant scene of clear water and green banks.

Since the problems troubling people's living environment were resolved, Liuxu village started to tackle employment for the residents.

After coping with waste and old plastic materials, Gengche township embarked on a new path of ecological transformation and green development based on its industrial foundation and development practice.

Besides making great efforts to boost

Internet entrepreneurship and tap into such industries as logistics and express delivery services, featured agriculture, and household supplies manufacturing, authorities of Gengche township also established an eco-agricultural demonstration park near Liuxu village.

Thanks to the park, many people in Liuxu village have found jobs near their home. In 2019, the demonstration park witnessed an annual turnover of 1.3 billion yuan (about \$190.32 million), among which 900 million yuan was achieved through e-commerce. Last year, over 300 local people saw their income increase by a total of more than 9 million yuan because of the park.

Liuxu village is planning to integrate its advantages of ecological resources and featured agriculture into tourism and attract visitors through projects covering such facilities and activities as B&Bs, exhibition hall that shows the history of Liuxu village, and farming experience.

Besides, it is actively launching events including succulent plants festival and cultural shows that are popular among local people, aiming to shift the focus of the local tourism from sightseeing to leisure. This year, Liuxu village is expected to see its tourism revenue reach 20 million yuan.

"The village is now like a beautiful park and local residents are also willing to take a walk around the village in their free time," Wang said. He is very satisfied with his new life in the village, which is now surrounded by flowing water and immersed in a simple and unsophisticated atmosphere with specially designed bridges and pavilions.

To make the village a livable place with a great ecological environment, Liuxu village has made overall planning for improvement in such key aspects as water, roads, industries, and public services and completed the construction of sewer network and sewage treatment plant, according to Ding Yilu, secretary of the Communist Party of China branch of Liuxu village. **People's Daily**

Israeli aircraft strike Gaza militants in response to rocket firing

GAZA

ISRAELI warplanes at the dawn of yesterday attacked military sites belonging to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, in response to rockets fired from the coastal enclave into Israeli towns, Palestinian security sources reported.

The sources and witnesses told Xinhua that Palestinian residents nearby heard massive explosions caused by the Israeli air strikes. The sources said that no injuries were reported, but the air strikes caused considerable damage to the bombed places and nearby houses in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian militants responded to the Israeli air strikes with anti-aircraft fire and more home-made rockets fired into the southern Israeli town of Sderot, the sources added.

The Islamic Jihad movement and al-Nasser brigades said in a press statement that they launched 13 rockets against Israeli towns. "The Palestinian resistance will continue its adhere to the equation of shelling by shelling, even in light of the fragile truce agreement concluded between Hamas and Israel through international mediation," the statement said. **Xinhua**

Developed world has more faith in Putin than Trump, US pollster reveals

WASHINGTON

RESIDENTS of developed countries trust Russian President Vladimir Putin more than his American counterpart Donald Trump, a Pew Research Center poll covering 13,200 people from 13 countries revealed.

According to the research pub-

lished Tuesday, 23% of respondents of Chinese leader Xi Jinping is slightly lower - 19%. Meanwhile, only 16% of those surveyed have faith in the US President.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has the highest trust rating of 76%, followed by French President Emmanuel Macron with 64% and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson with 48%.

The Russian leader enjoys the highest degree of trust among the residents of Germany, Italy and Austria, the poll suggests.

The survey included 13 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden and the UK. It took place between June 10 and August 3.

Agencies

Israel normalises ties with UAE, Bahrain, but Mideast peace still in question

WASHINGTON

ISRAEL signed on Tuesday normalization accords with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, but Palestine claimed they will not achieve peace in the Middle East.

U.S. President Donald Trump joined Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani in signing the three-way agreements on the South Lawn of the White House.

The signing ceremony formally makes the UAE and Bahrain the third and the fourth Arab nation to establish diplomatic ties with Israel after Egypt and Jordan.

PEACE DEAL

Trump touted the historical significance of the accords by calling them "peace deals" and "the dawn of a new Middle East."

The UAE and Bahrain, however, have never fought a war against Israel in history, and the unofficial relationship between Israel and the two Arab states have developed for years.

Netanyahu hailed the normalization agreements as "a pivot of history" that heralds new dawn of peace, saying Israel, the UAE and Bahrain are eager to invest in a future of partnership, prosperity and peace.

Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani called the agreement "an important first step" while emphasizing the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"It is now incumbent on us to work urgently and actively to bring about the lasting peace and security our peoples deserve, a just, comprehensive and enduring two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will be the foundation, the bedrock of such peace," he said.

Sheikh Abdullah of the UAE in his remarks expressed thanks to Netanyahu for halting the annexation of Palestinian territories, calling it "a decision that reinforces our shared will to achieve a better future for generations to come."

Netanyahu, however, said last month the annexation plans had only been delayed but still "on the table."

The signing demonstrated that the Trump administration is eager to showcase its foreign policy achievement and



(From left) Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdulatif al-Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Donald Trump and UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan hold up documents as they participate in the signing of the Abraham Accords where the countries of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates recognize Israel, at the White House in Washington, DC, on Tuesday. AFP

gain support with pro-Israel evangelical Christians for the upcoming presidential election, analysts say.

"The timing of this is explained by the fact that it's designed clearly to boost a beleaguered president's chance for reelection," said Aaron David Miller, a Middle East expert at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Tuesday's signing did bring the beginning of a new era in the region, but it is not clear that the era will be one of greater peace.

"In the near term, it may be an era of greater volatility," he cautioned. "Less pan-Arab cooperation, combined with a U.S. determination to lighten its footprint in the region, is likely to create different regional dynamics."

PALESTINIAN OPPOSITION

In response, Palestine said the signing of the three-way normalization accords will not achieve peace in the Middle East.

In a statement, the Palestinian presidency said that "all attempts to bypass the Palestinian people and their leadership will have serious consequences," stressing that the U.S. administration and Israeli authorities will bear the responsibility.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on all Arab countries to abide by the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative that stipulates the Arabs can only normalize relations with Israel after the Palestinian issue is resolved.

It remains unclear if other major countries in the Middle East, notably Saudi

Arabia and Qatar, will join the normalization process.

Arab League (AL) Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit stressed the recent regional developments wouldn't impact the Arab consensus over the inevitability of ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories as an essential condition for achieving comprehensive justice and peace in the Middle East.

But Alterman thought otherwise. The Israeli-UAE-Bahrain breakthrough was "a collapse of Arab solidarity on the Palestine question that had been in place for three-quarters of a century," he noted.

"Without progress, let alone a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian issue, it's going to be hard to describe this or even hope this is going to lead to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East," said Miller.

"For Israel, these agreements achieve a strategic goal of recognition in the Arab world," said Ehud Eiran, a visiting scholar of the Department of Political Science in Stanford University. "This is highlighted by the fact that it was achieved without the Palestinians."

The accords mark a major change from the traditional view held for decades that Israel must first solve the conflict with the Palestinians and only then can agreements be reached with its Arab neighbors, according to him.

As the accords were being signed in Washington, rockets were fired into Israel from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, injuring two people. Hundreds of Palestinians protested against the normalization deals with Israel ahead of the signing ceremony. **Xinhua**

Pelosi urges investigation into alleged medical malpractice on migrant detainees

WASHINGTON

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday called for an immediate investigation into alleged medical malpractice on migrant detainees, including refusal to get them tested for COVID-19 and a high rate of hysterectomies done to immigrant women.

Those allegations were made by four human rights advocacy groups in a whistleblower complaint filed to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) officials on Monday, accusing the Irwin County Detention Center (ICDC) in the state of Georgia of "lack of medical care, unsafe work practices, and absence of adequate protection against COVID-19 for detained immigrants and employees alike."

"If true, the appalling conditions described in the whistleblower complaint -- including allegations of mass hysterectomies being performed on vulnerable immigrant women -- are a

staggering abuse of human rights," Pelosi said in a statement.

The California Democrat called on the DHS inspector general, Joseph Cuffari, to "immediately investigate" the allegations detailed in the complaint. She said Congress and the American public "need to know why and under what conditions so many women, reportedly without their informed consent, were pushed to undergo this extremely invasive and life-altering procedure." **Xinhua**

UN General Assembly opens for 75th session

UNITED NATIONS

THE 75th session of the UN General Assembly was declared open by new General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir on Tuesday.

In his opening remarks, Bozkir asked UN member states to uphold multilateralism.

"The context in which we are working serves to remind us of the necessity of the multilateral system and inspires us all to make use of the UN Charter to address our collective challenges," he said, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bozkir (pictured) said he intended to hold in-person meetings of the General Assembly as

long as health conditions allow, with the necessary mitigation measures to protect the health and safety of delegates and UN staff.

"In our business of diplomacy, there is no substitute to meeting counterparts face-to-face to build long-term understanding of each other's positions and forge compromise," he said.

Bozkir was sworn in earlier on Tuesday at the closing of the 74th session of the General Assembly.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in his opening remarks, warmly congratulated Bozkir on his new role and pledged his full support. This year will be a critical one

in the life of the world organization. The United Nations must continue to respond to the immediate impact of COVID-19 by strengthening health systems and supporting the development and equitable distribution of treatments and vaccines. It must also prepare to build a strong recovery, based on the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change, he said.

All the while, the General Assembly will continue with its work across the full range of global challenges: peace and security, disarmament, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development, said



Guterres.

"As we mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, it is clear that the world has high expectations of us, as the main platform for multilateralism and

cooperation on a rules-based international system."

Saying that the nature of multilateralism is changing, Guterres called for a more networked and inclusive multilateralism for the

21st century.

"I therefore welcome your pledge to work toward consolidating trust and cohesion among United Nations member states, major groups of countries, and other international organizations.

These efforts are essential to the unity and solidarity we need in this next crucial year, as we respond to the pandemic, build a strong recovery and implement the Sustainable Development Goals."

Guterres thanked Bozkir for his support for the UN reform agenda, and his commitment to working closely with his office and with the UN Secretariat as a whole. "The entire Secretariat is

ready to offer you all our cooperation and support, and I wish you a very successful mandate," he said.

Bozkir, taking over the helm of the most representative body of the United Nations amid a surging pandemic, decided to combine the theme of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the overarching need to combat COVID-19 as the theme of the 75th session of the General Assembly: "The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need: Reaffirming Our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism -- Confronting COVID-19 Through Effective Multilateral Action." **Xinhua**

Agencies

SPORT



Visual artist Athuman Hamis, alias 'Ochu', poses with a portrait of President John Pombe Magufuli in Dar es Salaam recently. Hamis has created the portrait. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ATHUMAN HAMIS

Visual artist completes President Magufuli portrait

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA'S realistic painter, Athuman Hamis, has said he has completed drawing a portrait of President John Pombe Magufuli and he is willing to hand it to the first citizen personally.

Hamis, nicknamed 'Ochu', said the 40x50 cm portrait is ready and he wants to meet the head of the state to explain what the portrait means as it is full of ambiguity.

But in nutshell, the artist, who is based at Mwenge Vinyago in Dar es Salaam, said the portrait is mainly aiming at appreciating good things the President is doing for the country.

"I have finished drawing the 40x50cm portrait of President John Pombe Magufuli, behind it there is Mount Kilimanjaro, the wall, buildings and the national flag, to many people it's the observational drawing, but in artistic eye it is ambiguous, hence the need to meet him personally and explain to him what the portrait means," he said.

This is not the first time for the artist to draw portraits of the country's leaders as he did the same in 2018.

"In 2018 I drew portraits of former presidents and the current, starting with the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the late Benjamin Mkapa, Jakaya Kikwete and John Pombe Magufuli," he disclosed.

"It was a black and white 80x100cm portrait, my aim was to hand it over to President Magufuli, but I did not have either connections or means for meeting him, I sold it to a certain lady," he said.

Ochu also recently had his cartoon, named 'Bongo Bhana', which is aimed at sensitizing people on the dangers of Covid-19 pandemic which has affected the world.

The cartoon is orienting people on health and safety precautionary measures to avoid contracting the disease.

He is a self-taught realistic painter, he has never attended any artistic workshop or seminar, but said the industry has a lot of potential only that many people do not recognize it.

Ochu disclosed that he admires the works of United States of America (USA) acrylic painter, Nick Sider.

He pointed out he dreams of becoming a big realistic painter in the continent.

The 24-year old artist recently won the 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020' competition award and earns his living through his trade.

Apart from being a realistic painter, Ochu is a Bongo Flava musician.

He has many songs to his credit, some of them include 'Hello', 'Napendwa', 'Naumia' and 'Mbele Yako', which is a tribute to philanthropist, Dr. Reginald Mengi, who passed away last year.

Yanga fans shower praises on Carlinhos

BY ISMAIL TANO, FLORIDA RAYMOND AND LYDIA SOSPESTER, TUDARCO

YANGA fans have been delighted by the performance of their club's new star, Angolan Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos', in the Vodacom Premier League match against Mbeya City FC held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Carlinhos, who at first had some of soccer fans being skeptical about his performance and fitness, got 44 percent of Yanga fans' votes for the side's best player of the clash.

The Angolan midfielder beat the likes of Ghanaian striker Michael Sarpong and Congolese midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe, to the honour.

Yanga's head coach Zlatko Krmpotic said Carlinhos is the only foreign player to have ever received a bigger reception when he landed in Tanzania.

The coach disclosed the midfielder is a top player but he is still not as mature as he should be, despite helping his team get their first win in the top flight.

Among the qualities that helped Carlinhos perform well in the match against Mbeya City FC, were his ability to carefully execute forward passes, his ability to expertly take set pieces and unleash powerful shots on target.

Krmpotic said Carlinhos used his intelligence, skill and talent to determine the outcome of the game, which had Yanga seemingly set to settle for another draw.

After he had been introduced as a second half substitute, Carlinhos executed more than three crosses but his teammates failed to make the most of them.

"Carlinhos has the ability and talent but he didn't play football for a long time due to the suspension of the Angola Premier League because of the coronavirus pandemic, I need to find more time to prepare him," Krmpotic stated.

"If I will opt to use him quickly, I will jeopardize his career, he will gradually have time to play and he will be much better," he noted.

The last weekend match saw Mbeya City FC seek to get over a humiliating 4-0 loss they conceded to KMC FC in the previous tie.

Mbeya City FC, though, failed to match Yanga's pace, especially in the second half.

"There will still be a few changes depending on the preparations we will make, until we find a squad that will be stronger and perform better," Krmpotic said.

"Apart from the changes, there are also shortcomings, as Mukoko Tonombe showed weakness in defending, there were also times when Tuisila Kisinda played below par, a weakness we will work on," he stated.

Krmpotic, who has an extensive experience with African football, said fielding three forwards Sarpong, Yacouba Songne and Ditram Nchimbi is one of his weapons when his side takes part in a tough match.

Mbeya City FC's head coach Amri Said 'Stam' said the previous season is quite different from the current one.

Said, who was a successful defender with Simba SC during his heyday, said Yanga now have a strong squad, with most of their players having the quality to know how to create chances and fight to seek good results on the pitch.

Observations from 2020/21 VPL round two matches

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

TANZANIA'S 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) season round matches are in the books after four days of action, which started on Friday with two games and concluded on Monday. Some teams are turning expectations on their heads while others massively disappointed. The Guardian assesses six observations from the opening round.

1. Is this Mzamiru's season?

Two goals and an assist are hardly something to get excited about. But when they come in two back to back games and are scored by a midfielder then it is another thing.

Count on the fact that Mzamiru Yassin has struggled to hold a regular place in Simba SC squad for the last three years, then you have reasons to get excited.

When the line up came out, a lot of fans questioned his inclusion in the starting line up, but he silenced his doubters with an important goal against Mtbwa Sugar.

However infuriating Yassin can be, he can excite the imagination with great performances, only to lose form and find himself in his regular spot - on the bench.

He is looking good, but his mental toughness will be tested when the man he has replaced, Brazilian Gerson Fraga, returns and starts challenging for his spot in the team.

2. Second season syndrome for Namungo FC?

After last season's sensational exploits, opponents are better prepared for Namungo FC in this season's campaign.

The second season for promoted teams is much tougher because everyone is expecting so much from them but at the same time opponents know you much better



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC striker, Paul Peter (L), negotiates his way past Mbeya City FC defender, Roland Msonjo, in a Vodacom Premier League game, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. KMC FC cruised to 4-0 victory over Mbeya City FC. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

and are better prepared for you.

On Monday, Namungo FC got a rude shock when they lost at home against Polisi Tanzania.

Last season they only lost one home game to finish fourth in their impressive top flight debut in which they also reached the Federation Cup final.

It is too early to judge but, after a nervous home victory in the opening day of the campaign, in which their goalkeeper Nourine Balora was arguably the man of the match, followed by a loss, comparisons with Mbeya City FC and KMC FC who, failed to meet expectation in their second seasons, are not far from the corner.

Right now, opponents will be licking their lips having seen the performance of Namungo FC in the two rounds.

3. KMC FC basking in early success

Courtesy of two wins and a superior goal difference, the boys from Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal are

looking down on the rest of the VPL teams.

Impressive wins against Mbeya City FC and Prisons have given KMC FC a flying start to the campaign.

Big performances from promising fullback, Israel Mwenda, with two assists on the opening day and the impressive performances of Hassan Kabunda make the club, nicknamed 'Kino Boys', the early pace setters.

With a promising start, they look in good shape for the season ahead.

4. Biashara United's formidable home record

It is very difficult for a side to enjoy a successful season without a foundation of a strong home record.

Biashara United have been nearly unbeatable at their home ground, Karume Stadium, since head coach Francis Baraza was appointed in November last year.

On Sunday, Biashara United's

home record under Baraza continued to impress with a 1-0 victory over Mwadui FC.

Since the Kenyan coach had taken over from the sacked Amri Said, Biashara United have lost only one out of the 17 home games they have played at Karume Stadium.

5. Home supremacy, miseries on the road

Unsurprisingly, the top four teams in the standings have all played both games at home. KMC FC, Azam FC, Dodoma Jiji FC and Biashara United have all made home ground advantage count with two successive wins.

At the other end of the table, it is miserable reading for Mbeya City FC, Coastal Union and Mwadui FC, who have lost their two opening games on the road.

Disregarding Dodoma Jiji FC victory over city rivals, JKT Tanzania, there was a single away victory registered in the round which further highlights the importance of home ground advantage.

K&P Construction cricketers hammer Patel Brotherhood squad in Kazim Nasser tourney

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

RESOLUTE K&P Construction cricketers notched 84-run win over Patel Brotherhood team in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B's duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The eventual winners have, as a result, ascertained their plan to be serious contenders for silverware in the KNML Division B, as they now occupy the third spot behind leaders, Estim, and Lions Cricket Club, who are placed second.

The K&P Constructions squad raced to 124 runs all out in 25.3 overs once they won the toss and elected to bat in the clash which took place at Leaders Club venue.

Shaik Abdul Shaheel, Nageswara Ila, Harish Munuganti, Suman Emuru put gritty batting to show as their team in the end wrapped the innings with the respectable total.

Their innings had got off to a shaky start, given opener Hema Suryakant Mullanpudi was dismissed for duck.

Fellow opener Naga Gurijala weathered Patel Brotherhood team's bowlers' pressure for a few overs and notched 11 runs which included two fours.

Emuru went on to record 12 runs, which consisted of two fours, after Mullanpudi's dismissal.

After a brief spell by skipper, Lakshimikanth Sukavasi, who was dismissed after notching eight runs, Shaheel pushed his squad's score with his 23 runs that included two fours.

There was more encouraging displays with the bat middle order batsmen Ila and Munuganti displayed at the crease, which significantly helped the squad amass more runs. Ila ended with 17 runs which includ-



Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) players participate in a training session in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for regional tournaments. The MCC battles it out in the Division B of this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML). PHOTO: COURTESY OF MCC

ed two fours, Munuganti posted 12 runs.

Gaurang Patel ended his bowling spell with four wickets in 5.3 overs, skipper Yagnesh Patel posted three wickets in five overs and Dhavalkumar Patel posted two wickets as Patel Brotherhood team sought to prevent K&P Constructions squad from setting a challenging target.

In response, a woeful batting showing by Patel Brotherhood team had them losing steam after 11 overs, recording 40 runs all out and easily conceding the loss.

Their chase was dealt a blow in the early stages of the innings, as opening batsmen, Mandeep Singh and Kewal Patadia, were

sent back to the pavilion after managing six runs apiece.

They kept on dropping wickets in quick succession for the remainder of the overs, hardly showing signs of having what it takes to stay in control of the innings.

Skipper Yagnesh was equally below par in the fruitless chase, notching five runs which included a four.

Captain Sukavasi successfully led K&P Constructions team's quest for frustrating Patel Brotherhood team's chase given he took five wickets and leaked 11 runs in three overs.

Venkateswararao Katru and Gulam Yassin dashed away Patel Brotherhood squad's hopes of successful chase given the

two bowlers took two wickets apiece.

The defeat has consequently pushed Patel Brotherhood squad to the fourth spot in the KNML Division B standing, given they have won two games and lost as many duels.

Although they have registered four points as it is the case for Patel Brotherhood side, K&P Constructions team sit third because of their better net run rate.

Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) have been placed fifth with one win and three losses. Strikers B team are languishing at the bottom of the event, given they have not posted victory in three outings.

African club dates changed again and midweek matches reintroduced

CAIRO

THE starting date for the 2020/2021 Confederation of African Football (CAF) club competitions has been changed a second time and midweek fixtures will be reintroduced.

A CAF official confirmed Tuesday that the latest kick-off date for both the Champions League and Confederation Cup competitions is Friday November 27.

Originally, they were set to start on August 7, then pushed back to November 20 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Now, the two-leg preliminary round matches are slated for November 27/29 and December 4/6, followed by round-of-32 games on December 22/23 and January 5/6.

The other dates in both competitions remain unchanged with the first Champions League matchday on February 12/13 and the Confederation Cup series beginning on March 10.

After six matchdays come two-leg quarter-finals in May, home-and-away semi-finals in June and single-match finals in July.

Four of the 15 Champions League rounds will be staged on Tuesdays or Wednesdays as CAF battles to find match dates in a calendar that must also accommodate national teams.

Six of the 17 Confederation Cup rounds are also scheduled for midweek with three offering clubs a choice of playing on Tuesday or Wednesday and three others on Wednesdays.

Most participants will be unhappy at the prospect of having to stage CAF matches during the week as the system did not work when previously enforced a few years ago.

The sight of tiny crowds dotted around huge stadiums gave the incorrect impression that there was little interest in the competitions.

- Reduce electricity costs -

AFP

Ex-FIFA number two Valcke tells Swiss trial of struggling 'with no income'

ZURICH

FIFA's former secretary general Jerome Valcke complained to a Swiss court on Tuesday how he had struggled "with no income" since losing his job as Sepp Blatter's right-hand man and had sold his yacht and jewellery.

Valcke was appearing on the second day of the TV rights corruption trial in which he and Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi are accused of corruption over the attribution of World Cup TV rights.

Taking the stand, Valcke said he had struggled "with no income" since losing his job at FIFA in 2015 and incurring a 10-year suspension from football.

"Without work, with a family, I assure you that the money burns very quickly," he told the court, adding that he had had to sell his yacht and jewellery.

The 59-year-old Frenchman also said he had been "unable to open a bank account in Europe" since 2017 -- he divorced a year later so that his wife could.

"I have started an agriculture project in a country and I hope that the harvests will provide income in the coming months," he explained, declining to give more detail, claiming that "two or three other attempts" to make a fresh start had been "polluted" by the

To reduce electricity costs and avoid the risk of power outages that are common in African countries, many clubs played matches in the afternoon during work days.

This meant that the majority of supporters could not attend because a traditional working day in Africa ends around 1500 GMT.

Afternoon kick-offs did not suit the footballers either with matches often played in stamina-draining temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) or higher.

This problem applies to even the most powerful clubs with TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo -- winners of 11 CAF titles -- playing midweek matches in the afternoon.

To date, 49 clubs have qualified for the Champions League and 43 for the Confederation Cup, the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League.

Heading the Champions League line-up are Al Ahly, whose 0-0 draw with Al Ittihad in Alexandria Monday ensured them of a top-two finish although they have seven games to play.

Ahly have been African champions a record eight times and face Wydad Casablanca of Morocco during October in the 2019/2020 semi-finals.

Zamalek of Egypt and Raja Casablanca of Morocco are the other semi-finalists and both are likely to be back in the elite competition next season.

Raja lead the Moroccan Botola Pro 1 standings while Zamalek hold an eight-point advantage over Al Mokawloon Al Arab in the race for second place behind runaway leaders Ahly.

There will also be numerous debutants, including Forest Rangers, a Zambian club who qualified despite 28 of the staff testing positive for Covid-19 when the season restarted.

intervention of FIFA. Valcke stands accused of wanting to transfer the Middle East and North Africa rights for screening the 2026 and 2030 World Cups to beIN Media, in exchange for "unwarranted benefits" from Al-Khelaifi.

Valcke faces a second charge of TV rights corruption in association with Greek businessman Dinos Deris.

PSG president Al-Khelaifi, who is also chairman of Qatar-owned broadcaster beIN Media, is charged with inciting Valcke to commit "aggravated criminal mismanagement."

Before Valcke took the stand, the three trial judges had rejected the defence's request to have the case thrown out.

The defence had argued the trial was "muddled" and "contaminated" by the revelation of informal meetings between former Swiss attorney general Michael Lauber and current FIFA president Gianni Infantino, prompting a separate investigation.

The judges ruled there was nothing to establish "that the evidence in the present proceedings would be impaired".

Both Valcke and Al-Khelaifi face up to five years in jail if found guilty. The trial is scheduled to last until September 25.

AFP

Barca can't afford Depay, says Lyon president Aulas

PARIS

LYON president Jean-Michel Aulas said on Tuesday that his Barcelona counterpart Josep Maria Bartomeu told him the Catalan giants could not afford Memphis Depay after reports in Dutch media a deal was almost complete.

De Telegraaf reported earlier on Tuesday that Netherlands forward

Depay was set to join compatriots Frenkie de Jong and Ronald Koeman at Barca this week in a transfer worth 25 million euros (\$29.6 million).

Responding on Twitter, Aulas said: "The president of Barcelona told me on Sunday that Barca are really suffering from the Covid crisis and were not able to make an offer." AFP

Rivals ponder how to break Bayern Munich's grip on Bundesliga

BERLIN

EUROPEAN champions Bayern Munich begin the hunt for a ninth-straight Bundesliga title on Friday, but while their rivals ponder how to break their iron grip on the German league, the Bavarian giants have pressing issues to resolve on the eve of the new season.

Bayern host Schalke at the Allianz Arena to kick-off the Bundesliga season just 26 days after lifting the Champions League trophy in Lisbon to complete the treble.

They stand to play 57 games in a condensed 2020/21 fixture list, due to the knock-on effects of the coronavirus pandemic, but on Friday, Bayern will be able to play in front of a small number of fans for the first time since March.

However, they have already lost three of the Champions League-winning squad.

Ivan Perisic, Philippe Coutinho and Alvaro Odriozola have returned to Inter Milan, Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively after their loan deals expired.

"We have to make up for it," head coach Hansi Flick admitted with Bayern facing Sevilla in the UEFA Super Cup and Borussia Dortmund for the German Super Cup in the coming fortnight.

Bayern want to sign a winger, to back up Sane, Kingsley Coman and Serge Gnabry with Chelsea's Callum Hudson-Odoi again on their radar. They also want a defender.

"They destroy them" - Flick's star-studded squad finished last season on an all-conquering 21-game winning run, including the 8-2 thrashing of Spanish giants Barcelona in the Champions League's semi-finals.

"The current team of Hansi Flick is perhaps the best Bayern team ever," Hans-Joachim Watzke, chief executive of arch rivals Borussia Dortmund, declared last month.

"They no longer beat their oppo-



Bayern Munich start the new Bundesliga season without three members of the squad who helped them romp to a ninth straight German title. (Agencies)

nents - they destroy them."

Bayern's last loss was at the hands of Moenchenglbach in December.

Watzke refuses to make any statements about Dortmund denying the Bavarians a ninth-straight Bundesliga title in 2020/21.

The messages are similar from the camp of Champions League semi-finalists RB Leipzig, who finished third in the Bundesliga behind Bayern and runners-up Dortmund.

"What Bayern did in Lisbon was impressive," admitted Leipzig's German defender Marcel Halstenberg.

"We are working to become even better and to reach their level."

Bayern's impressive run is down to the irresistible form of stars like Thomas Mueller and Robert Lewandowski.

Mueller managed a league-record 21 assists, making a mockery of Joachim Loew's decision to end his

Germany career in March 2019.

Lewandowski netted 55 goals in 47 games last season, leaving him as the top-scorer in both the Bundesliga, where he hit 34 goals, and the Champions League, where he scored 15 times in 10 games.

However, to preserve the harmony in the dressing room, Flick and the club's bosses must quickly resolve the future of defender David Alaba and midfielder Thiago Alcantara. Both are stalling over signing contract extensions.

"Money-hungry piranha" -

"I don't know who is going to leave us and who is going to arrive again. It's not the best way to prepare," Flick has admitted.

Alcantara has been heavily linked to a move to Premier League clubs Liverpool and Manchester United.

Alaba is said to want a big pay rise. A war of words broke out over the

Austrian defender at the weekend after former club chairman Uli Hoenes branded Alaba's agent Pini Zahavi a "money-hungry piranha".

More diplomatically, Alaba hopes a solution can be found soon "so that the club, my teammates, but also the fans know where they stand".

On Tuesday, midfielder Leon Goretzka said the squad can "block out" off-field mud-slinging.

"We are all professionals enough and strong as a community".

However, the central midfielder called for fresh signings alongside winger Leroy Sane, goalkeeper Alexander Nuebel and defender Tanguy Nianzou from Paris Saint-Germain.

"We have a top squad, but I do believe that at least every position should be filled twice," said the 25-year-old with one eye on this season's dense fixture list.

AFP

Aubameyang vows to become Arsenal 'legend' after signing new contract

LONDON

PIERRE-EMERICK Aubameyang vowed to become an Arsenal "legend" as the Gunners captain ended speculation over his future by signing a new three-year contract on Tuesday.

Aubameyang's contract saga had dragged on since last season amid speculation he wanted to join a club in the Champions League.

But the Gabon forward revealed he had committed his future to Arsenal in a live Instagram stream from the Emirates Stadium.

The deal is reported to be worth £250,000-per-week (\$321,000), with bonuses that could take it beyond £350,000-per-week contract of the club's highest earner Mesut Ozil.

"Arsenal fans, finally as you know I just signed the thing," Aubameyang said.

Arsenal confirmed the news themselves on their website in a statement that said: "Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has signed a new three-year contract with us!"

After scoring the goals that fired Arsenal to last season's surprise FA Cup semi-final and final victories over Manchester City and Chelsea, Aubameyang had refused to confirm he wanted to stay at the north London club.

At one stage last term, the 31-year-old admitted he faced a big decision over his future, fuelling reports that he was ready to leave amid interest from Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona.

But Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta remained confident Aubameyang was happy at the club and wanted to stay.

Over 100,000 people were watching the announcement via the official Arsenal Instagram account as Aubameyang pledged to follow in the footsteps of Gunners greats



Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has signed a new contract. (Agencies)

like Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp and Ian Wright.

"Everybody knows how special this club is, I have seen incredible players, passionate players, Invincible players," Aubameyang said.

"I dream of being one of

them, amongst the best, and staying in the hearts of the fans forever.

"I want to become an Arsenal legend just like Thierry, Wright, Adams and Bergkamp - too many to mention.

"My dad is my biggest inspiration, he was captain of his club and his country so it means so much to me to be the captain of this special club.

"I want to leave a legacy, this is where I belong, this is my family."

- 'Best is to come' -

Aubameyang was joined on the call by Wright and his current team-mate Alexandre Lacazette, who praised both his decision to sign the contract.

"Thank you for signing. Others have left us in the past but you stayed when we needed you most," Wright said.

Aubameyang wants to

win more silverware and he added: "Signing for this special club was never in doubt. It's thanks to our fans, my team-mates, my family and everybody at this club that I feel like I belong here.

"I believe in Arsenal. We can achieve big things together. We have something exciting here and I believe the best is to come for Arsenal."

Aubameyang moved to Arsenal from Borussia Dortmund in January 2018 and has scored 72 goals in 111 games in all competitions, including one in Saturday's 3-0 victory at Fulham on the opening day of the new season.

He also scored a superb goal as Arsenal beat Liverpool in the Community Shield at Wembley last month.

The 2015 African Footballer of the Year finished as the Premier League's

joint top scorer in 2019.

It is major coup for Arsenal to keep Aubameyang and securing his future will maintain should allow Arteta to maintain the team's improvement since he took charge in December.

Acknowledging the significance of keeping Aubameyang, Arteta said: "It was important for Pierre-Emerick to stay with us.

"He's a superb player with an incredible mentality. Being the player to have taken the least amount of time to reach 50 goals with this club tells you everything you need to know about him and his way of working.

"He's an important leader for the team and a big part of what we're building. He wants to be up there with the best players in the world and leave his mark. He can achieve that here."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



WHEN YOU ARE TIRED OF PURSUING ME, JUST CHASE ME!

Samatta unused substitute in Aston Villa victory



Mbwana Samatta

English Carabao Cup on Tuesday.

New signing, striker Ollie Watkins, scored on debut as Burton Albion's defender Colin Daniel gave the home side a shock lead after just two minutes.

But £28m record signing Watkins levelled on 37 minutes on his debut. Jack Grealish's excellent volley put Villa ahead with two minutes remaining before Kieran Davis sealed the win in extra-time.

Aston Villa will now meet winners of Wednesday's tie between Bristol City and Northampton Town in the third round.

Samatta's future at Aston Villa has come under the microscope.

With Villa having broken their transfer record to land Watkins from Brentford and planning to sign another new forward, while Olympique Lyon winger Bertrand Traore has passed medicals to join the former, Villa fans do not envisage Samatta getting as many chances to impress at Villa Park this season.

The former Simba SC and TP Mazembe forward is already being linked with a move away from Villa, with several reports claiming Turkish sides, Fenerbahce

and Besiktas, are interested in his services.

The reports claim Samatta is seen as a good replacement after the departure of Fenerbahce's last season top scorer, Vedat Muriqi, to Lazio and a loan move could be wrapped up before the end of the month.

The Tanzania's national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' captain was an £8.5million arrival from Belgian club KRC Genk in the January transfer window, having finished as top scorer in the Pro League in the 2018/19 season.

He provided a much-needed boost to Aston Villa attacking options after Brazilian Wesley suffered a long-term knee injury in the win at Burnley on New Year's Day.

Samatta scored once in 14 English Premier League appearances as Aston Villa achieved safety and he struck in the Carabao Cup final defeat to Manchester City at Wembley.

Aston Villa will kick off their 2020/21 English Premier League campaign on Monday when they host Sheffield United at Villa Park.

SPORT

Rivals ponder how to break Bayern Munich's grip on Bundesliga

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Premier League 2021/22 runners-up to take part in CAF Confederation Cup



Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) has said that from next season, the league's runners-up would be representing the country in CAF Confederation Cup.

Almasi Kasongo, TPLB Chief Executive Officer, yesterday said they have regulated the top flight's rules so as to avoid a repeat of last season's scenario whereby Namungo FC, the losing finalists of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), earned the chance to represent the country in the CAF tournament.

He said the regulation is not a change of the current one, which stipulates that Mainland Premier League Champions and ASFC winners represent the country in CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively.

Simba SC that won the 2019/20 Mainland Premier League, cannot play in two CAF competitions simultaneously.

Namungo FC, who finished fourth in the top flight the previous season, instead, earned the opportunity to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup.

This will be the first time that Namungo FC takes part in continental competition.

"Soccer stakeholders met recently, we agreed to change some regulations, one of the issues was that in an event the team which emerge as Mainland Premier League champions also won the ASFC, the Premier League runners-up should represent the country in CAF Confederation Cup," he said.

In the 2019/20 season, the country was represented by four teams in CAF club tournaments. This was so because the domestic league was among the best 12 in the continent.

This season, the country will be represented by two teams as CAF tournaments' regulations stipulate that 12 countries with the best leagues in Africa provide four teams to participate in the CAF tournament, two in the CAF Champions League and as many in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Meanwhile, barely two weeks after the close of this season's transfer window, Tanzania Soccer Players Union (Sputanza) has disclosed there is no any case of breach of contract that has been reported the body.

Speaking yesterday, Sputanza Chairman, Mussa Kisoki, said the just ended player registration period had no either controversies or complaints reported to his association.

He described the window as being smooth, saying they have not received any complaints of unfair dismissal, unlawful contract termination or players who are demanding their dues.

Kisoki attributed this to the seminar Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and TPLB organized for all stakeholders before the league had started.

"The just ended period was very good, I must thank all stakeholders for following the procedures and conducting themselves in a very civilized and professional manner, we expect this trend to continue in the coming seasons," he said.

Before the player registration window had been opened, Kisoki anticipated his office to receive many complaints especially from clubs which were relegated to First Division League (FDL).

Teams, which were relegated to FDL in the 2019/20 season, are Singida United, Mbao FC, Ndanda FC, Alliance FC and Lipuli FC.

"Even lower league teams and clubs, which were relegated to FDL, did not bring any complaint to our office, they might have presented the complaints to TFF, but even if the case was reported to the federation, we would have been informed," he said.

The 2020/21 season saw teams being active on the market by signing many players, with 50 foreign players being signed.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIAN striker Mbwana Samatta was an unused substitute for his side, Aston Villa, as they secured a 3-1 victory over Burton Albion in the



TANZANIA Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa

TBF calls for support for basketball promotion

By Nassir Nchimbi, TUDARCO

TANZANIA Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa, has called for support for the sport from various well-wishers and organizations with the aim of improving the game's standard in the country.

Magesa (pictured) said in Dar es Salaam recently that basketball requires much support from sports stakeholders and members of the sport's fraternity, should the sport enjoy progress.

"In order for basketball to grow, it needs huge support and massive funding by the

sport's followers and members of the sport's fraternity in Tanzania as they are actively involved in the game," he disclosed.

"Basically, we need to see progress in basketball and in order to achieve those goals we need a lot of support from the stakeholders and the

fraternity."

Magesa also thanked the government for providing TBF with support by renovating the existing basketball courts and building new ones.

He asked the game's stakeholders to continue supporting its promotion at the domestic level.

KMC FC starts preparations for Mwadui FC tie

By Ismail Tano, TUDARCO

DAR ES SALAAM'S Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC has started training in preparation for the outfit's Vodacom Premier League game against Mwadui FC slated for Monday next week in Shinyanga.

The KMC FC will meet Mwadui FC at the latter's venue, Mwadui Complex, with the former seeking victory to keep on staying in better position in the top flight.

The Dar es Salaam side is also set to play friendly matches before meeting Mwadui FC, an approach which will enable the former to prepare well for the coming game.

The KMC FC currently leads the league with six points and six goals in two outings.

The side opened its campaign impressively, notching 4-0 victory over Mbeya City FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 7.

Five days later, KMC FC made it two wins out of two games, cruising to 2-1 victory over Tanzania Prisons.

According to KMC FC officials, no player in the team has sustained injury, noting they are ready for the game against Mwadui FC.

The KMC FC officials disclosed their club is committed to ensuring that it gets good results in the clash in an effort to continue enjoying the top spot in the top flight.

The quality and dedication shown by KMC FC players have turned out to be some of the factors for the side's ability to post good results.

The outfit's forward, Hassan Kabunda, has so far netted two goals in the matches and he has also provided one assist.

Experienced shot stopper Juma Kaseja has moreover contributed immensely to the club's good results in the past two games.

The squad is currently using the Uhuru Stadium for home matches while awaiting the ongoing construction of their stadium at Mwenge in the city.

The facility's construction will, as disclosed by the club's management, cost 2.7bn/-.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

