



GOVERNANCE



MPS WORRY ABOUT TEACHERS' PAYMENTS PG 2

HEALTH



STRATEGIES TO CONTROL OUTBREAK OF SWINE FEVER PG 3

TRANSMISSION



NEW INITIATIVE TO STAMP OUT MALARIA PG 4

INNOVATION



IT STUDENTS WIN DIGITAL SOLUTION CHALLENGE PG 5

BUSINESS Black farmers protest against Sahpra's medicinal cannabis licensing process

Heineken sets goal to be carbon neutral in production by 2030

Energy drink habit puts man in hospital with heart failure

London Book Fair forced online despite UK bookshops reopening

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Malaria vaccine shows it is 77p.c. effective

OXFORD

EARLY trials of a malaria vaccine has proved to be 77 per cent effective in what experts say could be a major breakthrough against the disease. Researchers from the University of Oxford team behind it said in a pre-print report unveiled yesterday that the vaccine could have a major public health impact. Malaria kills more than 400,000 people a year, mostly children in sub-Saharan Africa. But despite many vaccines being trialled over the years, none has yet met the required target for success. When trialled in 450 children in Burkina Faso, the vaccine was found to be safe, and showed "high-level efficacy" over 12 months of follow-up.

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State must share roles with private sector, analysts say

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan stands a good chance of delivering on her vision for the country unveiled in her maiden address to Parliament on Thursday if she involves the private sector in key projects, analysts say.

Reacting to the speech in separate interviews with 'The Guardian' yesterday, analysts from various sectors said there are projects that cannot be successfully implemented if the president relies on a few government experts and bureaucrats.

One such area is unlocking the country's agriculture and livestock sectors by increasing productivity, on the basis of remarks by Audax Lukonge, executive director of the Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF).

"The government wants the country to reach 1.2m hectares of irrigated farmlands by 2025. This can only be achieved with involvement of the private sector in the development of irrigation schemes," he said.

"The president said the government will start charging farmers using its schemes. We suggest that it allows us to also build schemes and charge farmers to recoup investment," he elaborated.

As for deep sea fishing which the president said the government is procuring eight large vessels, Lukonge said the private sector was even better placed to undertake such operations.

"As government trains its manpower on this potentially lucrative area, it should consider empowering the private sector in areas of expertise and tax relief

It is a promising statement. We have also been encouraged to hear that the president will appoint more women in top decision making positions in the government

to be able to compete with foreign fishing companies," he said.

Dr Donald Mmari, executive director of the economic research outfit REPOA (Research for Poverty Alleviation) aired the need for specific incentives for investors in the special economic zones, insisting SEZs are crucial in increasing the country's revenues and creating jobs.

Dr Mmari highlighted that to reduce the poverty cycle, the government must stimulate economic growth to at least eight percent for three years consecutively. "Amendment of restrictive laws will eliminate nui-

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Tanzania Meteorological Agency director general Dr Agnes Kijazi briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a rare tropical cyclone which weather experts say will likely hit Tanzania's segment of the Indian Ocean coastline this weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

TMA cautions residents as cyclone nears shores

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has cautioned residents of coastal areas to beware as rare Tropical Cyclone Jobo is expected to make a landfall tomorrow.

The cyclone whose type has never been seen in nearly 70 years is expected to affect Dar es Salaam, Coast, Lindi and Mtwara regions as well as Zanzibar.

TMA executive director Dr Agnes Kijazi said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the cyclone which is seen to be approaching the country's Coast may cause a number of impacts including strong winds and heavy rains.

The cyclone is currently in Madagascar heading north in the Indian

Ocean. "The presence of the tropical cyclone may impact our weather systems by influencing strong winds and large waves."

Ocean. "The presence of the tropical cyclone may impact our weather systems by influencing strong winds and large waves."

Dr Kijazi said that so far the cyclone Jobo is moving at a speed of 90km/hr but as it approaches Tanzania it will be getting weaker with its strength reaching 60km/hr.

She called on the public to take precaution of the weather pattern emphasizing them to better stay in safe places.

"So, the named Regions will be affected directly by the cyclone but other areas in Lake Zone will also experience indirect impacts," she said.

She said that the cyclone has started causing some initial impacts as strong wind reaching 50km/hr and large waves reaching 2.5m are currently hitting southern coastal regions of Lindi and Mtwara.

Dr Kijazi also said that strong winds

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Revamping trade policies set to boost private sector

By Henry Mwangonde and

Correspondent Alima Nkwong

THE government is to introduce new policies aimed at addressing structural and legal challenges impeding trade and private sector growth.

Geoffrey Mwambe, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments), said yesterday

We need to find a solution to the influx of imported goods which are sold at cheaper prices in our markets

that revamped trade and private sector policies will help to bring up a vibrant private sector working closely with the government,

thus facilitating economic growth.

At a breakfast meeting with members of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), the minister said umbrella bodies of the private sector face structural and legal challenges impeding representation, stifling a common voice for the sector.

He said the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) is supposed to be an umbrella body of

the private sector countrywide, but its membership is individual in character, unlike CTI for that matter.

CTI has upwards of 400 members despite that there are more than 6000 established industrial units in the country, he stated, underlining that this does not give

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Malaria vaccine shows it is 77 per cent effective

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Larger trials in nearly 5,000 children between the ages of five months and three years will now be carried out across four African countries to confirm the findings.

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through mosquito bites. Although preventable and curable, the World Health Organization estimates there were 229 million cases worldwide in 2019 and 409,000 deaths.

The illness starts with symptoms such as fever, headaches and chills and, without treatment, can progress quickly to severe illness and often death.

Study author Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute and professor of vaccinology at the University of Oxford, said he believed the vaccine was the first to reach the World Health Organization's goal of at least 75 percent efficacy.

The most effective malaria vaccine to date had only shown 55 percent efficacy in trials on African children. The trials of this malaria vaccine started in 2019, a while before coronavirus appeared - and the Oxford team developed its Covid vaccine (with AstraZeneca) on the strength of its research into malaria, Prof Hill said.

A malaria vaccine has taken much longer to come to fruition because there are thousands of genes in malaria compared to around a dozen in coronavirus, and a very high immune response is needed to fight off the disease.

"That's a real technical challenge," Prof Hill said. "The vast majority of vaccines haven't worked because it's

very difficult."

However, he said the trial results mean the vaccine "has the potential to have a major public health impact". In a pre-print study with The Lancet, the research team - from Oxford, Nanoro in Burkina Faso and the US - reported the trial results of R21/Matrix-M, after testing a low and high dose of the vaccine in children, between May and August, before peak malaria season.

The vaccine showed 77 per cent efficacy in the higher-dose group and 71% in the lower-dose group. Halidou Tinto, professor in parasitology and the principal trial investigator at the Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro, Burkina Faso, said the results were "very exciting" and showed "unprecedented efficacy levels."

"We look forward to the upcoming 'phase III' trial to demonstrate large-scale safety and efficacy data for a vaccine that is greatly needed in this region."

The Serum Institute of India, which has manufactured the vaccine, says it is confident of delivering more than 200 million doses of the vaccine as soon as it is approved by regulators.

Biotechnology company Novavax provided the adjuvant for the vaccine, an ingredient which is used to create a stronger immune response.

Malaria is one of the leading causes of childhood mortality in Africa and Prof Charlemagne Ouédraogo, minister of health in Burkina Faso, said the new data showed that a new malaria vaccine could be licensed in the near future.

"That would be an extremely important new tool for controlling malaria and saving many lives," he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (L) exchange ideas in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

TMA cautions residents as cyclone nears shores

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reaching 40km/hr and large waves reaching 2.0m are currently hitting the entire coastline from Lindi, Mtwara, Coast region (including Mafia island), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions together with Unguja and Pemba islands.

Users of sea resources like fishermen, or transporters must take

precautions, are advised to suspend their daily activities until the cyclone is fully eclipsed.

"TMA is reminding members of the public to effectively use information on weather forecasts for their own sake," he emphasised, noting that TMA continues to monitor the progress of the cyclone and other weather systems which may change the strength, speed and direction of

the cyclone.

In April, 2019, the southern regions were spared from devastation of a the tropical cyclone Kenneth, bending southwards as a large wave from the Indian Ocean made landfall, sweeping parts of central and northern Mozambique.

Cyclone Kenneth hit Mozambique bringing winds of up to 200km/hr and torrential rain which slowly

moved inland, leaving behind massive destruction of property and over 700 people dying from the blistering conditions in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Prior to making a landfall in Mozambique, the tropical cyclone partially hit the Comoros on its northern island, causing extensive damage to houses.

Revamping trade policies set to boost private sector

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a clear representation of manufacturers as large numbers of the sector aren't part of it.

The minister urged more dialogues between the private sector and different spheres of the public sector to cement relationships between the government and the private sector.

"The private sector is very important in the economy because it is the main employer through industries, therefore our role as government is to create a favorable environment for doing business so as to facilitate job creation," he said.

Building a trusted and open private sector willing to do business with the government and pay taxes voluntarily was the main objective, he affirmed.

In his remarks, CTI chairman Paul Makanza said there was a strategic need to enable the manufacturing sector to contribute fully to economic growth, noting

that this will be done by firstly reviewing laws which derail private sector investment initiatives.

He complained of huge taxes imposed on imported materials for local industries which he said increase production costs hence discouraging investment and hiking insurance premiums, thus stifling investment endeavours.

During the meeting, CTI members demanded quick implementation of the blueprint on regulatory reforms for doing business which they said will facilitate ease of doing business in the country.

Dr Goodwill Wanga, executive director of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) said that for the country to maintain middle income status, it needs to propel industries and services, which provide job opportunities that absorb a huge portion of the population.

"We need to find a solution to the influx of imported goods which are sold at cheaper prices in our markets," he added.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) and the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar, in jovial mood shortly after talks at the former's office in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

State must share roles with private sector, analysts say

FROM PAGE 1

sances to investors," he said, noting that the president's Thursday address to the nation provides hopes of robust economic development because improved laws and policies would encourage more business people to start projects.

ACT-Wazalendo national leader Zitto Kabwe said that for

the country's economy to reach eight percent growth per annum, investment priorities should be directed to sectors such as agriculture which employs about 65 percent of the population.

He pointed at the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project which has stalled since 2016 as also capable of stimulating economic growth.

"The government has already done huge investment in the LNG project. It should be implemented

to create employment and boost government coffers," he emphasised.

He said President Samia's intention to meet leaders of political parties is a welcome move which is likely to deliberate on better ways of managing political activity in the country.

Leaders of political parties should meet prior to the presidential meeting so that they come up with a generally agreed list of demands to

be presented to the president.

President Samia said at the televised event that in order to protect the country's democratic freedom, she expects to meet with leaders of political parties to collectively deliberate on the direction of running politics "that will be productive and upholding the interests of our country."

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Executive Director, Anna Henga said the president's

intention to restore discussion with political leaders is a progressive step towards a country that observes the rule of law.

Meeting with leaders of political parties shall prepare the way for restoring political activities inside and outside the National Assembly as well as enhancing democracy on different platforms, she stated.

"It is a promising statement. We have also been encouraged to hear that the president will appoint more

women in top decision making positions in the government," she further noted.

Dr Shadrack Mwaibambe, President of the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT), said that the decision to form a team of experts to evaluate the Covid-19 threat and advise the government is a sign of widening the breadth of tools we have in combating the spread of the respiratory disease.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with Southern African Development Community (SADC) executive secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax (L) at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

NGO sees future for UK-backed huge education investment plan

By Ani Jozeni

FRESH expectations are being mooted among local representatives of an international Swiss non-government organization concerned with rehabilitating youths affected by drugs, which mooted a wide ranging education project in the past decade that has struggled for acceptance at high places.

Towards the end of last year, following the completion of the general elections, the Sister Jacinta and Per Gundersen Foundation coordinator Akilimali Shukuru, who is also coordinator of the project that was subsequently adopted by the Commonwealth Royal Foundation in London, expected good tidings.

What remained to be done was the signing of an accord to allocate more than 1,000 acres of land in Coast Region for the foundation, or the two foundations working together, to start implementing the project on the ground.

Still the often postponed signing did not take place as contrary advice kept reaching the highest state offices, first as the amount of land to be allocated is vast, and secondly because it is an education investment plan that aims at linking 53 Commonwealth countries, with its basic infrastructure to be set up in 13 countries, several of whom are African states.

During the fourth phase government the plan was scuttled in its

progression as well placed administrators were working to have the project shifted to the government as a foreign funded project, which failed to work as it is far too ambitious to be entrusted to an organisation that isn't directly answerable to the funding organizations.

It was also evident that if it became a government-based donor supported project it would not achieve its aims as NGO linkages with similar NGOs in other African countries and elsewhere would be replaced by inward looking ministerial supervision, with the clear possibility that it is driven off course, and even its funds being put to waste.

This pressure was scaled back during the fifth phase but the snag about land and auxiliary concerns relating to the ideological stance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation proved to be a stumbling bloc, as a UK-coordinated education programme linking most Commonwealth member states did not sit well with 'anti-imperialism.'

This is the difference at present that raises expectations that at least high levels of government may accept the programme purely as one of educational opportunity that propels skills among thousands of youths starting with primary school, secondary school and university levels, all coordinated by UK-education curriculum applied in the same way across these schools.

Samia holds talks with SADC's Dr Tax, promising cooperation

By Guardian Reporter,

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday met with Executive Secretary, Southern African Development Community (SADC) Dr Stergomena Tax promising to work on given advices and grabbing emerging

economic opportunities within the region.

A State House statement issued by the directorate of presidential communications said that during their meeting which was also attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooper-

ation, ambassador, Liberata Mulamula, the two leaders discussed various issues related to SADC

President Samia commended Dr Tax for the job well done as the SADC Executive Secretary saying she has properly represented

Tanzania.

Meanwhile, Dr Tax congratulated President Samia for being sworn-in as the first female president in Tanzania.

Dr Tax who is completing her eight years term as the SADC Executive Secretary, thanked the government for

good cooperation throughout the eight years.

She said that despite COVID-19 challenges, Tanzania did well when it assumed the SADC chairmanship under the late President John Magufuli. She said despite the global COVID-19 challenges, Tanzania was able to make Kiswahili the official language of the East African Community

(EAC) as well as the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The late Magufuli was touting for adoption of the language as the SADC fourth official language alongside English, French and Portuguese. Kiswahili is an official language of the African Union (AU).

According to the country's con-

stitution, Kiswahili is the national language spoken by all the existing tribes and is currently the most spoken language in Africa, with over 140 million speakers.

Dr Tax noted that Tanzania has also managed to erect the late President Julius Nyerere statue at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa Ethiopia as well as development of gas projects.

Govt charts strategies to curb African swine fever outbreaks

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries ministry has identified eight strategies in place so as to permanently control outbreak of swine fever in the country.

African swine fever (ASF) erupted recently in some regions in the country causing losses to pastoralists and people's health.

Deputy minister Abdallah Ulega said this in the House yesterday while responding to a question by Ndanda Cecil Mwambe (CCM).

In his basic question, the lawmaker wanted to know the government's strategy to permanently eradicate regular outbreaks of swine fever.

Responding, Ulega said that the government is working to ensure that it controls the disease despite it having no vaccine or cure.

He said that one of the major strategies to control the disease will involve educating pig farmers on the best principles to adhere while engaging in the business.

"The government and other stakeholders are making efforts to control the disease which includes encouraging breeders to stop raising pigs freely, preventing other people from entering piggeries.

He said another strategy will focus on encouraging breeders to spray pesticides so as to kill virus and ticks on the pig sheds, put pesticide on the doors of the pig sheds as well as ban export of pigs and their products from infected areas.

"We will also encourage pastoralists not to allow slaughters or traders to en-

ter the pig sheds to select the pigs as well as educating herders to avoid feeding pigs the food remains from hotels and restaurants food," he said.

However, he added that the government's strategy is to continue to provide education to all stakeholders in the value chain, including traders and pork exporters as well as veterinary service providers.

When lastly erupted late 2020, the African swine fever killed more than 500 pigs in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region in just one month.

The government immediately banned the sale of pork to protect consumers after a survey showed that the disease was spreading like wildfire especially in Lake Zone Regions.

1. (Ravishankar Venkatrama) S/O (GVR Dikshitulu) born on (22 May 1971) residing at (2nd Floor, DSM Brahm Mandal, Kisutu Street, Near Haidery Plaza, Dar es salaam), have changed my name to (Ravishankar Venkatrama Gundu) vide affidavit dated (7th April 2021) at (Dar es salaam)

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
KATIKA MAHAKAMA YA RUFANI YA TANZANIA
ILIYOPO MWANZA
SHAURI LA MAOMBI YA MADAI NA. 426/08 YA MWAKA 2018

THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE TANZANIAMUOMBAJI

DHIDI YA

1. IGENGE CHARLES
2. MASUMBUKO HARON
3. CHACHA MALWA
4. MAMA KUNDI
5. JOYCE MSHABAHA
6. PAULINA
7. JOHN NDAKI
8. ANTHON
9. ZEPHANIA MSHABAHA
10. EDWARD KAZARABANGU

.....WAJIBU MAOMBI

KWA

1. JOYCE MSHABANA
2. PAULINA

POPOTE MLIPO

Mnajulishwa kwamba shauri la maombi ya madai tajwa hapo juu limepangwa kusikilizwa na Mahakama ya Rufani, Mwanza tarehe 30/4/2021 saa tatu kamili asubuhi (3:00).

Mnapaswa kuhudhuria siku ya tarehe iliyopangwa bila kukosa na endapo hamtahudhuria nyinyi wenyewe au mwakilishi wenu anaetambulika kisheria basi shauri hilo litasikilizwa bila uwepo wenu.

Imetolewa kwa amri yangu na chapa ya Mahakama leo hii tarehe 22/4/2021.

E. G MRANGU
Kny: MSAJILI,
MAHAKAMA YA RUFANI.

Alliance

Biodiversity International CIAT

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE - AVISA PROJECT

THE ORGANIZATION
The Alliance of Biodiversity International (www.biodiversityinternational.org) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) (www.ciat.cgiar.org) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

POSITION
The Alliance is seeking to recruit a qualified and competent Senior Research Associate to be based in Arusha, Tanzania. The Senior Research Associate will be responsible for supporting the design and implementation of on-farm experimental plots under the Tricot approach for the AVISA project in Tanzania.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide support on the ClimMob implementation and work with the Tanzania teams of the Alliance and ICRISAT to test yield estimation procedures for sorghum, groundnut and bean.
- Organize tricot pilot trial execution and synthesis of methodological lessons from the Tanzania teams.
- Support the consensus on the methods to measure farmer-led yield in Tanzania.
- Coordinate efforts with off-takers within the defined bean, groundnut and sorghum corridors to ensure variety choice responds to market demand.
- Measure yield on tricot trials in Tanzania to determine the accuracy of different farmer-led yield measurement methodologies and make recommendations to be adopted.
- Support the development of a scaling model for beans in Tanzania. Document lessons and share with AVISA partners.
- Organize feedback meetings with farmers to compile lessons learnt in year 1 and organize the logistics for the scaling in year 2.
- Any other assignments that the team leader may assign from time to time.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

- Master's degree in Agronomy, Agricultural Sciences or related fields
- Experience in plant breeding is an added advantage
- Previous experience from relevant fieldwork in Sub Saharan Africa
- Good Experience with participatory approaches
- Good report writing and process documentation skills
- Knowledge of Swahili is an advantage

APPLICATIONS
Applicants are invited to visit <http://ciat.cgiar.org/ciat-jobs> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications **MUST** include reference number **AF-2878: Senior Research Associate** as the position applied for. Application and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's lastname, firstname for ease of sorting.

Note: The Alliance does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing or training). The Alliance also does not concern itself with information on applicants' bank accounts.

Applications closing date: 5th May, 2021
Please note that email applications will not be considered.
Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at:
<http://alliancebiodiversityciat.org>

Biodiversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

Biodiversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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CGIAR
Worldwide for a food-secure future



Serengeti Breweries Ltd managing director Mark Ocitti (2nd-R) briefs journalists shortly after St Maria Goretti Agriculture Training Institute students, who are beneficiaries of the firm's agriculture subjects sponsorship through its Kilimo-Viwanda Scholarship Programme, visited Silverlands Farm at Ifunda in Iringa Region on Thursday. Right is the farm's compliance manager, Janet Senders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EABC outlines issues for presentation to the incoming EAC Secretary General

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has outlined a number of issues to be presented to the incoming EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki, one being finalisation of the comprehensive review of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) to boost industrialisation and regional value chains.

Dr Mathuki assumed office yesterday with a vision of transforming the EAC into a prosperous, inclusive, trade and investment bloc.

However, the East African industry captains charted regional policy priorities geared to spur intra-EAC trade to over 30 percent.

John Bosco Rusagara representing EABC chairman Nick Nesbitt said: "As the industry leaders we have analysed key trade and investment barriers, delaying East African businesses to take full advantage of the EAC Customs Union and Common Market."

Rusagara who is the EABC director said the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted global, regional value chains and cross border business operations calling for the need to harmonize measures and regional coordinated approach on handling the disease.

"Common approach on handling COVID-19 would boost economic resilience and growth of the EAC bloc," said Rusagara.

The quick elimination of non-tariff barriers and operationalisation of the committee on trade remedies to handle trade disputes, implementation of the Standardisation Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill, 2017 and finalisation of the regulations on free movement of services and service suppliers are among the top agenda.

The business leaders have also urged the EAC Secretariat to mainstream and progressively harmonize domestic taxes such as excise duty, Value Added Tax (VAT) and Income Tax.

Domestication of EAC air space by according national treatment to EAC national air operators, passengers and cargo will reduce air ticket cost hence attract more tourists into the region plus boost consolidation and exports of fresh horticultural and fish.

On February 27, the East African Community leaders appointed Dr Mathuki as the next Secretary-General of the regional bloc. He took over from Burundi's Liberat Mfumukeko, who completed his five-year term.

WHO inaugurates initiative to stamp out malaria in more states

By Guardian Reporter

AS the world marks malaria day tomorrow, the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new initiative aiming to halt transmission of the disease in 25 more countries by 2025.

According to WHO the number of countries that are ap-

proaching, and achieving, zero cases of malaria is growing.

Of the 87 countries with malaria, 46 reported fewer than 10,000 cases of the disease in 2019 compared to 26 countries in 2000. By the end of 2020, 24 countries had reported interrupting malaria transmission for 3 years or more. Of these, 11 were certified malaria-free by

WHO.

Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General said: "Many of the countries we are recognizing today carried, at one time, a very high burden of malaria. Their successes were hard-won and came only after decades of concerted action. Together, they have shown the world that malaria elimination

is a viable goal for all countries."

WHO Global Director of the Malaria Programme, Dr Pedro Alonso said: "Success is driven, first and foremost, by political commitment within a malaria-endemic country to end the disease. This commitment is translated into domestic funding that is often sustained over

many decades, even after a country is malaria-free."

Most countries that reach zero malaria have strong primary health care systems that ensure access to malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment services, without financial hardship, for everyone living within their borders - regardless of nationality or legal

status.

Robust data systems are also key to success, together with strong community engagement. Many countries that eliminate malaria have relied on dedicated networks of volunteer health workers to detect and treat the disease in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

In 2020, COVID-19 emerged

as a serious challenge to malaria responses worldwide.

Since the early days of the pandemic, WHO has urged countries to maintain essential health services, including for malaria, while ensuring that communities and health workers are protected from COVID-19 transmission.

Govt chart strategies to control outbreak of African swine fever

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control the disease which includes encouraging breeders to stop raising pigs freely, preventing other people from entering piggeries.

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"We will also encourage pastoralists not to allow slaughters or traders to enter the pig sheds to select the pigs as well as educating herders to avoid feeding pigs the food remains from hotels and restaurants food," he said.

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When lastly erupted late 2020, the African swine fever killed more than 500 pigs in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region in just one month.

The government immediately banned the sale of pork to protect consumers after a survey showed that the disease was spreading like wildfire especially in Lake Zone Regions.

Kahama District Commissioner, Anamringi Macha told reporters that the pigs had been killed since the African swine fever, a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, broke out in late December 2020.

In March 2018, more than 900 pigs were killed by the African swine fever in Ruvuma Region.



Members of Arumeru District Council's Finance, Administration and Planning Committee on an inspection tour of the construction of three classrooms worth 60m/- at Ilkiding'a Primary School earlier this week. The project is funded by the Tanzania Education Authority. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

DAWASA implements survey project for collecting customers' information

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) is implementing a survey project designed to collect customer's information through the geographical information system (GIS) to improve its database.

The authority's head of information and communication technology (ICT) and statistics department, Kiula Kingu said yesterday that the objective of the survey is to identify the number of customers in need of being connected with water services and to know customers who are not registered in the current database.

"The technology uses coordinate points to get specifically to where the customers are residing. Through the GIS system, the authority can also trace and check the status of water meters," he said.

"Under the project, we went through households and collected key information which assisted us to identify the hotspot areas," he explained.

Kingu added that the project has enabled the authority to identify areas with high rates of water leakages, thus enabling the authority to take appropriate measures.

He said they are now working to come up with a permanent solutions to water leakage problems.

"To date, we have managed to execute the project in several areas including Tabata, Ubungu, Kawe and Tegeta," he explained.

According to the survey, the authority has been able to establish the number of customers in need of water services within Dar es Salaam.

"We visited every household to establish the number of prospective customers in order to understand where we can allocate water projects immediately to help people have access to safe and clean water," he added.

Kiula explained that the project is also meant to improve service delivery to customers served by the

authority.

The department is also working to improving the self-service meter reading system (SSMR) established to assist customers to pay water bills early before the end of month.

"Through the system, customers will be able to receive all information concerning water services in their mobile phones, but also customers will have the opportunity to learn what the authority is doing to improve water services delivery," he explained.

"The technology is simple and efficient as it records time, date and location of water meters to help customers make payments earlier," he said.



Nsolo Mlozi (C), NMB Bank Plc's central zone manager, pictured yesterday presenting a tricycle to Paulina Moshi of Mbulu in Manyara Region after she emerged winner of a raffle in the bank's 'Bonge la Mpango' promotion. Left is the bank's Mbulu branch manager, Rogate Iranga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EU allocates over €43 million humanitarian aid to S. Sudan

JUBA

THE European Union (EU) Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenar has announced up to €43.5 million in humanitarian aid for South Sudan.

The funds, according to the EU, will be used, among others, to help those most in need, including with protection and food assistance, as well as those affected by man-made and natural disasters.

"The humanitarian situation across South Sudan is extremely dire. Parts of this youngest African country are facing famine-like conditions and the country as a whole is bracing itself for the worst food crisis ever," Lenar said in a statement.

"There seems to be little international interest in this acute situation in the country. Only five donors, including the European Commission, account for almost 77% of total aid to South Sudan. This lack of interest risks turning this already disastrous situation into a forgotten crisis. A scale-up of the humanitarian response is urgently needed from all donors to ensure adequate capaci-

ties are in place," he added.

The EU funding announced on Thursday will help address acute humanitarian needs, provide humanitarian protection to communities affected by violence, and strengthen preparedness to deal with new shocks, including epidemics and natural disasters. With millions of children remaining out of school in South Sudan, part of the funding will also be allocated to Education in Emergencies. In South Sudan, there are over 8 million people whose fundamental needs are not met, including more than 7 million who are severely food insecure. Parts of the country are facing famine-like conditions.

Overall, in 2020, the European Commission reportedly allocated over €21 million to the pandemic response in the country, including by financing two Humanitarian Air Bridge flights that brought 65 tons of personal protective equipment for frontline workers in July 2020.

This year, the EU is supporting the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines to South Sudan through the COVAX facility, which delivered its initial shipment at the end of March.

NGO to launch campaign to promote hand hygiene

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM based organisation—My Legacy in partnership with Habitat for Humanity is set to launch a campaign to sensitize and increase community awareness on hand hygiene through its five years 'Nawa Mikono' project.

The campaign—'Wash Hands for Health' will target densely populated places such as markets, restaurants, primary

and secondary schools within Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam.

Briefing journalists on the Nawa Mikono project on Thursday, My Legacy Executive Director, Fortunata Temu said the campaign will also be implemented in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and stakeholders in the education, health and environment sectors. She added that local government authorities have

also been engaged throughout preparation of the campaign.

She said, the campaign to be launched in May this year targets to reach between 1,000 and 2,000 primary and secondary school students and 2,000 households. She said apart from direct beneficiaries, there will be over 10,000 indirect beneficiaries.

"We aim to promote hand hygiene to help prevent the spread of diseases caused by bacteria

and viruses. Washing hands will also prevent people from being infected with Covid-19," said Temu adding they provide hand washing facilities and liquid soap to schools, markets and selected restaurants and bus stops within Kinondoni.

Temu said that they will also select at least 50 women and youth who will be equipped with entrepreneurship skills to improve their business. She said that entrepreneurs will also be

trained on how to make liquid soaps which will be used at selected schools and markets.

The Executive Director said the Habitat for Humanity organisation which deals with improvement of homes, will join the efforts to ensure people live in decent houses as well as a safer environment.

My Legacy Community Environment Facilitator, Yasinta Mtavangu said that local government authorities were in-

involved in selecting the schools. She mentioned the schools as Ukwamani and Mtongani primary schools and Kando, Wazo Hill, Kisauke and Twiga secondary schools.

"We have selected three wards for the campaign—Kawe, Kunduchi and Wazo Hill," she noted adding the schools were selected depending on the number of students.

Mtavangu added that students will also be trained to

make liquid soaps to ensure hand washing habits continues even after completion of the campaign.

According to her, they selected two major markets which are Tegeta Nyuki and Kawe markets which will be provided with hand washing facilities. She said they have consulted the market leaders which take part in taking care of the donated facilities as well as ensuring its proper use.

IT students win digital solution challenge 2021

By Guardian Reporter

A TEAM of information technology students from various universities in the country has bagged this year's first innovation challenge, results announced mid-week show.

A statement released yesterday by the organisers, Smart Codes, named the winners as Team Charity Solutions—one of the groups formed by 50 IT students from the University of Dar es Salaam, St Joseph University in Tanzania, the Institute of Finance Management and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology who took part in the challenge.

In the first week of the challenge dubbed Corporate Hackathons, the students were required to create a live event for users to experience and rate.

"Students worked in groups of five comprised of five teams. After a week's work, the students presented their ideas to a panel of judges which after deliberations, declared Team Charity Solutions as the winners of the challenge," reads the statement.

The advisory added that week one challenge was organised in partnership with online platform Otapp whose experts made up the panel judges.

According to the statement, the aim of the programme is to create a linkage between learning institutions and companies by getting universities more involved in innovation and technology, entrepreneurship and building up high-quality graduates with all the necessary employability skills.

"It also empowers students by introducing them to practical work environment since they work with rising corporations in Africa," reads the statement.

"The Corporate Hackathons will continue in the coming weeks with more challenges and partners participating to guide the students in their journey."

The initiative is a university outreach programme by a Tanzanian tech firm Smart Codes through its innovation platform Smart Lab and implemented in partnership with Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) and UK Aid.

Smart Lab is an innovation platform that links learning institutions with corporate partners to empower groundbreaking solutions that impact communities.



The Corporate Hackathons will continue in the coming weeks with more challenges and partners participating to guide the students in their journey



Dr Respicious Boniface, Executive Director of the Dar es Salaam-based Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI), briefs journalists on Thursday on the institute's workers council meeting to be held in Tanga city. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Fish production to reach 100,000 tonnes by 2030 - govt

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE government has said that fish production in the country is expected to reach 50,000 tonnes by 2025 and 100,000 tonnes by 2030.

The statement was made recently by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Rashid Tamatamah when speaking at a workshop for fish farmers held in Mwanza. The workshop brought together fish farmers across the country.

According to Dr Tamatamah, Tanzania is current-

ly producing 17,200 tonnes of fish whereas with inclusion of other harvested aquatic organisms, the amount reaches 18,000 tonnes.

The harvested aquatic organisms include seaweeds, and crabs.

The PS called upon Tanzanians to massively engage in fish farming and fishing activities to generate more income and improve their welfare.

During the workshop, participants discussed various issues related to development of fishing sub-sector as well as findings of research on fishing activities in the country's water sources.

Speaking at the workshop, Chairman of the Aquaculture Association of Tanzania (AAT) Dr Charles Mahika said the research was conducted in Kagera, Mara, Simiyu and Mwanza regions.

The government has been encouraging Tanzanians to engage in fish farming to generate income as well as meet the country's demand which increases every day while production has remained low in almost all the rivers and lakes.

Fishing is mostly carried out in the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyasa.

The country imports about 24,000 tonnes of fish

per month worth Tsh56 billion (\$25 million), mostly from China, Vietnam and other states around the Indian Ocean.

Data from the ministry indicates that in 2019, the demand for fingerlings was 40 million, but the country's capacity was to produce 18 million fingerlings.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) the consumption of fish in Tanzania is approximately 8.2 kilogrammes per year while the UN food agency recommends every individual to eat 20.3 kilogrammes of fish annually

NEMC issues stern warning to manufacturers, traders of substandard carrier bags

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Environmental Management Council (NEMC) has issued stern warning to manufacturers and traders who have been producing and importing substandard alternative carrier bags, saying that their days are numbered.

NEMC's environment inspector in Northern Zone Justine Kasoka made the warning yesterday here saying that the council has launched a manhunt operation to fight against those who have violated the laws and regulations.

He said that in their operation conducted in various areas in the zone found consignment of carrier bags which are produced below standards and supplied in the market.

"Some of the producers are mixing the quality carrier bags with the substandard ones, we will not hesitate to take stern measures against those who are disobeying to follow the set legal requirements on plastic bags," he said.

According to him, some of them have been also producing unlabeled bags with labeled ones

which is also against the law.

He said that some of the criteria for the alternative carrier bags is that they must show trade mark, carrying capacity, should be recyclable and certified by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Kasoka said regulation also imposes stern penalties to individuals and institutions that will be found guilty of contravening the regulations where manufacturing or importation of prohibited plastic bags and plastic wrappings can lead to fines of up to 1bn/-, or imprisonment of up to two years, or both.

"So, we are sending a warning to all manufacturers; importers and distributors in neighboring countries to adhere to the new standards for their benefit, those who will violate the law requirements should be ready to face the consequences," he emphasized.

In June 2019, the government of Tanzania placed a prohibition on plastic bags where all plastic carrier bags, regardless of their thickness, are prohibited from being imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied, and used in the country.



Inspectors with the northern zone of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) participate in a hunt for banned plastic bags at Kilombero market in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Tumaini Mafue

By Kenneth Matimaira

Fresh refugees' influx in Zimbabwe poses threat

NEW refugee arrivals that continue to trickle into the country through undesignated entry points have been flagged as a potential threat to the Tongogara Refugee Camp in Chipinge.

The camp has seen an influx of refugees with 236 new arrivals recorded from February 2020 to date despite the Covid-19-induced lockdown.

A total of 196 of the total new arrivals came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), followed by Mali (29), Burundi (seven) and two from Côte d'Ivoire. Rwanda and Somalia

had one new arrival each.

A total of 16 covid-19 positive cases have been recorded at the camp, with nine of the cases emanating from new arrivals.

"The new arrivals coming from across several borders were a potential threat to the refugee population already living in the camp which is a relatively secluded place," the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) country representative Abdoulaye Barry warned.

"In all, nine new arrivals have

tested positive for Covid-19 since March 2020 to date. Seven other refugees also tested positive for Covid-19. . . . The Ministry of Health and Child Care facilitated Covid-19 testing," Barry added.

Barry pointed out that no deaths have been recorded. Though no new arrivals have been received from terrorist-torn Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, humanitarian experts warned of a potential influx from the neighbouring country, which could endanger the wider population at Tongogara. A report titled Policy and Practice Brief (PPB) warned that the camp had been seriously exposed to Covid-19. The PPB report discusses the implications of the coronavirus pandemic on border communities, including Tongogara Refugee Camp. "The vulnerability of these people (refugees), who already face a humanitarian crisis of displacement due to wars in the region is worrisome," the report released in March this year by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (Accord) reads.

In 2017, approximately 5 546 Mozambicans melted into local communities following a civil unrest at the behest of rebels from an opposition outfit – Renamo. Tongogara received 864 Mozambicans that sought refugee status and 265 children who were in need of education integration.

However, UNHCR indicated that the camp is equipped to combat the spread of Covid-19 from new arrivals. Barry said a quarantine centre was set up to separate new arrivals from the wider refugee population,

through guidance from the MoHCC and UNHCR. At the quarantine centre, new arrivals are tested for Covid-19 and released after a negative result and completion of 14 days in quarantine. He added that the government had included the refugee population in the National Covid-19 Response and Deployment Strategy.

"They are thus being treated as any other Zimbabwean citizen in terms of access to Covid-19 vaccines, testing and treatment. As such refugee health staff were vaccinated along

with other Zimbabwean health staff during the first phase of vaccinations. Frontline workers including staff are also being vaccinated," Barry said.

He said UNHCR is looking forward to having other priority groups such as persons with chronic illness vaccinated.

"Although measures have been put in place to isolate community members who return to the camp after visiting Covid-19 hot spots, there is still a danger of the virus being brought into the camp. Some occupants cannot resist the temptation to cross back into Mozambique to visit their relatives.



Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) legal secretary Amos Ndegi (R) pictured on Thursday presenting a donation of medical devices worth 4m/- to Tanga Regional Referral Hospital (Bombo) nurse in-charge Beatrice Rimoy (L) for use in the hospital's children's ward. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Muheza DC launches tree planting campaign

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

MUHEZA District Commissioner Eng Mwanasha Tumbo has launched a tree planting campaign urging each of the households to plant five trees in their respective homes.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign at Mkurumuzi Secondary School in Tanganyika, Mkuu ward, Tumbo advised the residents to also plant fruit trees to improve nutrition and generate income.

"It is the responsibility of all of us to plant trees and manage the environment; the trees we are planting today will help us in future because apart from providing shade in the surrounding environment, we can also get fruits from them," said the DC.

DC Tumbo instructed primary and secondary school education officers in the district to ensure that trees are planted in all the schools. He urged them to also plant five trees at their homes as a way to encourage residents to participate in the campaign.

Acting Muheza District Executive Director, Issa Msumari said tree planting is a symbol of civiliza-

tion calling upon people to build a culture of planting trees.

"Let's build a culture of planting trees even if the fruits will benefit others; we should look on future benefits because trees can take years to start bearing fruits," he added.

Muheza District Forestry Officer, Obadia Msemo said the district has a total of 32,000 hectares of forest reserves which are under the central government. He said villagers are also engaged on forest preservation as well as tree planting efforts.

He said this year, the district plans to plant 1,500,000 trees of different species. He said most of the trees will be planted during this rainfall season.

Forest Conservator from Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), an agency with mandate for the management of national forest reserves (natural and plantations), Jackson Saria said they will continue to educate the residents on sustainable harvesting of forest products.

Saria noted that sustainable harvesting of forest products would ensure protecting of environment, thus saving the district from turning into a desert.

Malnutrition rising in Mozambique amid extremist insurgency

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE'S humanitarian crisis from the extremist insurgency in the country's north is rapidly spiraling, with more than 950,000 people in urgent need of food aid, the U.N. World Food Program has said.

An estimated 50,000 people fled their homes amid the rebels' five-day siege of Palma earlier this month, swelling the numbers of displaced and hungry.

"People have scattered in many

different directions since the recent attacks in Palma. Survivors are traumatized. They've had to flee, leaving behind all their belongings, and families have been separated," said Antonella Daprile, WFP's country director in Mozambique, who visited Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado province, where many of the displaced have sought safety.

"We met a young mother who fled the violence with her two daughters. They walked for three days without food or water and have no idea

whether the rest of their family survived," Daprile said.

Many have fled to Pemba on boats, making a treacherous trip in stormy seas, and thousands are still trapped in Palma and the nearby settlement of Quitunda. WFP said it is delivering food to those areas as well as to coastal islands.

"This is the rainy season, the cyclone season, and northern Mozambique is in the eye of the storm," said Shelley Thakral, WFP's regional spokesperson for southern Africa. "I

saw families huddled under flimsy tarpaulins for shelter."

Displaced women and children wait for assistance at a building used by refugees as shelter in Pemba, Mozambique, after they fled attacks in Palma in Northern Mozambique, Monday April 19, 2021.

The damage caused by Mozambique's extremist rebels in their deadly assault on the northeastern town of Palma continues to be assessed. More than three weeks after the rebels launched a three-pronged

attack, which lasted at least five days, Mozambican police and relief agencies are working to help the thousands uprooted by the violence and restore the town to daily life. (AP Photo)

Many of the displaced in Mozambique have been taken in by other families, who are already poor. The host families are also experiencing hunger, aid workers said.

Children are worst affected by the rising rates of malnutrition. Almost 21% of displaced children under 5,

and 18% of children of host families, are underweight, according to a recent survey by UNICEF and WFP. The rates of chronic malnutrition, which has lifelong consequences, are at an alarming 50% of displaced children and 41% of children from host communities, according to the survey. WFP's emergency food distributions provide rations to feed a family for two weeks with supplies of high-energy biscuits, rice, pulses, vegetable oil, water, and canned foods such as sardines and beans.



Nutritional marketing officer Sarafina Badi (L) briefs a visitor on her products at an exhibition for entrepreneurs at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Wheat production could decline by 22 per cent in 2021-2022, reports USDA

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE country's wheat production is expected to decrease by 22 per cent in the 2021-2022 marketing year due to high post-harvest loss, below-average rainfall and a desert locust invasion, according to a report from the Foreign Agricultural Service of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Production is estimated at 70,000 tonnes and the harvested area is expected to drop by 22 per cent.

The government is trying to increase domestic wheat production with market mechanisms. Millers, traders and processors have been asked to source 60 per cent of their wheat from local producers at a premium price starting in 2021-22, the USDA said.

"The strategy seeks to encourage local farmers to increase wheat production and reduce Tanzania's dependence on imports," the USDA said. "However, there is currently no

evidence to suggest that Tanzania will meet its goal of reducing imports, and it is still widely believed that most wheat will be imported."

Wheat consumption is projected to increase by 2.9 per cent to 1.2 million tonnes. Bakeries and food processing facilities around peri-urban areas are expected to reopen following Covid-19 closures, the USDA said.

Wheat imports are estimated to hold steady at 1.1 million tonnes due to low domestic production and increasing local consumption.

Corn production in the 2021-22 marketing year is expected to drop 4.7 per cent to 6 million tonnes due to inclement weather, pests and high input prices.

Consumption is expected to decrease by 2.9 per cent to 5.9 million tonnes due to changes in dietary preferences.

The USDA forecasts an increase of 2.2 per cent in feed and residual availability to 920,000 tonnes due to higher demand for poultry feed.

The strategy seeks to encourage local farmers to increase wheat production and reduce Tanzania's dependence on imports



Proposed measures by ATU and Ericsson set to expand Africa's ICT space

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and 45 other African countries and telecommunications stakeholders have launched the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) spectrum recommendations that focus on transforming Africa into a knowledge economy through development of technologies that boost connectivity and innovation.

The spectrum recommendations are as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) and ATU to help fast-track the roll out of

technology across the continent.

Speaking during the ceremony, ATU Secretary General, John Omo reiterated the importance of the recommendations saying the joint effort aims at expediting the rollout of ICT driven technologies for the development of digital economies in Africa.

Omo's sentiments were also shared by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon, Libom Li Likeng who affirmed that the new measures compliment African countries' continued growth in mobile broadband.

Fadi Pharaon, President of Ericsson Middle East Africa, said: "Fostering agility and innovation from next generation of Information and Communications Technology ICT infrastructure is important for Africa's growth and sustainability."

He reiterated the importance of spectrum management strategies highlighted in the recommendations saying that they can be considered as opportunities to accelerate Africa's digitalization.

Currently in Africa, a limited amount of spectrum is allocated to the mobile industry as well as other sectors of com-

munication to facilitate the transmission of wireless signals. The launched spectrum recommendations outline the importance of awarding the radio spectrum in countries across Africa in a timely, predictable and cost-effective fashion so as to support affordable, high-quality delivery of ICT services and spur smart technology initiatives.

The recommendations also establish the idea that licensing should be technology-neutral and allow for service innovations.

The new spectrum recommendations further encourage

African countries to enable spectrum sharing by giving licensees the right to share their spectrum voluntarily through various means such as trading and national roaming agreements.

African countries through the recommendations are urged to adopt a licensing approach aimed at promoting the right mix of low, mid and high radio band spectrum to ensure that all communications service providers (CSPs) have access to spectrum amounts and type that allows for the development of a variety of use cases and caters to enterprise

and customer demands.

The recommendations come at a time when Africa is looking to harness ICT driven innovation, with a rapid rise in usage of technology and smartphones.

The November 2020 Ericsson Mobility Report projects that by 2026, mobile broadband subscriptions in Sub-Saharan Africa will increase to up to 76 per cent.

ATU will work with countries and all the stakeholders across the continent to support the implementation process. The aim is for African countries to release the recommended

spectrum and license it to the national telecommunications operators in a cost-effective manner. This would enable the customer service providers (CSPs) to serve the demands of increasing communication needs and prepare them to deliver new technologies such as 5G, which look to revolutionize industries, enterprise, and consumers alike.

The harmonized and globally aligned frameworks as envisaged by ATU and Ericsson will assist African countries in spectrum management activities that will accelerate the cost-efficient rollout of ICT.

Measles outbreak looming in Africa amid stalled vaccination, says WHO

By Special Correspondent

SEVERAL African countries could experience an outbreak of measles amid stalled vaccination against the viral disease linked to Covid-19 disruptions, said a World Health Organisation (WHO) official ahead of the African immunization week slated for April 24th to 30th.

Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa said that countries that have delayed measles immunization in the continent could experience a resurgence of the disease that affects young children.

"Recent outbreaks of measles, but also yellow fever, cholera, and meningitis all point to worrying gaps in immunization coverage and surveillance in Africa," Moeti said in a statement.

Statistics from WHO indicate that 15 African countries postponed immunization drives against measles in 2020 to help deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moeti said that an estimated 16.6 million African children missed supplemental measles vaccine doses from January 2020 to April 2021 while eight countries in the continent reported a major outbreak of the disease during the same period. She said delayed vaccination

campaigns fuelled the outbreaks adding that the quality of measles surveillance in Africa fell to its lowest level in 2020, with only eleven countries meeting their target.

Moeti said that it requires at least 95 per cent immunization coverage in a given population to avert a measles outbreak while administering the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine has stagnated around 69 per cent in Africa since 2013 and only seven countries achieved the 95 per cent coverage in 2019.

She said the low measles immunization coverage in Africa reflects in other vaccine-preventable diseases like tetanus, yellow fever, and diphtheria amid pandemic linked disruptions.

"As we fight Covid-19, we cannot leave anyone dangerously exposed to preventable diseases. I urge countries to double down on essential health services, including life-saving vaccination campaigns," said Moeti.

She said that WHO had partnered with African countries to ensure that routine immunization against childhood ailments was sustained during the pandemic through enhanced surveillance, training of healthcare workers, and community engagement.



A schoolboy passes near houses surrounded by rainwater at Msasani in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Africa suffers worst impacts of climate change'

ANKARA

DESPITE emitting the lowest amount of carbon per capita in the world, Africa suffers the worst of the impacts of climate change, including droughts and floods, locust and pest invasions, according to the head of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

Speaking at the Leaders' Summit on Climate via videoconference on Thursday, Akinwumi Adesina said

the AfDB has committed \$25 billion to climate finance over the next four years.

"Our share of financing devoted to climate rose from 9% in 2016 to 35% in 2019 and we will reach 40% in 2021," Adesina added. Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba said the fight against climate change must be intensified and serve as a development opportunity for Africa.

"Developing countries often suffer the most from

the devastating effects of climate change in the form of drought, extreme storms and rising sea levels," according to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"Consequently, developed economies have a responsibility to support developing economies to enable them to mitigate and adapt to climate change," Ramaphosa added. He said South Africa's emissions will begin to decline from 2025, effectively bringing the country's emissions decline a decade forward.

Ramaphosa called on all developed economies, which he said bore the greatest historical responsibility on emissions, to fulfill their responsibilities to developing economies. "This will be vital to restoring the bonds of trust between developed and developing economies." "As we have done since the time of Nelson Mandela, South Africa stands ready to work with other nations to build bridges to find solutions that secure humanity's future," he added.

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**Taking A New Look
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We need adequate budget allocation for health sector

OVER two-thirds of Tanzanians reside in rural areas, and majority of them rely on local public health facilities to provide them with basic health services. Tanzanians do not enjoy equitable access to healthcare services. Citizens are faced with a myriad of challenges when accessing health services - there are severe queues in the health facilities due to shortage of health workers. There is also poor availability of essential health commodities and medical equipment. A significant number of Tanzanians still have to travel long distances to reach their nearest health facility, and many of these are poor unable to pay the prescribed contributory fees for the services.

Citizens are hardly involved in the decision of health related matters, lack of awareness on operationalisation of Community Health Fund (CHF), those who are aware and enrolled to CHF, are being disappointed by turning up at facility and being told that there are no medicines, which discourages others from enrolling.

The policy on waiver or exemption of aged, pregnant women, elderly and child under-five is not working primarily because facilities are not given sufficient resources, hence cannot cater satisfactorily to all these groups.

To achieve quality health services for all and reduce number of challenges in the health sector, the government needs to plan and allocate adequate financial resources for the health sector, in order to meet the set targets and

achieve the intended outcomes as set out in the Health Sector Strategic Plan-IV.

The sector is experiencing about a 52 per cent shortage of the required health workers, 70,244 available health workers leaving a gap of 75,210 to reach a required number of 145,454 health workers.

While the health facilities in urban areas are better resourced, the pinch of the shortage is being felt much more in rural areas where the working and living environment is rather challenging to staff and their families.

There is an urgent need for the government to increase the budget for human resource for health to cope with the increasing population and corresponding demand for health workers.

A starting point would be to ensure that the Ministry of Health's Directorate for HRH is adequately funded to perform its functions.

Looking at the recent budget trend, it is worrying to see that there has been a cut in the budget from TZS 25.9 Billion (2014/15) to TZS 22.6 Billion (2016/17). Despite the fact that Human Resource for Health is one of the four components of the Big Results Now initiative and a key result area in the Health Sector Strategic Plan IV, increase budget for HRH will increase number of skilled health workers in the rural district councils, to foster equity in distribution of HRH, for example in 2015; the Urambo District did not have any Medical Doctor while Kinondoni District had 75 medical doctors.

Incentives or partial compensation relevant to depopulate Ngorongoro

NGORONGORO Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) managers find themselves between a rock and a hard place as to evicting invaders on the invaluable World Heritage Site and the country's foremost tourism destination. Reports say that NCAA has indefinitely suspended a recently launched operation to evict people who settled within the protected area. That is what was affirmed by Dr Freddy Manongi, the Commissioner for Conservation, in a statement Tuesday, not indicating what follows next after the demolition of permanent buildings in wildlife precincts was stopped until further notice. What next, thus?

The decision by NCAA management comes at the time when residents of Ngorongoro Division in Ngorongoro District were gearing up to send a community letter to State House, to ask President Samia Suluhu Hassan to stay expulsions of invaders in the conservation area. There is already a problem with that approach, as it ignores all authorities related to land allocation and use, rights of those residents and how they settled in the area. Such a letter would be a test of political loyalties, to extract concessions rather than to resolve the matter in a procedural manner - as it is typical of interminable land disputes.

Contradictory sentiments were expressed in the letter as its contents were divulged by the representatives of the invading group, backed by a well known lobbying group, the Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations (PINGOs) in association with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC). The two NGOs organised a meeting where the residents of Ngorongoro said they support conservation but not at the expense of native residents

who since time in history have lived there. They describe their presence there as one of "playing an important role of conserving wildlife and natural resources in both Ngorongoro and Serengeti," which is disputable, as at most they posed no threat earlier.

Even more surprising was a minor recital of an anthropological character that clans of the pastoralists in the area have some conservation role in relation to big game, for instance the idea that the Maasai people share kinship with wild animals. It is hard to see State House officials comprehending how for example the Rhino belongs to Mollle clan, the Elephant is related to Laizer and the Monkeys (Baboons) are part of the Lukumay tribe," on the basis of what reports said of the community leaders' arguments. Nor it is likely that NCAA needs the various clans to protect the related animals; the animals need space, not care.

This eviction move and instant somersault was ignited by a speech a fortnight ago where President Samia Suluhu called upon experts in conservation to find ways of saving Ngorongoro. The position that the clan leaders were explaining in the purported letter to the State House is awfully outdated, as in 1959 the zone had 12,000 inhabitants, and now they have climbed to 90,000 - implying the need for a New Deal. The only way to do things is to get the people shift to other places, but as they were allowed to settle there, the government should look around for funds, even from interested parties abroad, to beef up an incentives fund to get the large group of residents out of the area. It won't be bad if NCAA offices remain, simply. That way there would be strict control on future habitation, not leaving 20,000 bonafide residents, again.

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Averting a descent into political violence

By Special Correspondent

TENSIONS are running high following the Somali parliament's decision to extend the incumbent president's mandate by two years. External partners should urgently convene - and mediate - talks among the country's bitterly divided elites, to prevent its worst political crisis in years from escalating.

Somalia's long-running political crisis has entered a new, dangerous phase. In a hastily convened session on 12 April, members of parliament overwhelmingly endorsed a bill that would delay elections by two years, in effect extending the term in office of President Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo".

The move is an alarming escalation of a dispute that could well spiral into widespread violence unless Somalia's political elites return to the negotiating table. The opposition is said to be considering forming a parallel government; cracks have deepened in a security apparatus long divided along clan lines; and the president's opponents have vowed to resist extension of his rule.

But even though the hour is late, it is not too late for the parties to reverse course. Somalia's external partners, led by the African Union (AU) and backed by the U.S., the UN Security Council and the European Union, should step in to organise - and lead - fresh talks among all stakeholders to craft a roadmap to timely elections. All external actors should unambiguously signal readiness to impose sanctions on parties who obstruct a new initiative to find a consensual path forward.

The distrust that has prevented Somalia's politicians from preparing elections has been on full display over the last few months. President Farmajo and leaders of Somalia's subnational units, known as federal member states, agreed on a framework for indirect elections on 17 September 2020. But despite several rounds of subsequent talks, they have repeatedly failed to work out the voting system. Following the expiry of Farmajo's four-year term on 8 February, the opposition demanded that he hand power to an interim government headed by the prime minister. An attempt by Farmajo's rivals to hold demonstrations to press home this point was met with lethal force, with



clashes between police and demonstrators leaving at least eight people dead. Somalia's external partners then urged talks to resolve the deadlock. But the parties argued bitterly over the venue, the agenda and the security arrangements. When they finally convened on 3 April at Mogadishu's international airport, which is guarded by AU troops, negotiations collapsed after four days.

In response, Farmajo and his supporters decided to raise the stakes by summoning parliament to initiate the term extension his opponents had consistently accused him of planning. During a special session convened by lower house Speaker Mohamed Abdurahman Mursal, MPs argued that the failure to reach a compromise made the 17 September agreement impossible to fulfil. They subsequently mandated the National Independent Electoral Commission to hold elections by universal suffrage in two years. The president signed the bill into law two days later.

The parliamentary decision has sent political tensions soaring to levels not seen in Somalia for years - and which could snowball into violence due to two key factors. First, the de facto term extension has shattered already low levels of trust among Somalia's rival political actors. Farmajo's opponents have rallied under the banner of the Council of Presidential Candidates, an alliance that includes two former presidents and a former prime minister. They represent important clan constituencies, including in Mogadishu, and have vehemently denounced the extension of Farmajo's mandate, pledging unspecified action. These opposition candidates are allied with the presidents of the Puntland and Jubaland federal member states. Farmajo, for his part, enjoys the support of leaders from the federal regions of Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South West. With lines of communication cut between duelling parties and with the opposition said to be considering formation of a parallel government, the risk is high that parties will use force to secure political concessions.

Secondly, the crisis has sorely tested the cohesion of Somalia's fragile army and police. Hours before parliament

convened to vote on the term extension, Mogadishu police chief Sadiq "John" Omar condemned what he described as a power grab and ordered his men to block the entrance to the building, arguing that parliament's term had expired. Police Commissioner General Hassan Hajar Abdi immediately dismissed Omar and sent forces to secure the venue. Well-placed security sources told Crisis Group that a number of soldiers from Somalia's elite Turkish-trained Gorgor army units have since abandoned base and retreated to their clan strongholds. Elders from these clans also told Crisis Group that any attempt by authorities to disarm their troops will trigger full-scale fighting. The longer the crisis lasts, the greater the danger that these rifts will grow, raising the spectre of a return to civil war.

Resolving the crisis will not be easy. Farmajo has dug in, warning outside actors to stay out of Somalia's internal affairs. The timing of the parliamentary decision - two days before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began - was likely designed to limit the opposition's capacity to hold demonstrations at a time when most Somalis are observing the fast. Publicly, the opposition has reacted with restraint. Privately, however, it is working to ensure that Farmajo does not get his way. If opposition politicians go ahead to form a parallel government, they will add fuel to the fire and send tensions soaring higher.

As Crisis Group has consistently advocated, there is no alternative to concerted third-party mediation to break the electoral impasse, given the distrust among Somalia's actors. In the past, the reluctance of external partners to engage directly was understandable, not least due to Mogadishu's insistence that it could broker a compromise through Somali-led talks. That claim no longer holds. Instead, the spiralling crisis threatens to undo all the progress made in establishing a degree of political stability in Somalia over the last two decades. Moreover, the political stalemate and the wrangling among security forces have offered an opening to Al-Shabaab militants. Emboldened by the partial withdrawals

of Ethiopian and U.S. troops at the end of 2020, militants have already stepped up attacks and resumed the large-scale assaults on Somali and foreign military targets that outside forces had prevented them from staging for several years. The crisis has also offered a propaganda coup for the militants, who have boasted that it vindicates their depiction of elites as power-obsessed incompetents.

Somalia's key external partners need to do more. They have shown admirable unity in rejecting the term extension, with the U.S., UN, AU, EU, UK and regional bloc IGAD all issuing strong statements to express opposition. Now they should urge all Somali actors to resume talks. Ideally the AU, through the office of Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Bankole Adeoye, who has already shown interest in resolving the standoff, would mobilise external partners to step up their diplomacy. First, the AU, with the backing of key external partners, should appoint an envoy who, working in concert with the UN envoy, should meet the main parties separately and urge a return to talks. In particular, these emissaries should emphasise to Farmajo that he will need to accept external mediation, given that the opposition will not agree to talks under his supervision. To improve the chances of Farmajo shifting his position, the U.S. could engage directly with his key backers in Qatar and Turkey and urge them to prevail on the president to show greater flexibility, given the risk the crisis poses to Somalia's stability.

Next, external actors will need to coordinate with Somalia's political elite in calling for an inclusive summit to discuss a pathway to elections. Convened by the AU, with the U.S., EU and UN acting as guarantors, such a meeting should focus on delivering a timeframe for elections within weeks, rather than months.

China to contribute more power to making world cleaner, more beautiful

By He Yin

CHINA, making a major strategic decision to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, has been widely appraised by the international society. The decision is a move that sustains the development of the Chinese nation and builds a community with a shared future for mankind.

China's Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 demonstrates to the world the country's firm resolution to progress toward green development and harmonious coexistence between human and nature. It indicates China's major country responsibility to protect the Earth and strive for sustainable development.

China was the first country to raise and firmly practice the notion of an ecological civilization featuring harmonious coexistence between human and nature, and has achieved remarkable progress with unwavering resolve.

Two photos shared by a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, from Qinghai Province attracted wide public attention during the just-concluded "two sessions," the annual meetings of the NPC and the country's top political advisory body the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The photos showed a Chinese mountain cat walking in the bushes and a snow leopard roaming in the woods, respectively. The presence of these rare species exactly indicated the progress achieved by China regarding ecological and environmental protection.

The country delivered a remarkable ecological performance during the 13th Five-Year Plan period, or the last five years. With enhanced efforts of pollution control, it over-fulfilled its target of reducing major pollutant emission. Besides, the country also significantly improved its efficiency of resource utilization, as well as ecological environment.

A Bloomberg report recently introduced how China covered its land with forests over the past a dozen years, and Jean-Francois Donzier, director of the International Office for Water of France, also complimented China's environmental protection achievements, saying the country has contributed wisdom and strength to the harmonious coexistence between human and nature.

Ecological protection means productivity protection, and environmental improvement means

greater productivity, said Chinese President Xi Jinping during an inspection tour to Hainan Province in 2013. A good ecological environment is the fairest public product, and the most accessible welfare for the people, he said.

Xi's remarks have long been turned into concrete actions. As China rapidly expands its green economy, the international society is increasingly attracted by the country's ecological progress led by science-based philosophies.

The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 has received worldwide attention. It further charts the course for China's green development, and makes systematic top-level design for the country to improve ecological quality and stability, enhance environmental quality, and green its development models in a faster manner.

Clifford Cobb, editor-in-chief of American Journal of Economics and Sociology, believes that China has blazed a new trail in the construction of ecological civilization, setting a model for other countries in terms of pollution control.

China's efforts to green its economic and social development are a huge contribution to global sustainable development.

The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 made it clear that China will scale up its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions in response to climate change by 2030. By incorporating peaking carbon dioxide emissions and achieving carbon neutrality into its general plan for ecological progress, China will



Technicians inspect and maintain photovoltaic panels in Yuli County, Bayingolin Mongol Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Feb. 25, 2021. File Photo

make more contributions to the global climate governance.

It's great that China is making climate a priority and wants to work with other countries on this, said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Ecological conservation and environmental protection benefit future generations. The Chinese people believe that when the interests of the entire humanity are at stake, China must step forward, take action, and get the job done.

It is believed that embarking on a new journey, China will keep practicing the idea that "lucid waters

and lush mountains are invaluable assets." It will also give priority to ecological conservation and green development, and work with other countries to jointly build a clean and beautiful world.

People's Daily

Green is gold -- Xi Jinping innovates fight against climate change

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping is joining world leaders on Thursday at a virtual summit on climate change hosted by his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden.

Responding to climate change is the common cause of all humanity, Xi has said, adding that it should not be a bargaining chip for geopolitics, a target for attacking other countries, or an excuse for trade barriers.

The Chinese president has been paying close attention to ecological and environmental issues. While actively championing global actions to fight climate change, he underscores the issue as a long-term strategy vital to his country's modernization and its people's well-being.

GREEN IS GOLD

At the beginning of the 1990s, Yucun, an idyllic mountain village in China's eastern Anji County, Zhejiang Province, decided to end poverty by tapping the potential of its natural resources.

By mining for limestone and manufacturing cement, Yucun became one of China's richest villages with an annual revenue of more than 3 million yuan (460,000 U.S. dollars).

However, it was not long before the villagers found it a Faustian bargain. Their hometown turned into a real eyesore with its pitted land, turbid rivers and dust haze.

Yucun was not the only village in Zhejiang that had seen its eco-system degrading. To address the ever deteriorating problem, the province committed itself to building an "ecological province" in 2003.

Within three years, Yucun shut down three limestone quarries and a cement factory, which accounted for 95 percent of its annual income, causing much fear amongst the villagers.

A heated debate emerged about the relationship between economic development and environmental protection -- a relationship that was inevitably rocky during industrialization across the world.

In 2005, Xi, then secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, visited Yucun. He assured the villagers that their move to close those factories was "wise."

"Mountains and rivers green are mountains of silver and gold," he said at the village's simple and humble meeting room.

Nine days later, in a commentary carried by Zhejiang Daily, Xi, using the pen-name "Zhe Xin," called for pursuing harmony between man and nature as well as harmony between the economy and society, in order to have clear water and green mountains along with "mountains of silver and gold."

The "two mountains" concept, later developed into Xi's thought on ecological civilization, has encouraged numerous Chinese cities and villages to pursue high-quality and sustainable growth through protecting the environment and developing green industries.

When Xi returned to Yucun 15 years later during an inspection tour in Zhejiang in March 2020, the village



People visit Yucun Village in Anji County, east China's Zhejiang Province, July 22, 2019. (Xinhua)

has transformed into a place featuring buildings with traditional white walls and black tiles, colorful flower fields and exquisite lotus ponds. The villagers made much more money than in the past thanks to a tourism boom.

The path of green development is correct, Xi said.

The path, wrote the United Nations Environment Programme in a report, "is beyond and does away with traditional development patterns and models, guiding the transformation of the production methods and the lifestyle of the entire society."

CLIMATE AGENDA IN DIPLOMACY

Xi also proposed the signature concept of "two mountains" when addressing the global audience at the Climate Ambition Summit held online at the end of 2020.

He was calling for pursuing a new approach to climate governance that highlights green recovery in a year when the world was going through not only a COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout but also one of the three warmest years on record.

On his diplomatic agenda, Xi has time and again stressed the importance of upholding multilateralism, unity and cooperation to tackle climate change.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the just-concluded Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 held in China's tropical

island of Hainan, Xi urged Asian countries to strengthen cooperation on green infrastructure, green energy and green finance, and to make green a defining feature of Belt and Road cooperation.

Earlier this month, at a video summit held with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Xi called on the European Union (EU) to work together with China to strengthen the China-EU green partnership.

Since 2020, Xi has held six phone talks with the French president, in four of which they compared notes on strengthening coordination and cooperation on tackling climate change.

China and European countries have been working closely on the global fight against climate change after the former U.S. President Donald Trump's administration abandoned the Paris Agreement.

Biden has decided to return his country to the landmark global deal on climate change, which was agreed on by almost every country in the world in 2015 after lengthy negotiations in the French capital.

DELIVERING ON PROMISE

At present, the international landscape is evolving more rapidly and COVID-19 is triggering deep reflections on the relationship between man and nature, Xi said, opening his speech at the

Climate Ambition Summit.

His country has been seeking to use the pandemic as a springboard into a greener and more resilient future.

Addressing the general debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2020, the Chinese president announced that China aims to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

If successful, according to the Climate Action Tracker, it would lower global warming projections by around 0.2 degrees to 0.3 degrees Celsius.

While environmentalists welcomed the Chinese pledge as a "game-changer" for the climate and a move that could encourage other countries to act faster, some raised doubts about the viability of the targets given that China is an emerging economy still heavily reliant on coal, and asked for concrete action plans.

In its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), a key policy document that will heavily influence the nation's economic development in the next decade and beyond, Beijing outlined last month that energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will be reduced by 13.5 percent and 18 percent over the period, respectively.

Furthermore, an action plan for hitting the peak of carbon emissions by 2030 is expected to be unveiled within the year.

"China, as the world's largest developing country, will complete the world's most dramatic reduction in carbon emission intensity, and realize carbon neutrality from carbon peaking in the shortest time in global history," Xi said at the China-France-Germany video summit.

The low-carbon commitment, it is estimated, requires China to make the transition from reaching its carbon peak to realizing carbon neutrality within 30 years, compared with the 60 years taken by most developed countries.

The task is extremely challenging, Xi said, but China will deliver on its promise.

Xinhua

Press Freedom under lockdown across two-thirds of the globe

BRATISLAVA

INDEPENDENT journalism is facing a growing crackdown one year into the COVID-19 pandemic as governments around the world restrict access to information and muzzle critical reporting, media and rights watchdogs have warned.

Authoritarian regimes have used existing and new legislation to attack, intimidate, and jail reporters under the guise of acting to protect public health, they say, and fear the situation is unlikely to improve in many states if and when the pandemic ends.

"Dictators and authoritarian leaders exploited the cover of COVID to crackdown on independent reporting and criticism. Some, instead of battling the virus, turned their attention to fighting the media.

"Countries from Cambodia to Russia, Egypt and Brazil all sought to divert attention from their failures to deal with the health crisis by intimidating or jailing journalists," Rob Mahoney, Deputy Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, told IPS.

Recent months have seen a slew of reports highlighting how media freedom in many places has been curbed during the pandemic.

In February, Human Rights Watch released a report COVID-19 Triggers Wave of Free Speech Abuse showing how more than 80 governments had used the COVID-19 pandemic to justify violations of rights to free speech and peaceful assembly with journalists among those affected as authorities attacked, detained, prosecuted, and in some cases killed critics, and closed media outlets, while enacting vague laws criminalising speech that they claim threatens public health.

In April, global press freedom campaigners the International Press Institute (IPI), released a report painting a similarly grim picture and detailing the physical and verbal abuse of journalists reporting on COVID-19 across the world.

And just this week, Reporters Without Borders said journalism was restricted either partly or completely in two thirds of the globe.

It warned that authoritarian regimes had used the pandemic to "perfect their methods of totalitarian control of information", and as a pretext for imposing "especially repressive legislation with provisions combining propaganda with suppression of dissent".

It also highlighted how some had developed legislation to criminalise publishing of 'fake news' relating to coronavirus reporting, and used COVID-19 as a pretence to deepen existing internet censorship and surveillance.

In some states authorities had banned publication of non-government pandemic numbers and arrested people for disseminating other figures. In others, such as Tanzania, they even went as far as imposing a complete information blackout on the pandemic, the group said.

The problems are not confined to any single area of the world, according to the groups' reports. However,



Reporters Without Borders said press freedom was restricted either partly or completely in two thirds of the globe. It warned that authoritarian regimes had used the pandemic to "perfect their methods of totalitarian control of information", and as a pretext for imposing "especially repressive legislation with provisions combining propaganda with suppression of dissent". (file photo)

some of the most severe restrictions have been seen in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa.

Journalists on the ground in these regions have said they have seen a deterioration in press freedom over the last year.

IPS' own correspondent and an award-winning journalist in Uganda, Michael Wambi, said that the government had used pandemic restrictions introduced for the entire population to deliberately restrict journalists' reporting.

Presidential elections were held in the country in January and, Wambi told IPS, there were "targeted attacks on journalists in an effort to curtail them from giving coverage to leading opposition candidates" in the run up to them.

Journalists were violently attacked by police at the events, and police later accused reporters of violating COVID-19 restrictions by attending them.

Wambi said Uganda's Police Chief, Martin Okoth Ochola, made a joke of the situation.

"He joked to journalists that 'security forces would continue beating them to keep them out of any danger [to their own health]'," said Wambi.

Stella Paul, IPS' award-winning journalist

in India – which RSF describes as one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists – told IPS: "In India, COVID restrictions were basically used as an excuse to intimidate journalists."

Press freedom groups say the Indian government has taken advantage of the coronavirus crisis to increase its control of news coverage, using legal action against journalists who have reported information about the pandemic which differs from the official position.

Early in the pandemic, the government launched a number of legal cases against journalists for reports about the effects of the government-enforced lockdown on migrant workers while an editor of a local news portal was arrested and charged with sedition for writing about a possible change of state leadership following a rise in coronavirus cases.

"The last year has seen a lot of journalists detained while trying to report the truth about the pandemic, to get to accurate information and find things out," said Paul.

Paul, who also writes for IPS, co-operates with a number of other journalists across Asia and says the situation for independent media in most other parts of the region is equally perilous.

"It is the same thing in many other coun-

tries. What we have seen during COVID is a lot of journalists, not just in India, asking themselves what will happen if I report on something? Will I end up in jail? They are scared of getting arrested," she said.

One country where media freedom is seen as particularly restricted is Bangladesh. It came in at 152 out of 182 in RSF's 2021 Press Freedom Index. The group said there had been "an alarming increase in police and civilian violence against reporters" during the pandemic with many journalists arrested and prosecuted for their reporting on it.

This has been made easier by the Digital Security Act (DSA) passed in 2018 under which "negative propaganda" can lead to a 14-year jail sentence, local journalists say.

The DSA was at the centre of the controversial death in police custody of a Bangladeshi writer and commentator earlier this year.

Mushtaq Ahmed, who was detained under the DSA in May last year for allegedly posting criticism of the government's response to the COVID-19 on Facebook, died in police custody in February. An official investigation found he died of natural causes but others in prison with him at the time claimed he was tortured and some suspect he died of injuries sustained during his incarceration.

Few local journalists were willing to talk about their experiences of working in the country, but one, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Ahmed's arrest and death had had a profound effect on the media.

"After what happened to Mushtaq Ahmed, many journalists were immediately less willing to challenge anything the government said about the coronavirus pandemic," the journalist told IPS.

"The DSA is being used to harass journalists - many have been arrested under the act after publishing news critical of the authorities.

"Doing reporting under the DSA is the main challenge for journalists in Bangladesh right now. News outlets use self-censorship to avoid harass-

ment under the DSA. If anyone sees a single item of news that is negative about them, they can use the DSA to bring legal action against the reporter and the editor," the journalist added.

But while the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly allowed governments to crack down on critical media, there is no guarantee the situation will improve once the pandemic ends, press freedom watchdogs say.

Scott Griffen, Deputy Director at IPI, told IPS: "Who will decide when the pandemic is over? Governments for whom the pandemic is a useful tool to suppress civil liberties may be tempted to maintain a state of emergency in some form, even after the immediate health threat is ended."

He added that there were also fears that measures introduced during the pandemic may not be rescinded at all.

"The aftermath of the September 11 attacks in the US brought with it new anti-terrorism measures including unprecedented civil liberties rollbacks. Countries around the world have used anti-terror laws to crack down on critical speech. Similarly, we fear that emergency laws introduced during the coronavirus pandemic may become part of the permanent legal framework in some states, not to mention a culture of tracking and surveillance of citizens that is very unlikely to be rolled back. This has profound implications for journalists' privacy and their ability to protect their sources," he said.

However, despite the bleak outlook for press freedom in many states as the pandemic drags on, there is hope that independent media will continue no matter how severely they might be restricted.

"Journalists will still produce independent reporting even in the most hostile of circumstances. That's their mission. You can have independent journalism without democracy. But you can't have democracy without independent journalism," said Mahoney.

IPS

One year later, no justice for victims of 2020 Mali protests and coup

UNITED NATIONS

IT has been about a year since anti-government demonstrations and a coup in Mali, which saw 18 people, including a 12-year-old boy being killed. But there has been no justice for the families of those injured and killed by defence and security forces during last year's May to August protests.

April 23, Amnesty International released the findings of a report into injuries and fatalities that occurred titled "Killed, wounded, and forgotten? Accountability for the killings during demonstrations and the coup in Mali".

Following field and remote interviews with victims' families, civil society representatives, journalists and members of the judiciary, it chronicled the use of deadly force by armed forces in the towns of Kayes and Sikasso, as well as the capital Bamako.

The military seized power in Mali after forcing President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to resign. It was Mali's fourth coup since independence in 1960 and its second in a decade.

His resignation followed months of opposition protests in the capital and the soldiers who orchestrated the coup stated that it was done to save the country. The international community strongly denounced the ouster, with the soldiers promising to oversee a transition to new elections and elect an interim, civilian leader.

According to Amnesty International, investigations revealed that 18 people were killed and dozens injured, despite military claims that the coup was bloodless. The organisation says the lack of accountability is troubling.

"Many victims were hit or wounded in the chest, sometimes in the back. Many were bystanders or people at work or at home, indicating that security forces were not firing in self-defence or response to an imminent threat of death or serious injury - in contravention of international standards," Amnesty International said.

The document lists several instances of fatal shots being fired by security forces, backed up by witness testimonies and statements from the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). This included the May 6 killing of a man in Sikasso, a city in southern Mali.

"Despite this, the authorities have not investigated the use of firearms by law enforcement against demonstrators in Sikasso leaving the families of those killed without justice, truth and reparation," the report said.

Five days after the Sikasso incident, violent protests against police deaths resulted in more bloodshed. According to the report, an off-duty police officer shot a 17-year-old who was fleeing detention. It adds that while the officer was suspended, the teen's death sparked widespread protests, with angry mobs attacking police stations and government buildings. It states that police fired live rounds in the crowds, leaving a 30-year-old man and a 12-year-old boy dead.



Amnesty International investigations revealed that 18 people were killed and dozens injured, despite military claims that the 2020 coup was bloodless. File photo

The Amnesty report says that a lack of accountability for police deaths triggered uprisings in other areas in Mali, adding that in the capital, protests in July which turned violent were 'heavily repressed by the authorities,' adding that armed forces fired into throngs of demonstrators, leaving 4 people dead and dozens injured.

"Although some demonstrators threw stones at security forces, occupied public buildings and at times, refused to comply with orders given by law enforcement officials, it is clear from the cases documented by Amnesty International that most of the killings and serious injuries resulted from the excessive use of force by security forces," the report said.

Demonstrators took to the streets with numerous grievances. There was anger over the results of the parli-

mentary elections, stringent measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including restrictions to freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, high unemployment, security and social grievances.

However, among bystanders also became casualties, including Ibrahim Traore, a 16-year-old boy, whom the report states was shot twice by police. His brother told Amnesty International that he was denied a copy of Traore's autopsy report.

The rights group says it worked hard to ensure that it could put a name and face to the victims, so that they are not forgotten. It adds despite progress, accountability is lacking. They say that they have been told that investigations into lethal use of force by security forces were opened, but at the time, February 2021, those probes

were in the preliminary stages.

Amnesty International says it is time for accuracy and accountability. It is calling on the transitional authorities to ensure impartial and prompt investigations into cases of excessive and lethal use of force by law enforcement officers, protect freedoms of expression and assembly according to international human rights standards and ensure law enforcement authorities respect the United Nations basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials.

"The Malian authorities must show their determination to fight impunity by first acknowledging these killings. Victims of illegal use of force and firearms and their families must be provided with justice, truth and full reparations," Amnesty International said.

IPS

Zimbabwe female tobacco farmers striving to compete

By Special Correspondent

MOREEN Tanhara waits patiently for officials to inspect her tobacco. The 49-year-old has travelled nearly 100 miles (150km) overnight in an old lorry to reach Tobacco Sales Floor, an auction house in Harare.

Tanhara sits quietly on one of the fragrant sacks she has brought from Guruve, a farming area north of Zimbabwe's capital, while on the auction floor workers prepare tobacco leaves for the first sales of the season.

The auction house attracts farmers from across the country but this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, only a few are allowed on the auction floor. Dozens more wait outside, among them Chinese tobacco dealers, the country's main buyers.

Every year Tanhara, a widowed mother of four, comes here to sell her crop. If prices are low, she leaves disappointed but this year she is hopeful after a good rainy season. Her tobacco is given a high grade and opening prices are strong - \$4.30 (£3.10) a kilo.

If she turns a healthy profit, it will be thanks in part to a stokvel she and other women set up in 2020, to help them raise money and improve their farming techniques.

Known as mukando in the Shona language, a stokvel is a savings scheme like a credit union where individuals pool their resources and take it in turns to use the money raised. They are widespread in South Africa, but are becoming popular among female tobacco farmers in Zimbabwe.

Tobacco is a capital-intensive cash crop. If prices are good, it can be very profitable. Zimbabwe is the largest producer in Africa and in 2018 tobacco accounted for about 10% of the country's GDP. The government wants to make it a \$5bn industry by 2025.

But growing tobacco has traditionally been the preserve of commercial farmers, predominantly men. While more female smallholders are taking it up, they find it difficult to access loans from mainstream banks and are often forced to borrow from loan sharks.

"I joined a stokvel club of 10," says Tanhara. "We give \$20 a month so essentially, each month one member has \$200 to buy inputs so that they are ready for the time we plant for the season. This is very helpful for many women in my community, who can now afford to grow the crop and send children to school."

But for Sherita Kanguru, 43, from Mvurwi, about 60 miles from Harare, even a stokvel cannot cover all costs, particularly labour, a big expense.

Women in Kanguru's village pay \$5 a week as part of the club's saving scheme.

"We do a stokvel and sell bread as a club, but it is not enough to cater for



all the costs of growing the crop. We encourage ladies to start saving the money from the sales so that they do not get stranded when the season starts," says Kanguru.

"We need help just like the contract farmers because we also contribute to the exports, especially in unprecedented times like Covid-19. We need support the most."

Contract farmers usually receive

credit, as well as a guaranteed market, from the companies that buy their crop.

Some growers at the auction are sceptical of the schemes, however. Deborah Mukoyi, 39, says: "We have stokvels in Karoi, where I live, but it is tough to coordinate since some women do not have any money to join in. We hope banks will trust us with funds in the next season

because we have the capacity to repay."

"The money is not enough and sometimes you may end up using it for other household obligations. What we require is a fund for independent producers so that we also grow," she says.

The government has created the Land Agricultural Development Bank, intended to offer financial

support to farmers. But they are still at the mercy of the market. "We had good rains and the leaves were very good, but the prices were very low," says Kudzai Butai, 65, from Karoi. She was hoping to get \$2.85 or \$3 a kilo, but her crop was graded as low quality so prices started at \$1.65. "The painful thing is that we would have paid a lot of money for labour and transport to come to the [auction] floors. All the money will go to the transporter."

The growers' problems are not helped by the government's insistence that only 60% of the sales are paid in US dollars. The remainder must be paid in local currency, at the prevailing exchange rate. The tobacco-selling season is one of the few times the government receives any foreign currency. But farmers complain they lose out because their input and labour costs are paid for in US dollars.

Patrick Devenish, chairman of the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board, said: "The board is aware that growers have viability challenges due to high costs of production and acknowledge that a lot still needs to be done to reduce the costs of production." After a long day at the auction, Tanhara heads back to Guruve, where her crop is still being harvested. It will only be after the long selling season ends in August that she will know if this year has been a success.

"I am looking forward to harvesting 200kg of tobacco. I just came with a few bales to test the market, I shall be coming back to sell more. From what I am hearing, the prices will be good this year, so I am hopeful that I will make a profit," she says.

Medical drones help save lives in remote villages

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

MEDICAL drones whizzing in the sky like mosquitos bring hope to around 400,000 residents of Tanzania's remote Ukerewe island district of Lake Victoria.

Skirting traditional transporting system that takes hours includes a car and ferry trip, the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) not only bring medicine and help to attend emergencies but also collect blood samples to take them to the nearest medical center 240 kilometers (149 miles) away in Mwanza.

It is a sight to see a drone hovering 100 feet above in the air making vertical maneuvers and drops a pack of medical supplies tied to a parachute made of wax paper on the roof of a hospital in Ukerewe. The packet also includes blood units to be used for transfusion in emergency surgeries and also to treat patients suffering from malaria and anemia.

These supplies are delivered

on daily basis, to save lives on the island as part of the initiative launched by Tanzania's Health Ministry through its Medical Store Department (MSD) and other international partners.

Until recently, the delivery of essential medical supplies for saving lives, in remote islands in Lake Victoria was an uphill struggle due to transportation and other logistical challenges.

The medicine-delivering drones, flying at 100 km (62 miles) an hour have helped save the lives of many people in Ukara, which is among 27 small islands surrounding Lake Victoria.

Nestled on the edge of the island, Regina Mujuni, 35, at the Bwisya Medical Centre recalls that last December she needed urgent blood transfusing during childbirth.

"I don't want to remember the suffering I went through. It was the most traumatic experience of my life," said the mother of five. Two years ago in the same



medical facility, a young woman had died during childbirth for want of blood supply.

Mujuni said she had arrived at the hospital in the morning, experiencing labor. The midwife in a message to Bugando referral hospital in Mwanza asked

for three units of blood. With the help of a drone, blood supply and other medicine reached well in time to save both mother and child.

Tanzania has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates at 556 deaths per

every 100,000 deliveries, according to government data.

Although the country has improved health facilities to some extent, experts are still miles away to reach a large section of the population.

To improve the delivery of medical supplies to remote locations, Health Ministry and Medical Stores Department (MSD) teamed up with Zipline International and DHL—an international package delivery service - in 2018 to put in service drones to deliver essential medical supplies to remote areas.

The initiative is currently benefiting more than 10 regions countrywide.

Laurean Bwanakunu director-general of MSD said the drones have the potential to make 2000 deliveries a day to hundreds of health facilities transporting vaccines, blood, diagnostic samples, malaria, and HIV/Aids drugs.

"They fly so fast, I cannot imagine how the badly need-

ed blood is delivered. My son would have almost died, who needed an urgent transfusion of blood group O which was not available, but thanks to drone, the supply reached and he was saved," said Anna Kisoka a resident of Ukerewe.

While Nansio—the main town on the island, is dotted with many hospitals, the medical facilities are scarce at other tiny islands.

Over a long time, public health experts had been grappling to seek improvement of essential medical supplies to remote areas, which get shut often due to floods.

Cornel Maghembe, Ukerewe District Commissioner said the use of drones has significantly eased shipment of important medical supplies and is helping to fight chronic diseases notably malaria and typhoid.

"We are very much satisfied by the service provided by these drones. We call upon other innovative companies to invest in such services," he said.

Gambia becomes second African state to end trachoma

By Kaamil Ahmed

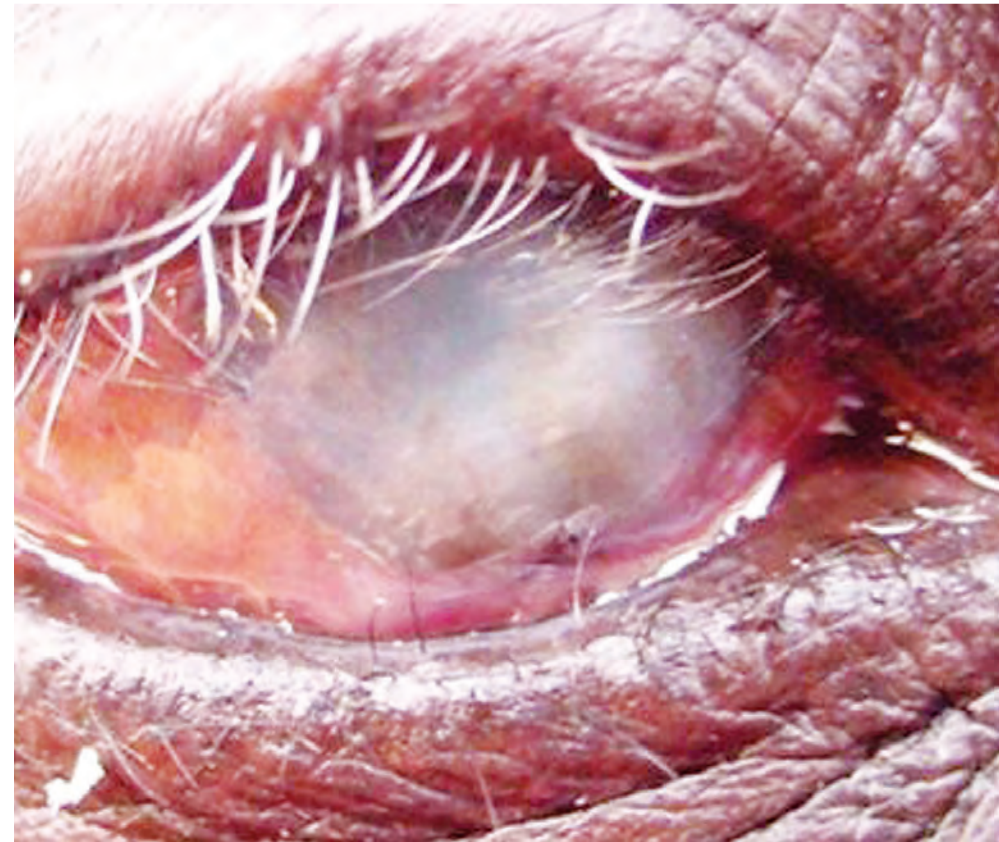
GAMBIA has become the second country in Africa to eliminate trachoma, one of the leading causes of blindness.

The achievement, announced by the World Health Organization on Tuesday, came after decades of work on the disease, which has damaged the sight of about 1.9 million people worldwide. Ghana was the first country in Africa to eliminate the disease in 2018.

The Gambian government and aid organizations have spent years identifying and treating patients in rural areas, often going from door to door. It can cause a person's eyelashes to turn inwards and scratch against the eyes, causing permanent damage.

Yaya Manney, 75, a community leader in the coastal village of Mariama Kunda, said treatment had transformed his life. "I was in pain for a long time because I didn't know anywhere close to me where I could have surgery. It's difficult to live with the misery of trachoma," he said.

The symptoms start with itching and over the years it became so painful that Manney could no long-



er work, but he did not know there was a treatment for the condition until a health worker visited him.

"Since having surgery, I

can work on the farm and participate in the community as an elder, like I used to. People say they are happy to see me back."

Infection is spread from

He said infections had spread in the absence of treatment and "became a menace to our community".

He said the elimination of the illness meant "the government will be able to use resources previously spent on defeating trachoma on other public health problems".

African states ought to use vaccines quickly after expiry confusion - CDC

JOHANNESBURG

THE African Union's disease control body has urged countries to use COVID-19 vaccines donated to them quickly to save lives and livelihoods, after confusion in Malawi and South Sudan about whether doses they received had expired.

"My appeal to member states is: if we are doing our part to mobilize these vaccines, you do your part and use the vaccines," John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), said on Thursday.

Malawi plans to destroy more than 16,000 doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India because the shots were not administered before the April 13 expiry date on the packaging. The doses were supplied via the AU thanks to a donation from telecoms group MTN.

South Sudan has set aside 59,000 doses supplied by the AU and does not plan to use them because of the same expiry issue, a government official told Reuters last week.

But Nkengasong, the continent's top public health official, said the Africa CDC had informed countries receiving the donations that the shots could be used until mid-July, based on a further analysis conducted by the Serum Institute.

"The Serum Institute expanded that deadline based on their own analysis to July 13, and we shared that information with the countries," he said. "We are in an emergency situation, and it is my appeal to all member states that when you get your vaccines, put down the right systems to use those vaccines quickly."

Youth demand action on nature, following IUCN's global youth summit

UNITED NATIONS

FOLLOWING almost two weeks of talks on issues such as climate change, innovation, marine conservation and social justice, thousands of young people from across the globe concluded the first-ever International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) One Nature One Future Global Youth Summit with a list of demands for action on nature.

Under three umbrella themes of diversity, accessibility and intersectionality, they are calling on countries and corporations to invest the required resources to redress environmental racism and climate injustice, create green jobs, engage communities for biodiversity protection, safeguard the ocean, realise gender equality for climate change mitigation and empower underrepresented voices in environmental policymaking.

"Young people talk about these key demands that they have and most of the time, they are criticised for always saying 'I want this,' and are told 'but you're not even sure you what you can do,'" Global South Focal Point for the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Swetha Stotra Bhashyam told IPS. "So we linked our demands to our own actions through our 'Your Promise, Our Future' campaign and are showing world leaders what we are doing for the world and then asking them what they are going to do for us and our future."

Bhashyam is one of the young people dedicated to climate and conservation action. A zoologist who once studied rare species from the field in India, she told IPS that while she hoped to someday return to wildlife studies and research, her skills in advocacy and rallying young people are urgently needed. Through her work

with GYBN, the youth constituency recognised under the Convention on Biological Diversity, she stated proudly that the network has truly become 'grassroots,' with 46 national chapters. She said the IUCN Global Youth Summit, which took place from Apr. 5 to 16, gave youth networks like hers an unprecedented platform to reach tens of thousands of the world's youth.

"The Summit was able to create spaces for young people to voice their opinions. We in the biodiversity space have these spaces, but cannot reach the numbers that IUCN can. IUCN not only reached a larger subset of youth, but gave us an open space to talk about critical issues," she said. "They even let us write a blog about it on their main IUCN page. It's called IUCN Crossroads. They tried to ensure that the voice of young people was really mainstream in those two weeks."

The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, told IPS that the Summit achieved an important goal of bringing institutions and political conversations closer to young people. During her tenure, Wickramanayake has advocated for a common set of principles for youth engagement within the UN system, based on rights, safety and adequate financing. She said it is important for institutions to open their doors to meaningful engagement with young people.

"I remember in 8th or 9th grade in one of our biology classes, we were taught about endangered animal species. We learned about this organisation called IUCN, which works on biodiversity. In my head, this was a big organisation that was out of my reach as a young person.

"But having the opportunity to attend the IUCN Summit, even virtually, engage with its officials

and engage with other young people, really gave me and perhaps gave other young people a sense of belonging and a sense of taking us closer to institutions trying to achieve the same goals as we are as youth advocates."

The Youth Envoy said the Summit was timely for young people, allowing them to meet virtually following a particularly difficult year and during a pandemic that has cost them jobs, education opportunities and raised anxieties.

"Youth activists felt that the momentum we had created from years of campaigning, protesting and striking school would be diluted because of this uncertainty and postponement of big negotiations. In order to keep the momentum high and maintain the pressure on institutions and governments, summits like this one are extremely important," Wickramanayake said.

Other outcomes of the Global Youth Summit included calls to:

advance food sovereignty for marginalised communities, which included recommendations to promote climate-smart farming techniques through direct access to funding for marginalised communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme events,

motivate creative responses to the climate emergency, and

engineer sustainable futures through citizen science, which included recommendations to develop accessible education materials that promote the idea that everyone can participate in data collection and scientific knowledge creation.

The event was billed as not just a summit, but an experience. There were a number of sessions live streamed over the two weeks, including on youth engagement in conservation governance, a



The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, told IPS that the Summit achieved an important goal of bringing institutions and political conversations closer to young people. Clockwise from top left: Jayathma Wickramanayake, Swetha Stotra Bhashyam, Emmanuel Sindikubwabo, Diana Garlytska. Courtesy: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

live story slam event, yoga as well as a session on how to start up and scale up a sustainable lifestyle business. There were also various networking sessions.

Diana Garlytska of Lithuania represented Coalition WILD, as the co-chair of the youth-led organisation, which works to create lasting youth leadership for the planet.

She told IPS the Summit was a "very powerful and immersive experience".

"I am impressed at how knowledgeable the young people of different ages were. Many spoke about recycling projects and entrepreneurship activities from their own experiences. Others shared ideas on how to use different art forms for communicating climate emergencies. Somehow, the conversation I most vividly remember was on how to disclose environmental issues in theatrical performances. I'm taking that with me as food for thought," Garlytska said.

lytska said.

For Emmanuel Sindikubwabo of Rwanda's reforestation and youth environmental education organisation We Do GREEN, the Summit provided excellent networking opportunities.

"I truly believe that youth around the world are better connected because of the Summit. It's scary because so much is going wrong because of the pandemic, but exciting because there was this invitation to collaborate. There is a lot of youth action taking place already. We need to do better at showcasing and supporting it," he told IPS.

Sindikubwabo said he is ready to implement what he learned at the Summit.

"The IUCN Global Youth Summit has provided my team and I at We Do GREEN new insight and perspective from the global youth community that will be useful to redefine our programming in

Rwanda...as the world faces the triple-crises; climate, nature and poverty, we made a lot of new connections that will make a significant positive change in our communities and nation in the near future."

The Global Youth Summit took place less than six months before the IUCN World Conservation Congress, scheduled for Sep. 3 to 11. Its outcomes will be presented at the Congress.

Reflecting on the just-concluded event, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth is hoping to see more of these events.

"I would like to see that this becomes the norm. This was IUCN's first youth summit, which is great and I hope that it will not be the last, that it will just be a beginning of a longer conversation and more sustainable conversation with young people on IUCN... its work, its strategies, policies and negotiations," Wickramanayake said.

IPS

On World Malaria Day, we must step up efforts to curb the killer disease

GENEVA

DESPITE its 229 million cases and 409,000 deaths in 2019, malaria is an overlooked epidemic. The emergence of COVID-19 has thrown health systems into disarray and forced countries to shift their focus from malaria to the pandemic response, threatening to reverse 20 years of malaria gains.

Now, as we enter the second year of the pandemic, the global response to COVID-19 must not come at the expense of progress against malaria, a preventable and treatable disease. Not only is eliminating malaria possible, but it is also crucial to fighting current and future diseases.

It is vital that the international community remembers that eliminating malaria remains an achievable goal for all countries. Indeed, more countries than ever are either achieving or approaching elimination.

In 2017, as part of the "E-2020 initiative", the World Health Organization (WHO) identified 21 countries that could defeat malaria by 2020. Spread across five regions of the world, these countries share the ambitious goal of achieving zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2020.

And last year, Algeria, Belize, Cabo Verde, China, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Malaysia all reported zero indigenous malaria cases, achieving their goal, while others made impressive strides forward.

Ridding the world of malaria is a central component of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), linking closely to targets on poverty, inequality, and health and well-being. But as long as it persists, malaria will continue to have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable communities.

Innovation plays a vital role in the elimination of this disease. New tools, such as those being developed by Unitaid and partners, are needed in the face of emerging insecticide and drug resistance.

These can only be developed with sustained and significant investment in malaria research. Global investments to end malaria have an enormous return on investment. In 2018, they saved 600,000 lives and prevented close to 100 million malaria cases compared to 2000 levels.

In the Asia-Pacific region, weighing against the epidemiological and economic costs of inaction, Wellcome Trust researchers estimated that eliminating malaria by 2030 could save over 400,000 lives, prevent 123 million malaria cases, and lead to a 6:1 return on investment.

These investments also strengthen health systems that are vital to responding to threats such as COVID-19, and help address other vector-borne diseases.

Together with partners, global health agency Unitaid has been supporting the evaluation of the performance of new bed nets under real conditions in malaria-endemic countries to guide policy on their use.

This aims to open a market for these new nets and bring about competition among manufacturers, leading to lower prices and a sustainable tool for countries.



Distribution of mosquito nets in Kadiolo in Mali June 2020. Credit: PSI, A US-based NGO. The UN commemorates World Malaria Day tomorrow.

Unitaid also invests to accelerate access to next-generation insecticides to reestablish indoor spraying as a malaria-control measure, and to vary new spray formulas to prevent mosquito populations from growing resistant to them.

Unitaid's work has also resulted in the delivery of

seasonal malaria chemoprevention to over six million children across seven countries in the Sahel, fulfilling more than 25% of the region's need, while monitoring the safety, efficacy, cost, and public health impact of such programmes at scale.

This World Malaria Day, the global health community

must reaffirm its commitment to combat malaria by increasing global investments to prevent, control, and ultimately eliminate this disease. COVID-19 has exposed the weaknesses in health systems around the world. Now is the moment to step up efforts against this preventable disease.

IPS

BUSINESS



Heineken CEO and chairman Dolf van den Brink.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Heineken sets goal to be carbon neutral in production by 2030

NEW YORK

Brewing giant Heineken has stated a new ambition to decarbonise its production by 2030 and its full value chain by 2040. The announcement marks the first in a series of refreshed Brew a Better World ambitious, which forms part of the company's new EverGreen growth strategy.

In order to decarbonise its production sites, the company says it will maximise energy efficiency and renewable energy use by 2030. In close partnership with suppliers, also by 2030, Heineken aims to cut emissions by 30% across its entire value chain – including barley farmers, packaging manufacturers and logistic providers – from a 2018 baseline. Looking ahead to 2040, the company will be the first global brewer to aim for carbon neutrality in its full value chain.

Heineken CEO and chairman, Dolf van den Brink, comments, “We aim to be carbon neutral in our production sites by 2030 in order to meet the 1.5°C goal set by the Paris Agreement. We will further reduce our emissions through energy efficiency and speed up the transition towards renewable energy.”

“A large part of our overall carbon footprint beyond production comes from agriculture, packaging, distribution and cooling. This means we will work in close partnership with our suppliers and partners to reach our ambitious goal of a carbon neutral value chain by 2040.”

Building on momentum from the last decade of Brew a Better World efforts, since 2008, Heineken has reduced carbon emissions per hectolitre in its breweries by 51%. Since committing to the transition to renewable en-

ergy in 2018, the company has implemented over 130 renewable energy projects, including 5 of the world's 10 largest on-site solar-powered breweries. The company says it's taking a science-based approach by working closely with the SBTi to validate its new commitment.

Heineken has partnered to build a wind farm in Finland that will inject renewable electricity in the European grid supplying 13 of its operating companies. In Indonesia, the company utilises sustainable biomass made out of agricultural waste to heat its two breweries. In Nigeria, the brewer has recently inaugurated solar panels in its Ibadan brewery, and in Vietnam, the company sources rice husks from local farmers to heat its brewing boilers. Nespresso has been carbon neutral across its business operations since 2017, and now commits to achieving full carbon neutrality across its supply chain and product life cycle...

In addition, Heineken is supporting a pilot of 500 low-carbon farming projects in eight countries, as well as shifting to zero-emission breweries in Spain and Austria. In Mexico, the company is using smart fridges that leverage software to automatically adjust cooling settings to minimise energy use, while in the Netherlands it's pioneering cleaner inland shipping methods for its beer and cider. In the UK, Heineken has launched an innovative cardboard multi-pack called Green Grip, reducing carbon and saving 500 tonnes of plastic every year. To mark its commitments, the company is joining alliances to drive collective forward momentum. The brewer is becoming a member of the Business Ambition for 1.5C, the Race to Zero as well as RE100.

CENSURE

Black farmers protest against Sahpra's medicinal cannabis licensing process

JOHANNESBURG

Farmers and cultural organisations have protested against the issuing of licences for the production of cannabis, accusing the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) of favouring “affluent white people” and international companies.

But the authority has denied the allegations. The Black Farmers' Association of South Africa (BFASA) and its affiliates protested at Sahpra's Pretoria offices on Thursday. They charged that the process excluded indigenous people from receiving medicinal cannabis licences.

“This means that Sahpra has been given authority to decide how to issue cannabis licences to [the] public, but Sahpra colleagues always maintain that [the] Minister of Health is responsible for the act that directs Sahpra [on] how to issue these licences to white international companies. We feel that the skew[ed] allocation of these licences to white companies, it is a crime against the black economic empowerment policy and the Constitution of our country,” the BFASA said in a statement.

The organisation argued that while legislation did not prescribe who licences should be issued to,



Sahpra CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makotlela.

Sahpra allegedly favours “white international companies.” “Sahpra's process; fees for applications of licences show [a] radical fight against transformation. This is the highest form of segregating people from rural areas [of] which [the] majority [are] previously disadvantaged,” the state-

ment read.

BFASA is now calling for all “issued illegitimate licences” to be revoked. “Sahpra is a constitutional delinquent when it comes to [the] issuing of these licences; therefore, they need to shut down,” the organisation said. However, the regulatory author-

ity has denied the claims.

“The allegation that the Sahpra board chairperson, Prof Helen Rees, and the CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makotlela, are issuing medicinal cannabis licences to affluent white people on the directive of the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, is far from the truth.

The minister is not involved in any way with Sahpra operational processes such as the issuance of licences and neither has he issued such a restrictive directive. Sahpra denies this flawed allegation unequivocally,” the organisation said in a statement. There is a strict process and strict protocols involved in the issuing of licences, it added.

“The process to obtain a licence from Sahpra to cultivate cannabis for medicinal purposes is a rigorous one. There needs to be standardisation of the cannabis cultivars and assurance that crops can be grown under conditions of strict security.

The cultivation of cannabis for medicinal purposes requires strict control as South Africa is a signatory to international treaties that prohibit the production and supply of narcotic and psychotropic drugs, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,” the authority's statement read.

ALERT

Energy drink habit puts man in hospital with heart failure

LONDON

In a society where we're overworked and sleep-deprived, energy drinks may provide us with a much-needed burst of energy. However, many of these drinks are so high in sugar and caffeine that they could lead to a host of health problems.

A newly published case report in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) is a perfect example. According to the doctors at St Thomas' Hospital in London who authored the report, a 21-year-old man's heart failure may have been triggered by excessive consumption of energy drinks – four energy drinks per day for two years, to be precise.

The patient experienced progressively worsening shortness of breath for four months, as well as weight loss and general malaise (a feeling of weakness and discomfort), the doctors wrote. After several tests, he was diagnosed with heart failure, a potentially life-threatening condition.

The medical team considered several possible causes for his condition, including “broken heart syndrome”, but neither condition made sense when they considered the patient's history and test results. The most likely explanation for his heart failure, they concluded, was his high intake of energy drinks, although they couldn't prove this. Still, they warned, their finding adds to the growing concern about the



Popular global energy drinks' brands.

potential cardiotoxic effects of energy drinks.

What do energy drinks contain? The patient had a history of regular energy drink consumption, and consumed an average of four 500 ml cans per day for approximately two years. Each can contained 160 mg of caffeine, as well as taurine and various other ingredients.

Taurine is an essential amino acid of which our bodies can only produce a certain amount. If it is consumed in the recommended daily amounts of 500-2,000 mg, it will have no negative side effects, dietician Innocent Kazimbe told Life EHS. But, apart from taurine and caffeine, it's important to note that energy drinks also contain ingredients like guarana, a plant substance containing almost double the amount of caffeine found in coffee.

On their own, and in recommended doses, these ingredients are not necessarily harmful to our bodies, but when ingested in high doses combined with high amounts of sugar, they may have detrimental effects on our body, Kazimbe explained.

Some popular energy drinks contain up to 20 teaspoons of sugar per 500 ml, Professor Karen Hofman, Director of PRICELESS SA Research Unit at Wits University explained in an article. This is more than double the daily amount of between six and 12 teaspoons recommended for adults by the World Health Organization (WHO). Tom Holland had to drink supercharged energy shots to mimic being high on drugs while filming 'Cherry.'

Patient stopped studies The patient also recalled

occasional symptoms of indigestion, tremors and a racing heartbeat but didn't seek medical attention at the time. Because he felt so unwell and lethargic, he was unable to continue his university studies.

After 58 days in the hospital, he was cleared to go home. He was prescribed several heart medications and the doctors noted that he stopped drinking energy drinks completely, improving his heart function to the extent that a heart transplant was no longer necessary.

“This case further highlights the potential cardiovascular dangers of energy drinks in susceptible individuals,” they wrote, and concluded by suggesting that clear warnings should be provided about the potential cardiovascular dangers of energy drink consumption.

DIGITIZATION

London Book Fair forced online despite UK bookshops reopening

LONDON

One of the world's most important literary events will be fully online for a second year running. The London Book Fair (LBF) said on Thursday that the three-day programme, starting on June 29, would not be an in-person event, despite recent efforts to reopen the British economy.

Last Monday, the UK allowed bookshops to reopen for the first time this year as the country gradually makes its way out of lockdown. LBF, which cancelled its 2020 live programme, said that while it could not offer a physical event this year, the Online Book Fair would take its place.

“Given the complex challenges and

constraints of the global pandemic, we wanted to give as much notice as possible to exhibitors and attendees, while making the best possible decision for the publishing industry,” LBF director Andy Ventris said.

“With the continued uncertainty around international travel and vaccination rollouts, it has become apparent that an in-person

fair for 2021 would not be able to offer the full value to participants that we want to deliver.” LBF is a large book-publishing trade fair held annually, usually in April, and is a global marketplace for rights negotiations. The Online Book Fair will look to attract a global audience.

“We are deeply committed to delivering

a digital event in June that offers real value and flexibility, and to broaden the reach of the fair to the widest possible international audience,” Mr Ventris said. “The Online Book Fair will provide the industry with a dynamic digital programme packed with content and opportunities to make new connections.” LBF hopes to hold a live event in April 2022.

RELIEF

Egyptians pack streets and restaurants for Ramadhan, Covid-19 continues to take lives

CAIRO

With Ramadan festivities in full swing, many Egyptians seem unperturbed by the deadly virus quietly stalking Egypt, killing hundreds every week. In 2020, the holy month fell at a time when the country of 100 million people was firmly locked down to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Then, the foreboding feeling of a mysterious but deadly disease stalking the country seemed to hang over everyone's head. But the tone is different this year. Despite the threat remaining high, Egyptians are taking risks with Covid-19 on an unprecedented scale.

With only a handful of restrictions in place, millions are savouring the return of the month's traditions; from packed restaurants and cafes to large family gatherings and live music shows held in special tents. But for some, the holy month will change forever, as tragedy strikes.

Families destroyed

Hassan had a sinking feeling that his Covid-19-infected father was soon to depart this world. The father, 62, passed away this month, leaving behind a wife, two daughters and Hassan, 33. "For the final two weeks of his life, I felt that I was ready for his death. His death was frequently on my mind and I could even see it sometimes in visions," said Hassan, who only wanted to be identified by his first name to protect his privacy.

"For those two weeks I was



Children are seen as Hajja Dalal, a 46-year-old Mesaharati, beats a drum to wake up Muslims to have the pre-dawn meal.

unconsciously repeating to myself a prayer that speaks of the resignation to God's plans: 'What God wills will be, and what He doesn't, will not.'" Hassan's pain is more acute now that Ramadan has arrived. During the holy month of fasting, praying and family gatherings, Muslims feel the loss of loved ones more deeply, and more painfully than at any other time of the year.

Hassan's family are among many who must live through the special month with all its cherished rituals and beloved customs without a parent. With the festivities in full swing, many, if not most, seem oblivious to a "third wave" of the pandemic that's silently taking hundreds of lives and infecting thousands every week.

"People, the coronavirus is on the rise ... I beg you, take care of yourselves and your children," popular TV show host Amr Adeeb screamed in despair on the Saturday night edition of his programme "Al Hekayah," or "The

Story," aired on the Saudi-owned MBC network.

He also complained about the return of packed, all-night Ramadan celebrations in tents where food and beverages are served while live music played. "How come they are allowed to make a comeback?" he lamented.

Economic priorities

The government has decided not to order a lockdown like it did last year, when the economy was battered despite a generous economic stimulus package. Those measures led to a quick return to business as usual, albeit with a sharp rise in prices. A second lockdown could have caused an economic meltdown, wiping out the hard won gains the economy made after ambitious reforms.

Authorities subsequently opted for minimal restrictions while emphasising the need to maintain preventive measures such as social distancing and wearing face masks. The decision has kept the economy humming and protected

the livelihoods of millions depending on a daily wage.

"The atmosphere is quiet this Ramadan with none of the panic that was widespread last year because of the pandemic. That's a good thing," said Jihad Auda, a political science professor at Cairo's Helwan University.

But he complained that authorities appear unable to bring down the number of infections. Counselling Egyptians to observe preventive measures was no longer enough, he said. "We need to 're-structure' public space like we did last year when authorities physically prevented people from going to crowded markets. That helped reduce the rate of infections," he said.

The relative leniency of this year's anti-coronavirus measures has meanwhile helped create a false sense of immunity that has in turn encouraged large gatherings of people. Making matters worse, the vaccination roll-out has gone off to a very slow start, with

less than one per cent of the population vaccinated four months after the programme began.

The government's handling of the pandemic has invited some criticism amid repeated pledges by the Health Ministry that millions of vaccine doses will soon be available and that it would soon be locally manufactured, satisfying domestic demand and exporting the surplus.

But until then, the elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases are falling prey to the virus. On Tuesday Egypt reported 855 new cases of Covid-19 and 42 deaths, bringing the death toll to over 250 in seven days and over 12,000 since the pandemic began. The figures provided by the Health Ministry, are thought by experts to reflect the curve of the pandemic but not the actual rate of infections and fatalities, which could be as much as ten fold more.

Grief at Ramadan

Salma, her sister and parents contracted Covid-19 in early February and were fortunate enough to recover a couple of weeks later. But her father, in his 60s and with a heart condition, suddenly fell ill later in the month and died barely two hours after he arrived at hospital. Salma, who is in her 30s and wanted only to be identified by her first name, suspects that her father died of Covid-19 complications, but isn't sure.

GENIUS

Rwandan writer scoops global award

KIGALI

21-year-old Obed Imbahafi made Rwanda proud worldwide when he recently emerged the winner of the written category for global youth storytelling on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

His impressive story details a Grandpa's diary entry about intestinal worms-a disease that lessens the body's aptitude to absorb nutrients and vitamins. According to Imbahafi, more than one billion children are at risk of contracting intestinal worms of which 82 per cent live in South-East Asia and Africa.

The global youth storytelling competition on NTDs started from December 2020 to April 8, 2021 and was launched to combat NTDs and youth combating NTDs in partnership with the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi, African Union, Channels TV, Commonwealth Youth Health Network, International Youth Federation, MPJ Youth, TIBA, National Institute of Health Research, ASMTH, and ImillionX2021.

The competition received over 400 entries from 39 countries. Over 50 percent of the entries were received from young people across Africa where there is a high dominance of NTDs. All the youth around the world were allowed to participate and 40 reached the finals including two Rwandans. Winners were announced in five categories, such as digital, music, video, audio and text. The judges were from Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Costa Rica.

"I won the first place in the text category with my piece titled, 'The power of children in fighting NTDs in Africa.' In my article, the speaker conveys the message of NTDs to young people whom he has occasionally been meeting in an evening short story series," Imbahafi noted. He carried on that in his piece, the narrator shares with young people his father's experience that he refers to as 'grandpa'. He tells them about where and how he encountered NTDs during his time as a teacher in DRC and his mitigation measures. The narrator also goes ahead to explain in-depth about NTDs and leads his audience to discuss ways they can help fight it.

His story ends with an assignment to the children to further engage them on the topic of NTDs. He won the top prize of \$2500 and his plan is to develop a social media website and mobile application focused on tracing the history of Africa so as to bring back African youth to their roots.

Imbahafi's humble plea to the government of Rwanda is to have a cohesive control approach targeting multiple NTDs simultaneously through mass drug administration (MDA), combined with community-level transmission control measures. "This allows programs to reach more people and increase cost competences over tackling each disease separately," he said.

NTDs affect over 1.7 billion people. Over a billion of those people are below the age of 15. A child may contract an NTD at an early age, but the effects of that disease, including disabilities, stunting, disfigurement and stigma, could last a lifetime. However, experts say that NTDs are preventable and treatable. To his fellow youth, Imbahafi said, there is no set time favorable to start something they are proud of.



Rwandan writer, Obed Imbahafi.

PROMOTION

YouTube reading challenge to promote African authors



Kenyan actor cum journalist, John Sibi-Okumu.

AIROBI

Google-owned YouTube has launched an online reading marathon dubbed the Africa Reading Challenge as a way of backing African writers.

The online video platform will bring on about 54 readers drawn from Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa where each county will have 18 representatives to read during the challenge, which is also aimed at promoting the reading culture in Africa.

Seven renowned Kenyan artists are part of 18 readers that will be part of the month-long virtual challenge. They are Muthoni Garland (writer) and storyteller James Murua, creative writers Anne Moraa and Aleya Kassam, actor and journalist John Sibi-Okumu, poet and actress Laura Ekumbo as well as actor-cum-writer Mugambi Nthiga.

In a Twitter poll in July

last year, netizens were asked by Google Africa to suggest the book they would wish to be read out loud on YouTube. The winning book was from a Nigerian poet, Lola Shoneyin, the Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives, which was published in 2010.

The book is an entertaining, perceptive and enlightening portrayal of polygamy in modern-day Nigeria that reveals the struggles, rivalries, intricate family politics and the interplay of personalities as well as relationships within the complex private world of a polygamous union. A bibliophile, Laureen Mayoye, who is excited about the project and has read the book says she is happy that a book that helps in breaking traditional stereotypes on barrenness will be read out loud.

"Childlessness has always been blamed on women, I am happy that the Twitter poll selected a book that is

one of my best African literature," says Ms Mayoye. The law student at the University of Nairobi says the book is also timely since President Uhuru Kenyatta on March 30, signed the Employment Act to allow parents of adopted children to have a one month leave after notifying their employers.

"One may argue that the book was called, Baba Segi's because a child doesn't have to be biologically yours so as to be considered your own. An adopted child is also a child and it ties up with the new reforms in the republic," she explains.

People like Ms Mayoye have been asked to join the challenge by sharing a 10-second video on their social media showing them reading the nominated book using the hashtag #AfricanReadingChallenge. They can also invite friends to join the challenge to foster the reading culture in Africa.

DEPRECIATION

SA bleeding dollar millionaires as wealth declines by 25pc

JOHANNESBURG

New data shows South Africa's ability to retain wealth declined by 25% over the last decade, while an estimated 4 200 High Net Worth Individuals have left the country.

This is according to the 4th edition of the Africa Wealth Report compiled by wealth intelligence firm New World Wealth and sponsored

by Mauritius based banking group AfrAsia Bank. The report takes a comprehensive review of the wealth sector in Africa, including HNWI trends, luxury trends and wealth management trends on the continent.

And while South Africa is home to over twice as many dollar millionaires as any other African country, Egypt has the most

billionaires on the continent. New World Wealth defines millionaires as those with a net worth of \$1 million or more. The "Big 5" wealth markets in Africa are: South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco and Kenya - together these five countries account for over 50% of Africa's total wealth. The number of millionaires living in South Africa continues to decline, with 365 00

dollar millionaires living in the country - down by 1 900 from the number recorded in 2020.

Included in South Africa's millionaire figures are 1 930 multi-millionaires living in South Africa, each with net assets of \$10 million or more. In addition, there are five billionaires living in South Africa, each with net assets of \$1 billion or more. The report shows SA's poor

performance, with total private wealth held in the country declining by 25% over the past decade, when measured in US\$ terms has been negatively impacted by: Significant loss of currency value vs. US\$ from around 6.80 Rand per US\$ in 2010 to 14.70 Rand per US\$ in 2020 (year-end rates); A large number of local businesses closed down during the period, especially in the SME space;

and Poor returns from the JSE all share index (down by 12% over the past decade when measured in US\$ terms).

The wealth and HNWI figures in the report are for December 2020 and take into account the impact of the recent coronavirus outbreak, as private wealth and HNWI levels in Africa have dropped by around 9% over the past year (2020).

WORLD

Biden's climate summit zeroes in on technology to help fight global warming

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's climate summit will turn to the issue of technology on Friday, featuring remarks from entrepreneurs Bill Gates and Michael Bloomberg, after Thursday's Earth Day kickoff sought to rally world ambition to reduce global warming.

Biden called the two-day meeting with dozens of heads-of-state to declare the United States back at the climate leadership table after his predecessor, former President Donald Trump, withdrew from the Paris agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The Democratic president, who returned the United States to the pact, announced a new U.S. target on Thursday to reduce its emissions 50%-52% by 2030 compared with

2005 levels. Japan and Canada also raised their targets.

The White House has sought to assure other countries that it can meet that target, even if a new administration takes over, because industry is moving toward cleaner power, electric vehicles, and more renewable energy anyway.

"The world, as a whole, is moving in this direction," Biden's climate envoy John Kerry told reporters.

"These companies have made this critical, long-term, strategic marketing judgment, and that is the way the market is moving. No politician, no matter how demagogic or how potent and capable they are, is going to be able to change what that market is doing," he said.



US President Joe Biden participates in a virtual Climate Summit with world leaders in the East Room at the White House in Washington, U.S., on Thursday. REUTERS

Yesterday the administration rolls out top cabinet officials and business leaders to make the case for technology's role in a "net-zero, climate-resilient economy."

Biden has sought to connect efforts to fight climate change with opportunities to create jobs, arguing that taking action will be good for the economy, countering Republican concerns that overzealous climate regulation could damage the economy.

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and Commerce Secretary Gina

Raimondo are all scheduled to take part in Friday's conference.

Foreign leaders including Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc are also slated to join.

Gates and Bloomberg, both wealthy businessmen-turned-philanthropists, have focused their energies on climate change in recent years. Gates has invested about \$2 billion toward the development of clean technologies, mostly in electricity generation and storage. **Agencies**

International community praises CPC's people-oriented philosophy as secret to success in decades of governance

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China (CPC)'s secret to success in governance over the past decades lies in its people-oriented development philosophy and its walking the talk in a relentless pursuit of happiness for the Chinese people, foreign party leaders and officials said ahead of the 100th anniversary of the CPC's establishment.

Such a philosophy has been specially reflected in remarks from Chinese President Xi Jinping that "for the good of my people, I will put aside my own well-being," they said.

During a visit to Italy in March 2019, asked about how he felt about being Chinese president, Xi told President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Roberto Fico that governing such a huge country requires a strong sense of responsibility and hard work.

"For the good of my people, I will put aside my own well-being. I am willing to be selfless and devote myself to China's development," Xi said.

Saifullah Khan Nyazee, chief organizer of Pakistan's ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, has found such remarks particularly impressive.

"I think what he means is that he will work for the well-being of his people selflessly, where he himself doesn't matter," Nyazee told Xinhua.

"Dedicating his life to the people to bring up their well-being, that can only be done by a selfless man. He's a selfless man who has worked for his nation. We need such leaders all across the world," Nyazee said.

Communist Party of Britain General Secretary Robert Griffiths also felt the CPC's strong sense of responsibility and commitment to the Chinese people.

The CPC is "a party of the people that has been very flexible in its tactics and strategies, but also firm in its principles. It is a communist party that aims to build socialism," he said.

In the eyes of former Nigerian Foreign Minister Aminu Bashir Wali, who became interested in China as early as in the 1960s, the CPC has built an effective governing system that allows the party to know what the majority of the Chinese people want.



Saifullah Khan Nyazee, chief organizer of Pakistan's ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, receives an interview with Xinhua News Agency in Islamabad on March 19, 2021. (Xinhua)

"The CPC represents the sum total of the aspirations of the Chinese people," Wali said.

To many foreign party leaders and officials, the CPC's people-oriented development philosophy bears great significance not only for China, but also for the rest of the world.

Good governance carried out by the CPC has played a critical role in the country's rapid development and contributed to building a multipolarized world, said Maria Teresa Mola, vice-president of the Party of the European Left and a member of the Communist Party of Spain

(PCE). In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, China has provided assistance to countries in need, she told Xinhua, adding Xi's remarks in 2019 were not only spoken to the Chinese people, but also to people around the world. Politicians across the world also noted that the CPC has put the country's development at the center of its work, and has been playing a crucial role in the country's growth, citing China's success in ending absolute poverty as one of the many examples.

Hailing China's elimination of absolute poverty as a remarkable feat, Juha-Pekka Vaisanen, chairperson of the

Communist Party of Finland, praised the CPC's fundamental purpose of "serving the people wholeheartedly."

"Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese government has successfully integrated public opinion with policy-making, and promoted people's livelihood through economic development," former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told Xinhua.

"I think China could become a model for many countries," added Lula, also founder of Brazil's Workers' Party.

To Olzhas Syzdykov, secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Kazakhstan, the CPC has offered a new governance approach to building a more just society, allowing the country to use the accumulated capital to satisfy more social needs, so as to not only bake a bigger cake but divide it in a much fairer way.

"The Chinese people are united under the leadership of the CPC. They have been able to accomplish what those developed countries cannot do," said Syzdykov. **Xinhua**

Kenya reports progress in saving the northern white rhino with four new embryos produced

NAIROBI

KENYA announced Thursday that four new northern white rhino embryos had been produced as efforts to rescue the iconic giant land mammal from extinction gathered momentum.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and a consortium of international scientists said the embryos were produced in March from 19 immature eggs (oocytes) that were harvested

from one of the only two surviving female northern white rhino called Fatu.

"We are excited with the laboratory outcome of the last ovum pick-up in March," said Najib Balala, Kenya's cabinet secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, in a joint statement issued in Nairobi. "With nine pure northern white rhino embryos now developed, the partners in the project should embark on the next phase of the project-embryo transfer to the

surrogate southern white females at Ol-Pejeta conservancy." Kenya has partnered with an international consortium of scientists, conservationists to help produce the next generation of northern white rhino through assisted reproduction technologies.

The harvesting of immature eggs from the two surviving female northern white rhinos and artificially inseminating them using sperm frozen from deceased male counterparts

has been ongoing since 2019 at Ol Pejeta Conservancy based in northwestern Kenyan county of Laikipia.

KWS said that 14 out of the 19 immature eggs that were harvested from Fatu on March 28 produced four viable embryos after they were fertilized with thawed sperm from a deceased northern white rhino bull called Suni.

The four embryos are now stored in liquid nitrogen alongside the five ones that were cre-

ated during earlier procedures as they await transfer to surrogate mothers to help produce new northern white rhino offspring.

Another milestone achieved in the rescue of northern white rhino was sterilization of a southern white rhino bull called Owuan in December 2020 to pave way for its role in helping determine the reproductive cycle of potential surrogate mothers without impregnating them. **Xinhua**

WHO says measles outbreak looming in Africa amid stalled vaccination

NAIROBI

SEVERAL African countries could experience an outbreak of measles amid stalled vaccination against the viral disease linked to COVID-19 disruptions, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Thursday ahead of the African Immunization week slated for April 24 to 30.



Matshidiso Moeti (pictured), WHO regional director for Africa said that countries that have delayed measles immunization in the continent could experience a resurgence of the disease that affects young children.

"Recent outbreaks of measles, but also yellow fever, cholera, and meningitis all point to worrying gaps in immunization coverage and surveillance in Africa," Moeti said in a statement.

Statistics from WHO indicate that 15 African countries postponed immunization drives against measles in 2020 to help deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moeti said that an estimated 16.6 million African children missed supplemental measles vaccine doses from January 2020 to April 2021 while eight countries in the continent reported a major outbreak of the disease during the same period.

She said delayed vaccination campaigns fuelled the outbreaks adding that the quality of measles surveillance in Africa fell to its lowest level in 2020, with only eleven countries meeting their target.

Moeti said that it requires at least 95 percent immunization coverage in a given population to avert a measles outbreak while administering the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine has stagnated around 69 percent in Africa since 2013 and only seven countries achieved the 95 percent coverage in 2019.

She said the low measles immunization coverage in Africa reflects in other vaccine-preventable diseases like tetanus, yellow fever, and diphtheria amid pandemic linked disruptions.

"As we fight COVID-19, we cannot leave anyone dangerously exposed to preventable diseases. I urge countries to double down on essential health services, including life-saving vaccination campaigns," said Moeti.

She said that WHO had partnered with African countries to ensure that routine immunization against childhood ailments was sustained during the pandemic through enhanced surveillance, training of healthcare workers, and community engagement. **Xinhua**

Moscow to respond to unfair treatment of Russian media outlets mirror-like – diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW will take mirror-like measures if Russian reporters overseas are targeted unfairly, spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova said yesterday in an interview with RT.

"We defended our journalists in Germany, standing up for their rights in a normal dialogue with the German Foreign Ministry and our partners.

We explained that double standards, unfair decisions and so on are applied to our journalists.

And we were heard back then," she said. "But if we see that the decisions against our reporters are unfair and politically motivated, while the German partners are not meeting us halfway and are not taking any steps to normalize the issue, we will then act in a mirror-like fashion."

Somalia welcomes AU initiative for free, fair elections

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA on Thursday welcomed an African Union (AU) initiative to facilitate constructive dialogue between warring political leaders that will culminate in holding free, fair and transparent polls in the country in accordance with the constitution.

Osman Dubbe, Somali information minister lauded efforts of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) which met on Thursday to discuss how best the pan African body can support Somalis to break the political stalemate to pave way for elections.

Dubbe however accused Kenya and Djibouti of engaging in a campaign to derail the political process in Somalia by trying to influence the outcome of the Thursday meeting.

The Federal Government of Somalia is aware of the outright interference of the countries of Kenya and Djibouti in the ongoing African Union-led efforts to facilitate Africa-led solutions and dialogue to enable the citizens of the Federal Republic of Somalia to determine their future, Dubbe said in a televised news conference in Mogadishu.

"To us, these actions are blatant infringements of our sovereignty. We therefore hopes that the AUPSC considers the existing political tensions between Somalia and the Republic of Kenya during its deliberations to ensure an unbiased outcome," said Dubbe.

Over 100 injured as police arrest dozens in Jerusalem clashes

JERUSALEM

AFTER a night of violence in Jerusalem, Israeli police made over 50 arrests and Palestinian medics said 100 were injured during Ramadan clashes in the contested city at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

From late Thursday night into early Friday, police in riot gear and on horseback fought to keep apart two groups of protesters - Palestinian youth hurling firecrackers and setting fire to dumpsters, and ultra-nationalist Israelis chanting anti-Arab slogans.

Police deployed armored vehicles spraying foul-smelling skunk water towards the two groups of protesters - Palestinians gathered around Jerusalem's historic Damascus Gate and hundreds of right-wing Israelis several hundred meters away.

Clashes and other violent incidents between Palestinians and Israelis have occurred nightly since the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Palestinians say police have tried to prevent them from holding their usual Ramadan evening gatherings outside Damascus Gate, an historic landmark on the north side of the Old City and adjacent to several Palestinian neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, a video on social media app TikTok purporting to show a Palestinian slapping an ultra-Orthodox Jewish man on Jerusalem's light rail train has drawn protests by Israelis and calls by far-right politi-

cians for tougher police action.

The incidents have threatened to break a sustained period of relative quiet in the holy city.

On Thursday night, hundreds of ultra-nationalist Israelis - many of them young and religious - marched through central Jerusalem towards the Damascus Gate, which police had barricaded as a precaution.

As they marched, many chanted "Death to Arabs" and some waved banners reading:

"Death to terrorists".

One man participating in the march, David, 40, said he lived far from Jerusalem but "came here to support my own people".

"I'm Jewish and I'm a patriot and I'm proud of my country," he said.

Police on horseback fired skunk water at the Israelis, pushing them away from their position at the Old City's New Gate - just 600 meter away from Palestinians gathered at Damascus Gate - and towards

Jerusalem's central Jaffa Road.

Palestinian clashes

As Palestinians heard reports of the Israeli crowd approaching, they gathered in their thousands near Damascus Gate with ambulances racing up and down the crowded backstreets with their sirens blaring.

Hundreds of Israeli police in riot gear sealed off the area to prevent the Israeli and Palestinian crowds from potentially meeting, creating a 50-metre

no man's land between themselves and the group of Palestinian youths.

The Palestinians dragged garbage bins, some of them ablaze, into the roads on their side to disrupt police and block them from their side. Some discharged small fireworks towards police.

Armed police units went up and down Sultan Suleiman Street along the Old City walls spraying skunk water, dispersing the crowds and arresting protesters. **Agencies**

Xi calls for 'unprecedented ambition, action' to build community of life

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday called on the international community to work together to foster a community of life for man and nature with "unprecedented ambition and action."

"Faced with unprecedented challenges in global environmental governance, the international community needs to come up with unprecedented ambition and action," he said while addressing the Leaders Summit on Climate via video link from Beijing.

COMMUNITY OF LIFE

To build a community of life for man and nature, Xi made a six-pronged proposal, including staying committed to harmony between man and nature, green development, systemic governance, a people-centered approach, multilateralism, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

"We should protect nature and preserve the environment like we protect our eyes," the Chinese president said, adding that failure to respect nature or follow its laws will only invite its revenge.

Reiterating the idea that "green mountains are gold mountains," Xi said that protecting the environment is protecting productivity, and improving the environment is boosting productivity. "The truth is as simple as that."

He also stressed that protecting the ecosystem requires more than a simplistic, palliative approach, calling for following the innate laws of the ecosystem and properly balancing all elements and aspects of nature.

"We need to look for ways to protect the environment, grow the economy, create jobs and remove poverty all at the same time," he said, adding that the goal is to deliver social equity and justice in the course of green transition.

JOIN HANDS, NOT POINT FINGERS

In the journey toward global carbon neutrality, Xi called for strengthening partnerships and cooperation, learning from each other, and making common progress.

"We must join hands, not point fingers at each other; we must maintain continuity, not reverse course easily; and we must honor commitments, not go back on promises," he said.

China and the United States issued a joint statement a few days ago, vowing to cooperate with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis.

China welcomes the United States' return to the multilateral climate governance process, and looks forward to working with the international community, including the United States, to jointly advance global environmental governance, Xi said.

Calling the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities "the cornerstone of global climate governance," he said that developed countries need to increase climate ambition and action and make concrete efforts to help developing countries strengthen their capacity and resilience against climate change.

Xi urged developed countries to support developing countries in financing, technology and capacity building, and refrain from creating green trade barriers.

"The historical responsibility, development stage, and coping capacity of developed and developing countries are different, and that's why the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should always be followed," said Xu Huaqing, director of the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation.

CHINA IN ACTION

Reiterating China's goal of striving to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, Xi said that the period of



Aerial photo taken on Feb. 24, 2020 shows the Haizhu wetland and the Canton Tower in the distance in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. (Xinhua)

China's commitment to move from carbon peak to carbon neutrality is much shorter than what might take many developed countries.

"That requires extraordinarily hard efforts from China," Xi said.

The targets of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality have been added to China's overall plan for ecological conservation. An action plan toward carbon peaking is being formulated, and China's

national carbon market will also start trading.

"China will strictly control coal-fired power generation projects, and strictly limit the increase in coal consumption over the 14th Five-Year Plan period and phase it down in the 15th Five-Year Plan period," Xi said.

As a participant, contributor and trailblazer in global ecological conservation, China has also been doing its best to help developing countries build capacity against climate change.

A number of green action initiatives have been launched, covering wide-ranging efforts in green infrastructure, green energy, green transport and green finance to bring enduring benefits to the people of all Belt and Road partner countries.

"I am confident that as long as we unite in our purposes and efforts and work together with solidarity and mutual assistance, we will rise above the global climate and environment challenges and leave a clean and beautiful world to future generations," Xi said. **Xinhua**

Victory Day fireworks to light up Moscow's skies with colors of Russian national flag

MOSCOW

A unique and massive fireworks display that will light up the skies of the Russian capital during the upcoming WWII Victory Day celebrations on May 9 will produce a unique color pattern of the Russian national flag, Russia's Defense Ministry announced yesterday.

"In honor of the 76th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the personnel of an artillery battalion will send festive fireworks with a unique and unrepeatable height and color pattern bursting into the sky," the ministry quoted Separate Guards Fireworks Battalion Commander Colonel Vyacheslav Paradnikov as saying.

The event will culminate in the fireworks soaring and exploding at various heights to light up Moscow's night sky with the colors of the Russian national flag (white, blue and red), he said.

Seventy-two guns installed on several sites will send over 12,000 fireworks of more than 70 types exploding into Moscow's skies along with special Tricolor compositions, the Defense Ministry said.

Meanwhile, a battery of WWII ZIS-3 cannons installed on Moscow's Poklonnaya Hill Victory Park will put on a gun salute firing 30 blank artillery salvoes, it added.

The fireworks display on May 9 will begin at 22:00 Moscow time and last ten minutes. **Agencies**

Sharing economy thrives in China

THE market turnover of China's sharing economy stood at around 3.38 trillion yuan (\$520 billion) in 2020, up 2.9 percent year on year, a recent report from the country's State Information Center (SIC) showed.

Disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the market size of sharing economy forms involving offline activities, including shared transport, shared accommodation, and shared office, declined.

Sharing economy in the areas of knowledge and skill, health care as well as production capacity, meanwhile, saw substantial market expansion, with year-on-year growth rates reaching 30.9 percent, 27.8 percent, and 17.8 percent respectively, said the report on the development of China's sharing economy.

Internet-based sharing of health care, which features efficiency and convenience, has benefited a great number of people amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A citizen surnamed Wang in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning province, who had trouble sleeping after the COVID-19 outbreak, experienced in person the advantages of online health care while consulting doctors via a mini-program on WeChat. After typing in a description



A farmer promotes a homemade mutton dish via live-streaming in a shared studio in Nanxun district, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, Nov. 11, 2020. File Photo

of her condition and making online payment, she received messages or calls from the doctors, and purchased medicine on prescription online, according to the citizen. After some time, her condition got a lot better.

The rapid expansion of new business forms and models of shared services and consumption has played a key role in effectively satisfying the daily needs of residents, restoring the domestic service industry and consumer market, and ensuring the steady recovery of the economy.

Besides shared services and consumption, shared manufacturing based on industrial Internet has also entered a new stage

of development.

Last year, the XCMG IT Hanyun Industrial Internet Platform made emergency deployment of online equipment for the construction of the Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Foxconn Technology Group, a Taiwanese multinational electronics contract manufacturer, switched to medical supply production during the pandemic by taking advantage of industrial Internet platforms.

By employing computing capabilities, pooling high-quality resources, and adopting related models, China's tech giants Aliyun and Huawei contributed to

the screening and development of anti-viral drugs.

The COVID-19 has forced traditional manufacturing companies to actively explore and try new models of shared manufacturing with Internet platform companies to facilitate the resumption of work and production while combating the epidemic.

Last year, about 830 million people engaged in the sharing economy of China, of which around 84 million were service providers, an increase of about 7.7 percent year on year, according to the report.

It also noted that 6.31 million of the participants were employed by platforms in fields of the sharing economy, up 1.3 percent compared with the previous year.

While providing a large number of jobs and sprouting plenty of new occupations, sharing economy has significantly widened employment channels for job hunters and increased the income of workers.

New occupations such as ride-hailing service provider, food deliveryman, live-streaming salesperson, online consultant, and e-sports player are increasingly popular with young people in China.

People's Daily

US keeps quiet about its plans for nuclear arms deployment, diplomat says

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON intentionally keeps quiet about its plans for the deployment of new nuclear weapon systems, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a commentary on Wednesday following the release of the US Department of State's report entitled 2021 Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments.

"The report says nothing about the tectonic shifts in the field of European security resulting from the expansion of NATO's military-strategic infrastructures towards Russian borders and the United States' own plans for deploying new nuclear weapons," she said.

Groundless claims

Zakharova said that US arms control-related charges against Russia were devoid of any foundation and merely served as a cover for Washington's own destructive actions. The Russian Foreign Ministry slammed as cynical the Department of



State's approach to the problem of non-strategic nuclear weapons.

"Serious analysis of the situation in this sphere is unseemly replaced by attempts to accuse Russia, although it consistently keeps all non-strategic nuclear weapons undeveloped in its national territory, of departing from the 1991-1992 presidential initiatives, which are entirely voluntary," the commentary runs.

Open Skies Treaty and New START

The Russian Foreign Ministry drew attention to what it described as "stereotyped" accusations Russia is in breach of the Open Skies Treaty, which are meant to "exclusively camouflage one's own destructive ac-

tions" regarding this agreement.

"We provided exhaustive answers in response to all claims and after the US pullout from the Open Skies Treaty we find it redundant to make any further comments," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Also, the Russian side expressed surprise over those paragraphs of the report which mention Washington's strict compliance with the Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) and Russia's alleged failure to observe the nuclear tests moratorium.

The Russian Foreign Ministry pointed to the lack of any convincing proof in the report.

"These outspokenly false accusations in combination with the total blackout regarding problems with Washington's own compliance with arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties unmistakably indicate that this report belongs with the information noise class," Zakharova said.

Agencies

Shanghai fuels buses with biodiesel made from 'gutter oil'

EAST China's Shanghai municipality processes "gutter oil," or cooking oil recycled from kitchen waste, into biodiesel through technical means and makes it a power source for buses.

In May 2019, Shanghai Jiushi (Group) Co., Ltd., a public transport operator in Shanghai, teamed up with Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical Co., Ltd. and started using B5 biodiesel, a blend consisting of 5 percent of biodiesel processed from "gutter oil" and 95 percent No. 0 diesel, on over 2,000 buses.

As of the end of December 2020, buses of four companies affiliated to Shanghai Jiushi (Group) Co., Ltd. had been fueled for 820,000 times by a total of 50.85 million liters of B5 biodiesel.

In fact, Shanghai already overcame the technical difficulties of turning

"gutter oil" into biodiesel more than a decade ago. However, it was not easy to bring "gutter oil" from lab to the market and make it accepted by the public.

Before the biodiesel was officially introduced to buses, a number of tests had been carried out to dispel concerns, such as whether biodiesel would damage automobile engine, if it is enough to power a vehicle, and whether the exhaust emissions of vehicles using biodiesel could meet relevant standards.

On Sept. 29, 2013, a subsidiary of Shanghai Jiushi (Group) Co., Ltd. first piloted biodiesel on a bus. To ensure

the normal operation of the vehicle, the group assigned workers to test the quality of biodiesel, collect and analyze refueling data, and track and maintain the bus every day.

Tests conducted by Tongji University in Shanghai on the actual working conditions of buses using biodiesel revealed that after using biodiesel, these vehicles have seen obvious improvement in their exhaust emissions, and that no carbon deposit was found on the surfaces of key parts of these buses switching to biodiesel, including the top of the piston, air valves, as well as oil atomizers. In addition, these buses

didn't experience malfunction related to oil-way during the tests.

By the end of 2020, B5 biodiesel for automobiles had maintained a 100-percent pass in all quality spot checks conducted by national authorities and various quality supervision departments of Shanghai.

Facts have proven that the B5 automotive biodiesel can help reduce the emissions of heavy metals, fine particulate matters, as well as polluting gases by more than 10 percent, and cut the amount of oxynitride emissions by as much as 80 percent.

Statistics have shown that

in recent years, the amount of discarded kitchen oil produced in Shanghai has stood at more than 30,000 tons each year.

Since 2013, the city has rolled out many policies to standardize various links of the recycling of discarded kitchen oil, including the collection, transportation, and disposal of the oil, as well as the promotion and application of such oil in petrol stations.

The city has formed a complete system for the recycling of waste cooking oil, which realized closed-loop management of the whole industrial chain, price linkage, subsidy

guarantee for relevant activities, and smooth application of products.

Today, Shanghai is able to make sure that it basically recycles all the discarded kitchen oil in the city that can be possibly recycled and reused.

The city is now home to 18 recycling companies, which collect waste cooking oil from catering businesses of the city at fixed locations every day.

After weighing the "gutter oil", staff members of recycling companies upload data onto a backstage management system.

Following rough processing, the discarded kitchen oil

collected from restaurants is transported to a specialized company for preliminary treatment, esterification reaction, distillation, and refinement, and then eventually becomes biodiesel after extraction and purification.

Because of the relatively high cost of the collection and transportation of waste cooking oil,

Shanghai formulated an emergency guarantee mechanism to offer subsidies to relevant companies disposing such oil or selling biodiesel made from it, in a bid to ensure the normal operation of these companies and promote the large-scale utilization of the biodiesel.

According to Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical Co., Ltd., the retail price of B5 biodiesel per liter has been kept at 0.3 yuan (about \$0.05) cheaper than that of No. 0 diesel since it was launched.

People's Daily



Caravans Cricket Club's senior player, Jitin Singh (R), poses for picture with Gymkhana Cricket Club's youngster, Kheel Suchak, once the two sides locked horns in a Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A's match, which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

Gymkhana outfit's junior cricketer wins plaudits

By Guardian Reporter

CARAVANS cricketers established themselves as serious contenders for the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A's title, hammering Gymkhana Cricket Club by 32 runs in a Group B duel, which took place early this week.

Caravans Club went in to bat first, notching 147 runs for seven wickets in 20 overs.

Chasing 148 runs to post victory became a daunting task for Gymkhana Cricket Club, given they registered 115 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs.

The clash's most interesting incident was a sportsmanship gesture shown by Caravans Cricket Club's all-rounder, Jitin Pratap Singh, given he decided to share his man of the match prize with Gymkhana Cricket Club's up-and-coming player Kheel Suchak.

Singh had been presented with the prize following his impressive performance with both bat and ball, seeing to it Caravans Cricket Club comes out victorious.

The experienced player had first made his presence felt during his club's innings, ending with 44 runs, which consisted of seven fours and one six.

He later led his squad's bowling onslaught, ending his stint with two wickets in three overs.

Suchak had an equally impressive showing with the bat, much as his club went on to concede defeat, the youngster nailed 50 runs not out, which included five fours.

The junior cricketer, who was field-

ed as an opening batsman, gave his all during his team's chase, only to be let down by team mates who were below par.

Singh's gesture was meant to give Suchak the much needed motivation as the junior cricketer seek to scale great heights in the sport.

The showpiece's Group B now sees Caravans Club sit second, trailing group leaders, Aga Khan SC.

The two teams have recorded four points, having notched victory in two fixtures, Aga Khan SC however have better net run rate.

Caravans Cricket Club has taken part in three games, winning two and losing the other, whilst Aga Khan SC has featured in two games.

Gymkhana Club and Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) hold third and fourth spots respectively.

Pak Stars are the tournament's Group A leaders, they have posted victory in two games they have taken part in.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club, Strikers and Upanga SC are positioned second, third and fourth respectively.

The DC organizes the annual tournament under the auspices of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) with a view to boosting the game's promotion in the country.

Harab Motors Company, Shamsu Pharmacy, and Swepac Imports International are the tournament's sponsors.

The tournament is also backed by 3M Pharmacy and Funcity that will present free vouchers to players in divisions B and C events' knockout stages.

with Brigham Young University (BYU) whose hoops team participates in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I.

The player noted the stage he has reached is more difficult than he had come from.

Ally received an academic offer at the college after doing well in Canada when he was in high school at Thames Valley District

School Board.

The player, who as well featured for Canada's London Basketball Academy team, has asked Tanzanians to pray for him to cross the finish line and eventually play in the NBA League.

"The NCAA is tough, that's where the NBA League players are being prepared, we have to fight harder, Tanzanians pray for me and I will not let them Ally noted.

He stated he hopes to start a new life in the United States in June this year. Ally's coach, Bahati Mgunda, said that apart from free education, the player put one foot in front as he pursues participation in the famous NBA League.

"The college he signed with has a team playing NCAA Division I, this is the league in the United States that nurtures players who play in the NBA League, Ally can

anytime be selected to play in the NBA League if he works hard," Mgunda noted.

He said it is a big step for the Tanzanian, although Ally's focus is now on education and then working hard so that he can get a chance to play in the NBA League.

"Playing for the NCAA is not an easy task, it is a big step for the Atiki, to fight to be more visible and get a chance to play in the

NBA to fulfill his dreams and promote our country," he revealed.

If he succeeds, Ally will be the second Tanzanian to play in the league, center Hasheem Thabeet previously got the chance.

While in Tanzania, Ally has played for the national U-18 team, JMK Elite Training Academy, Yellow Jackets Club and Vijana Club 'City Bulls' youth side, before moving to Canada in 2018.

Yanga striker's marching out shows alarming paucity of professionalism

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHILE the coals are still hot as yet, it appears that the leadership at Yanga will have to avoid going into 'committee stage' with regard to how one of their strikers walked off the pitch after scoring a goal against Gwambina FC.

The match result was good at 3-1 for the temporarily leading side in Premier League standings but there are questionable aspects of how it was reached, and the sheer lack of discipline on the part of the player is an indication that all it not well. He knew there would be no penalty.

That obviously amounts to taking the club for granted but he knows his turf and whom he would even be boosting his ego in so doing, and probably it is not the coach he had in mind.

Not surprisingly it was more or less at the same time that the Jangwani Street outfit was announcing it had roped in a new coach, a fellow who definitely should know French but opted to speak in Arabic, as if no English speaking coaches can be found around.

It is a matter of estimating how quickly the new coach is likely to be able to fit into the new situation, as coaching or training players via a translator is at best a temporary situation.

The sordid story of how the player came into the pitch in the second half, scored and then decided to take off the jersey and walk off the pitch is not just one of rivalry between players but rifts at the heart of the club.

Not only is officialdom un-



Yanga's midfielder Said Ntibanzokiza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

able to help the coach - whether it is a foreign professional coach like Luc Eymael or a local interim coach like Juma Mwambusi to have sufficient authority on the team, as each player has own importance - and club loyalties.

These divisions reflect the lack of central leadership at the club and having failed to push the club into a professional outfit, not a cooperative society beehive.

It is either a matter of time before Yanga ceases to become archivals of Simba SC, and many will say that for all intents and purposes they are not rivals to Simba anymore but simply capable of playing a do or die match against Simba to draw or to win.

Beyond that the next street rivals are incapable of putting up

anything like rival superiority against other sides in the premier league, as it is evident that its game pattern has remained old fashioned long goal kicks and running.

When they try to pass around, they can scarcely concentrate as their reflexes are elsewhere, and seemingly as well they coincide with their fans.

Yet the low mark of professionalism is apparent continuation of tired habits of paying out selected players on the rival side to make errors so as to enable the side to score, an incident which would usually not come out into the open.

But the fact of sheer antipathies among players such that they have to be rotated as to who comes in the first half and who comes later, and then due to the incident the zooming

out player has to explain to his friends what happened and is overhead, has to sound alarm bells as to where the club is standing at the moment.

Unless the other side picks up on the story and raises suspicions or launches an investigation, the mud that the Burundian player has thrown around will not stick, as Yanga wish to forget.

Bribing players of the other side, or the referee, in order to obtain good results is among chaotic hallmarks of lack of professionalism.

The wish to pursue such misconduct cannot be rid from a club's mentality by exercising some controls for instance by application of TFF rules, those of the continental federation or FIFA.

It is club development and pursuit of professionalism which reaches a point of renouncing such methods as results obtained that way prove nothing as to how far the club has honed its teamwork, or can actually obtain results.

It is as if soccer was a betting game where one manipulates the machine and wins.

Given the solid work that Simba has done in the CAF Champions League this year, Tanzania is likely to get two spaces for the continental competition next season, while it is uncertain if there will be such a favour for the CAF Confederation Cup tournament.

Were it that Yanga are a cohesive side coached by either of the two or three professionals whom they have sacked in the past six months, it could be said that they are well positioned to defend not their supposed championship bid but at least the second slot.

That entitles them to the CAF Champions League but if the current bickering leads to losing matches in last matches, the results would be too clear.

Simba SC coach warns players ahead of Gwambina FC duel

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC's assistant coach Suleiman Matola has said his players must exercise caution when facing Gwambina FC in a Vodacom Premier League clash in Mwanza this afternoon.

The two teams had contrasting fortunes in their respective matches, which took place mid this week.

Simba SC, Vodacom Premier League defending champions, claimed maximum points after beating Kagera Sugar 2-0 in Kagera on Wednesday.

Gwambina FC lost 3-1 to the league leaders Yanga at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Prior to the previous games, Gwambina FC lost 3-0 to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam while Simba SC beat Mwadui FC 1-0 at Kambarege Stadium in Shinyanga.

However, both Simba SC and Gwambina FC might be aware that this afternoon's clash will be a different match.

If Simba SC wins this afternoon's encounter, the side will



Simba SC's assistant coach Suleiman Matola.

have 58 points from 24 games and lead the 18-team league for the first time since this season's top flight's kick off.

Matola said they are treating the game against Gwambina FC with care, insisting

that at this stage of the league any game must be treated as a final.

He said following the two victories his side registered in the Lake Zone, morale in the club's the camp is extremely high.

He pointed out Simba's technical panel nevertheless knows that Gwambina FC has the potential to upsetting them.

He said he is optimistic of helping his club notch positive results.

"At this stage any game is a final to us, tomorrow (Today) we will face a good team that plays good football and they are at their backyard, buy we are prepared for them," he said.

The last time the two sides met at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Simba won 3-0, but Matola said today's game will be different.

He added: "The last time we met, they gave

us a tough run for our money, we won but it was not that easy, tomorrow (Today) will be a different game."

"We need to be cautious as our opponents will come flat out looking for good results," he said.

Gwambina FC head coach Mohamed Badru is reported to have said he had done his homework following poor results the squad notched in Dar es Salaam.

He said it will be a tough game but they are well prepared for the encounter.

"Simba are a good side with good players, we know their strengths and weaknesses. Our aim is to capitalise on their weaknesses," he said.

Gwambina FC, the Premier League debutants, are placed 11th in the showdown with 30 points from 25 games played.

Tanzanian basketball player seeks spell in NBA League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

Tanzanian basketball player, Atiki Ally, has appealed to the country's sports fanatics and the rest to pray for him so he can, in the end, feature in the prestigious USA's National Basketball Association (NBA) League.

Ally recently made a significant step towards fulfilling his dream, as he signed a four-year contract

with Brigham Young University (BYU) whose hoops team participates in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I.

The player noted the stage he has reached is more difficult than he had come from.

Ally received an academic offer at the college after doing well in Canada when he was in high school at Thames Valley District

School Board.

The player, who as well featured for Canada's London Basketball Academy team, has asked Tanzanians to pray for him to cross the finish line and eventually play in the NBA League.

"The NCAA is tough, that's where the NBA League players are being prepared, we have to fight harder, Tanzanians pray for me and I will not let them Ally noted.

He stated he hopes to start a new life in the United States in June this year. Ally's coach, Bahati Mgunda, said that apart from free education, the player put one foot in front as he pursues participation in the famous NBA League.

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anytime be selected to play in the NBA League if he works hard," Mgunda noted.

He said it is a big step for the Tanzanian, although Ally's focus is now on education and then working hard so that he can get a chance to play in the NBA League.

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NBA to fulfill his dreams and promote our country," he revealed.

If he succeeds, Ally will be the second Tanzanian to play in the league, center Hasheem Thabeet previously got the chance.

While in Tanzania, Ally has played for the national U-18 team, JMK Elite Training Academy, Yellow Jackets Club and Vijana Club 'City Bulls' youth side, before moving to Canada in 2018.

Super League collapses: How fan revolt ended English clubs' breakaway

By Tom Hamilton Senior Writer

THE roar from outside Stamford Bridge reverberated around a corner of southwest London, but it was felt throughout the footballing world. Chelsea's team bus was marooned outside their home ground, just a couple of hours before kickoff against Brighton & Hove Albion on Tuesday night. It led to Chelsea legend and the club's technical advisor, Petr Cech, coming out onto Fulham Road, pleading with Chelsea's fans to move on, promising to "sort it out" and reminding them "you have a team."

The anger against the proposed Super League -- announced late Sunday night -- was there in blue and white, a physical manifestation of the outpouring of fury from around the United Kingdom at the plans of the 12 clubs to form the breakaway league. "You greedy bastards, you're ruining our club," was one chant. Another was: "It's not football anymore." Some more colourful chants were directed solely at Real Madrid president Florentino Perez.

Minutes later, the house of cards began to fall. Reports emerged Chelsea were preparing to pull out. The news filtered through the crowd. A cheer went up as if they'd won the league. Blue smoke filled the air. Manchester City's withdrawal followed; then came the apologies, resignations and widespread backpedalling.

But out of this, in a year when fans have been unable to attend matches due to the coronavirus pandemic and the sport has reverberated around empty stadiums, the club owners can be under no illusion as to how important supporters are to football. Even Tottenham Hotspur sacking Jose Mourinho was relegated in the news agenda by this seismic event in football. Here's the story of how supporters forced the six clubs' owners into an embarrassing U-turn within 48 hours of the Super League's controversial unveiling.

The reports of the Super League first broke on Sunday afternoon, around the time Arsenal equalised against Fulham. Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta was the first to be asked about it in his post-match news conference; later, Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was questioned about it after they beat Burnley. Both looked slightly bewildered by the news breaking, while social media was starting to whip itself into a frenzy.

The proposed outline of this new competition -- later confirmed that evening -- suggested 12 clubs (Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona, Real Madrid, AC Milan, Internazionale and Juventus) had signed an agreement to form a new Super League, which would see 15 spots guaranteed for its "founder members." The Premier

League issued a quick condemnation, and its sentiments were later followed by the FA, UEFA and other stakeholders. It had seemingly broadsided the other 14 Premier League clubs; sources told ESPN that at least two of the clubs' players and managers found out about the Super League via social media.

Three hours after the reports emerged in The Times, the Football Supporters' Association (the representative body for supporters in England and Wales) posted its statement: "The FSA is totally opposed to the proposals which seek to create a breakaway 'European Super League.' The motivation behind this so-called Super League is not furthering sporting merit or nurturing the world's game -- it is motivated by nothing but cynical greed. This competition is being created behind our backs by billionaire club owners who have zero regard for the game's traditions and continue to treat football as their personal fiefdom. The FSA, and no doubt supporters across the continent, will continue to fight against its creation."

Statements from the six clubs' supporters' groups followed. As the news broke, the Chelsea Supporters' Trust (CST) Slack group was frenetic, according to board member Dan Silver. They regrouped, decided on their tone, and called it "the ultimate betrayal" and a decision that had been made "with no consideration for the loyal supporters, our history, our future or the future of football in this country."

The Arsenal Supporters' Trust (AST) called it the "death of everything football should be about" while the Liverpool Supporters' Union -- the Spirit of Shankly -- said they were "appalled" and said owners Fenway Sports Group (FSG) had "ignored fans in their relentless and greedy pursuit of money." Manchester City's 1894 atmosphere group said "[the] plans could devastate domestic football." Tottenham Hotspur Supporters' Trust (THST) said the club's owners were risking "it all" for "avarice and self-aggrandisement."

The level of anger prompted the UK's government into action. Oliver Dowden, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, posted on Twitter: "Football supporters are the heartbeat of our national sport and any major decisions made should have their backing" and said the clubs involved "must answer to their fans and the wider footballing community before taking any further steps."

By Sunday evening, the top trending topics on Twitter in the UK were: Disgraceful, Money, #FSGOut, RIP Football, Greedy. Ex-Manchester United defender Gary Neville's diatribe against the plans on Sky Sports had gone viral, where he called it "pure greed" and said lovers of the game "have to wrestle back the power in this country from the



Liverpool and Leeds fans came together to protest the Reds' plans to join the European Super League. (Agencies)

clubs at the top of this league, and that includes my club [Man United]." He added: "It's an absolute joke and the time has come now for an independent regulator to stop these clubs having a power base. Enough is enough."

Despite the growing furor, the clubs all published their statements of intent to join the breakaway league. The first landed at 11:15 p.m. BST on Sunday, with others dropping through to the early hours of Monday morning. AST responded to Arsenal's statement, describing it as: "The death of Arsenal as a sporting institution." THST secretary Pete Haine remembers waking up Monday morning and seeing the thousands of unread emails in his inbox with supporters up in arms at what had happened.

"There had been a complete disregard for our feelings and concerns on the issues, with this running roughshod over the domestic pyramid," he told ESPN.

As Haine went through his inbox on Monday, other European giants -- Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund in the German Bundesliga, Paris Saint-Germain in France's Ligue 1 and 29-time Portuguese champions FC Porto -- started distancing themselves from the project. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it "wasn't good news for fans" and they were looking at their options to prevent it from happening. CST member Silver told ESPN that he felt the way the plans had been unveiled were "the most misguided, misguided, abysmal delivery of anything I've seen."

Banners started appearing at the various grounds, such as "Created by the Poor; Stolen by the Rich" at Old Trafford and "Shame on you AFC" at Emirates Stadium, as did isolated protestors holding banners and placards (those close to the supporters' clubs said the protests would have been into the thousands on Monday had it not been for government restrictions due to COVID-19). A group called Spion Kop 1906 organised some of the flags and banners at Anfield, and on Twitter posted their statement: "We, along with other groups involved in flags, will be removing our flags from The Kop. We feel we can no longer give our support to a club which puts the financial greed above the integrity of the game."

Max Stevens, from Spion Kop 1906, said discussions began on Sunday evening as reports emerged, and by Monday the 20 or so people in the group decided to take action. "We've obvi-

ously done stuff in the past [but] it's very difficult at the moment with the situation of not being in the ground to actually do anything in terms of protests," Stevens tells ESPN. He pointed to how supporters had caused the club to change their mind over using the government's furlough scheme in April 2020, and organised their protest walkout in 2016 at a plan to increase the most expensive ticket at Anfield to £77.

"We said the power that we have got is that at the moment our flags are on the left-hand side of The Kop and we can take them away. That's something that the club use for marketing," Stevens continues. "Ultimately the only way you are going to get John Henry, whoever in Boston, to listen is to do something that affects their margins. They use Anfield and the atmosphere, and we believe that the flags are a part of that, they use that as a part of their marketing scheme."

"So we said on Monday morning that we were going to take our flags, and we spoke to the two other big groups that organise the flags on The Kop and we said that this is what we are going to do, are you doing it as well? They both came back to us and said, 'Yeah we are taking ours off, too.'" They also produced two black banners and hung them on the railings at Anfield. They read: "Shame on You. R.I.P. LFC 1892-2021" and "LFC fans against European Super League." Chris Carline, the grandson of Liverpool's great manager Bill Shankly, called for his grandfather's statue to be removed from outside Anfield, saying he would be "spinning in his grave."

Around this time, the other 14 of the Premier League's clubs agreed to meet on Tuesday to discuss further action. Sources told ESPN that nothing was off the table, with options ranging from strike action, to boycotting matches, to points deductions, to attempting to kick the other six out of the top flight. The 14 clubs' supporters' groups also backed the action being taken by the FSA and the six breakaway teams' fans. Elsewhere in Europe the protests weren't as visible, but teams were distancing themselves from the proposals. RB Leipzig, PSG and Ajax were some to commit to UEFA's revamped Champions League rather than the breakaway.

Fans continued to make their voices heard: Sources told ESPN numerous Chelsea fans had

told the club they were not going to renew their season tickets unless the club withdrew from the competition. The AST were keeping "all options on the table," but were looking at how they could peacefully protest (in line with government regulations) ahead of their match against Everton on Friday. The THST met Monday to look at their options, and were planning to make their feelings clear at Sunday's Carabao Cup final with banners outside Wembley.

By mid-afternoon, the supporter groups from the six clubs and the FSA and Football Supporters Europe issued a joint statement saying they were working together to "do all [they] can to collectively stop these plans."

Against this backdrop of growing anger, Liverpool were preparing to face Leeds United that evening, a key match in their charge to the league's top four, Champions League-qualifying places. Fans were starting to congregate outside Anfield; a saxophonist played ABBA's "Money, Money, Money" as the Liverpool team boarded their bus, and travelled to Elland Road to play it on repeat as the game took place.

Fans met outside Elland Road, Leeds and Liverpool supporters joining forces to demonstrate their anger, with one fan standing directly in front of the Liverpool bus attempting to block it from getting into the ground. Banners read: "Fans say no to Fenway's Super Greed" and "Love for the working-class game, ruined by greed and corruption, RIP LFC." Leeds mocked Liverpool on their Twitter account, calling them "Super League side Merseyside Reds" -- a nod to the name given to Liverpool in Pro Evolution Soccer when they didn't have the Premier League licence.

A YouGov poll published that evening had shown a mere 14% of the fans they'd asked supported the Super League. By Tuesday morning, reports started to emerge

of two Premier League clubs getting cold feet, stunned by the backlash from supporters, and amid suggestions sponsors would start looking at their commercial agreements.

Prime Minister Johnson held a call on Tuesday morning with the Premier League and FA in attendance, alongside supporter representatives from Arsenal, Tottenham and Manchester United. Johnson talked through the Super League, how fans can get a greater say in the governance of football, and the various ownership options elsewhere in Europe. The prime minister said the government would conduct a root-and-branch review of the ownership of football clubs in the UK and promised to drop a "legislative bomb" on the project. Reports from the BBC said some stakeholders in the Super League had described traditional supporters of clubs as "legacy fans," and they were keen to focus on recruiting new "fans of the future." This was met with further furor.

In early afternoon on Tuesday, supporters started to congregate outside Stamford Bridge. Chelsea had a key match against Brighton that evening, a match they needed to win to keep up their top-four hopes, and with it a place in next season's Champions League. What started with a few banners and signs (one reading: "We want our cold nights in Stoke!") grew to a protest involving hundreds of fans. As the tension grew outside Stamford Bridge, and the Chelsea bus lay halted outside the ground, it was down to Cech to try to calm the growing crowd. It seemed to work. Minutes later news broke on social media that Chelsea were looking to pull out of the Super League. The cheers went up, the team bus allowed through, their match against Brighton back relevant again in the chase for a top-four spot.

"The first domino fell in London," Liverpool fan Stevens says. After those reports came Manchester City's official withdrawal, statements from Jordan Henderson and Luke Shaw on why the Super League was a dismal idea, and other clubs followed. All six of the Premier League clubs gradually withdrew from the Super League and Manchester United vice-president Ed Woodward announced his resignation. But it was not enough. The mere withdrawal was affirmation of the work supporters had done,

but this was a problem of the clubs' own making.

By Wednesday morning, Liverpool owner John W. Henry had issued a video statement to the club, apologising to manager Jurgen Klopp, the players, the staff and fans. "I'm sorry, and I alone am responsible for the unnecessary negativity brought forward over the past couple of days. It's something I won't forget. And shows the power the fans have today and will rightly continue to have," he said.

Arsenal had also issued a grovelling statement, but it fell short. "We welcome the apology, although Stan Kroenke personally should apologise and put his name to the statement," an AST spokesperson told ESPN.

Manchester United co-owner Joel Glazer also offered his apology, 18 hours after the original statement of their withdrawal was issued, and Woodward's resignation announced. "Over the past few days, we have all witnessed the great passion which football generates, and the deep loyalty our fans have for this great club," said Glazer, who was going to be the Super League's vice-chairman. "You made very clear your opposition to the European Super League, and we have listened. We got it wrong, and we want to show that we can put things right. Although the wounds are raw and I understand that it will take time for the scars to heal, I am personally committed to rebuilding trust with our fans and learning from the message you delivered with such conviction."

Manchester City CEO Ferran Soriano also apologised, saying the club "failed to remind ourselves of the unbreakable link between the passion of our fans and the right to have the opportunity to earn success."

But from talking to supporters from the big six, these wounds will take time to heal. The battle over the ever-commercialising nature of football, and distanced owners, is far from over. Tottenham Hotspur fans protested outside their stadium on Wednesday, with one banner reading: "ENIC out -- sold a soul you did not own." The THST met on Wednesday evening to discuss their position and what possible further action they'd seek from the club.

For those at Arsenal, #KroenkeOut trended on Wednesday. "This reinforces our view that Stan Kroenke is not fit

to own Arsenal football club," an AST spokesperson told ESPN. "Stan Kroenke should own the situation. He made a promise when he took over the club he would meet with fans and he's not done it once."

On Thursday, a group of Manchester United supporters broke into the club's Carrington training base in protest at the failed plans for a European Super League before leaving after a conversation with manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The banners read "Glazers out" and "We decide when you play."

"I think we have momentum here and we've got different fan groups involved from different clubs and we've proven again that fans do hold the power," Stevens from Spion Kop 1906 says. "We don't have to go back to what we had before, because that wasn't very good either and nor were the reforms that UEFA passed through on Monday, which is effectively a watered-down version of the Super League."

"But I don't think any of this gets resolved until we have fans on club boards. Are they making these mistakes because they're out of touch, not in the city, and don't know the feeling of the city?" His hopes are echoed by those at the other clubs.

Although Haine would love the Tottenham Hotspur supporters to be able to purchase a controlling stake of the club, it's an expensive dream. "I think there's much more of a drive for a fan representative on the board. I think that is much more likely and much more realistic." But trust also has to be re-earned.

At Chelsea, the CST are contemplating their next course of action, saying they have "little or no confidence" in chairman Bruce Buck and CEO Guy Laurence, saying both of their positions were, in their view, "untenable." "Chelsea didn't do the right thing," CST's Silver says. "They stopped doing the wrong thing."

But in a fragmented and turbulent time for football supporters, they are united. "Without all of the clubs working together, we wouldn't have this result," was Stevens' take. "I don't think they can ever underestimate our power. In the future, if something's going to happen or needs to happen, hopefully they'll now sit down with the fans," Silver says. And at Spurs, Haine is proud of how supporters from all clubs have challenged the owners and halted the Super League plan in its tracks.



Simba SC now seeks chance to go top in VPL

SPORT

Super League collapses:
How fan revolt ended
English clubs' breakaway

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Simba SC players participate in training in Shinyanga recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

VODACO Premier League's defending champions, Simba SC, have a chance to overtake log leaders Yanga if they beat Gwambina FC today at CCM Kirumba in Mwanza.

Coach Didier Gomes da Rosa's side head into the game against Gwambina FC with 55 points, two points behind their age-old rivals Yanga.

Hosts Gwambina FC will be desperate to rebound from back-to-back league defeats against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Yanga.

They are two points from the bottom six. They will feel they are not out of the woods just yet.

Gwambina FC's Paul Nonga, Rajabu Athuman and Meshack Mwamita will be the key players to unlock the Simba SC's defense that has conceded just

once in the last five fixtures in the league.

The last match between the two teams ended in a 3-0 win in favour of Simba SC in a league game, which took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 26 2020.

In Ruangwa, Namungo FC and Mbeya City FC will be eyeing all three points for different reasons when they meet in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League match at Majaliwa Stadium in the afternoon.

Namungo have had their ups and downs over the past month which includes

being knocked out of the CAF Confederation Cup, having lost their five opening group stage games without scoring.

They are in the bottom half of the Premier League table but they are still chasing a top four finish after playing six less games than fourth-placed Biashara United who are currently 11 points ahead.

At the other end of the spectrum, Mbeya City FC have been among the worst teams in the division throughout the season.

Nevertheless, they will aim to ease their relegation fears with back-to-back

wins.

They defeated Polisi Tanzania 1-0 on Tuesday to move within touching distance of other relegation candidates, Kagera Sugar, Ihefu FC and Mtibwa Sugar.

The first round encounter between these two sides earlier this season ended in a 1-0 away victory for Namungo FC courtesy of a strike by attacker Bigirimana Blaise.

The weekend is headlined by a clash between heavyweights Yanga and Azam FC on Sunday.

Both sides could leave Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium with their

title charge either renewed or bottled.

Azam are currently placed third on the log with 51 points, six points behind Yanga and they have an opportunity to cut the gap to just three with victory.

However, defeat will leave them a whopping nine points behind having played one more game than Yanga.

The weekend also sees Prisons host Ruvu Shooting, whereas Ihefu FC will be aiming for another home win when they welcome Coastal Union looking to boost their survival hopes.

Dar cricket sides set for Tanzania T10 League

By Guardian Reporter

CRICKET promotion in Tanzania has gained momentum, given this year's Tanzania T10 League gets underway in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The 10-over formatted showdown, organized by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), is expected to climax on May 4.

The TCA information officer, Atif Salim, stated six teams, namely Rhino Challengers, Buffalo Gladiators, Tembo Rangers, Chui Riders, Simba Heroes and Twiga Masters will participate in the showpiece.

The clubs are made up of competent players who also take part in various club tournaments that are regularly taking place at the domestic level.

He noted the showpiece is organized in memory of Tanzania's fifth term President, the late John Pombe Magufuli, with the ties taking place at Leaders Club's venue.

The opening day, he disclosed, will see Twiga Masters face Rhino Challengers in the first match, whereas Simba Heroes and Chui Riders will face each other in the second duel.

Two fixtures have been slated for the following day, Tembo Rangers will meet Buffalo Gladiators in the opening clash followed by the one pitting Simba Heroes against Twiga Masters.

There will further be two clashes to be played on Tuesday, as Rhino Challengers will face Chui Riders in the first match, the second clash will see Buffalo Gladiators lock horns with Simba Heroes.

Salim stated Rhino Challengers consists of Abdulrahman Akida, Vishal Patel, Sanjay Bom, Sajad Ratansi, Nassor Zahoro, Mohamed Salim, Meet Jetha, Kelvin Anjelo, Kartik Syal, Danish Unia, Acrey Paschal, Amiri Sadick, Abubakar Selemani, skipper Harshdeep Chohan and his assistant, Arshaan Jasani.

Buffalo Gladiators' players include Vikram Rathore, Suraj Kumar, Seif Khalifa, Seif Athuman, Sameer Zaidi, Salmini Yusuph, Rijali Fentu, Nyenje Hashim, Nisar Ahmed, Kelvin Nasibu, Mohamed Rizvi, Lazaro Festo, Abdulwahid Mohamed, skipper Kassim Nassor and his assistant Ally Mpeka.

Tembo Rangers outfit is made up of Waheed Mushtaq, Vaibhav Bhatia, Suraj Pala, Riken Patel, Raza Baloch, Muzamil Hussain, Khalil Rehemtullah, Jumanne Mohamed, Johnson Nyambo, Gagan Alag, Baraka Robert, Ankit Baghel, Ally Hafidh, skipper Riziki Kiseti and his assistant, Issa Kikasi.

Chui Riders consist of Amit Raghuvanshi, Arslaan Premji, Athuman Siwa, Bhavesh Govind, Gokul Das, Hamisi Lyimo, Jayantilal Pindoria, Kheel Suchak, Kibwana Salum, Kishwabi Ngozi, Salum Jumbe, Tambwe Rashid, Yash Hirwania, skipper Zafar Khan and his assistant, Jitin Singh.

Simba Heroes' cricketers are Vipin Abraham, Ramesh Alluri, Nandakishan Pottachira, Mohamed Yunus, Jay Hirwania, Issa Safari, Gulraiz Haideri, Firoz Dahoodwala, Basit Raza, Athuman Kakonzi, Abdullah Jabiri, Abbas Adamjee, Aahil Jasani, skipper Jatin Darji and assistant captain Ivan Ismail.

Players making Twiga Masters are Zamoyoni Ramadhan, Wahid Hussain, Sadick Iddi, Pafrod Anacet, Mukul Kumar, Mohammad Ali, Mohamed Omary, Karim Kiseti, Goodluck Andrew, Ejaz Aziz, Ayaz Mustafa, Alhaj Sadick, Adnan Zariwala, skipper Abhik Patwa and assistant captain, Ashish Kamania.

The Tanzania T10 League's sponsors, Salim stated, are G1 Security Group Limited, KFC, Sayona Drinks Ltd, Pepsi and Hitech Sai Health Care Centre.

Dar Tigers cricketers lift 2021 Dar-Moro Series' silverware

By Guardian Reporter

IVAN Ismail showcased impressive batting performance as Dar Tigers lifted the 2021 Dar-Moro Series' top honour, registering 39-run win over Moro Stars in the final, held in Morogoro early this week.

The series, which took place for three days, was held under the auspices of, seeking to support effort to promote the sport domestically.

A handful of players that also feature the senior national team and junior players battled it out in the series, with the senior national squad's head coach, Steve Tikolo, as well putting his skills to show.

The visitors raced to 223 runs, dropping five wickets in 20 overs once they were presented with the opportunity to start batting.

Solid displays put to show by opener, Ismail, gave Dar Tigers the much needed confidence and, in the end, helped them amass an imposing score.

The in-form Ismail surpassed century mark to end his innings with 126 runs, nailing 12 boundaries and nine sixes.

The early exit of fellow opener Tikolo did not weaken Dar Tigers, thanks to impressive performance showcased by top order



Dar Tigers cricket squad's players in a group picture after taking on Moro Stars squad in one of the 2021 Dar-Moro Series' clashes, which took place in Morogoro early this week. The outfit clinched the series' silverware, cruising to victory over Moro Stars in the final. Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) oversaw the series. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

batsman, Salum Jumbe, as the latter notched 54 runs not out.

Jumbe cleared the boundary on four occasions, posting four fours and four sixes.

Youthful top order batsman Abdullah Jabiri also ended with double digit figure, he notched 15 runs, which included a four and a six.

Skipper Ally Mpeka had most wickets for Moro Stars,

he took three wickets giving away nine runs in three overs.

Moro Stars lost steam in the chase, posting 184 runs for five wickets in 20 overs.

Mpeka had impressive innings, given he scored 71 runs, clearing the boundary on four occasions.

Opener Salmini Yusuph put solid shots for a few overs and posted 13 runs at a time the hosts looked a bit timid in the early stages of the chase.

A spirited showing by experienced cricketers, Hemedi Abbas and Mpeka, in the latter stages gave the squad faint hopes of getting down to successful chase.

Moro Stars kept on pushing as Kibwana Salum recorded 18 runs, they however failed to turn tables on Dar Tigers.

Dar Tigers' Kelvin Anjelo had significant contribution during his outfit's turn with the ball, he took two wickets,

leaving 15 runs in four overs.

In the first duel of the series, Dar Tigers notched a 75-run win and Morogoro regrouped to post a four-wicket victory in the second clash to level the series.

According to Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), the series also marked the beginning of more region to region tours, which will take place in the coming days.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

