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TANZANIA

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'Minerals cause high rates of cancer in Lake regions'

By Guardian Reporters

A STAGGERING 40 per cent of cancer patients in Tanzania come from the Lake Victoria Zone regions, a phenomenon which scientists now link to the presence of various types of minerals in the area.

Dr Evance Nabugare, a radiologist at the Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza, made this observation at a press conference yesterday ahead of World Radiography Day - November 8.

He said that studies have shown that the presence of a wide range of minerals including gold and diamonds contribute to the problem.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to detect cancer shows that three of every ten people screened are found with cancer symptoms, which shows how serious this challenge is.

He cited bladder cancer as one of the

“That’s why we’ve decided to use the World Radiography Day to provide free screening to people in Lake Zone regions as part of scaling down the problem



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi, who is also Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, has an audience with other Muslim faithful at Nunge Mosque in Dodoma city yesterday moments after Friday prayers. The thrust of his remarks was on the importance of safeguarding and promoting peace, harmony and unity. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Dr Mwinyi squares up, delivering on promises

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said that campaigning and finally winning was tough but the second part - leading to the satisfaction of the electorate - would prove even tougher.

Speaking here yesterday, he said that the task ahead was sure to be taxing, calling on Tanzanians in general and Zanzibaris in particular to pray for him so that the burden becomes

“My message is let’s preach peace; religious leaders should do their part as well as we political leaders

lighter. “The first step was to get the (Zanzibar presidential) post and, thankfully, I got it. The next phase, which is to serve the people, is even tougher. I need your prayers,” he noted.

Dr Mwinyi, formerly Tanzania’s Defence and National Service minister, promised to do his best to serve the people diligently.

He said though the General Election was over, there were still “signs

of breaches of peace” that must be rubbed out.

He appealed to Tanzanians not to let the signs take root and instead reject them so that the country soldiers on with the implementation of development projects.

“We conducted the General Election peacefully but I still see some signs of possible breaches of peace. We need

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Biden urges patience as Trump leans on the courts over ballots

WASHINGTON, DC

PRESIDENTIAL hopeful Joseph R. Biden Jr. better known as Joe Biden of the Democratic Party yesterday insisted that he was on the verge of winning the presidency, urging calm and patience as the final votes are methodically counted.

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School fires: Teacher, two students charged

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

ONE teacher and two students have been arraigned in court on accusations of associating with criminals and committing arson, in relation to the fires that gutted two secondary schools in Kilimanjaro Region last month.

Oswald Tibabekomya of the National Prosecutions Service (NPS) and coordinator of investigations



said here on Thursday that the trio was arraigned on Wednesday and Thursday at the Moshi Resident Magistrate’s court.

Briefing reporters on the investigations, the state attorney said the recent spate of fires in schools was a result of peer pressure and poor teacher-student relationship.

Investigations show that the

weak links appear to have been influenced from student bad manners that are spreading in Tanzanian schools, he said.

Strong teacher-student relationships are known to enable institutions correct bad manners when they start coming up, but many schools lack such relationships, he said.

“Our investigations point

to poor relationship between teachers and students as well as peer pressure among learners,” he elaborated.

Tibabekomya said that fires whose investigations are complete and suspects nabbed relate to the last month fire at Uchira Girls Islamic secondary school and Ebeneza Sango sec

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Biden urges calm as Trump leans on courts over ballots

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As he did, outgoing President Donald Trump (Republican) made frantic legal claims about voter fraud in a number of states where he was losing or seeing his lead swiftly diminish.

Trump on Thursday evening unleashed a tirade from the White House briefing room that was filled with far flung claims about the American electoral system. He declared that there was widespread fraud in states in which he was losing, not doubting the process being followed in the states he was winning, while observers saw scarce evidence for any of those accusations.

"If you count the legal votes I easily win," he said, in remarks that contained so much fabrication that several networks stopped airing them.

"If you count the illegal votes they can try to steal the election from us." After spending months telling Republicans not to vote by mail, Trump said it was suspicious that so many mail-in ballots were for Biden.

He suggested corrupt actions were somehow helping Biden cut into his lead in Pennsylvania, while touting that additional votes coming in from Arizona were bolstering his chances.

"We are on track to win Arizona," he claimed, despite trailing Biden there. He also impugned the integrity of those across the nation who are counting ballots.

Trump also claimed Republicans did not lose a seat in Tuesday's House races (they did), that all of the states too close to call have election systems overseen by Democrats (they don't), that votes are still being cast (they are not), and that he won Michigan and Wisconsin (he did not).

As Trump spoke, Biden remained in the lead with 253 electoral votes to the president's 214 - and enjoyed a number of pathways toward winning the 270 needed to secure the presidency.

The former vice president maintained his leads in Arizona and Nevada, while Trump's advantages were diminishing in both Georgia and Pennsylvania. By 10 p.m., Trump's lead in Georgia was down to only 1,797 votes. In Pennsylvania, the biggest electoral prize and a state that would give Biden enough electoral college votes to be declared the win-

ner, Trump's lead had shrunk to less than 27,000 by 10:45 p.m. Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, said earlier in the day that almost all votes would be tallied by Friday, but that there might be enough results Thursday night for networks to declare a winner. With tension high in states that remained too close to call, weary election officials continued tallying results Thursday, at times with police protecting them from protesters as the presidency hung in the balance of final tabulations. Biden's campaign has expressed increasing optimism that a victory was imminent, creating a website to promote the work of his transition team. Biden and his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., on Thursday held a briefing at a theater in Wilmington, Del., with a team of health and economic advisers to discuss the ongoing coronavirus crisis.

It was a visible sign of what his campaign hoped to project: Biden soberly preparing to transition into the White House. Trump, before his remarks Thursday, had not been seen in public since the early morning hours of Wednesday, when he gathered with supporters at the White House and declared he had won.

"Democracy is sometimes messy. Sometimes it requires a little patience, as well," Biden said Thursday afternoon following his briefing.

"We continue to feel very good about where things stand. And we have no doubt that when the count is finished, Senator Harris and I will be declared the winners," he added. "So I ask everyone to stay calm - all people to stay calm. The process is working. The count is being completed. And we'll know very soon."

Biden campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon displayed several slides to reporters earlier in the day, demonstrating how they think Biden will win at least three of the remaining five most competitive states. She said their calculations showed Biden's lead might narrow in Arizona and Nevada, particularly as results from more pro-Trump rural areas are counted, but they remained confident that returns from urban strongholds would help protect their lead.

"We don't really care which state takes us over the top. We just want to keep going and make sure the counts get done," O'Malley Dillon said. "We know that it's going to take a little bit of time and we support that, and we're just going to stay calm and be patient."



CCM national Chairman President John Magufuli chairs a meeting of the party's Central Committee in Dodoma city on Thursday. He was sworn in for a second and final five-year presidential term earlier that day following his re-election. Photo: State House.

Dr Mwinyi squares up, delivering on promises

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to unite and ensure that it doesn't happen," he appealed.

"My message is that we should preach peace, with religious leaders doing their part and we political leaders doing ours."

Dr Mwinyi spoke after he was given an opportunity to give a word of thanks

after attending Friday prayers at Nunge Mosque in Dodoma city, his regular place of worship whenever he was in the capital as minister.

President John Magufuli said more or less the same thing in Dodoma last week. In brief remarks after being presented with the winner's certificate, he

said things would never be the same for him. He has to deliver on the promises in response to the massive trust that people have showed him, he stated.

He appealed to Tanzanians to put the country forward without considering inter-party differences, and work together to help bring desired development. Elec-

tions are gone and people have to move ahead, he emphasized.

He said that this being his final term in office, he would do everything possible to ensure the realisation of the needed development "since what the people need are solutions to their problems".



Mustansir Gulamhussein (L) of Lions' District 411C attends to a Coast Region resident at a two-day eye screening camp jointly organised yesterday by Lions Dar es Salaam Mzi-zima, Tanzanite Club and Coast Region's Tumbi referral hospital Tumbi. Photo: Correspondent Margaret Malisa.

'Minerals cause high rates of cancer in Lake regions'

FROM PAGE 1

leading types of cancer in the area, followed by cervical, esophageal and liver cancers.

Cancers of the cervix, esophagus and liver were confirmed as the largest contributors to the cancer-associated mortality burden among females in the zone and partially elsewhere in the country, he noted.

As to what to do about the situation, the radiologist called on people to conduct or undergo regular screening so that the disease be detected at the early stages, as then it is easier to treat.

Omary Msehwa, the secretary of the Tanzania Association of Radiographers (TARA), de-

scribed World Radiography Day as important in promoting and improving radiography services. He said an increasing number of cervical cancer cases was fuelled by delays in diagnosing the disease, noting that the challenge is that many people report to hospital when things are out of hand.

"That's why we've decided to use World Radiography Day to provide free screening to people in the Lake Victoria Zone regions as part of a strategy to scale down the problem," he said in a press conference in Dar es Salaam.

Radiography has a vital contribution to modern healthcare and the raising of public awareness on diagnostic imaging and

radiation therapy, he added.

He elaborated: "World Radiography Day marks the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays in 1895. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of radiographic imaging and therapy, which play a crucial role in the diagnosis and treatment of patients, and most importantly, ensuring radiation is kept to the minimum required, hence improving the quality of patient care."

In marking the day, TARA is tomorrow expected to conduct free screening for breast and prostate cancer in Dar es Salaam.

Msehwa also explained that the free screening was part of the November 8 commemoration, whose theme this year is "Radi-

ographers care about your being protected."

The association groups experts in sonography (sound waves expertise) and radiography, and their free screening services will be offered at polyclinics in Ilala and Temeke.

The conducting of free screening is intended to reach adults aged between 40 and 45 years, with women being screened for breast cancer and men for prostate cancer - using ultrasound technology.

Msehwa said the screening is a good opportunity so more people need to attend and check their health, as reports show that Tanzania has a population of 14.88 million women aged 15

years and above and they are at risk of developing cervical cancer.

Current estimates indicate that every year around 9,700 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 6,600 die from the disease.

The disease is number four on the list of the most common cancers among women globally, with over 500,000 new cases and an estimated 250,000 deaths each year.

Msehwa said the burden of cervical cancer is disproportionately high in developing countries, which account for 85 per cent of cases worldwide and nearly 90 per cent of cervical cancer deaths

School fires: Teacher, two students charged

FROM PAGE 1

ondary school, both located in Moshi Rural District.

Investigation on the other school fires in various regions is ongoing and suspects will be brought to book, he stated, referring to the fire where ten pupils died and others injured at Byamungu Islamic school in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region after a boys' dormitory caught fire, two months ago.

Another incident occurred in July when a dormitory at the Ilala Islamic School in Dar es Salaam was razed down by fire, causing three deaths, while at around the same time a fire broke out at Kinondoni Muslim Secondary School, in the same region.

School fires have often caused vast grief around the country, from the Shauritanga fire that killed scores of students in Rombo District in Kilimanjaro Region in 1994, while in August 2009, 12 students died after fire gutted Idodi Girls secondary school in Iringa.

Muheza-based tourist site in need of reliable power

By Guardian Correspondent, Muheza

MAGOROTO Forest one of the Muheza-based tourist destinations is in need of reliable power to lure more visitors.

Currently, the area depends on fuel-powered generator, which is too costly to run it, according to tour operator in the forest.

Magoroto Forest tourist hotel manager Jeremiah Mchechu said that the area is one of the key tourist destinations that attract more visitors in Tanga, "but lack of reliable power remain a serious challenge".

"We're appealing to the government to chip in and address this challenge for the sector to grow," he said.

According to him, they have already sent the request to the Tanzania Electrical Supply Company (Tanesco) in Muheza District but they were given huge expenses which are hard to afford.

"After the situation became more harder, we engaged other leaders including the ruling party (CCM) secretary for Muheza District and others who then wrote a letter to Tanesco, so we expect anytime from now, the transmission and connection exercise will begin," he said.

Jeremiah Mchechu, said that tourists can enjoy a number of attractions including its rain forest view with rare plants, birds and other natural species.

"The tourists can also enjoy walking in the forest's mountains, ride bicycles, swimming, fishing, play music especially during the night," he said.



Packaging expert Sanje Lufwelo (2nd-L) demonstrates to Zanzibar entrepreneurs yesterday how proper packaging adds value to products. This was at a seminar organised by the Zanzibar branch of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa). Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Activists call for reproductive health education to curb GBV, early marriages and pregnancies

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

HUMAN rights activists have suggested the need for more education on sexual reproductive health to curb gender-based violence (GBV), prevent early marriages and pregnancies.

They were speaking recently here at a meeting that involved local government leaders and different stakeholders from across the region, which was meant to discuss better ways to improve sexual reproductive health services to teenagers as well as ways to scale up GBV

fight.

Anitha Samson, legal officer of the Wadada Solution on Gender Based Violence organisation said that reproductive health education is a major key to reducing and perhaps eliminating the problem of teen pregnancies.

She said: "It's high time for the public and parents in particular to provide education on sexual reproductive health to children so as to free them from GBV related incidents, early pregnancies, which in turn ruin their education dreams."

Studies carried out in many parts of Tanzania show that adolescent sexual and reproductive health is a neglected issue, despite being a high risk matter that determines the future of youth development.

Head of Kwimba District Criminal Investigation Officer, Revina Theognance said: "That's why we're calling for more efforts to create a youth-friendly environment for provision of health sexual and reproductive health services as well as parents' involvement in guarding the health of young people."

According to Revina, sex education equips children with necessary knowledge about their sexuality and reproduction at large as it teaches sexual abuse, contraception and STIs.

"To me, I see reproductive health education is a major key to reducing and perhaps eliminating the problem of teen pregnancies," she said. She also encouraged parents to have a close eye on their children as in most cases GBV cases are caused by family members.

"I call parents to take care of their children. They shouldn't

take their children to boarding schools at that tender age to reduce GBV incidents," the official suggested.

Reproductive health coordinator in Mwanza City Council, Bertha Yohana said that large numbers of youth who are in puberty are involved in unsafe sex.

According to the 2010 TDHS, 23% of young women age 15-19 have already begun childbearing: 17% are mothers, and an additional 6% are pregnant with their first child. Young motherhood is much more common in

rural areas than in urban areas. Young women with no education are more than eight times as likely to have started childbearing by age 19 than those who have secondary and higher education (52% versus 6%).

More than half of women age 25-49 (58%) and 41% of men age 25-49 were sexually active by the age of 18.

Fifteen percent of women had had sex by the age of 15. Women start sexual activity about one year earlier than men (median age of 17.4 years for women and 18.5 years for men).

Ilemela police officer commanding district (OCD) Elisante Ulomi described GBV incidents as a thorn for girls' development, saying:

"Most cases ended in a thin air after some parents collude with perpetrators. As law enforcers we fail to continue with such cases as no one is ready to provide evidences."

District's head of police gender and children Desk, Hilda Maleko said: "We're working hard to rescue this group from predators through reproductive health education."



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

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The Board of Directors, Management and staff of Tanzania Revenue Authority congratulate H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli and the Vice President Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan for re-election for the second term and H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi for his election as the eighth President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council.

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Uhuru meets Pope Francis as he starts Vatican tour

VATICAN CITY

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta of has kicked off an official tour of the Vatican City with a meeting with Pope Francis and discussions on matters including the Covid-19 pandemic and the Catholic Church's investments in Kenya's health and education sectors.

President Kenyatta (pictured), who is in Rome at the invitation of Pope Francis, is making history as the first Kenyan head of state to visit the Vatican.

After a formal State reception following his arrival in Italy on Thursday evening, President Kenyatta met privately with Pope Francis and then led a Kenyan delegation that included Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo in talks with hosts led by Cardinal Bishop Pietro Parolin.

Cardinal Bishop Parolin is the Secretary of State of the Holy See and runs the Secretariat of State and Diplomatic Service of the Vatican City State.

AGENCIES



Suleiman Bushagama (L), Tigo's product rollout and execution manager, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was at a ceremony to award over 100 smartphones to the first daily and weekly winners of the mobile phone service provider's ongoing 'Jaza TukuJaze Tena' campaign. He is with the firm's campaign 'ambassador', Meena Ally. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stunting easing among Chamwino District children - official

By Guardian Correspondent, Chamwino

STUNTING children in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region have dropped significantly as majority of families are now engaging in the cultivation of small vegetable gardens around their homes.

The families have been able to practice vegetable farming un-

der the implementation of Boresha Lishe project in the district which benefits residents in 39 villages.

Jeremiah Mziray from the Research Community and Organisational Development Associates (RECODA) who are the implementers of the project said that the project aims to improve nutrition among women and children

through social behavioral change communication, diversification of food production which includes emphasizing communities to plant nutritional crops and veges.

"We are implementing the project with financial support from the European Union (EU) and other stakeholders, thousands of people in 39 villages in the Chamwino District are benefiting from

the project, their families' health standards have improved for better, stunting among children has also gone down" he said.

He said that commenced in 2017, the project's core objective is to fight stunting and malnutrition to under-five children in central Regions of Tanzania and stimulate economic growth.

For her part, Rhoda Mzilani, a

farmer and beneficiary of the project said that apart from reducing stunting, the project has also enabled farmers to sell the vegetables and thus earn extra income.

"The project sounds as a wake-up call to majority of women who were just staying home idle without anything to do, they are now busy nurturing their gardens, feed their families with nutri-

nal diets as well as earn income through selling the vegetables," she said.

Scolastika Machelo, also a farmer in Chamwino commended those who established the Boresha Lishe projects as it has transformed health and lives of majority of people in the District.

"We also utilizing fully the market opportunities brought after

the government moved its operations to Dodoma city, whatever we grow in our gardens finds market," she added.

Mohamed Mfaki, Chilonwa Division officer urged extension officers both at village and ward level to ensure that they pay regular visits to the farmers and guide them into modern farming for more benefits.

Cement price hike irks Iringa residents

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

RESIDENTS of Iringa municipality have called on authorities to intervene and reverse the sharp increase of cement retail price which had shot up to 22,000 / - from 15,000 / - per bag of 50 kilogrammes.

Members of the public expressed concerns over the sharp increase of the key construction materials, calling for government's intervention to address the vice.

The people have asked the president to visit the factories that produce cement in the country to talk to them so that they can reduce the price of cement which had skyrocketed.

The citizens at different times yesterday said that the price of some building materials has risen in price, especially cement which is sold for 22,000 / - from 15,000 / - per bag.

They said that if the price of cement continued to be so, many people would not build a better house, so they asked the president to come and talk to the traders and producers of cement staying with them so that the price of product could go down.

Mary Chanuo is one of the sellers of building materials in Iringa who said that building materials have become too expensive which has led many people to stop construction waiting for the decline in prices for such materials.

High price of cement poses a huge burden low-income earners, who cannot afford to buy, hence won't be able to continue building their houses, he said.

"That's why we're asking the government to look at the issue of prices for building materials such as cement, steel and iron sheets," Mary stressed.

Mary noted: "If the price of building materials such as cement, iron bars and roofing sheets decreases, traders would be able to sell at a cheaper price and enable low-income earners to build better houses."

Alex Kalolo, an electronics retailer in Iringa, said that the increase of cement price has also led to a decline in the electricity products business as many people have stopped construction.



Construction of Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho upcountry bus terminal well under way, as found earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Muwasa faults women throwing newborn babies in sewer systems

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

MOSHI Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Muwasa) has condemned the behaviour of some women throwing their born babies in sewage networks.

Muwasa public relations officer Rashid

Nachan said that throwing the innocent little babies in the sewage is inhuman and against human rights and the country's laws.

"These violent acts have been also causing defects to the sewage pipes thus forcing the authority to undergo regular cleanup of the networks something which also spends a lot of

money," he said adding that: "Muwasa officials have been witnessing several bodies of babies being thrown in the sewage networks." He said that the acts have been witnessed in the areas of Pasma and Mabogini in the municipality.

Nachan underscored the need to invest more in educating the public on the impacts of

violence against children which include aborting babies and throwing them away.

"The general public should also be educated to report violent incidences whenever they come across them in their areas, what these women are doing to the little babies is not fair, this pains us a lot,"



Sharik Choughule (2nd-R), councillor-elect of Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni ward, inspects a water project at the city's Magogoni International Fish Market on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Inter-African coffee company to start US\$950 million facility

By Special Correspondent, Accra

THE Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) is to launch a 950 million dollar African coffee facility with the support of Afreximbank.

The facility is to support various coffee projects in Africa, including research and promotion of coffee consumption.

Dr Frederick Kawuma, the Secretary-General of IACO, made this known when the Ghana Cocoa Board launched the 60th edition of IACO 2020 general assembly and associated meetings, virtually in Accra.

He said coffee consumption on the African continent was little and that efforts were underway by the IACO secretariat to promote the consumption of the commodity.

Kawuma said IACO was ready to support the industry to make sure that Africa was not left behind and urged entrepreneurs who wanted to venture into the coffee sector to take advantage of the facility.

He said there were many opportunities available in the coffee sector and commended the Government of Ghana for efforts at increasing

coffee production.

Dr Kawuma said coffee had its origin in Africa and had been a blessing to the world, and challenged young Africans to invest in the sector.

He said currently, the continent's productivity was low and that the African Coffee Research Network was looking at ways to improve the yields.

Dr. Kawuma commended Dr Akoto Osei, the Chairman of IACO for his immense contribution to the sector.

Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in Charge of Agronomy and Quality Control, IACO, said to show the overriding role of coffee in the socio-economic development of Africa, the Heads of States resolved to create IACO.

"Today, IACO is an intergovernmental organisation comprising the 25 African coffee-producing countries with its headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire," he said.

Dwomoh said coffee was cultivated in more than six regions with a potential yield of 1.5 tonnes per hectare.

Islamic Foundation now brings relief to traders and residents of Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TRADERS and other residents at Kilombero market in Arusha Region are currently accessing clean and safe water, thanks to the Islamic Foundation for bringing the services closer to the community.

According to the residents, water crisis had affected the area for more than ten years but the organisation had come with a support by constructing a deep water well worth 20m/-.

Speaking recently during the inauguration of the water well, the residents commended the foundation for its generous support saying that the project has provided huge relief to the traders and residents surrounding the market.

The residents also commended the newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Arusha Urban, Mrisho Gambo for working hard to find supporters to address people's problems.

"This project will help the community mitigate problems arising from lack of reliable water. Traders are now busy spending their time in economic activities than searching for water, we real commenced this organization," said Abubakari Husein, one of the traders at the market.

The newly elected MP Gambo also commended Islamic Foundation for its support, saying that he will continue working hard to address challenges facing Arusha residents.

"The completion of this project sounds a huge relief to the traders and residents especially women who had to spend time searching for water," he added.

Ramadhani Mfinanga from Islamic Foundation assured the residents that more support in future.

"We will continue working closely with the government to address various challenges facing Tanzanians," he said.

Arusha District Commissioner Kenan Kihongosi called on the traders and residents to protect the project for it last longer.

Reports show that, only 57 per cent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water and only 34 per cent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor particularly women and girls spend significant amount of time travelling long distances to fetch water.

Bank asks govt and private agencies to use its services

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Moshi-based Kilimanjaro Cooperative Bank Limited (KCBL) has appealed government, private institutions, individuals and other stakeholders in general to invest and utilise its services that were denied for more than one year ago.

The call was made in Moshi recently by the KCBL general manager, Godfrey Ng'ula, in a press conference explaining that the first cooperative bank in the country had been strengthened following a new partnership between KCBL and CRDB bank.

"We intend to create a national cooperative bank and we ask cooperative institutions and other stakeholders that KCBL is now strong enough to provide banking and financial services and because we are working in collaboration with CRDB Bank we will be able to serve our clients better," he explained.

He added that, KCBL has revived, it is now financially secure, services have improved and clients are depositing and withdrawing their money as usual.

"This is clear evidence that the KCBL bank is now safe ready to serve our esteemed clients," Ng'ula further explained.

He commended Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU) for its significant contribution which he said included encouraging cooperative societies to work with KCBL for many years ago.

CRDB Bank Limited injected 7 bn/-into KCBL, a move which had been described as a step towards making KCBL the country's biggest cooperative bank.



We intend to create a national cooperative bank and we ask cooperative institutions and other stakeholders that KCBL is now strong enough to provide



Salamu Za Pongezi

Mh. Dkt. John Pombe Magufuli & Mh. Samia Suluhu Hassan

Uongozi na wafanyakazi wa kampuni za IPP wanaungana na Watanzania wote kumpongeza Mheshimiwa Dkt John Pombe Magufuli na Mheshimiwa Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan kwa kuchaguliwa kuongoza tena Serikali ya awamu ya tano ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania .

Hongera sana.

COVID-19: AfDB Group postpones Africa Investment Forum to 2021

By William Ukpe

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group and its partners, the Africa Investment Forum (AIF), have announced the postponement of the AIF Forum scheduled to be held in South Africa in November 2020 to 2021, due to COVID-19.

This was disclosed in a statement by the AfDB on Wednesday evening, according to the statement.

AfDB also acknowledged the rising second wave of the pandemic, affecting global travels and investments as a reason for the postponement.

The multilateral organisation disclosed that the forum has been an opportunity for stakeholders in Africa to close deals, as 2 deals worth \$40.1 billion were secured in the 2019 forum. The Bank says despite the postponement, it will continue to deliver

deals and investment for the African continent.

What you should know. Nairametrics reported in July that AfDB published its African Economic Outlook 2020 Supplement and warned that the continent's GDP would fall by at least 1.7 per cent, and if the coronavirus pandemic continues into the second half of 2020, it could contract up to 3.4 per cent.

"Africa could suffer GDP losses in 2022 between \$145.5 billion (baseline) and \$189.7 billion (worst case) from the pre-COVID-19 estimated GDP of \$2.59 trillion for 2020," the Bank stated.

The bank warned some losses will be carried over into 2021, as the projected recovery would be partial, and warned of projected GDP losses for 2021, ranging from \$27.6 billion to \$47 billion (worst case).



Africa could suffer GDP losses in 2022 between \$145.5 billion (baseline) and \$189.7 billion (worst case) from the pre-COVID-19 estimated GDP of \$2.59 trillion for 2020



Japhet Makau, director of Dodoma's Fountain Gate Secondary School, at the school's Form Four graduation ceremony on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

COVID-19: Africa needs urgent measures to improve public revenues from natural resources, realise SDGs

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICA will not meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030.

This slow progress derives from resource leakages and increasing poverty rates, as 64.3% of sub-Saharan Africa is still living in multidimensional poverty.

While other regions of the world are experiencing rapid poverty reduction, the decline is much slower for sub-

Saharan Africa, according to Human Development Report - 2019.

Because COVID-19 has overstretched the resources needed to fund essential services like education and health in Africa, the increased continental debt burden and limited inflows of aid and foreign development investment, there is pressure, more than ever to raise revenue locally.

Africa should be able to raise the needed funds if the duct allowing capital flight and illicit

financial flows (IFFs) could be closed.

The lost funds mainly come from Africa's extractive sector, while Africa remains the poorest continent in the world.

The 2020 UNCTAD report on Economic Development in Africa shows that the extractive sectors lose about \$ 50 billion annually.

"The extractive sector presented the largest source of IFF from Africa. In view of the pressure on governments to mobilize financial resources to

mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19, the extractive sector presents strategic potential to generate to raise the required resources," says Alvin Mosioma, the Executive Director, Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA).

There is need to reimagine public policy and deploy strategies that address Africa's vulnerabilities which were made more visible by Covid-19. Oil, gas and minerals are finite resources.

The more they get extracted, the lost the opportunity to de-

velop based on them.

The Multinational Corporations (MNCs) in the extractive sector unfortunately, do not pay their fair share, and Africa's development based on its natural resources remains an unattainable dream.

In this regard, the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), and the report of the High-Level Panel (HLP) on IFFs have provided recommendations to optimise domestic resource mobilisation and leverage on the extractive sector to drive inclusive and

sustainable growth.

TJNA calls for African governments to improve transparency and accountability of MNCs, to end secretive jurisdiction and tax havens, and to promote the automatic exchange of information, citizen participation in extractive revenue management.

Additionally, countries should review policies that allow overly generous tax incentives and publicly report the revenue forgone to subsidise the MNCs.

To provide a forum to discuss

these issues, the Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation (PAC) will bring together members of parliament, policymakers, researchers, academia, government representatives, media, international development partners, and civil society representatives from across the continent.

PAC 2020 will be a week-long virtual event and will focus on leakages of domestic resource mobilisation in the extractive sector.

Xi congratulates Dr Magufuli on re-election as nation's president

By Guardian Reporter

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory message to John Magufuli on his re-election as Tanzanian president.

In his message, Xi (pictured) said China and Tanzania are all-weather good friends, good partners and good brothers. Their relations have been developing steadily, and bilateral exchanges and cooperation in various fields continue to achieve new results.

The two sides have supported and



helped each other in jointly combating the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi said.

Noting that he attaches great importance to the development of China-Tanzania relations, Xi said he is ready to work with Magufuli to promote greater progress of China-Tanzania comprehensive cooperative partnership, so as to bring more benefits to the two countries and peoples.

On November 1, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin congratulated John Magufuli on his re-election and expects to strengthen cooperation with the new government to advance bilateral ties to a higher level.

When asked to comment on the Tanzania's election, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said: "China believes that under the leadership of President Magufuli, Tanzania will continuously make new and greater achievements in various undertakings of national development."

On October 20, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian also expressed hope that this year's general election takes place smoothly and successfully but has been quick to caution about interference of Tanzania's internal affairs by foreign countries.

Lijian said the Asian economic giant believes that Tanzanian government and people have the wisdom and capability to organize the election.



Ice blocks are unloaded from a truck at Dar es Salaam's Magogoni International Fish market yesterday ready for use in the cold-storage of fresh sea foods. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Stakeholders on gender issues want society abandon outdated customs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

STAKEHOLDERS on gender issues including Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) have embarked on educating the society to abandon misleading customs and traditions that spur gender

based violence and child abuse in the country.

The remarks were given here yesterday by Flora Mlowezi, the chairperson of information and knowledge centres that have been facilitated by TGNP on leadership and gender based budgeting.

She said the escalation of GBV incidents have caused victims being denied of their basic rights.

She said GBV and child abuse especially in outlying areas are still being spurred by misleading and outdated customs and traditions thereby denying women their basic

rights. "Main victims of these incidents are women and children who undergo child pregnancies, beatings, being denied family inheritance and being sidelined leadership positions," said Moshia.

She said Information and Knowledge centres facilitated by TGNP have done great

work in providing education and spurred revolutionary movement in bringing about change of the mindset in the societies.

Meanwhile Moshia called on women to emerge and participate in various activities concerning their own agendas including village meetings, and prioritizing their issues.



Minks are seen at Hans Henrik Jeppesen's farm near Soroe in after the Denmark government's decision to cull his entire herd due to COVID-19.

WHO looking at mink farm biosecurity worldwide after Danish coronavirus outbreak, says expert

GENEVA/LONDON

THE World Health Organization is looking at biosecurity around mink farms in countries across the world to prevent further "spillover events" after Denmark ordered a national mink cull due to an outbreak of coronavirus infections in the animals.

Maria van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead for COVID-19, told a briefing in Geneva yesterday that transmission of the virus between animals and humans was "a concern", but added:

"Mutations (in viruses) are normal. These type of changes in the virus are something we have been tracking since the beginning."

The risk was much lower in animals other than mink, a second WHO expert said.

"We are working with regional offices ... where there are mink farms, and looking at biosecurity and to prevent spillover events," van Kerkhove said.

Denmark said earlier this week that it plans to cull its entire mink population and announced strict new lockdown measures in the north of the country to prevent a mutated coronavirus from spreading in the animals and to humans.

It has raised concerns that the mutations could affect the potential efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines in development.

Soumya Swaminathan, the WHO's chief scientist, said on Friday, however, that it is too early to jump to conclusions about the implications of mutations in the virus found in mink.

"We need to wait and see what the implications are but I don't think we should come to any conclusions about whether this particular mutation is going to impact vaccine efficacy," she said. "We don't have any evidence at the moment that it would."

Denmark's State Serum Institute, which deals with infectious diseases, said a mutated strain of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus has been found in 12 people and on 5 mink farms.

Kerkhove said Denmark's decision to cull its mink was aimed at preventing the establishment of "a new animal reservoir for this virus".

Mike Ryan, the WHO's top emergencies expert, said other farm animals, such as pigs and poultry, had "very strict" biosecurity in place to prevent viruses jumping the species barrier.



We need to wait and see what the implications are but I don't think we should come to any conclusions about whether this particular mutation is going to impact vaccine efficacy

Africa youth agripreneurs call for more investments in agricultural research

By Special Correspondent, Abuja

YOUTH Agripreneurs have urged African governments to make provisions for agriculture research in their country's budgets to strengthen the economy and reduce reliance on importation.

The agripreneurs made the call at the fourth African Development Bank (AfDB) African Youth Agripreneur Forum (AYAF) held virtually in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and presented by the Enable Youth programme.

The programme, presented as a three-part webinar series, has as its theme: "Driving Sustainable Nutrition and Gender Inclusivity in Africa's Agri-Food Systems: Youth Agripreneurs Seize the Decade".

The first session of the series aimed to discuss the relationship between sustainable nutrition and gender inclusivity within the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the bank's Feed Africa Strategy 2025.

The session also sought to identify the required policies to create an enabling environment to address gender inclusivity and adequate nutritional status for all in Africa and the role of the youth in addressing these issues.

Ms Yvonne Otieno, the Chief Executive Officer of Miyonga Farms and an agripreneur charged participants to influence policies that would promote research and create value addition in the continent's nat-

ural and mineral resources.

Otieno said that Africa needed to "research in business models that work and are different and inclusive" to promote services that could be considered as "things that add value".

"So look at your country's budget when it comes to issues to do with research; how much is actually put onto research into innovative ideas compared to other industries?"

"Policies that promote research will be good. If we look at the current situation we have in Africa right now, a lot of what we export are raw materials.

"But we have the capacity to actually do value addition and create quality products but how well have we researched into the dif-

ferent value chains to know that from one product we can make different things that have different values and even become exporters of that commodity?" she asked.

She also tasked participants on the need to create business ideas that would be implemented to add value to their various communities. "Now when it comes to policy issues because we are talking about nutrition and policy, this is where the power of partnership comes up because it is very hard to try to make a difference and solve a problem when you are on your own.

"But if you are part of a network and there is an industry issue related to whatever problem you are trying to solve, then together you can influence the policies that will make a difference.

"It is very hard to change the laws but easier to influence policies that get a faster turnaround time." Otieno also urged participants to take advantage of the benefits of

the programme to get "access to people who have the knowledge, skills, techniques and networks" that would be required for the next level.

Also speaking, Sarah Pentlow, Senior Programme Officer, Gender Mainstreaming, Nutrition International urged participants to take advantage of new opportunities to partner with governments.

"COVID is creating further challenges but there is an opportunity particularly around the whole area of social protection programmes.

"In many ways, it is about the challenges that we hear about but I think there are opportunities too and social protection programmes are new opportunities to partner with governments to ensure the most vulnerable can still have access to adequate nutrition."

Mrs Mondeny Fofana, a Member of Parliament, Côte d'Ivoire also advised the young agripreneurs

to stand against any form of impunity in the sector and "popularise true nutrition".

Fofana said: "We want the women across the world to be supported so that they can be fed and can feed the world in the most efficient and effective manner.

"The struggle is still ahead; we get to popularise true nutrition so that the unborn and younger generation will not be lacking good quality food nutrition."

Also speaking on women inclusion, Mr Frantz Seide, Youth and Livelihoods Technical Advisor, Care International said it was a multidimensional problem that needed to be addressed in "solving some of the key systemic constraints". Seide said that addressing the constraints would ensure equitable livelihoods in the agricultural value chain were provided. "It is from country to country, community to community, and that need for assessment to make

sure we know the setting in which young women, young people are trying to make a living in the agrosystem.

"We make sure we provide linkages with all stakeholders and have a community that is more empowering, enabling to make young people have the means, resources to take advantage of the opportunities of the sector."

He said the sector was a competitive one and urged that the youth influence policies that would promote women and youth empowerment and to contribute meaningfully to the agri-food systems.

The AYAF is a networking platform that seeks to bring together young agriculture entrepreneurs "agripreneurs," agribusiness leaders, agribusiness investors, environmentalists, academia, development partners and government agencies to work on facilitating youth entrepreneurship along the agriculture value chain.

AU says over 600m Africans lack electricity despite huge renewable energy potential

By Special Correspondent, Addis

Ababa

THE African Union (AU) Commission yesterday revealed that over 600 million people across the Africa lack access to electricity despite the continent's abundant renewable energy potential.

"Currently, more than 600 million Africans lack access to electricity with many still relying on traditional biomass for cooking," the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Amani Abou-Zeid, told the virtual Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-C8), which brings together experts from the geothermal development community, former heads of state and members of geothermal development associations from around Africa, Europe and Asia, aims to spur the development of nearly 20,000 MW of geothermal power from Africa.

"This is having huge impacts on our efforts towards poverty reduction and human development in the Continent," told the virtual meeting organized by the 55-member pan African bloc.

The AU commissioner highlighted that Africa has a huge potential in renewable energy, especially in geothermal which is a viable energy resource estimated at over 15,000 megawatts in East Rift System Countries, that the continent can leverage on to improve the energy-mix generation in East Africa.

Abou-Zeid also stressed that the development of geothermal energy "is one of the main focus areas for the AU Commission," which she said is the main reason behind the establishment of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) back in 2012 by the continental bloc in collaboration with its partners.

She emphasized that the GRMF "has become since its launch in

2012 a reference in terms of risk mitigation and financial tool for supporting the geothermal energy development in Eastern Africa."

The AU infrastructure and energy commissioner also stressed that the positive impacts that GRMF has made in terms of geothermal market development in East Africa.

She pointed out that the initiative had successfully launched 5 Application Rounds during which projects developers have been awarded grants totaling over 117 million U.S. dollars to 30 projects with a potential to generate 2,800 Megawatts of electricity.

According to the AU, the main objective of the ARGeo conference envisaged promoting and support the geothermal development in the East Africa region.

The high-level international conference, among others, brought together policymakers,

technical experts as well as developers and financiers of international and regional delegates.

The conference also provided a platform to explore solutions on how to mitigate the risks associated with resource exploration, reduce lead times in developing geothermal projects, leverage investment to stimulate the growth of industry, and effectively develop, construct, and operate successful geothermal power plants.

During her remarks, the AU infrastructure and energy commissioner called upon key stakeholders including implementing and grants beneficiary countries, technical partners and international financial institutions to joint efforts to meet both technical challenges and financial gaps to unlock the huge potential and untapped geothermal resources in East Africa.

The ARGeo conference is expected to come up with recommendations on various issues



affecting the geothermal energy development in East Africa such as business models, regulatory frameworks to boost investments in sustainable energy, it was noted.

The Regional Geothermal Coordination Unit at

the AU Commission in collaboration with UNEP-ARGeo will be responsible for following up on the recommendations and reaching out to various partners for its successful implementation, it was indicated.

Fund invests in Mpale village solar power mini-grid project

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has invested in development projects aimed at expanding access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy, investing in a 50kw solar power micro grid project in Mpale village, in Korogwe District, Tanga Region.

Access to affordable and reliable electricity is vital for Tanzania's attainment of its socio-economic goals. Access to electricity is specifically difficult in Tanzania's north east-

ern village of Mpale in Korogwe District, where the mountainous terrain poses a technical challenge in deploying grid lines.

The Mpale 50kw solar village micro grid project is vital in increasing rural electrification which will directly and indirectly impact 3,000 people in Mpale village. The project serves as a demonstration platform with a massive potential for replication and scale up in other villages, in the region, and also in other parts of the country. The project will contribute toward the sustainable and inclusive devel-

opment of Korogwe District and beyond, by generating important transformative impacts.

Electricity was brought to the village of Mpale nearly 50 years after it was established as a village. Prosper Magali, the Project Manager at Ensol a private sector company says the idea of developing the Mpale 45kw solar mini grid was to connect rural communities with electricity noting the challenges of energy distribution to remote areas.

In three years of implementation, there are numerous accomplishments providing entrepreneurial opportunities

to youth and women in small shops, salons, barbershops, carpentry etc. Connectivity is currently at 256 households of which 50 are SMEs, an increase from 50 homes in 2017.

For UNCDF, it was important to demonstrate the development impact of this off grid renewable power plant (as opposed to diesel generated power plants) at this most remote and difficult to reach mountainous villages in Korogwe district. Once this first one is built, the local developer can demonstrate to local banks and other investors that there is proof of concept and a successful track record.

Good governance a must for extractive industries to really help reduce poverty

THE World Bank's Extractives Global Programmatic Support (EGPS) Trust Fund and Inter-American Development Bank are soliciting proposals for the second global gender oil, gas and mining conference to be held virtually on March 3-4, 2021. It is against this backdrop that the Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) has launched a new publication that proposes actions that need to be put in place to stem illicit financial flows leakages before they leave Africa's shores.

The report notes that once the resources leave Africa, getting them back involves a complicated process requiring capacities often in short supply in African countries. Furthermore, the speed and ease of loss across national boundaries easily breach Africa's national financial security defense lines. This trend, states the Report, must be halted.

The report, titled: Institutional Architecture to Address Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, was launched during a high-level roundtable convened by UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed on the theme: Extractive Industries as an Engine for Sustainable Development: The Case of Africa.

The analysis builds on efforts by the African Union the Economic Commission for Africa, academia and civil society institutions to stem the illicit outflows of \$50 billion a year.

Africa's extractive industries, if properly exploited, could be a means to achieve the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Africa we Want.

The Continent needs to ask itself - in a post COVID-19 world, how can extractives create clean and gender responsive jobs; how can countries run a green energy transition and use extractives to propel us towards a low emission and resilient future... enable good governance and benefit local communities.

Indeed, the global oil, gas and mining landscape is shifting rapidly. Unprecedented digital disruption and automation is reshaping the opportunities available to men and women working in the sector. The economic fall-out of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is touching every corner of the world with

sweeping and differentiated impacts on men and women in oil, gas and mining communities. Meanwhile, global efforts to decarbonize our societies are underway, but with the additional challenge of increasing demand for minerals needed for this transition.

About 3.5 billion people live in countries rich in oil, gas or minerals. With good governance and transparent management, the revenues from extractive industries can have an impact on reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity, while respecting community needs and the environment. Few regions of the world boast as diverse and eclectic an extractive industries sector as sub-Saharan Africa.

Most common construction minerals are aggregates (sand, gravel, and crushed natural stone), various brick clays, gypsum, and natural ornamental or dimension stone. The demand for construction minerals is high in Africa. The sector mainly consists of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating over 20,000 extraction sites that supply local and regional markets. Where does gender equality fit into this picture of a rapidly shifting global oil, gas, and mining landscape? What impacts will a global crisis and potential recession have on progress towards gender parity? These are some of the questions that will be discussed at the second Global Gender in Oil, Gas, and Mining Conference.

The second Global Gender Oil, Gas and Mining Conference will explore gender equality in the oil, gas and mining sectors in the context of a changing world.

The main objective is to share and build knowledge among governments, academia, industry, and civil society on actions that can enhance gender equality in oil, gas and mining. More specifically, the conference aims to: Provide a space for knowledge sharing and development on policy, project implementation, and innovative approaches on addressing gender gaps in oil, gas, and mining especially in the context of the changing nature of work, the COVID-19 pandemic, and decarbonisation of energy systems.

Sustainable wildlife management is hard to ensure without involving communities

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

Humans have historically tended to separate civilization from wildlife in a number of ways, including the legal, social, and moral senses. Some animals, however, have adapted to suburban environments. This includes such animals as domesticated cats, dogs, mice, and gerbils. Some religions declare certain animals to be sacred, and in modern times, concern for the natural environment has provoked activists to protest against the exploitation of wildlife for human benefit or entertainment.

The global wildlife population decreased by 52pc between 1970 and 2014, according to a World Wildlife Fund report. Stone Age people and hunter-gatherers relied on wildlife, both plants and animals, for their food. In fact, some species may have been hunted to extinction by early human hunters. Today, hunting, fishing, and gathering wildlife is still a significant food source in some parts of the world. In other areas, hunting and non-commercial fishing are mainly seen as a sport or recreation. Meat sourced from wildlife that is not traditionally re-

garded as game is known as bush meat. The increasing demand for wildlife as a source of traditional food in East Asia is decimating populations of sharks, primates, pangolins and other animals, which they believe have aphrodisiac properties.

Africa can learn from China's efforts to conserve its wildlife resources, a pan-African wildlife conservation body has said. Fred Kumah, vice president of external affairs at African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) said that China has used a combination of conservation measures and community engagement to achieve wildlife conservation success which is an area Africa needs to keep in focus.

"The lessons from giant panda recovery are already present in Africa and being implemented across key endangered species," he said, adding: "Very critical to the recovery was the engagement of communities, both in protection and in projects that ensured benefits to communities as well as increased the habitat space of the species."

The official said a keen focus on securing habitat space, preventing further loss and fragmentation of wildlife space is going to be the next and most important factor in securing wildlife populations going forward in Africa.

He added that most African countries need species recovery plans aimed at wildlife species identified as endangered or vulnerable because they will help in mobilising stakeholders in support of actions that will lead the desired results. He added that the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging to all aspects of society, especially the conservation sector where isolation measures have impacted revenues from nature tourism and protected areas.

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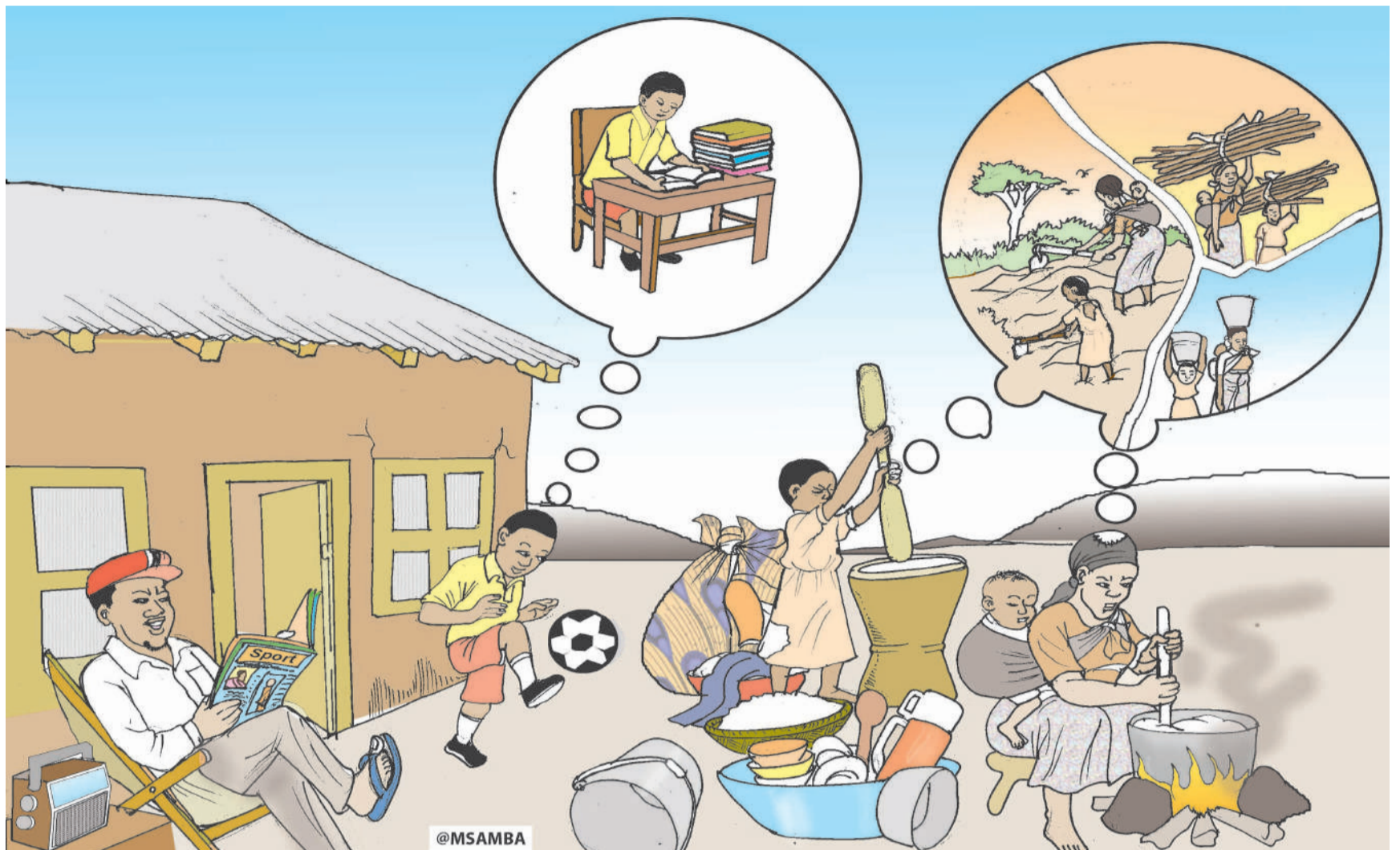
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Africa should reject 'business as usual' approach to COVID-19

By Peter Kamalining

THE corona virus pandemic is impacting Africa's population in quite differentiated ways and is significantly entrenching inequality. At the greatest risk are lives and livelihoods of the poor.

Millions are being pushed further into hunger and poverty. Children have been forced out of school with many of them, particularly girls, having a slim or no chance of accessing education again.

Without access to piped water and no food reserves, women have had to bear the biggest burden of the pandemic and risked exposure to the virus to keep families going. Reversal of the gains made during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era, is now more likely than ever.

Leaders must refuse to take the easier option of failed economic models that allow few rich people to build their wealth off the backs of the poor and thrive even in the middle of a pandemic. Political and business leaders must take bold steps towards building a human economy for all Africans.

This crisis has clearly shown how critical publicly funded public services are to dealing with pandemics. Decades of underinvestment in public services and social protection systems have left the majority of governments woefully unprepared to tackle Covid-19, according to the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index, an analysis published recently by Oxfam and Development Finance International. The report ranks 158 countries on labour rights, taxation, and spending on health, education and social protection.

While Africa and its people have seen its fair share of crises in the past and exhibited appreciable levels of resilience and 'bounce back', Africa shouldn't forget the Covid-19 crisis, like the many crises before, and adopt a "business as usual" approach to recovery.

Leaders must refuse to take the easier option of failed economic models that allow few rich people to build their wealth off the backs of the poor and thrive even in the middle of a pandemic. Political and business leaders must take bold steps towards building a human economy for all Africans.

An economy where the size of your bank account does not dictate how long you live or how many years your children spend in school. An economy that rewards and guarantees dignity for workers, especially with the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). An economy where big corporations and the rich pay their fair share of taxes and public resources are not used for private benefit.

A more just and human economy is achievable!

Excitingly, a few African governments are taking steps towards building an economy that works for all, not just a few super-rich and big corporations.



They agree that inequality is not inevitable but a consequence of their choice of policies.

Sierra Leone has remained true to its commitment of making secondary education free for all. To improve its tax collection, it is cracking down on unnecessary tax incentives and clamping down on tax evasion by mining companies.

Ethiopia has consistently stood out globally for spending the second-highest proportion of budget on education - the greatest equaliser in society. It has increased spending on health and social protection with tangible impact on poverty and inequality reduction.

Namibia, a country with a poisonous legacy of high inequality and colonial expropriation has been able to introduce payments to support workers in the informal sector who have lost their jobs during the pandemic. A new World Bank study has found that Namibia's taxation and spending policies are reducing inequality significantly. These governments can do more and there is much that other African leaders can learn from them.

What needs to happen?

Africa should defend its tax revenues to finance a people's recovery. Across the continent, tax collection has been on a decline with public debt stocks on a sharp rise. This trend needs to be reversed. Governments should stop taking the easy road of debt and instead put a halt to the bleeding of legitimate revenues through tax dodging and ruinous tax competition.

West Africa, a region that has lost over 2,500 lives to corona virus, for example, loses an estimated \$9.6bn annually from wasteful corporate tax incentives. This lost revenue is enough to build 100 modern and well-equipped hospitals each year. Indeed, the region could have been better prepared to deal with the pandemic.

While global solidarity and action is required to truly turn things around, political will is needed now, more than ever, to implement the recommendations of the Thabo Mbeki led high level panel on illicit financial flows.

African countries can individually take action to review, renegotiate or cancel tax treaties that expose them to profit-shifting and treaty shopping, and collectively pursue a minimum effective tax rate for the profits of multinationals.

People's lives must be put before the profits of creditors. High debt repayments are severely hurting social spending. Today, interest payments constitute the highest and rapidly growing public budget line. Before the pandemic, over thirty three African countries were already spending more on debt payments than healthcare.

At the beginning of the pandemic, African Finance ministers asked for a waiver of all interest payments for 2020, which were estimated at \$44bn to allow governments more fiscal space. Sadly, the G20's response has been underwhelming.

The much-needed resources to save lives and protect economies has continued to flow from poor African countries to foreign banks in rich countries. For example, in 2020, 69 per cent of all debt payments due in Zambia is owed to private creditors.

African governments should consolidate and raise their voice on the urgent need for global action on debt. Private lenders and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank should be compelled to join the Debt Servicing Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Governments and their citizens must learn from the structural adjustment programme and push back on any austerity being imposed through new financing. Already, 84 per cent of the Covid-19 loans by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) encourage, and in

some cases require, countries to adopt more tough austerity measures in the aftermath of the health crisis. Any cuts in social spending or increase in regressive taxes such as value added tax (VAT) on food items will be borne by the poor further widening inequality.

Developed nations should also pay their financial and moral debt. Aid is not only a means of channelling additional financing to developing countries but also a form of redistribution, especially in a global economy where inequality is alarmingly high and characterised by an extractive, colonial and racial history.

The year 2020 marks the fiftieth anniversary since rich nations committed to spend 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) on aid to low-income and middle-income countries, a majority of which are in Africa.

Fifty years later, this figure stands at a mere 0.3 per cent, on average. According to Oxfam's calculations donor countries owe \$5.7 trillion to the poorest people. With the pandemic, there must be a renewed political commitment to international aid and a move from a charity-based system to one based on justice.

To build a more human and just economy, Africa must shun economic policies that trap Africans in indignity. African political and business leaders can choose to build back a divided Africa - one where just three men have more wealth than the bottom 50% of the population.

Or they can choose the right path of building back an Africa for all, by promoting efficient and progressive tax systems, investing in free, quality and gender-responsive public services and social safety nets that reduce the burden of care on women and girls, and protecting the rights of workers to dignified work and wages.

This is not the last pandemic. A more equal Africa will cope much better with the next pandemic.

Regional aviation college and hurdles in training flight personnel

By Beatrice Philemon

ALTHOUGH aviation in the country is growing rapidly, it is facing a shortage of aviation personnel like aircraft maintenance engineers and flight dispatchers.

To address this challenge, the government needs to invest in aviation colleges, enabling those who run such colleges to obtain sufficient learning and teaching materials. They also need to have workshops and instructors, to attain set targets in skilled aviation sector labour force.

Regional Aviation College Principal, Hulka Omar says that the college has begun to offer the aircraft maintenance engineering (AME) course and the flight dispatch/flight operations course to students.

More than 170 students pursuing the AME course graduated and were employed by airline companies like Precision Air, Air Tanzania, Coastal Airlines, Auric Air and a Dubai flight company.

Demand for AME graduates is high, with 60 per cent likely positions still unmet, he said, proceeding to

invite students dreaming to join airlines to pursue the AME course as employment opportunities are still high, with offers from Nigeria, Kenya and Dubai.

AME is a technical training course preparing students in the maintenance of an aircraft, its various parts and engines. Students must pass science related subjects with a D pass and above, he stated.

Before a flight starts, AME experts work hard and make sure that each and every functional system in the aircraft is in working condition. The safety standards must be being followed so that the aircraft is flight worthy.

In short, AME professionals play a crucial role in the smooth functioning of aeroplanes, so it is an opportunity for Tanzanians. So far the college has 15 qualified instructors who studied in Canada, UK, China, Uganda, Pakistan, Scotland and other countries.

Before introducing the AME course, such experts were hired from Britain, Germany, USA, France and elsewhere, with local airline firms spending much money to hire them.

Elaborating on flight dispatch/flight operations course, he says this is a six-month course introduced in 2014. Such personnel provide pilots with navigation information, relaying flight plan guidelines to ensure safe flight, he says.

Flight crew cannot fly without the help of a team of people on the ground, aircraft dispatchers being a crucial link, checking flight fuel, flight plans, load control/weight balance, safety guidelines and weather patterns. No flight can take off without the dispatcher's permission, he pointed out.

The flight dispatcher must take into account the weather, at the start and during the flight and at its final destination. That means studying winds, thinking about alternative destinations, fuel requirements, altitudes and general traffic flow, he elaborated.

So far more than 350 students have graduated in this course, with graduates obtaining jobs in air-



Aircraft maintenance engineer Patrobas Shaka at work before a plane takes off.

ports around the world with firms such as Swissport and United Aviation Services (UAS).

Students with ambition to work for airlines companies or airports should pass at least four science subjects that include geography, physics, mathematics, chemistry with four D passes or above.

"You don't need to have diploma in this course; even form four leavers can join our college for the flight dispatch course," he says.

Upon completion of study, graduates obtain an internationally recognized certificate making them employable in local and foreign airlines, he said.

Extensive information on weather and forecasting is required in order to provide pilots with accurate information so that flights make it to destination safely and on time.

"When the plane is in the air, the dispatcher will continue to monitor and relay that information to the pilot. If there is weather approaching that might pose a threat, the pilot and dispatcher will together determine how to land the plane safely," he specified.

Operational decisions often come straight from a dispatcher who has to let pilots know of any safety hazards or changes that can come up without warning, he further noted.

Dispatchers figure out how much fuel will be consumed during the flight, additional fuel that should be on the plane in case the pilot has to steer clear of weather or get to an alternate airport, he said.

As for 2020/2021 plans, the college is introducing the cabin crew course, another on dangerous course of flight, airport operations, air cargo as well as air fare and ticketing courses.

The regional aviation college offer basic certificate, full certificate and diploma courses in flight dispatch/operations, airport operations, air cargo advance marketing, travel and tourism, airline customer service plus ground operations management.

Others are marketing and management, business studies, hotel management, human resources management plus purchases and supply chain management.

Registration of Form IV and VI leavers continues for students with ambition to work for airlines, airports, airport ground, handling companies, travel agencies, tour companies and hospitality industries.

For his part, Precision Air technician Alisen Maja said that there are many students interested to pursue those two courses but they don't have funds, urging the government, private companies and other stakeholders to work on how to support these students so as to attain aviation industry goals.

The government needs to put in place regulations that encourage financial institutions to lend or sponsor students who pursue such disciplines as a matter of urgency, with civil aviation becoming an important aspect in the tourism sector, he added.

TALIRI launches key initiatives on forage production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) is planning to improve researches and expand its capacity on production of seeds for forages with a major ambition to start generating seeds for various legume's forages.

Scientifically, different from other grass pastures, legume pastures are with high proteins and other potential nutrients, highly recommended for the productivity of dairy and meat cattle.

The vital initiative targets for more researches and production of seeds for key legume forages, including Medication Sativa (alfalfa), Macroptium Atropurpureum (siratro), and Crotoria Ternatea (blue pea).

The envisaged development will see the state-owned institute expand acreage at its seed farms from the currently 20 acres to at least 50, the move which is projected to advance seed production from 200kg to 500kg annually.

According to TALIRI's Director of Technology Transfer Directorate, Dr Jonas Kizima, the initiative was gearing to assist the government reduce the high expenditure it uses in importing Brachiaria varieties from abroad, especially from Brazil, currently at 40USD per 1kg.

He said, uses of pastures among the livestock keepers in Tanzania is still very low, the poor trend which retards the smooth metamorphosis of the key sub-sector in which the industrial economy drive hinges on.

"Our target is to major into intensive researches of the legume fodder varieties in order to later on be inspected and finally certified by the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI), the move which will enable us generate more



Dr Jonas Kizima, Director of technological transfer at the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute sows seeds for forage at one of the TALIRI seed farms. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

seeds," Dr Kizima expressed.

He observed that the country was facing a significant shortage of improved pastures due to among other things, absence of few farm seeds as well as private companies that deals with pasture seeds production. "In Tanzania, there are only few pasture seeds producing farms, those under the ministry of agriculture and the ones owned by TALIRI," he observed.

However, as part of efforts to improve the situation, he said the institute, in cooperation with International Livestock Research Institute (ILIRI) was also implementing another special programme to advance production and accessibility of forage among livestock keepers within the country.

Dubbed 'Adaptation and Association Mapping Studies on Tanzania Brachiaria ecotypes, the timely initiatives are being implemented under the programmes of Bio-sciences East and Central Africa (Beca) Hub, and it involves collection of brachiaria of different ecotypes from at least 20 regions.

"Home production of the forage varieties will be useful as livestock keepers will be able to purchase the varieties at friendly and domestic prices, a move which will ultimately see major improvement of the sector," he expressed.

According to him, the vital programme targets to conduct on-station evaluation of the collected brachiaria of different ecotypes, in terms of their genetic characteristics and morphological assessments, with an eye to get the best varieties with high potential for livestock forage. The regions in which the brachiaria of different ecotypes have been picked are Mtwara, Lindi, Morogoro, Coastal, Tanga, Dodoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Kigoma, Geita, Rukwa, Tabora, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Katavi.

"As the country is heading towards industrial economy a need for major improvement and modernization of the livestock sector becomes vital. We are implementing this programme in order to research and introduce best forage seed varieties, with much-needed nutrients for cattle," he expressed.

Dr Kizima said as per the programme's schedule, the best varieties to be picked from the selected brachiaria of different ecotypes from the said 20 regions

will later on be forwarded to the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for certification approval. So far, he informed that TALIRI has picked its four centers to perform professional on-station evaluation of the collected brachiaria of different ecotypes. The center, according to him are TALIRI-Tanga, TALIRI-Mabuki, TALIRI-Mpwawpa and TALIRI-Uyole Mbeya.

He expressed high optimism that the on-going programme will meet the targeted end-results and hence contribute highly to the advancement of the country's livestock sector.

On a similar vein, recently, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in its Hombolo based center launched the similar initiatives, called Advanced Yield Trials (AYT) and Farmer's Assessment Trials (FAT) projects on different forage sorghum and pile millet varieties. In partnership with Advanta Seed International, the two-year project target to improve silage sector for livestock in Tanzania.

Among others, the initiative is also anticipated to help increase performance of the country's beef and dairy sectors, as well as boosting incomes among livestock keepers and farmers.

According to Senior Plant Breeder for TARI-Hombolo, Dr Lameck Nyaliyga the center was running AYT for at least six different sorghum seeds.

He named some seed varieties for forage sorghum and pile millet currently under the Advanced Yield Trials (AYT)'s plantations at the state-owned center in Hombolo, Dodoma region as Sugar-Grace, Mega-Sweet, BMR Rocket and Jumbo-Gold.

He said the varieties are very potential for livestock silages as they contain much-needed nutrients for cattle, especially in increasing livestock health (market weight) and with at least 25 per cent capacity of increasing milk production.

According to him, among the necessary nutrients available in the forage seed varieties include high protein and biomass, good sugar content (between 16-18 Brix) and are also with potential energy for cattle.

He said the target is to enable livestock keepers in Tanzania to execute their activities more professionally by feeding their cattle with researched forages with high impact to their livestock's health.

'Media Laws in India' – a must-read handbook for journalists

By Elizabeth Shilpa

THE World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) has just released "Media Laws in India", a comprehensive report that looks at laws affecting the editorial functioning of media in India.

An initiative of WAN-IFRA's World Editors Forum South Asia Chapter, the report provides news media professionals with a better understanding of freedom of expression in India.

It explores how laws have been misused to check the freedom of press and how journalists themselves should be more responsible while writing stories.

The report, released on October 31 along with a panel discussion supported by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, includes insights from senior executives from the media industry and the judiciary to give a balanced outlook.

India has the largest constitution in the world. However, there is no separate set of laws for press freedom. The freedom of the press is derived from the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1) (a) for all citizens.

In the World Press Freedom Index 2020, India stood at 142 among 180 countries. Misuse of laws targeting journalists and media organisations to stop them from saying unpleasant truths have become a common practice.

While journalists walk scot-free most of the time, with the slow nature of the judiciary, the process often becomes the punishment. At the same time there have also been instances of journalists overstepping the line encroaching on people's right to privacy and reputation.

The report addresses the situation through case studies, testimonials, interviews and hints for journalists. The lead article in the report is written by Mukund Padmanabhan, former editor of leading national dailies in India including The Hindu and The

Businessline, along with Anant Nath, Managing Editor of The Caravan, one of the top long-form narrative journalism magazines in India.

The others who have supported the report through their inputs include Shekhar Gupta - Editor of The Print, Madhavi Divan - Additional Solicitor General of India and Geeta Ramaseshan - Lawyer at Madras High Court.

The application of the law is extremely problematic. One of the important questions raised by Padmanabhan, who is also the chairman of the World Editors Forum South Asia Chapter, during the discussion was: Where does the actual problem lie - is it with the laws themselves or does it lie in the flaws, in the way the justice or prosecutory system works?

He observed that in the case of different laws that impact the media, it worked differently, adding: "I think we need to think of alternatives as well in some cases, and not merely stop with just calling for the scrapping or repeal of some laws."

Ramaseshan raised the issue of communities creating pressure to curb the freedom of expression of individuals and the state acting in a way suppressing the individual's right to expression.

"The application of the law by the criminal justice system, the state, the police, etc., is extremely problematic," she said, adding: "The judiciary has a great role to play in this in terms of accepting or rejecting cases, not granting certain bails, etc."

However, she also noticed that at times trial by the media becomes extremely virulent and there is a need to look at the rights of people who are weaker than the media - which constitute a very powerful institution.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star of Bangladesh, spoke at length about laws introduced in Bangladesh in the digital space, the much-criticised Digital Security Act in particular.

"The purpose of this Digital Security Act was to prevent exploitation of cy-



berspace for defrauding, transfer of money, spreading religious hatred and other such crimes," he said.

Anam elaborated: "But this law, which is not purposefully made for the press or for the media but for cyberspace, is impacting on the freedom of the press because now each media is present in cyberspace. In the two years of its implementation more journalists have been arrested than cyber criminals."

Krishnadas Rajagopal, a legal correspondent with The Hindu, gave a first person account of what happens in In-

dia's Supreme Court when issues of free speech and criminal contempt of court are heard.

"Over the past few months there has been, in my view, an increase of cases concerning these subjects," he said, adding: "Journalists booked under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act or UAPA and sedition laws come to the court for protection of their personal liberty."

Rajagopal elaborated: "On the other hand, the prosecution or the government oppose this on the uniform ground

of national interest and national security. The court responses in these cases are mixed. They range from giving hope to being a cause of public despair.

"The issue is complex, it is multi layered and it needs discussion, and we have to address both sides."

• WAN-IFRA

How Russia became the world's leading wheat exporter...

By Alexei Lossan

RUSSIA sells more wheat than any other country in the world. At the same time, its domestic grain consumption is growing, too. So how did Russia manage to achieve this breakthrough in wheat exports?

This year will see Russia retain its title of the world's largest wheat exporter, according to data from the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS USDA).

In its October report, FAS raised the wheat harvest forecast for Russia (without Crimea) by 5 million tonnes - to 83 million tonnes.

The country's export potential in the 2020/21 season was increased from 37.5 million to 39 million tonnes. The runner-up, the United States, is forecast to export 27 million tonnes of wheat this year, followed by the EU with 25.5 million tonnes.

Where does Russia stand as a wheat supplier?

For the past several years, Russia has been one of the world's top ten exporters of grain crops, including barley, corn, rye and oats, but especially wheat. In 2017-2019, it was the biggest exporter of wheat, accounting for about 20 per cent of the world market.

"Over the past decade, Russia has more than doubled its wheat exports, while the world market has grown by only one-third. The country's share of the global wheat market has practically doubled in that time," says Denis Ternovsky, a leading researcher at the Centre for Agri-Food Policy with the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEI), RANEP.

Has Russia always been a grain exporter?

Starting in the 1960s, the USSR was a net grain importer. For example, in 1963, it bought 10.4 million tonnes of grain and 2.1 million tonnes of flour from the US. Furthermore, the amount of imports gradually increased.

Details: in 1972, grain imports amounted to 23 million tonnes; in 1975, to 27 million tonnes; in 1979, to 31 million tonnes; in 1980, to 43 million tonnes.

The record-high amount of grain imports was recorded in 1985, when the USSR had to purchase 47 million tonnes.

The USSR's dependence on imported

grain became one of the driving factors behind perestroika and economic reforms and, subsequently, the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Owing to a sharp drop in oil prices in the second half of the 1980s, Soviet authorities did not have enough foreign currency to buy grain and were forced to dramatically increase the amount of foreign borrowing. On the domestic front, the lack of grain led to food shortages and growing public discontent.

What grain does Russia supply to the global market?

The most important grain crop in the world is wheat, and Russia is now one of the largest wheat suppliers in the world.

"In terms of wheat production, last year Russia became the third largest producer, after India and China," says Dmitry Bedenkov, head of research at the Russ-Invest investment company.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) records show that Russia's wheat production exceeded 72 million tonnes in 2018-19. In 2017, the country had a record harvest of 86 million tonnes.

How much wheat does Russia sell?

According to FAO, Russia was the world's biggest wheat exporter last year, selling almost 34.5 million tonnes.

The other two out of the top three exporters - the US and the EU - are considerably behind the leader, having supplied 26.6 and 23.7 million tonnes, respectively.

Russia exports almost half of its grain production. Since 2013, when its grain exports were slightly under 14 million tonnes, they have grown by almost 150 per cent.

The growth can be partly attributed to a rise in world grain prices and an increase in domestic wheat production. In 2012 and 2013, Russia produced 37.8 and 52.14 million tonnes of wheat, respectively.

Who does Russia sell grain to?

According to the Federal Customs Service, in the first six months of 2020, the biggest buyers of Russian grain were Turkey (\$818.3 million), followed by Egypt (\$514.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (\$167.5 million).

In addition, Russia supplies quite significant amounts to: Vietnam (\$129.8 million), Bangladesh (\$105.1 million), Sudan (\$102.4 million), UAE (\$95.7 million), Azerbaijan



(\$83.5 million), and Morocco (\$77.8 million).

If we look into the amount of grain exports, then the list of the top countries in the first half of 2020 would be as follows: Turkey (3.9 million tonnes), Egypt (2.3 million tons), Saudi Arabia (893,000 tonnes), Vietnam (660,000 tonnes), Bangladesh (479,000 tonnes), Sudan (477,000 tonnes), UAE (460,000 tonnes), Azerbaijan (410,000 tonnes), Morocco (368,000 tonnes).

In the first six months of 2020, Russia ex-

ported \$3.56 billion worth of grain, 14.3 per cent more than in the same period last year. In physical terms, supplies increased even more: by 23.1 per cent to 17.3 million tonnes.

How did Russia manage to achieve these results?

The growth in exports was achieved entirely through new production. Domestic grain consumption not only did not decrease owing to the increase in exports but, on the

contrary, increased: by 10 per cent over the past decade.

"The growth in production is primarily due to improvements in agricultural technologies and a resulting increase in yield," explains Denis Ternovsky.

He points out that the growth in Russian grain exports was assisted and made possible by the creation of a logistics infrastructure (port terminals), which made it possible to handle a multiple increase in export volumes, and the devaluation of the ruble, which made Russian wheat more competitive following a drop in world prices after 2014.

• Russia Beyond

Deputy UN chief pushes Security Council on global ceasefire to fight 'common enemy'

By Special Correspondent

THE UN Deputy Secretary-General has urged the Security Council to do more to encourage combatants across the world to put down their guns and focus instead on fighting "our common enemy" - the coronavirus.

"I count on your commitment to this appeal", Amina Mohammed told the meeting via video-conference, on factors driving civil strife worldwide.

"And I count on your renewed political and financial investments in prevention and solu-

tions, to stave off security and conflict risks, at a time when the world needs peace and calm more than ever before".

She informed that the pandemic continues to exacerbate the risks and drivers of conflict, "from cross-border insecurity and climate-related threats, to social unrest and democratic deficits".

"Grievances and inequalities are deepening, eroding trust in authorities and institutions of all kinds, and increasing vulnerabilities", she said.

Millions of women at risk

The deputy UN chief cited the diverse impacts of the pandemic on economic and social inequalities, as well as on the promotion and protection of human rights, especially for women.

"Parties to conflict are taking advantage of the pandemic to create or aggravate insecurity and impede medical care and other life-saving assistance and services", she attested.

At the same time women are disproportionately employed in the sectors most affected by lockdowns - where there is "an

alarming spike" in gender-based and domestic violence - and are more likely than men to lack savings, social security and health coverage.

"How can we talk about peace and security when millions of women are at greatest risk in their own homes? And we know there is a straight line between violence against women and girls, civic oppression and conflict", stated Ms. Mohammed.

Climate driver

Turning to linkages between climate change and security chal-

lenges, she dubbed the climate emergency "a major driver of inequality, insecurity and conflict".

She recounted her own fact-finding missions in the Sahel, Lake Chad region and Middle East, noting connections between the large-scale displacement of people and "extreme weather events like droughts and floods that destroy homes, livelihoods and communities".

"In some cases, the climate crisis threatens the very existence of nations", Ms. Mohammed spelled out.

'Stalled' development

The UN official also pointed to "stalled" progress on development that is continually being addressed in a "fragmented" manner.

While noting, "the drivers of conflict are not static: they change and evolve", so too are the opportunities, including new means for learning and growing, she continued.

"The pandemic has already shown that rapid change is possible, as millions of people adopt new ways of working,

learning and socializing", the deputy chief said, urging everyone to "build forward better".

She also maintained that recovering from COVID has "reinforced the need for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - our ultimate prevention tool", including on gender equality, and upholding the rule of law and good governance.

She called for a "whole-of-UN approach" to the contemporary challenges and drivers of conflict, which must include all Member States.

Aerial images detect, track food security threats for millions of African farmers

By Special Correspondent

NEW research shows how a combination of imagery from mobile phones, drones and satellites can be used to clamp down on banana threats. The images of varying resolutions are fed into a platform "trained" through machine learning to identify banana crops and analyze threats with 97% overall accuracy. The findings were published in the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

The research case studies, conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Benin, have important implications for the 90 million people in East, West and Central Africa who rely on bananas and plantains as a primary food source. These mostly small-scale farmers are dependent on their cultivation for food, income and job security.

The increasing arrival and spread of serious diseases, fungal infections and viruses, due to climate change and land-use change among other factors, pose a serious food security threat. There are six major and devastating threats to banana, among them bunchy top disease (BBTD) and Xanthomonas wilt of banana (BXW).

"Threats are currently detected by experts in the field using cell phones," said Michael Gomez Selvaraj, a crop physiologist and co-author at the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). "But to track and detect diseases across huge tracts of land at country, district or village level, you need a platform that quickly detects threats."

Using a pixel-based classification system, first the researchers trained the model to detect banana plants on mixed-farm systems, where smallholder farmers grow many things on one piece of land. After 'learning' the patterns and algorithms of banana plants, the researchers then trained the platform to analyze physical symptoms of the six diseases, and the percentage threat.

Information about the severity of the specific threat and its spread can be sent to organizations or government authorities who can take immediate measures to clamp down on them. "Otherwise potential threats multiply quickly, for example, farmers may give infected crop stems to others, and, in the case of a virus, spread it around the country or district without knowing until it's too late," said Selvaraj.

Currently, most disease surveillance systems focus on a single-sensor based solution that cannot monitor larger landscapes through mobile phones or drones. This method combines field-level information captured by farmers or extension workers in the field, with satellite data to detect crop area, and drones deployed to analyze the exact threat and its intensity.

"We can now detect six major banana threats with speed and accuracy with our Tumaini mobile phone app," said Selvaraj. The database is free for farmers, organizations and governments to use, and has been downloaded from the Google App store 2,500 times.

"The next step is to find financial support to bring more partners together, so we can track more data over a wider area. The hope is to cover Africa, India, Australia



and Latin America where bananas are a major crop and these threats are looming," he added.

Graham Thiele, the Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas, said: "We congratulate the team on this breakthrough research.

It validates the use of aerial images for disease detection, potentially transforming our ability to assess threat impact."

The platform can also be used to track other pests, diseases or viruses for other threats where symptoms are visible. For example, to track the

spread of fall armyworm, an invasive crop pest which can feed on 80 different crop species including maize, and affected 83% of maize farmers in Kenya, causing losses of 33%, and costing an estimated US\$3.6 to \$6.2 billion across the 12 countries in the region.

Philips and AU join forces to improve access to healthcare solutions to Covid-19 pandemic

By Special Correspondent

ROYAL Philips, a global leader in health technology, and the African Union (AU) yesterday announced a major new partnership aimed to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and access to care in the continent by improving access to medical equipment.

Via the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP), Philips and the African Union will help provide a range of medical equipment, including state-of-the-art ventilators, patient-monitoring equipment, point-of-care ultrasound scanners, oxygen concentrators, and mobile digital radiography systems, in response to the immediate needs of healthcare facilities and COVID-19 patients.

"We are seeing second, and third waves of COVID-19 hit regions across the globe, so we cannot be complacent," said African Union Special Envoy Strive Masiyiwa.

"There is still a huge shortage of ventilators across the African continent and that is why this collaboration with Philips is critical to help us overcome the financial and technological constraints of our existing healthcare systems."

In addition to sourcing additional equipment via the AMSP platform, public-sector country and government hospitals and private hospital chains will be able, before 31 March 2021, to trade their outdated ventilators in for a next-generation Philips hospital ventilator at favorable conditions. Wherever possible, outdated ventilators will be sustainably disposed of or refurbished as part of Philips' EcoDesign initiative.

"Lack of access to affordable quality healthcare is one of the most pressing issues of our time," said Frans van Houten, CEO of Royal Philips.

"While the COVID-19 pandemic has only intensified the situation, the improvements we are collectively making to expand access to care in underserved communities and upgrade aging equipment will strengthen healthcare infrastructures now and in the long-run."

Alongside providing much needed medical equipment, the collaboration will extend the reach of Philips' established MedTalks Platform, which pro-



vides peer-to-peer networking webinars aimed at the clinical community.

These webinars are designed to stimulate continuous professional development through case studies and best practice sharing and provide access to the latest protocols and learnings from across the world. Coordinated through AMSP, Philips' collaboration with African Union means that communities across Africa will be able to receive the care they need from trained local healthcare workers, with the best technology and know-how available.

"The Africa CDC is building the right partnerships to bring this COVID-19 pandemic under control in Africa and strengthen our health systems to combat any future disease outbreaks," said Dr John Nkengasong, Director of African Union's Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

"The AMSP is bringing together several organiza-

tions to work with us in sourcing the right equipment and medical supplies for our healthcare facilities.

This new partnership with Philips is a remarkable addition that will provide long-term benefits for healthcare facilities in Africa."

The AMSP is an online marketplace that facilitates the supply of medical equipment for acute COVID-19 care in Africa at competitive prices to achieve greater impact and reach, while also simplifying procurement and distribution channels for fast-track delivery.

The AMSP was developed under the leadership of the AU Special Envoy, Strive Masiyiwa. It is powered by Janngo on behalf of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and was developed in partnership with African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Pangolins patrol: Team of volunteer rescues J'burg endangered animals

By Special Correspondent,

Johannesburg

THE traumatised pangolins arrive at a Johannesburg wildlife clinic emaciated and badly injured. They are the lucky ones. Rescued from poachers, they will survive thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers who tend their wounds, feed them and coax them back to health.

Pangolins are unique creatures; the world's only mammals with scales. They're sometimes called scaly anteaters, although they're not related. Like armadillos, they can roll up into an armored ball. Amazingly, their tongues can be longer than their bodies. Pangolins aren't well known and yet they are among the most poached and illegally trafficked animals in the world.

While species like the rhinoceros and elephant often headline anti-poaching efforts in Africa, experts warn these little critters, about the size of a domestic cat, are targeted more and nearing extinction because of high demand for their scales in traditional medicines in Asia.

The African Pangolin Working Group in South Africa - a team of veterinarians and wildlife experts - have been rehabilitating pangolins rescued from poachers for nearly a decade.

"When we receive those pangolins they are all compromised, whether they have been with the poachers for a few days or sometimes up to two weeks," said Nicci Wright, a wildlife rehabilitation expert and executive director of the pangolin group. "Some are very emaciated. They have got wounds, they have got injuries and it is very pitiful and very difficult to emotionally deal with that kind of suffering and abuse."

The animals are often caught in crude snares and recently

the group received a pangolin cut deeply through its torso by a snare, almost from stomach to back, said Wright, at the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, where rescued pangolins are cared for.

The animals are treated, put on a drip for rehydration, tube-fed a specially designed recovery diet, and sedated so they sleep for up to 48 hours. Then they are moved to undisclosed locations so the wildlife hospital isn't targeted by poachers.

"They have been looked at, poked, prodded, shipped around from place to place, opened up and looked at again," said Wright. "Rest is the most important thing, next to the physical recovery."

Pangolins are intriguing creatures. The scales are made of keratin, the same substance in human fingernails, and are incredibly tough. That extra-long and dexterous tongue is an expert ant-catching tool. When not in use, it rolls back into a special sheath in the pangolin's chest cavity.

Shy, pangolins will curl up into a tight ball when threatened. It's a useful defensive mechanism against predators and also protects against swarming ants if dinner time gets out of hand. But it makes them easier to catch and transport by poachers.

The pangolin group's chairman, Prof. Raymond Jansen, recorded 97 tons of pangolin scales seized from smugglers trying to take them out of Africa last year, equating to about 150,000 poached animals. Jansen estimates it's only about 20% of the total figure as the rest eludes authorities.

"If this trend continues and this demand is provided, then there is a very likely extinction event for all eight species

of the pangolin," said Jansen, whose day job is working in the Department of Environmental, Water and Earth Sciences at the Tshwane University of Technology in the South African capital, Pretoria.

With that in mind, the pangolin group isn't just treating pangolins, it's fighting back. It works with police to identify and catch poachers and traders, often in undercover operations. Last month, two men were arrested in a basement parking lot in Pretoria trying to sell a pangolin for \$20,000.

The work brings an element of personal danger for Jansen, who sometimes poses as an illegal buyer and meets poachers before police pounce and arrest them.

The group is also honing its anti-trafficking techniques. The latest program led by Jansen is training dogs to sniff out pangolins being hidden and transported. A dog named Havoc is the continent's first pangolin detection dog and recognizes the scents of all four African pangolin species, the group said. A second member of the pangolin K-9 unit is in training.



When we receive those pangolins they are all compromised, whether they have been with the poachers for a few days or sometimes up to two weeks

UN at 75: Slow death or new direction - Part 2

LONDON

KOFI Annan's Secretary-Generalship was a second honeymoon for the UN, coming six years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was a moment of hope and alignment between the major powers of which he took ample advantage.

He saw a moment of opportunity that was largely denied to those who came before and after him to get the UN's way on political, security and human rights matters.

Yet in the aftermath of a Security Council broken on the anvil of the US-UK invasion of Iraq a gale turned on him, too. So, for at most 10% of the UN's 75 years, has the wind blown strongly in the right direction. For the rest success has come despite not because of member state unanimity.

Bending the Sail

I want to suggest a manifesto for a re-purposed UN that is both true to its Charter; but recognises the direction the winds are blowing; does not cling to the mast of a failing western liberalism alone; but understands and responds to the dynamics that have left that liberalism, and it seems multilateralism, on the rocks.

This is a comeback strategy for the world as it is; in order to allow us later to make the world as we want it to be. It is no surprise that I don't imagine the vehicle for it being our grandparents' UN.

The world needs to believe the UN matters. That it is relevant. The UN still enjoys high levels of support in Pew and other surveys. Yet that support seems heavily aspirational - around what it ought to do; not what it does.

Support falls when pollsters ask about its specific performance. Churchill would see this, in a term he used in Fulton, as "Foundations built on sand".

Without a more passionate public embrace it is hard to overcome the inter-state fault lines. Annan was possibly unique among Secretary-Generals in being able to appeal directly to people, citing the opening word of the Charter in justification: "We, the Peoples of the United Nations...." Those before and since have been largely captives of Governments and their disagreements.

I often wish the UN's supporters would accept a more pragmatic UN rather than the aspirational Save the World one that lights up the top line poll findings. It will always disappoint such hopes. It is of the World not above it.

Dag Hammarskjöld's words still capture it best: "The UN wasn't created to take mankind into paradise, but rather, to save humanity from hell."

For its 75th, as you will hear shortly from Natalie, the UN undertook a survey of a million respondents supplemented by independent polling by Pew and Edelman Intelligence as well the latter's analysis of social and traditional media coverage in 70 countries.

What comes through clearly is that across very different national economies and circumstances there is a demand for the better delivery of basic services, notably at the moment health; protection of the environment and containing climate change; honest accountable government that delivers and protects its citizens. This is already the UN's agenda.

The UN is not going to replace government as an agent of service delivery. It does not command the resources or the authority. But the UN must deploy its convening, campaigning and normative roles to double down on its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda.

Covid has attacked that agenda as Bill and Melinda Gates have said setting back 25 years of progress in 25 weeks; driving 115 million people back into extreme poverty this year and raising fears for economic security in almost every family elsewhere.

The current Secretary-General Antonio Guterres dedicated most of his early period in office in trying to pick off some early wins in conflict resolution - including Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Cyprus. His efforts were not blessed with any major breakthroughs.



He then embraced the SDGs and Climate. He was photographed for Time with his trousers rolled up standing in shallow water up on a beach in Fiji to illustrate a consequence of climate change - rising ocean levels. It illustrates his pivot from conflict to climate.

Probably his most noticed speech as Secretary-General was his powerful Mandela lecture delivered in July. He called for "A New Social Contract for a New Era" and spoke eloquently of how:

"The Pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of our world. It has laid bare risks we have ignored for decades: inadequate health systems; gaps in social protection; structural inequalities; environmental degradation; the climate crisis". He went on "Inequality defines our time. More than 70% of the World's people are living with rising...inequality".

Secretaries-Generals have been elected to be the world's chief diplomat; today, successful ones quickly learn they have to be the world's chief campaigner. The UN has a unique platform to measure a country's progress, league table it, and name and shame those whose social and economic indicators fall behind.

This began with the legendary Jim Grant at UNICEF; moved through the UNDP Human Development agenda to being picked up by Kofi Annan and those of us around him in how we established and campaigned for the Millennium Development Goals, the MDGs.

Like any Campaign start by understanding your base constituency, "We, the Peoples". The Bennett Institute at Cambridge University has just released a study of the state of global democracy that draws on more than 3,500 country surveys.

It finds support for democracy is at a low ebb; since the data series was established in 1995 a 10% swing across all countries in the set (developed and developing) has produced a clear majority who are dissatisfied with democracy.

The deficit was worst in almost all regions among 18-34 year-olds, the millennials. Dr Robert Foa, the study leader said: "This is the first generation in living memory to have a global majority who are dissatisfied with the way democracy works while in their twenties and thirties".

But what the report is anxious to stress is there is little evidence that it is a rejection of the theory of democracy rather it demonstrates disappointment with its results. And indeed, where governments do deliver results, notably in some Asian countries, the researchers found that the disenchantment is much less.

This is not a protest against democracy so much as against poorly performing incumbents. That was democrats but now it will be populists with even fewer answers to the structural insecurity that is blowing up politics.

People don't feel protected; particularly in the developed world (there is more optimism remaining in developing countries); too often don't see a better future rather they see wave after wave of threatening change driven not just by pandemics but technology, trade, environmental degradation and consequent steepening inequality.

Youth protests in Nigeria have caught our attention in recent days. Perhaps one Nigerian statistic speaks volumes: 35% youth unemployment. Covid has reinforced economic exclusion.

The protests of a generation cannot be brushed under the Covid carpet much longer. The world is an unhappy place; and made more so by Covid- at the core is a growing crisis of youth structural unemployment and exclusion and the skewed inter-generational distribution of wealth and government benefits.

There is worse to come. To pluck just one random headline from the week's news: McKinsey released a survey of more than 2000 SMEs in Europe. More than half don't expect to be in business this time next year. SMEs have been estimated by ILO to account for up to 70% of global employment.

Here is the UN's great cause. Throw caution to the winds and lay out Guterres' new social contract for the world to see. Deploy campaigning and convening to build a new global bargain. And put governments on the spot by indexing and spotlighting performance to expose which are delivering and which aren't.

For the MDGs, I set up UN project offices outside the normal UN intergovernmental constraints to measure and create league tables and score cards of national performance that allowed citizens to hold their government to account; then under Jeff Sachs to cost out what it would take to achieve the goals; and finally a team to liaise and communicate with civil society activists that was more jeans and tee shirts than the typical UN Brooks Brothers uniform.

Build on that precedent. Push bravely on the door. If I have a mild complaint about the SDGs it is that they have lost something of the edgy outsider status of the early MDGs. The UN is too much the incumbent and not enough the insurgent and it shows in the difficulty the current UN has in breaking through in communications terms.

On such a Campaign's coattails remake the argument for multilateralism. Argue too many of these problems cannot be fixed at the country level alone. Local results on say climate require global collaboration and action. Once the UN is re-connected to grassroot concerns it is not a hard argument to make.

If a campaign that mobilises younger citizens around this global economic and personal security agenda is to have legs it must find allies where it can and not be constrained by the foot dragging back end of the General Assembly.

When the UN has touched the stars, the lift has come from civil society not government. Civil society was active in San Francisco in 1945 pushing the level of ambition of the official conference as it was later when Eleanor Roosevelt led the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Today around each SDG clusters a network of champions. In many, corporates show greater ambition than governments; in all, the most innovative thinking comes from the many corners of the civil society mosaic - local and international NGO's,

mayors and their cities, governors and CEOs; activists and academics that harness the energy. The UN Foundation which I co-chair interfaces with many of these groups. Their commitment is bracing.

Building variegated coalition of states and non-state actors willing to be first movers on different parts of this agenda is a not a new path to action in the UN. Now it needs to be turbo-charged. The world won't wait for the most plodding and resistant nations to sign up to action.

This same variegated approach needs to be applied to the more difficult area of human rights. The official intergovernmental body, the Human Rights Council is not fit for purpose but as one of the authors of the reform that raised it from Commission to Council, I doubt there is an institutional fix.

The UN in the person of the High Commissioner for Human Rights needs to choose her ground and pick her fights - determine a mix of individual and collective Rights on which she wishes to particularly stand and marshal the UN's allies, a variegated coalition if ever there was one of states and NGOs, to champion Rights for which it can build support.

And where the High Commissioner cannot- and the Council won't- raise its voice her office must still let its reporting speak for itself. Abuses of Rights must be universally reported and documented and allies in civil society and government partners must raise their voices instead.

The UN needs to be part of a Rights ecosystem where different partners can each step up where their comparative advantage lies. The current High Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet has the stature to thread this difficult needle.

UN Resident Co-ordinators that I have spoken to in recent months, and indeed the UN's 75th research, suggests closing space around debating or criticising the performance of government service delivery, corruption and accountability. RC's and the UN system must be critical protectors and promoters of local civil society voices.

This may seem a more unsung aspect of human rights work but it is a vital front in the UN's wider comeback. Too many Governments see the current political climate as a license to step on their home critics. The UN needs to step in and protect its civil society partners. A Global Social Contract will be stillborn without them.

And the final step to restored effectiveness is of course in time to recover authority in the political and security space.

If there is a silver lining it is that the character of conflict continues to change opening grim new opportunity. Not only is peacekeeping less than ever the thin blue line between states it is not even in many cases policing full blown internal conflicts in a Democratic Republic of the Congo or Syria as in the past.

The more likely future of conflict, at least where the UN will have a role, is low level but persistent political violence around exclusion, suppression of minority rights and inter-generational conflict in a context of deteriorating state institutions such as policing, justice and social service delivery.

The way into these situations that may not be via the Security Council but rather via Humanitarian, Development and the Human Rights arms of the system. These will be Development and Rights breakdowns where the UN is already present.

The UN will not have to wait for the permission of the Security Council it is there already. The World Bank has estimated that by 2030, two thirds of the world extreme poor could be living in areas of conflict and violence.

What I have laid out today is not a manifesto to change the world overnight. Rather it is a call for the UN to seize the moment and take advantage of the opportunities it has at this moment of global crisis to recover relevance and to drive a new global consensus on tackling our collective weaknesses that Covid has so cruelly exposed.

There is a majority out there for a better governed and prepared, more caring and inclusive world but that same majority has grown terminally impatient with existing institutions. The UN can be part of that failed past or attach itself to an emerging future.

Let the Campaign begin.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 148 00--

WORD-FIT

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

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

CROSSWORD

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

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

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT: R E A D Y S C O P E, F A R M E R, R A, S A H A R A S A M E, I S L A N D, P K, L E A S E, I N A Y A H P, D L O I L E R, M A S T E R E A S T, Y C L A N E, G I T A R K I, P L A N T A T I O N S, I C F O S T, O E R I E A A, M A S H E R H A Y, L A G T A C E T G, E S H O W L N, O N E Y T S U E

BUSINESS

IMPRESSIVE

It is never too late: Durban pensioner, 75, obtains master's degree in nursing

DURBAN

Proving that age is nothing but a state of mind, a Durban pensioner has obtained her master's degree in nursing at age 75. Graduate Pumla Ntinkinca spoke to News24 on Friday, saying she was elated at her qualification. "I am so happy with all the encouragement and wonderful things people have said."

Hailing from the small town of Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape, Ntinkinca, who qualified at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, was originally a tutor at the institution. She said she grew up in a Christian family for whom advancing in education was the norm.

"My mother and father were qualified teachers and my father received an honorary degree from the University of Fort Hare at his retirement. I can proudly say that I come from a family of professionals, graduates and academics - both on the maternal and paternal side. My children, nieces and nephews also fall within these categories." Fikile Mtshali, her academic leader in the nursing discipline, said Ntinkinca's achievements "bear testimony to the fact that being resilient, driven and determined can help one to achieve one's life goal."

Supervised by Drs Ann Jarvis and Olivia Baloyi, Ntinkinca's study was titled "An exploration of attitudes, knowledge and perceptions on assessment of pain in neonates, by advanced midwifery students at a university in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa."

"My interest in this topic was aroused

when I was a nurse educator at a nursing college, teaching neonatology to midwifery students," she said. Ntinkinca said she found a shortcoming in neonatology.

"I realised that nurses in general fall short on the intricacies of specialised care in Neonatal Inclusive Care Units (NICUs). I decided to register for a clinical master's degree in advanced midwifery (maternal and childcare). The study aimed to assess and generate evidence for nursing education and practice."

She said three categories emerged from the content analysis of the data, namely, the elimination process, restricted assessment and non-standardised approaches. "Pain did not receive primary attention as an indication of neonatal discomfort," Ntinkinca said.

She said the study also identified a lack of knowledge on the use of assessment tools, with haphazard assessment, and the lack of a scientific approach to pain assessment in the neonate by advanced midwifery students. "This poses a challenge to the long and short-term health of the neonate and needs to be recognised in midwifery nursing curricula," she added.

Where to from here?

Ntinkinca said she intended finishing a book she has started writing which reflects on her years growing up and her development into womanhood. She will also be compiling articles to submit to journals on neonatal care.



Pumla Ntinkinca completed her master's degree in nursing at age 75.

COMPETITIVE

Why authentic African fashions taking its rightful place on international stage

CAPE TOWN

Africa has shaken off its history of replicating international fashion trends, Africans are clearly defining what is African. Fashion is bringing about a new season of freedom and exploration into African narratives. Whether it is the music, art or the broader world of African design."

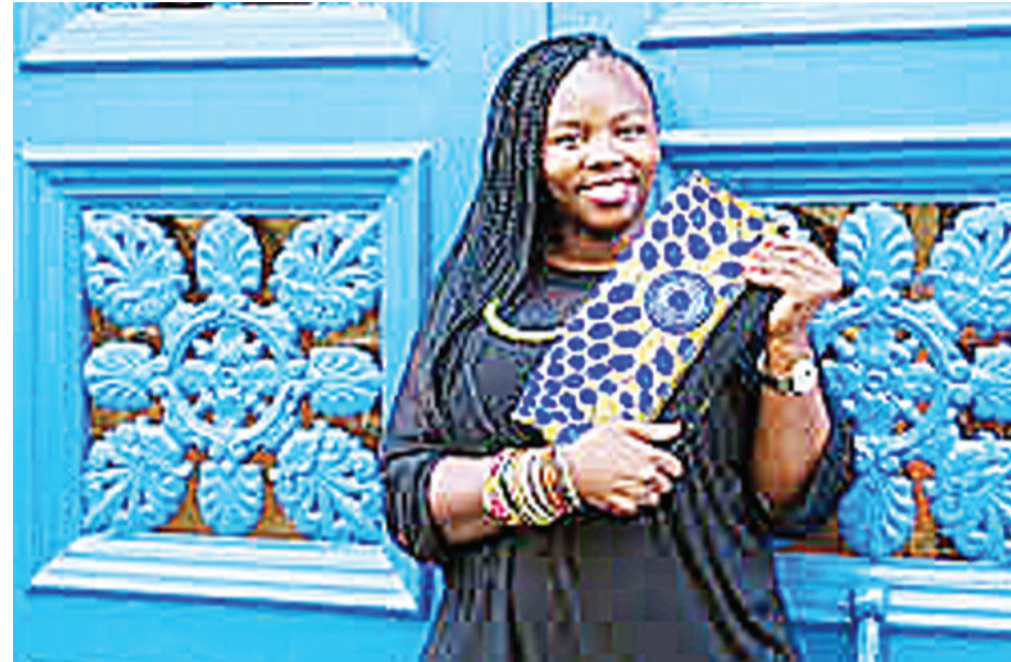
This is the viewpoint of Nicola Cooper, Founder of Nicola Cooper & Associates - Trend Researcher, Analyst and Cultural Strategist. And, it is a viewpoint echoed by many across South Africa and Africa's fashion and creative industries.

A fringe programme to be aired at all fashion sourcing by Messe Frankfurt South Africa, a subsidiary of Messe Frankfurt, the world's largest trade fair, congress, event organiser owning its fairground, will see players across the local fashion and creative industries share their thoughts not only on the importance of African fashion, but so too the measures needed to ensure the sustainability of these industries and businesses moving forward.

Africa is progressively taking its place on the global stage, with this involvement no longer limited to aesthetics only. "Increasingly we are seeing African designers invited to co-collaborate," continues Cooper.

"It is no longer about global trend analysts defining what they see as African trends, without any feet on the ground or real understanding of the finer nuances and delicacies behind so many of our African cultures. Rather, the world is becoming more and more interested in what Africa has to say and what Africa has to show."

This, in turn, yields enormous opportunity. Not only for our



Tamburairi Chirume, Director and Co-Founder of ONEOFEACH in Cape Town.

culture and heritage to take its deserved place on the world stage but also resulting in a new awakening and awareness of what Africa has to offer. "The real opportunity though lies in the huge amount of African Intellectual Property that is still relatively largely untapped," continues Cooper, "and the resulting knock on effect of untapping that potential for players in the local fashion and creative industry, and our local economy."

As Africa carves out its own identity, not just for local consumers but broadly appealing to international audiences, it is important to understand how to monetise this both locally and globally. "Our approach to marketing needs to shift," says Cooper. "We need to understand the increasing importance of black consumers buying from black businesses. It's not about being anti-white, it is about creating access to an

incredible resource of people that haven't had access before."

Says Tamburairi Chirume, Director and Co-Founder of ONEOFEACH, a Cape Town fashion-based mother and daughter design duo focusing on preserving the African heritage through designing beautiful contemporary African fashion items.

"In a sense, we've allowed international brands to become huge and we can do the same as a continent. It's time that we start preserving wealth within our own continent. It's important for me to buy from my neighbour and to choose a brand that is manufactured here. They're good quality - why would I not spend that bit more on something that will support a local enterprise?"

With no fewer than 60% of retailers developing propositions to work with local communities, the knock-on effect

of this on building communities and building economies is huge. But the potential lies even beyond that. It's time we increased our focus on local manufacturing.

Not only due to lessons learnt during the current COVID-19 pandemic around minimising the risk of the majority of one's manufacturing taking place in other countries, but as importantly the myriad of additional opportunities that would be created by other players in the supply chain, leveraging off local knowledge for supply to a global audience. "And not only to manufacture local for local, but local for global as well, so easily facilitated by the online world that it is a completely natural next step," says Cooper.

Says Chirume, "As an African and black business, it's about normalising excellence. It's important that we change the footprint - of paving the

way for a new generation to follow after. Doing that consistently is really important."

In keeping with the growing international trend for authentic and original African design, the theme for this year's Cape Town Young Designers Competition Awards 2020 Showcase (YDC2020), focuses on AFRICA IS NOW. This year's YDC2020 finalists are being called upon to design an on-trend, retail ready look that will inspire and excite African consumers. Convened by Messe Frankfurt, and run in conjunction with Allfashion sourcing, the annual business-oriented marketplace combining African creativity, design and manufacturing with international sourcing options, this year's event will take place virtually from Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 November.

Says Cooper, responsible for compiling this year's brief, "the designers created their own prints. This was not part of the brief, but the accessibility of fabric was limited. If ten young designers created their own prints, imagine the innovation that is available on the continent if that was commercialized? It is not only about what African trends and fashion mean to the world, but it is also about understanding our own importance! Take South Africa as an example. South African industry players have knowledge and experience of a diverse, dynamic market that needs to take into consideration culture, religion, economy and sociology. This knowledge base is a valuable resource to Western brands too in navigating a new, dynamic world."

UPBRINGING

Building integrity in children is top role for parents

NAIROBI

Parents tend to rate the success of children on their results at school and their achievements in sport and other extra-curricular activities like drama and art while giving lesser importance to developing human virtues especially integrity.

It is easy to downplay the importance of building social virtues which begin at home and families are the primary teachers of truth, honesty and fairness.

We are not born with integrity. It stems from influences from all spheres of life and today is under threat as a result of the pursuit of material success. Children are exposed to media and online coverage of deceit and dishonesty.

Children's integrity, including social responsibility, humility and the will to stand up for what they believe is right are developed by all the influences in life. Research shows that families remain the key teachers of integrity. It is supported by schools.

Most families have positive values stemming from culture, or religion. In democratic societies, integrity has a critical role in social harmony. This should be discussed freely. When talking about integrity and human virtues, it is important to use words like honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsi-



A mother talking to her sad kid.

bility and courage.

Mealtime conversations can be livened by referring to examples of social values and by encouraging children to talk about them. Always recognise and reward respectful behaviour to show that the quality of children's lives go beyond examination successes.

Parents should show that courage, honesty and respect for other people are more valuable than wealth. When children show integrity they should be admired by their parents which will make them feel good about doing what is right.

There are bound to be failures during the integrity

learning process. Children should learn that being disrespectful to others harms friendships and they will realise that cheating will in due course affect their reputations. These consequences will enhance the understanding of the importance of integrity.

It is impossible to control

a child's behaviour, but parents can be consistent when reinforcing family values. Expectations should be stated time and again that dishonesty, or disrespect are unacceptable and have consequences which can be clearly explained.

In this digital age, parents need to explain all aspects of proper social networking manners, digital literacy and applying correct moral conduct. From time to time children will face disrespectful behaviour online and feel bullied, or threatened. When this happens they should be taught to seek support from parents/mentors.

Children see parents as role models. This means that they are watching and learning from their parents who should stress that values like integrity are part of a rewarding life. Warren Buffet, a highly successful businessman, has said: "In looking for people to hire, I look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they don't have the first one, the other two will kill you."

of developing cancer. Lorraine Goverder of the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSAs) expressed, "We must ensure that we have policies in place that protect young people from these toxic, carcinogenic products. Too many lives are lost through cancers resulting from tobacco addiction, and we need to reduce every risk factor."

WARNING

Increased risk of breast cancer for teen smokers

PRETORIA

The Protect Our Next partnership calls for tighter tobacco control laws and warns that adolescents who smoke are vulnerable to breast cancer.

The month of October is breast cancer awareness month. It marks a special time for survivors of breast cancer, re-

minding them of what they have overcome. It is also a painful reminder of the dreadful effect of the disease on those who have lost loved ones as a result. Most importantly, Breast Cancer Awareness Month allows us to reflect and educate ourselves on ways in which we can lower our risk of developing cancer.

Protect Our Next is a partnership

between CANSAs, the National Council Against Smoking (NCAS), the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), and the Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA). The aim of this partnership is to improve tobacco control legislation and also educate the public on the harmful effects of tobacco usage.

Lowering the risk of developing cancer In a press release, Protect Our Next recently expressed that teenage girls who smoke are especially vulnerable to developing breast cancer later in life. The risk is even higher for those who have a family history of cancer.

While the risk for breast cancer can be due to family history, a study pub-

lished in the Journal of Breast Cancer confirmed that smoking is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. A fact sheet on the World Health Organization (WHO) website also shows that tobacco kills up to half of its users.

Controlling the consumption of tobacco, especially among the youth, is therefore a vital part of lowering the risk

of developing cancer. Lorraine Goverder of the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSAs) expressed, "We must ensure that we have policies in place that protect young people from these toxic, carcinogenic products. Too many lives are lost through cancers resulting from tobacco addiction, and we need to reduce every risk factor."

ENTERPRISING

Light it up with bamboo

NAIROBI

Environmentalists say where bamboo grows along a river bank, chances are the water is clean. For Sylvia and Kenny Kahiga in Tigoni, Kiambu County, in bamboo they saw a medium they can explore for creative interior works.

30-year-old Sylvia, an interior designer, is using the plant that grows in discrete cylindrical to create ambience lighting and accessories. This kind of lighting has been used to set tones in homes, create a cosy feeling in the room or point of focus in rooms mostly using candles or LED lighting. The business, Dim Lights Kenya, was started two years ago with the intention to create pieces that would improve space design in hotels, restaurants and serve as background for home decorations.

"The pieces are not purposely for lighting but serve as mood lights," says Sylvia. The plant is used for many environmental benefits such as controlling soil erosion, conserving biodiversity and beautifying a landscape. Its timber is used in value added products for construction, flooring and panels.

However, the idea of cus-

tomising the plant as natural interior décor has not been common in Kenya as people do not know where to source the products and have focused on the metals. The duo buys bamboo canes from farmers in Kiambu at Sh1,000 apiece depending on size and length. The giant ones are preferred because of their hollowness and walled at the top and bottom.

They are then cut into different pieces, depending on the size of the lamp required. A grown giant bamboo of 10 metres could get 10-12 small lamps, four medium types and three or two large ones. "The small lamps are best when used as bedside lamps. You can have the big pieces in the living room, or place two of them on both sides of the TV stand or on an idle corner," she adds.

"The idea is to have a mood in the house and instead of lighting up normal bulbs, let say when watching a movie, you can use them." The process involves drilling small holes that follow a pattern to allow light out and sandpapering of the bamboo on the outside and inside.

The designs are made from drawn patterns on paper then printed on the bamboo piece or drawing free-hand. The designs can either



Kenny Kahiga, Dim Lights co-founder, shows their light designs made from giant bamboo in Tigoni, Kiambu County.

be names, leafy designs, maharaja design, seniorita and New York that are common with women and men respectively.

The pieces come in wood brown and black colour with a lifetime guarantee due to the clear spray that is used to enhance the colour to stick for ages on the wood, also giving it a sheen. This process could take at most one week with three hours for drawing, two hours for drilling and there days to sandpaper a large piece.

The complexity of designs and colouring depend on client's requests. "Clients can request the designs and colours they want. Some also order plain and have the natural green bamboo colour fade with years before resorting to painting them," says Kenny.

"We have really invested in the drilling and sandpaper materials and, therefore, we have to do the details ourselves. However, the cutting is done in nearby town, Banana Hill market, as

the cutting machine has been quite expensive to acquire." The pieces are sold at Sh1,500 to 2,500 for small, Sh4,500 to Sh5,500 for the medium cuts and Sh6,000 to Sh10,000 for the large ones, with the prices varying on diameter.

"The feedback from clients, mostly family settings and hotels, is very positive because the items are unique and durable especially for surroundings with children because they cannot break." Other products the duo has made from bamboo include

candle holders, decorations, candy jars, fruit basket, flower vase, spoon holders or spice and kitchen containers.

The Kahigas' plan to do wall brackets in addition to the alternatives on the markets including small canvas paintings, plastic art, glass and chandelier lighting designs to change the idea of what can be done with bamboo.

Dim Lights also hire out the lightings for events and have been targeting exhibitions and markets with other artists at venues, including Carnivore and K1 Klubhouse. "Mostly, we land on the exhibitions on online platforms trying to target the right clientele like resorts, hotels and urban settings or families who are artistic."

Sylvia says the venture has been made possible by availability of raw materials and sensitisation by Environment and Forestry ministry to farmers to grow the plant for value addition. In September, Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko said the government will scale up growing of bamboo across the country towards actualisation of its commercialisation.

During the celebration to mark the World Bamboo Day at Michuki Memorial Park in Nairobi, Mr Tobiko said the State would make bamboo growing a priority. The Kenya Forestry Research Institute was also permitted to import 4.5 tonnes of seeds to produce seedlings needed for bamboo growing.

ENDORSEMENT

Queen Rania champions the ethical Ethiopian label Lemlem

AMAN

It's not just policies and initiatives that Queen Rania Al Abdullah puts under the spotlight as part of her work. The Jordanian royal also makes efforts to champion a number of regional, sustainable and emerging fashion labels as part of her public appearances.

Having worn everything from Saudi-led label Ashi Studio to Lebanese-Mexican brand Darin Hachem in recent months, the queen this week showcased an African label dedicated to preserving the art of traditional weaving.

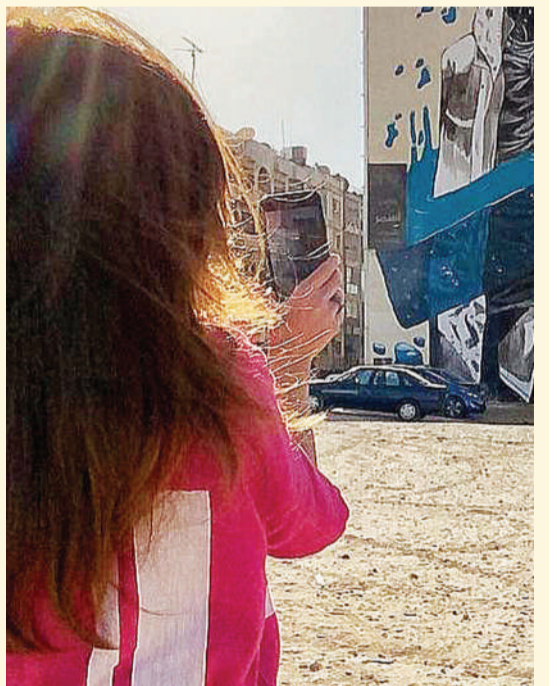
Queen Rania sported a pink and white striped tunic as she viewed street art in Jordan, plucked from the collection of Lemlem. The Ethiopian brand, founded by supermodel Liya Kebede, has a focus on working with artisans across the continent, to highlight Africa's traditional weavers.

"Impressed by the wonderfully vivid street art I saw last week at locations of the Baladk Street and Urban Arts Festival across Amman," she captioned a photo posted to Instagram on Monday, November 2.

The Jordanian royal donned the Zoya Pocket Tunic Shirt in magenta as she viewed a mural emblazoned across one of the city's buildings. The V-necked design is crafted with cotton and made in Ethiopia, where most of the brand's fabrics are sourced. "Women are at the heart of Lemlem and the brand is committed to helping them thrive both within its workshops and beyond," the label's mission statement details.

The brand was founded in 2007 by Addis Ababa-born Kebede, who has modelled for the likes of Gucci, Louis Vuitton and Saint Laurent. Lemlem, which means "to bloom" in the Ethiopian language of Amharic, predominantly boasts handwoven and embroidered pieces for women and children, from kaftans and swimwear to robes and jumpsuits.

This appears to be the first time Queen Rania has worn something from the label. The Jordanian royal is known for championing brands from the region, having previously sported designs by Lebanon's Azzi & Osta, Georges Chakra, Hussein Bazaza and Ralph Masri. The royal has also been pictured in designers from the UAE, wearing Reemami and Bambah Boutique on occasion.



Queen Rania views a mural on Baladk Street in Jordan.

RIP

Billionaire Congolese collector Sindika Dokolo dies in diving accident

DUBAI

Sindika Dokolo was an art collector and a businessman. He was married to Isabel dos Santos, Africa's richest woman and the eldest daughter to Angola's former president, José Eduardo dos Santos.

Following a boat accident in Dubai, Dokolo died on 29 October 2020. He was 48. Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kinshasa, Dokolo was raised in Belgium and France by millionaire parents Augustin Dokolo and Hanne Kruse.

Raised in a multimillionaire's home, Dokolo first encountered art collecting through his father's sizable assemblage. By the time he was 15 Dokolo started building his own collection. By his death Dokolo had built a collection with more than 3000 contemporary African art pieces.

After studying in Paris, a 23 year-old Dokolo returned to the DRC in 1995 to work for the family business. Spanning banking, breeding, fishing, coffee exports, real estate, conveyance, printing, insurance and mining, the family business was made up of a total sum of 17 companies. He then fled to Angola in 2000 to flee the war in Congo.

In an attempt to bridge the gap between the world and African



Billionaire Congolese collector Sindika Dokolo and his wife Isabel dos Santos.

contemporary art, Dokolo established the Sindika Dokolo Foundation in the early 2000s. Through an arts centre in Angola's capital, Luanda, the

foundation promoted African contemporary art by displaying parts of his collection in addition to free lending some of its pieces to international

museums that agreed to perceive the art from the perspective of Africans. The added value of the contemporary African art scene is to give a sensible

and intelligent perspective of a continent that is constantly on the move.

The foundation's existence led to a number of fairs and exhibitions

around contemporary African art including: SD Observatorio at the Valencia Institute of Modern Art (2006); Trienal de Luanda (2007); Check List Luanda Pop at the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007); and Luanda Suave e Frenética (2010).

In addition to collecting art, Dokolo also developed a keen interest in recovering works that were stolen from the continent during colonial rule from 2015. In February of 2016, while his father in law was still president of Angola, Sindika Dokolo Foundation handed over two masks and a statuette of the Chokwe people to the head of the state.

In October 2019 the foundation bought back 20 pieces of art that had been taken from Angolan museums in addition to recovering its first Congolese artwork from a European museum. Speaking on his incessant need to return African art to the continent, he was quoted saying:

"We have a heritage to circulate around the world that left Angola in a completely illegal way. I decided to make it my next workhorse."

While his contributions to the continental artscape were considered notable, shortly before his death, Dokolo and his wife were being investigated for having accumulated their wealth through corrupt means. Both him and his wife denied the allegations. He is survived by this wife and three children.

BEAUTY

Hair perfume is the nutritional garnish of a well-fed mane

JOHANNESBURG

A commonly asked question is: where are you meant to apply perfume to make it last longer? Well, the golden rule decrees that we target our pulse points (wrists, neck, inner elbows) for optimal results, among other need-to-knows that advise against spraying clothing, rubbing your wrists or wearing it on dry skin.

And according to French-Armenian perfumer Francis Kurkdjian - who spoke to Vogue - you can lightly mist your hair with perfume to allow the scent to go the distance. This is especially useful during the summer season when you're

most likely to sweat and therefore interrupt the fragrance notes of your perfume.

"Because [hair] moves with the air, it helps with the diffusion of the scent," the perfumer explains. There's no doubt that dousing your braids, dreadlocks or wig in the florals and aromatic fumes of one's fragrance after exposure to the salty air at a braai or lack of ventilation at a packed, smoky watering hole, has proven handy before. So why not add a perfume product specifically created for hair to your cosmetic arsenal?

While the olfactory camouflaging of stale odours lingering on your tresses with regular

body perfume may seem like a money (and time) saver, this Cosmopolitan article notes that "traditional fragrance formulas tend to be loaded with alcohol - which can be incredibly drying on your lengths." "Hair perfumes have been designed specifically for scenting your mane, so are free from any drying ingredients," it further explains.

So no, unlike lipstick which can be used as glossy eye shadow and cream blush, your EDP isn't as multifaceted and should therefore not be used regularly on your hair. Additionally, hair mists and perfumes are formulated to supplement the protection conditioners, sham-

poos, and moisturisers provide your hair with.

Consider your regular hair products the main meal and hair mist as nutritional garnish - now that's what I call hair food. Oud has been a key ingredient of traditional Middle Eastern perfumes for thousands of years. The distinctive musky scent comes from the wood of the Indian and South American Agarwood tree.

Hair perfume was recently brought on my radar again (I've always known they exist) when the Boity x Halo Heritage Pink Sapphire Luxurious Hair Perfume landed on my doorstep last month. With intrigue, I immediately gave my braids a spritz, and to my delight, it smells ex-

actly the Pink Sapphire EDP the local rapper recently launched this year.

After a shower, the scent no longer lingered, and I guess that's where this important caveat comes in: hair perfume is not a substitute for washing your hair. Please keep nourishing your hair with the treatments and washes it requires.

For R595 a 100ml bottle, the Pink Sapphire hair perfume promises a light mist that delicately scents the hair with the Boity Pink Sapphire fragrance. It is infused with nourishing Argan Oil, leaving your hair feeling and smelling like keratin wealth.

UNIQUE

Nouf Alosaimi: Saudi Arabia's first female Padi Ambassadiver

RIYADH

It was a grey day in Manchester that ignited the first flames of Nouf Alosaimi's future career. Having moved from her home in Saudi Arabia, she was in the UK studying tourism management. One morning, as she looked out at yet another dreary day in England, Alosaimi longed for the sunshine she was used to seeing daily.

In desperate need of some vitamin D, she and a friend decided to book a holiday to Sharm El Sheikh. With its Red Sea coastline and sunshine-filled days, the Egyptian tourism spot seemed like the ideal place for a much-needed break.

Excited for an adventure, Alosaimi and her friend arrived in Egypt and decided to sign up for as many new activities as they could fit into their week. As one of the best scuba diving locations in the world, it wasn't too surprising that was on their must-do list. Despite neither of them being quite sure what the sport entailed, they signed up for a Discover Scuba Dive session accredited by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi).

The next day, after some basic instruction, Alosaimi dipped her fins into the Red Sea for the first time. It was a moment that would change the course of her life. "My instructor was holding me as, at that point, I didn't know anything about equalising or buoyancy, but I just got so excited. I started swimming everywhere," smiles Alosaimi as she recalls the experience.

Her friend didn't adapt quite as well, and the pair had to call it a day when she complained of feeling dizzy. "We went back to the surface, but I couldn't wait to get back down there and explore. I'd fallen for the underwater world."

An experience to remember
The feeling of being beneath the waves stuck with Alosaimi through the rest of her student days and beyond. In



Nouf Alosaimi removes her regulator to smile for a picture under the waves.

2009 and 2010, she travelled to Egypt again and completed her Padi Open Water Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver certifications. She also tackled a Rescue Diver course. When she eventually returned to Saudi Arabia to start working, her thirst for diving wasn't quenched. She enrolled in a diving school in Jeddah where she worked to become a divemaster.

"I took a job in tourism management, but every day I was just thinking about scuba diving. I realised it was my passion and, in the end, I decided to go back to Egypt to work in the diving industry." Given that this took place nearly a decade ago, Alosaimi's decision wasn't exactly a common one for a woman from Saudi Arabia. Thankfully, she has always had the support of her family.

"I couldn't have done it without my family's help," she says. "I got to Sharm and started trying to find work. At first, most people didn't take me seriously. They thought I was some rich girl who had come to play, not to work," she recalls.

Ever enterprising, Alosaimi began working as an underwater photographer, capturing pictures of tourists exploring the deep blue. In 2013, she was finally certified as a Padi instructor and began her dream of working full-time in the scuba-diving realm.

Helping women beneath the waves
While there, she set up Pink Bubbles Divers - an initiative that she originally hoped would

inspire Saudi women to travel to Sharm El Sheikh and go diving with her. "It didn't really work out," she explains. "Back then, it was more difficult for women from Saudi to go diving; even going out on the boats or travelling was harder to navigate," she said. Fast forward to today, and Pink Bubbles is a roaring success. Having returned to her home country,

Alosaimi now invests her time and energy into helping raise awareness of scuba diving across the kingdom.

She began working with Padi a few years ago and hosted the first-ever Padi Women's Dive Day in the kingdom in 2017. Two years later, she became an official Padi Ambassadiver, a programme that the association runs to help divers promote the sport and ocean conservation in their communities.

For Alosaimi, this was a turning point. "It gives me more of an international voice rather than only being known within Saudi. It gives me more of a platform and, last year, we hosted the first-ever liveboard trip for women in the kingdom. It was amazing."

Over the course of three days, a ship sailed from Jeddah to Rabigh with only women on-board. The days were spent diving in the Red Sea, snorkelling and doing yoga and meditation, as well as plenty of relaxation in a destination that holds a special place in Alosaimi's heart. "I've dived in many places around the world now," says the dive master, "but the Red Sea is number one.

A close second is Hawaii, but my favourite place to dive is right here in Saudi's Red Sea."

Packed with marine life, the Red Sea's underwater ecosystem is home to more than 300 species of coral and 1,200 species of fish - 10 per cent of which are not found anywhere else in the world. Spinner dolphins, dugongs, turtles, mantas and sharks are just some of the marine species that also call these waters home.

According to Alosaimi, the Red Sea is comparable to any diving location in the world, and the boost that the sport has experienced during the pandemic has been encouraging. Lockdowns and strict curfews in some regions across the kingdom initially kept people out of the ocean, but when restrictions eased, the diving community witnessed a huge renewed interest in the sport. "People weren't travelling, but wanted something to do, and many of them turned to diving," explains Alosaimi.

"The good thing about Saudi is it's so huge; there's so much to discover above and beneath the water. And when you go beneath the waves, you forget about Covid-19 - it's as if you're

in a world without it, it's an escape."

Saudi Arabia's best diving sites
Sharing some insider knowledge of the kingdom's best places to dive, Alosaimi highlights Yanbu on the western coast. Located on the same latitude as the border of Egypt with Sudan, more than 500 kilometres south of Sharm El Sheikh, it has some wrecks and plenty of wall diving. Reef life here is abundant and colourful, and divers can see schools of big eye jacks, barracudas and tuna, as well as hammerhead sharks.

"The Five Sisters dive site in Rabigh is another one to visit; it's vast and untouched," adds Alosaimi. Located midway between Jeddah and Yanbu, it has only recently been discovered as a diving site, and the waters here are truly pristine.

And for those getting to grips with the sport, Jeddah is a good place to begin. "There's easy diving and lots of things to see for beginners," says the Ambassadiver. The ancient port city has several dive schools dotted along the coast, coupled with accessible, beautiful reefs that make ideal locations for novices to earn their scuba stripes.

EXCITEMENT

Galleries Lafayette to shine spotlight on four regional artists in Dubai exhibition

DUBAI

Upscale French department store Galleries Lafayette is turning over some of its store at The Dubai Mall to host an upcoming exhibition entitled Modern Expressions. Running from November 11 until November 30, it will shine the spotlight on four regional artists by housing their work in a space described as "where fashion and art collide."

Timed to coincide with Dubai Design Week, which runs from Monday, November 9 to Saturday, November 14, four artists will be given a platform for their works. Among them is Emirati artist Noura Ali Al Ramahi, known for her colourful, abstract figurative pieces.

Artist Manasse Rampino recreates familiar imagery such as the Mona Lisa or Mickey Mouse, now transposed on to backgrounds of dripped paint, while the fashion link is highlighted by Sleiman Dayaa, stylist and founder of the magazine SlimiMag. Also on show will be more photography, paintings,

sculptures and what the store promises will be "wearable art". No further details have been given.

Threaded through all of this will be collections from a number of fashion names that resonate in this region, including Sara Tamimi, the Abu Dhabi label that is gathering pace for its fresh tailoring. Also on show will be Manoush, which draws its inspiration from Morocco, the Middle East and India, seen through a Parisian prism, while from further afield is Anouki, the Georgian label that specialises in masculine tailoring with a flourish. Also on show will be Rouba G, a young label championed by the Arab Fashion Council that lavishes its pieces with embroidery.

The exhibition promises to feature store-wide artistic activities, including a live window activation by Manasse on the opening day. Those attending the opening day will also be able to watch Rampino complete a live activation at one of the Galleries Lafayette windows.



Rouba G will be taking part in Galleries Lafayette Modern Expressions exhibition.

ITV		SATURDAY 07 Nov		SUNDAY 08 Nov		MONDAY 09 Nov		TUESDAY 10 Nov		WEDNESDAY 11 Nov		THURSDAY 12 Nov		FRIDAY 13 Nov		SATURDAY 14 Nov		SUNDAY 15 Nov			
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WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: Biden takes thin lead in Georgia, putting White House in reach

WILMINGTON,

US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden took a narrow lead over President Donald Trump in the battleground state of Georgia for the first time early on Friday, putting the White House within his reach as it and other undecided states continue to count ballots.

Biden has a 253 to 214 lead in the state-by-state Electoral College vote that determines the winner, according to most major television networks. Winning Georgia's 16 electoral votes would put the former vice-president on the cusp of the 270 he needs to secure the presidency.

Biden, 77, would become the next president by winning Pennsylvania, or by winning two out of the trio of Georgia, Nevada and Arizona. Trump's likeliest path appeared narrower - he needed to hang onto both Pennsylvania and Georgia and also to overtake Biden in either Nevada or Arizona.

Biden is now ahead by 917 votes in Georgia, where counting continued early on Friday.

The shift in Georgia came hours after Trump appeared at the White House to claim the election was being "stolen" from him.

Trump had seen his lead steadily shrink in Georgia, a Southern state that has not voted for a Democratic

presidential nominee since 1992, as officials worked through tens of thousands of uncounted votes, many from Democratic strongholds such as Atlanta.

The Georgia secretary of state reported late on Thursday there were about 14,000 ballots still to count in the state.

The state also will have to sift through votes from military personnel and overseas residents as well as provisional ballots cast on Election Day by voters who had problems with their registration or identification.

Biden has been steadily chipping away at the Republican incumbent's lead in Pennsylvania as well. His deficit had shrunk to just more than 18,000 there by early on Friday, and was expected to continue falling with many of the ballots still to be counted being cast in Democratic areas.

Biden also maintained slim advantages in Arizona and Nevada. In Arizona, his lead narrowed to about 47,000 early on Friday and in Nevada he was ahead by about 11,500 votes.

As the country held its breath for a result in the White House race, Georgia and Pennsylvania officials expressed optimism they would finish counting on Friday, while Arizona and Nevada were still expected to take days to complete their vote totals.



US Democratic presidential candidate former Vice-President Joe Biden speaks at the The Queen on Thursday, in Wilmington, Delaware. (AP)

Nail-biting count

Trump, 74, has sought to portray as fraudulent the slow counting of mail-in ballots, which surged in popularity due to fears of exposure to the coronavirus through in-person voting. As counts from those ballots have been tallied, they have eroded the initial strong leads the president had in states like Georgia and Pennsylvania.

States have historically taken time after Election Day to tally all votes.

Trump fired off several tweets in the early morning hours on Friday, reiterating the complaints he aired earlier at the White House. "I easily WIN the Presidency of the United States with LEGAL VOTES CAST," he said on Twitter, without offering any evidence that any illegal votes have been cast.

Twitter flagged the post as possibly misleading, something it has done to numerous posts by Trump since Election Day.

Trump appeared in the White House briefing room on Thursday evening and alleged the election was being "stolen" from him.

Trump lambasted election workers and sharply criticized polling before the election that he said was designed to suppress the vote because it favored Biden.

'Rig an election'

"They're trying to rig an election, and we can't let that happen," said Trump, who spoke for about 15 minutes in the White House briefing room before leaving without taking questions. Several TV networks cut away during his remarks, with anchors saying they needed to correct his statements.

Biden, who earlier in the day urged patience as votes were counted, responded on Twitter: "No one is going to take our democracy away from us. Not now, not ever."

Trump's incendiary remarks followed a series of Twitter posts from him earlier in the day that called for vote counting to stop, even though if voting were to stop right now, he currently trails Biden in enough states to hand the Democrat the presidency.

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, pursued a flurry of lawsuits in several states, though judges in Georgia and Michigan quickly rejected challenges there. Legal experts said the cases had little chance of affecting the electoral outcome, and Biden campaign senior legal adviser Bob Bauer called them part of a "broader misinformation campaign".

The close election underscored the nation's deep political divides, while the slow count of millions of mail-in ballots served as a reminder of the deadly coronavirus that continues to upend American life.

Biden, if he prevails, will nevertheless have failed to deliver the sweeping repudiation to Trump that Democrats had hoped for, reflecting the deep support the president enjoys despite his tumultuous four years in office. Trump's influence on the Republican Party will remain strong, even if he ultimately loses a tight election.

The winner will face a pandemic that has killed more than 234,000 Americans and left millions more out of work, even as the country still grapples with the aftermath of months of unrest over race relations and police brutality. **Agencies**

US watchdog 'probing Trump campaign's use of White House'

WASHINGTON

THE US Office of Special Counsel has opened an investigation into allegations that the Trump campaign's use of the White House as an Election Day command center violated federal law, Democratic Representative Bill Pascrell said on Thursday.

In a statement, Pascrell said the federal watchdog responded on Thursday to his call for a probe, telling him a special unit "has opened an investigation into these allegations to determine if the Hatch Act was violated."

US President Donald Trump monitored election returns in the living room of the White House residence on Tuesday, later addressing some 200 supporters gathered in the East Room.

Pascrell had asked the special counsel, Henry Kerner, to investigate reports suggesting that Trump used space in the adjacent Eisenhower Executive Office Building - on the grounds of the White House - as a campaign "war room."

The New Jersey lawmaker said Trump was also expected to be briefed in the White House residence and the Oval Office throughout the day by campaign officials, which he said put executive branch officials at risk of violating federal law.

The Hatch Act of 1939 limits the political activities of federal employees, except the president and vice-president.

The White House denied any violation of the federal law. "Both the official activity of Administration officials, as well as any political activity undertaken by members of the Administration, are conducted in compliance with the Hatch Act," said spokesman Judd Deere.

No comment was immediately available from the Office of the Special Counsel.

Pascrell said the Special Counsel's office told him it "was not consulted (by the Trump campaign or White House) on the decision to use space inside the Eisenhower Executive Office Building as a campaign 'war room'."

The agency launched an investigation last month of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's speech to the Republican National Convention in August, and last year recommended the firing of then-senior Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway for repeated violations.

Kerner is a Trump appointee who previously worked for Republican lawmakers in Congress. His office is an independent agency that enforces the Hatch Act. It is not connected to the office of former US Special Counsel Robert Mueller.



Donald Trump

Health and safety measures do not affect Putin's work schedule, Kremlin says

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin is working on his regular schedule, the health and safety measures introduced due to the coronavirus pandemic do not affect his timetable, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"Naturally, the work mode is affected by the epidemiological threats. The corresponding measures are taken to ensure the president's health, but as you can see, this in no way affects the substantive and intensive nature of his work," Peskov said.

When asked whether Putin had been vaccinated against COVID-19, as he attended in-person meetings timed to Russia's Unity Day, Peskov noted that the president would inform the nation if and when he gets the vaccine shot. "He said so himself," the Kremlin official reminded.

Peskov added that Putin holds some meetings online, and some in person. **Agencies**



That's twice: US polls fail to get votes on accuracy

NEW YORK

MOST opinion polls gave Democratic challenger Joe Biden a big lead over US President Donald Trump heading into the election, but as the votes began to be tallied on Tuesday, it became clear the gap was smaller and a nail-biting finish would play out.

The country woke up a day after the election with no declared winner as votes still were being counted in several states.

The major polls that make election predictions are again facing scrutiny over what they got right and what they got wrong.

The muddled polling results follow the debacle in the 2016 US presidential election, when pollsters were notably wrong. Then, most predicted that Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton would win. But it was Trump who prevailed.

Pollsters vowed they would get it right in 2020, but did they? They also had Biden ahead by a wider margin than they had Clinton.

RealClearPolitics, which aggregates polls, and FiveThirtyEight monitor some of the biggest po-

litical polls in the US.

FiveThirtyEight analyzes influential polls by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, YouGov, Reuters/Ipsos, John Zogby Strategies/EMI Strategies and others to get its results. The Rasmussen poll is also well respected and came the closest to predicting the 2016 outcome.

On Wednesday, Rasmussen appeared to have made the most accurate 2020 forecast. It does not use humans to get its results; instead, it uses a prerecorded voice.

In the days before election day, polls by RealClearPolitics showed Biden with a seven-point lead. FiveThirtyEight said he was ahead by eight percentage points.

NBC News/Wall Street Journal said Biden had a 10-point lead over the Republican president. YouGov said Biden was nine points ahead. John Zogby Strategies/EMI Strategies said Biden was up by six points. Each poll has a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

Tighter race

But in Florida, polls by FiveThirtyEight had Biden with



A poll worker holds a 'secrecy folder' used to conceal a voted ballot from view in a polling place at Bloomfield United Methodist Church on Tuesday in Des Moines, Iowa. (PHOTO / AGENCIES)

an 8.4 percent lead. However, when the state began reporting results on Tuesday, they showed Trump and Biden would be in a much tighter race. Trump ultimately won the state with 51.2 percent to Biden's 47.8 percent.

FiveThirtyEight got Florida wrong. Rasmussen got it right; it

had predicted that Trump would win the state by more than 1 percentage point.

Jeffrey M. Berry, a political-science professor at Tufts University, told The Boston Globe: "There appears to have been a broad and systematic error in predicting the election outcome

... it's clear that the pollsters underestimated the high Republican turnout."

In crucial states like Pennsylvania, which has 20 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, RealClearPolitics predicted that Biden was up by 1 percentage point. FiveThirtyEight said he had a five-point lead. On Wednesday evening, Trump was leading, although thousands more ballots had to be counted.

In Wisconsin, RealClearPolitics showed Biden with a 6.5-point lead. FiveThirtyEight said he was eight points ahead. On Wednesday morning, Biden had a 5-point lead. The former vice-president ultimately was declared the winner in Wisconsin by midafternoon, with 49.6 percent of the vote to Trump's 48.9 percent. The Trump campaign immediately requested a recount.

One theory on the poll discrepancies is that some Trump supporters may be shy to admit whom they are voting for in a climate of political division with Democrats. **Agencies**

China always adheres to peaceful development

THE great War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea defied the invasion and expansion of imperialism and safeguarded the security of New China; it also safeguarded the peaceful life of the Chinese people, stabilized the situation in the Korean Peninsula and upheld peace in Asia and the world, said Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at a meeting marking the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) entering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to fight in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea on October 23.

He profoundly revealed the war's nature of resisting aggression and rebelling against power, systematically clarified the historical significance of the great

victory of the war for maintaining peace and stability in China and the world, and fully demonstrated China's image as an upholder of justice and peace.

An important part of the spirit forged in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea is the internationalism that strives for the cause of peace and justice for humanity.

Seventy years ago, the brave CPV army held high the banner of safeguarding peace and fighting aggression, and entered the Korean front to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, a just move of an army for justice. They not only safeguarded the security of their own country, but exhibited the firm determination of the Chinese people to maintain world peace.

The great victory of the war has profoundly shaped the strategic pattern of Asia and even the world after the end of World War II, greatly inspired nations and peoples under oppression across the world to pursue the just cause of national independence and liberation, as well as promoted world peace and progress of all mankind. The Chinese nation is a peace-loving nation and the Chinese people pursue peace in their nature.

During the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, many Chinese people voiced their passion and support for peace. Some said "The Chinese people enthusiastically love peace, but in order to defend peace, they are never afraid of standing up against invasions"; some said

"China is a peace-loving nation, but it's not afraid of invaders as it will be fighting for the long-lasting peace of the world".

When imperialists and aggressors forcibly involved the Chinese nation in a war, many Chinese people made huge sacrifices to safeguard peace.

They shed blood and fiercely fought in the Battle of Triangle Hill, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, among other battles, and were so courageous as to confront the formidable rivals and sacrifice themselves. Not hunger, cold, or death could frighten them off.

It is the firm belief in maintaining peace that has forged courage, integrity and dedication in the genes of the Chinese people, and encouraged numerous CPVs

to gallantly march across the Yalu River and resist U.S. aggression, and write a heroic epic that impressed the world.

Xi once pointed out that the most profound pursuit of a nation has its origin in the national character formed through generations. The War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea has shown the Chinese nation's pursuit of peace, a national character deeply rooted in the historical tradition and cultural genes of the Chinese civilization.

Through its long history, the Chinese civilization has cultivated the political concept of "Foster friendship with neighbors," concluded that "A war-like state, however big it may be, will eventually perish," and been characterized by qualities

mirrored in such sayings as "Peace is of paramount importance," "Seek harmony without uniformity," "Replace weapons of war with gifts of jade and silk," "Achieve universal peace," and "Pursue harmony and connectivity."

Even China had suffered aggression, humiliation, and plunder by foreign powers for more than a century in its modern history, the Chinese people never ceased striving for peace and justice.

Since the foundation of the New China, the country has consistently adhered to an independent foreign policy of peace. From proposing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to writing "following the path of peaceful development" into the Constitution and the Party Constitution, it has shown the world its confidence in thinking and readiness to practice it. **People's Daily**

US sanctions threaten global economic security

THE International Monetary Fund projected a deep recession in 2020 in its latest World Economic Outlook, saying the growing restrictions on trade and investment and rising geopolitical uncertainty could harm the recovery.

However, even at such a critical moment that concerns global development, the U.S. is still adopting beggar-thy-neighbor economic and trade policies, and arbitrarily waving the big stick of sanctions with trade protectionism and unilateralism, which has severely threatened the security of global economy.

In recent years, Washington has frequently provoked and escalated trade frictions, weaponized its tariffs, and undermined the process of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, giving a heavy blow to the world economy.

About 3,400 U.S. enterprises, including electric vehicle maker Tesla, recently sued the U.S. government over its tariffs on China. They said the White House's capricious tariff policy has increased enterprises' cost and led to huge economic losses, demanding repayment of taxes paid.

The lawsuit reflected the U.S. government's practices which only hurt others without necessarily benefiting itself.

Facts proved that the so-called decoupling proposed by the White House, as well as its high tariff barriers violate the economic laws and hinder the recovery of the world economy. According to World Trade Organization (WTO) statistics, world merchandise trade contracted by 0.1% in volume terms in 2019, and trade tensions were one of the major reasons for the decline.

The U.S. has long imposed unilateral sanctions and applied the so-called long-arm jurisdiction on other countries based on its domestic laws. Even enterprises like Japan's Toshiba, Germany's Siemens, France's Alstom, all from the so-called allies of the U.S., were once the targets of the White House's "modern piracy".

The High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell recently voiced his concerns in a recent statement over the growing use of sanctions, or the threat of sanctions, by the U.S. against gas projects, including the Nord Stream 2 and Turkstream.

As a matter of principle the EU opposes the use of sanctions by third countries on European companies carrying out legitimate business, he said, adding such measures go against the international law.

The international community is becoming increasingly aware of what support the U.S. long-arm jurisdiction - the White House's supremacy, selfishness, and hegemony.

If the U.S. is allowed to undermine the legitimate interests and rights of other countries, or trample on the international law and the basic norms governing international relations, the common development of the world

will surely be destroyed.

At present, Washington is exploiting the so-called "national security" to launch a technology Cold War, abusing its state power to suppress other countries' tech firms. It even took away the results of other countries by force, which seriously threatened the role of innovation - the biggest engine for development.

What is alarming is that the U.S., going against the principles of market economy and the open, transparent, and non-discriminatory rules of the WTO, is insanely oppressing specific Chinese enterprises to cut the international flow of capital, technologies, products, industries, and personnel, which has seriously undermined the stability of global supply and industrial chains.

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission estimated that replacing Chinese equipment manufactured by Huawei and ZTE will cost small American carriers as much as \$1.8 billion. Exerting political pressure on other countries, the U.S. is demanding other countries to stop using Chinese equipment, even at the cost of the latter's lagged 5G construction and economic development. Obviously, what the U.S. is doing hurts itself and other countries, and the country has never put global economic security into its consideration.

As the largest economy in the world and a country that controls the world currency, the U.S. should have demonstrated an image of "With great power comes great responsibility."

However, it is repeatedly resorting to its economic dominance and the dollar supremacy to unilaterally launch economic blockage and impose financial sanctions on other countries, which has severely undermined the ability of its target countries to develop economy and improve livelihood.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez recently said the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba has caused more than \$144 billion in losses for the island nation's economy in the past six decades.

Taking into account the devaluation of the dollar against the price of gold, accumulated damages has reached the extraordinary figure of \$1 trillion. Even after COVID-19 broke out, Washington has still maintained its unilateral sanctions against Syria, Cuba and Iran. As witnessed by all, the U.S. is just addicted to sanctions, becoming a prominent threat against global economic security.

It is noteworthy that the current COVID-19 pandemic is causing severe challenges for the development of world economy, and countries must work in solidarity and coordinate their efforts.

Zero-sum game has no way out, neither does hegemonic thinking. The U.S. anti-globalization practices, which are hindering global economic development and threatening global economic security, are a shame. Those who go against justice will definitely lose public support, and those who bully others will never end well. **People's Daily**



The US has long imposed unilateral sanctions and applied the so-called long-arm jurisdiction on other countries based on its domestic laws. Even enterprises like Japan's Toshiba, Germany's Siemens, France's Alstom, all from the so-called allies of the US

More CIIE exhibitors book now for next year's expo

SHANGHAI

TO secure a booth next year, many exhibitors have already signed up for the fourth China International Import Expo (CIIE), according to the organizer.

Twenty-nine enterprises registered for the fourth CIIE in 2021 on the first day of this year's expo, Wang Bingnan, director of the CIIE Bureau, announced on Thursday.

Before the opening of the third CIIE, nearly 100 exhibitors had already signed with the bureau to attend the expo in the next three

years, said Wang, also China's vice minister of commerce.

He said the early booking is evidence of "recognition of the CIIE and confidence in the Chinese market."

"We've benefited enormously from the value that the CIIE has created and witnessed first-hand the changes the CIIE has brought to Chinese consumers," said Fabrice Megarbane, president and CEO of L'Oréal China, whose company booked another three years at the CIIE on Thursday.

"Our confidence and commitment in the CIIE and China remain the

same," he said.

More new technologies and products worldwide will be introduced to the Chinese market to aid global economic recovery next year, the bureau said.

The next CIIE will introduce more new sections and themes. For instance, the medical equipment and healthcare products exhibition area will set up an innovation incubation section, while the public health section and the sports section will be larger than the exhibition areas this year, according to the bureau.

Xinhua



ROK's Moon says won't stop efforts for denuclearization

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK)'s President Moon Jae-in said yesterday that his country will never stop efforts for the denuclearization of and the peace settlement in the Korean Peninsula.

"(South) Korea will never cease its efforts to end the (Korean) War for good, achieve denuclearization, and establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula," Moon (pictured) said in a prerecorded keynote speech delivered at the Jeju Forum 2020, according to the presidential Blue House.

The Jeju Forum is an annually-held international peace forum at the country's southern resort island of Jeju.

"Even though the Armistice Agreement was signed, without a peace treaty in place, the Korean War has not ended yet, and neither has the pain and sorrow of the War," Moon noted.

The peninsula remains in a technical state of war as the 1950-1953 Korean War ended with a truce, not a peace treaty. Moon has sought a political declaration to end the Korean War.

"I want to stress once again that peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia as a whole cannot be achieved without peace on the Korean Peninsula," Moon said.

Suh Hoon, top national security adviser for Moon, virtually consulted with his US and Japanese counterparts, Robert O'Brien and Shigeru Kitamura, on various security issues, the presidential Blue House said Friday.

During the virtual consultation, the top security officials discussed various issues, including the denuclearization of and the peace settlement in the Korean Peninsula, agreeing to continue relevant cooperation among the three sides, according to the presidential Blue House.

They shared the assessment of recent security situations on the peninsula and discussed ways to "engage with" the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for dialogue resumption.

Denuclearization talks between the DPRK and the United States have been stalled since the second summit between top DPRK leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump ended without agreement at the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi in February 2019.

Moon also reiterated his call to launch a "Northeast Asia cooperation initiative for infectious disease control and public health," which he advocated at the United Nations General Assembly in September to involve countries in the region as well as ROK and the DPRK.

"Having gone through human-to-human and domestic animal infectious diseases and natural disaster together, the South and the North (DPRK) have been repeatedly reminded that the two are a single community of life and safety," Moon noted.

He added that the initiative would "save lives and protect safety of all and pave the path toward peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia and beyond."

Xinhua

Huawei deepens Africa push with partnerships

NAIROBI

CHINESE technology giant Huawei continues to deepen its collaborations across Africa with various programs aimed at promoting digitization across the continent.

In Kenya, the Information Communication and Technology Authority and Huawei completed the latest online training for civil servants on Tuesday to bring them the latest trends on information and communication technologies, e-government, smart city, the internet of things, and cybersecurity.

The Kenya ICT Authority said more than 400 civil servants registered for the first phase of the training over five days that was jointly organized by the ICT Authority and Huawei. The second and third phases of the training are being planned to reach thousands of civil servants nationwide.

The exercise is part of an ongoing effort by the Kenya ICT Authority in capacity building for Kenyan government employees. The program is expected to ensure the implementation of ICT standards and secure ICT infrastructure and systems.

Katherine Getao, the chief executive of the Kenya ICT Authority, said Huawei experts have trained and certified lecturers from 30 universities and training centers in Kenya through the ICT Academy program.

Getao said the local lecturers are training and collaborating with the government, academia and the private sector.

"The civil servant training is one aspect of a multipronged capacity-building partnership between Huawei and the Kenya ICT Authority that also includes training Kenyan youth,"



Voters cast their ballots at a polling station in Brooklyn borough of New York, the United States, on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

Getao said.

The ICT Authority of Kenya appreciates our partners who support our ICT capacity-building mandate by offering appropriate and cost-effective training programs to our stakeholders. A successful digital economy is founded on a culture of continuous learning."

In South Africa, Huawei, Rain and Wits University have jointly launched Africa's first 5G laboratory which gives students access to a live 5G environment to build knowledge of the revolutionary technology's applications for the local market.

The 5G Innovation Lab is part of a longer-term joint innovation program between businesses and the leading academic institution. It is aimed at driving innovations to promote social progress for South Africa in the digital era or fourth industrial revolution.

End-to-end solution

Yang Chen, Huawei's Southern Africa region vice-president, said the company has committed to provide its end-to-end 5G solution to the South African government.

"We are very encouraged by the efforts of Huawei, Rain and Wits to establish academic research and development capabilities. This is very important as we move into the digital economy. Huawei also runs various cutting edge ICT programs at several South African universities and colleges and this gives our youth a foothold into the fast changing technology space," Yang said.

"We are immensely proud to be part of rolling out this capacity in South Africa, to give students and academics a place to innovate and turn their ideas into reality. We look forward to groundbreaking 5G applications coming out of Wits."

Adam Habib, Wits University vice-chancellor, said he has high expectations for the partnership.

"We are working with the pioneers in digital innovation to train a generation of smart, savvy scholars who will transform the world using the latest technology available to effect beneficial change in our world. We are not reimagining the future, we are creating a better future for all today," Habib said.

Moscow protects ethnic Russians by providing citizenship to Donbass residents, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW will continue to protect the interests of Russian-speaking people regardless of where they live, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday.

When commenting on Ukraine's demand that Russia overturn a decree on fast-track citizenship for the residents of areas not controlled by Kiev, Peskov said: "Isn't Ukraine supposed to take care of its citizens? <...> Isn't Ukraine supposed to fulfill their social needs? Isn't Ukraine supposed to provide healthcare services to these people? Isn't Ukraine supposed to make sure there are necessary social infrastruc-

ture facilities?"

According to the Russian presidential spokesman, Ukraine "certainly should" do all these things. "However, since it's not being done and since these people are ethnic Russians, Russia has always protected and will continue to protect the interests of Russians, regardless of where they live," he added.

Peskov also said that Kiev's position on the Russian citizenship issue "runs counter to Ukraine's obligations under the Minsk Package of Measures, signed by the Ukrainian president." "The Minsk Package of Measures does not include such a provision," Peskov noted.

Dialogue on Donbass with France and Germany

Russia continues dialogue with colleagues from France and Germany on Donbass regulation, this issue has not taken a backseat, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Of course, it is [on the agenda]," the Kremlin spokesman said, when asked whether Donbass regulation is still on the agenda.

"This dialogue intensifies as long as there is some progress on the implementation of the previously reached agreements," Peskov noted. "As the implementation of the agreements slows down, it [the dialogue] slows down."

Agencies

Month-long coronavirus lockdown in England enough to 'make a real impact' - PM

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday said that the month-long lockdown in England, which came into force earlier in the day, is enough to "make a real impact" and will end on Dec. 2 as planned.

There is a "light at the end of the tunnel," the prime minister told a virtual press conference at Downing Street. "The advice I've received suggests that four weeks is enough for these measures to make a real impact," he said.

"These measures, though they are tough, are time-limited," he added, adding that they will allow as normal a Christmas as

possible.

Johnson (pictured) reaffirmed that the national lockdown will end on Dec. 2 before moving back to a tiered system, despite speculation by some senior British officials that the measure could be extended beyond that date.

Nevertheless, the prime minister also said the "challenges we face are significant across the UK". The average number of new cases each day is now 22,398, was up from 9,716 a month ago, he added.

The prime minister urged people to "stay at home" and save the British Health Service (NHS) from being overwhelmed. Meanwhile, Johnson an-



nounced a further 15 million pounds (about 19.6 million U.S. dollars) to help offer safe accom-

modation for rough sleepers or those at risk of becoming homeless during the lockdown, the

second of its kind since the coronavirus outbreak in Britain. Earlier on Thursday, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak extended the furlough scheme until the end of March.

Under the lockdown, people in England will only be allowed to leave their homes for specific reasons, such as education, work or food shopping. Pubs, bars and restaurants will close across the country except for takeaways. Non-essential shops, hairdressers and leisure and entertainment venues will also be shut.

Meanwhile, different households will be banned from mixing, although support bubbles and childcare bubbles will remain. Gyms will be shut but

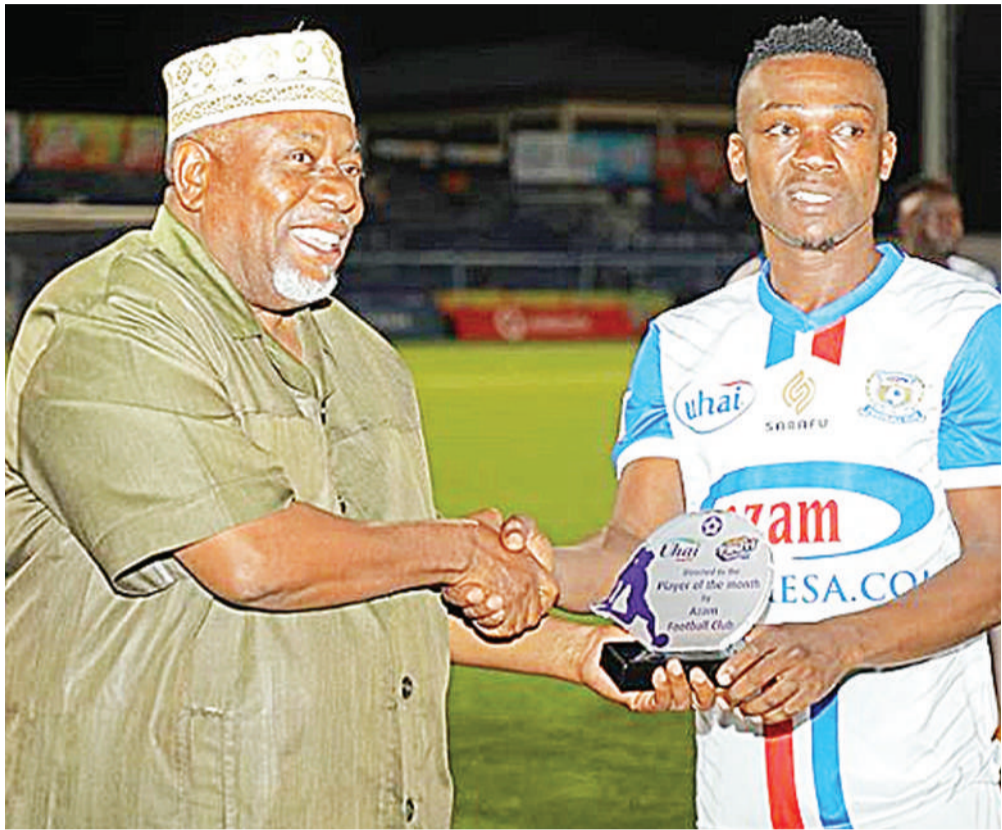
people can continue to exercise outdoors, at most with one person from another household. Schools, colleges and universities will remain open and those who cannot work from home, such as construction or manufacturing workers, will be encouraged to continue going to their workplaces.

Britain is the ninth country to reach the milestone of a million cases after the United States, India, Brazil, Russia, France, Spain, Argentina and Colombia. To bring life back to normal, countries, such as Britain, China, Russia and the United States, are racing against time to develop coronavirus vaccines.

Xinhua



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Dar es Salaam's Chamazi Mosque's Sheikh Twalib (L) hands over the Azam FC's Best Player of the Month award to the squad's midfielder, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy', shortly before the start of a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) match between outfit and Dodoma Jiji FC, played at Azam Complex in the city on Thursday. Azam FC won 3-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dube, Abubakar win awards as Azam FC returns to 2020/21 VPL top spot

BY CORRESPONDENTS ISMAIL TANO & NASSIR NCHIMBI

AZAM FC attacking midfielder, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy', has won the club's Player of the Month award for October, which is special award presented by the side to its players.

Abubakar has won the award ahead of his teammates, defender Bruce Kangwa, attacking midfielder Ally Niyonzima, strikers Obrey Chirwa and Prince Dube.

The midfielder was presented with the award by Chamazi Mosque's Sheikh Twalib before the start of a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) match between Azam FC and Dodoma Jiji FC played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

The match ended with Azam FC cruising to 3-0 win that has put them at the top of the domestic top flight.

Azam FC defender Aggrey Morris drilled in the opener on the 47th minute, midfielder Ayoub Lyanga smashed in the second on the 58th minute and Dodoma Jiji FC defender Hassan Kapona put the ball in his club's net to hand Azam FC the third goal as he attempted to save Zimbabwean midfielder Never Tigere's cross on the 62nd minute.

With the win, Azam FC Romanian coach, Aristica Cioaba, has helped his team collect 25 points after 10 matches, creating a two-point gap with Yanga, placed second in the standing.

This is the second time for Azam FC players to win monthly awards both in the club and the VPL after the side's new striker,

Prince Dube, received his VPL Player of the Month award for September, which was presented at the end of October due to delay in the league's kick off.

In addition to the award from the VPL main sponsors Vodacom Tanzania, Dube was presented with a cheque of 1m/-.

The 23-year-old Zimbabwean, former Highlanders' striker, is the VPL leading goal scorer with seven goals and four assists after nine games. Since moving to Azam FC, Dube has proved to be a prolific striker.

Dube has consequently smashed a record set by Simba SC forward Meddie Kagere, the VPL's previous season top scorer, given the former has been involved in 11 goals out of the ones netted by Azam FC.

This means that Kagere will have to work hard to again win the honour if Dube continues his pace until the end of the season.

Mbeya City FC posted 1-1 draw with Polisi Tanzania at the former's home ground, Sokoine Stadium in the top flight match, which took place the same day.

Forward Denis Kibu scored Mbeya City FC's goal on the seventh minute with a powerful shot, midfielder Hassan Nassor levelled matters for Polisi Tanzania during the added-on time of the opening period.

In the day's other clash, Mtibwa Sugar lost 1-0 to Coastal Union in a game which took place in Morogoro.

Hamad Majimengi scored the lone goal for Coastal Union on the 56th minute through a corner kick that went into the net.

Mwakinyo's opponent jets into Dar

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

ARGENTINIAN boxer, Jose Carlos Paz, who will take on Tanzania's Hassan Mwakinyo in a World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental Super Welterweight title bout, set for November 13 in Dar es Salaam, has jetted into the city for the fight.

Mwakinyo will be defending the title in the showdown, which is set to be held at the Next Door Arena in the city.

Paz who has travelled to the city with his father, Alberto Ramon Paz, who also doubles as the former's coach, claimed he will lift the title.

The boxer disclosed he has made a long-distance trip to lay his hands on the title in the fight, dubbed 'Jackson Group Fight Night'.

Paz was adamant he has taken lots of precautions in his preparation for the coming bout, claiming Mwakinyo is a good boxer.

"I have jetted in early on with a view to adapting to the weather, this is one of my strategies, I traveled by bus and thereafter took a plane, I have travelled for two days, I will not be ready to lose," he insisted.

Ramon disclosed he and Paz have assessed Mwakinyo in the latter's bouts and have known and worked on the Tanzanian boxers' skills.

"We have gone for tough training going into this bout, we have worked on techniques and tactics, all in a bid to win, we are confident we will win," he stated.

Jackson Group Sports' Managing Director, Kelvin Twissa, pointed out preparations for the 'Jackson Group Fight Night' are moving on smoothly.

He noted boxers from Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya who will participate in the supporting fights are expected to make it to Dar es Salaam next week.

Twissa stated everything is in the final stage, noting the bouts' tickets will be sold via the Nilipe and Selcom companies at 3m/- for a 10-people table and 150,000/- for each of the rest of the venue's seats.

In some of the undercards, supporting bouts, domestic female boxer, Zulfa Macho, will trade jabs with Zambian Alice Mbewe.

Kenyan female boxer, Fatuma Zarika, will take on Zimbabwe's Patience Mastara in women's Super Bantamweight bout.

VPL midweek curtain raiser ties favour Simba SC in derby, or lull the side to sleep

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL EN-EZA

RESULTS of hypersensitive contests between city rivals Simba SC and Young Africans SC (Yanga) across the street are often pegged to the mood the two sides face or experience as they enter the pitch, expectations of their fans, and to an extent, technical abilities of their coaches.

It is not the case that one side has all these requirements in excess compared to the other side, because they have all a negative side, though of course unequally.

Having a string of good results indicates that a team is well drilled, but knowing that the side has greater chances of winning diminishes alertness on the part of players, unlike their opponents.

That is basically what obtains even at present as the archrivals prepare for a long-awaited derby, which has to be brought back after Yanga, the Jangwani Street side, fired their coach, Zlatko Krmpotic, for expressing misgivings on their chances against Simba, the Msimbazi Street club side.

The newcomer, Cedric Kaze, has done a fairly good job or rather kept the side steady for the matches he has supervised so far, but erratic patterns of play still characterize long periods of play, with the irrefragable tendency for long balls and purposeless running, losing the ball, at times irritatingly dominating phases of play. Setting out for the derby that way and win will be a miracle.

When it comes to other psychological parameters facing the two sides, they each have a litany of issues to settle inwardly, but there is greater calm at Msimbazi Street that can be fig-



Simba SC left fullback, Mohamed Hussein, negotiates his way past Kagera Sugar defender, Mwaite Gerez, when the clubs locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League tie, which was played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

ured out for Jangwani Street backroom bickering.

Some of the problems are wider in character, for instance deliberate fouling of a few professional players especially with Simba and slack refereeing decisions in that direction, which in due course attracted punishments which looked curious to some observers.

Instead of ensuring that soccer rules are followed, it was clear that a give and take pattern prevailed, a harassed victim was penalized too.

At times one has a feeling that the politics is not helping either, as efforts to reduce the presence of foreign professional players give or rather emit signals that their presence is unjustified, which has a potent mix when our other societal drawbacks are included.

It is well beyond dispute how local societal

behaviour sometimes descends to depravity in squaring out with a close relative appearing to be more fortunate, or alternatively the lengths that people go to try to protect themselves from such depravity.

Those in high office in sports, shrieking about foreign professionals, make injuring them overly justified. Before the early and midweek curtain raiser matches, Yanga were on their way to rebuild after the leadership sacked the coach, imposing the need to grasp new techniques or altered methods, patterns of linking up between sections of the team, etc.

Simba were meanwhile at 'cruising speed,' but after a while appeared to slacken while Yanga showed potential of remaining steady, but the latter's midweek tie up with Gwambina FC was a dis-

appointment for those seeking pitch data that the side is ready for a deserved derby.

On the contrary Simba showed resolve and capacity to beat Kagera Sugar 2-0, making the side derby favorites.

On the basis of the club registration efforts and a series of clean sheets, and a sporadic ability to play inter-passing rather than 'run forward' type of soccer, on the basis of the philosophy that a win is prepared by possession rather than a lucky strike upfront, Yanga can still put up a good game.

But the coach, who comes from Burundi and might see long goal kicks as natural in football, may not be too dependable to bring the best out of the side, if one looks at the slack display against Gwambina FC.

It is a habit to rely on the skills of individual players to make a dif-

ference - coupled with injuring the best players of the other side, especially if they happen to be foreigners who ought not to be so many here.

While plenty is being said that Yanga elements either in leadership or club wings orchestrate the fouls against Simba professionals, it is unlikely that they themselves sink to that same level of play, which they cannot as they have a good number of professionals as well.

This 'ditched lover' screaming and wailing around Bernard Morrison ought to come to an end, not befitting for a club to talk endlessly about a player, and hopefully not involved in wishing to have him injured.

If club officials descend that low, they can expect retribution from fate - more operational concept is karma - where one reaps just what he sows.

Thus, all these aspects of the Yanga psychological make-up make them a somewhat less reliable side as far as play cohesion is concerned, or the capacity and intent of the coach to insist on real possession play rather than fanciful dribbling as a supposed 'counter attack' strategy.

Still, city derbies are all about which side is fired up and ready to put it all in the game, and on the look of things Yanga have greater reason to worry about the outcome, greater ability to listen keenly to the coach. But what shall he tell them, really?

Key battles at Dar derby showdown

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) will play host to Simba SC in Dar es Salaam today afternoon in a match that has more at stake than simply local pride.

The Vodacom Premier League (VPL) title race, a 4-1 drubbing to Simba SC in July, and ultimate bragging rights are all at the forefront as Tanzania's two biggest clubs battle once more in a clash, dubbed 'Dar derby'.

Let us take a look at the key battles that could ultimately decide the winner of the first Dar derby this season, and perhaps directly influence the title race in the process.

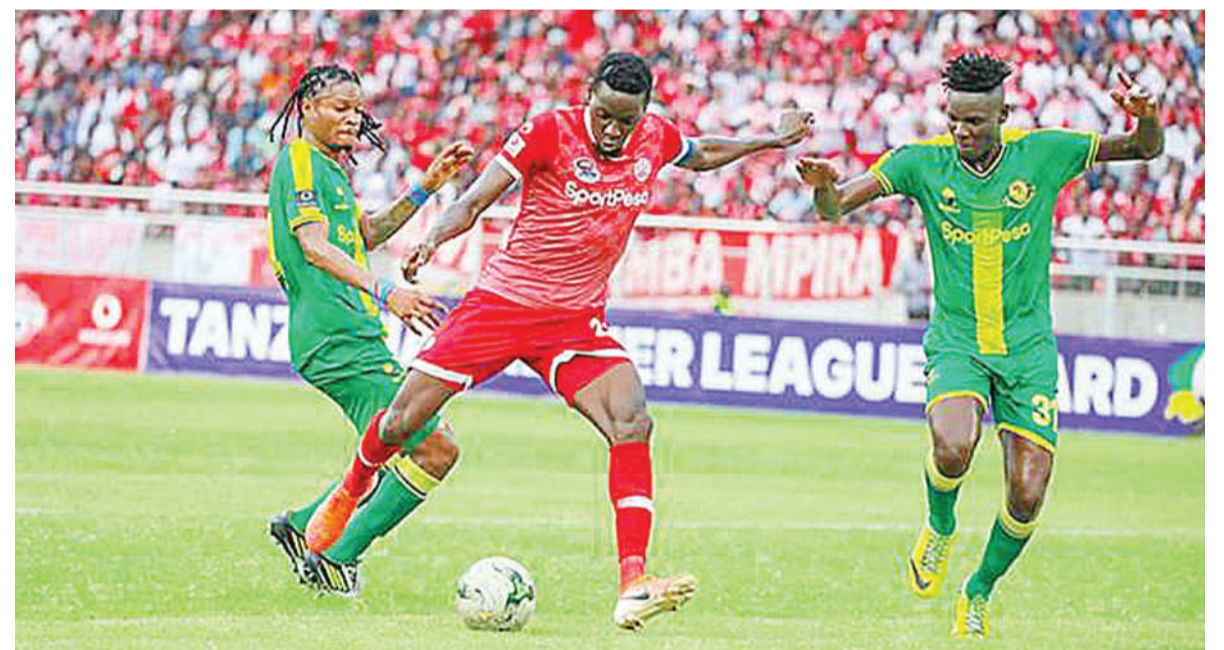
Bakari Mwamnyeto vs. John Bocco

Simba SC's joint top goal scorer this season up against Yanga's last season best defender. John Bocco has netted four goals for Simba SC, aka 'the Msimbazi Reds', this season as well as four assists, and will be one of many attacking weapons for Yanga to worry about here.

With over 10 goals against Yanga, Bocco loves scoring against them.

The man tasked with stopping Bocco will be Yanga's new centre back Bakari Mwamnyeto, who has stepped up in both performance and leadership since signing from Coastal Union.

For Yanga to defend well and potentially keep Simba SC from scoring goals at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, Mwamnyeto will have to put in a very good performance to keep Bocco, the defender's team mate at senior national football team,



Simba SC forward, John Bocco, takes a shot in front of Yanga's midfielder, Papy Tshishimbi (L), and defender, Said Juma, in a previous season's Vodacom Premier League's duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Yanga won 1-0.

Taifa Stars, quiet.

Luis Miquissone vs Yassin Mustapha

Another match-up which will play a huge role in the outcome of the Dar derby is Luis Miquissone against Yassin Mustapha.

Yanga head coach Cedric Kaze must find someone to shut down Simba's Miquissone on the right flank - starting with their left full-back, whom Miquissone will look to get after early in this one.

The Mozambican is one of the top wingers in the VPL and is a very good dribbler that gave Yanga lots of problems in the last derby game.

Miquissone has five assists in eight VPL appearances this season and, after being rested in the midweek clash against Kagera Sugar, he will be fully recharged to take on defenders in his way.

This means Mustapha has a job on his hands to keep Miquissone

quiet, and if the former UD Songo midfielder is to put in a performance like he has done lately, he will certainly make it a difficult afternoon for the Yanga fullback.

Rally Bwalya vs Mukoko Tonombe

Mukoko Tonombe is simply too dominant throughout the middle of the pitch to not cause teams problems, and Simba SC's Rally Bwalya, along with Jonas Mkude, will no doubt have a tough time in the middle today.

Tonombe's performances have been astonishing, therefore, although big game player Papy Tshishimbi was released, he has not actually really been missed, which would have been unthought of last season.

The Congolese can drop back to an extent to cancel the likes of Simba's midfielder Clatous Chama.

It is a big game for Bwalya, though, this weekend. He needs

to be on top of his game to control proceedings.

Clatous Chama vs Kibwana Shomari

Yanga's fullback Kibwana Shomari's toughest test yet may come in the form of Clatous Chama. The Zambian attacking midfielder is the VPL's standout performer.

Chama is a metronomic presence in the Simba' midfield, able to keep possession in the tightest of spaces, pick a position and play a pass between the lines, while also being capable of beating his man and scoring goals.

He is having a fine season for Simba and is continuing where he left off from the last campaign, where he was directly involved in 21 goals in all competitions.

This season, he has already scored two goals and assisted five from 10 games in all competitions and is proving to be a frightening prospect for any defender.

FIFA asked to review controversial handball rule, UEFA confirm

LONDON

UEFA have asked FIFA president Gianni Infantino to change the handball rule to stop "growing frustration" following a spate of penalties awarded for the offence, European football's governing body confirmed on Thursday.

In a letter to Infantino, UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin asked that football's lawmakers adjust the handball rule - which has been in place since March last year - so that referees can once again judge whether there is intent when a player handles the ball.

"The attempt to strictly define the cases where handling the ball is an offence has resulted in many unfair decisions which have been met with growing frustration and discomfort by the football community," said Ceferin's letter, which was sent on October 27.

The contents of the letter were confirmed to AFP's sister sports agency in Germany, SID.

The news of the letter comes a day after the latest controversial spot-kick award, which put Chelsea two goals ahead in their 3-0 Champions League win over Rennes on Wednesday.

Rennes defender Dalbert, who had already given away the first

penalty which had put Chelsea ahead, was sent off for a second booking following a VAR review when a Tammy Abraham shot bounced off his foot onto his arm.

The decision, and Timo Werner's cool finish from the spot, effectively killed off the Ligue 1 side's chances of getting a result at Stamford Bridge in their first ever season in the Champions League.

Rennes president Nicolas Holveck was livid after the defeat in London, calling referee Felix Zwayer "the man of the match".

"I would like someone to clearly explain to me the rules for handballs in the box ... the score went to 2-0 without Alfred (Gomis, the Rennes goalkeeper) having to make a save."

It was one of many penalty decisions which have angered players and managers and which Ceferin in his letter suggested was against the "spirit of the game".

Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled International Football Association Board which decides on the game's laws.

FIFA has half of the eight IFAB votes, with the others belonging to the FA's of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

AFP

Maradona to remain in hospital for treatment following surgery - doctor

BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINE soccer legend Diego Maradona is to remain in hospital for several more days to undergo treatment following surgery to remove a blood clot on the brain, his doctor said Thursday.

"We saw that in the postoperative phase Diego had episodes of confusion," Leopoldo Luque told reporters.

Therapists treating Maradona had linked the behaviour to withdrawal symptoms and the necessary treatment would last "a few days," he said.

Luque did not provide details, but Maradona has a long history of drug and alcohol addiction.

Although he has publicly said he no longer uses cocaine, friends and media reports have suggested he remains addicted to alcohol.

At a press conference outside the private clinic in Buenos Aires where surgeons spent 80 minutes removing the clot on Tuesday night, Luque took pains to present an upbeat assessment of the 60-year-old's overall condition.

"Diego is doing well. The CT scan came out well. We were even dancing. Yes, we danced!" the doctor said.

The doctor said Maradona "agrees" with the diagnosis and would remain in the clinic.

Earlier Thursday, he said doctors were happy with the former player's condition: "He can walk, talk to me...It's very early this, but the recovery is excellent."

World Cup winner Maradona had been taken to hospital in La

Plata - where he is the coach of top-flight side Gimnasia y Esgrima - on Monday for a series of tests after feeling unwell.

A scan revealed the blood clot, and on Tuesday he was transferred to the clinic in a northern neighborhood of the capital.

Fans have flocked to the clinic to leave banners showing the star in his prime and messages of support for the ailing icon.

Alongside Brazil's Pele, who turned 80 last month, Maradona is widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time.

- 'Depressed' -

Maradona, who turned 60 on Friday, has suffered ill health before. He has survived two heart attacks, and also contracted hepatitis and underwent gastric bypass surgery.

Prior to falling ill, Maradona had been depressed, his lawyer Matias Morla said on Wednesday.

The famously fast-living icon had only been able to spend half an hour at his own birthday celebration at his team's training ground on Friday, when he had difficulty walking.

"He was behaving strangely. He was very depressed and spoke about dead relatives that he missed," said Morla.

He said Maradona was "very worried" about the surgery and praised Luque, adding that "if he hadn't detected the clot, Maradona's fate would have been different."

Luque insisted on Tuesday that the procedure was "a routine operation."

AFP

Cannavaro on cusp of second China title after coronavirus-hit season

BEIJING

A CHINESE Super League season which began five months late and without spectators because of the coronavirus will reach its climax with Fabio Cannavaro's Guangzhou Evergrande facing Jiangsu Suning in front of 7,000 fans.

The title decider takes place over two legs on neutral territory in Suzhou, with the first match on Sunday and second on Thursday.

In order to keep the players safe and make up for time lost to the pandemic, the CSL was vastly revamped when it kicked off in July.

Players and coaches have been kept away from the public in two secure "bubbles", in Suzhou and Dalian, although some spectators

have been allowed to return in recent weeks.

The 16 teams have been engaged in a two-legged knockout competition to decide final league placings, rather than the regular home-and-away format.

Despite the disruption, the CSL has taken on a familiar hue with Cannavaro's Evergrande, the eight-time champions, two matches away from retaining their title.

The Italian World Cup-winner said he will have to put aside his friendship with Suning's Romanian coach Cosmin Olariu.

"I joked with him in the first stage of the league, hoping we can meet in the final," said the 47-year-old, after his side beat Beijing Guoan 3-1 on aggregate in the semi-finals.

AFP

Man City face Liverpool showdown, Solskjaer under fire

LONDON

MANCHESTER City's bid to regain the Premier League title faces a defining moment against leaders Liverpool this weekend, while Ole Gunnar Solskjaer fights to silence the critics as troubled Manchester United take on Everton.

City are already five points behind Liverpool, albeit with a game in hand, and cannot afford to lose to the champions at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side have allowed Liverpool to steal a march on them after winning just three of their first six league games.

Although City have won five of their last six games in all competitions, including a midweek Champions League success against Olympiakos, they remain some way short of their peak form.

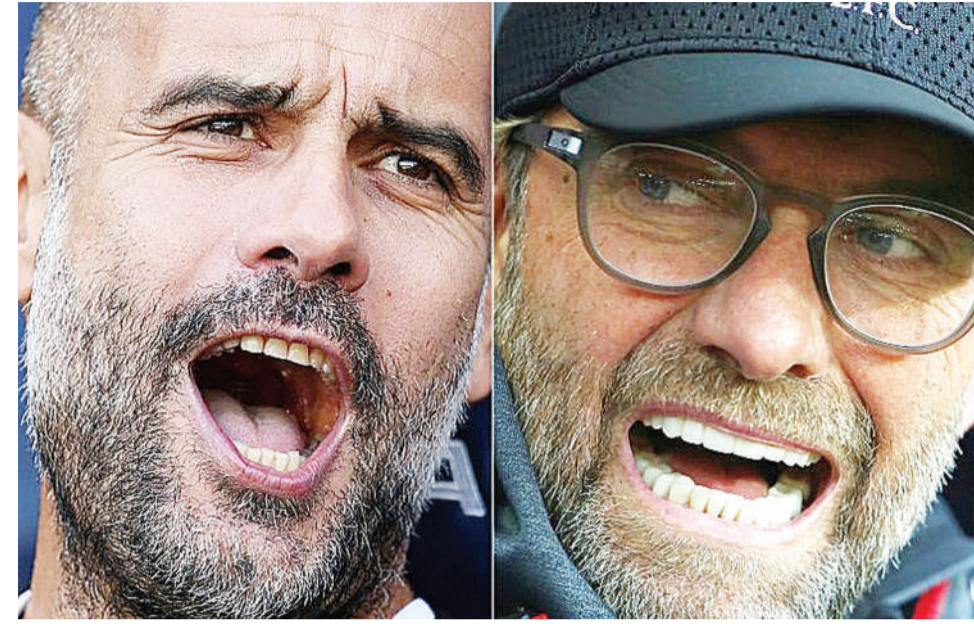
Hampered by Sergio Aguerro's recurring injury problems, City have lacked a cutting edge at times.

Guardiola can take heart from the return to fitness of Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus, who came off the bench to score against Olympiakos.

Acknowledging the significance of the Liverpool match to City's title hopes, Jesus said: "It's a very important game for us. It's a direct confrontation against the leader of the table."

"We need to be very focused, especially playing at home. We need to play our way and try to win the game. We need to win those three points if we want to aspire to win the Premier League again."

While City have made a spluttering start, Liverpool appear back to their



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola (L) and Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp. (Agencies)

best despite the absence of key defender Virgil van Dijk.

Klopp has been forced to alternate between inexperienced youngsters Rhys Williams and Nat Phillips as Joe Gomez's partner in central defence, but the Liverpool machine is still running smoothly.

Jurgen Klopp's team have won five games in all competitions and conceded just two goals since Van Dijk suffered the serious knee injury that is likely to rule him out for the rest of the season.

Liverpool, one point clear of second placed Leicester, crushed Atalanta 5-0 in the Champions League in midweek thanks

to in-form Diogo Jota's hat-trick.

"We are not a team of only one player. The last weeks have been difficult times because we have lost some important players in our team, but now we have many coming back as well," Liverpool keeper Alisson Becker said.

- Under pressure -

Meanwhile, Manchester United's dismal start to the season has left Solskjaer in danger of the sack.

After two successive losses, another damaging defeat at Everton would put the Norwegian under intense pressure amid reports United's board

have made contact with representatives of former Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino.

United's shock 2-1 defeat at Istanbul Basaksehir in the Champions League on Wednesday was an especially embarrassing night for Solskjaer as his team's defensive frailties came back to haunt him yet again.

Beaten by Arsenal in the league last weekend, United are off to their worst start at home since 1972, so Solskjaer might welcome an away game against an Everton side who have lost their last two games.

But Solskjaer, whose side sit just four points above the relegation zone, will know the

forthcoming international break potentially presents an opportunity for his dismissal if he doesn't inspire a win against Everton.

United, losers in three of their six league games, have not been beaten in four of their first seven in a league campaign since 1989-90.

"I decline to comment on such a thing. Of course, it's early on and opinions are out there all the time. You've got to stay strong," Solskjaer said after the shambles in Istanbul.

"I'm employed by the club to do a job and I do that to the best of my ability with my staff."

Elsewhere this weekend, if Liverpool drop points against City, then Leicester, who host Wolves, or Tottenham, who travel to West Bromwich Albion, could seize first place.

Fixtures (all times GMT):

Today
Everton v Manchester United (1230), Crystal Palace v Leeds (1500), Chelsea v Sheffield United (1730), West Ham v Fulham (2000)

Tomorrow

West Brom v Tottenham (1200), Leicester v Wolves (1400), Manchester City v Liverpool (1630), Arsenal v Aston Villa (1915)

AFP

Lewandowski, Haaland go head-to-head in Bayern, Dortmund showdown

BERLIN

THE Bundesliga's top striker Robert Lewandowski goes head-to-head with Erling Braut Haaland on Saturday when league leaders Bayern Munich travel to second-placed Borussia Dortmund.

Germany's top clubs are both on 15 points with Bayern top due to their vastly superior goal difference.

The European champions have won all three of the club's most recent meetings, but Dortmund have won two of their last three home games against Bayern.

"Bayern will have respect," former Dortmund captain Sebastian Kehl said in the build-up.

Lewandowski, 32, has banged in 10 goals in his five league games for Bayern, while Dortmund's Haaland, 20, has scored five times.

Ahead of the top-of-the-table clash, Bayern and Dortmund both rested their star strikers last weekend.

The pair warmed-up by each scoring two goals for their respective clubs in midweek Champions League away wins.

Lewandowski, 32, converted a penalty and added a superb header in a 6-2 thrashing of Salzburg.

Not to be outdone, Haaland, 20, also netted twice in Dortmund's 3-0 win at Brugge to become the first player to score 14 goals in his first 11 Champions League games.

- Alaba distraction -

Bayern have had to deal with off-field distractions, however, caused by David Alaba's contract wrangles.

The defender is "hurt and disappointed" after Bayern withdrew the offer of a contract extension, which reportedly would have earned Alaba up to 20 million euros (\$23.6 million) per season.

His contract expires next June and head coach Hansi Flick has said he just wants "calm in the team before the game against Dortmund".

The big question is whether Dortmund can contain a Bayern side which has scored 44 goals in just 12 games this season.

Having reverted to a back four after abandoning a three-man defence, Dortmund have not conceded a goal in their last four games.

However, Bayern will be a far bigger test of Dortmund's defensive prowess than Schalke, Zenit St Petersburg, Bielefeld or Brugge.

"We feel very comfortable in the new system," said Dortmund centre-back Manuel Akanji.

"We know that we can win against



Bayern Munich's Poland striker Robert Lewandowski (L) goes head-to-head with Dortmund's Norway star Erling Braut Haaland on Saturday. (Agencies)

Bayern at home. We have proven that several times."

Midfielder Axel Witsel impressed as a defender alongside Akanji in the win at Brugge.

Witsel could start against Bayern at centre-back if Mats Hummels fails to recover from a thigh strain.

Before the Bundesliga's heavyweights slug it out in Dortmund, third-place RB Leipzig host Freiburg, who are winless in their last five games.

Leipzig want to build on their midweek Champions League win

over Paris Saint Germain when the German club's French winger Christopher Nkunku scored against his former club PSG in a 2-1 victory.

One to watch: Alassane Plea
Plea netted a hat-trick in mid-week as Borussia Moenchengladbach returned to their European glory days of the 70s with a 6-0 win at Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League.

The 27-year-old has also been creative in Europe with four assists - setting up both goals for Marcus Thuram, who just received his first

France call-up, in Gladbach's 2-2 home draw against Real Madrid.

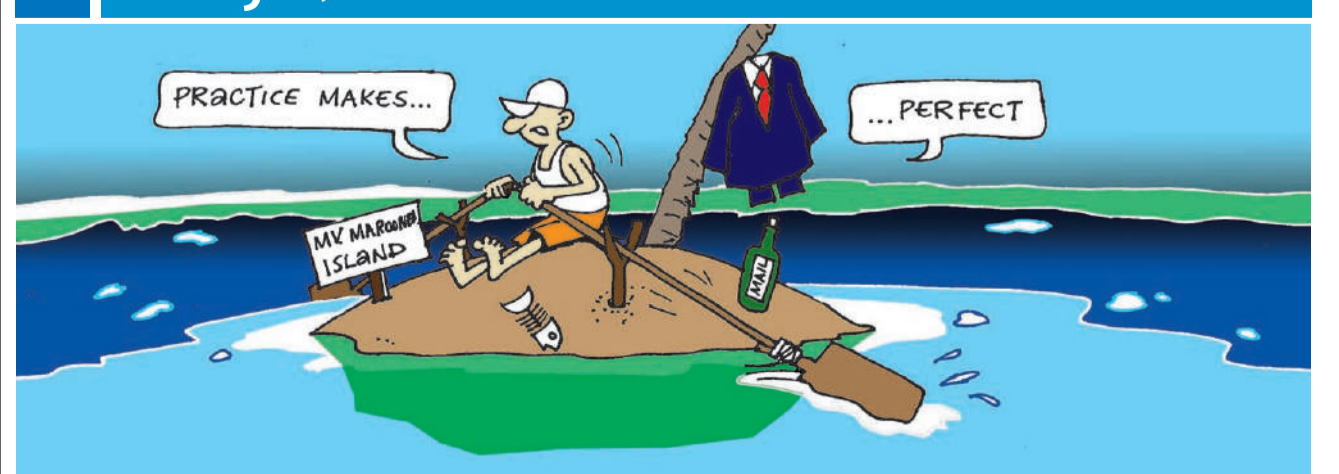
Expect Plea and Thuram to spearhead the visitors' attack at Bayer Leverkusen on Sunday with just a point separating the clubs.

Key stats

37 - average minutes Lewandowski needs to score a Bundesliga goal this season, while Haaland nets in the league every 77 minutes.

5 - goals Haaland has scored in as many Bundesliga matches in 2020/21. Lewandowski has netted a record ten in his first five games. AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City face Liverpool showdown, Solskjaer under fire

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasia
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Rare wheels to colour 2020 Guru Nanak Rally

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE 2020 Guru Nanak Motor Rally, slated for this weekend in Arusha, is the first ever sporting event to feature teams from outside Tanzania in the post-corona months with drivers from Kenya and Uganda having their collars felt, for the Tanzania National Rally Championship Round 3.

Organized by the Arusha Motor Sports Club (AMSC), the Guru Nanak Rally has attracted 21 teams from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, with the racing set to raise dust in the remote landscapes of Monduli District tomorrow.

Of the 21 cars to compete in the rugged terrain, different varieties of Subaru Imprezza vehicles seem to dominate the lineup, with eight such vehicles being enlisted, followed by Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution cars counted at seven.

There are also some very rare wheels, including the single entry of Skoda Proto from the Hari Singh Rally team.

This is also a hybrid team with the driver, Gurjit Dhani from Tanzania, and navigator Riyaz Ismail from Kenya.

Among the special cars there is also a Porsche 911 driven by legendary Jayant Shah and Shahil Haria from the A-to-Z team of Arusha and a modern Ford Fiesta driven by Karan Patel and Tauseef Khan from the Fimico team of Kenya. The three are the only non-Japanese cars in the rally.

The only large vehicle to participate in the racing should be the Nissan Patrol 4WD to be driven by the Kenyan Ian Duncan rally team, carrying the entry number seven.

Uganda's sole entry comes in the form of the Moil Rally team of Yassin Nassar and Ali Katumba to race in Subaru Imprezza GVB 15 bearing the number 9 badge on the door and bonnet. Yassin was last year's champion.

There is also the strangely named 'Tanzanite Forever Lapidary Rally team, featuring Subaru Imprezza MY 03 to be driven by Jamil Shabbhai with co-driver Aaron John from Arusha, with the team having finished sixth last year but targeting to top the race this weekend.

Carlinhos, Gerson Fraga miss Dar Derby



Simba SC midfielder, Gerson Fraga.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC's Brazilian midfielder, Gerson Fraga, will be out of action for the rest of this season with a knee injury sustained in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) game against Biashara United, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 20.

The injury means the midfielder will not be part of Simba SC line up for the

VPL tie against age-old rivals, Yanga, which takes place at the stadium today.

Simba SC, as it is the case for their opponents, have had preparations for the clash, which was previously scheduled for October 18 prior to being re-scheduled.

Fraga was injured and replaced by Said Ndema on the eighth minute of the encounter with Biashara United, which ended with Simba SC cruising to 4-0 victory over the visitors.

The midfielder is currently doing light

training, seeking to get back to his best but, according to Simba SC, it will take a long time for him to return to the pitch.

Simba SC's head coach Sven Vandenbroeck stated he rues missing out on the services of the midfielder who was diligently fulfilling his duties on the pitch.

The team's prolific forward, Meddie Kagere, is also likely to miss the match, which will see the teams meet for the first time this season.

Kagere has scored a total of four goals in this

season's VPL, two goals behind Azam FC's top scorer, Prince Dube, the league's leading goal scorer with six goals.

Kagere was injured in a league match against JKT Tanzania, which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma and climaxed with Simba SC notching 4-0 victory over the hosts.

According to Vandenbroeck, Kagere is still injured and could return to action after two weeks.

As for Simba SC's striker, Chris Mugalu, who was also injured on

November 4, he started on the bench as the team won 2-0 against Kagera Sugar in a league match played at Uhuru Stadium on Wednesday.

He also had time to grace the pitch, replacing captain John Bocco the 63rd minute of the clash.

The situation that raises many questions about the possibility of Mugalu being in the Simba SC squad that will lock horns with rivals, Yanga.

It has also been reported that Yanga's midfielder, Carlos Fernandes, will not be part of the squad that will play Simba SC today.

The Angolan midfielder, nicknamed 'Carlinhos', has a total of two assists for his club's goals scored by defender, Lamine Moro, who is one of the leading goal scorers in his club.

'Carlinhos' was injured in training while his team was shaping up for a league match against Polisi Tanzania, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in the city on October 22.

The club disclosed the midfielder is so far keeping on seeking fitness and get back to action.

According to Yanga's

doctor, Shecky Mgazija, 'Carlinhos' condition has stabilized but it will be difficult for the midfielder to start in the squad that will play against Simba SC today.

Yanga, who are placed second in the domestic top flight table with 23 points after playing nine matches, are facing the VPL defending champions Simba SC who are placed third with 19 points.

The clubs' respective VPL matches, which took place midweek, had different results. Yanga dropped two points, settling for a 0-0 draw with Gwambina FC at Gwambina Complex in Misungwi, Mwanza on Tuesday.

Simba SC recorded 2-0 win over Kagera Sugar at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam the following day.

Six referees will oversee the clash bringing together the domestic soccer big guns, as disclosed by Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB)'s Chief Executive Officer, Almas Kasongo.

The officials include Martin Saanya, Emmanuel Mwandembwa, Elly Sassi and Abdallah Mwinymkuuu.

Gymkhana Cricket Club faces Aces Club test in 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup competition semis

By Guardian Reporter

ACES Cricket Club will be out to inch closer to clinching the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, when the outfit face Gymkhana Cricket Club in the semi-final in the city tomorrow.

The eagerly awaited clash, dubbed 'Qualifier 1', brings together outfits which have enjoyed a fairy-tale run in groups A and B of the tournament, finishing at the top of the groups.

Aces Cricket Club finished as the Group A leaders, coming out victorious in four games the team have taken part in and recording eight points.

The squad scored a total of 470 runs and gave away 423 runs to post net run rate of 0.9792.

Aces Cricket Club secured progression to the semi-finals impressively, commanding six-wicket victory over Aga Khan SC, which was among serious contenders for the showdown's silverware.

Gymkhana Cricket Club topped Group B in a similarly impressive fashion as the team posted victory in all four outings, they participated in.

The Group B leaders recorded 596 runs and gave away 494 runs, notching net run rate of 1.4174.



Colourflex Inks & Coatings Ltd's Director, Kennedy Chisora (L), hands over the man of the match prize to Sameer Zaidi of Union SC after the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament duel between the team and Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC), which took place in the city on October 24. Union SC emerged victorious against the SKLPSC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CLUB

They edged the other serious contenders, Caravans Club, to the top spot with a 26-run victory

over the latter in a duel held at Leaders Club venue in the city at the end of last month.

Gymkhana Cricket Club's captain Abhik Patwa, Zamoyoni Ramadhani and Vishal Patel put their

batting prowess to show, seeing to it the outfit makes short work of Aga Khan SC.

Patwa made the most of his experience, ending two runs short of a half century in the duel, whereas Patel and Ramadhani notched 32 runs and 43 runs not out respectively for their team.

The trio will certainly need to be at their best in the semi-final duel against Aces Cricket Club, if they are to hand Gymkhana Cricket Club qualification for the final.

Ally Mpeka, Kelvin Nassib, Ejaz Aziz, Salum Jumbe, Raza Baloch, Jumanne Mohamed, Mohamed Ali, as well as skipper Bhavesh Govind are some of skillful players Aces Cricket Club is highly expected to line up in tomorrow's clash and seek to tame Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Both Caravans Club and Aga Khan SC have been given a reprieve, as they will lock horns in a knockout duel, termed as Eliminator, which will too take place tomorrow, seeking to make it to the final.

Caravans Club and Aga Khan SC are, evidently, boasting of depth in batting, therefore both teams will seek to make tomorrow's clash a thrilling encounter by putting their batting prowess to show.

The Eliminator's winners

will confront the Qualifier 1 losers to seek progression to the final, which will take place next week.

Prior to Sunday's encounter with Caravans Club, Aga Khan SC will confront Union SC at Leaders Club today in what is generally a mere formality.

The competition, which is an annual feature, is hosted by Caravans Club in cooperation with regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Petrofuel Company, Color Flex Inks & Coatings, Grand Restaurant and Alliance Insurance Company are sponsors for the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

The 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament, launched in the city on September 26, started on October 4 and will climax at the end of this month.

Ten clubs battled it out in the showpiece this season. They had been grouped into A and B.

Union Sports, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC), GP Pak Stars, Aces Club and Aga Khan Sports Club made Group A.

Group B consisted of Annadil Burhani, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), Gymkhana Cricket Club, Strikers and hosts, Caravans Club.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

