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Govt hands NRFA 50bn/- to clear maize stockpiles

EJAT 2020: The Guardian scribes scoop most awards

By Getrude Mbago

JOURNALISTS from The Guardian Limited (TGL) yesterday continued their dominance in the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) for 2020 in the print media contest. At an awards ceremony held in Dar es Salaam, a total of 12 journalists from TGL scooped prizes, leaving just a handful of finalists.

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National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (R, back to camera) swears in nominated legislator Dr Stergomena Tax in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

PM suspends EWURA'S latest indicative prices for petrol, gas

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the Treasury to disburse 50bn/- to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) for purchasing piled up maize stock starting early next week. Moving a parliamentary adjournment motion here yesterday, Prime Minister Kassim Mjilwa said the president's decision follows a public outcry on the falling maize prices and lack of markets, while asking the legislature to meet again on November 2. The disbursement directive came a day after MPs appealed to the government to disburse 100bn/- to NFRA and CPB for procurement of grain, with the premier tasking the Ministry of Agriculture to properly super-

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Bone marrow transplants equipment lands at MNH

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) will now start providing high level services related to blood complications following the installing of two state-of-the-art equipment vital in bone marrow transplants.

The new equipment machines which include a 'spectra optia' will be used in harvesting hematopoietic stem cells, platelets, granulocytes and plasma, top officials said.

Dr Stella Rwezaura, head of

“ Researchers say the shortage of experts in haematology and blood transfusion services has far-reaching impact on patients' healthcare ... ”

Haematology Department at the hospital told a press conference to unveil the equipment in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that the new services were hitherto unavailable at the facility.

Thousands of patients seeking high level blood diagnostic and transplant services will now be assisted, with blood related diseases posing a major threat to lives of many Tanzanians, she said.

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'Invest in value addition to benefit from AfCFTA'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

“ We must prioritize value addition to fairly compete in the African market. Exporting raw materials would not lift our people from poverty ”

THE government needs to invest heavily in value addition of agricultural produce and quality of harvests for Tanzania to compete in the larger trade zone in the continent., legislators urged yesterday.

This appeal came in contributions of MPs before the National Assem-

bly approved the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) on Thursday, which seeks to increase intra-African trade by a large margin in the coming years, by removing tariffs on 90 per cent of goods traded within the zone.

Dr Pindi Chana (Special

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Govt hands NRFA 50bn/- to clear maize stockpiles

FROM PAGE 1

vise maize purchasing, across the country. The two crop bodies should only purchase maize from farmers, he emphasised.

"The ministry should continue searching for international markets in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe and South Sudan," he urged, noting that the government is closely monitoring the export of food crops and reserves to ensure food security.

The government has permitted private buyers to purchase maize and sell them to markets of their choice within and outside the country, he said, meanwhile as last month the government disbursed 14bn/- to NFRA and another 10bn/- to CPB to facilitate maize purchasing.

Efforts are ongoing to ensure availability of agricultural inputs especially fertilizers, with the government taking measures to liberalize processes of fertilizer importation and opening doors for traders who intend to bring the commodity into the country, to increase competition and impact the pricing, the premier noted.

Earlier, Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said CPB will soon start exporting maize to South Sudan, Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The board has signed agreements with a milling company in Mombasa to supply 100,000 tons of the grain each year, and it has opened maize selling centres in Nairobi and in Juba, South Sudan while expecting to open such centres in Morocco, Comoro, DRC and Zimbabwe.

On fuel prices, Majaliwa said the government has suspended the newly announced indicative price for petrol, diesel, kerosene by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) put in application from

September 1, following massive public complaints.

The legislature has formed a probe team to investigate the cause of rising prices, led by Sengerema MP Khamis Tabasamu, to examine indicators causing prices to rise, along with levies and taxes charged on oil importers.

"We will give other instructions as soon as the probe team submits its report," the premier said, saying that the probe team actually started work on September 2.

He said in his speech that efforts are ongoing to improve the provision of social services especially in the health sector, allocating 37.5bn/- collected from mobile money transaction charges, for the construction of 150 health centers. Each of the projects will be provided with 250m/- to start construction work.

Monies collected from mobile money transaction fees have also been directed to the building of classrooms to accommodate all Standard Seven pupils selected to join Form One early next year, he said, noting that 934,706 pupils (83.68 percent) out of 1,115,041 who sat for the national Standard Seven examination are expected to be enrolled for secondary school education.

"We have allocated 33.73bn/- from mobile money transaction fees for construction of 2,699 classrooms out of the required 4,539 classrooms at different places across the country," he said.

President Samia has meanwhile appointed Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax as a nominated MP, sworn into her new duties by Speaker Job Ndogai in the afternoon yesterday.

Dr Tax has recently completed two terms of office as Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), leaving the post late last month.



CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a meeting of the party's Central Committee at Chamwino in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House.

'Invest in value addition to reap from AfCFTA'

FROM PAGE 1

Seats said Tanzania has a variety of agricultural products to be marketed in the AfCFTA zone, but efforts are needed to ensure improved quality. Without value addition to agricultural goods, farmers will not gain as much as those selling finished products.

Japhet Hasunga (Vwawa) underscored the need for increased productivity to meet market demand. He said Tanzania should put in place strategies to sell finished products instead of exporting raw materials.

"We must prioritize value addition to fairly compete in the African market. Exporting raw materials would not lift our people from poverty," the former cabinet minister asserted.

Ndanda MP Cecil Mwambe said that the country must ensure the quality of agricultural produce to attract international buyers. "Traders should also be educated on how to participate in the AfCFTA market," he stated.

David Mwakiposa, the chairman of

the Industry, Trade and Environment parliamentary committee, said that since Tanzania gears at industrial transformation, ratification of the agreement would promote the construction of industries.

He however warned on the possibility of Tanzanians losing jobs especially those working in industries as some of the factories might resolve to close businesses over failure to compete with imported goods.

He urged the government to fast track implementation of the blueprint for regulatory reform to improve the business environment to ensure a conducive business and investment climate.

The measure would also contribute to reviewing some taxes and levies charged on agricultural goods and industrial products so that Tanzania's products can ably compete in the regional and wider markets, he said.

"We also need to educate our traders, especially small and medium scale entrepreneurs, on available market opportunities and business

challenges," he said, noting that emphasis should be directed at improving the packaging and branding of locally manufactured goods.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the minister for Industry and Trade, said the government conducted thorough research prior to engaging the legislature in ratifying the agreement, insisting that the country will benefit from the liberalisation of trade and services.

Tanzania has already started to benefit from the vast African market, trading with 19 countries under the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), he elaborated.

"We stand to benefit from the agreement as last year we sold products worth \$812m to the EAC and commodities worth \$999m to countries within SADC, while we imported goods totaling \$604m from SADC," he stated.

SADC and EAC areas have a market potential of 522m people, with AfCFTA covering a market of 1.2bn people and a combined GDP of

\$3.4trn, in which case a common market is likely to strengthen the value chain for agricultural crops.

This would stimulate production and boost smallholder farmers engaging in the cultivation of sunflower, cotton, spices, cloves and horticultural products, the minister specified.

Until last month, 41 out of 55 countries had ratified the AfCFTA agreement, among them all the EAC member states except Tanzania and Angola in SADC, also having limited liberal economic structures, apart from lawless Libya and the closed state of Eritrea.

The paradox was that while the Kingdom of Morocco hasn't ratified the pact the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic had done so, but isn't in effective control of its territory, which former US President Donald Trump recognized as Moroccan territory, in exchange for Morocco's easing of relations with Israel. The Jewish state has now gained observer status in the African Union.

EJAT 2020: The Guardian scribes scoop most awards

FROM PAGE 1

from other media houses who obtained prizes among the 59 shortlisted scribes contesting for the coveted professional acknowledgement awards. The journalists won awards in categories of education, health, investigative reports, business, economy and finance, cartoons, taxation and revenue collection reporting.

The competition involved 59 journalists from various media houses, drawing attentions on the quality of journalistic output of works earlier submitted before a panel of judges.

Winners form TGL featured Nipashe news editor Sanula Athanas, a regular top awardee in the contest, who won three prizes in education, tourism and conservation as well as the human rights and good governance

categories). Others were Mary Geoffrey (open category), Elizabeth Zaya (investigative reports category), Jumanne Juma (best photographer), Jenifer Gilla, Henry Mwangonde, Muhidin Msamba, Renatha Msungu, Augusta Njaji, and yet others were Christina Mwakangale, Zuwena Shame and David Chikoko. A reporter with The Guardian, Henry Mwangonde emerged first runner-up in gender and children reporting category while Muhidin Msamba emerged the first runner-up in the best cartoonist category. Retired prime minister and veteran media advocate Judge Joseph Warioba, the chief guest at the awards event, called on media practitioners to focus on writing issues that affect the community. Media organizations tend to focus on reporting on public

leadership and contentions, forgetting to focus on unearthing issues that bring a positive impact in the community, he stated, appealing to journalists to promote gender equality by putting women in leadership openings that regularly come about.

On September 1, a panel of judges under the EJAT organizing committee shortlisted 59 nominees for the 2020 awards event, after thoroughly scanning a total 395 entries submitted for the competition.

Organising committee chairman Kajubi Mukajanga, who doubles up as executive secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) said the scrutiny was conducted by a panel of seven judges led by former newspaper editor and now journalism lecturer, Dr Joyce Bazira.

conditions in hospital diagnosis and treatment from district and regional hospitals to referral and national hospitals, she further noted. Researchers say the shortage of experts in haematology and blood transfusion services has far-reaching impact on patients' healthcare provision especially for early detection of blood diseases, laboratory diagnosis and blood transfusion. Experts have on several occasions urged for inclusion of blood related diseases in the national plan against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the formulation of a treatment guideline to help hospital staff in handling cases of hemophilia and sickle-cell ailments, she added.

Bone marrow transplants equipment lands at MNH

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The lack of general knowledge compels many turn to traditional medication tied to fears of witchcraft and thus end up losing their lives from complications related to over bleeding.

Hemophilia is a mostly inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots, a process needed to stop bleeding, the expert explained.

In a country where people suffer from a variety of blood disorders - including inherited blood diseases such as sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia and thalassemia - there is a heightened need for experts who can effectively tackle the

conditions in hospital diagnosis and treatment from district and regional hospitals to referral and national hospitals, she further noted.

Researchers say the shortage of experts in haematology and blood transfusion services has far-reaching impact on patients' healthcare provision especially for early detection of blood diseases, laboratory diagnosis and blood transfusion.

Experts have on several occasions urged for inclusion of blood related diseases in the national plan against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the formulation of a treatment guideline to help hospital staff in handling cases of hemophilia and sickle-cell ailments, she added.

TB Joshua's widow, Evelyn, officially takes charge of Nigerian mega-church

LAGOS

TB Joshua, the founder of the Synagogue Church of All Nations in the Ikotun neighborhood of Lagos, Nigeria, died at 2:00am on June 6, 2021, hours after he left the service and went to his house to rest.

The widow of Pastor Temitope Balogun Joshua, popularly known as TB Joshua, has officially taken charge of his Lagos-based mega-church.

Evelyn Joshua will now lead the Synagogue Church Of All Nations (SCOAN), founded by her late husband, after the Fed-

eral High Court in Nigeria approved her appointment as a trustee.

According to a statement issued by the church yesterday, Justice Tijjani Ringim of the High Court gave the judgment in Ikoyi.

The decision follows a petition filed by some church members after the death of the charismatic pastor and televangelist in June. The petitioners sought her appointment, arguing that the two surviving members of the Board of Trustees could not legally make the decision that could help the church move forward.

"In the circumstances, it became im-

perative for an additional trustee to be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the untimely death of the deceased founder," they argued in court papers.

Since the pastor's sudden death at 58, no successor was officially picked even though it was generally expected that Evelyn would assume leadership of the church.

With no objections from petition's respondents, the court granted the approval, a move that is expected to provide further clarity on leadership succession in the mega-church.

"Someone must take charge immediately

and give spiritual direction on the mode of service continuity. So much spiritual and financial effort went into building SCOAN and it cannot just waste away," a top aide at SCOAN said.

"None of the pastors had been trained to succeed him," he added.

The church recently released a statement dismissing rumours that there was a succession tussle between Evelyn and some evangelists.

"Rather than fan the embers of strife and animosity, she has remained focused on preserving the legacies of her late hus-

band...Even when her husband was alive, she was not known to be an over-ambitious and domineering woman. Instead, she preferred to support her husband and the ministry from behind without exhibiting any selfish instincts even when she had all the powers to do so," the statement said.

"What other proof do we need to know that she is a great leader who can manage people and situations?" it added.

Evelyn, 52, was married to TB Joshua for 31 years and had three children.

AGENCIES

Tanzania to carry out census for crocodiles

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government plans to conduct a crocodile census in Ruvo River, Coast Region to determine their numbers following complaints from villagers of being attacked, injured and sometimes killed by the reptiles.

However, if found that their numbers are large, the government will conduct an exercise to identify and remove a few crocodiles that have been attacking, injuring and killing people at the River.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Deputy Minister, Mary Masanja made the statement in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to Morogoro South Member of Parliament, Innocent Kalogeris.

In his basic question, the legislator asked for government plans to harvest crocodiles at Ruvo River following increased deadly attacks on villagers residing near the river. He said most human-wildlife conflicts are reported at Kigamila, Bwila juu, Magogoni, Bwila chini, Kongwa, Tulo, Lukuhinge villages in Mvuha and Serembala wards.

She however added that the government will continue to evaluate the number of crocodiles at other rivers in Katavi, Rukwa and Morogoro regions. She said after the census, the government would decide on possibilities to

harvest them to control invasion and loss of life and properties caused by the beefy animals.

In 2019, the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism auctioned 10 percent of the country's crocodiles.

The plan also involved selling all hippos found in lakes, dams and rivers located in or nearby communities as a measure to control invasion and loss of life and properties caused by the beefy animals.

The government also outlined plans to build walls and fences in areas with frequent reports of crocodiles attacking people, such as Maleza and Ruvo in the Coast region.

The plan also involved selling all hippos found in lakes, dams and rivers located in or nearby communities as a measure to control invasion and loss of life and properties caused by the beefy animals



Arusha Regional Traffic Police Officer Solomon Mwangamilo demonstrates to pupils beside an Arusha city street yesterday how to enhance safety when crossing a road. Photo: Correspondent Tumaini Mafie

UN due to launch Special Data platform next week

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations is next week expected to launch the Africa UN Data for Development Platform, at a side event along the margins of the 76th UN General Assembly.

Developed by the UN agencies in Africa under the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP), the Africa UN Data for Development Platform is an online one-stop-shop on data for SDGs and Agenda 2063 in the continent.

The platform which will be launched on September 13, 2021 aims to improve the availability of harmonized data for decision making to all actors in Africa and provides key socio-economic indicators and other resources.

Through its single data collection system from member states, the platform will reduce the response burden on member states to requests from global and regional actors, including the African Union and its organs, UN agencies and other partner institutions.

The platform facilitates data provision and access in an intuitive and user-friendly manner. Data are presented in table, charts and animated map to show the progress of countries over time for a selected indicator. Data can be downloaded in EXCEL and CSV to enable users undertake secondary analysis of datasets.

The portal is open and accessible to all potential users, including policymakers, planners and programme managers at national, regional and international levels; regional and international development actors; private sector, civil society, academia, researchers, students, media, interest groups among others.

In addition, the OIBC-1, is developing the African UN Data and Statistics Strategy which seeks to improve the use of data for evidence-based decision-making through generation and utilization of quality data for inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies in the region, including strengthen data infrastructure.

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Police arrest 40 over trafficking and sale of illicit drugs, liquor

POLICE in Kilimanjaro region has arrested 45 people in connection with trafficking, selling, and using narcotics such as khat, marijuana illicit liquor commonly known as gongo.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Simon Marwa Maigwa said here yesterday that police officers arrested a total of 45 suspects within only one week in connection with trafficking, selling, and using narcotics such as kilos of

khats, marijuana and gongo.

Among the 45 suspects, two of them have already appeared in court while police still investigating the cases and they will also be taken to court after investigations are completed," the Kilimanjaro police boss explained.

According to the Kilimanjaro RPC, some of the suspects were found with narcotics upon inspections of their bags, where they found local made baskets parcels full

of khat. RPC Maigwa further explained that, within only a week, they have arrested a total of more than 78 kilograms of khat, 670 rolls of marijuana, two illicit liquor distillation tools and 260 liters of the illicit alcohol.

According to the Kilimanjaro police boss, upon interrogation, some of the suspects said that they were being trafficked the khat to Arusha.

He said that, in Tanzania, khat is on the list of illegal

drugs like cocaine and heroin; thus drug trafficking is contrary to the Law number 6 Section 31 amended in 2012 and accused will be arraigned in court when investigations are completed.

Most of the khat are claimed to be produced in neighboring country, Kenya while others are produced in Same district, Kilimanjaro region where it is estimated that, there are more than 836 producers.

Few years back, the Kilimanjaro regional defense and security committee and the Same district defense and security committees met in an 'emergency' meeting to discuss how they can have 'joint efforts' in collaboration with village and ward executive officers (VEO's and WEO's) to uproot all khats in all 28 villages that cultivate the illicit plants.

Kenya, one of the EAC member states, allows production,

selling, and use of khat; while in Tanzania, the government has banned khat and it is on the list of illicit drugs like cocaine and heroin.

Among communities from these areas, khat chewing has a history as a social custom dating back hundreds of years. Khat contains a monoamine alkaloid called cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant, which is said to cause excitement, loss of appetite and euphoria.

In 1980, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified it as a drug of abuse that can produce mild-to-moderate psychological dependence (less than tobacco or alcohol), although WHO does not consider khat to be seriously addictive.

Recently, the Kilimanjaro police force in the region has successfully arrested 161 suspects in connection with various drug and other drug offenses including availability of four illicit spirit (gongo) brewing equipment and 200 liters of the illicit alcohol.




Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-09-03	Slag cement 42.5L 70:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company profile with proven experience in Slag cement manufacturing. Relevant licences/consents/permits/government approvals; Local ownership percentage (Local Content); Quality; Cost of the goods; Lead time; Guarantee/Warranty time frames; Price Competitiveness; and Proven ability to supply large volumes on a daily basis
2	BUL-21-09-04	Slag cement Minecem 32.5L 90:10	

The above goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced manufactures of the above specified goods shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" (EOI) on your company's letterhead if your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s) with tracked experience in cement manufacturing;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years;
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required;
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission;
- Bulyanhulu reserve the right to invite any other supplier/s which did not submit an EOI submission;

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on **17th September 2021**. Any responses received after this date will not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **Bulyanhulu**.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
AT DAR ES SALAAM
COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 3 OF 2021**

**KNAUF GYPSUM TANZANIA LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
DIGITAL AUCTION MARTDEFENDANT
DECREE**

WHEREFORE; The Plaintiff humbly prays for the following reliefs:-


- a) Payment of Tshs 280,160,275.74/= being the amount that Defendant failed to remit to the Plaintiff for vehicle and machines purchased and transportation of gypsum stone and coal according to the agreements.
- b) Payment of general damages as may be assessed by this Honorable Court.
- c) Payment of interest at commercial rate prevailing at the date of judgment, or at such as the Honourable Court may deem fit and just, accruing and computed from the date of judgment of this suit.
- d) Four costs of this suit; and
- e) Any other relief(s) that this Honorable Court may deem fit and just to grant

This matter coming for Judgment on 20th day of August, 2021 before Hon B. K. Philip, Judge in the presence of Advocate Anwaar Katakwaliba holding brief for Advocate Ester Peter for the Plaintiff and in absence of the Defendant.

THIS COURT DOETH HEREBY ORDER THAT:

- i. That the Defendant shall pay the Plaintiff a sum of Tshs. 242,900,000/=
- ii. That the Defendant shall pay the Plaintiff interests on the decretal sum in item (i) herein above at the Court rate of 7% from the date of judgment to the date of payment full.
- iii. The costs of this case shall be borne by the Defendant.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 20th day of August, 2021.



.....

SUCCESSOR JUDGE
31/8/2021

Extracted on this 31st day of August 2021.

216453101

216453801



Former Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman speaks at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday as he officially took over as Ardh University Chancellor from former Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya (L). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Msuya retires as Ardh University chancellor after 14 years of service

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Ardh University (ARU), Chancellor Cleopa Msuya has retired after 14 of service at the university.

Msuya (89), who also served as Prime Minister and Vice President of Tanzania, handed over the position to the new chancellor former Chief Justice of Tanzania Mohammed Chande Othman.

The handover ceremony was held yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the university premises.

Speaking after the handover ceremony, Msuya argued the universities in the country to focus on the aim of their establishment.

He said some universities including ARU was established to complement the government efforts to enable many Tanzania youth get opportunity to access higher education after it has invested heavily in ward schools.

Msuya said the schools were built to enable standard seven leavers to continue with secondary education and it is the reason the government expanded middle universities to accommodate many youth who wish to join universities.

Msuya argued ARU manage-

ment to continue to think on how they can increase various courses and recruit many youth so that they fulfill the aim of its establishment.

He also congratulated ARU management teaching skills adding that they produce skilled professionals who can compete in global market.

"I congratulate you because you have contributed immensely in the production of competent graduates in different professions who can compete in global market," he said.

Retired Judge Mohammed Chande commended his predecessor for the job well done and also thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the trust in him to lead the university being the second Chancellor after Msuya who served from 2007.

He promised to collaborate effectively with the university management, senate and university council on how to run the university smoothly.

He promised to use the experience he achieved from various institutions he has worked with in the execution of his duties as the new Chancellor of the university.

Weather forecasts and climate outlooks support humanitarian action - WHO

GENEVA

A weak La Niña event may re-emerge later in 2021 for the second consecutive year, with the risk that forecast precipitation patterns may exacerbate existing drought in some parts of the world and increase the risk of heavy rainfall and flooding in others, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

But despite La Niña's cooling influence, temperatures over land areas are expected to be above average between September and November, especially in the northern hemisphere. La Niña refers to the large-scale cooling of the

ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall. It usually has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Niño, which is the warm phase of the so-called El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

However, all naturally occurring climate events now take place in the context of human-induced climate change, which is increasing global temperature, exacerbating extreme weather and impacting seasonal rainfall patterns.

"Human induced climate

change amplifies the impacts of naturally occurring events like La Niña and is increasingly influencing our weather patterns, in particular through more intense heat and drought - and the associated risk of wildfires - as well as record-breaking deluges of rainfall and flooding," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

"We have seen this with devastating and tragic effect in the past few months in nearly all regions of the world. Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of disasters," he said.

"Improved early warnings and disaster risk management

means that we are better at saving lives, but the socio-economic and humanitarian impacts are spiraling in the form of worsening food insecurity, more displacement and migration and the potential for unrest," said Prof. Taalas.

Prof Taalas addressed a UN High-Level Humanitarian Event on Anticipatory Action on September 9; the event is intended to galvanize a collective push to act ahead of weather and climate crises rather than responding when it is too late. Anticipatory Action schemes have pioneered the establishment of pre-arranged disaster financing

mechanisms, which are triggered based on weather and climate forecast information.

This high-level event - to be opened by the United Nations Secretary-General - will showcase compelling examples of this anticipatory approach and generate signals of support to scale action. Leaders from Governments, international financial institutions, the United Nations and civil society will come together to demonstrate that the world is committed to act ahead of predictable crises.

WMO is stepping up its capacity to provide tailored support to the humanitarian sector. This includes of-

fering support to facilitate access to the most appropriate data, services and expertise from the WMO community to improve the development, design and operation of weather and climate forecast triggers.

Improved seasonal forecasts are pivotal in this because they help plan ahead and gain substantial socio-economic benefits in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, food security, health and disaster risk reduction. A network of regional climate outlook forums now spans the globe, providing actionable climate information, for the forthcoming season, lev-

eraging on inputs from global and regional producing centres and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

The latest El Niño/La Niña Update from the World Meteorological Organization suggests that either the cool side of ENSO-neutral conditions continue or that La Niña conditions return near the end of the year. There is chance of 60 percent chance of ENSO-neutral and 40 percent for La Niña for September-November, and equal chances of ENSO-neutral and La-Niña re-emergence in October-December and November-January. The El Niño/La Niña outlook favors ENSO-neutral again in 2022.

Farmers in Tunduru decry low price for pigeon peas

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

PIGEON peas growers in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region are decrying over low price of pigeon peas saying that they are no longer earning anything from the crop despite spending a lot of expenses.

The farmers have in the just ended auction sold the crop at 1,201/- per kg which is too low compared to the expenses.

According to them in the last three auctions, price of the crop was fair but things have changed with the recent auction thus leaving the farmers in discontent.

Reports show that as droughts become common and dry lands expand due to climate change, pigeon peas will continue becoming important for managing food security and nutritional situation in Africa.

He said that the first company requested to purchase 28,000 tons of pigeon peas at 1,203 and the second requested to purchase 519,689 tons at 1,200/-.

"We sold the harvests to two companies which both brought prices that are unfair to us, we don't earn much by selling our crop at this price, we are calling

on authorities to see and help us," said Abbas Tanga, one of the pigeon peas growers in Tunduru.

Another farmer, Anthony Lev-wileja urged the government to find reliable markets of the produce as opposed to now where buyers have been offering prices of their choice.

He also asked the government to supervise farmers' timely payments as they have been waiting for so long after auctions to get paid.

Earlier, representative of the Tunduru Farmers' Cooperative Union (TAMCU) Yasini Masiano said that pigeon peas sales figures for this season have started to decline compared to the prices offered at the first and third auctions.

Pino Chipojola, chairman of the sales meeting thanked all the farmers who have decided to send their produce to the grass root cooperatives so as to meet the highest bidder in the market.

He said the TAMCU also thanks the government for cracking down on capricious buyers and crop speculators, who were exploiting farmers in the area.

He said TAMCU is prepared to pay the farmers who sold their produce in the auction.



Government Chief Medical Officer Dr Aifello Sicalwe (L) and Save the Children Country director Bester Mulauzi (C) participate in the launch of USAID's "Strengthening COVID-19 case management in regional referral hospitals" project in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo courtesy of USAID

US government commits to support Tanzania's effort to fight COVID-19

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States (US) government, through the Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched a strengthening COVID-19 case management in regional referral hospitals project worth USD750, 000 (equivalent to 1.74bn/-).

The ten-month new project aims to ensure health facilities provide the best care for

COVID-19 patients with critical needs, ultimately improving their chances and speed of recovery.

Speaking during the event yesterday in Dodoma, USAID Project Management Specialist Dr Miriam Kombe remarked: "This support includes mitigating the impact of the pandemic on society, equitable access and delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations, reducing morbidity and mortality from COVID-19,

and preventing and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on our AIDS relief programs and beneficiaries."

Dr Kombe added: "The COVID-19 pandemic is among the most pressing challenges to the health, well-being, and economic security of all people. We must work together to address this pandemic with urgency." She said the project will strengthen health care workers' management of

these cases to enable an effective, lifesaving, and sustainable COVID-19 response.

The project will support four Regional Referral Hospitals: Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital in Dodoma, Bombo Regional Referral Hospital in Tanga, Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital in Arusha, and Sekou Toure Regional Referral Hospital in Mwanza.

It is implemented by Save the Children. The funds will

support the provision of oxygen therapy equipment and training for healthcare workers. Training will focus on the appropriate use and maintenance of the equipment, in order to provide quality services and expand critical care for COVID-19 patients with respiratory distress. Training will also include the development and distribution of job aids based on approved national guidelines, as well as follow-

up support for oxygen therapy after the departure of trainers.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global emergency with unprecedented reach and rapidly evolving health system challenges. In Tanzania, the U.S. government is committed to working side by side with the Government of Tanzania on their National COVID-19 Response Plan.

This includes partnering with all stakeholders in Tanza-

nia's health sector to mitigate the pandemic's effects and ensure the health and safety of the entire community. USAID's broad support includes mitigating the impact of the pandemic on society, equitable access and delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations, reducing morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, and preventing and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on HIV/AIDS relief programs and beneficiaries.



Dr Angelina Mabula, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, pictured yesterday has a first-hand account of progress in the implementation of a project expected to see 300 houses built in Dodoma Urban District's Iyumbu administrative ward. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

AU suspends Guinea after coup

THE African Union (AU) has suspended Guinea in the wake of Sunday's coup, a tweet from the AU's Political Affairs Peace and Security department says.

President Alpha Conde was overthrown by a group of soldiers led by Col Mamady Doumbouya.

The coup has been condemned by regional leaders as well as the African Union, UN secretary general and the US.

On Wednesday, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also suspended Guinea on Wednesday and regional ministers have arrived in Conakry to talk to the junta about a return to constitutional order.

But the military leaders have been met by jubilant crowds on the streets of the capital, Conakry.

Many expressed dissatisfaction with President Conde, serving his third term, and the corruption and economic mismanagement of the country.

The bloc's leaders strongly condemned the coup and demanded a return to the constitutional order and the immediate release of Conde. The ECOWAS leaders also agreed to send a high-level mission to Guinea as soon as possible.

The bloc will also send a media-

tion mission to Guinea on Thursday, Barry told reporters in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou.

Conde had come under increasing fire for perceived authoritarianism. The 83-year-old became the first democratically elected president in 2010 and was re-elected in 2015. But last year, he pushed through a new constitution that allowed him to run for a third term in October 2020.

The move sparked mass demonstrations in which dozens of protesters were killed. Conde won the election but the political opposition maintained that the poll was a sham. Regional bloc ECOWAS convened an extraordinary virtual summit to discuss the turmoil in Guinea on Wednesday.

Afterwards, Burkina Faso Foreign Minister Alpha Barry said that ECOWAS would also request that the Africa Union and United Nations endorse its decision to suspend Guinea.

The putsch has sparked fears of democratic backsliding across the region, where military strongmen are increasingly familiar sight. In Guinea's neighbor Mali, strongman Col. Assimi Goita has launched two coups since last August.

Agencies

Public-Private Partnership funds can help combat climate change

NAIROBI

A couple of years back climate change experts, scientists and environmental champions rallied the world to act against looming climate change.

The United Nations even went ahead to list sustainable development goal (SDG) number 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact", in a bid to highlight the gravity of

the matter.

In 2015, The Paris Agreement, a landmark international accord was adopted by nearly every nation to address climate change and its negative impacts by working to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in this century.

Fast forward to 2021 and we can attest to the effects of climate change from the prolonged drought, intense storms,

melting glaciers (evident on the peaks of Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya and Tanzania, respectively).

Additionally, reduced crop yield has presented a looming food crisis, and unprecedented high rainfall has spurred frequent cases of flooding and infrastructure destruction.

Further effects could lead to freshwater shortages, alter food production conditions, as well

as exacerbate the loss of lives from cyclic floods, storms, and drought.

Tana Delta farmers and pastoralists battle severe effects of climate change drought to worsen as 'depressed rainfall' predicted from October.

Presently, climate change continues to threaten the course of humanity, almost rendering the previous narrative on climate change mitigation irrelevant.

Unfortunately, the environmental impact(s) of climate change cannot be reversed - this would be wishful thinking. However, greater commitment and actions toward climate adaptation and mitigation can be greatly prioritized to build, equip, and enhance resilience within communities.

If we all planted trees to increase forest cover, attract more rain and compact the soil to

prevent landslides, this would be considered as climate change mitigation.

You might even explore drought resilient crops such as cassava and iron rich beans to address food insecurity and malnutrition. These minimize the impact of climate change on people and the environment. Climate adaption on the other hand, seeks to address how to work with the changes resulting

from climate change to ensure sustainability.

Innovation and technology are the best tools that humanity has at hand to succeed in the quest to adaptation.

A great case can be made in favour of value addition in agricultural products, such as tomatoes, to maximise the shelf life of the products, minimise wastage and sustain a larger population of people through a dry season.



Trianon Spices Company workers pictured earlier this week sorting raw spices for onward processing at the firm's factory at Lusanga village in Muheza District. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Police seize 34 million/- worth of elephant tusks

By Correspondent Gideon Mwanosya, Songea

POLICE in Ruvuma Region have arrested two people allegedly in possession of 12.13 kg of elephant tusks worth more than 34m/-.

Regional Police Commander Joseph Konyo said that two suspects from Kitanda village in Namtumbo District were arrested on Wednesday at 6 pm at Mitewa sub-village after police were tipped off on the incident.

He said the suspects had hidden the government trophies in one of their own houses.

"We were informed that two young men were involved in poaching and holding government trophies... so the police traced them and finally arrested them," the regional police chief said.

RPC Konyo said that the suspects are expected to appear in court after the investigation is completed.

Meanwhile, the Ruvuma Regional Police Force is holding 13 people over allegations of killing 6 cows worth 3m/- and injuring 13 cows belonging to Lela Chafu Kinasake (39) a herdsman of Mabutuu Village in Tunduru District.

It was further alleged that on the day of the incident, the suspects were trying to get the herdsmen out of the grazing areas along Ruvuma River, which during dry season, is used by farmers to grow vegetables.

RPC Konyo said the incident occurred on Tuesday at around 6 pm in the Ruvuma River Basin, at Chilundundu Village, Nalasi Ward, Tunduru District and that the police are working on the incident before taking the suspects to justice.

Govt set to start implementation of 1,176 water projects in rural areas

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is set to commence implementation of 1,176 water projects in rural areas with funds obtained from the mobile money transfer levies.

It is also planning to start implementing 1 trillion/- mega water project which will benefit 28 towns in the country. These are funds from Exim Bank.

Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso made the statement here while speaking to editors and journalists from various media organisations.

He said that the implementation of the projects sound as a huge relief to the residents in various towns and rural

areas thus stimulating economic growth.

According to him, the Parliament approved a budget of 680bn/- for the 2021/22 fiscal year from mobile money transfer levy, where 450bn/- was for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) but President Samia Suluhu Hassan has allocated another 207bn/- more to further support implementation of various water projects.

He cautioned contractors who will sign the contracts to be aware that the government is more serious this time and will not tolerate any recklessness.

"We will not hire contractors who do not deliver well, we want the public

funds to be properly spent to bring a positive change in communities," he said.

He wanted regional and district leaders to closely supervise all water projects in their areas and make sure that they benefit the society.

"We want everything to be transparent, leaders should supervise these projects that the projects are transparently implemented, no secrecy in this as the public should know how their funds are spent," he said.

He said that in efforts aimed to ensure that water supply reaches 95 percent in urban areas, the government secured a soft loan of USD 500 million (1 trillion/-) funds from the India government through Exim bank.

"This project had to be implemented some years ago, but the issue of permit blocked the process but we sat down and resolved it and the permit has already been obtained marking start of projects' implementation," Aweso said.

The minister said contractors of the project will soon sign agreements so as to commence the implementation.

He named some of the beneficiary cities as Makambako and Wanging'ombe (Njombe), Muheza and Handeni (Tanga).

The minister also said that the government is planning to install water prepaid meters similar to electricity prepaid one, to ease collection procedures and raise revenues.

"On this, we will consider installation expenses, we will ensure that the expenses are lower. This move will also help water users to pay for water as they spend," he added.

Eng Mkama Bwire, director of Water Supply and Sanitation said 115 out of 177 water projects which were implemented below the standards have been renovated with the remaining 62 projects set to be completed in December, this year.

He said 779 out of 1176 water projects will be implemented by contractors and the 397 projects will be implemented by local experts where their completion will improve water availability by 3.7 percent.



ADA Tadea party national chairman Juma Ali Khatib, who is also a member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, is vaccinated against Covid-19 at the legislative assembly's Chukwani grounds in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Mkenda cites lack of inputs, investment in research as reason for low production

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for agriculture Prof Adolf Mkenda has listed a number of reasons for low production in various crops country-wide including poor use of agriculture inputs and lack of investment in research.

Prof Mkenda was speaking during a meeting with heads of boards, research institutions and agencies under the ministry which took place in Dodoma.

He gave an example of cashewnut which the country is harvesting on average of 5 to 10 kilogrammes compared to recommended harvests of 35 kilogrammes per tree.

The minister said other reasons for low production include poor investment in research for development, low extension services and unsteadiness of markets for some crops in various seasons.

"The ministry is working with various stakeholders to increase production including of cashew-nut," he said.

The minister hailed the ministry's Permanent Secretary Andrew Massawe for his leadership in managing the institutions under his docket.

He said the country has much trust in the ministry saying there is a need to increase production but also create a database for

farmers to easily serve them.

During the meeting Prof Mkenda congratulated deputy minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe for bringing a solution to the lack of pesticides to cashewnut farmers.

For his part, deputy minister Bashe called upon Cereal and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) and the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to ensure that they follow their customers.

On sunflower Bashe said the government will ensure that seeds are timely available to farmers.



For his part, deputy minister Bashe called upon Cereal and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) and the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to ensure that they follow their customers

NARITA hybrids cross borders for farmers' evaluation in Kenya

By Special Correspondent

IN improving banana production in East African countries, researchers are multiplying and testing for the adoption of NARITA hybrid varieties that are high yielding and resistant to Black Sigatoka disease in Kenya.

Banana is the third most important food after maize and rice, with an annual production of 1.5 million tons, lower than the 4.4 million in Uganda and 4 million in Tanzania.

The 25 NARITA hybrids that have been evaluated for agronomic performance in Uganda are going through similar studies in Kenya under the

Climate Smart Banana project. Part of the project is assessing the potential of the hybrids for adoption by farmers, consumers, and traders. Banana farmers in Kirinyaga, Embu, and Murang'a counties will receive disease-resistant and high-yielding varieties to grow through a partnership with researchers at Kenyatta University.

"NARITA hybrids are high-yielding and disease-resistant hybrids, which are the result of over 20 years of joint breeding efforts between NARO and IITA hence the name," said Mary Mwangi, a researcher at Kenyatta University-Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and

Biotechnology.

Mary noted that poor productivity is attributed to the continued cultivation of low-yielding varieties, deteriorating climatic conditions, soil degradation, pests, and diseases. Past interventions have mainly focused on disseminating disease-free tissue culture seedlings of commercial dessert bananas, with little adoption of cooking banana and plantain that can address the rampant food insecurity in the country.

As an implementing partner, IITA provides technical advice and oversight on the new varieties and their development and evaluation and how best to proceed with ex-

perimental aspects, including testing sites.

"Our expectations are for at least one or two NARITA hybrids to be selected as superior and preferred by farmers for adoption due to various characteristics such as production, better disease resistance, taste, cooking quality. We wish to establish that they will perform well under Kenya conditions and provide greater returns to farmers through higher yields, but that they are also liked and selected by farmers and consumers. Ultimately this will lead to the improved well-being of farmers and improved supply of quality bananas to markets

that benefit consumers," expressed Danny Coyne, IITA Soil Health Scientist based in Kenya.

Coyne noted that the varieties are the same as in Uganda and Tanzania, but the overall improvements through this project will be to extend the growth of improved, better yielding bananas to a greater number of people in the region. The project will expand the improved bananas' growing area, increasing farmer access to better varieties.

Past interventions have mainly focused on the dissemination of disease-free tissue culture seedlings of commercial dessert bananas

to select varieties resilient to climate change-induced constraints. The project will use a participatory gender-responsive approach that involves all stakeholders in the banana and plantains value chains in Kirinyaga, Embu, and Murang'a counties.

The NARITAs were developed in Uganda at the National Agricultural Research Laboratories Kawanda and the IITA Sendusu research station. They were later released for commercialization and adoption to Ugandan farmers. In March 2021, the Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture officially released four NARITA hybrids called TARIBAN 1-4.

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African countries to speak in one voice at UN food summit

By Guardian Reporter

THE Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA) is spearheading the conversation that will ensure that African countries speak in one voice at the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS).

UNFSS will be convened by the UN Secretary-General on September 23, in New York to expedite achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through game-changing solutions to address food security and build resilience to vulnerabilities and shocks.

Vera Songwe, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ECA Executive Secretary said the Summit will focus the discussions on game-changing solutions to transform food systems across the globe in order to achieve all the 17 SDGs of Agenda 2030.

"In the African context, food systems transformation will help the continent to also achieve all the goals of Africa's Agenda 2063," said Songwe.

ECA has worked closely with AUC and AUDA between March and July 2021 to further refine Africa's common position for the UNFSS and has helped to define the process that has led to the endorsement of Africa's common position at an extraordinary session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

Africa's common position builds on the outcomes of the Regional Dialogue on African Food Systems, which was organized by ECA, in close partnership with some of Africa's major partners and stakeholders in agriculture and food systems. The event convened within the auspices of the 7th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, featured high-level technical and policy sessions and was successful in identifying needs, drivers and game-changers for accelerating African food systems transformation. Feedback and inputs were garnered to revise the background

document for the Regional Dialogue.

Africa's common position was communicated during the pre-summit event that took place on 26-28 July 2021. It is also expected that Africa's common position will be voiced out during the UNFSS through the voice of the current President of the African Union.

It is expected that the momentum to be created by the UNFSS will result in mobilizing and galvanizing support for the implementation of the identified priorities within the context of Agenda 2063, CAADP Malabo declaration, the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), and other continental frameworks that have the consensus of AU Member States.

Within the African context, Ms. Songwe said food security in Africa will require essential interventions that include increased investment in research and extension to improve yields, especially of nutritious foods, and to diffuse the adoption of modern technologies, including digitalization and mechanization.

"Policies and interventions throughout the food system will be needed to raise yields, lower transaction costs, promote nutritious foods, and reduce health and environmental costs," Songwe noted.

"A common vision, strong political leadership and effective cross-sectoral collaboration, intensively involving the private sector, are essential to identify and implement sustainable solutions to transform food systems for healthy, affordable diets."

Joan Kagwanja, Chief of the Agriculture & Business Enabling Environment Section (ABEE) says Africans will together seek to address the issues of climate change and food security on the continent at the UNFSS Summit.

She said African farming systems are dominated by small-scale family farms due to low diversification; low access to productivity-enhancing inputs, finance, extension, infrastructure, insecure land tenure significantly hindering investments.

Ms Kagwanja said 75% of African population cannot afford a "healthy" diet, and more than half cannot afford a "nutrient



Dr Dorothy Gwajima (R), Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, briefs journalists in Arusha city yesterday shortly after opening the 14th East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON) scientific conference. The event is meant to serve a forum at which nurses, midwives and other medical professionals in the region will share knowledge and exchange experience, with a view to raising the quality of healthcare services. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

adequate" diet. This is because African food systems cannot produce food at affordable prices, in addition to dominated low purchasing power income.

"The challenges of African food systems include the rise of African middle class, rapid urbanization, which causes shift in food demand; rising competition over African farmland & climate change," she said.

"Increase in food production does not match population growth as there is a widening gap between production and the attendant consumption."

She said the private sector, a key player in addressing the challenges of African food systems, had invested \$19 million in agricultural technology in Africa (2016-2019), and agri-tech startups grew by 110%.

The ABEE Chief noted that to ad-

dress the challenges of food insecurity, countries need to turn COVID-19 challenge into an opportunity by shifting from business-as-usual and adopt holistic, multi-sectoral approaches and systems thinking with special focus on building resilience.

"African countries need to consider Africa's peculiarities in designing strategies and plans including recurrent and heightened climate variability, wide-spread land degradation, natural disasters and conflicts," said Ms Kagwanja.

Young people, she said, should be supported to engage in innovative approaches that make food systems attractive for youth engagement. Women should be empowered to end the productivity gap along food value chain, including in enhancing land access and

tenure. The UNFSS will be held virtually during the UN General Assembly in New York. The agenda for the Summit include a statement of action from the UN Secretary-General, compendium of the Summit's two-year preparations, National dialogues, and pathways for food systems to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, Coalitions cutting across the five action tracks and incorporating the four levers of change around key areas, a follow-up and review process supported by the UN and its agencies.

The UNFSS addresses the sustainable development value of voluntary sustainability standards by pooling resources, synchronizing efforts, and assuring policy coherence, coordination, and collaboration among United Nations agencies.



Jema Lilama speaks at a meeting called by Simanjiro District's Mirerani Township Authority on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Swedish NGO helps schools, hospitals with electricity

By Guardian Correspondent

A non-governmental organisation based in Sweden, Engineers Without Borders, is implementing a project, dubbed "Wind Power for Tanzania" so as to supply electricity to schools and hospitals in the country.

The organisation that tackles the challenges associated with sustainable development goals implements the project in collaboration with Sandvik, a Swedish multinational engineering company that specializes in stainless steel production and metallurgy across multiple industries, from mining to medical devices.

The "Wind Power for Tanzania" project aims to support the current electricity supply to schools, hospitals, and other essential community facilities, by building and maintaining wind power turbines and installing solar panels in off-grid rural areas in Tanzania.

There are currently around 1.3 billion people globally that live without access to electricity, representing almost 20 percent of the world's total population. Approximately half of these people live in Africa, despite the wealth of resources on the continent.

According to the organisation, the project has been supported by the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, with students travelling to Tanzania to help build the turbines.

Having regular and reliable energy sources

means that schools in remote areas do not have to cease studying when it is dark outside and students can feel safer in well-lit outdoor areas. For hospitals, the turbine will provide an invaluable power supply backup.

As well as building and helping to maintain these turbines and solar panels, Engineers Without Borders aims to educate local people and help them to communicate with organisations about infrastructure for more cost-effective maintenance.

Sandvik's partnership with Engineers Without Borders is part of the company's dedication to sustainability goals. Sandvik laid out four goals to achieve by 2030, along with regularly updated progress reports.

This will be done by integrating targets within performance management systems, creating sustainability idea hubs, holding annual sustainability awards to celebrate innovation, updating "The Sandvik Way" governance framework and their Code of Conduct, and ensuring absolute transparency of its progress.

Sandvik initiated its long-term collaboration with Engineers without Borders in order to contribute technical expertise, project management, and international experience to the organization's voluntary activities. Engineers Without Borders Sweden is currently carrying out volunteer projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, and Nepal.

Surge in seaweed demand to drive growth of Africa's market

By Special Correspondent

A number of Africa's seaweed producers are among those expected to post substantial seaweed market growth as global pressure mounts on governments to increase seafood production, reduce global warming, and restore overexploited marine fisheries to sustainable levels.

Growing demand for the vitamins and minerals found in seaweed, primarily

for use in the manufacture of food, healthcare, and personal care products, is driven by the expansion of the commercial seaweed market, according to a 360 Market Research report.

"The market for commercial seaweed is witnessing substantial growth prospectively," the report says.

Although the report highlights the market trends in South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt, Africa's seaweed production is largely

concentrated in Tanzania, Morocco, and Madagascar, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Tanzania and Madagascar are among the top aquaculture producers on the continent of the Kappaphycus/Eucheuma seaweed species, despite disease having depressed production in Tanzania - specifically on the island of Zanzibar - forcing farmers to resort to the lower-valued Eucheuma denticulatum,

according to the FAO.

Even taking into account the top producers, Africa's share of global seaweed production remains less than 1 percent. However, Africa's seaweed production levels are expected to increase after The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - in partnership with local suppliers, government partners, universities, and U.S. company Cargill - launched a new seaweed farming "community empowerment and environmental

training programme for seaweed farmers" through its new sustainability initiative the "Red Seaweed Promise" in Tanzania's islands of Zanzibar and Pemba.

Some of the specific areas the partnership is focusing on include "trainings in better environmental management practices, smart seaweed farm siting, and improved maintenance and farm design."

The Nature Conservancy said Tanzania is where a large

share of the seaweed produced is "dried, and sold for use as carrageenan or agar thickening agents that are used in food products, such as ice cream and cosmetics," has huge potential to produce tropical seaweeds that could address demand of others, "other key societal needs - including sustainable animal feeds, biofuels, pharmaceuticals, and nutraceuticals."

However, Africa's seaweed producers continue to face

market growth hurdles including the inadequate understanding and awareness on the use of seaweed in human nutrition, the FAO said. For seaweed to become a key nutritional component especially in low producing regions such as Africa, FAO recommends a concerted effort by "stakeholders and experts in policy, business, and scientific communities to make seaweeds acceptable, available and affordable."

Govt pledges to continue reviewing policies to improve social services

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government said on Thursday that it is continuing to review policies especially in the social services sector to provide cost relief for crucial services including medical treatment.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made the remarks in the National Assembly during an impromptu questions and answers session. He was responding to Mlalo Member of Parliament, Rashid Shangazi (CCM) who highlighted the need for a free health policy as it is the case in the education sector.

The MP said since the government has successfully implemented the free education policy for basic education, it is high time that it start offering free medical treatment to save the lives of many Tanzanians who cannot afford the service. He said the free medical services should only be provided at dispensary and health centers.

Responding, the premier said the government is implementing the free education policy from primary to ordinary level secondary school aiming at providing relief to parents as well as enabling all Tanzanian children to be educated.

"We have put in place an arrangement to enable all

our children to get the basic education for free; we are reviewing our policies in the services provision sector to see how we can provide similar relief in the provision of medical care services," he added.

He said under the review, the government is also looking into funding sources to finance the supply of essential drugs and medical equipment. He said, once the evaluation exercise is completed, the government will issue a statement. He said the review process is conducted by various experts including those in the health sector.



We have put in place an arrangement to enable all our children to get the basic education for free; we are reviewing our policies in the services provision sector to see how we can provide similar relief in the provision of medical care services



Onions on sale at Dar es Salaam's Urafiki market yesterday, the going price averaging 1,200/- per kilo. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Covid-19 intensifies need to fight infectious, non-communicable diseases

By Guardian Reporter

COVID-19 has intensified the need to ensure people in low and middle-income countries can more easily access simultaneous services that prevent and treat both infectious diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, and non-communicable diseases, according to a new report launched by the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance (NCD Alliance).

The report by The George Institute for Global Health and the NCD Alliance, from siloes to synergies: Integrating non-communicable disease prevention and care into global health initiatives and universal health coverage, argues that decade-long political commitments to integrate non-communicable disease (NCD) services with services for priority groups for major global health initiatives such as HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and maternal

and child health have not translated into reality on the ground in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Healthcare in many LMICs have not yet responded to the needs of people living with NCDs, which have come to be the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. LMICs are experiencing a rapid transition from population disease profiles shaped by communicable diseases and conditions impacting mothers and their children, to those dominated by NCDs and injuries. Today, 85 percent of people dying from NCDs between ages 30 and 70 are in LMICs.

"The funding to low- and middle-income countries for priority population health initiatives, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and maternal and child health has been pivotal in achieving substantial health gains over the past decade," said Dr Gill Schirmer from the George Insti-

tute for Global Health, lead author of the report. "Many LMICs health systems continue to be influenced by global health funding and the shape of this has critical impacts on the health care available - or not available - for the growing number of people who are living with NCDs in LMICs."

The report showed that COVID-19 has brought about a greater recognition that the long-held distinctions between infectious and non-communicable diseases are not as clear cut as once thought - those with chronic conditions have significantly higher risk of hospitalization or death from the virus. The vast majority of millions of people to date who have lost their lives or became seriously ill with Covid-19 were living with underlying health conditions, most commonly hypertension, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Longstanding inaction on

NCDs has amplified the human and economic cost of Covid-19. Similarly, with NCDs becoming more common in LMICs, comorbidities are now increasingly threatening the gains made against diseases such as TB and HIV.

Katie Dain, CEO of the NCD Alliance said: "We urgently need a reset of healthcare delivery in poorer countries that actually reflects the needs of those who need it most. Integrated care is the future of healthcare. The reality today is that ever more people are living with multiple chronic conditions. This needs to be better recognised in health systems. People living with HIV have a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease and some cancers. People living with TB are much more susceptible to diabetes and vice-versa. Hypertensive disorders and gestational diabetes affect many pregnancies, risking potential

lifelong health impacts for both mother and child if not effectively treated."

Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.3 million), respiratory diseases (4.1 million), and diabetes (1.5 million). These four groups of diseases account for over 80 percent of all NCD deaths before the age of 70.

"Health centres that reflect this changing epidemiology are the future," said Dain. "But this will also mean that we have to change the way we do business. The COVID-19 pandemic has been catastrophic for people living with NCDs and it is clear we need a health infrastructure in LMICs that is fit for purpose if we are to build back better."

The report identifies key benefits of integration, which include improved health outcomes for target groups

and wider populations, improved equity of access, cost effectiveness and increased user satisfaction and trust in health services.

The report proposes three key ways forward and eight enablers to achieve NCD integration, and concludes with a set of recommendations for the global health community, national governments, health advocates and researchers.

It calls on donors and development partners to leverage new and existing programs and platforms to make them more integrated; include person-centered care indicators in funding requirements and create horizontal funding opportunities to promote an integrated agenda and stop/reduce initiatives which create separate data systems and supply chains.

The report also urges governments to provide leadership on integration and encourage co-

ordination among stakeholders working across disease areas, ensuring that the full care cascade is prioritized.

It further calls governments to ensure people living with NCDs are meaningfully engaged in decision making and priority setting; Collect multimorbidity data and incorporate into planning processes; Take into account capacities and priorities of sub-national health service providers and promote the transition to UHC in a phased and context-specific way.

Researchers are also advised to actively build relationships with advocates from other global health priorities; Amplify the voice of people living with NCDs by giving them a platform to share their experiences and ensure their meaningful involvement in integration design processes and share successes and lessons learned about integration.

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

In purchasing maize, market solutions best

MEMBERS of Parliament have of late appealed to the government to disburse 100bn/- to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for procurement of maize stocks, whilst fearing that the future of the crop is in peril owing to vast unsold stocks, and in that situation, compromise good security in the coming year. If current stocks aren't purchased, possibly at reasonably good prices, changes that farmers may avoid cultivating the crop in the coming season are not negligible. There is a trap that policy makers lay.

There is indeed credible fear of food insecurity as those who plant maize to obtain a surplus to sell will redirect their efforts elsewhere, as it is unlikely that the government will meet both demands of farmers in the next few months. The first demand is to purchase the crop and the second is to do so at reasonably good prices, as at the moment maize prices have reached rock bottom. This situation appears to be favoured by the two purchasing agencies, the NFRA and the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB), which has a long list of countries in which it is seeking markets or has sales centres.

MPs expressed concern that maize prices dropped to 300/- per kilo and even to 200/- while farmers spend in the range of 356/- to 479/- to produce one kilogram of maize, in which case the government needs to control rising prices of agricultural inputs and open doors for business people to purchase and export maize. There wasn't much of a promise by those responding in that regard, as in both spheres there are agencies with close links with government departments, whose

budgetary projections can't be easily touched. At the same time, exporting of maize is being done by the cereals board instead of real traders.

Kilolo MP Justin Nyamoga had presented a motion requesting the House to suspend scheduled business for Thursday to allow MPs to discuss matters related to dropping maize prices and lack of markets. The crucial issue he reflected upon was that maize farmers in the southern regions solely depend on maize farming to raise income, lamenting that the government has failed the farmers with the 14bn/- disbursed to NFRA for purchasing the grain. It amounts to just around five percent of all the maize stock available.

Even if not all the worries of the MP come to fruition, half of the ailment seems to be there to stay and another half is being solved willy-nilly, with NFRA and CPB actually being handed the cash with which to buy the remaining crop, but not at the prices that farmers find acceptable. Were it that traders were freely going around purchasing maize and selling it across the borders, most of it would have been bought early and be sold to farmers' benefit. When the foreign market is handed to crop authorities, they stall to purchase so that the local price drops and the foreign prices may rise as harvesting season has elapsed.

The crop bodies and the ministry along with MPs may still debate. But farmers will diminish the sort of attention they give to the crop in the coming year or two, in which case local prices will rise, to the ire of urban consumers in particular. Whatever the case the monopolies will get hefty profits, and what happens next is anyone's guess, right?

Instalment tickets a good idea to push up air travel

NEW ideas are being put to work at Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) where it has of late introduced ticket payment by instalments to allow travellers to plan their trips ahead and pay portions of what the tickets cost before the date of flight. And in making further use of current applications based on mobile phone communication, other stakeholders are being brought into view in relation to ticket purchases. It may lessen some of the woes on the part of those who wish to use planes for quick trips but not enough cash.

The new procedure, just launched in Dar es Salaam, allows passengers lacking the full amount to book reservation with amounts they have at that moment. A line manager said at the launching that a potential passenger is required to book a ticket and disburse 50,000/- as early payment to obtain an electronic miscellaneous document (EMD). That is an interesting appendage, amounting to acknowledging likely consideration in legal terms that one is attached to the airline for a definite service, but is hardly explicit.

What is more interesting is that passengers may contract with banks or other financial institutions for them to pay the full amount on tickets for the passenger, who later repay those amounts on terms agreed with the creditors.

It calls for something like another application on the part of financial institutions, depending on how it is conducted, as if it is with the customers, routine current account arrangements can work. But if it with the airline, a specific app is rather handy, but that's likely to have been solved already.

This kind of arrangement can

help individuals or groups to make quick decisions on their expected trips, where the purchasing of tickets would be resolved if it is a hiatus of cash flow, etc. Essentially it doesn't change the likely clientele of travel potential but it eases some decisions, including the issue of what airline to use if ATCL proves to be more welcoming. There other issues to consider like competition on fee levels and convenience of flight schedules, but those aspects are outside the ambit of the new facility.

What could as well be mentioned is that to run the system ATCL will have to take care that passengers don't start complaining about lapses in the manner in which the facility is being operated, for instance mixing up data or documents of those paying by the new method, and where they stand with their payments. It requires rapid data update and responding at a minute level were it that a passenger calls for information or confirmation of booking.

The point is that the system can work so long as it is seen to be seamlessly operating, and that is a tall order given the manner in which public agencies habitually work.

At the same time, a situation where consideration is extended without the full payment having been done introduces a lot of negotiable follow-up terms along the way, for instance taking the trip with say 20 per cent of payments pending, say with promised credit in a few days' time. It must be said that the company shall have to be acute in observing instalment payment schedules to avoid being shortchanged, or moving to frustrate passengers were it that an overcautious official isn't listening. There is work to do out there.

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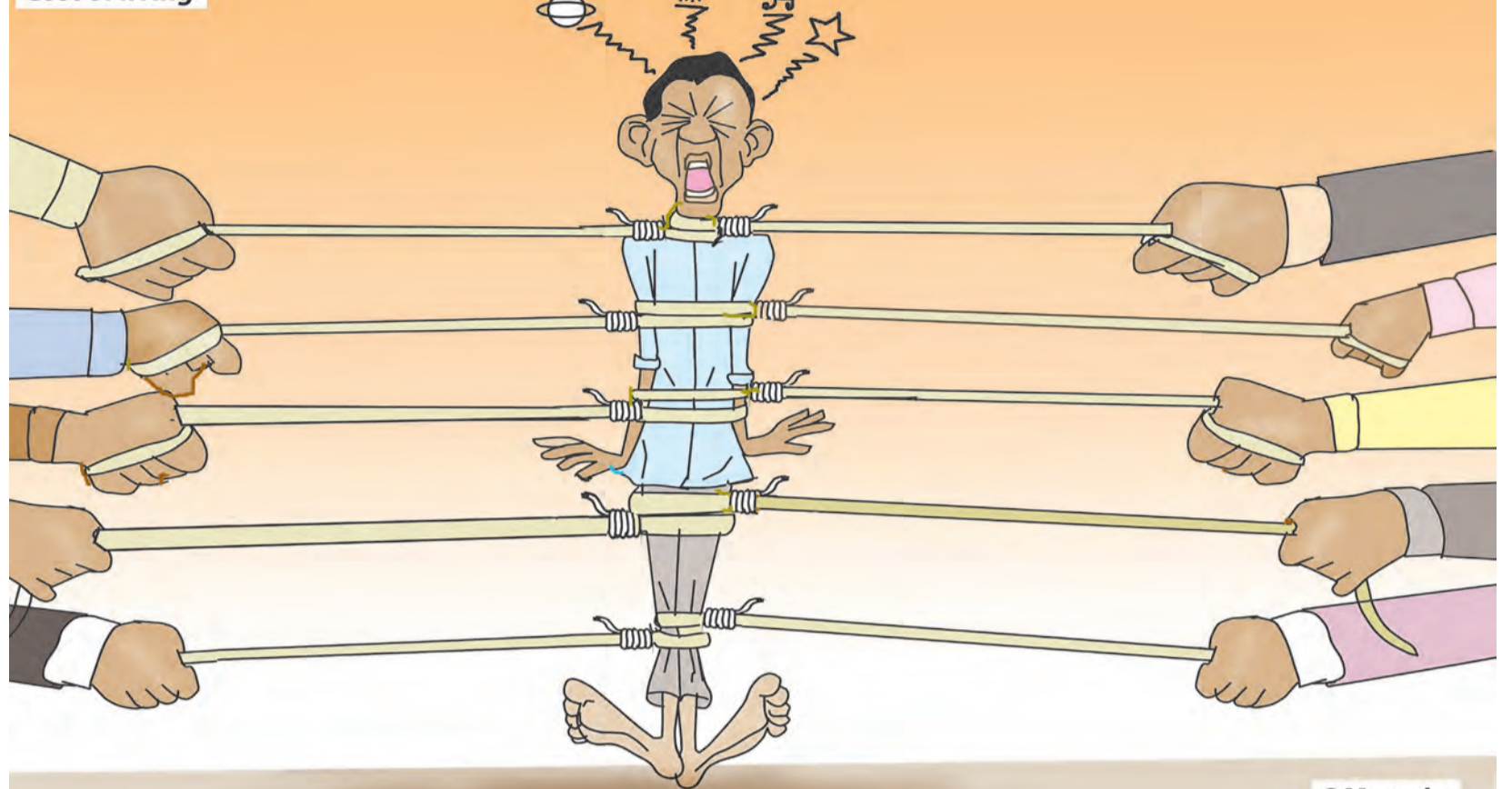
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Cost of living



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Overview on the state of land governance in Namibia

By Henny H. Seibeb

A GOOD and predictable land governance system is required to address gaps in the land administration system and to identify weaknesses and challenges in the overall land administration and management with an informed understanding to implement an early concomitant remedial action. The current system in Namibia discriminates against community ownership and community management, and interventions to ensure secure tenure are, therefore, urgent for the debate of the land reform process.

The ultimate goal of a human rights-based land governance system is to reduce marginality and poverty over a sustained period and eliminate inequalities that exist, especially amongst women and vulnerable groups and should achieve economic growth, foster development and secure rights of landholders and users.

Therefore, any effective land governance must address the strategic thematic areas of the institutional framework, the legal framework of land tenure and administration, dispute resolution, land valuation and taxation, land use planning and control, management of public land and land information management (Land Governance Assessment Framework, World Bank, 2012).

Namibia has a total population of 2.4 million people with a total landmass of 825 615 km², including 1 572 km stretch of coastline (Namibia Statistics Agency). Of the total population of 2.4 million, 70% of the population relies on agriculture in communal farming areas and freehold agricultural lands (De Villiers et al., 2019; Land governance in Namibia).

The bigger share of 43% is commercial farmland, whereas 39% of the land is essentially communal land under customary land tenure, while the remaining 18% is government land (Mendelsohn, et al., 2013; An overview of communal land tenure in Namibia).

This presents a particular challenge, as there is a huge demand for land, particularly from those communities who lost land during the colonial administrations of Imperial Germany and Apartheid South Africa.

The colonial enterprise of Imperial Germany and Apartheid South Africa left us with massive land dispossession, internal displacement of indigenous communities and marginalisation.

Thus, at the end of colonialism and apartheid in 1990, more than 36.2 million hectares of land were occupied by some 6 292 farming households, which supported an estimated 2% of the population, while 33.5 million hectares of land was occupied by 150 000 families and supported more than 70% of the



Henny H. Seibeb is the deputy leader and chief strategist of the Landless People's Movement (LPM). He serves in the 7th National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia. This short piece was submitted to the Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Africa (NELGA). NELGA is a partnership of leading African universities and research institutions with proven leadership in education, training and research on land governance.

total population (Nghtevelekwa, 2020, Securing land rights-communal land reform in Namibia).

While Namibia has made some progress since independence in 1990, as it specifically relates to land administration, key challenges are experienced in the implementation of the national resettlement policies, land ownership patterns, unequal and politicised distribution of land, ineffective and expensive affirmative action loan schemes/financing for agriculture products and land acquisition.

Equally, the failure to create a deliberate class of small-scale farmers, and expansion of small-holding farmers with a subsequent and further failure to effectively address ancestral land claims, genocide reparations and continued land dispossession, define the landscape of Namibia's land question.

With the devastating effects of desertification and overgrazing due to congestion of communal land, which adds to land degradation and prolonged droughts, the rural-urban migration is growing rapidly, compounded with widening gaps in rural-urban poverty and inequality.

This calls for urgent socio-economic interventions/responses to deal with informal settle-

ments in urban areas but also to redress "pull factors" in rural Namibia to limit and hopefully eliminate urban migration.

Land management in terms of land use planning, infrastructure development and security of tenure are key means in dealing with this rapid urbanisation.

The state of land governance legal and institutional framework, especially in the communal land, is at crisis levels with regards to increasing cases of land grabbing, mistreatment of the farm labourers, exclusion of women and vulnerable groups from resettlement.

These bottlenecks are preventing so many hard-working communal farmers the chance to "accumulate from below". There is an increase in the elite capture of land and land grabbing, especially from the governing party powerful elite.

The urban land crisis is consuming Namibia, as land administrators and town councils are failing to curb the rising trend of informal settlements with utmost disgust for their human dignity.

Yet, flats are the norm, as ruling elites and relatives obtain large swathes of urban land through corrupt land deals at the expense of urban freehold housing developing schemes.

A new phenomenon of land markets has developed recently, which is fraught with the forceful removal of landowners from their homesteads in northern Namibia to make way for new merchants.

This is executed in cahoots with Chinese tycoons.

The development of nature conservancies, geared toward protecting animals like elephants, lions and leopards have increased human-wild-life conflict, with communal land that was profitable for domestic farming now becoming unliveable and dangerous for humans, such as in Kunene and Zambezi regions.

This land grab is celebrated as a "successful conservancy programme" that placed Namibia as one of the lead conservancy nations alongside Botswana but the human livelihood and inter-generational transfer of wealth cost are ignored.

Equally, the Namibian Constitution has not done well for those who lost land in Namibia.

Article 100 provides that all land unless privately owned shall belong to the State.

This means: maintain the colonial and apartheid land dispossession through Constitutional provisions.

Article 16 provides for land ownership individually and/or in association with others. However, was there any provision made to register titles owned communally? Open access land in Namibia is abused by State institutions and tenure security lacks behind the freehold land titles. Where are the laws to protect others and not just individuals? Nowhere is historic land dispossession a key Constitutional and legal demand to redress historic injustices.

Yet, the Namibian government pushed for a law where veterans of the so-called liberation struggle are placed as priority recipients of land in the resettlement programme. These veterans never lost any iota of land! These are grave injustices, and their continuation is an affront to restorative justice and the advance of human rights.

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The certainty of your goals



YOU are great at many things but that does not mean you should do all of them.

These words punch me in the face during an episode of Super Soul Sundays with Oprah. The guest gives an example of playing a guitar. If you pick up a guitar and become good at it, that does mean you are the next musical sensation, you might just love guitars. You could possibly make the best cupcakes on a whim that does not mean you should open a bakery store tomorrow.

You are great at many things, that does not mean you should do all of it.

This is made possible by how powerful your mind is. I dare you to set your mind on one thing you want to this year. If you focus all your energy, it can only get away from you for too long. Remember the universe; the human laws created by God to ensure balance? They are all working for your good.

I am great at many things.

It took the #decade challenge in 2020 for me to reflect on a couple of them. Take away every negative thing that social media has amplified and you have a source of enrichment. The #decade challenge had us give glory details of the past decade in the hope of inspiring someone else across the world. It is too late to think about privacy and what Amazon, Facebook and Google are doing with our information, so why stop cataloging our lives now? My inspiration for the decade was by renowned director Ava DuVernay who details what paced success looks like with a touch of unquestionable great talent.

When I look back at my 10 years I see a rambunctious young teen racing too fast for her own good and facing a serious case of identity crisis. At 17 years old she walks into a theatre (No America I will not spell it as Theater, how else do you get the flair?). At 17 years old she walks into the Phoenix Players Theatre and try to convince a respectable director that she's the piece that is missing in his directorial career. She's the talent he has been waiting for. She fails miserably but that begins a beautiful journey of dancing through different media platforms. She misses a few steps and fall face flat but still managed to make it through the decade.

Will Smith has said in interviews that a lot of his motivation comes from the fear of losing everything he has achieved so far. Kevin Hart says the same thing in his latest Netflix Docuseries. I totally understand where that fear stems from. If you grew up in a world where everybody lived off the same script, it is no surprise that any level of success would trigger intense impos-

tor syndrome.

Where I grew up, I sheltered an inconvenience I embraced out of fear. Trauma was littered everywhere, so when I could get away, I hibernated. Being a loner also makes you the most trusted person in the hood. I was privy to so much and that kept me away from the streets, quite literally.

To date only a handful of us made it out. There is a complacency that comes with living in the hood. The sense of community, knowing how life is going to roll out and having just enough exposure to be cool but a string's budget to have sporadic fun.

With that chip on her shoulders it was easy to talk herself into being great at anything. She was a greenhorn actor so she worked on becoming the best production assistant. Three years later of balancing school and a part time job at Phoenix Players Theatre, a cash crunch bit and her broke antennae went up. The next opportunity was an internship at a radio station, then a host, back to production assistant, an art director assistant, TV production and literally everything that happens on a TV set she can do. 2016 kicked in and the economy packed her bags in a huff. Budget cuts led to job loss and she was not spared. An ad agency job saved the day but before she could redo her house interior décor, the company shattered. One more try, okay a million little tries and she scored a radio job.

It has been as messy as that paragraph.

She loved all those jobs but she loved to survive too. Make it out of the hood. Pull her mother and cousins

with her. Break these cycles and set up the next generation for success with a better chance at self-actualization. Hard work is sold as the golden ticket. That has proven to not be entirely true owing to systemic classism and organized corruption. It will take a couple of posts to unpack the rot by the political class in this country.

Today, she focuses on what she can do to achieve greater success with available resources.

This part of the piece is credited to a friend who once called me in despair recently venting about how lost she felt. America moves too quickly it's easy to disappear in the crowd. It was after a day of reflecting on the past decade that culminated in conversations with people who told her that her aspirations need to be 'adjusted'. She did not pack my bags and leave my mother's cooking for this.

She listens. Quietly but you can hear her process each word. When she speaks, I have a pen in hand because people say the best things on phone and I am trying to live with more intention.

I have had a decade of scattered opportunities and living flustered because I was working to not be broke, as opposed to gearing towards success. It's hard to be consistent while crash dieting through opportunities.

Here is how we achieve consistency. Think with a pen in hand of everything you are good at and list them in the following categories;

What I am good at and have previously monetized
Skills that I am actively working on improving

Things I am passionate about; you could do them for free.

Tie this in with the milk, honey and wine concept. This I learned from one of my many former bosses. Here's my sample breakdown.

- What I am good at and have previously monetized
- Milk Writing
- TV & Radio hosting
- Production management
- Running my mother's business
- Skills that I am actively working on improving
- HoneyNew Media technologies
- Producing content
- Teaching
- Things I am passionate about
- Wine
- Filmmaking
- Acting
- Working with charity organizations especially children

I love tables, they make things so easy to understand. Milk is what you need for everyday living. Honey is what you are working on to add more value to your milk. Wine is what needs more time because you can only allocate a limited amount of time. It all leads up to great success spread over time. We are not limited to the nine boxes. There will be unplanned opportunities that will come your way and you will be ready as a result of your relentless consistency.

With a list it is easy to focus and hence be more consistent. I use the word hence a lot. Writing what you are good gives you much needed affirmation. It feels good to know your strengths and kick impostor syndrome out and may be economy can move back in.

It is going to take more than a table to get you consistent. Hopefully this pushes you to the first step of taking your goals seriously.

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Why parents should stop doing their children's homework

By Francis Kajubi

“WHAT we need from parents is helping children acquire deep knowledge on what they have been taught in class and not doing or assisting them in their homework assignments. You may find that the child gets all the questions in normal exercises but when exams come the performance is poor compared to what a child does in daily and weekly assignments;

This is one of the habits that we have been against to for years now and through our regular meetings with parents have been warning them to stop it but still some of them don't understand,” complains the headmaster of the Dar es Salaam's Makumbusho primary school, Odas Bambaza in a recent interview with The Guardian.

According to Bambaza, who has an experience of over 15 years in the teaching profession, the habit of parents to temper their children's homework has existed for years now and seems to grow as days pass by.

“The way forward can be educating parents through school meetings on the limitations of their responsibilities towards their children's academic affairs. Parents should make kids know the importance of accepting their responsibilities starting at early ages,” suggested Bambaza.

According to teachers who spoke to this paper, from their experience, said students whose homework is being tempered by their parents are from standard one to standard five. They said in most cases parents seem to offer assistance to their children on English and Science subjects.

Mwanahawa Hamisi (23) a single mother residing at Mlalakuwa suburb in Dar es Salaam, said that being the only shoulder to cry on for her son, has been helping him on assignments with difficult or tricky questions.

“To be honest, I have been assisting my son who is aged eight with difficult questions. I usually try to make him memorize what he has learnt in class by giving him a few

questions of my own relating to what he has learnt. After doing so, I allow him to do his homework and help him with the difficult or tricky questions,” said Hamisi.

She blamed teachers for giving many homework assignments that are frequent. According to her, assignments should be few with an intention of making a student understand and not taking them as exams.

Juma (we have his real name) aged nine, a Standard Four student at Goba primary school in Ubungo District of Dar es Salaam, told this paper that his teachers have allowed him to seek for parent's assistance on a limited number of questions from homework that he picks on Wednesdays and Fridays.

“Teachers have allowed us to seek assistance from our parents on one question for the homework featuring five questions and only two questions if there are ten. My mother has been helping me with answers especially for the English subject. Most of the time I do mathematics homework on my own,” said Juma.

Baraka Makoiva, Regional Social Welfare Officer Dar es Salaam, said that in most cases children are the ones who seek for their parents' assistance. He said the main reason is because of fear of being bullied by their peers once they don't get the right answers.

“Parents can help their children understand what the questions want them to answer but not do the assignments on their behalf. Home teaching is good but not doing what the student is supposed to do. Some parents tend to be rude to their kids because of failing tests or exams but they don't put extra incentives to encourage their learning efforts;

You can for example promise a child that if you get all questions right on your own I will buy you a precious gift that you admire the most. This approach can help a child create confidence in doing his assignments on his own,” said Makoiva.

Lubanza Ngombeyapi (67) a Kipunguni resident in Ukonga Dar es Salaam is surprised why nowadays



Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Joyce Ndalichako.

parents temper their children's responsibility.

“I think all this goes with the globalization world we are living in today. In my days, parents just used to wait for mid-term and annual exams results. Getting good results makes you everyone's friend in the family, but if you performed poor then you will work on farm the whole leave as a punishment;

There was a time when my parents wanted good results so that they could buy me new Christmas clothes,” said Ngombeyapi.

According to him, ‘new generation’ parents are a main cause of poor academic performance of their children by taking full part in their academic responsibilities.

A study conducted in 2001 titled ‘Parental Involvement in Homework’ by the Department of Psychology and Human Development at the Vanderbilt University USA, states that parental involvement in their children's homework went back several decades even before the study was conducted.

The study revealed that parents appear to involve themselves in their children's homework for three main reasons: They believe that they should be involved, they believe that their involvement will make a positive difference; and they perceive invitations to involvement.

“Researchers have also examined two more specific parental approaches to involvement namely structural convergent efforts to help the child with assignments; and informal student responsive patterns of involvement in homework tasks,” reads part of the study.

According to Uwezo Tanzania findings of 2015 and 2017, in 2011 only, 29 percent of standard

three children assessed were able to read a simple Kiswahili text. By 2015, the number had risen to 56 percent. Improvements in Kiswahili reading were also noticed for children in standard seven where the number of children who could read a standard 2 text in Kiswahili increased from 76 percent in 2011 to 89 percent in 2015.

Reading levels in English were low at all levels of primary education, and there was no improvement over the years. The Uwezo report shows that half of the children in standard seven were unable to read a standard 2 level text in English.

Performance of children in Mathematics was also poor. Only about one third of children in standard 3 passed the mathematics test. On the other hand, the report shows that 22 percent of the children in standard 7 could not do standard 2 level mathematics summation questions.

Why is the provision of more textbooks and employment of more teachers not leading to improved performance of children?

The Uwezo study 2017 revealed that one of the reasons for poor performance has to do with attendance of both pupils and teachers. It states that on the day of school visit, 25 percent of teachers and 29 percent of the children were not in school.

On absenteeism, a joint report by World Bank and REPOA of 2016 on Service Delivery Index (SDI) found that on any given day on average, 14 percent of teachers were found to be absent from school and even more significant was that 37 percent of teachers in school were not in the class teaching. Absenteeism from the classroom was 46.5 percent nationally.

While in the classroom, teachers spent about 12 percent of time on non-teaching activities. Com-

binning these indicators, the results show that pupils had only 2 hours and 47 minutes of teaching time every day. Students however stayed in school from 08:00AM to 02:30 PM.

The Uwezo study suggests that while changing ways how teachers teach is a challenging matter, children need to do more talking in classrooms and this talk has to be more conversational than interrogational whereby teachers pose questions and children respond. There is a need to develop children's skills in discussing ideas and concepts on top of learnt topics.

In 2020, Uwezo scaled up the Jifunze or Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) initiative to reach more district and primary schools. This initiative was implemented in 30 primary schools from six districts of Kisarawe, Chamwino and Mvomero, Mbarali, Kilolo and Ludewa.

A total of 65 teachers were thoroughly trained by Uwezo trainers to familiarize them with teaching at the right level approach and processes of facilitating the learning camps in literacy and numeracy.

The Kiswahili reading learning camp was implemented in 10 days' intervals for a total of 30 days. A total of 70 teachers (including 30 government employed teachers and 40 community volunteer teachers), 30 Head teachers, 28 WEOs and 6 DEOs were trained on Jifunze learning assessment, learning camps process, tools, and teaching activities, mentoring and monitoring tools and process. A total of 5 trainers were contracted to support the training of Jifunze and the whole process of implementation.

According to the Uwezo Tanzania 2020 Annual report, about 7774 children of class 3 to 6 were assessed in the six districts and about 1,671 (21 percent) of children were identified that they could not read a simple story of class two level. After implementation of Kiswahili literacy camp about 74 percent of children mastered reading skills in thirty days.

Also in numeracy a total of 3,882 children were assessed in July 2020 after school re-opening from mandatory holiday due to Covid-19, and 1,601 (41 percent) of the children could not do simple numeracy operations up to division level.

“A learning camp was conducted for 30 days and about 83 percent of the children mastered numeracy skills within a period of 30 days. With these findings we have seen that children were faster in gaining numeracy skills than reading skills. Possibly, this could be due to the fact that numeracy is taught later after reading camps,” reads part of the report.

CIFTIS showcases technology advancement, contributes to upgrading of trade in services

By Shi Ling

SCIENCE and technology achievements drive the upgrade of service trade, and that's indicated by the recently concluded 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing.

At the event, robots were seen everywhere showing their skills of coffee making, fitness training, dancing, construction surveying and surgical assistance.

One of them that was really fascinating was a full-automatic nasopharyngeal swab sampling robot in the No. 1 Exhibition Hall of the China National Convention Center, one of the venues for the 2021 CIFTIS. The robot is able to take out a swab, determine sampling position and collect sample.

The 2021 CIFTIS was hi-tech-ish both in and outside the venues. The industrial remains at the Shougang Park, a steel mill in Beijing that was employed as the venue of the CIFTIS for the first time this year, formed a sharp contrast with the frontier sci-tech achievements exhibited.

When planning the event, CIFTIS organizers showed exhibitors around in Beijing to demonstrate the city's sci-tech innovation and digital economic development, so as to help the latter explore more possibilities for development. The organizers also set up a special hall for exhibitors to launch their new technologies and achievements.

Digital technologies have been well exploited in the event to facilitate online and offline communication and negotiation. The 2021 CIFTIS improved nearly 40 functions of its online platform, breaking free of the restrictions of time and space. Such improvement has significantly improved the experience of exhibitors and visitors.

More importantly, the CIFTIS offered a window into new lifestyles and future production.

Technologies illuminate people's lives. At the Education Services exhibition hall, a digital sand table was

displayed. It was able to show contour lines on sand piles of any shape it builds, and thus make geographical learning much easier.

At the Sports Services exhibition hall, there was an intelligent footpath that could track users' fitness data and make proper management suggestions for its operators.

Besides, a new program was unveiled at the Health Services exhibition hall, which is able to screen people for nearly 600 genetic diseases using a single heel prick blood sample. This program is conducive to the early screening, diagnosis and treatment of relevant diseases.

"Anything is possible. These techs will enjoy huge potential and embrace bright prospects," said a visitor to the event.

Apart from people's daily life, technologies are also driving industries. The maturing AI, cloud computing and block-chain technologies are injecting strong impetus into producer services, as well as the services concerning infrastructure and public environment.

An exhibitor brought its latest intelligent patrol system to the 2021 CIFTIS. The system backed by mixed reality (MR) virtualizes the operation of electromechanical devices at coalfaces for teaching purposes and is able to diagnose faults. Besides, the system can also assist troubleshooting from a distance.

Thanks to the system, real-time videos in coal mines can be sent to experts through mobile phones and other devices via the MR glasses worn by the workers, which makes the communication



Two children play with a panda-shaped robot at the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing, China, Sept. 7, 2021.

between work sites and management platforms more efficient, and reduces operation cost.

From smart construction systems to short and imminent weather forecast, and to contactless delivery, technologies are accelerating the transformation and upgrading of service trade and moving the sector onto a track of high-quality development.

Digital trade is becoming a new engine of economic growth, and the engine is ig-

nited by science and technology.

As a new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation gathers momentum, sci-tech achievements are deeply integrated into the real economy and have an increasingly important influence on the quality of development.

In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly expanded the application scenarios of digital service trade, encouraging relevant industries to speed up innovation.

It is believed that independent innovation, as well as the new businesses, models and growth drivers expedited by digital technologies, will lead to better quality, higher efficiency, and more robust drivers of economic growth, and constantly enhance the competitiveness, innovation capability and risk resistance performance of the economy.

In this age of economic globalization, no country can achieve innovative development without the global innovation network. China has always shared its innovation results and development opportunities with the rest of the world, be it in the construction of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System or in the exportation of anti-pandemic supplies and equipment.

Science knows no borders, and scientific cooperation enjoys promising prospects. Through the CIFTIS, more sci-tech achievements will be shared globally to create new space for development with cooperation and inject confidence into global recovery.

It is a reminder that only by constantly making scientific and technological progress and injecting new dynamism into traditional industries can countries achieve faster, higher-quality, and more efficient economic development.

People's Daily

Kenya's courts put a cork in Kenyatta's Constitution amendment proposals

By Peter Fabricius

THE courts have intervened decisively in the country's turbulent and ethnically charged politics. And once again, they seem to have protected Kenyans from the self-serving machinations of the political elite. Yet the ultimate impact is uncertain.

Last month the Appeal Court upheld the high court's rejection of President Uhuru Kenyatta's proposals to significantly change the Constitution to create new posts and make cabinet ministers members of Parliament. The new posts were for prime minister, two deputy prime ministers and leader of the opposition.

The court decisions have thrown Kenyatta's – and no doubt other contenders' – political plans into disarray, particularly by thwarting the president's Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) with his erstwhile rival Raila Odinga. The plan seemed to be for Odinga to take over as president after the 2022 elections – but for Kenyatta, or his pick, to get the new post of prime minister. Kenyatta has denied this.

Another alleged aim of the constitutional amendments was to thwart Deputy President William Ruto's burning ambition to succeed Kenyatta. Since the court decision, Kenya's politicians are "rushing for the drawing board" to redraft their plans, as John Githongo, publisher of Kenya's *The Elephant*, put it.

The BBI was ushered in by a famous "handshake" between Kenyatta and Odinga in March 2018. This

formally ended the bitter stand-off between them after the Supreme Court annulled Kenyatta's August 2017 election victory and Odinga boycotted the repeat elections that year. Calling the polls a sham, he refused to acknowledge Kenyatta as president.

Those elections, like all since the return to multiparty elections in 1992, essentially pitted one ethnic coalition against another. In 2017 as in 2013, it had been Kenyatta's largest community, the Kikuyu, plus Ruto's third largest, the Kalenjin, versus Odinga's fourth-largest, the Luo, Kalonzo Musyoka's Kamba, the fifth largest and the rest.

Kenyatta and Odinga marketed the BBI as a bid to mend the disunities and ethnic strife of Kenyan politics. Noting that only the Kikuyu and the Kalenjin had ever held the highest office, they presented the BBI as offering previously excluded groups a slice of the pie.

But Alphonce Shiundu, Kenya editor of *Africa Check*, like many commentators, viewed it rather more cynically as simply "being about power." The move was an attempt to further milk the already suffering taxpayer to create more well-paid political jobs. These top posts would serve as patronage to entice other "ethnic kingpins" into a broad political coalition for the 2022 elections, which would defeat Ruto.

"The unstated logic was that Odinga could dangle at least five positions – deputy president, prime minister, and deputy prime ministers – to all the top politicians, and those who don't join will have a re-

alistic chance of being the leader of the official opposition.

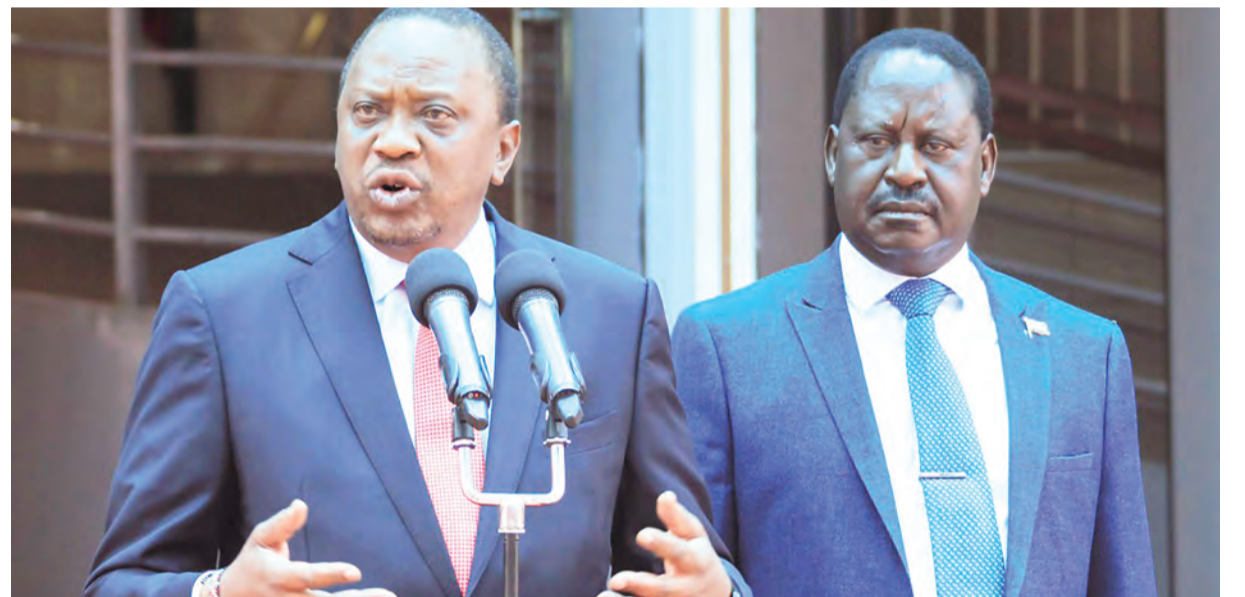
"If the courts had not stopped the unconstitutional amendments, Odinga would have been in a better place to be elected by amassing ethnic kingpins into his camp. Kenyatta and Odinga had already reached out to Musalia Mudavadi and Moses Wetang'ula for the Luhya community. Uhuru Kenyatta in those meetings represented the Kikuyu; Odinga, the Luo.

"Gideon Moi (son of ex-president Daniel arap Moi) represented the Kalenjin (which is also Ruto's tribe, effectively telling Ruto that there was no space for him at the table). And Kalonzo Musyoka represented the Kamba Community."

The constitutional reforms offered further patronage, with an amendment to allow cabinet ministers to be given parliamentary seats or be appointed from Parliament. Shiundu believes Kenyatta, who cannot run for president again, probably wanted the new prime ministership for himself, although he has denied this.

He also believes that by helping Kenyatta and Odinga craft a broad ethnic coalition, the constitutional changes would have aimed to spike a populist election campaign by Ruto that seeks to transcend ethnic divisions.

Githongo agrees, noting that Ruto "has been very clever. He's managed to conjure up a very effective campaign of what he calls Hustlers versus Dynasties." The Hustlers whom he claims to represent are "ordinary Kenyans who don't come



President Kenyatta (L) speaks at a joint news conference with his then rival and the leader of opposition coalition National Super Alliance (NASA) Raila Odinga in Nairobi, Kenya, 09 March 2018. File photo

from a rich family, who've struggled to get what they have, who've pulled themselves up by their bootstraps."

The Dynasties are powerful families like the Kenyattas (Uhuru's father was Kenya's first president), Odingas (Raila's father was Kenya's first deputy president), and other ethnic leaders and elites. Githongo says Ruto's message is proving very popular, especially with the youth. He says Kenyatta and Odinga felt this narrative could not be defeated by just the ordinary, run-of-the-mill brand of ethnic mobilisation politics.

Githongo said that option had been negated by Covid-19, which had hammered Kenya's economy and given impetus to Ruto's populism, which appeals to class rather than ethnic group. And so Ruto has

been making inroads even into Kenyatta's Kikuyu support base.

Putting the emphasis firmly on a broad ethnic coalition through the BBI, Kenyatta and Odinga hoped to undercut Ruto's non-ethnic stance by persuading Kenyans of all ethnicities they had a stake in the game.

After the court disrupted their plans, the political future looks uncertain. Trying to legitimise the proposed amendments through Parliament or the Supreme Court, as some have suggested, would probably be impossible before the elections, Githongo and Shiundu believe.

Githongo notes that with the apparent collapse of the BBI, which had seemed a political certainty, all Kenyan politicians are scrambling to realign themselves now. He notes

that a year is a long time in politics, and Odinga is a wily political strategist who will come up with a Plan B before the August elections.

But the uncertainty is worrying. As Githongo notes, the BBI has kept the peace between the two old political rivals, Kenyatta and Odinga, and their followers for three years.

And we should not forget that the worst political violence in independent Kenya's history occurred between Kenyatta's Kikuyu and Ruto's Kalenjin in the wake of the 2007 elections. So the end of that truce – which was after all just a marriage of convenience that helped both evade International Criminal Court charges for their roles in that violence – is also a concern.

DM

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xinyang city in China's Henan Province.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Farmers regreen Kenya's drylands thanks to agroforestry and an app

By David Njagi, Makeni, Kenya

A Quarter of the world's 4.4 billion hectares (10.9 million acres) of cropland is degraded, often due to drying, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Just over a hectare and a half, or 4 acres, of that dried-out land have for years been located at Benedict Manyi's farm in southeastern Kenya.

Manyi, 53, watched helplessly as his land lost productivity due to the multiple factors of overuse without restoration, erratic rains, and prolonged droughts. By 2016, the land could not even sustain a blade of grass.

Lately, though, he is changing that. Manyi is among the more than 35,000 farmers in Kenya who have joined the Drylands Development Programme (DryDev), a donor-led project that is turning arid Kenya into green farms.

"I hardly harvested enough before I started practicing dryland agroforestry. Now I get surplus, value and more," says the father of four, adding that he can harvest up to six 90-kilogram (200-pound) bags of produce from a 0.8-hectare (2-acre) plot, whether the rains are adequate or not.

According to the FAO, the world's agricultural productivity increased by up to 200% by 2010, but in Kenya, inadequate rains and degraded soils mean less than 20% of the area is suitable for crops, says Dikson Kibata, a technical officer with the country's Agriculture and Food Authority.

So, farmers like Manyi are learning how to make their degraded lands productive again after joining DryDev, a project led by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) that has been working with farmers in Kenya, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger since 2013.

Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and humanitarian group World Vision, DryDev has been training farmers in Africa to transition from subsistence farming and reliance on charity to agriculture that is productive and environmentally friendly.

In Kenya, where about 80% of the terrain is dryland, the project is working with farmers to encourage the growing of annual crops between or under trees, in a technique called agroforestry, which provides enough cooling shade and moisture for the crops to take hold out of the scorching sun. The project has also helped farmers to adopt rainwater harvesting for use on the farm.

"We have been supporting farmers with new farming technologies, tree planting using different treatments,

and pest control. Those who planted mangoes are already enjoying the harvests," says Mercy Musyoki, a community facilitator working with World Agroforestry.

Musyoki works with about 285 farmers in Makeni County, a parched region of southeastern Kenya. One of these is Manyi, whose farm is dotted with a variety of trees and annual crops, including mangoes, oranges, alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*, also called lucerne), *Senna alexandrina*, neem (*Azadirachta indica*), *Melia volkensii*, and tamarind.

Tucked under rows of flowering mango trees is the stubble of recently harvested green grams (mung beans), cowpeas, pigeon peas, pumpkin and sorghum.

In a separate section of the farm, Manyi intercropped *Melia volkensii* with *brachiaria* grass, a livestock fodder that is fetching new revenue for his family. In another section, he has mixed alfalfa and senna with vegetables like kale and perennial plants like yellow passion fruit, papaya and bananas.

"I call this my family's kitchen garden. The benefits of mango farming have enabled me to invest in water harvesting, which I use to nourish my greens and water my livestock," Manyi says with a sweep of his hands across the farm.

It is easy to understand Manyi's meaning. Before getting to his farm, a visitor will travel through miles of parched rangelands, which are being stripped of their indigenous trees to create room for human settlement.

Joshua Mutisya, a local from the region, says families here can own up to 20 hectares (50 acres) of land because villages are sparsely populated. The land tenure system is mostly ancestral, where new generations inherit family land from their older kin. With the onset of the new millennium, however, the population has been increasing, so a growing number of the new generation are seeking individual land ownership, forcing the ancestral system to accept land subdivision to accommodate the youth.

"Most of the youth have no interest in developing the land. Instead they lease it to livestock herders and charcoal burners. This has worsened the state of our lands, which were already degraded by prolonged droughts," Mutisya says.

Wildlife like dik-diks, rabbits, guinea-fowl, snakes and rare bird species have been disappearing due to destruction of their rangeland habitats, and their exposure has led to increased game hunting, says Kaloki Mutwota, who has been farming here for more than 20 years.

Kaloki Mutwota tends to one of his



Manyi and his wife Eunice walk among their mango trees which are intercropped with beans, peas, pumpkins and sorghum. A ripe mango hangs in the foreground.

custard apple (*Annona squamosa*) trees. Image by David Njagi for Mongabay.

In the 59 years that Mutwota has lived here, he says, he used to see these animals in abundance. But starting around the middle of the last decade, few if any at all have been seen roaming in Makeni.

"As the local life regeneration system declined, farms became barren, starving families scrambled for relief food, and livestock became emaciated due to walking long distances in search of water and pasture," Mutwota says.

But all of this is changing as greener farms take root in the region, according to Dominic Omondi, an agriculture officer in southeastern Kenya who has witnessed the transformation under the DryDev program.

According to him, some of the technologies being used to boost dryland agroforestry in Kenya include mulching, manure application, surface water harvesting, and the use of zai pits, bowl-sized holes into which food crops are sown.

The zai pit technique breaks the hard surface pan, which has toughened up over time here due to desertification. The pan prevents food crops from reaching nutrients below the surface and also loses moisture quickly because water cannot seep into the ground.

"When I came here, most of the land was like the smooth surface of finished furniture," Omondi says, meaning that the land was so denuded that the surface hardened to the level where it could not support plant life with weak root systems.

The situation is worsened by the varied topography of the region, a combination of flat, hilly, or mini-plateau terrain, Omondi says. For instance, in Kalawa village where he lives, 20% of the land was denuded, he says.

"This has changed within two years since dryland agroforestry began," he says, adding that whenever he visits farmers these days, he is rewarded with baskets of papayas, mangoes and bananas, treats that he could not get before.

More than 7,000 farmers in southeastern Kenya have adopted dryland agroforestry, according to Omondi. Mutwota, who is one of them, says prolonged droughts are one of the biggest challenges that have been troubling farmers here.

Other challenges include new pests and diseases, and access to markets for their produce. Until the DryDev program came to his village, he had no way of

navigating these challenges except to sit back and wait it out.

At his 2.4-hectare (6-acre) farm, he now mixes food crops like maize, cowpeas, pigeon peas and sorghum with tree and fruit farming, like neem, mangoes, oranges and papayas.

While he fences his farm with *brachiaria* grass to battle pests, a water-harvesting unit at a section of his farm has enabled him to invest in the growing of greens. The grass is also a source of fodder for his livestock.

Studies by World Agroforestry on dryland agroforestry indicate that the technology is not only boosting food security for struggling farmers, it is also reducing environmental pollution, because farmers are cutting down on the use of chemicals and fertilizers.

But ensuring tree establishment and survival in the drylands has been very challenging because of the erratic and unreliable climate, as well as frequent droughts, says Leigh Ann Winowiecki, a soil systems scientist at World Agroforestry.

"The program is helping get degraded land back to health by restoring soil health, through conservation of water, reduced erosion and input of composted farmyard manure," she says.

To assess how well adopting such agroecology practices works, a study that she co-authored monitored 17,520 trees in Kenya in 2018 and found that average seedling survival in the regions under research varied depending on the planted species and agroecological conditions at the study sites.

For instance, Kitui county had the highest average seedling survival at 53.4%, while Machakos and Makeni counties had an average survival rate of 32.2% and 43.3%, respectively.

The addition of manure increased seedling survival by 12% but varied across counties, while 35% of seedlings survived when they were watered.

The study also reported that 7.8% of seedlings survived when farmers fenced their farms, while the use of zai pits increased seedling survival.

Rael Syombua, another farmer from southeastern Kenya, adopted the use of zai pits and has seen the technique cut her costs: before, she had to hire a plow to prepare her 1.2 hectares (3 acres) for planting.

Even after spending her savings on that, her maize

yield would be low. But when she adopted the zai pits, her average maize yield of less than three 90-kilo bags per season has doubled.

"When I used to hire a plow, I would be forced to follow it all day planting. But with zai pits, I can manage my planting time without being harassed by anyone," says the 59-year-old mother of seven.

Dryland agroforestry has brought with it another benefit to Syombua's village. According to her, strong winds that used to sweep through the village have been reduced in intensity due to the increased tree cover.

These winds would carry with them harmful dust particles, which would lead to respiratory disease outbreaks and eye infections, she says.

Scaling up dryland agroforestry in countries like Kenya requires increased research on which crops and trees can do well at a particular site, because of the varying climatic conditions and topography.

That is why community facilitators like Musyoki are armed with World Agroforestry's Regreening Africa app, a data collection tool that makes it easy to map sites where dryland agroforestry is taking place.

According to Musyoki, app users record data and take photographs that help researchers innovate new ways to overcome the climate and topography barriers.

Musyoki has also issued farmers with identity codes that use GPS navigation to trace the location of individual farmers.

"It makes our work easier because we are able to know which crop is the best suited for the climatic conditions of a particular site, and which trees can easily survive so that farmers can be encouraged to plant them," she says.

The UN General Assembly declared 2021 to 2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. On this front, the Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) says the country has committed to restore degraded lands with 5.5 million trees planted by 2030.

Much of this will be done through enrichment planting, which is an activity that involves replanting trees on areas that have been cleared of tree cover, and also through agroforestry, says Rose Akombo, the forest and climate change specialist at KFS.

Meanwhile, Manyi not only wants to double production at his farm in the next five years through dryland agroforestry, he also wants to make a home for various animal species.

"My honey production has increased because more bees are now visiting my trees to collect nectar. Some bird species are also coming to perch on my trees," he says. "I feel like I have given life to a disappearing generation."

Report provides key recommendations for improving central Africa's protected areas

By Special Correspondent

A RECENTLY published report, "State of protected areas in central Africa: 2020," explains the current condition of protected areas in Central Africa and provides recommendations for their improvement.

Roughly 50 regional and global authors worked to create this 400-page report, which serves as an update from the 2015 edition and now includes more detail on topics such as pastoralism, human-wildlife conflicts and extractive industries.

It was published by the Central Africa Forest Observatory (OFAC), which gathers data on the ecosystems of the 10 member countries of the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC), an intergovernmental organization that strives to protect the region's forests. The report was produced with the support of a host of organizations including the European Union (EU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and GIZ.

"This report makes a significant contribution to the analysis of the many factors that determine the success of protected areas in Central Africa, but also of the challenges that will need to be addressed in order to achieve the global objectives set," says Trevor Sandwith, Director of the Global Protected Areas Programme at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in a press release.

Central Africa contains some of the world's most iconic and ecologically important landscapes. A biodiversity hot spot and a key part of the fight against climate change, the region contains the world's second-largest tropical forest - the Congo Basin - which is home to a massive diversity of species and sustains the livelihoods of around 80 million people.

Yet protected areas in Central Africa are also highly threatened, notably from development and illegal activities like poaching. Some parts are plagued by instability and violence, and park rangers regularly face danger. In January this year, six park rangers in the Congo's Virunga National Park were killed by a local militia.

Nevertheless, the report finds that protected areas in Central Africa make up 15 percent of the countries' land area and 5 percent of the marine area, totaling to 799,000 square kilometers. This marks a roughly 20 percent increase between 2011 and 2020, which indicates progress toward achieving Aichi Target II, a global goal enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity that has aimed to protect 17 percent of terrestrial and 10 percent of marine habitats globally.

In fact, three countries in the region - Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe - have already met this target, when strictly considering



what are defined as "protected areas" under national law. If World Heritage sites, Ramsar sites and biosphere reserves are also included, the only Central African countries that have not yet achieved this goal are Burundi and Rwanda.

However, the authors highlight several areas for improvement, notably heightening the governance of protected areas and better managing their relationship with extractive industries like mining and oil extraction.

Managing protected areas

The traditional management of protected areas, according to the report, stems from the colonial period and has excluded Indigenous and local communities from the management of their resources. This has led to conflicts or the eviction of the traditional inhabitants of these areas, such as the Baka peoples of the Congo

Basin.

"[Colonial-era] protected area management policies and frameworks failed to fully integrate key success factors, such as social, cultural and political issues, which in turn triggered adverse social impacts on local communities, disrupting their traditional ways of living and limiting their control of and access to natural resources," says Bertille Mayen Ndiang, an author of the report and the project coordinator for Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire for the German development agency GIZ.

"This considerably undermined protected areas' protection policies due to conflicts between park managers and local communities. It has also reduced greatly the level of local communities' compliance with protected area conservation strategies."

Conservation practices that are inclusive to Indigenous and local populations are considered an alterna-

tive to the classic model of conservation against local communities. To achieve this, the authors recommend a decentralization of management and more community involvement.

One example is Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda, where 10 percent of the park's revenue from tourism goes to socio-economic projects that are directed toward local communities. They also participate in running the park, such as by conducting patrols, fighting wildfires and aiding research.

Community members' participation in protected area management incentivizes them to comply with the areas' policies, as Mayen Ndiang and her team found after assessing three protected areas between 2016 and 2020 on their social impact on local communities, their site-level governance and management effectiveness.

"Our studies suggested that greater inclusion of local communities in protected area management is one of the key strategies for ensuring the success of conservation strategies," she says.

The report suggests that locals be educated about both their rights and the importance of conservation, thereby reducing misunderstandings between communities and environmental experts and thus allowing local people to become protectors of the land themselves.

Terrorist threats redefined 20 years after 9/11

By James Surowiecki

MOST people need no reminder that today marks the 20th anniversary of the worst terrorist attacks on United States soil, in which nearly 3,000 people died.

This is not just because the post-9/11 era began in Afghanistan and ended there with US troops rushing to withdraw just days ago. Neither is it due to the Afghan war, along with the conflict in Iraq launched by Washington in the wake of 9/11 which have cost US lives and trillions of dollars.

The specter of the attacks lingers, serving as a constant reminder. In Washington, for example, the unofficial slogan of the post-9/11 US "If you see something, say something" can still be seen on billboards and public transportation. At airports, tightened security measures have made travel more stressful than ever for passengers and reduced their privacy.

Despite such measures, is the US safer than it was two decades ago?

Experts agree that the country could be less vulnerable to external terrorism than before 2001, but some of them say the top terrorist threat the US now faces is domestic, rather than foreign.

Evidence for this can be found in Washington, where many observers argue that the violent attack on Capitol Hill on Jan 6 highlighted a shift from an external threat to one arising at home.

During the attack, which is being investigated, hundreds of supporters of former president Donald Trump breached the Capitol, forced the evacuation of Congress, and disrupted the ratification of Joe Biden's election victory in November. At least 140 police officers were injured in the rioting, which resulted in five deaths.

Local and federal police officials in Washington are bracing for potential security threats on Sept 18, when a right-wing rally is planned to support more than 570 people charged with crimes related to the attack on the Capitol, according to US media reports.

About 50 percent of US citizens said they are "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" about the threat to the country posed by extremist groups based outside the US, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

However, about two-thirds of respondents said they are "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" about the threat of extremist groups based in the US.

The survey was conducted from Aug 12-16 as the two-decade war in Afghanistan ended with the Taliban recapturing Kabul, the capital. The international community has called for concerted efforts to prevent the country again becoming a hotbed and haven for terrorism.

Citizens' assault

Commenting on the poll results, Carlos Lozada, a Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic, said more US citizens are now concerned about domestic extremism rather than

foreign terrorism, and on Jan 6, "our own citizens assaulted the Capitol Building that al-Qaida hoped to strike on Sept 11, 2001".

Cal Jillson, a political scientist and historian at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said international terrorism remains a threat, but has been alleviated since 9/11.

"If 9/11 was a failure of imagination in regard to international terrorism, then certainly the Capitol insurrection benefited from a lack of imagination in regard to domestic terrorism," Jillson said.

Asked how 9/11 should be remembered, Jillson said, "Some challenges do demand a response, but one hopes that the next generations learn that the response should make things better, not worse."

Richard Dunham, former president of the National Press Club in Washington, said that when responding to a terrorist attack such as 9/11, the focus should be on the perpetrators "instead of using a terrorist attack as an excuse to push your own political agenda (such as the invasion of Iraq, or bringing Western-style democracy to the Middle East)".

Dunham, a veteran journalist and now a journalism professor, said the US has foiled numerous foreign threats in the past two decades, thanks to the creation of a costly homeland security apparatus and the rise of a "security-industrial complex".

Viewing the nation's safety more broadly, he said the US is not safer than before Sept 11, 2001. "There are many more threats, and some of today's violent extremists live in the United States and claim to be American 'patriots,'" Dunham said.

Non-terrorism safety threats such as climate change and pandemics are much more daunting than they were in 2001, he added.

Andrew Bacevich, a professor emeritus of history and international relations at Boston University, said far more important threats than ter-



Smoke billows across the New York City skyline after two hijacked planes crashed into the twin towers on Sept 11, 2001. File photo

rorism have emerged since 9/11.

"Most specifically, of course, is the climate chaos, which affects our country and the rest of the world," Bacevich said in a podcast last week.

Chas Freeman, assistant US secretary of defense for international security affairs from 1993-94, said in an email, "The external threats to the United States have been reduced, but internal threats have escalated as the constitutional norms of governance and the rule of law have been eroded by policies and practices driven by fear and justified by expedience."

He said such erosion "has made decadence and division the major dangers to the United States".

Success and failure

Bruce Hoffman, senior fellow for counterterrorism and homeland security at the Council on Foreign Relations, or CFR, warned that bitter partisan divisions in the US could undermine the nation's counterterrorism strategy.

In an article posted on the CFR website titled "How Has the Terrorist Threat Changed Twenty Years After 9/11?", Hoffman noted that the US counterterrorism response to the attacks in 2001 yielded some "remarkable" successes and "disastrous" failures in hunting down al-Qaida.

"Sadly, the terrorist threat to the

United States has shifted from a mostly external one which it was for nearly two decades after 9/11 to an internal one, as the Capitol Hill riot of Jan 6 highlighted. But the ongoing threats posed by Islamic State and al-Qaida have not disappeared," he wrote.

However, the current climate of political polarization could effectively paralyze the US government in preparing for the next generation of threats, Hoffman warned.

Stanley Renshon, a political scientist at City University of New York, said the biggest internal threat to the US is "the breakdown of trust" in the nation's leadership and its key insti-

tutions.

Jason Blazakis, director of the State Department's Counterterrorism Finance and Designations Office in the Bureau of Counterterrorism from 2008 to 2018, said that as the US prepares to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks, it "must confront the real possibility that our next 9/11 could arrive from within".

In an opinion article published in The Washington Post on Monday, he wrote, "As someone who has worked on national security issues in the US government for more than a decade, I've concluded that the US 'war on terror' launched in the wake of 9/11 has left us unprepared for the domestic threat that grows by the day."

He added: "Complicating matters further is that in today's politically charged environment, the Biden administration will find it difficult to pivot toward the domestic threat. But we must move beyond the narrow obsession with international terror and mitigate the extremist threat at home."

Reviewing changes in the US political situation since 9/11, Cheng Li, director of the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution, said that around 2018, Washington decided strategic competition with countries such as Russia and China not terrorism was now the primary concern for US national security.

Whether it was the previous Republican government or Biden's Democratic administration, a mistake had been made in identifying China as an enemy, he said.

"The enemy of the United States should not be China, but the common enemies of mankind, such as the COVID-19 virus, climate change challenges, the threat of nuclear proliferation, and terrorists at home and abroad," he added.

Agencies

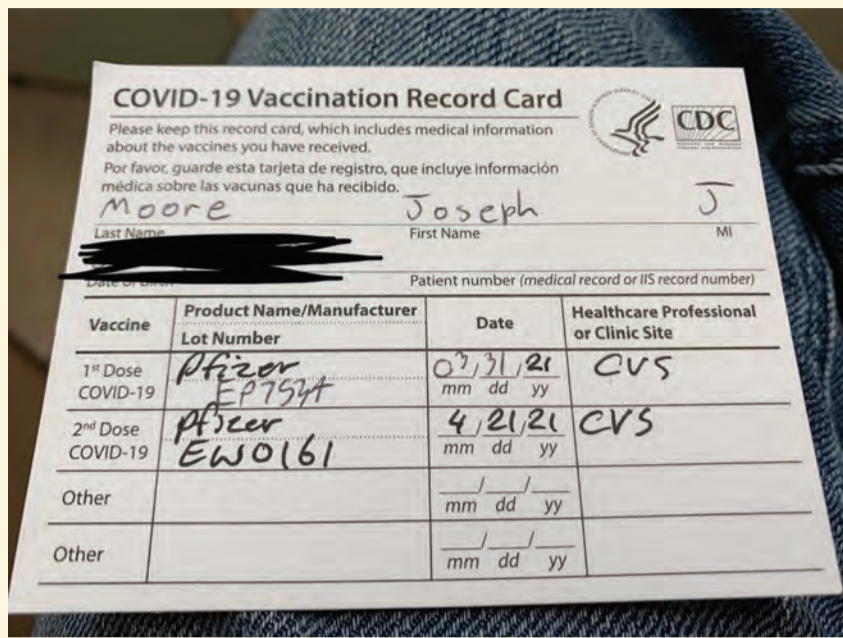


Rescue workers continue their search as smoke rises from the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York. File photo

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS DJ SHOW 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**



A Covid-19 vaccination certificate.

RESISTANCE

Suspected quacks face jail over fake Covid vaccination

NAIROBI

Two suspected quacks are in police custody over allegations of administering fake Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to unsuspecting clients at private hospitals here while masquerading as doctors.

Milimani Principal Magistrate Sinkiyian Tobiko allowed police officers to detain Mr Wallace Mugendi Njiru and Kenneth Mukundi Njeru for five days pending completion of the investigations. According to documents filed in court by the police, the two operate two hospitals; one in Ongata Rongai and another in Kasarani.

They were arrested after their clients became concerned following an announcement by the Ministry of Health last week that it had received the first consignment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, comprising 141,600 doses.

Police received reports that since July the suspects have been administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The clients are said to be living in fear after it emerged they may have been administered a false vaccine.

"The illegal and fake Covid-19 vaccination occurred on diverse dates between July and August 2021. It was reported to police on September 7, 2021," police investigator Kaparo Lekakeny told court. In urging for detention of the suspects, the investigating officer said the two are suspected to have committed a serious offence of endangering their clients' lives making them susceptible to Covid-19.

"Our investigations will rely on the suspects in locating other hospital facilities that they operate in Ongata Rongai in view of making recoveries," said Mr Lekakeny. They made their clients believe that they were vaccinated with Johnson & Johnson vaccine and making them not to get the right vaccine in time, the court heard.

"Covid-19 is a world-wide threat to mankind and the two suspects capitalised on that by faking Covid-19 vaccines and administering to unsuspecting clients for monetary gains without care of their health," stated the officer. The case will be mentioned on Tuesday next week.

RECOGNITION

Egypt's Ain Shams University wins UNESCO literacy prize

CAIRO

Egypt's Ain Shams University has won the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy for its project that uses digital technology to teach literacy in rural areas of the country.

The annual Unesco international literacy prizes were awarded to six programmes from Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Mexico and South Africa, on International Literacy Day. Ain Shams University president Prof Mahmoud El Meteini spoke in an online event held to recognise the award recipients on Thursday.

"Experience has taught us that despite the difficulties and challenges of using technology for adult distance learning, the opportunities are still encouraging," Prof El Meteini said. This year's awards recognised projects that focused on inclusive distance and digital literacy learning during the Covid-19 crisis.

"Whether NGOs, non-profits, universities or national institutes, they are successfully reaching some of the most marginalised learners in the world," said Stefania Giannini, assistant director general for education at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

At least 773 million youth and adults globally cannot read and write, and 250 million children are failing to acquire basic literacy skills, according to Unesco. In Egypt, about a quarter of the population is illiterate, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics. Ain Shams University is participating in the National Literacy Project launched by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, which

aims to eliminate illiteracy in Egypt by 2030.

The public university in Cairo provides educational, economic and social services to poor villages, and trains students to join the project as literacy teachers. For students in certain fields of study - including education, business, law and arts - teaching literacy is a requirement for graduation.

Student teachers are also provided with cash incentives of 250 Egyptian pounds (\$16) from the government's General Authority for Adult Education for every learner who becomes literate, as well as an expenses exemption for the following year from the university.

Between 2015 and 2021, authorities said, 21,537 learners successfully completed the programme, 55 per cent of whom were women and girls. During the pandemic, there was an increased focus on using technology, such as creating a YouTube channel to share educational videos and offering online courses for students and university staff.

"Given the current Covid-19 crisis, we started using different educational platforms for both the teachers to provide the ongoing necessary training, as well as for the learning process," Prof El Meteini said.

The "lack of adequate technological infrastructure" was a challenge, but the university continued to send educational convoys to the most disadvantaged regions in the country in parallel, he added. The Unesco Confucius Prize for Literacy was established in 2005 with the support of the Chinese government. Each of the three prize winners will receive a medal, a diploma and a cash prize of \$30,000.

DISCRIMINATION

A farm in the US that hired only white South Africans is being sued by black locals

MISSISSIPPI

Pitts Farms, a very large producer of cotton, soybeans, and corn in Mississippi used to have a largely black workforce, drawn from an area that is more than 70% black, according to a complaint filed with a US district court this week.

Then, in 2014, it started using imported labourers from South Africa. They were always white and, say the plaintiffs in the suit, better paid than were the local black workers - who in some instances trained them.

Now six of those local workers want to be compensated in a case their representatives, from the Mississippi Center for Justice and Southern Migrant Legal Services, say is just one example of the exploitation of black workers in the American South.

The South Africans were paid a standard state rate that started at \$9.87 per hour in 2014 and rose to \$11.83 (the equivalent of around R170 at current exchange rates) in 2020, the complainants say. At the same time the black locals were lucky to make \$9 per hour for driving heavy trucks, while ordinary labourers got \$7.25 per hour, and an extra dollar per hour for work on weekends.

The farm "intentionally paid its Black workforce less than its white foreign workers for the same or similar work. The white



Black workers at Pitts Farms in Mississippi.

foreign workers were also given other benefits not provided to Plaintiffs and other Black domestic workers," says the complaint.

While some black workers were charged for using accommodation on the farm, the white South Africans lived rent free, in better housing. Workers also say their supervisor on the farm "frequently used racial slurs, including the n-word, when speaking to or about" black workers.

According to the complaint, the South Africans were formally hired as "agricultural equipment operators" between roughly February and November every year, with duties that included driving tractors and repairing farm equipment. Some delivered water around the farm, or drove trucks to auction sites.

The South Africans worked on H-2A visas, specific to temporary agricultural workers. In order to

obtain such visas, their employers must "Demonstrate that there are not enough US workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available to do the temporary work", and show that American workers would not be adversely affected. South Africans are very popular among H-2A employers in the USA, and special provisions were made to ensure they could enter the country for the 2021 harvest season.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Shared bicycles to help reduce carbon emission in Kigali



Kigali residents ride shared bikes during the launch of the use of GURARIDE bicycles in the city on September 9.

KIGALI

Guraride in partnership with the City of Kigali unveiled its public shared bike scheme on September 9, in a move anticipated to reduce carbon emission, and Kigali's over dependency on automobiles.

The scheme, which will operate in two designated corridors is also expected to generate green employment opportunities, and improve health standards. It had been scheduled to be launched in July 2021, but was postponed.

Claver Gatete, the Minister of Infrastructure, said that Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) mode

plays a unique role in Rwanda's transportation system. "NMT provides basic mobility, affordable transport for both people and goods, access to public transport by providing last mile connectivity, as well as significant benefits for public health and recreation" he said.

"In the national transport policy recently approved by cabinet in April this year, the government aims at providing safe, high-quality, and universally accessible facilities for walking." According to Gatete, this bike shared scheme will provide cheaper mobility for short distances, and is a zero pollution mode of transport.

According to Pudence Rubingisa, the scheme came as a response to traffic jams in Kigali. "The City of Kigali reserves areas for pedestrians but also bicycles while constructing roads," he said. Project Manager, Pamela Umuhiza, said the cost for using the bikes is still under discussion between the proprietor operators and Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) and will be announced soon.

"We are working with different institutions such as the police and ministry of infrastructure to make sure that everyone who uses our bicycle uses cycling lanes. We are also working with different insur-

ance institutions to come up with a visible plan adding to what we have in place" Umuhiza said, addressing concerns of potential accidents to their clients.

"More than 300 people have downloaded our app, with a total of 80 bicycles, we will be able to satisfy our clients. However, we are also going to have electronic bikes in the next phase which will help people ride in the hilly areas of the country" she told The New Times. Guraride is also eyeing Musanze, Rubavu, and Huye districts in upcoming project phases as it sets plans to deliver a strategic nationwide coverage.

DIGITIZATION

All-women playwrights tell Kenyan stories online

NAIROBI

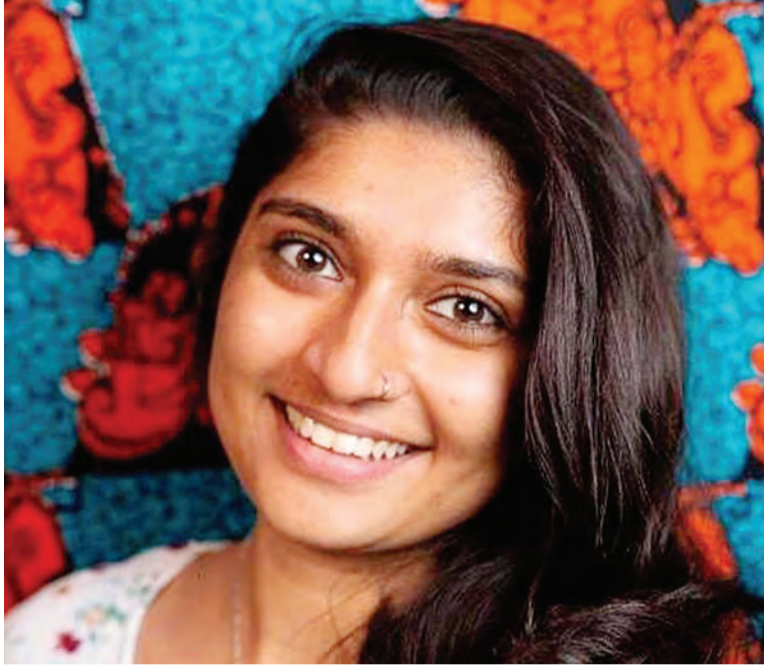
Thespians refusing to let their imaginations get lockdowned by the Covid-19 pandemic have come up with a whole new programme for taking their theatre transnational, cross-cultural and Kenyan all at the same time.

"It's all about collaboration," says the Mombasa-born Karishma Bhagani who's at the centre of the new Kenyan edition of a set of micro-plays entitled Theatre for One: We are Here. The series of six one-woman plays will be performed live online from September 15-27, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The six Kenyan women playwright-performers [whose original plays will premiere on the 15th] are Mumbi Kaigwa, Sitawa Nambalie, Aleya Kassam, Anne Moraa, Laura Ekumbo, and Mercy Mutisya.

The entire venture is the result of an ingenious collaboration ignited by Karishma and including a high-powered slew of award-winning Western thespians. They are Bill Bragin, executive artistic director of The Arts Centre at New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi who actually commissioned the six ten-minute plays for Christine Jones' Theatre for One, the experimental theatre company that Ms Jones founded back in 2010.

The venture is produced by Mara Isaacs, founder of Octopus Theatricals of New York, and assisted by Kenya's own Rainmaker Limited and Nairobi Theatre Initiative, both of which were founded by Sheba Hirst and Eric Wainaina.

Karishma's role in making the Nairobi edition of 'Theatre for one' become a re-



Karishma Bhagani, executive producer of the Nairobi Musical Theatre Initiative.

ality has been, as Bill Bragin put it in a zoom press conference last week, "a matter of trust." Bragin, who came from the acclaimed Tisch School of the Arts at NYU to launch the university's Arts Centre at Abu Dhabi, met the young Kenyan at a theatre conference just a year ago. But her enthusiasm for the theatre activities underway in Nairobi sparked his interest.

Karishma has been the executive producer for the Nairobi The-

atre Initiative since 2019, which is how she's so conversant with the artistic talents who are now in last minute rehearsals for their performances. She has also worked closely with Rainmaker since it was Eric Wainaina who she initially met and who suggested she come on board as Nairobi Theatre Initiative's executive producer.

At the time, Karishma was producing the Ugandan International Theatre Festival as well as com-

pleting her undergraduate studies at the Tisch School at NYU. But even then, she was keen to see Kenyan theatre transcend traditional boundaries and find transnational platforms on which to perform. Since then, she's completed both a bachelor's and master's degree in theatre arts, and will soon be starting a doctoral programme in theatre at Stanford University.

Nonetheless, she's been able to juggle her time and undying devotion to Kenyan thespians who she has successfully linked up with some of the most dynamic and daring theatre producer-directors in the States.

At their press conference, Christine Jones admitted she was initially skeptical about taking 'Theatre for One' online. But the pandemic compelled artists like her to re-imagine the way they do theatre. "We want our audiences to feel a part of our performances," she said. There is little doubt that the six women artists who've been commissioned to perform this month from Kenya are among our best.

Karishma had worked most closely with three of the six who have been actively involved in creating musical theatre with the NBO Initiative. Aleya Kassam, Anne Moraa, and Laura Ekumbo (the LAM Sisters) have been working closely with Eric and Sheba

for several years. The three also worked actively with Sitawa Nambalie in Brazen, which was an original script re-examining Kenyan history from a feminist perspective. Mumbi Kaigwa is a veteran woman actor, playwright, and producer-director whose original productions have won her international acclaim. And Mercy Mutisya is a rising star on the local theatre, television and film scene.

Plus the six also work with dynamic women and men behind the scenes to perfect their performances. They include Nyokabi Macharia, Esther Kamba, the Damascus-born Kholoud Sawaf and the Yugoslavian-American director SRDA.

The original scripts they will be staging online are The Interview by Aleya Kassam, The Living Ghost by Mercy Mutisya, Aging by Laura Ekumbo, The Beanie by Mumbi Kaigwa, and Killer Cop Lives Fast Life by Sitawa Nambalie.

The scripts address a wide range of diverse topics. The challenge to the actors is large, especially as all their rehearsals have been online, just as their performances will be. Accompanying the commissions from The Arts Centre of NYU Abu Dhabi will be workshops aimed at strengthening the theatrical skills of all the Kenyan artists.

FINANCING

Mediclinic to procure a luctative renewable energy deal

LONDON

As part of Mediclinic International Plc group's strategy, which has set an ambitious target to become carbon neutral by 2030, Mediclinic's southern Africa division will procure renewable electricity through the Energy Exchange of Southern Africa. The deal is worth up to £110m (\$152m).

South Africa, the continent's worst polluter, emits millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, much of it from coal-fired power plants that still provide most of its energy. Climate considerations have become a greater concern for investors, with some pulling out of local multibillion-dollar coal-fired power plant projects and halting direct funding. Companies are also trying to curb their reliance on ailing state utility Eskom, which regularly implements electricity outages.

"While Mediclinic strongly believes that the use of renewable energy is important in ensuring a healthy planet for future generations, reducing consumption by investing in energy-efficient equipment and renewable energy sources also assists in mitigating rising electricity costs," Mediclinic says. In addition, the agreement with Energy Exchange of Southern Africa will likely provide an economic benefit as the annual tariff increases are expected to be inflation-linked, it adds.

Energy Exchange is currently the only platform able to connect businesses with electricity generated by independent power producers (IPPs) in South Africa and which will have the necessary agreements in place with the state utility provider Eskom and local municipalities to make use of their networks, Mediclinic says.



While Mediclinic strongly believes that the use of renewable energy is important in ensuring a healthy planet for future generations, reducing consumption by investing in energy-efficient equipment ...

RED-FLAG

Pandemic at risk of worsening with proliferation of variants in Africa, scientists say in new study

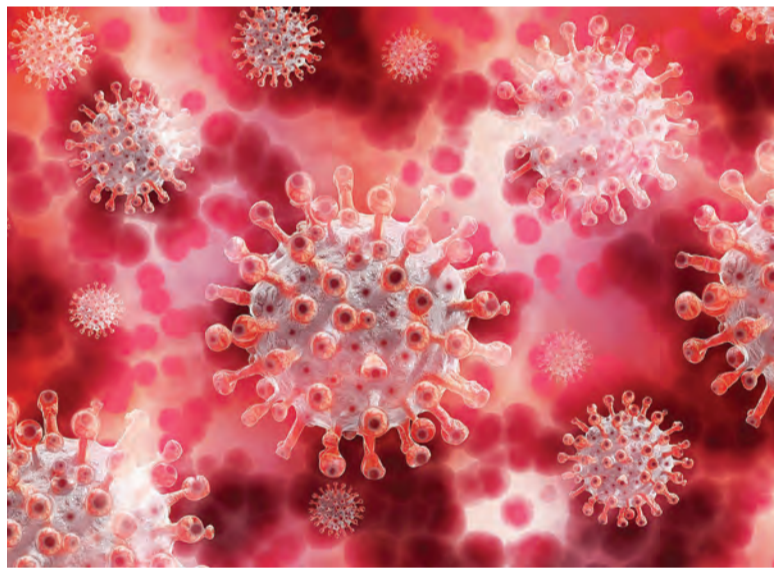
JOHANNESBURG

The proliferation of Covid-19 variants in Africa, partly attributed to the low rates of vaccination on the continent, could lead to vaccine-evading mutations that complicate attempts to end the pandemic, a group of 112 African and 25 international organizations said.

A study of genomes from 33 African nations and two "overseas territories," published in the journal Science on Thursday, tracks the evolution of the pandemic across the continent and the emergence of a number of so-called Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest. One of those, beta, spread around the globe earlier this year and rendered some vaccines partially ineffective.

The "slow rollout of vaccines in most African countries creates an environment in which the virus can replicate and evolve," the organizations said. "This will almost certainly produce additional VOCs, any of which could derail the global fight against Covid-19."

While more than half of the population of the US and over 60% of people living



An illustration of the coronavirus.

in the European Union are fully vaccinated, just 3.2% of Africa's 1.2 billion people have been fully dosed. That's resulted in a severe third wave of infections in many countries and the emergence of a

new variant in South Africa known as C.1.2.

The study showed that Covid-19 was introduced to most African nations from Europe, and in turn the continent has exported the vari-

ants it spawned back to European countries. Different strains of the virus spread around the continent mainly from South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya - three of the African countries with the strongest links to the wider world.

The beta variant, identified in South Africa in December, quickly raced as far north as the Democratic Republic of Congo, most likely along the road and rail routes that connect the country's ports with the sub-continent, the study said.

The research is the first major output by Africa's leading scientists in an effort to increase the continent's ability to produce and analyze genomic data. Two variants in West Africa and East Africa, known as B.1.525 and A.23.1, need to be contained, it said.

"Assume the worst"

"There is strong evidence that

both of these VOCs are rising in frequency in the regions where they have been detected, which suggests that they may possess higher fitness than other variants," the scientists said. "Although more focused research on the biological properties of these VOCs is needed to confirm whether they should be considered VOCs, it would be prudent to assume the worst."

The study was done in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Africa Centres for Disease Control & Prevention. "If the virus keeps evolving on the African continent, this will become a global problem," said Tulio de Oliveira, a bioinformatics professor who helped put together the study and runs gene-sequencing institutions at two South African universities. "It is our moral duty to try to protect Africa and the world."

CENSURE

Manica farmers outraged by pollution from mining activities



Illegal mining in Manica province of Mozambique.

MAPUTO

Farmer Fernando Chicote distrusts the water he uses, claiming it is contaminated by mining activity in the region. This has already affected many of his crops.

"It affects [farming] very negatively. By watering with that cloudy water, the crops will not develop, and the animals that live in those waters will not survive," Chicote told DW Africa.

Chicote calls on local authorities to increase inspections and end illegal artisanal mining. He also demands changes in water collection, drainage and treatment, to ensure that dirty water from mining companies does not mix with the other water supplies.

"They [mining companies] must create a way to at least have some motor pumps that can pull that water from

the rivers and open a pool. Something that makes their projects easier, so the water doesn't mix with clean water. Because this is the water that we use for our animals and for our own consumption, not to mention the irrigation of the fields," Chicote continues.

Samuel Tembo, agronomist and environmental activist, warns that illegal artisanal mining of precious ores, including gold, is impregnating the waters with mercury. "This practice of illegal mining ends up causing losses to the producer. One response is to find a way to make illegal miners aware of the damage they are causing by polluting ground water," he advises.

Governor of Manica Francisco Tomás sees this situation as the province's "Achilles' heel". And it's not just the illegal miners who do the polluting; water sources are

also contaminated by national and foreign mining companies, such as those from neighbouring Zimbabwe, Tomás explains. In Manica, two mining companies have already been suspended for depositing polluting waste in rivers.

"There are some companies that are not very honest. They may have a water well to wash their minerals, but at night they drain the water into the rivers. Where those rivers flow, there is no agricultural activity anymore, because the waters are not fit for watering," Tomás says.

The agricultural potential of the region is great, he adds. Production in Manica and Bárue districts could be enough to solve the food problems of the entire province. The pollution of rivers also puts the health of the population at risk.

COMPETITIVE

Indian company creates digital crossword puzzles for major publications

NEW DELHI

“I have to solve the online Mini Crossword in The New York Times every night; it is strangely relaxing and gives me a sense of accomplishment before I go to bed,” says Nandita Godbole, 49, a writer who lives in Atlanta in the US.

“For me, it’s about mindfulness and self-care. When I was younger, our family would make a beeline for the afternoon newspaper, and it was a competition between my dad, my aunt and me to see who would solve the crossword first.”

The crossword puzzle was invented in 1913 by journalist Arthur Wynne, who worked at the New York World, as a numbered, diamond-shaped grid that he called Word-Cross. It has since captured the imagination of millions around the world

with its black and white grids, and clever clues that are purported to improve memory, problem-solving skills and general knowledge. As Word-Cross grew in popularity, newspapers across the world began to feature their own crosswords.

Puzzle solvers often went to libraries to refer to encyclopaedias or dictionaries to solve difficult clues. The New York Times was one of the last major publications to start publishing a crossword in 1942, to divert the reader’s attention from tragic world events. The puzzles became a source of comfort for many, especially during times of war. Digital crosswords allow for greater interactivity, where families and friends can play with each other, and it can also teach you more than a print puzzle

Several studies, includ-



John Temple, left, with Sudheendra and Jaya Hangal, co-founders of Amuse Labs.

ing one conducted in 2017 by King’s College London and the University of Exeter Medical School, say that people who play crossword puzzles are more likely to have better brain function as they grow older.

Now, with most people reading their news on mobile phones or tablets, publishers are trying to woo younger readers with digital versions of crossword puzzles and games. However, not many enthusiasts are

aware that the puzzles for the digital platforms of several prestigious publications - ranging from The New Yorker and The Hindu to The Guardian and The Washington Post - are made by Amuse Labs, a company that was

launched in 2014 in Bengaluru, India.

The idea first came to Sudheendra Hangal (who has a doctorate in computer science) and his wife Jaya Hangal (who was part of the core team that developed Sun Microsystems’ Java software platform) when they wanted to build a quiz for children around classical music and using visual clues.

The Indian couple collaborated with a fellow former student of Stanford University, John Temple, to create a similar platform for digital puzzles. Temple had been managing editor at The Washington Post, and was well aware of the high engagement of online puzzles and games, and their importance in building reader loyalty.

Amuse Labs’ PuzzleMe is an HTML5-based platform that publishers can use to create multimedia

crosswords, Sudoku grids and word-search puzzles - all in a matter of minutes - that are then embedded on their websites. These can then be played digitally on mobiles and tablets.

The clues can also incorporate multimedia, such as pictures, YouTube videos and audio clips. Media houses aside, PuzzleMe is also used by schools, government agencies, lawyers and doctors. “The platform offers more than 20 language options, from Urdu to Hebrew, and also collaborative playing where two or more people can solve a puzzle simultaneously,” Jaya says.

The embedded quizzes also have analytics, which show how many readers solved the puzzle, how long they took, where they come from and so on. “We customise the experience for every publication, so the user

experience is different in each case. From the design, font to the colour used, we give [each puzzle] the look and feel of the newspaper, be it The Washington Post or The Hindu,” explains Temple.

The format has its detractors, though. Chandni Doulatramani, a journalist from Bengaluru, says: “I was introduced to crosswords in the printed newspaper when I was about 16 by a friend’s father, and had to wait for the answers until the next day. Now I solve The Guardian’s quick crossword and I can check the answers immediately in the digital format, but that’s no fun.” It does beg the question whether old-fashioned crosswords are still relevant despite the digital age, given many people prefer the time-honoured way to solve them - on paper, with pen.

FAVOURITE

Top trends driving pet food sales in Africa, Middle East

JOHANNESBURG

According to senior analyst, Anje du Plessis, “As an emerging market, dog food in the Middle East and Africa holds great potential as changing attitudes towards dog ownership boost the demand for dog food in the region. Humanisation and premiumisation trends are expected to intensify, which will create more opportunities for brands to meet consumer demands.

“By leveraging the growing demand for convenience, e-commerce platforms could offer automation of dog food orders and secure monthly revenue, which is a win-win for all.” Trends highlighted in the report include the following.

In South Africa, dogs had primarily been kept for safety reasons, but, in recent years, the perception of dogs has been changing from guard dog to “heart dog.” Large breed dogs dominate the dog population in South Africa.

Dog ownership in the Middle East was historically very low, not only because of cultural restrictions, but also due to the

hot climate and small living spaces making it challenging to own a dog. Social media has been playing a pivotal role in the rising adoption rates in the Middle East as influencers posted about themselves adopting a dog during the pandemic and their followers then followed suit. Humanisation, premiumisation widespread as education and awareness increase

Despite difficult financial conditions brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, dog owners continue to humanise their dogs. While South African pet owners were trading down to economy brands due to financial constraints, they were supplementing the dry food with wet dog food, mixing the two together to make it “tastier” for their dog, which is typical humanisation behaviour.

This new trend boosted growth for economy dry and wet dog food in South Africa.

The distribution of dog food in the region is dominated by supermarkets and, to a lesser extent, pet shops. However, e-commerce grew in importance as a distribution channel for dog food during 2020, and this trend is expected to continue accelerating during 2021 and beyond.



‘France has granted citizenship to more than 12,000 Covid-19 frontline workers’

PARIS

France has granted more than 12,000 Covid-19 frontline workers citizenship under an expedited naturalisation programme, the country’s citizenship minister announced on Thursday.

In September 2020, the country’s interior ministry announced that foreign Covid-19 frontline workers could apply for expedited naturalization, reported The Guardian. In addition to making the naturalization process quicker, the government also reduced residency requirement to two years from five, per The Guardian.

Marlène Schiappa, the minister in charge of citizenship in France, announced in a statement that 16,381 people had applied for citizenship since the launch of the program. As of Thursday, she said, 12,012 applications had been approved.

The new French citizens include healthcare workers, security guards, childcare workers, domestic helpers, and garbage collectors, per the statement. “Frontline workers responded to the call of the nation, so it is right that the nation takes a step towards them,” Schiappa wrote in her statement.

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>ITV</p> <p>SUNDAY 18 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Movie rpt: Nzowa 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Maphishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Mizengwe 21:35 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: Laana 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>MONDAY 19 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Mtego rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Maphishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afa ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 20 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p>	<p>8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:30 Jungu kuu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afa ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 DWT: Kesho leo rpt 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu 21:40 Chetu ni chetu 22:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 Chetu ni chetu 23:45 The Base 00:45 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 21 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Maphishi 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari</p>	<p>23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 22 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Maphishi rpt 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 23 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kisilam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto</p>	<p>23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 24 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Jumong 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Isidingo rpt 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 25 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Movie rpt: Laana 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Maphishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Mizengwe 21:35 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: Who’s Back 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p>	<p>17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: Iris 21:00 Out n’ About 21:30 Movie: Grindstone Road (tape no:5593) 23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 18 April</p> <p>08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Iris 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Mon 19 April</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 EcoAfrica rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Decor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Beats of Love 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 20 April</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Beats of Love</p>
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CAPITAL

Sat 17 April

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n’about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 EcoAfrica rpt
13:00B usiness edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death

WORLD

'Pandemic risks worsening on Africa variants'

JOHANNESBURG

THE proliferation of COVID-19 variants in Africa, partly attributed to the low rates of vaccination on the continent, could lead to vaccine-evading mutations that complicate attempts to end the pandemic, a group of 112 African and 25 international organizations said.

A study of genomes from 33 African nations and two "overseas territories," published in the journal *Science* on Thursday, tracks the evolution of the pandemic across the continent and the emergence of a number of so-called Variants of Concern (VOCs) and Variants of Interest (VOIs).

One of those, beta, spread around the globe earlier this year and rendered some vaccines partially ineffective.

The "slow rollout of vaccines in most African countries creates an environment in which the virus can replicate and evolve," the organizations said. "This will almost certainly produce additional VOCs, any of which could derail the global fight against COVID-19."

While more than half of the population of the US and over 60 percent of people living in the European Union are fully vaccinated, just 3.2 percent of Africa's 1.2 billion people have been fully dosed. That's resulted in a severe third wave of infections in many countries and the emergence of a new variant in South Africa known as C.1.2.

The study showed that COVID-19 was introduced to most African nations from Europe, and in turn the continent has exported the variants it spawned back to European countries.

Different strains of the virus spread around the continent mainly from South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya - three of the African countries with the strongest links to the wider world.

The beta variant, identified in South Africa in December, quickly raced as far north as the Democratic Republic of Congo, most likely along the road and rail routes that connect the country's ports with the sub-continent, according to the study.

The research is the first major out-



A woman is administered a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine dose at the Gaube comprehensive primary health care center in Kuje, Nigeria on Sept 1, 2021. AP

put by Africa's leading scientists in an effort to increase the continent's ability to produce and analyze genomic data. Two variants in West Africa and East Africa, known as B.1.525 and A.23.1, need to be contained, it said.

"There is strong evidence that both of these VOIs are rising in frequency in the regions where they have been detected, which suggests that they may possess higher fitness than other variants," the scientists said. "Although more focused research on the biological properties of these VOIs is needed to confirm whether they should be considered VOCs, it would be prudent to assume the worst."

The study was done in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Africa Centres for Disease Control & Prevention.

BioNTech

BioNTech is set to request approval across the globe for use of its COVID-19 vaccine in children as young as five over the next few weeks and preparations for

a launch are well on track, two of the biotech firm's top executives told *Der Spiegel*.

"Already over the next few weeks we will file the results of our trial in five to 11 year-olds with regulators across the world and will request approval of the vaccine in this age group, also here in Europe," Chief Medical Officer Oezlem Tuercü told the weekly magazine.

She added final production steps were being adjusted to bottle a lower-dose pediatric version of its established Comirnaty vaccine, jointly developed with Pfizer. It is currently approved for adults and children over 12.

The raw trial data was now being prepared for a regulatory filing and "things are looking good, everything is going according to plan," Chief Executive Ugur Sahin told *Der Spiegel*.

Agencies

Germany reopens embassy in Libya

TRIPOLI

GERMAN Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Thursday announced the reopening of the German Embassy in the Libyan capital Tripoli after years of closure.

"In the presence of German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, accompanied by German Ambassador Michael Ohnmacht, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs Mohamed Khalil, and a number of Libyan officials, the headquarters of the German Embassy in Tripoli was reopened today," said the German Embassy in Tripoli.

"This event comes within the framework of strengthening relations between the two countries and deepening our efforts to help the Libyans build a better future. Germany remains a committed partner and will continue to work for peace in Libya," the embassy said.

The German embassy in Tripoli, along with many other foreign missions in Libya, was evacuated in 2014 because of the armed conflict and insecurity.

Mass met with Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah on Thursday in Tripoli, where they discussed the latest developments in Libya and the upcoming elections.

The meeting touched upon "the latest developments in Libya and the possibility of moving forward toward the elections to be held later this year, as well as any challenges that the elections may face," said a statement issued by the Libyan government's information office.

In February, the UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) selected a new executive authority of a unity government and a presidency council, ending years of

Russia has no intention of fighting Ukraine, only Kiev can incite war, senior MP says

MOSCOW

NO one in Russia wants a war with Ukraine, and that would only be able to happen if Kiev sparked a provocation for it, Chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, Eurasian Integration and Relations with Compatriots Leonid Kalashnikov told TASS yesterday.

"A full-fledged war can only be unleashed if they (the Ukrainian authorities - TASS) pull off some kind of provocation, like [Mikhail] Saakashvili did in Georgia at one time," he said, commenting on remarks by Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky.

According to Kalashnikov, no one in Russia is going to "do that, [no one] is going to fight the Ukrainians." "This is our fraternal people, no one wants a war against the people because of the authorities. Not a single Russian wants to fight the Ukrainians," he concluded.

Zelensky earlier said at the YES Brainstorming forum, replying to a question from the moderator, that he did not rule out a full-fledged war with Russia. He noted though that it would be a mistake, "the biggest mistake by the Russian Federation."

UN Security Council adopts resolution on peacekeeping transitions

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations (UN) Security Council on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution on its peacekeeping transitions.

Resolution 2594 stresses the crucial role of peace operations and emphasizes the need for peace operations to engage at the earliest possible stage in integrated planning and coordination on transitions.

It further emphasizes that in order to be sustainable, the transition planning process should take into account broad challenges, including risks to stability, governance, and the rule of law, as well as the political, economic, development, humanitarian, and human rights context.

It requests the UN secretary-general to plan for UN peace operations transitions and to elaborate mission transition strategies. It further requests that these mission strategies clarify roles and responsibilities for all relevant UN stakeholders as well as clear and realistic benchmarks and indicators, which measure factors and conditions that might impact the reconfiguration in order to ensure a successful and durable transition.

The resolution encourages national governments to develop and implement comprehensive national plans, policies, or strategies to protect civilians in advance of peace operations transitions.

Xi, Biden hold candid, in-depth and extensive exchanges

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday morning took a phone call from his US counterpart, Joseph R. Biden, and the two leaders had candid, in-depth and extensive strategic communication and exchanges on China-US relations and relevant issues of mutual interest.

Xi first expressed sympathy to Biden and the American people over the human and economic toll in multiple places in the United States caused by Hurricane Ida. Biden appreciated the expression of sympathy.

Xi pointed out that for some time, due to the US policy on China, the China-US relationship has run into serious difficulty, which serves neither the fundamental interests of the people of the two countries, nor the common interests of countries around the world.

Noting that China and the United States are respectively the biggest developing country and the biggest developed country, Xi pointed out that whether they can handle their relationship well bears on the future of the world, and it is a question of the century to which the two countries must provide a good answer.

When China and the United States cooperate, the two countries and the world will benefit; when China and the United States are in confrontation, the two countries and the world will suffer, he said, adding that getting the relationship right is not an option, but something we must do and must do well.

Highlighting an ancient Chinese poem that "Mountains and rivers may block the way, yet another village will appear amidst willow trees and blooming flowers," Xi noted that since the ice was broken in bilateral relations in 1971, China and the United States have cooperated with each other and delivered tangible benefits to countries around the world.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) and US President Joe Biden.

With the international community facing many common challenges, China and the United States need to show broad vision and shoulder great responsibilities, he said, adding that the two countries should look ahead and press forward, demonstrate strategic courage and political resolve, and bring China-US relations back to the right track of stable development as soon as possible for the good of the people in both countries and around the world.

Elaborating on China's position on climate change and other issues, Xi stressed that China continues to prioritize ecological conservation and pursues a green and low-carbon path to development, and has taken the initiative to actively shoulder international responsibilities befitting China's national conditions.

On the basis of respecting each other's core concerns and properly managing differences, the relevant departments of the two countries may continue their engagement and dialogue to advance co-

ordination and cooperation on climate change, COVID-19 response and economic recovery as well as on major international and regional issues, Xi said.

In the meantime, the two sides may tap more potential of cooperation to inject more positive dynamics into the relationship, he added.

For his part, Biden, noting that the world is changing fast, said that the US-China relationship is the most consequential relationship in the world, and the future of the bulk of the world will depend on how the United States and China get on with each other.

The two countries have no interest in letting competition veer into conflict, and the US side has no intention to change the one-China policy, he said.

The US side, he added, is prepared to have more candid exchanges and constructive discussions with China to identify key and priority areas where cooperation is possible, avoid miscommunication, miscalculation and unintended conflict, and get US-China relations back

on track.

He said the US side looks forward to more discussions and cooperation with China to reach more common positions on climate change and other important issues.

Both presidents agreed that in-depth communication between them on China-US relations and major international issues is very important for steering the bilateral ties in the right direction.

They agreed to maintain frequent contact by multiple means and instruct officials at the working level to intensify the work, conduct extensive dialogue and create conditions for the further development of China-US relations.

Xinhua

Two decades on, US 'War on Terror' plunges Middle East into chaos

CAIRO

IT was far beyond Ali al-Saadi's imagination that the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which happened in a place far away from his hometown Iraq, would have brought about the most terrifying experience to him and his family.

As part of its efforts to unleash a global war on terrorism in response to the attacks, the United States invaded Iraq, leaving hundreds of thousands of people killed and towns and cities devastated, including the northern city of Mosul, al-Saadi's home. "My house was de-

stroyed, and I have a child who was disabled during the bombardment when my house fell on us," he said.

The bombardment carried out by the U.S.-led coalition in 2016 and 2017 left the old city completely destroyed.

Al-Saadi is just one of the millions of people in the Middle East whose life has been turned into one tragedy after another following the so-called "War on Terror," which started 20 years ago.

SCARS OF WAR

During the past two decades, the wars and military actions carried

out by the United States and its allies have unsettled much of the world, particularly the Middle East.

A Brown University study found that at least 800,000 people have died in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen since the United States launched the War on Terror.

That number only includes lives directly lost "through bombs and bullets" in major hotspots, according to the study.

In Iraq alone, 184,382 to 207,156 civilians were directly killed in war-related violence between the start of the U.S. invasion in March 2003 and October 2019, the study said. At

the same time, U.S. forces allegedly used rounds of depleted uranium in their battles across Iraq, posing hazards to the health of local people.

Moreover, the War on Terror has also turned tens of millions into refugees. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 5.6 million people have fled Syria since 2011 while millions of others are displaced inside the country.

PERSISTING TERRORISM

Instead of bringing about stability and reducing the levels of terrorism as promised, the War on Terror

thrust the Middle East into greater violence, chaos and insecurity.

In Syria, the U.S. intervention was launched under the pretext of fighting radical groups such as the Islamic State. However, Syrian political expert Imad Salem said the U.S. existence in the region only brought about "destruction and catastrophes."

Muhammad Omari, another Syrian political expert, said terrorist threats still exist in Syria and terrorist groups are "covered by foreign powers," which constantly provide them with arms and gear to prolong their existence and fur-

ther destabilize the country. Omari said the frequency of terrorism and extremism were much lower before U.S. forces entered Syria than after.

Hashim al-Shamma, a researcher in politics at the Iraqi Center for Legal Development, said the United States created "a failed and conflicting state" in Iraq and its "democracy banner" had not achieved anything positive. "Under the slogan of combating terrorism, the United States is trying to extend its control all over the world," al-Shamma said.

Xinhua

Integration of Russia, Belarus to continue on equitable basis, Kremlin says

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Belarus will continue integration processes within the framework of the Union State taking into account the interests of both countries, Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.



"The integration, of course, will be improving, will continue in the form that will correspond to the two countries' interests the most, in the best possible way," the Kremlin official noted.

He added that a pragmatic and realistic approach was needed to the issue of integration on the whole. "Yesterday, [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin and [Belarusian] President [Alexander] Lukashenko said that an extremely pragmatic and realistic approach was needed.

Goals are set in union programs that are virtually complete and ready for signing. This is what we will focus on, these are the main goals of the further improvement of integration processes," the spokesman said.

As reported on Thursday, at the meeting between Putin and Lukashenko in the Kremlin all 28 union programs of the two countries were coordinated.

The Russian president noted that during the talks agreements were reached on conducting a joint macroeconomic policy, the integration of payment systems, expanded cooperation on information security, in the spheres of customs, taxes, energy and in other directions.

Agencies

UN Women chief asks Taliban to respect rights of Afghan women

UNITED NATIONS

A United Nations (UN) high-ranking official on Thursday called on the Taliban authorities in Afghanistan to respect the rights of women.



"Women have a right to peaceful protest and to a life free of violence. In taking control of Afghanistan, the Taliban authorities assume a duty to respect and protect these rights," Pramila Patten, officer-in-charge of UN Women, said in a statement.

"I am shocked and outraged by the images of women in Afghanistan being whipped, hit with shock batons and beaten simply for exercising their right to peaceful protest. I stand in solidarity with all Afghan women who are fighting for the respect of their fundamental rights and freedoms," said Patten.

"I call again upon the Taliban to adhere to their duty to ensure the full rights of all women and girls in Afghanistan, to ensure the immediate cessation of this wholly unacceptable normalization of violence against them and to monitor and investigate these violations so that perpetrators are held accountable whenever and wherever such violence occurs," she said.

There can be little credibility for promises made by the Taliban authorities to respect the rights of women and girls while such flagrant violations take place with impunity.

There must be urgent action to ensure that women can fully, equally and safely exercise their right to participation in the public and political life of Afghanistan, she added.

Agencies

AU: Send vaccines to Africa and ditch unproven third shot

JOHANNESBURG

RICH nations would do better to send vaccines to Africa to help fight the global COVID-19 pandemic rather than hoarding them for third-dose booster shots that scientific evidence does not back, the African Union's (AU) top health official said on Thursday.

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) director John Nkengasong told a news conference he was baffled some rich countries were disregarding World Health Organization (WHO) advice to hold off from booster shots until more people were fully vaccinated worldwide.

"The problem we have with the third doses is: we have not seen enough science behind them," he said. "It is really confusing to me as to why we are moving towards a vast (administration) ... of the booster dose."

Wealthy countries such as Germany, France and Israel are planning to administer third shots, over concerns that immunity from the standard two-shot regimen is waning.

"We do not know at what point immunity drops to a level at which it stops offering (protection)," Nkengasong said. "Without (that science), you'll surely be gambling."

The global program providing COVID-19 vaccines to poor countries is on course to fall nearly 30% short of its previous goal of 2 billion shots this year, the international organizations running it said on Wednesday. The COVAX program also urged rich countries that had met their domestic needs to forfeit volumes rather than administer third shots.

Later on Thursday, WHO's Africa head Matshidiso Moeti reiterated calls for "wealthy countries with vaccines supplies that are well beyond their population's needs," to share them.

"We are advocating for them ... to provide these through COVAX to low-income countries," she said. "It is urgent now (for Africa) to catch up in vaccinating."

Agencies

COVID-19 variants prolong Africa's pandemic wave - WHO

BRAZZAVILLE

THE downward trend of COVID-19 pandemic in Africa is affected by the impact of transmissible variants, especially the Delta variant, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Thursday.

Weekly COVID-19 cases in Africa fell by more than 20 percent, the sharpest seven-day decline in two months, as the third wave pandemic tapers off.

However, the rate of deceleration is slower than the previous waves owing to the impact of more transmissible variants, said in a statement the WHO's Regional Office for Africa, based in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo.

The continent recorded more than 165,000 cases in the week ending on 5 September, 23 percent lower than the week before, yet still higher than the weekly cases recorded at the peak of the first wave.

"While COVID-19 cases have declined appreciably, the downward trend is frustratingly slow due to the lingering effects of the more infectious Delta variant," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Regional Director for Africa.

The more contagious Delta variant that partly fueled the third wave has been dominant in several countries that experienced COVID-19 surge, as the Delta variant was detected in over 70 percent of samples from Botswana, Malawi and South Africa, and in over 90 percent from Zimbabwe.

"The continent lags far behind the rest of the world when it comes to sequencing, with only 1 percent of over 3 million COVID-19 sequences conducted worldwide occurring in Africa," said Moeti.

To date, the dominant Delta variant has been detected in 31 African countries, while the Alpha and Beta variants have respectively been identified in 44 and 39 countries.



Contagious Delta variant partly fueled the third wave that has been dominant on the African continent.

The C.1.2 variant initially identified in South Africa has so far been detected in 130 cases in 10 countries globally, including five in Africa.

Although the variant has exhibited concerning mutations, there is no evidence that it is more transmissible or may affect vaccine efficacy, but more research is needed, according to the WHO. As Africa's third COVID-19 pandemic wave eases off, vaccine shipments to the continent continue to grow, with around 5.5 million doses re-

ceived through COVAX in the first week of September.

However, only around 3 percent of the continent's population is fully vaccinated, noted Moeti.

"To ultimately tip the scales against this pandemic, our best efforts to reduce transmission through public health measures must be met by a significant step-up in vaccine supplies and vaccinations," explained Moeti.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 7,946,662 as of

Wednesday afternoon, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

In terms of the caseload, southern Africa is the most affected region, followed by the northern and eastern parts of the continent, while central Africa is the least affected region in the continent.

Xinhua

Nigerian troops nab suspected high-profile Boko Haram militant in operation

ABUJA

NIGERIAN troops have detained a suspected high-profile Boko Haram militant and two other suspected accomplices following recent raids on hideouts of the group in the country's northeast region, the army said on Thursday.

Onyema Nwachukwu, the spokesman for the army, said in a statement that Yawi Modu,

the suspect who was on the army's most wanted terrorists list, was detained in an operation by troops in Damboa-Wajiroko road in the state of Borno.

Nwachukwu did not, however, disclosed when and how the troops nabbed the wanted terrorist but said other hideouts of the Boko Haram members were raided in Yobe, a neighboring state of Borno.

During the raids, the troops uncovered a hub for the improvised explosive devices (IED) materials used by the Boko Haram group in Damboa and Gashua local government areas of Borno and Yobe, respectively.

The troops also successfully busted a urea fertilizer syndicate known for supplying terrorists with IED materials in a local market, said the army

spokesman, adding the Boko Haram group "facing the reality of obvious depletion are desperately acquiring IED materials to make explosive devices with which to unleash terror on innocent civilians, in a bid to remain relevant and present a posture of potency."

Nwachukwu said during the sting operation conducted, the troops recovered a total of 50 Kg urea from the warehouses

in the market, while also arresting two notorious distributors.

The recovered materials are currently undergoing preliminary investigation, he added.

Boko Haram has been trying to establish an Islamist state in northeastern Nigeria since 2009. The terror group has also extended its attacks to other countries in the Lake Chad Basin.

Xinhua

China-Europe freight trains make over 10,000 trips this year

By Lu Ya'nan

THE China-Europe freight train service made its 10,000th trip this year as the train X8015 started its engine and headed for Duisburg, Germany from Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on the last day of August, carrying auto parts, electronic products, daily necessities and anti-pandemic materials.

Statistics showed that China-Europe freight trains made 10,030 trips in the first eight months this year, sending 964,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), up 32 percent and 40 percent, respectively. Loaded containers accounted for 97.9 percent of the total.

"The China-Europe freight train service is on a robust growth," said the director of the Freight Transport Department of China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. (China Railway).

According to him, China-Europe freight trains have made over 1,000 trips in each of the past 16 months, and the monthly number of trips has been kept above 1,300 since May this year. The service has made positive contributions to stabilizing international industrial and supply chains and promoting the "dual circulation" development pattern.

The 10,000-trip milestone this year arrived two months earlier than that a year before. Behind such performance were optimized management, improved efficiency, and expanded handling capability of ports.

"We have constantly optimized our working procedure, shortened the time of transshipping, improved efficiency, and made good use of digital platforms," said Gao Qiang, deputy director of the cargo-loading workshop of the train station in the border city of Alashankou, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Over 4,000 China-Europe freight trains have passed the Alashankou port this year, he added.

Since the beginning of 2021, the ports in Alashankou and Khorgos of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and Manzhouli of north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region have successively launched expansion and upgrading projects, which has significantly improved the handling capacity for China-Europe freight trains.

The west, central and east routes of the China-Europe freight train service witnessed a year-on-year growth of 37 percent, 15 percent and 35 percent, respectively, in the number of trips made by China-Europe freight trains from January to August this year.



A container is being loaded onto a China-Europe freight train in a logistics park in Hohhot, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, March 23, 2021. File photo

Besides, railway authorities also collaborated with port supervisors to facilitate customs clearance and improve customs clearance capability and efficiency, which effectively reduced the time of shipment.

Wang Bo, senior logistics manager with LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd., the world's most valuable solar technology company, introduced that the company is now seeing halved transportation time and reduced warehousing cost thanks to a freight route tailored by the railway department specifically for photovoltaic products.

"China-Europe freight trains have significantly counteracted the impacts from COVID-19 for enterprises and become a regular logistics channel for our deliveries to European clients," Wang said.

Since this year, local railway departments have enhanced communication with foreign trade enterprises to learn their logistics demand, and issued targeted plans of transportation.

Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province, had its 10th overseas station of the China-Europe freight train service after a train arrived in it from Italy's Milan this July. In June this year, a new freight route was opened between Wuyishan, southeast China's Fujian province and Russia's Moscow, integrating the Chinese tea production center closer into the Belt and Road.

Northern China's Shanxi province also launched its first freight

routes to Paris and Turkey's Mersin this summer, facilitating the transportation of dozens of commodities such as metal products, agricultural produce and electro-mechanical devices.

So far, the China-Europe freight train service has opened 73 operation routes to some 170 cities in 23 European countries, carrying over 50,000 types of cargos. It has facilitated synergetic production in and outside China, lowered logistics cost for enterprises, and offered support for the economic and social development of the Belt and Road countries.

The China-Europe freight train service is a manifestation of China's major country responsibility for what it has done to alleviate the COVID-19 pandemic - transporting anti-pandemic materials as soon as possible and as many as possible.

According to the Freight Transport Department of the China Railway, anti-pandemic materials have been taken as a priority by the China-Europe freight train service. Since the pandemic broke out, China-Europe freight trains have transported 12.8 million anti-pandemic items weighing 99,000 metric tons to European countries, making positive contributions to international anti-pandemic cooperation.

"The China-Europe freight train service will still in a high demand as the Chinese economy recovers stably," said the director of the department.

People's Daily

Japan's vaccine minister Kono enters race for next leader

TOKYO

JAPAN'S popular coronavirus vaccination minister, Taro Kono, announced his candidacy yesterday to lead the ruling party and, by extension, become the next prime minister.



Kono becomes the third candidate to throw his hat in the ring for the leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which opened up last week when Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said he would step down.

Kono, speaking at a news conference in Tokyo, portrayed himself as a reformer taking on Japan's stodgy bureaucracy, underscoring his achievements in breaking down barriers during the vaccination rollout and promoting working from home.

Known as a critic of nuclear energy, Kono sounded more cautious at the news conference, declining to be labelled "anti-nuclear".

He said nuclear power plants dormant since the 2011 Fukushima disaster, that are deemed safe, could be restarted to help achieve a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. But he said building new plants was "unrealistic".

"Nuclear power usage will eventually become zero, but if we are to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and work on preventing climate change, then we must stop the use of coal and oil first, and then eventually move away from natural gas," said Kono.

"We also need to save energy and then introduce renewable energy to the maximum extent as a priority. If there's still more that needs to be done, I think it is realistic to restart nuclear power plants that are deemed safe," said Kono.

At times criticized for his short temper, Kono said he would be an empathetic leader who "laughs and cries together" with the Japanese people and would aim to create a "warm" country where everyone who worked hard had a chance to succeed.

The winner of the Sept 29 vote of grass-roots LDP members and its lawmakers is virtually assured the premiership because the LDP has a majority in parliament's lower house.

Kono appears to have an edge over former foreign minister Fumio Kishida and former internal affairs minister Sanae Takaichi in the race.

Nearly a third of respondents in a poll by major domestic media last week said the Georgetown University-educated Kono, 58, was the most suitable to succeed Suga.

Japan must hold a general election by Nov 28 and LDP lawmakers are counting on a new leader to boost support after Suga's ratings hit record lows, undermined by haphazard handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kono, who has been in charge of a rocky vaccination rollout, has remained popular, particularly among younger voters.



Ismail Aden Rage

Rage: Dar soccer outfits should have competent TMS managers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VETERAN Tanzanian sports administrator, Ismail Aden Rage, has advised local clubs to employ competent Transfer Matching System (TMS) managers.

Rage's remarks come two days after domestic soccer giants Yanga conceded that it may miss the service of its three foreign players in the 2021/22 CAF Champions League preliminary round fixtures against Nigeria's Rivers United FC.

The players, DR Congo's Fiston Mayele and Djuma Shaaban, and Ugandan midfielder, Khalid Aucho, have not been issued International Transfer Certificates (ITCs) by their previous clubs.

In a monitored radio interview, Rage said the time has come for local clubs to employ people with vast knowledge of Information Technology (IT) as TMS managers, not just employing anybody.

He said he believes that Yanga's case is a result of a lack of follow-up by the club's leadership.

Rage reasoned that a club cannot pay signing fees and other expenses of players without getting their ITCs.

"It is very simple for one to make a decision, but following up the decision is very important, I think there is a problem in following up, how can you pay money for a player without getting his ITC?" he queried.

He said the Yanga case is typical in Africa, especially in Tanzania, where clubs' leaders treat everything as business as usual.

Rage, who is also a lawyer by profession, said although Africa may

have internet problems, completing the ITC process is a must.

According to Rage, it would have been better if Yanga complained before the CAF registration deadline than doing so after the deadline.

He revealed: "It is simple to access the ITC of a player, I remember when I was Simba SC Chairman, we faced a similar challenge with one of the players from the Central Africa Republic."

"I informed FIFA that we have internet problems in Africa... I traveled to the Central Africa Republic with my laptop and met Chairman of that country's football federation," he disclosed.

"He was with his laptop, we connected with FIFA and within minutes everything was sorted," he explained.

Clubs all over the world are embracing the TMS which helps them transact all transfers through the online platform.

The TMS platform makes it easy for both teams and regulators to trace relevant information and documents on transfers.

On Wednesday, Yanga information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said they followed all procedures so that the three players are issued their ITCs but they were not successful.

He, however, said they have taken the matter to FIFA for its intervention.

"We did all we could so that we can have the services of the three players but we are unsuccessful, now we are praying that FIFA clears the three to play against Rivers United FC of Nigeria tomorrow," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar vows to hold sway in 2021/22 Mainland Premier League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MOROGORO's Mtibwa Sugar has said it is planning to bounce back, seeking to perform well in the next season's Mainland Premier League.

The Mainland Premier League is expected to start later this month, bringing together 16 outfits.

Mtibwa Sugar's information officer, Thobias Kifaru, said with the registration they have made this season he believes they will put scintillating showing.

"We did not perform well in the past two seasons, but now we are back to normal, we have signed several players to strengthen our squad, the goal is to do well next season," he said.

Kifaru said they do not want to go through what happened to them last season, which saw the outfit escape relegation to the Championship.

Mtibwa Sugar notched an aggregate win over Dar es Salaam-based Championship outfit, Transit Camp FC, in the Mainland Premier League promotion/relegation play-offs.

The Mtibwa Sugar official stated they

are prepared to compete to achieve their goals.

The team has signed several players this season, as well as roping in others on a loan basis.

The footballers are Abdi Banda from TS Galaxy of South Africa, Ibrahim Ame and Said Ndemla from Simba SC, Isaac Kachwele from Dar es Salaam-based Cambiasso Sports Center and George Chota from Mbeya City FC.

Banda, former Simba SC fullback, is set to inject experience in Mtibwa Sugar, thanks to his professional spell in South Africa.

The towering footballer had, on several occasions, also been selected for the senior national football team.

Chota is a skilful offensive midfielder who was instrumental in Mbeya City FC's ability to hold on to its place in the domestic top-flight in the previous campaign.

Mtibwa Sugar's poor performance last season left them vainly seeking to hold on to their spot in the Premier League, trouncing Transit Camp FC in the play-offs.

Paralympic Committee set to host stakeholders' meeting

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) will tomorrow host a stakeholders meeting to strategize on how the country can have top Para athletes and win medals at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary-general, said the meeting will be held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam and National Sports Council (NSC) Acting Secretary-General, Neema Msitha, will open the meeting.

The Paris Paralympics are scheduled for August 28 to September 8, 2024.

He said as one way of soliciting views from various stakeholders, TPC has invited the NSC sports officer, sports personalities with disabilities, and sports experts, namely Jonas Tiboroaha, Joel Mwakitalu, Noel Kiunsi.

Local Para-athlete, Noorel Shariff, who represented the country at Barcelona 1992 Paralympics, will be one of the attendees.

Also in attendance will

be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Chadron Foundation, Elly Kitili, and Celia Isaac Muyinga.

Namkoveka said there will be different topics, which include good governance, and development for athletes and coaches.

How to identify talents, National Championships, and how to fully compete at inter-primary schools and inter-secondary schools games and how many women can take part in Paralympic sporting activities are the other topics to be presented in the meeting.

The other topics will be the qualification for International Paralympic games, classification, and sponsorship for national sports associations which work under the auspices of TPC.

"We will have a meeting at the Uhuru Stadium on Sunday, the meeting is for all Paralympics stakeholders and other experts have been invited," the TPC official pointed out.

Namkoveka disclosed: "The aim is to know and strategize on how Tanzania can have many athletes at the coming 2024



Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) secretary-general, Ramadhan Namkoveka.

Paris Paralympics, we want to have athletes from various sporting codes, not athletes who can simply participate but athletes who can compete."

"The meeting will help us know how we can find the money for our programs and, in the end, we will see how

our athletes can win medals at the international events," he said.

The country first competed at the 1992 Paralympics, which saw the country field table tennis player, Noorel Shariff.

Currently, seven Paralympians have represented the country at vari-

ous Paralympic Games.

At the just ended Tokyo Paralympics, the country was represented by two athletes, Saida Njopeka and Ignatius Mtwewe.

The two competed at Tokyo Paralympics on a wild card and did not perform well.



National Arts Council of Tanzania's Acting Executive Secretary, Matiko Mniko (R), speaks during the launch of the East Africa Arts Festival in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event, to be held later this year, will bring together artists from all over the East Africa region. Looking on is drama scriptwriter, Alain Kamal (L), and Kenyan actress, Mammito Eunice. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Azam FC set to host Horseed FC behind closed doors

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's Azam FC management has made it clear that preparations for the club's CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round's first leg clash against Horseed FC of Somalia have been completed.

Azam FC officials stated their squad yesterday had all of its players in the last drills.

A section of Azam FC footballers had left for their respective countries' national teams to feature in the African qualifying competition for Qatar's FIFA World Cup.

The players include Tanzania's Idd Selemam, Salum Abubakar, and Mudhathir Yahya, who were on the national squad that edged Madagascar

3-2 in the showdown's tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 7.

According to Azam FC Information Officer, Thabit Zakaria, everything is going on well as the players need to do well.

Zakaria revealed: "The practice is going on well and yesterday all players attended drills after the others that were on their respective countries' national teams' duties joined the club, we were not with them in the Zambian camp."

"The instructions we have been given are that there will be no fans in Saturday clash against Horseed FC and those who will enter should go for Coronavirus test," he said.

The match is set to be played at the Azam Complex in the city

today, with kick-off slated for 7 pm.

Azam FC is set to play both CAF Confederation Cup preliminary stage games at home.

Azam FC's opponents in the stage, Horseed FC of Somalia, have chosen Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam for the squad's home clash.

Horseed FC's leadership resorted to having their side feature in a home fixture at Uhuru Stadium following the security situation in Somalia not allowing any international game to be played at the moment.

In the preliminary round match, Azam FC will start at home at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam, then stay for a few days before playing away at Uhuru Stadium against rivals

Horseed FC.

Horseed FC's decision to play the preliminary stage's second leg of the tournament in Tanzania reduces traveling costs for Azam FC who had to travel to Mogadishu to play their return leg game.

Azam FC was in Zambia for a pre-season camp where the squad featured in drills head of the busy schedule for next season.

The club is one of two clubs, which will represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Mara's Biashara United is as well a team lined up for the continental showpiece, the club was yesterday set to lock horns with Djibouti's FC Dikhil in the first leg at the latter's venue.

Messi breaks Pele's South American goals record

BUENOS AIRES

LIONEL Messi has scored his 79th international career goal for Argentina, surpassing the South American men's record held by Brazil legend Pele.

Messi scored all three goals in Argentina's 3-0 win over Bolivia on Thursday in a World Cup qualifying match at the Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires, giving him two more than Pele, who had 77 career goals in international play.

Messi trails Brazilian duo Marta (109) and Cristiane (96) for the overall record for most goals scored by any South American player at the international level.

Third on the men's list is Messi's Paris Saint-Germain teammate Neymar, who has 69 international goals for Brazil.

"I was very nervous. I just wanted to enjoy the night. I waited a long time for this," an emotional Messi said after the match. "We won the game that was the most important thing and now we can celebrate."

Three-time World Cup winner Pele remains in hospital due to surgery for a tumor on his colon on Monday, although the 80-year-old said the operation was a "great victory."

Messi, 34, has had a memorable summer -- changing clubs from Barcelona to PSG in August and winning his first senior international football title in July. He and La Albeceleste claimed the Copa America from Brazil in a 1-0 win at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

After Thursday's result, Messi danced with his teammates and showed off the Copa trophy to the 21,000 supporters present.

"It was a unique moment [to win the Copa America] because of where and how we obtained the title," Messi said.

"There was no better way to do it and been able to celebrate the title now, it's incredible. My mother, my brothers are here in the stands. They have suffered a lot ... I'm very happy."

Thursday's game also came days after Argentina's World Cup qualifying match against Brazil -- their first rematch since the Copa final -- was controversially suspended. Brazilian health authorities entered the pitch at Sao Paulo's Corinthians Arena with the game in progress and accused four Argentina players of failing to follow Brazil's COVID-19 protocols for entering the country.

With 26 goals in World Cup qualifying matches following his hat-trick against Bolivia, Messi also passes Uruguay star Luis Suarez -- his former teammate at Barcelona -- for most among CONMEBOL players.

With eight career goals vs. Bolivia in 11 games, it is Messi's most goals against a single opponent while donning the Argentina shirt.

Messi is also his country's all-time leading scorer, having moved past Gabriel Batistuta (54 goals) in 2016. He is also Argentina's most capped player, with Thursday's match against Bolivia marking his 153rd international appearance.

Prior to the Copa America victory, Messi had lost four major finals with Argentina's senior side. They were beaten by Germany in the 2014 World Cup final and had lost in the final at the Copa America in 2007, 2015 and 2016.

He had won the under-20 World Cup in 2005 and an Olympic gold medal with Argentina's U23s in 2008.

Messi joined PSG over the summer on a shock free-agent move after two decades with Barcelona. Messi had been with Barcelona since 2001, joining the academy the year before.

Messi played 778 games at Barcelona, breaking Xavi Hernandez's appearance record in the 2020-21 season. In addition, he scored 672 goals, another club record, and helped Barca win, among other trophies, 10 La Liga titles and the Champions League on four occasions.

ESPN

European Leagues 'unanimously oppose' biennial World Cup plans

LONDON

THE body representing professional competitions in Europe, European Leagues, said on Thursday it was against FIFA's proposal of staging a World Cup every two years.

On Wednesday, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the extensive shake-up would cut out "too many meaningless matches".

European Leagues, whose board of directors included members from La Liga, the Premier League, the Bundesliga, Ligue 1 and Serie A, met on Tuesday.

"On this occasion, the Leagues have firmly and unanimously opposed any proposals to organise the FIFA World Cup every two years," the group said in a statement.

"The Leagues will work together with the other stakeholders to prevent football governing bodies to take unilateral decisions that will harm domestic football which is the foundation of our industry and of utmost importance for clubs, players and fans across Europe and the world," it added.

Earlier this week, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin warned hosting the World Cup every two rather than four years would "dilute" the tournament.

Fans from across the globe were also in favour of keeping the World Cup status quo.

AFP

How does Ronaldo fit into this Man United team?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CHRISTIANO Ronaldo is back at Manchester United and ready to wear the club's No. 7 shirt for the first time since 2009 in Saturday's Premier League clash against Newcastle United at Old Trafford. But giving the Portugal forward his old number is the easy part for United; the big challenge now is where to play him.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is the man who must solve the Ronaldo dilemma, and it's not an easy one to fix. If he gets it right, Solskjaer will give a huge boost to his prospects of guiding United to their first major trophy since 2017 and, at the same time, turbo-charge his team's goal-scoring output. But if Solskjaer gets it wrong, he risks a domino effect of disenchantment and loss of form among his other attacking players.

With Ronaldo becoming one of six international forwards in the United squad, alongside Marcus Rashford, Edinson Cavani, Mason Greenwood, Jadon Sancho and Anthony Martial, Solskjaer must not only ensure he keeps them all happy, but also get the right formula with his attacking game plan. He must also find a way to make sure that Ronaldo's presence in the team does not have a negative impact on the performances of midfielders Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba.

But while signing one of the world's most reliable goal scorers brings so many positives to United, Solskjaer needs to make it work and deploy the former Real Madrid and Juventus forward in the position that gets the best out of him and his teammates.

So where will Ronaldo play, and what are the positives and negatives of each possible position?

CENTRE-FORWARD

During his final season at Juventus, Ronaldo spent 92% of his time on the pitch in a centre-forward role, with the majority of those on the left side of a front two alongside either Paulo Dybala or Alvaro Morata. He ended up with 36 goals in 44 appearances in all competitions for Juve, so his ability to convert chances remained hugely impressive.

During his record-breaking display for Portugal against Republic of Ireland last week, when he scored two late headers to win the game and move clear of Iran's Ali Daei as the all-time leading scorer in men's international football, Ronaldo started in a central role. After a half-time tactical switch, Ronaldo moved to the left once Andre Silva introduced as centre-forward.

From that brief snapshot against the Irish, when Brighton & Hove Albion's Shane Duffy and Sheffield United's John Egan shared duties marking Ronaldo in a back three, the 36-year-old struggled to make an impact against the defenders as a lone striker. It was only the arrival of



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer must fit Cristiano Ronaldo into his team without destabilising it. (Agencies)

Silva in the second half that allowed Ronaldo more freedom to roam across the forward line.

If Solskjaer chooses to use Ronaldo centrally for United, he will have to play him alongside a centre-forward as Juventus did, and as Portugal eventually did against Ireland. Cavani is the most accomplished centre-forward on United's books, but at 34, he is neither a long-term solution nor one who could be expected to form a 40-50 game partnership with the Portugal star. Cavani would undoubtedly offer excellent qualities as an unselfish strike partner, but how often could he play?

Beyond Cavani, Martial's work rate and ability to provide a physical foil for Ronaldo are questionable, while neither Rashford nor Greenwood enjoy the central role or the stress of playing with their back to goal. So while a central role is the best option, Solskjaer's potential solutions aren't ideal.

Wide left According to Transfermarkt.com, Ronaldo has played the majority of his club career on the wide left of a front three -- 394 of his games have been in this position, and he's scored 365 goals in that role. But just 7% of Juventus appearances were from wide on the left last season. During the 2019-20 season, 51.3% of Ronaldo's Juve outings came on the left.

At 36, Ronaldo remains an incredible athlete, but he's no longer a player who will sprint down the wing and look to beat his marker by taking him on, and that is perhaps why he has now moved away from his traditional position. Yet at United, with Luke Shaw taking care of defensive duties behind him and the pace of Rashford, Sancho and Greenwood alongside him in the forward line, Ronaldo could switch back to his old position at Old Trafford. His ability to cut inside and shoot with his right foot remains undimmed, but opponents would quickly learn that Ronaldo will only go one way: inside. Still, that's been no secret for many years and few teams have discovered a way to stop him being a threat.

However, playing Ronaldo out left would have an impact on Rashford's place in the team. The England forward is still recovering from pre-season shoulder surgery and will be unavailable for at least another

month, but once he is fit, he will expect to play and wide left is where he is most effective. Using Ronaldo out wide and deploying Rashford through the middle is an alternative option, but Rashford has struggled to make a consistent impact as a central striker and his natural instinct is to drift wide and cut inside.

Playing Ronaldo on the left would be a problem because he has moved away from that role over the past 12 months, and it would also have a negative impact on Rashford.

WIDE RIGHT

Ronaldo has played 135 of his club games as a right winger, but the majority of those were during his younger days at United when he shared attacking duties with Wayne Rooney, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Louis Saha. Back then, he had the electric pace and trickery to beat a defender and cross into the penalty area, but his game has developed since those formative days.

Having spent £73 million to sign Sancho from Borussia Dortmund this summer and end their search for a top-quality right winger, it would make little sense for Solskjaer to tell Ronaldo to play in that position. He rarely played in that role for Juventus and it's a position he's unlikely to take for United, but that is not to say that Ronaldo can't still perform down the right.

He could still cut inside and shoot with his left foot, which has become almost as reliable as his right, and his delivery would enable him to whip in crosses for the likes of Cavani, Martial and Rashford. But it would be a waste of Ronaldo's best qualities if Solskjaer chose to use him wide right for anything more than a brief spell during a game.

NO. 10 ROLE

Let's be clear: Solskjaer is not going to select a team that has Cristiano Ronaldo playing as a No. 10. With Bruno Fernandes, Paul Pogba and Juan Mata all highly capable and effective in that creative role behind the forwards, it would require a major injury crisis or a pile-up of suspensions for Solskjaer to even consider it. But while Ronaldo won't start as a No. 10, the danger to United comes with his tendency to drop deep and go in search of the ball if the game is going against his team or his goal-scoring chances have dried up.

While playing for Portugal against Ireland in Faro, when he did not score his first goal until the 89th minute, Ronaldo became increasingly frustrated with the course of the game and began to drop into the No. 10 position early in the second half. In doing so, he encroached upon the space occupied by Fernandes and nullified his new club teammate to such an extent that Portugal coach Fernando Santos substituted the United midfielder after just 62 minutes.

It is no secret that Fernandes often struggles to shine for Portugal as he has done for Sporting Lisbon and United and this could be, to some extent, a direct consequence of Ronaldo's presence in the final third. Coach Santos consistently prefers Manchester City's Bernardo Silva to Fernandes, but with Bernardo operating on the wide right, he is able to perform without Ronaldo suffocating his space. If Ronaldo chooses to roam free at United and drop into Fernandes' role, there is a risk of United's most consistent player being impacted negatively. The same could happen to Pogba if the France midfielder is played as a No. 10.

such a big call? Unlikely.

CONCLUSION

Everything points to Ronaldo's best position now being that of a central striker who plays slightly to the left of a front two. That is where he has played most in recent months and where his goals have come from, but the problem for United is that they rarely -- if ever -- play with two up top.

To get the best out of Ronaldo, Solskjaer needs to use a striker who will occupy the central defenders so Ronaldo is able to move around the attacking third and score goals. He has that man in Cavani, but as mentioned earlier, it is a Cavani in his mid-30s rather than the Uruguay international in his peak years at Napoli and Paris Saint-Germain.

Initially, it is likely that Ronaldo will play on the left and drift inside, operating largely within the central channel of the pitch. But once Rashford is fit, he may move inside and that will only work if he has a Cavani alongside him. So there is no perfect solution or flawless plan, unless Solskjaer has a tactical solution that will surprise us all.

Meanwhile, Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo says his return to Old Trafford is not a vacation and he hopes to prove himself again with consistent performances over the next three to four years.

The 36-year-old Portuguese spent six seasons at United between 2003 and 2009, winning eight major trophies, then re-joined them from Juventus last month on a two-year contract.

Having been handed the Premier League club's famous number seven jersey once again, Ronaldo is hoping to reach the heights he did in his first spell at the club.

"This is why I'm here," Ronaldo said in an interview posted on United's website on Thursday. "I'm not here for a vacation [...]. Before was good, winning important things and I wore the shirt before many years ago."

"But I'm here to win again. I'm capable, me and my teammates. I'm ready to go. It's a good chance for me, for the supporters, for the club, to get one step ahead."

"I think I will be a huge thing in the next three or four years."

Ronaldo, who has scored 118 goals for United, could make his second debut for the club when they take on Newcastle United in the Premier League at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How does Ronaldo fit into this Man United team?

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hills
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hills

UJENZI

TONIGHT ON EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghul 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

Azam FC ready for CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round fixture



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the next season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's football giants, Azam FC, will be at home today, playing Somalia's Horseed FC in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round's first leg at Dar es Salaam's Azam Complex.

Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zacharia, said his team is ready for the encounter, noting they are taking a cautious approach.

He said morale in the camp is very high and all players are looking forward to the match.

"The team is ready for the encounter, it will not be easy, the Somali side may seem rookies on paper, but we must be careful as in football anything can happen," he said.

Zacharia said in today's game, they will miss the services of talisman, Prince Dube, who is at a South Africa hospital undergoing a minor operation.

"Our player, Dube, is in South Africa where he is undergoing a minor operation, his absence is a big blow to the team but there is a replacement who will deliver the expectations," he said.

In a previous interview, Azam FC Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdulkarim Amin, disclosed that they expect a tough match against the Somali opponents but he was adamant they are well prepared for the match.

Amin stated: "I think the Somali team is also the best so what is needed for us is to prepare well for the encounter... at this level, the intensity of the game is always high."

"You can't expect anything less. That's why we need to be at our best at all times during the match," he said.

He, however, sounded confident that in his squad everything is good and the morale is high.

Horseed FC head coach, Abdi Hamid Moallin, said his side needs to be worried about the Azam FC approach of the game and the club's ability to utilize set pieces.

He was, however, quoted saying they are well prepared for the encounter.

"We are here to play to get the required results, we know it will be tough, but we are ready for them," he was quoted by the media.

The two teams will play the return leg match at Uhuru Stadium in the city next weekend. The aggregate winners will progress to the next

stage and face Pyramids FC of Egypt.

In another development, Yanga's management has already confirmed that International Transfer Certificates (ITCs) for the side's three foreign players, Djuma Shabani, Fiston Mayele, and Khalid Aucho, have been delayed.

The three, for that matter, have little chance of playing against Nigeria's Rivers United FC in this season's CAF Champions League preliminary round's tie in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Yanga officials stated the footballers' former clubs opted to delay submitting the ITCs to the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Despite Yanga missing the players, the outfit's management has made it clear that they have a good squad that has what it takes to come out victorious.

Such confidence, according to the officials, has come about as the side's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, had put his players in intensive training for the assignments.

Yanga's spokesperson, Haji Manara, said: "Despite missing the three key players, the remaining players can give Yanga victory in the tie, so Yanga are not under pressure, everything will be fine."

The official stated: "In the absence of Djuma who plays in the right-back position, Kibwana Shomari will fill the void."

"Aucho, who is tipped to form a solid partnership with Mukoko Tonombe in the defensive midfield, will be replaced by Yanick Bangala Litombo, who played in midfield when Yanga confronted Zambia's Zanaco FC in an international friendly in Dar es Salaam."

"Mayele plays an attacking role, his absence will make Heritier Makambo dominate the area."

Adam Omary eyes professional football return

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

POLISI Tanzania striker, Adam Omary, has said that despite returning to Tanzania he has plans to again leave the country to play professional football.

Halfway through last season, the striker played for JKT Tanzania and later went to Libya to join Al Wehda where he played till the end of the season before he returned home due to political turmoil in the North Africa country.

He said he still thinks of playing professional football and Polisi Tanzania will keep him fit.

"When I returned home I had more than five offers, I signed for Polisi Tanzania after agreeing with them on some terms in my contract."

He said various security challenges as well as the low quality of the Libyan league led to his decision to get back.

"I was the one who asked to leave after seeing that things did not go as I expected, there were also offers from other clubs in the country but I needed to get out of Libya," he said.

The forward stated: "A lot was going on outside. However, I can't talk about that now. I know a lot has been said."

While with Tanzania Police Tanzania, Omary has continued to prepare for the new season at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza.

In the squad training under head coach Malale Hamsini and his assistant, George Mketo, the players are instructed on the accuracy of passing, scoring goals, and making good use of scoring opportunities.

The footballers are moreover seeking to strengthen the defense, while the coach recalled some of the goals the outfit conceded last season due to failure by the defenders to fulfil their responsibilities.

Mketo said in their preparations they are looking for team cohesion, discipline, fitness, and philosophy as their goal this season is to finish in one of the top three spots in the Premier League.

The coach revealed: "The basis of our team is discipline. We want to build a squad through it. You have seen our registration. We have brought more young people with whom we want to succeed."

"We have come to Mwanza because in this region there are many teams that will challenge us and test our squad in friendly games," he said.

Polisi Tanzania's new defender, Said Juma, stated the squad's preparations are going on well due to the efforts of the technical bench to ensure they form a good team to compete while the players also strive to follow the instructions.

"Preparations are going on well and our squad is good. The players are trying to make sure they are following coaches' instructions, and I hope we will do well," he said.

Last season Polisi Tanzania finished sixth in Premier League with 45 points after playing 34 ties.

Masika tennis tournament begins today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MORE than 45 junior tennis players from across Tanzania are expected to compete in this year's edition of the Masika tennis tournament which begins today at AICC Club's courts in Arusha.

Richard Fanuel, one of the two-day tournament organizers, noted the tournament has attracted junior players from Arusha Gymkhana Club, Dodoma, and hosts, AICC Club.

The coach stated there will be singles games for junior players aged six to 16.

Fanuel noted: "All preparations for the tournament are over, we are prepared for the Masika tournament which gets underway tomorrow (today) at AICC club's courts."

"More than 45 junior players have confirmed to compete at the tournament, which ends tomorrow, winners will be awarded medals," he said.

This is the first time that the AICC club hosts a Masika junior tournament. In the past, the tournament was solely for veterans.

The Masika tennis tournament is held annually to honour the late Justin Gustaph Masika, who was an ardent sports lover in the country and Arusha in particular during his life.

In a previous interview, Fratern Masika, one of the competition's sponsors, said they have decided to change the tournament to a junior event to allow more young players to play the game.

He said that they are of the view that the Masika tennis tournament will be a platform for grooming future players of the sport.

"The Masika tennis tournament is



The 2019 Masika tennis tournament's champion, Dismas Philipo Lume (R), and the tournament's second-placed player, Fratern Masika (2nd L), pose with their trophies after the showdown's culmination at AICC Club in Arusha. Others are the tennis coach, Richard Fanuel (L), and a Masika family member. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FRATERN MASIKA

held in honour of our father, Justin, who died some years ago, he was a true lover of sports and tennis in particular."

"In the past years we were organizing veter-

ans tournaments, but for the sake of promoting the game among the children we decided to make it a junior event and it will be held annually," he said.

Masika said depending

on circumstances, plans are that in the future it will be a tournament bringing together both junior tennis players and veteran tennis players.

He said due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, last year there was no Masika tournament. Dismas Philipo Lume lifted the 2019 edition of the tournament, whereas Masika finished as runner-up.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

