



CRIME



4 DAR SUSPECTS APPEAR IN COURT PAGE 3

CONDOLENCES



PALESTINE AMBASSADOR MOURNS DR REGINALD MENGI PAGE 5

MINERALS



RC CALLS FOR UTILISATION OF MARKET PAGE 6

SPORT



SIMBA EDGE MBEYA CITY IN PREMIER LEAGUE PAGE 20



Dr Mengi made me a better president

A TRIBUTE BY BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA



I have received with shock and great sadness, news of the passing on of the IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Abraham Mengi. I have known Mengi for so many years and to me he will go down the history as a staunch nationalist who stood for the general welfare of citizenry. He was one of the few national industrialists that we as a country have grown to be proud of. He was a selfless philanthropist, clearly discontented with extreme poverty within our society and was deeply disturbed by the perennial income disparity. He was simply an extraordinary statesman and a patriot who embodied so much that is best in our country.

During my presidency, Dr Mengi, through my various interactions, made me a better president. He was always true to his opinion, even if it differed with my standpoint and that enabled me to immensely benefit from his wise counsel. His role in helping the nation to nurse the still nascent private sector can never be over emphasized. He considered this the imperative of every citizen that aspires to see this country make developmental strides.

In the midst of all this, a better way to honour Dr Mengi's life of service is to continue being modest in our privileged positions while following his example to prove that the willingness to get in the arena and fight against extreme poverty is not the preserve of the government, it is open to all of us, and in fact it is demanded of all of us as citizens. We will honour him best by recognizing that there are some things bigger than money or fame or power, that they are things that are worth spending our time, energy and resources on.

At his best, Dr Mengi showed us what that means. For that, we are all deeply in his debt.

May God rest Dr Reginald Abraham Mengi's soul in eternal peace.

The author is former president of the United Republic of Tanzania



Nominated MP Anne Kilango-Malecela (CCM) signs the condolence book at Dr Mengi's residence in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is her husband, retired premier John Malecela. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Dr Mengi burial set for next Thursday

By Henry Mwangonde



THE late IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi will be laid to rest on Thursday next week at his rural home in Machame, Hai District in Kilimanjaro Region.

Family spokesman Michael Ngalo said the body of the late Dr Mengi will arrive at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) at around 2pm via an Emirates flight on Monday from Dubai.

Ngalo who is also corporate lawyer for IPP said that upon arrival Dr Mengi's body will be taken to his home and then preserved at the Lugalo Military Hospital.

"On Tuesday, the body will be taken to Karimjee Hall in the city centre where a send-off ceremony will be held before being taken to Machame on Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, various leaders have continued to pour their condolences on the late Dr Mengi with many describing him a great son of the land who was courageous enough face all the challenges ahead of him.

At his house this paper spoke to some of the mourners including Vunjo MP James Mbatia who said this was the best time to remember the good work that the late Dr Mengi has done as well as the best time to reconcile.

"Dr Mengi stood to face the reality ahead of him. He loved the people surrounding him and everyone benefited in one way or another," he said.

Former Prime Minister John Malecela who was accompanied by his wife, a former MP for Same Anne Kilango said Dr Mengi's legacy will remain for decades, as he dedicated much of his time to serve the people.

Dr Mengi died on the wee

hours of Thursday at a hospital in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

Various distinguished persons including President John Magufuli have poured their condolences following Dr Mengi's demise.

Dr Reginald Mengi was the founder, owner and Executive Chairman of IPP Limited with interests in print media, famous for The Guardian, Nipashe and other newspapers, and for electronic media (ITV, Radio One, East Africa and Capital television and radio stations).

Also under IPP Group is also Bonite Bottlers, handling Coca Cola and leading water brand, Kilimanjaro. Dr Mengi also had interests in mining, oil and manufacturing including pharmaceuticals, CNG (Rwanda), cement and automobiles assembly.



KfW, govt in 400bn/- water access loan

By Guardian Reporter

THE German Development Bank (KfW) and the Ministry of Water yesterday signed the financing agreements for implementation of a euro 171 million (over 400bn) Simiyu Region Climate Resilience Project.

The project will focus on enhancing the ability of the local popula-



Germany has been a key development partner in the Tanzanian water sector for over 25 years. We are proud to support the government on its path to ensure access to clean water for all by 2025

tion to deal with impacts of climate change by financing sustainable wa-

ter supply systems, sanitation measures and introducing improved agriculture practices to make farming more resilient.

The initiative is jointly financed by the government, Germany and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through the German Development Bank (KfW), it said in a statement.

The project which will cost a whop-

ping euros 171 million (446bn/-) will be implemented by the Ministry of Water in tandem with the Simiyu regional secretariat.

The initiative focuses on Simiyu region, where rainfall is becoming ever more unpredictable while droughts and floods have become more frequent.

KfW, govt in 400bn/- water access loan

FROM PAGE 1

"It also aims at improving living conditions by addressing areas most affected by climate change: the supply of clean and safe drinking water, sanitation and agriculture," the statement noted.

So far, water supply has been a major challenge in the region, where only about 40 percent of the urban and 20 percent of the rural population have access to clean drinking water, often from further dwindling local sources.

The project will finance the construction of a large-scale water supply system from Lake Victoria, covering three districts of Busega, Bariadi and Itilima, as well as improved sanitation and climate-adapted agricultural practices.

"Germany has been a key development partner in the Tanzanian water sector for over 25 years. We are proud to support the government on its path to ensure access to clean water for all by 2025," the statement underlined.

German Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Detlef Waechter, said the project is a milestone towards improved sanitation and climate-adapted agriculture practices. "The Simiyu project has the potential to substantially increase the climate resilience of rural and urban households, particularly small scale farmers and women," he pointed out.

Dr Klaus Müller, Director East Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and African Union at KfW said the project will secure the livelihoods of almost half a million people in the semi-arid north-west of Tanzania, a region that is particularly affected by the negative impact of climate change.

The contributions from Germany and the Green Climate Fund will be channelled through KfW, building on its long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Water. It is the first GCF-funded project in Tanzania and one of the largest grant commitments the Green Climate Fund has ever made, the statement added.



For many years the late Dr Reginald Mengi contributed his time and resources by regularly hosting for people with disabilities.

Aga Khan University, three foreign universities embark on school teachers capacity building

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Aga Khan University and three foreign universities have embarked on a research project aimed at building capacity to primary school teachers on how to assess pupils to improve learning outcomes in numeracy particularly challenging educational settings.

According to the Aga Khan University lecturer, Veronica Sarungi the ongoing project which is known as 'Assessment For Learning Africa (AFLA)' aims at developing sustainable capacity and skills to teachers in raising the standards of

teaching numeracy in primary schools through effective classroom-based assessment.

She said through the project they expecting to learn about teaching strategies and how teachers can help pupils to improve their numeracy skills especially in mathematics subject as well as to help teachers to improve their teaching standards in teaching through the practice of assessing classroom.

"The outcomes of the research are expected to teach more exciting ways of assessing numeracy levels. Assessment tools that will be used

by teachers and those will be used by primary school students," Sarungi said during a disseminating workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Apart from the Aga Khan University of Tanzania, the other universities are Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development in East Africa, Tshwane University of Technology and Cape Peninsula University of Technology in South Africa as well as The Oxford University UK who were the overall lead in the project.

AFLA project which was launched in 2016 is also imple-

mented in South Africa with the aim of raising numeracy competence standards to primary school children.

In Tanzania the project is implemented in Temeke municipality, Dar es Salaam. Already nine primary schools, over 40 teachers and more than 3000 pupils have so far been reached.

Altogether, the four university project partners, along with invited high-level Government Representatives as well as several external experts and teachers from across the region, discussed the current state of the AFLA research pro-

ject and planned future activities.

Speaking about the project, representative of the Oxford University UK, Prof Therese Hopfenbeck said assessment for learning principles must be influenced by the relevance of the context in which it is implemented.

"Moving forward from this dissemination, we must take a research perspective from the analysis of data to critically assess the outcomes and how we will use the research to engage with local communities," she said.

City woman wanted for thefts across Africa arrested at JKIA

NAIROBI

A Kenyan woman wanted in several African countries for robberies, has been arrested at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) as she awaited a flight to Dar es Salaam.

Margaret Waithira Kamande, described by detectives as a notorious robber, was arrested on Thursday night after detectives trailed her to JKIA.

"We trailed her for more than one month without raising any eyebrows and we are also planning to make more arrests. We are now targeting her accomplices," an officer involved in the investigations told the Nation.

Kamande was put in the Interpol list of wanted criminals after she jumped bail granted to her by a Zimbabwean court in burglary case.

She was later arrested together with two others in a Tanzanian nightclub.

During the arrest, they were found in possession of door master keys, bunches of house keys and a crowbar that police in Zimbabwe believe was used to break into doors.

"She is also wanted by Interpol, Zimbabwe and other East African countries after she jumped bail which was granted by a Zimbabwean court in offences related to burglary and stealing. She had been on the run until her arrest," the Directorate of Criminal Investigation said in a statement.

The arrest marked the end of a cat and mouse chase that Kamande has engaged with Interpol and Kenyan detectives for years.

Detectives said she was planning to flee the country after being tipped of her imminent arrest.

Her gang targeted Lang'ata, Kilimani, Kileleshwa and Lavington neighbourhoods in Nairobi.

She has been captured on CCTV cameras breaking into several apartments and offices in Nairobi.

In some cases, members of the gang posed as workers from water or electricity companies during their robbery missions.

"It's a well-structured gang that had succeeded in conducting deadly robberies that at times included the use of a gun when things went out of hand," an officer said.

Also two Kenyans were arrested in Harare, Zimbabwe after they allegedly broke into a hotel room and an apartment and stole property worth more than \$44,000.

Nicholas Makokha Alusala, 33, and Margaret Waithira Kamande, 32, appeared before a Harare magistrate's court on Tuesday facing burglary charges.

According to the prosecutors, on June 26, Alusala and Ms Kamande, along with another Kenyan identified as Mweru Kamau, broke into a room at Greenwood Lodge and stole a small digital safe containing \$10,000 (Sh1 million) and jewellery.

The trio is also accused of breaking into an apartment at Sterling Heights, on July 1, where they stole \$6,000 (Sh6 million), gold and diamond jewellery.

Akusala and Ms Kamande were arrested at a Tanzanian-owned pub where they were found in possession of master keys and crowbars.

The pair has been remanded in custody pending a bail hearing.

Meanwhile, President Uhuru Kenyatta has assigned 18 officials to the roles of ambassadors or Consulate generals at Kenyan embassies abroad.

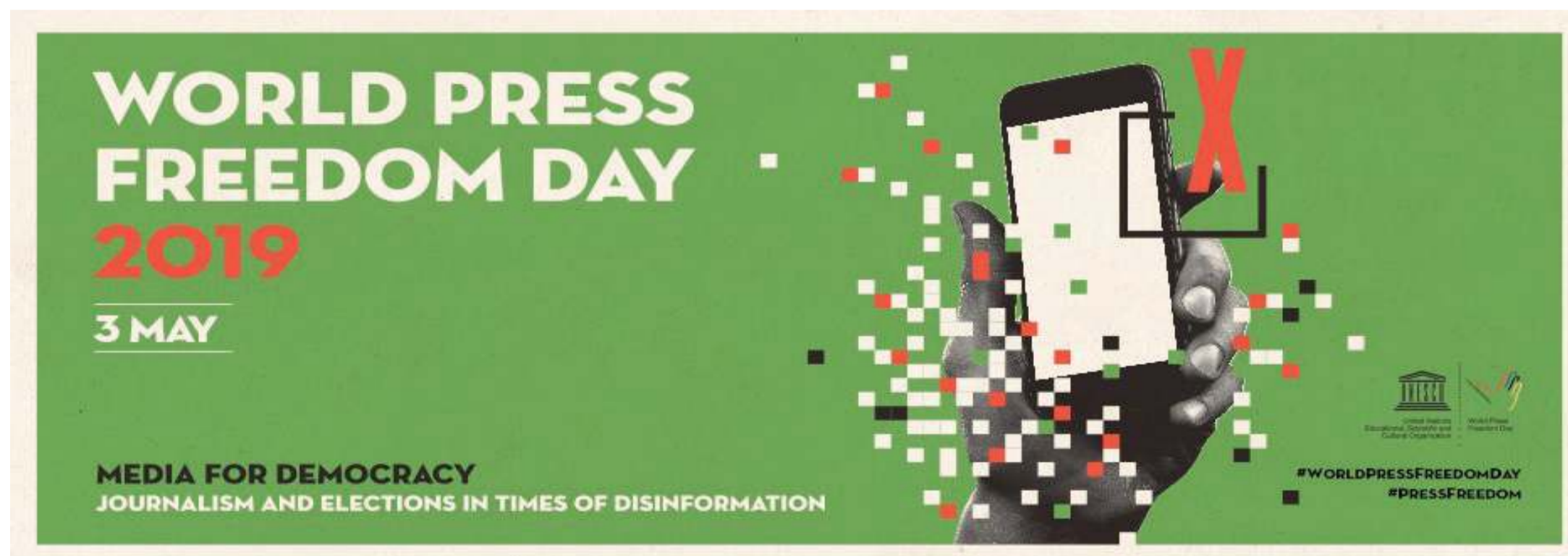
In a statement, Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma said Michael Mubea, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption, was part of the list.

President Kenyatta assigned Mr Mubea to Dublin in Ireland.

He recalled Robinson Njeru Githae from Washington, DC, in the United States and assigned him to Vienna in Austria.

Juma noted that the 18 will undergo vetting before their appointment is confirmed.

World Press Freedom Day 2019: Role of media in elections and democracy



ADDIS ABABA

The main celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2019 will take place in Addis Ababa, from 1 to 3 May 2019. The event will provide a platform for multiple actors to exchange on current issues, threats and achievements concerning freedom of the press.

The overall theme of the event will be the role of media in elections and democracy. A wide range of sessions (plenaries, debates, lightning talks, etc.) will address different aspects of the overall theme.

Some 100 national events around the world are expected to complement the main celebration.

The attendance of the UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, as well as of high-level government represent-

atives is expected. Participants will also include representatives of civil society, media organizations, professional associations, academia and the judiciary.

On 2 May, the UNESCO Director-General will award the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence of press freedom.

The event will also host an academic conference on the safety of journalists which will allow researchers from different disciplines to share and discuss recent research. This will be the fourth edition of the conference, aimed at bridging the gap between academic research, policy-making and journalism.

As in the previous years, WPPD will host a Youth Newsroom, which will bring on board young journalists and

journalism students to cover the event and expand their reporting skills.

A number of cultural events and performances will be included in the programme.

The United Nations General Assembly declared May 3 to be World Press Freedom Day or just World Press Day to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and marking the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek in 1991.

In 2018, a conference sponsored

by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations was canceled. In 2018, several news organizations joined together for an ad campaign. Slain journalists in Kabul were remembered.

UNESCO marks World Press Freedom Day by conferring the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on a deserving individual, organisation or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger. Created in 1997, the prize is awarded on the recommendation of an independent jury of 14 news professionals. Names are submitted by regional and international non-governmental organisations working

for press freedom, and by UNESCO member states.

The Prize is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper, El Espectador, in Bogotá, on 17 December 1986. Cano's writings had offended Colombia's powerful drug barons.

UNESCO also marks World Press Freedom Day each year by bringing together media professionals, press freedom organisations and UN agencies to assess the state of press freedom worldwide and discuss solutions for addressing challenges. Each conference is centred on a theme related to press freedom, including good governance, media coverage of terrorism, impunity and the role of media in post-conflict countries.

TPSF, EABC mourn Dr Reginald Mengi

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and East African Business Council (EABC) yesterday expressed sadness over the death of IPP executive chairman Dr Reginald Mengi who died in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai, at the age of 77.

In a statement, TPSF said: "With great sadness, we announce the sudden demise of Dr Reginald Abraham Mengi, who passed away on Thursday 2nd May 2019 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He was a pioneer and a prominent figure in the private sector since the late 1980s just

after the liberalization of the economy to date."

Dr Mengi (pictured) was the chairman of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (2013 - 2018) and continued to be a board member until his death.

"TPSF joins hands with the family of the late Dr Mengi in this time of grief and great loss to the nation. We would like to pay tribute to our departed colleague, mentor, pillar, brother and a friend."

"We shall remember him for coordinating the establishment of TPSF in which he was the Chairman from 2013 to 2018. Dr Mengi was also the former Chairman of the East African

Business Council (EABC) where TPSF is the focal point organization," said TPSF.

The Tanzania business body described Dr Mengi as a man who was a catalyst and a strong advisor to the government on private sector issues especially at the time when the sector was young.

"The late Dr Mengi played a key role in the coordination of an organized private sector."

The statement said: "The late Dr Mengi was a true patriot of the country and stood firm for empowerment of indigenous Tanzanians. He made a big impact as a philanthropist who stood for the less fortunate and



underserved community."

He was a successful businessman since the mid-1980s and was also one of the few pioneers who endeavoured to organize the private sector immediately after Tanzania entered the open market economy, it said.

"It is very hard to say goodbye to a man like Dr Reginald Mengi. To the family, we pray that God gives you the strength to accept His will, and that He comforts you at this difficult time. There aren't enough words that can describe the loss and the gap he has left at TPSF, the private sector fraternity and the nation at large."

He has left his legacy and he

will live forever through his book, "I Can, I Must, I Will."

EABC meanwhile described the demise of the chairman for the IPP Group of Companies, Dr Reginald Mengi, as great loss to the media fraternity, business community and the East African community.

EABC stated that the Business Council management also conveys deepest sympathy to the family, friends and the entire IPP Group of Companies for the loss of Chairman Mengi.

"Words cannot express enough this tragic loss of Dr Reginald Mengi who served as the Board Chairman of the

EABC for the year 2008-2009. He was an adorable, kind, philanthropic, intelligent, mentor, media leader, industry champion and business leader."

"As EABC Chairman, he re-energized optimism in regional integration by spearheading private sector views to be incorporated in the EAC Common Market Protocol and advocated for its signing."

Dr Mengi, during his tenure, established the East African Media Summit and related awards in a bid to raise awareness on the benefits of EAC regional integration to the East African people.

40 national laws affect performance of the media industry, says LHRC

By Correspondent Mashaka Mgeta, Dodoma

THE government has been urged to constitutionally protect the democratic progress in the country by facilitating the media to accurately report on elections.

Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) Director of Advocacy and Reforms, Harold Sungusia said yesterday when leading a discussion on national election laws, media laws and regulations; the legal framework for elections in Tanzania in the country's capital—Dodoma.

According to Sungusia there are about 40 national laws which affect performance of the media industry. He said the laws require journalists to be extra careful when reporting on different political and social issues.

Sungusia mentioned some of the laws which impends media reportage as the National Security Act under which, if a journalist is found guilty, could be subjected to 20 years in jail.

Other laws include the National Electoral Act, Cyber-crimes Act 2015, Statistics Act, 2015, Local Government Election Act, Political Parties Act and the Election and Expenses Act.

"Since we are gathered here to discuss issues under the theme of 'Media and democracy: Journalism and elections in times of disinformation' we must also consider to

empower journalists with knowledge to understand the specific laws", he emphasized.

He underscored the need for media practitioners be involved in all the election process from party primaries, elections and post elections to enable the public to make informed choices.

Chairperson of the National Consultation Meeting of the World Press Freedom Day, Neville Meena, emphasized that it was the time that media stakeholders in the country to find out the reasons behind the country's drop to the 25 position in the latest World Press Freedom Index.

The report which was published on April 18, this year by Reporters Without

Borders (RSF), put Tanzania in the 118 position out of 180 countries where the study was conducted. Last year, Tanzania was ranked 93rd out of the 180 countries.

Meena noted that the index results should not be looked from the sources, but the entire fall of the country, hence the need for public debates to come out with proper actions to improve the situation.

He mentioned the success story from Namibia when the Southern African country dropped a single position and conducted a national debate to discuss the respective issue.

"If Namibia did it just for a single position drop, why should we relax? Question Meena adding the situation portrays a negative image of our country."

4 Dar suspects appear in Court for allegedly charged with four economic sabotage crimes

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR Dar es Salaam residents yesterday appeared before Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court allegedly charged with four economic sabotage counts related to money laundry of 83m/-.

The suspects who were brought before the court's magistrate Maira Kasonde are Omary Guya (27) Kigamboni resident, Godlisten Sammast (33) from Kibamba, Froliana Kagisa (27) Buza resident and Justine Bukuku (28) also from Buza in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

Reading the charges, the State Attorney Glory Mwendu said that the suspects committed the offences between March and April 6, this year in Dar es Salaam.

It was alleged that in the first incident at Ugan-

dan yard located at Dar es Salaam port, the suspects organised and stole a Toyota VXR-V8 car worth 404,769,692/- owned by Toyota Tanzania.

In another charge, it is alleged that between April 11 and 12, this year the suspects acquired money amounting to 83m/- for Godfrey Kundi by telling him untrue information that they were the owners of the vehicle.

The suspects also allegedly to conduct money laundry crimes by selling the car at a price of 83m/- while being aware that they got it by false pretenses. The magistrate said that due to the economic sabotage crimes, the suspects were not allowed to enter a plea until the court gets special permit from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

"The economic sabotage

crimes do not have a bail, so the suspects should be taken to remand," said magistrate Kasonde.

The suspects will re-appear before the court on May 17, for another mention of the case

Congolese refugees cross illegally into Uganda, raising risk of Ebola

NAIROBI

PEOPLE fleeing violence in an Ebola-hit region of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are being forced to cross the border illegally into Uganda, risking the virus spreading into the neighboring East African nation, aid groups said yesterday.

More than 60,000 people in Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Beni region in North Kivu province have left their homes since the latest wave of armed attacks began on March 30.

While some have found legal refuge in Uganda, others are being used as human shields by armed groups who prevent them from reaching official border points to be registered, screened for Ebola and given sanctuary.

As a result, some displaced people are forced to cross illegally into Uganda - trekking through dense forests or taking boats across a shared lake - raising the risk of the virus spreading undetected.


"These unofficial crossings are placing people in search of refuge at increased and totally unnecessary risks of sexual exploitation and abuse," said Francis Iwa, executive director of Care for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), a Kampala-based charity.



His legacy lives on...

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Tanzania is deeply saddened by the news of Dr Reginald Mengi's passing. In 1971, following his completion of articles in Glasgow with Coopers & Lybrand (United Kingdom), he joined Coopers & Lybrand (Tanzania), a legacy firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers (Tanzania), which evolved from Cooper Brothers East Africa (formed in 1947). In 1972 Dr Mengi and Godfrey Urasa were the first Tanzanians to be admitted as Partners in the Tanzanian firm joining five other Partners (all British). In 1976 he became Country Senior Partner of the Tanzanian firm, a position he held until his departure in 1989. By this time the firm's leadership was fully Tanzanian - a testament to his commitment to local empowerment. His legacy will live on. May his soul rest in peace.





INVITATION TO BID

DATE: 3rd May, 2019

AIRD TANZANIA one of UNHCR implementing partner based in Kasulu and Kibondo Districts in Kigoma region, is inviting supplies/contractors to Bid according to the tender listed below:

TENDER REF NO: AIRD 011/2019 Rehabilitation and routine maintenance of 13.4 Km roads in Nyarugusu refugee Camp into two lots.

TENDER REF NO: AIRD012/2019 Grading, Graveling, new Drainageworks androads maintenanceworks in Nduta refugee Camp in one lot.

TENDER REF NO: AIRD 013/2019 Grading, Graveling, new Drainage works and road maintenance works in Mtendeli refugee Camp.

TENDER REF NO: AIRD 014/2019 Construction of generator house, Mortuary and renovation of female post-operative ward at main hospital in Nyarugusu refugee Camp into two lots.

TENDER REF NO: AIRD 015/2019 Construction of new nutrition center at health post no.5 in Nyarugusu refugee Camp.

- Interested eligible Companies may obtain further information and collect tender documents at AIRD Kasulu office or AIRD Kibondo Sub office FREE OF CHARGE, Monday to Thursday from 7:30 Am to 17:00 PM and Friday from 7H:30Am to 13H:30 PM from 3rd May,2019. MAKING SURE YOU SIGN IN THE COLLECTION REGISTER. Tender documents can also be received through e mail address aird2019tender@gmail.com HOWEVER ALL SUBMISSION SHOULD BE DONE AT AIRD KASULU OFFICE.
- Prices must be quoted in Tanzania shillings and should be inclusive of all taxes and transport costs, and shall remain valid for (120) days from the closing date of tender.
- The tender document should be presented separately into two well labelled envelopes. One for technical proposal and the second one for financial proposal with the tender name and number and the lot. Contractors should write their name also on the envelopes
- Completed tender documents are to be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes marked with Tender name and reference number and the Lot number and deposited in the Tender Box at **AIRD Kasulu** Office, the bidders must sign in the submission register maintained at the reception office. The sealed bids which should have the contractor or supplier name and the tender name and reference number with the Lot number, technical tender documents separated from the financial tender documents into two different envelopes should be addressed to,

The procurement committee-AIRD
P. O. Box 428 kasulu
Kasulu

So as to reach the office **NOT LATER THAN 13:30 Hrs. ON FRIDAY 17th May 2019 FOR ALL THE TENDERS.**

Tenders will be opened **MONDAY 20TH May** at 10:00 Hrs in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who will choose to attend at AIRD Kasulu office.

Thank you

AIRD PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

21521801

NATION MOURNS DR REGINALD MENGI



Dr Reginald Mengi's family spokesman Michael Ngalo briefs journalists on the schedule of burial ceremonies in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Vunjo MP James Mbatia exchanges greetings with Joseph Butiku at Dr Mengi's residence, Kinondoni district in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Shinyanga District Commissioner Jasinta Mboneko (2nd R) leads the district defence and security committee together with the regional press club in mourning of Dr Reginald Mengi at the World Press Freedom Day event yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



Police officers sit at Dr Mengi's house in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Prof Ester Mash Mark arrives at Dr Mengi's home in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa signs the condolence book yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Call for forest products transportation at night

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mafinga

TRANSPORTERS of timber and other forest products have appealed the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to allow transportation of the goods during the night as directed by President John Magufuli early April, this year.

They made the call here at the forestry stakeholders' workshop held in the outskirts of Mafinga town in Mufindi district, Iringa region.

"The ministry ban to transport forest products during nights has affected traders a lot, we have incurred losses as we have failed to compete in the market," said Oscar Kaduma, a trader in Mafinga.

For his part, Dr Celine Mngo, Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) acting Director of Forest and Bee keeping assured traders that the ministry was working to lift the ban so they should not worry of anything.

According to her, the ban came to control illegal timber transportation conducted by some dishonest traders

but the government is now working to address all the challenges to ensure that the business is legally conducted.

Yuda Mkoro, the Forest Development Trust (FDT) marketing officer urged timber processors to adopt modern technology used for lumbering in order to improve output and income.

He however cited shortage of raw materials as among the challenge facing the sector where she called upon forest stakeholders especially factory owners to chip in and start establishing major wood tree farms of their own instead of depending from the government owned plots.

According to him, the workshop was organized to discuss

how to improve forest sector as well as showcase modern technology for timber processing. In April 11 this year, President Magufuli suspended the law which forbids transportation of forest products during night where he directed the responsible ministry to allow the business operate for 24 hours.

The national wood market

study, timber consumption is expected to more than double from 2.3 million in 2013 to 5.2 million by 2035.

According to Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), timber and wood supply deficit in the market (not including wood energy) will increase between 2025 and 2035 to a supply gap of 3 million m3 round wood.

Palestine ambassador mourns Dr Reginald Mengi

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Palestine Ambassador to Tanzania Hamdi Mansour Abu Ali has expressed his grief and despair following the death of IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi saying the country has lost a development pillar and honest patriot who devoted his life to serve the advancement of his nation.

Addressing journalists yesterday, the envoy said the death of Dr Mengi was a great loss to the nation but mostly to him because during his life time he respected the plight of the people of Palestine and demonstrated his willingness to partner with them for the benefit of the two sides.

"A stand that came at the right time, which I will never

forget, a stand that reflects the understanding, sympathy, solidarity and close involvement. His words and actions gave me strength and hope and really made me feel welcome in this great country," he said.

The ambassador said Dr Mengi has lost a friend and dear supporter and mentor who taught him to be patient and hopeful all the time.

Ambassador Abu Ali said the world has lost an example of a hardworking human who proved that nothing was impossible on earth adding that Dr Mengi stressed that the peaceful solution was the only way for the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict.

Tanzania to succeed in agriculture it must embrace technology from successful

countries that have made great achievements in the sector such as Palestine, IPP Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi has advised.

During his meeting with the envoy in November last year, Dr Mengi said for Tanzania to succeed in agriculture it must embrace technology from successful countries that have made great achievements in the sector such as Palestine.

Dr Mengi said Palestinian technology in Irrigation if brought to Tanzania can help improve the sector which employs majority of Tanzanians but contributes little to the economy.

Dr Mengi died at a hospital, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates UAE on Thursday at the age of 77.



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals Prof. Simon Msanjila (L), Chunya District Commissioner Mary-Prisca Mahundi (2nd L) and Mining Commission chairman Prof. Idris Kikula unveil a plaque to launch the mining market in the district, Mbeya region on Thursday. Photo: Ministry of Minerals



Naurei primary school in Kiutu ward, Arumeru district receives medication from the council medical officer during the two-day exercise to provide protection and cures for schistosomiasis and worms for children under five. The event was held at the school on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Ugandan regulator suspends staff from 13 outlets that covered Bobi Wine

ADDIS ABABA

THE Committee to Protect Journalists today called on Uganda's media regulator to immediately rescind an order yesterday suspending staff from 13 radio and television stations in connection to their coverage of opposition politician Robert Kyagulanyi, known as Bobi Wine.

"This order to suspend journalists from working is a transparent retaliation against stations that covered a critical opposition figure. Ugandan authorities made this move immediately before World Press Freedom Day communicates a casual disre-

gard for the rights of journalists to report freely and the right of citizens to know", said CPJ Sub-Saharan Africa Representative Muthoki Mumo. "This order should be immediately lifted and the stations should be allowed to operate without interference".

In a statement published on its website, the Uganda Communications Commission directed the six television stations and seven radio stations to suspend their producers and heads of news and programs, alleging they breached standards by airing 'extremist or anarchic messages' and inciting and misleading

content.

The stations ordered to suspend staff are Akaboozi FM, BBS TV, Beat FM, Bukedde TV, Capital FM, CBS FM, Kingdom TV, NBS TV, NTV, Pearl FM, Salt TV, Sapientia FM and Simba FM.

The regulator did not cite specific programming, only asking the stations to submit live bulletins aired on April 29, 2018.

However, media reports and a statement issued by the Uganda Parliamentary Press Association indicate that the suspension is likely connected to the airing live of Kyagulanyi's arrest on April 29.

NOTICE TO OUR ESTEEMED CUSTOMERS

SIM CARD RE-REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

Dear Customer, TCRA in collaboration with Mobile Network Operators would like to inform you that, from 1st May, 2019 all subscribers are required to re-register their SIM Cards through biometric process (Fingerprints). Please visit our shop with your National ID or NIDA Number to facilitate the re-registration process to meet legal requirements.

Issued by:



In collaboration with:



6.1bn/- realised from entrance fees charged to tourists visiting Mafia-govt

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has told the National Assembly that a total of 6.1bn/- was collected between 2000 and 2018 from entrance fees charged to tourists visiting the Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP).

According to the Deputy Minister about 6000 tourists entered the park in between the year 2000 and 2018.

Ulega was responding to a supplementary question by Mafia lawmaker Mbaraka Dau (CCM), who wanted to know whether the government was ready to lower the entrance charges to attract more tourists in the Island.

Dau was concerned that lowering entrance fees at the Mafia Island Marine Park would attract more tourists.

The legislator urged that the government should not continue with the management and development of the marine parks, because the Mafia municipal is entitled to 30 per cent of the total collected funds.

Ulega asserted that the government is willing to review the entrance fees to the Marine Park in Mafia Island in order to attract more tourists. He said the current entrance fee to the park is US \$ 24 (55, 200/-).

The deputy minister noted that entrance fees are collected and managed by the Marine Parks and Reserve Act No 29, of 1994. He said the funds are used for development of the marine parks.

Mafia is renowned as an excellent world-class diving destination with some of the richest reefs in the world. The park covers the Southern part of Mafia Island and includes the inhabited islands of Chole, Juani Jibondo and Bwejuu and several uninhabited islets and the associated waters.

Mafia Island and its chain of small islets lie approximately 120 km south of Dar es Salaam.

ILO lauds Tanzania for ratifying core OSH conventions

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

TANZANIA as a member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 1962 has been commended for already ratifying 37 conventions including the all the eight core conventions and some OSH related ones e.g. those on working environment and safe use of chemicals at work.

Delivering his speech in Mbeya over the weekend during the occasion of marking the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, themed "Safety and Health and the future of work towards the industrial economy", Director, ILO Country Office of Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, Wellington Chibebé said that it was encouraging to note that the process to ratify

conventions Nos. 155 Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981, and C161 Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 is at an advanced stage.

"This will add impetus to the national endeavour to make the workplace safe and more decent especially as we aspire to become a semi industrialized middle income country.

Other milestones in Tanzania include: Preparation of the OSH policy for the Mainland and the subsidiary legislations has been finalized and a strategy for its implementation is already in place. Registration of workplaces is an ongoing exercise, national system for recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases is already in place and is being promoted

for employers and workers to be aware and comply accordingly; and the establishment of the workers compensation fund (WCF) which works closely with OSHA on comparability of data.

"We wish to commend the government for these positive steps and urge them to continue strengthening the inspection and enforcement systems which will ensure improved adherence to the regulatory framework and international norms," he explained.

The employers and workers should ensure fuller participation in building a culture of prevention on occupational safety and health at their respective workplaces by better observing laws, rules and regulations that would lower accident rates, and fewer work-related health

problems. "We note with interest that the provision of social protection for the most vulnerable and needy is a priority of the Tanzania's Five Year Development Plan 2016/17- 2020/21 with the theme "Nurturing Industrialization for Economic Transformation and Human Development", as well as the current ILO's Decent Work Country Programme."

He said that they had no doubt that implementation of the above measures was key to ensuring better OSH environment in the future of work as the country transformed into a Semi-industrialized, middle income Country.

Chibebé also commended the government for working closely with HIV/Aids stakeholders for launching an intensive

campaign on HIV testing which was officiated by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, in Dodoma last year.

The ILO Global Commission Future of Work Report, launched in January this year, calls for a 'human-centred' approach at work that puts people at the heart of policy-making, ensuring safe and healthy workplaces and recognize safety and health at work as a fundamental principle and right at work.

"Occupational safety and health are critical to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all, and SDG 8 on decent work and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

He said that since 1919, OSHA

was embedded in the rationale for the creation of the ILO so as to include awareness of the need for the protection of workers from the risks to their safety and health at work.

Every year 2.78 million workers die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases (of which 2.4 million are disease-related) and an additional 374 million workers suffer from non-fatal occupational accidents most of which are preventable.

"It's not only working conditions that have changed over time, it's the nature of health and safety hazards as well...and this will continue in the future", he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities Jenista Mhagama

called upon stakeholders to adhere to this year's theme, which states "Safety and Health and the future of work towards the industrial economy."

"With the government's direction towards an industrialized economy, thus, all issues related to safety and health at workplace were inevitable," she urged. Mhagama noted that as the economy changes, the government would ensure that all investors coming into the country to invest were supposed to adhere to the rules of Occupational Safety and Health at work along with their other activities.

"We are happy that all laws and regulations related to safety and health especially unnecessary fees have already been reviewed and removed to simplify the process of compliance."

RC calls for utilization of market in Namanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo has urged mineral traders in and outside the country to utilize well the newly launched market centre located in Namanga ward, Longido district for their business development.

The launch of the market comes barely a month after Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa launched the international gold bullion in Geita where he ordered all mineral-producing regions to set up government-controlled trading centres by the end of June.

"Make well use of this market, the inauguration of this centre proves that we have enough minerals to sell," RC Gambo told the traders.

He noted that the trading centres will give small-scale miners direct access to a formal, regulated market where they can go and directly trade their gold. They currently struggle to access formal gold dealers who mostly are based in Dar es Salaam and major towns.

He also urged all traders coming outside the country to ensure that they adhere to the country's laws by having all the required documents on their hands.

For his part, Longido district commissioner Frank Mwaisumbe said the market was set not only for the district's residents but for traders and buyers from across the region and the country.

Rahim Mollel, of Mundarara ruby mining said that the inauguration of the market will open door for international buyers to enter the region something which will bring huge benefits to local traders and the country's economy as a whole.

For his part, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) manager for Arusha region Faustine Mdesa reminded all those who wants to enter into mineral business to ensure that they register with the authority in order to be recognised legally.

Speaking during the launch of the Geita Gold Market in March, this year PM Majaliwa said "All mineral-producing regions should set up these trading centres as soon as possible to serve small miners."

The Premier said the Geita centre would serve as a model for others adding that all the centres to be built were aimed at controlling smuggling of gold and other minerals.

Reports cite Tanzania as the Africa's fourth-biggest gold producer after South Africa, Ghana and Mali and gold exports are a key source of foreign exchange.

It exported gold worth \$1.549 billion last year, up slightly from \$1.541 billion in 2017, central bank data shows.

The mining sector contributes around 4.8 percent to Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the government.



Karibu Tanzania Organization (KTO) board chairman Aidan Mchawe (L) addresses participants during the practical training for teachers from primary schools across the country in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

WB scales up support for Cyclone Idai hit nations to \$700 million

THE World Bank has increased emergency support for the three southern African countries affected by a devastating cyclone that killed hundreds in March to \$700 million, the lender said yesterday.

Flooded homes are seen after Cyclone Idai in Buzi district outside Beira, Mozambique, March 21, 2019. REUTERS/Siphwe Sibeko/File Photo

More than 1,000 people were killed across Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi after Cyclone Idai, the worst cyclone in decades, lashed the eastern Indian Ocean coast bringing heavy winds and rains.

New World Bank President David Malpass, who is in Africa for his first foreign trip, toured the affected areas in Mozambican port city of Beira yesterday

The bank said it was activating the International Development Association's (IDA) Crisis Response Window (CRW) to provide up to \$545 million in total for the three countries.

"This is in addition to nearly \$150 million in resources that have recently been made available from existing projects. Together, total World Bank support to the three countries' recovery reaches around \$700 million," the bank said.

Mozambique, which was hardest hit by the cyclone, would receive \$350 million in CRW financing to re-establish the water supply, rebuild damaged public infrastructure and support disease prevention, among other things, the World Bank said.

Malawi would get \$120 million in financing, while the lender intended to provide an exceptional allocation of up to \$75 million to select United Nations agencies to support Zimbabwe.

The bank said it was still assessing the impact of Cyclone Kenneth that slammed the island nation of Comoros and then northern Mozambique last month.

"The World Bank Group is working closely with our partners to help the population recover from these terrible storms, build back stronger than before, and improve countries' resilience to natural disasters," Malpass said in a statement.



A petty trader communicates while looking for potential customers at Mwenge in Kinondoni municipality, Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: John Badi

Rwanda Budget: Citizens call for more focus on hands-on skills, job creation

KIGALI

WITH unemployment rate among Rwandans hovering around 14.5 per cent, some citizens have urged the Government to scale up.

Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Uziel Ndagijimana, presented to both chambers of Parliament the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) for the next three fiscal years.

In the budget framework paper, Ndagijimana said the Government intends to spend Rwf2.8 trillion in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, with 56.9 per cent of the budget going into economic transformation programmes, including job creation.

While the Government's target is to create over 214,000 decent and productive jobs every year, the minister told MPs on Tuesday that 213,198 new jobs are set to be created in the next fiscal year.

He said the jobs will be created as a result of a collaborative effort with the private sector, including through industrial attachments and internships.

Job creation will also be boosted through availing training for special groups like women and the youth, and facilitating them to access loans from banks so

they can implement their business ideas.

The Government also seeks to boost job creation by promoting value addition in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Minister Ndagijimana also said the Government was looking to create more jobs that respond to the labour market needs.

Jonas Kundwanayo, a security guard in Kigali, told The New Times on Tuesday that more investments are needed in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) subsector to impart more people with employable skills.

"I think the next budget should be focused more on creating jobs for both the educated and uneducated Rwandans. More investments in vocational training would afford more people the ability to create jobs," he said.

Rachel Dusabimana, a 25-year-old casual worker from Nyagatare, Eastern Province, urged the Government to move faster and avail toolkits for people with different skills.

"Because we have so many unemployed people in the country, we need to focus on job creation. Those with skills for different jobs can be given materials they need to do the jobs," she said in an interview.

Mafinga villagers have all reasons to smile as construction of dispensary nears completion

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS at Mafinga village in Wanging'ombe district, Njombe region have all reasons to smile after a 65m/- project to construct a dispensary in the area is nearly to be completed. The facility which is constructed by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) with

funds from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is now at 98 percent of construction and is scheduled to be completed next month. Speaking recently when a team of journalists visited the project, Kipengere ward executive officer, Martin Ilomo said that that for over 20 years, villagers have been grappling by

travelling over 40 km to access health services to lack of the important facility in the village. "Am very grateful to the government for introducing TASAF, I am sure that once the dispensary is operational, challenges such as distance, cost and time will no longer be a problem," he noted. Ilomo also said that the dispensary is not only going to be

helpful to them but also neighbouring villages like Mwiramba and Igosi. He said once completed, the project will increase the overall well being of the residents by helping pregnant women have safer births, providing preventative interventions and health education. He urged village authorities and residents to ensure

that the implemented project is sustainable and supervised for the services to last long and benefit future generations. Rafikinjema Mgaya, one of the villagers said the dispensary is going to bring a lot of relief to the residents of the village especially women who had to travel up to 45 km or above to acquire health services. The beneficiary pointed

out that she is among women who once gave birth while on the way to the health centre due to long distance something which eventually pushed her to a 20,000/- fine. Wanging'ombe Development Officer of Wanging'ombe, Joyce Mdemwa noted that the dispensary is an outcome of the villagers who identified the project

and participated in clearing the land and collected stones for construction. Mdemwa who also serves as the TASAF Coordinator observed that the dispensary is completed by over 90 percent and it is remained with only small touches and installation of the machines before it becomes operational.

Former BP and Equinor executive to lead the African Energy Chamber in Angola

Johannesburg

THE African Energy Chamber has appointed Sergio Pugliese as President for Angola, effective May 1st 2019. In this role, Pugliese will lead the chamber's activities in Angola and support the Chambers' partners in unlocking value in Angola's multi-billion-dollar oil and gas market. Pugliese will also lead the chamber's efforts to support the government of under President João Lourenço in its current drive to restructure and strengthen Angola's oil & gas sector. Pugliese is a seasoned entrepreneur and Angolan oil executive with multiple years of experience gathered working with international oil companies BP and Statoil. He also founded and is the Executive Chairman of Angola-focused oil & gas services companies Motiva LDA and Amipa LDA, and Africa-focused investment company AIDAC. "Sergio's credentials, experience and knowledge of the oil and gas industry



Legal and Human Rights Centre managing director Anna Henga briefs journalists on human rights issues in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

make him the ideal addition for the African Energy Chamber as we increase our footprint in oil producing countries", declared NJ Ayuk, CEO of Centurion Law Group and Executive Chairman at the Chamber. "The Chamber notably continues to receive tremendous interest from the international oil

community about Angola since the election of President João Lourenço", commented Verner Ayukegba, Senior Vice President of Public Policy. "From the passing of dedicated gas regulations, the promotion of marginal fields, to the organization of a new oil-licensing round overseen by the newly-created Pe-

roleum Agency, Angola has made a tremendous comeback as one of Africa's hottest oil & gas frontier". It is with pleasure and a great sense of responsibility towards Angola and the Africa Energy Chamber that I am assuming this new function", declared Sergio Pugliese. Angola is reforming very fast

and the need to provide accurate information and guidance for investors on doing business in Angola is growing. As African Energy Chamber develops its network in Angola, it looks forward to facilitating more investment into the market for the creation of good paying jobs in Angola.

Indian high commission has organised a ten-day Ramayana photo exhibition

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN High Commission has organised a ten-day Ramayana photo exhibition to demonstrate human relationships, cultural values and social relationship from Indian perception.

The photo exhibition will enable Tanzanians and Iranians to learn the Indian history the thing which help both countries to think on how they can enhance peace, love and harmony in their respective countries.

Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sandeep Arya said this yesterday at the inauguration of the exhibition "Ramayana in Persian Nastaliq" held at Indian high Commission in Dar es Salaam.

He called on Tanzanians and Iran residents in Tanzania to visit the exhibition that demonstrate cultural values and human relationships while touching upon the art, architecture, ornaments and costumes of previous period.

"Ramayana for us represents central messages of human values, social relationships, righteousness of action and other important facets of human life and the exhibition is free of charge," he said.

The exhibition contains 50 photographic images from 300-year old Persian manuscript of Ramayana containing paintings and text. The Persian manuscript of Ramayana encapsulates the composite culture of India and its many facets.

It demonstrates essential cultural values, human relationships and righteousness while touching upon the art, architecture, ornaments and costumes of that period.

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dar es Salaam, Mousa Farhang expressed thanks to the Indian high commission for organizing the exhibition.

"All paintings that were demonstrated here were written by Persian language and we can understand them maybe more than 80 percent of what was written there and this show the relationship between two countries and the Islam is went to India Via Iran," he said.

He said the language is still there since they speak Persian language in India. He said the relationship between the two countries is deep in the history and that such events are meant to cement it.

"I think in Tanzania also when we go to the history, we can't see the Tanzanian people, nation has its roots in the history in the region between its neighbours. Tanzanians always can says I have my own culture this is very important that Tanzanian culture can effect also its neighbours, this is very important to us," he said.

RC orders contractor of water project in Kilolo district to complete it on time

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Kilolo

IRINGA Regional Commissioner Ali Hapi has ordered the contractor of the water project in Kilolo district to complete it on time so that people can access clean and safe water services.

The water project will serve residents of Ilula and Itunda villages in Kilolo district.

He ordered the contractor to work day and night in order to complete the construction of water tanks within two months.

The Regional Commissioner is in a two days visit to inspect various development projects in the region as well as listening to various complaints from the residents.

The region consists of five districts councils namely Iringa municipal council, Mufindi district council, Mafinga town council, Iringa district council and Kilolo district council.

He said that Ilula town in Kilolo district is currently experiencing water problems where access to clean and safe water is 47 per cent but the completion of the water project will increase availability of the precious liquid.

The construction of a five thousand litre water tank will reduce water woes at Ilula town whereas the access to clean and safe water services will be 75 per cent.

Hapi said the central government through the Ministry of Water has allocated 1.4bn/- for the construction of the water tank.

Ilula Water Manager Eng Enoch Ngyoyinde, said once completed the project will increase water availability from the current 47 per cent to 75 per cent.

He added that the contractor is under the supervision of Iringa Urban Water Supply Authority (IRUWASA).

Rairi Juma Sungwa, a resident of Ilula said they have been experiencing water problems for many years as tape water comes out once after every two weeks.

"We thank the government for this water project since it will improve water services as well as enable people to more engage in economic activities. Women were spending too much time in search of water", he noted.

Another resident, Jackson Kaovela said some Ilula residents have moved out to other places due to water problems. He said most of them have relocated to a village near the Lukosi river, only because they can easily get water.

Kilolo District Commissioner, Asia Abdullah, promised to closely supervise the project to ensure it is completed on time.

"Water is life, it one of the most important matters for human beings and other living organisms", said the DC.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Telephone: +255 26 2324455
Fax: +255 26 2323233
Email: ps@mow.go.tz
Website: www.mwtc.go.tz
In replay please quote:



Moshi Avenue,
S.L.P 2888,
40470 DODOMA,
02.05.2019

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

- The general public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from **DAR to KAGERA** by vehicle with registration number(s)
- T 785 CAD/T 166 AND of S.S.F CO.LTD** The journey is scheduled to start on **06/05/2019**:
- Special load dimensions:

Length	-	21.80 m
Width	-	3.24 m
Height	-	5.20 m
- Route From **DAR to KAGERA via MWENDAKULIMA**
Travelling time will be only day time (06:30 am-06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Telephone: +255 26 2324455
Fax: +255 26 2323233
Email: ps@mow.go.tz
Website: www.mwtc.go.tz
In replay please quote:



Moshi Avenue,
S.L.P 2888,
40470 DODOMA,
02.05.2019

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

- The general public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from **DAR to KAGERA** by vehicle with registration number(s)
- T 776 CAD/T 220 DCT of S.S.F CO.LTD** The journey is scheduled to start on **06/05/2019**:
- Special load dimensions:

Length	-	18.50 m
Width	-	3.00 m
Height	-	5.20 m
- Route From **DAR to KAGERA via MWENDAKULIMA**
Travelling time will be only day time(06:30 am-06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 4 MAY 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Fertility control the result, not precondition of fast economic growth

SINCE the United Nations came into existence on 24 October 1945 three world conferences on population have been held. The first conference, Bucharest World Population Conference, dates back to 1974. Ten years later Mexico City hosted the second International Conference on Population. The last world conference, the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, was held 1994. Two other conferences on population have been convened. The first one in 1954 in Rome, the second in Belgrade in 1965 and in 1999 a Special Session of the General Assembly on Population was held in New York. It follows that this subject is critical, and experts through the decades have sought of ways to control population growth by all means.

In 1974 when Tanzania was preparing for the Belgrade conference a student essay competition was held, organised by the Arts faculty at the University of Dar es Salaam, in an attempt to build early awareness among students in secondary schools on the matter. The country's demographic calendar, or history, shows that population has been significantly higher each census, held after ten years roughly. After the country conducted a census in 2012, where the population roughly stood at 45million, experts now routinely put the country's population at around 50million, on the basis of growth trends noted at the time, and partial surveys don't indicate significant change.

The country's performance in relation to population growth is neatly reflected in other African countries as their populations have grown by leaps and bounds since independence, in which case the rather massive efforts at education on population growth went unheeded. Meanwhile the more industrialised states around the world face rather painful pressures of aging

populations, where far sighted leaders in those countries encourage immigration of young and qualified people from abroad while youthful often unqualified groups join campaigns against immigration. The latter trend has branched off into neo-Nazi movements, especially given the terror threats.

Without having to restart debates about psychological determinants of limiting a family to two children, there is undeniable experience that countries which attain middle income levels start having lower population growth, and high income levels nearly levels off population growth. The United States has a fairly significant rate of population growth owing to its cultural mix and fairly liberal immigration policy, while Europe and the Far East have more pronounced problems of aging populations, which tends to affect a country's outlook or mood on global issues. In the long run however most culturally restrictive countries start experiencing significant immigration.

That means various groups in society need to take note of the demographic parameter in solving problems, and see what adaptations ought to be made owing to population growth. For instance there are many areas in the country where traditional land is no longer capable of being divided among younger generation, pushing emigration to towns or cities. Similarly, with 80 per cent of the country living in villages, can farming be mechanised to produce foods or fruits for the 20 per cent in urban areas? With most agro-sector taxes removed, how sustainable is the tax base? With the United States the leading agricultural producing nation in the world but with only 2.5 per cent of its population living off agriculture, how shall we reduce farming population to join industry? Is it by building industries or giving land to peasants, they sell and get capital to shift?

Why industrial parks to transform Africa's economy crucial

AN industrial park is a portion of a city that is zoned for industrial use rather than residential or commercial needs. Industrial parks may contain oil refineries, ports, warehouses, distribution centre and factories. Some industrial parks offer tax incentives for businesses to locate there, such as tax increment financing.

Industrial parks can combine a mix of production, transportation and storage facilities in the same area. This can include chemical plants, plastics manufacturers, airports, food and beverage processors and steel manufacturers. The upgrading of infrastructure at industrial parks in Africa will go a long way in transforming the economy and creating jobs.

The Industrial Parks will no doubt go a long way in creating conducive environments for the companies to create job opportunities and grow the economy of the areas.

The development of economic infrastructure promotes economic transformation and the establishment of industrialists in productive sectors of the Continent's economy by way of shared value and wealth creation.

In pursuit of industrialization will go a long way in addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment in townships and rural communities in Africa.

In the same vein, Tanzania's Kiluwa Group has signed business contract with the China-Africa Economic and Trade Commission to supervise construction of modern industrial parks in eight African countries.

Construction of the industrial parks is meant to create conducive investment environment and facilitate establishment of businesses by putting in place required infrastructures.

Speaking during the signing ceremony held in Beijing recently, president of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Com-

mission Huan Zhaojin said the Tanzanian company will be facilitating the commission's investment activities and manages construction of industrial parks in the respective African countries.

Zhaojin named the African countries as Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Msumbiji, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Zimbabwe.

"We aim at creating business friendly environment and facilitate investments within the continent. We will put in place necessary infrastructures for establishment of industries", said Zhaojin adding the demand for industrial parks in African countries is high.

Managing Director, Kiluwa Group, Mohamed Kiluwa said the company is determined to manage construction of the industrial parks due to its long time experience in investment issues across Africa.

Kiluwa noted that since the fifth phase government gears at making Tanzania an industrialized nation, the company will continue to support the government towards achieving its industrialization strategy.

Indeed increased investments in Tanzania will open up employment opportunities for Tanzanians and improve skills of the many youth working in the industries.

We commends Kiluwa Group and the government as well as several institutions and agencies for facilitating investments. The Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has been supportive to investors and ensuring they go through proper channels and respect country laws.

The China-Africa Economic and Trade Commission with its headquarters in Beijing, China was established in 1991 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main objective of the commission is to look for investment opportunities and facilitate establishment of businesses outside China.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk
General Line: 022 2700735/8
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising
Manager Sales & Marketing:
Kauthar D'souza
Cel: + 255 767 223311 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com



A look at castration-resistant prostate cancer

By Edward O. Amporful

THERE feedbacks to the piece on prostate cancer (PrCa) screening. I would like to share this particular feedback. I was diagnosed with prostate cancer a few years ago. I opted for hormonal therapy which comprised of three monthly injection with Goserelin injection. Recently I was informed that the prostate cancer was castration resistant and therefore has to be on another regime. I was aghast when I learnt that my prostate cancer was castration resistant. Throughout my therapy with Goserelin injection, I did not realize that I was more or less being castrated. Prostate cancer is primarily fueled testosterone. Treatment is primarily of androgen deprivation either through surgical removal of the testes or chemical/hormonal therapy. In either options the net effect is a low amounts of testosterone and therefore less fuel for the cancer.

In responding to the enquirer. I looked at a publication by Petrylak et al in the American Journal of Managed Care titled "Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer: Addressing Treatment Challenges, Managed Care Aspects, and Integration of Existing and New Therapies Into Practice", December 2013.

In males, the probability of developing invasive prostate cancer (PrCa) increases with each decade of life, with a risk that rises from 1 in 37 males between 40 and 59 years of age to 1 in 8 males for those who are 70 years and older. Improvements in the early detection of PrCa have led to a substantial reduction in the number of patients who are diagnosed with advanced stages of the disease.

Increased rates of screening for levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) have led to a notable decline in late-stage diagnoses of PrCa. Analyses of data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) data base between 1992 and 2008 identified a 75% reduction in late-stage disease incidence.

Notwithstanding these improvements in early detection, PrCa continues to be a leading cause of mortality among males, invariably due to the emergence of hormone-refractory, androgen-independent disease. Although higher levels of PSA at baseline in a patient is indicative of greater risk for metastatic disease or subsequent disease progression, it should be noted that PSA remains an imprecise marker of risk. PSA alone may not predict the onset

of metastatic disease. Other factors, such as PSA doubling time, patient life expectancy, and comorbidities, may often prescribe when hormonal therapy is utilized.

In patients with advanced disease, androgen deprivation blockade, which may be achieved pharmacologically or surgically, leads to the regression of metastatic disease in the majority of patients.

With androgen blockade, patients with high-risk, locally advanced, or metastatic disease may experience long-term regressions in disease activity, but advanced PrCa virtually always progresses to castration-resistant PrCa (CRPC), which is also known as androgen-independent PrCa (AIPC).

CRPC is clinically detected by recurring symptoms, a rise in PSA levels, progression in soft tissue disease, or progression on bone scan. The rise in PSA occurs in the context of the patient having castrate levels of serum testosterone (

The management of CRPC presents a number of difficult clinical challenges. Systemic therapeutic options for this stage of PrCa have been very limited in the past. In the past, for patients with PrCa who failed hormonal therapy, traditional treatments were only approved for, and used primarily to provide, symptomatic benefits. These therapies included bisphosphonate agents to protect the

skeletal integrity in patients with bony metastases, secondary hormonal manipulations, such as ketoconazole combined with hydrocortisone. There were also addition of antiandrogen chemotherapy apy and beta-emitting radioactive isotopes.

The mechanisms of androgen independence in CRPC have been researched extensively, including pathways that are mediated by the androgen receptor (AR), as well as the pathways that bypass this receptor. In addition, the mechanisms that are common to all cancer types underlying malignant proliferation, angiogenesis, metastatic spread, and the avoidance of immune surveillance also play major roles in the progression of PrCa to castration-resistant disease.

Prostate function and cellular differentiation depend upon androgen receptor signaling (ARS), a component that is also critical in the progression of PrCa. The AR is expressed to some degree in almost all primary PrCAs, and there appears to be a relationship between the AR on a cellular level, primary prostate



Diagnosed With Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer: What's Next?

tumors and metastatic lesions, and the subsequent progression of disease to CRPC. While ADT is highly effective, PrCa eventually becomes unresponsive to hormonal treatments, leading to CRPC.

CRPC cells are capable of adapting to low circulating levels of androgens, and AR can become hypersensitive and activated by these low androgen levels, as well as through various other cellular mechanisms.

Measurement of PSA is the most commonly used evaluation to detect progression of disease, and rising levels of PSA may indicate dysfunctional AR activity in CRPC. It needs to be stressed that patients can progress in bone and in soft tissue disease in PrCa without a significant rise in PSA.

AR amplification/overexpression is considered one of the major causes of disease progression to CRPC. Mutations in the AR gene have been detected with higher frequency in patients with castration-resistant, distant, metastatic tumors compared with patients who have lower-grade primary tumors or those who have been treated solely with castration.

Most identified mutations are associated with increased functional activity of the AR, leading to a receptor that is more sensitive to low levels of androgen or can be activated by other steroids (e.g. adrenal androgens, estrogens, progestins) as well as antiandrogens that are designed to treat PrCa.

Proliferation of PrCa can also be regulated via indirect pathways through growth factors (insulin-like growth factor-IGF, transforming growth factor-TGF- β , fibroblast growth factor-FGF, and epidermal growth factor-EGF). These growth factors have been demonstrated to stimulate the expression of androgen-responsive genes, in spite of androgen levels.

AR signaling may also be increased in CRPC by the re-

pletion of endogenous AR agonists within the tumor tissue itself. While dihydrotestosterone (DHT) levels may be similar or depleted in CRPC tumors when compared with those of untreated (pre-castration) tumors, intratumoral testosterone levels may be similar to untreated tumors in patients with castration-resistant disease. CRPC tissue can have levels of testosterone similar to that of androgen-stimulated benign prostate tissue.

Data have shown that even small amounts of prostatic DHT, such as those that may result from adrenal androgens following castration, may stimulate protein synthesis of tumor epithelial cells. Intra-tumoral conversion of adrenal androgens and the steroid synthesis/conversion of adrenal precursors are other potential pathways that are implicated in the progression of PrCa to castration-resistant disease, and are currently undergoing investigation.

CRPC is usually diagnosed by a progressive rise in serum PSA levels, an identified progression of preexisting disease, and the appearance of new metastases. Bone is the most common site form metastatic spread of cancer, which can develop whenever cancer cells relocate to the bony skeleton from the primary tumor site, making bone metastasis of special clinical concern in patients with PrCa.

Bone metastases have a marked impact on quality of life (QOL) for patients with advanced PrCAs they can cause severe pain, hypercalcemia, and increased risk of fracture. Further, metastases (spread of cancer) to the spine are common, and can lead to spinal cord compression and neurological impairment.

Asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic CRPC without prior docetaxel therapy; Index Patient 3-Symptomatic mCRPC with good performance status and no prior docetaxel therapy; Index Patient 4-Symptomatic mCRPC with poor performance status and no prior docetaxel therapy; Index Patient 5-Symptomatic mCRPC with good performance status and prior docetaxel therapy; Index Patient 6-Symptomatic mCRPC with poor performance status and prior docetaxel therapy. These present other aspects of the knotty issues in the management of prostate cancer.

Benefit of China-Africa partnership in African regional infrastructure development

By George Muntu

THE history of China Africa partnership in infrastructure development is usually traced back to the grand TAZARA project which stretched for 1860km from Dar es Salaam to the Zambian town of Kapiri Mposhi. The railway was constructed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC). The TAZARA was the first regional infrastructure project that linked central and Southern Africa Countries with East Africa thereby laying the foundation for closer inter-state cooperation, trade and tourism between and amongst countries within these three African regions. The TAZARA Railway which was established in 1968 has hugely contributed to regional integration through linking and connecting countries within SADC, COMESA and EAC.

Since TAZARA, China has been funding a lot of regional infrastructure projects, or mega projects at national level that have a regional impact or that feed in to major regional infrastructure corridors in sectors of road, rail, ports, air transport; energy; water and telecommunications.

All these projects have helped to boost economic growth in many African countries and have provided jobs for many Africans, especially young people, have also increased income for many Africans, but also helped to significantly reduce transport problems and increased access to water and electricity especially in rural areas.

At the fifth ministerial conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing China from 19-20 July 2012, the Chinese Government agreed to support and partner Africa in financing the construction of regional infrastructure and trans-national project under PIDA and the Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative so as to achieve connectivity and continental integration through Chinese enterprises and financial institutions.

According to the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation White Paper for 2010, by the end of the year 2009, China had provided assistance for construction of over 500 infrastructure projects in Africa.

In addition to that, the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation white Paper for 2013 also revealed that the Chinese Government approved concessional loan worth a total of \$11.3 billion for 92 African project between 2010-May 2012 alone.

The increased presence of Chinese enterprises on the continent is a true sign of the involvement in infrastructure development.

By the end of the year 2017, there were more than 10,000 Chinese Companies operating in Africa across all sectors. These projects are financed through grants, zero interest loan and concessional loans facilitated by largely through the China Export Import Bank and the China Development Bank.

A lighting of the following projects completed or being undertaken by the Chinese will assist in proving an appreciation of the contribution by the Chinese Government to deepening and widening regional integration in Africa through regional or trans-national infrastructure development as committed within the FOCAC framework.

The Merowe Hydropower Dam Project or (Hamdab Dam)

The Dam was constructed along the Nile River in Northern Sudan with an installed electricity generating capacity of 1250 Megawatts. Construction of the Dam started in 2004 and completed in 2009. The total cost of the project is valued at \$1.8 billion where

The Chinese Government through Export-Import Bank financed 249 million Euros with the Sudanese and Arab financial Institutions also contributed to the project.

In addition to the Merowe Dam, the Chinese Government has facilitated the financial and or constructed of several hydro-and solar energy projects in many African countries such as Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Botswana, Central African Republic (CAR), Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),



The Unity Bridge

Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe among others.

Most of the above energy projects are very vital not only in assisting the benefiting countries to meet their energy demands, but also go a long way in assisting countries realise regional energy vision and milestones. The energy infrastructure development projects by the Chinese have boosted the potential and generating capacity of national power plant to feed into their respective power pools.

Given the limited energy currently being traded within, between and among African regions, Regional energy infrastructure development through the China-Africa partnership have integrated Africa quicker whilst assisting the continent to realise its development goals.

The Unity Bridge Construction Project between Mozambique and Tanzania

The two-lane 720 metres long Unity Bridge is a cross-border infrastructure project linking Tanzania with Mozambique across the Ruvuma River.

The project was undertaken by Geo-Engineering Corporation through funding from the Government of Tanzania and Mozambique at a total cost of \$26 million. The bridge was inaugurated in May 2010 and facilitate easier and shorter transportation route for trade in goods and services between Southern Africa and the East Africa community thereby significantly reducing the cost of doing business in the region.

This Unity Bridge, has greatly contributed to development within the Mtwara Development Corridor in Tanzania and Mozambique.

The benefit if the bridge is not limited to bringing closer the people of two countries but also the whole of Africa with all the resulting positive spins towards development.

The West-East Expressway in Algeria; Chinese Corporations have been also involved in deepening regional integration through infrastructure development in North Africa.

In the 1216km long 6-lane West-East Expressway which connects Eastern and Western Algeria passing through the country's 24 provinces, the China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC), and China Railway Construction Company (CRCC) constructed the longest section (the Central and Western Section) which measured 528 km.

The project's key role as key components of the Trans-Maghreb Highway has contributed hugely to the physical integration of North Africa and feed into the Algeria-Lagos Highway which is part of the Trans-Africa High-

way networks that link African capitals with major production areas to promote continental integration. Over and above the West-East Expressway Project in Algeria, The Chinese government has been involved in the funding and construction of the 84km long Addis Ababa Expressway in Ethiopia in 2010 linking Adama in Central Ethiopia, South-East of Addis Ababa with the Ethiopia Capital City.

This project was constructed by the Chinese Communication and Construction Company (CCCC) at a cost of \$600 million and was funded through a \$350 million concessional loan from China Export-Import Bank.

The Addis Ababa Expressway is part of the Cape Town-Gaborone-Cairo Highway section that feeds into the Trans-Africa Highway network.

Through loans from Chinese banks, several roads have been completed in many African countries.

According to China White Paper on China- Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation 2013, the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) was involved in the road re-construction in Angola whilst the belt Uen-Gulcaio section of the Belet Uen-Burao Highway in Somalia was completed through Aid.

Countries such as Angola, DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Sudan, Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia have also benefited from extended financial aid for road infrastructure development.

Most of these roads are feeder roads into the main development corridor being pursued at regional level by African RECs. This will strengthen Africa pursuit of the Almaty Declaration and program of action, August 2003, which implored the need to improve transit transport connectivity as one of the mechanism of broadening regional integration, expanding regional markets and enhancing intra-regional trade.

The Nouakchott's Friendship Port (PANPA) in Mauritania

The Autonomous Port of Nouakchott (PANPA) also referred to as the Friendship Port Project in Mauritania's capital in the Atlantic Coast was undertaken by the Chinese enterprises through a preferential loan of 2 billion Yuan from the China Export-Import Bank.

The project involved the extension of the Nouakchott Port by 900 metres, upgrading of petroleum berths, water break point and port petroleum infrastructure. PANPA is a key infrastructure not only for Mauri-

tania as it handles over 90% of its import, but also for the West African region as a whole.

The Port is serving as a hub of regional importation and exportation in the envisaged Trans-West African Coastal Highway that links twelve ECOWAS Member States from Nouakchott Mauritania to Lagos through Dakar and it feeds into the Pan-African Road Network extending from Mauritania to the Port of Mombasa Kenya.

This has deepened and widens both intra-ECOWAS trade and economic cooperation whilst also opening opportunities for inter-regional cooperation and integration between ECOWAS and EAC.

The Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway Project in Ethiopia and Djibouti

The Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway Project is another regional infrastructure Development Project in which the Chinese are involved in. The 756km Railway is connecting The Ethiopia Capital with the Port of Doraleh in Djibouti. The Railway is assisting in intensifying economic exchanges and facilitates more trade between EAC and ECOWAS.

The Maputo International Airport Project

Mozambique is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the massive Chinese investments in the African aviation industry infrastructure. The phase 1 of the Maputo International Airport Rehabilitation and Expansion Project began in 2007 and was completed in November 2010 with funding from the Chinese Government through a concessional loan of \$75 million. The project involved the construction of new cargo and passenger terminals, control tower other supporting airport facilities. After completion, the Maputo International Airport doubled its carrying capacity from 300,000 passengers to 600,000 passengers.

The Chinese Government had committed to develop the air transport infrastructure as evidenced by several airport upgrading projects such as the Victoria Falls Airport Expansion Project in Zimbabwe, the new terminal construction at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Kenya and expansion of terminal II of "Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar etc.

China has been a key in providing substantial assistance to regional infrastructure development project across all sectors in Africa mainly through bilateral low-interest loans. China's approach to investment in infrastructural development in Africa differs from that of the West. While the latter emphasises the model of democracy first; China believes in driving the economic growth of the receiving country through infrastructural development. Chinese businesses are placing a greater emphasis on the multiple social effects of investment, including in terms of technology transfer, capacity building and ultimately improvement of living standard.

China is now contributing a substantial share of infrastructure investment to close the infrastructural deficit in Africa across all sectors namely road, rail, energy and ICT. China efforts will definitely accelerate regional integration through establishing the foundation for industrialization and trade liberalization. Chinese finance is on a scale large enough to make a material contribution towards meeting Africa's vast infrastructure needs. As such, it offers an important development opportunity for the region.

The Author is an independent writer based in Dar es Salaam.

Email: cleophacegeorge@gmail.com



Merowe Hydropower Dam

Liberia: Peace and stability in danger

By Abednego Davis

GREETINGS TO ALL CDCians: Now, as a CDCian, for the very first time, I, Joshua Sackie, Jr., want to publicly and officially inform you all and the Liberian people wherever you may be that I am the only man on this our planet we all call earth, especially here in Liberia, who under the Liberian Citizens Movement for George Weah's Presidency brought together Liberians from all walks of life 14 years and seven months ago at the Monrovia City Hall to discuss about Ambassador George Manneh Weah becoming President of Liberia.

Because of that single action I undertook, Ambassador George Weah was encouraged and convinced to enter politics and he has run two times, in 2005 and 2017 to be president of Liberia. By entering politics, George Weah achieved two other remarkable feats for himself. George Weah went back to school and completed his high school education in the United States, entered college and graduated with a bachelor and masters degrees, and later on, 2014, he became a senator and, in 2017, Senator George Manneh Weah was elected as President of Liberia.

Besides, I was the first National Youth League Chairman when the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) was being formed in 2004. Then, in 2005, I became elected as the first National Vice Chairman for Administration and after the 2005 presidential and legislative elections, I was the first Acting National Chairman of the party for over two years after J. Cole Bangalu resigned as chairman. Also, worthy of mentioning is that I was a member of a 3-person high-power CDC delegation along with former Chairman Orishall L. Gould and the late Senator Geraldine Doe-Sheriff, who returned to Monrovia from Accra with Ambassador Weah to respond to the call of the Liberian people to run to be President of Liberia.

In essence, I have had the opportunity to serve CDC in more positions than any other CDCEAN has ever done or will ever do.

So, I am the real and indisputable founding father of CDC, whose work for the party imposes on me a great and special moral duty and, in some way, the political authority and justification to engage in discussions and matters relating to CDC and the government of President George Manneh Weah.

Because I am the visionary and founding father of CDC and former national executive committee member, the problems, successes and perhaps weaknesses and even failures of the government of President Weah are also my problems, failures and successes, even though I have no job in the CDC government led by President Weah.

In 2004, when the Late Emmanuel Davies, Tubman T. Saywon, others and myself started mobilizing the Liberian people for George Weah to run to be president, Weah was not looking in the direction of wanting to be president of Liberia. As I learned later, George Weah's desire at that time was to run to be the president of the Liberia Football Association when Madam Zetta Wesley was already president of the LFA. Weah's intention was squashed by the LFA authority. However, because it was destined that George Manneh Weah will be President of Liberia, a man with a group of Liberians from nowhere and without any prior relationship and discussion with Ambassador Weah or any of his associates caused Ambassador Weah to accept to run to be President of Liberia. Thus, George Weah's entry into the politics of Liberia and the contest for the Liberian presidency became extraordinary and exciting.

When we started the George Weah campaign for president, I personally took a public service announcement on Ambassador Weah's King's FM radio station, to invite Liberians for a meeting on September 15, 2004 at the Monrovia City Hall. I paid for the announcement to be aired for five days.

After two days airing of the announcement, the announcement was stopped and I returned to the radio station and inquired why. I was told that George Weah had not said to anyone he wanted to be president, hence, a call from his house ordered that the announcement be stopped, and it was stopped and my money for the remaining three days for not airing the announcement was offered back to me. However, I refused to accept the balance money in good faith, because the two days of airing the announcement had done the job of in-



forming Liberians about the Monrovia City Hall meeting and the turnout was excellent.

Then a friend of mine took me along with him on the night of September 14, 2004 to Weah's house for a party and, as I arrived at the party, the crowd shifted its focus on me when someone introduced me as the man who was spearheading the Weah for President campaign and was inviting Liberians at the Monrovia City Hall for a meeting. I remembered someone said to me, "you are in Ambassador Weah's yard; do you want to meet him?" I replied negative. "Not tonight," I said. "I am here for a party. Tomorrow, September 15, 2004 is the meeting at the Monrovia City Hall and, if Ambassador Weah comes, I will meet him."

Accordingly, on September 15, 2004, over 800 Liberians from all over Liberia, including Sylvester Williams (commonly known as Carica), at the time Weah's best buddy, led a horde of Weah's friends to the Monrovia City Hall meeting. Weah's radio station, which stopped airing the announcement, turned out for the meeting. During the meeting, I said to the Liberian people and the world that George Weah will be president. Within few days, CDC was founded immediately and Liberians began to work for George Weah to become President of the Republic of Liberia, a task that has been accomplished.

And because President Weah has become president through an action I started more than 14 years ago, then, I, Joshua Sackie, Jr., cannot and will not continue to sit back any longer and as a mere spectator and hearer of the barrage of criticisms, accusations and allegations from the press and some Liberian people against the policies and actions of President Weah and his government; likewise, from the government of President Weah against the press and act like I know absolutely nothing about how CDC was founded and how Ambassador Senator George Manneh Weah became President.

So, to you, the Liberian people and the press, I have heard almost all of your concerns, the alleged corruption and scandal regarding the missing 16 billion Liberian dollars and the USD 25 million for clearing excess Liberian dollars from the market; the high prices of goods and cost of living; the general mismanagement of the Liberian economy and the violations of the constitution and laws of Liberia; as well as President Weah and his officials' acquisition of properties in the midst of all these allegations and accusations, especially, during these tough times of economic hardship.

In any case, this is what I have to say as the founding father of CDC.

With regards to the 16 billion dollars report, the CDC-led government under President Weah accepts fully the report and will hopefully act as the report requires. But, let us understand that in the business of government, every government will experience a major crisis either created by the government itself or there will occur unpredictable, unforeseen and unavoidable crisis and such

crisis could occur either at the beginning, middle or end of the life span of a government. The Weah-led government has encountered its first major and national financial crisis and is still dealing with the results of the crisis and, perhaps, another crisis could just be around the corner. Who knows what next? No one knows – such is life and the business of governance, but, the better is always hoped for and preferred.

For example, in 1979, the late President William R. Tolbert, Jr. and his government were grabbed by the infamous April 14, rice crisis and defeated by the crisis which led to the subsequent overthrow of the Tolbert government and Tolbert's death.

Similarly, Samuel K. Doe and his government were faced with the crisis of alleged attempted coups and invasions and such led to Doe's subsequent removal from office and his brutal death.

Also, Taylor and his government were faced with the crisis of the failure to realize when to stop acting as a rebel leader and act as the democratically elected president he had become.

Yet he, too, was removed from office undemocratically and forced into exile in Nigeria and presently Taylor is spending the rest of his life in a prison in London, while his oldest son, Chuckie, is also spending the rest of his life in jail in America for crimes against humanity.

Only former President Sirleaf and her government's share of national crisis, the 2014 Ebola virus crisis, did not result in her removal from office. However, the Ebola crisis did not spare the Liberian people and government.

Ebola victimized the Liberian people so much that over 4000 persons died and it disgraced the Liberian health sector by exposing the inefficiencies and weaknesses of the health sector. It also caused Liberia to be quarantined and disconnected from the rest of the world and the Liberian economy was thrown into trouble, decline and hardship. To date, the Liberian economy is still trying to recoup from the negative effects of the crisis.

Even, the great United States of America had the credit crunch and housing crisis not too long ago.

And so, President Weah and his government have had the 16 billion dollar financial crisis and many Liberians had wished President Weah would have been negatively implicated in the report. However, President Weah said truthfully he knew nothing about the financial scandal and the report has proven him to be right, as he said the truth.

The Government, the Press and Peace

The government of President Weah and the press have been at each other's throats for a while. As such, I would like to say that no matter what the criticisms, allegations and accusations and wherever they are coming from, one thing is now very clear, our country's dear peace and stability the United Nations and the Liberian people fought to restore and preserve over the last 15 years are once more under serious threat. That is less than two years since UNMIL left Liberia and the responsibility to protect, preserve and sustain the peace has come to be more on the shoulders of the government than any other organization, as well as Liberian citizens.

Only the government was elected and is paid to keep the country peaceful and stable. The press and the Liberian people, who are not rewarded financially, are generally facilitators and all they desire from their government officials who are paid to keep the peace is at least peace itself, and not nervousness or high blood pressure. If any government cannot give its people total peace, then of what good is the government?

But, to keep the peace, there must be respect for the constitution and the rule of law and no strong president; no bad or weak president; no strong government and no strong-man business as usual. Only mutual respect and understanding are required between the government and the press, because the government and the press are inseparable. Understandably, teeth and tongue can make palaver.

We have seen how our negative idea or view of a strong president or strong government has kept our country in conflict, backward, destroyed and underdeveloped and Liberians and their past presidents killed, especially, Presidents Tolbert and Doe who were killed like rats living on the dump site and their dead bodies buried without graves and their mansions were abandoned, looted, destroyed and, in the worst case scenario, burnt.

Almost in similar manner, we saw how President Taylor was forced into exile in Nigeria and returned to Liberia in handcuffs like an orphan and flown into prison in Great Britain to spend the rest of life. And like his colleagues before him, former President Taylor's properties and belongings have undergone the same fate like theirs. Worst of all, where are their families and monies, today?

With such consideration and experiences, only the life and living of the Liberian people must be the highest matter of concern, for

now, for any president.

Fortunately, for the goodness of the Liberian people and herself, so far, only former President Sirleaf largely learned from the lessons of the past three presidents before her and about the sweetness and bitterness of the Liberian people and their stirred-up anger and wickedness as her guide and warning until she was able to peacefully end her presidential tenure of 12 years; though carrying out her bite-and-blow pieces of development and regularly paying government workers their monthly salaries.

For those who have eyes to see, let them see, and ears to hear, let them hear and justly and rightly do the Liberian people's work while there is still some time, for the time has started to run out.

As the government and the press are at loggerheads, the government must understand and accept that the government is like someone living in a glass house; the government cannot throw stones. Even if someone wants to throw stone at the government without a cause, the government must say "hold it and stop, let us talk," because the press can never be the loser in the game of trading criticisms, accusations and allegations.

However, under the current political atmosphere, a new and strange brand of politics never seen before on the Liberia political landscape is happening. Some members and institutions of the press have been coming together like a strong opposition political force and even calling for a protest or demonstration against a one-year-old government and throwing criticisms and making accusations and allegations, which is of course a part of the goods the press sells. But again, where there is smoke, there is fire. Without the press exercising care and being responsible and truthful about happenings, such could become counterproductive and a major source of conflict which will not be in the best interest of the Liberian people, the Liberian government and the Liberian economy. The press must also remember that "words are also like bullets, they too can destroy and kill".

Mr. President, if UNMIL were still in Liberia, they would have engaged all the parties to this looming conflict and found a solution long time ago. But, UNMIL departed Liberia almost a year ago and Liberians are now left all by themselves to solve any conflict we may have.

The United Nations and others international bodies and countries, which worked here in Liberia and struggled for 15 years to restore peace to the country, may

be ashamed of Liberia and worried about the level of threats towards Liberia's democracy, peace and stability. Notwithstanding, Mr. President, Liberians were taught and they learned about conflict resolution and peace-building during the 15 years of solving our own conflict and building our own peace. Therefore, the current conflict between the press and your government is too petty for us as Liberians who obtained peace the hard way, through practical experiences and now have such vast and well-informed knowledge about peace, to sit by idly and allow the current conflict to rise at level 2 and derail our country's peace and stability.

From my own analysis of all the criticisms, accusations and allegations from the press against your government, the press has good intention if and only if the press is factual and truthful about its desire to keep you alert and awake and help you to succeed; because you have proven over time that you were born to win and succeed, no matter what.

In your lifetime, you have succeeded at almost anything you decided to put your hands on and do. Therefore, you must succeed as president of the Liberian people and the Republic. You cannot and must not fail under your life's crown as president of the Liberian people.

Even, some members who are thought of as the gurus of the media and the most hardened critics against your government and yourself, have stated publicly again and again that their sole intention, in the face of all the criticisms, allegations and accusations and fuss, is to ensure that you and your government succeed. But, the way to succeed is to work with a broad spectrum of the Liberian people – those who are your close, good and competent friends, as well as those who are not your friends. And when the press has an issue, give the press a little time and a listening ear and do not allow the concerns and issues of the press and their monitoring and evaluation of your government to reach a conflict level, which jitters the Liberian people, before calling for a meeting.

Mr. President, I remember, when the National Election Commission declared former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the winner of the 2005 presidential election, I know for a fact that you were advised and encouraged to declare yourself also as the winner of the 2005 election and president of Liberia and you were told to let your chips fall where they may. But you refused and said, "for peace sake, I accept the result," and CDC was immediately nicknamed, "accept the result". I believe, now, that for you and CDC accepting the result for peace sake is one reason why you were made Liberia's Peace Ambassador in addition to other contributions you made for peace for Liberia.

Furthermore, when you headed CDC as the major opposition political party for twelve years, you were very strategic, important and helpful for the maintenance of peace and stability in Liberia, and in fact, history remembers that you flew and went for the General Assembly Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, hand in hand with President Sirleaf, to tell and convince the world that Liberia was, at last, at peace.

And so, Mr. President, If, you could do all of that as a unique African opposition political leader who did not incite your followers and call for demonstrations against your opponent, former President Sirleaf and her ruling Unity Party government, for the sake of peace, can you do the same for yourself and your own government? I have no doubt in your abilities and capacity to do the same and even better for your own presidency and your government. Yes, you can!

So, no sacrifice for peace for Liberia can be too great and too hard for you to make for peace to reign and endure in Liberia.

UN Security Council fails to protect women and girls in conflict

By Mazeda Hossain, Natasha Howard and Neha Singh

LAST week, the UN Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to ending sexual violence in conflict.

However, after heated debate, the adopted resolution omitted words that many of us working with survivors of sexual violence during humanitarian emergencies understand as crucial - 'reproductive and sexual health' rights and services.

These words proved too controversial for the USA administration, which threatened to

veto the resolution if included.

The UN estimates that 25.4 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2017 as a consequence of conflict and persecution - the largest increase ever seen in a single year.

An estimated 1 in 5 displaced or refugee women and girls have experienced sexual violence, with the actual figure likely to be far higher as sexual violence is under-reported due to fear of stigmatisation, spousal abandonment, or persecution from authorities or communities.

For survivors of sexual violence in conflict, reproductive and sexual healthcare is essential. Complications from sexual violence are known to include traumatic genital injuries and tears, debilitating rectal and vaginal fistula, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, unwanted pregnancy and long-term psychological trauma (such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression).

Minimum services for survivors currently includes access to services for the clinical management of rape, emergency obstetric and newborn care,

sexually transmitted infections and HIV, contraception, and safe abortion care. Offered through a survivor-centred response, they have been shown to help survivors of sexual violence rebuild their lives after trauma.

They are part of an evidence-based minimum package of essential sexual and reproductive health services that humanitarian experts and agencies have agreed should be provided in all humanitarian emergencies.

We cannot risk the reduction or loss of crucial services, which are already frequently

under-funded, due to political expedience.

By omitting these four words and thus refusing to explicitly express support for access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services in conflict, the international community is failing to ensure the right to healthcare and dignity for millions of innocent victims.

While some may continue to provide appropriate care to survivors, without any wording on reproductive and sexual health, other donors and governments will not feel the pressure of collective agreement that the reso-

lution could have provided, to ensure this necessary healthcare is embedded in programmes and funding. For those affected by sexual violence, a lack of treatment or care will lead to worsened physical and mental health, and even the risk of death from the many complications of acts inflicted upon them.

Considering earlier commitments to sexual and reproductive health by the UN Security Council, it is unacceptable that Resolution 2467 was approved without reference to sexual and reproductive health.

Its adoption suggests that all

member states who approved it are not committed to the provision of essential sexual and reproductive healthcare for survivors of sexual violence in conflict-affected settings.

As members of the Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and alongside dozens of our colleagues, we strongly condemn this decision.

Omission of these four words represents a major ethical and human rights setback, and ultimately threatens the wellbeing, rights and dignity of women and girls around the world.

The Caster Semenya ruling reinforces false notions of sex as binary

By Hannah Newman

THE decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport to reject Caster Semenya's appeal against the IAAF's new testosterone policy is both deeply disappointing and extremely concerning.

The policy requires athletes competing in women's track events from 400m to one mile to ensure that their testosterone level is kept below five nmol/L for at least six months prior to competition. This means that Semenya, and other athletes who have naturally occurring high testosterone levels, will be forced to take medication to artificially reduce these levels in order to be able to continue competing.

The question is how will athletes who do not fit neatly within societal expectations of them now be treated?

Indeed, the media was awash with comments at the time of the initial sex verification tests in 2009 concerning the way Semenya looked. This was used as a basis to suggest that she was

not the sex that she claimed to be.

This implies that Semenya looked "incorrect" as a female athlete and as a woman, sending a profoundly disturbing message regarding society's continual insistence on enforcing prescribed ideas as to what a woman "should" look like, and what a woman "should" be.

The notion of sex as binary is one that is known to be false. Ask any endocrinologist.

But sport, instead of acknowledging and embracing the spectrum of difference in biological sex that is now understood, maintains a need to place people into one of two boxes under the guise of creating a level playing field and being fair.

Those that fall outside of that, such as intersex people - also described as those with differences of sex development (DSDs) - are therefore positioned as the "other". By preserving this outdated and dichotomous view of sex, competing in sport becomes a privilege only to those who are deemed to fit "correctly" within it.

In the context of a sport that has been the centre of many doping scandals, and in which the status of an athlete as natural is revered so highly, why are we now asking them to make changes to their natural bodies?

As sport continues to repeatedly ask those athletes who do not fit within the sex and/or gender binaries to alter themselves until they do, perhaps it should instead be questioning why those binaries still exist as the primary method of dividing athlete categories.

While the potential alternatives to this categorisation may not be obvious, and implementing any alternative will not be fraught with resistance, it does not mean that they are not worth trying to find.

Sport is a celebration of the physical body and its capabilities. This should be an inclusive celebration that provides opportunities to all variations of the physical body, not one that only prioritises two predetermined ideals of what it "should" be.



South Africa's two-time Olympic 800m champion Caster Semenya (C) arrives at the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Monday February 18, 2019. (File photo)

AU mission trains Somali security officers on human rights

MOGADISHU

THE African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) said Thursday it has launched a training program on human rights for Somali security forces to enhance their compliance with international human rights law.

Kareem Adebayo, AMISOM's

head of the protection, human rights and gender unit, said the week-long training will focus on child rights and the dangers of recruiting children as soldiers in armed conflict.

"Central to those mandates is the fact that AMISOM should discharge its mandate with due respect to the International Hu-

man Rights Law and the applicable International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and key to this is that children will not be used as fighters in Somalia, either by AMISOM or by Somalia security forces," Adebayo said in a statement issued in Mogadishu.

The training will be attended by officers from the Somali Na-

tional Army (SNA), the Somali Police Force (SPF), the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) and line ministries, both from the federal and states governments. The training, which is being conducted in accordance with the constitutional provisions of Somalia and AMISOM's mandate from the African

Union and the United Nations, comes as the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan takes center stage.

"The training reflects the Somali government's commitment to uphold the policy that children belong to school and deserve a peaceful and conducive learning environment," War-

same Mohamed Hassan, direc-

tor general in the ministry of defense, said. The AU mission has intensified training programs on human rights to prepare Somali security forces to assume the country's security responsibility in accordance with the dictates of the Somalia Transition Plan and UN Security Council resolu-

tion 2431 of 2018.

The UN resolution calls for a reduction of uniformed personnel and increased presence of AU police in the country to support the expansion and maintenance of law and order as security responsibilities are transferred to Somali security forces.

In a Kenyan refugee camp, business ideas but little access to credit

By Anthony Langat

IT'S lunchtime, and customers are streaming into Gilbert Munyeneza's small café off one of the busy main streets of the Kakuma refugee camp in northwestern Kenya.

It's a simple corrugated iron structure with wooden benches, but there's a flat-screen TV blaring Swahili music videos and it offers a decent menu of chapati, ugali (maize meal), or rice, served with a choice of beans, beef, chicken, or vegetables.

The café, just three months old, is an example of how refugees' lives can be changed dramatically just by having access to more flexible financing.

Refugee camps like Kakuma are effectively large towns with their own mini-economies. Although remote, Kakuma has a population of more than 185,000 people. Refugees here come from many backgrounds, and money circulates as they take on casual odd jobs - from construction to washing clothes - or start small businesses.

Gilbert exemplifies the entrepreneurial drive of so many refugees, despite their circumstances. He was only 12 when he escaped the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed nearly one million people. Separated from his father in Burundi, he went to a refugee camp in neighbouring Tanzania, before finally arriving in Kakuma in 2000.

The 36-year-old has tried his hand at sev-

eral small businesses since being here. The first, after saving enough money to buy his own bike, was as a bicycle taxi rider. Then he opened a second-hand shoe business. But at each turn, he was frustrated by a lack of capital to expand.

Gilbert had opened a bank account in town and had been saving money there in the hope that a good credit record would make it easier to get a loan. But when he finally applied in 2017 he was turned down because he didn't have an identity card - just one of the bureaucratic hurdles that frustrate refugees, reinforcing their dependency and locking them out of contributing to the broader Kenyan economy.

Then Gilbert learnt of a "financial inclusion" programme run by Action Africa Help International, or AAHI. He applied for a loan and after a few weeks his café was up and running. "Music is one of the ways in which I attract customers," he said. "That is why I used part of the first loan on entertainment to attract customers. I bought solar panels, a battery and a television set."

Opportunity denied

Commercial financial services tend to ignore the refugee market - despite its potential profitability. That limits refugees' ability to safely bank the small savings they make, remittances from friends and family abroad, or to tap into business opportunities.

"Lack of identity documentation is of-



A makeshift barber shop in Kakuma camp.

ten mentioned as an issue," noted Micol Pistelli, a financial inclusion expert at the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR. "However this is not specific to refugees and can be solved by adding some flexibility to the financial service providers' policy requirements."

AAHI, a regional African-led initiative, gets around this problem. But as the only NGO currently providing credit to refugees in Kakuma, it can't cope with the number of loan applications it receives - another

indicator of refugees' enormous drive to get on.

"The key challenge we are facing is the inadequate capital to satisfy the demand for credit," said Bruno Owiti, project officer at AAHI. Since the NGO launched its programme four years ago, it has disbursed the equivalent of \$226,505 to a total of 869 businesses.

When it's short of funds, AAHI sometimes refers applicants to a commercial bank in town - the same one that turned down Gil-

bert - but they rarely approve the loans. Apart from the ID issue, there's also work permit and tax registration requirements, which are further barriers to securing credit facilities.

Mobile money This leaves refugees with the semi-alternative of mobile money. This enables individuals to store and manage money in an account linked to a mobile phone, an innovation very familiar in Kenya, whose Mpesa service has been a world leader.

With mobile money, customers can access credit services through digital credit/mobile lending. A report on digital credit, which has greatly expanded Kenya's market for credit, notes that "loan-eligibility decisions are automated based on a set of rules applied to available data, and not on human judgment".

But refugees still need IDs to register their SIM cards - and UNHCR documentation is insufficient. That has led to creative fixes, with some refugees paying local Kenyans to use their IDs instead.

"With the SIM cards, they can then register for mobile banking and loan applications. They then apply for loans from the many digital credit service providers," Bruno told The New Humanitarian. But should they default, the person whose ID was used is liable.

Better examples

Kenya hosts 475,412 refugees and asylum seekers - the vast majority camp-based and aid dependent. Greater flexibility over accepting refugee identification would represent a new untapped market for financial service providers.

In Rwanda, a study by Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Africa, a UK-funded non-profit, found that refugees represented the same level of profitability for financial service providers as a typical low-income Rwandan account holder.

While recommending that the National Bank of Rwanda adds refugee registration documents as valid "Know Your Customer" paperwork, it noted that some financial service providers have already proactively sought and obtained approval from the NBR.

The World Bank has also recommended reforms that should enable alternative means of registration for refugees so they can access digital credit and mobile money services.

And as aid agencies move from food assistance to cash-based transfers for refugees, the demand for financial services is now even more apparent. Simply put: "Refugees have a strong need for comprehensive financial services to support their livelihoods," the FSD report concluded.

Shedding light upon the gravity of the concerns that Cameroon as a nation must tackle

By Special Correspondent

IT is easy to draw conclusions on what has been done, especially when it comes to criticising and taking the commitment to do better. Those who think that Cameroon ought to be different might have arguments to justify their points, but there are moments in the life of a nation when the common interest must be visible for all to see. The reactions of the Head of State, parliamentarians and the government through the Minister of Communication have come to shed light on the gravity of the concerns that Cameroon as a nation must tackle.

Reading through the different expressions of indignation over the scramble for Cameroon, the underlining theme has been that there are hidden forces both at home and abroad which want to get their own share of what Cameroon can offer. In the process, the various actors seem to forget that the survival of the country has to be pivotal otherwise people might end up placing their own bullet in their legs thinking that they are hurting another person.

To spend time saying that it is them against us will, in the final analysis, look too simplistic an argument to defend because the pain and suffering of one part of Cameroon has over the years proven to have ripple effects across the entire nation.

Taking the recent hurdles that Cameroon has had to manage like the influx of refugees from Nigeria and the Central African Republic, the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Far North Region and the impact of the upheavals in the North West and South West Regions have left no citizen of this country indifferent.

Such a common concern being demonstrated by sons and daughters of Cameroon are also evident in the spill-over effects of the 7 October 2018 presidential poll that got interwoven into the situation in the North West and South West Regions and has continued to attract national and international attention today. Repeated calls for dialogue, exhortations by different government officials that Cameroon is endowed with functional institutions capable of tackling the internal squabbles faced by the country seem not to attract unanimity.

Yet, the final decision will have to be in the hands of citizens of the same country no matter the differences. Modern communication tools might have come with the advantage of accepting whoever wants to express an opinion, but the art of self-restraint and common good call for a critical look at the values that unite and build instead of seeking to destroy what already exist in total disregard of the consequences.

Rather than perceive the unfolding challenges faced by Cameroon as signs of a deluge, whether sitting in the country or abroad, the sensible and objective conclusion could be that the national heritage will be what will remain after all the actors must have agreed to either disagree or to settle their differences. For now, the biggest challenge to defend the fatherland lies in the hands of citizens of this country.

Seating on the fence, as a Cameroonian, to think that the failures and successes recorded in the country will in the final analysis be attributed to others might never be the right attitude especially when it comes to the safeguard of the common good or national heritage.

Cameroonians may have to take a second reading of President Paul Biya's post in the social media on Monday 22 April 2019, in which he pointed out that: "We have only one Fatherland. It is our duty to defend it and lead it; all of us together, on the paths of greatness and prosperity for everybody".

Cameroon, officially the Republic of Cameroon is a country in Central Africa. It is bordered by Nigeria to the west and north; Chad to the northeast; the Central African Republic to the east; and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Biafra, part of the Gulf of Guinea

and the Atlantic Ocean. Although Cameroon is not an ECOWAS member state, it is geographically and historically in West Africa with the Southern Cameroons which now form her Northwest and Southwest Regions having a strong West African history.

The country is sometimes identified as West African and other times as Central African due to its strategic position at the crossroads between West and Central Africa.

French and English are the official languages of Cameroon. The country is often referred to as "Africa in miniature" for its geological and cultural diversity. Natural features include beaches, deserts, mountains, rainforests, and savannas.

The highest point at almost 4,100 metres (13,500 ft) is Mount Cameroon in the Southwest Region of the country, and the largest cities in population-terms are Douala on the Wouri river, its economic capital and main seaport, Yaoundé, its political capital, and Garoua. The country is well known for its native styles of music, particularly makossa and bikutsi, and for its successful national football team.

Early inhabitants of the territory included the Sao civilisation around Lake Chad and the Baka hunter-gatherers in the southeastern rainforest. Portuguese explorers reached the coast in the 15th century and named the area Rio dos Camarões (Shrimp River), which became Cameroon in English. Fulani soldiers founded the Adamawa Emirate in the north in the 19th century, and various ethnic groups of the west and northwest established powerful chiefdoms and fondoms. Cameroon became a German colony in 1884 known as Kamerun.

After World War I, the territory was divided between France and the United Kingdom as League of Nations mandates. The Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) political party advocated independence, but was outlawed by France in the 1950s, leading to the Bamileke War fought between French and UPC militant forces until early 1971. In 1960, the French-administered part of Cameroon became independent as the Republic of Cameroun under President Ahmadou Ahidjo.

The southern part of British Cameroons federated with it in 1961 to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon. The federation was abandoned in 1972. The country was renamed the United Republic of Cameroon in 1972 and the Republic of Cameroon in 1984. Large numbers of Cameroonians live as subsistence farmers. Since 1982 Paul Biya has been President, governing with his Cameroon People's Democratic Movement party.

The country has experienced tensions coming from the English-speaking territories. Politicians in the English-speaking regions have advocated for greater decentralisation and even complete separation or independence (as in the Southern Cameroons National Council) from Cameroon. In 2017, tensions in the English-speaking territories escalated into open warfare.

The territory of present-day Cameroon was first settled during the Neolithic Era. The longest continuous inhabitants are groups such as the Baka (Pygmies). From here, Bantu migrations into eastern, southern, and central Africa are believed to have originated about 2,000 years ago.

The Sao culture arose around Lake Chad, c. 500 AD, and gave way to the Kanem and its successor state, the Bornu Empire. Kingdoms, fondoms, and chiefdoms arose in the west.

Portuguese sailors reached the coast in 1472. They noted an abundance of the ghost shrimp *Lepidophthalmus turneranus* in the Wouri River and named it Rio dos Camarões (Shrimp River), which became Cameroon in English. Over the following few centuries, European interests regularised trade with the coastal peoples, and Christian missionaries pushed inland.

In the early 19th century, Modibo Adama led Fulani soldiers on a jihad in the north against non-Muslim and partially Muslim peoples and estab-



In Cameroon, President Paul Biya's backers are urging him to move up national elections and seek another term for himself while opponents say his 34 years in power has been more than enough.

lished the Adamawa Emirate. Settled peoples who fled the Fulani caused a major redistribution of population.

The Bamum tribe have a writing system, known as Bamum script or Shu Mom. The script was given to them by Sultan Ibrahim Njoya in 1896, and is taught in Cameroon by the Bamum Scripts and Archives Project.

Germany began to establish roots in Cameroon in 1868 when the Woermann Company of Hamburg built a warehouse. It was built on the estuary of the Wouri River. Later Gustav Nachtigal made a treaty with one of the local kings to annex the region for the German emperor.

The German Empire claimed the territory as the colony of Kamerun in 1884 and began a steady push inland. The Germans ran into resistance with the native people who did not want the Germans to establish themselves on this land. Under the influence of Germany, commercial companies were left to regulate local administrations.

These concessions used forced labour of the Africans to make a profit. The labour was used on banana, rubber, palm oil, and cocoa plantations.

They initiated projects to improve the colony's infrastructure, relying on a harsh system of forced labour, which was much criticised by the other colonial powers.

The 1900s

On 1 January 1960, French Cameroun gained independence from France under President Ahmadou Ahidjo.

On 1 October 1961, the formerly British Southern Cameroons gained independence voted by vote of the UN General Assembly and joined with French Cameroun to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon. Ahidjo used the ongoing war with the UPC to concentrate power in the presidency, continuing with this even after the suppression of the UPC in 1971.

His political party, the Cameroon National Union (CNU), became the sole legal political party on 1 September 1966 and in 1972, the federal system of government was abolished in favour of a United Republic of Cameroon, headed from Yaoundé.

Ahidjo pursued an economic policy of planned liberalism, prioritising cash crops and petroleum development. The government used oil money to create a national cash reserve, pay farmers, and finance major development projects; however, many initiatives failed when Ahidjo appointed unqualified allies to direct them.

Ahidjo stepped down on 4 November 1982 and left power to his constitutional successor, Paul Biya.

However, Ahidjo remained in control of the CNU and tried to run the country from behind the scenes until Biya and his allies pressured him into resigning. Biya began his administration by moving toward a more democratic government, but a failed coup d'état nudged him toward the leadership style of his predecessor.

An economic crisis took effect in the mid-1980s to late 1990s as a result of international economic conditions, drought, falling petroleum prices, and years of corruption, mismanagement, and cronyism. Cameroon turned to foreign aid, cut government spending, and privatised industries. With the reintroduction of multi-party politics in December 1990, the former British Southern Cameroons pressure groups called for greater autonomy, and the Southern Cameroons National Council advocated complete secession as the Republic of Ambazonia.

21st century

In June 2006, talks concerning a territorial dispute over the Bakassi peninsula were resolved. The talks involved President Paul Biya of Cameroon, then President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and resulted in Cameroonian control of the oil-rich peninsula. The northern portion of the territory was formally handed over to the Cameroonian government in August 2006, and the remainder of the peninsula was left to Cameroon 2 years later, in 2008.

The boundary change was met with a local insurgency, as some Bakassians preferred to remain Nigerian. Most militants laid down their arms in November 2009.

In February 2008, Cameroon experienced its worst violence in 15 years when a transport union strike in Douala escalated into violent protests in 31 municipal areas.

In May 2014, in the wake of the Chibok schoolgirl kidnapping, presidents Paul Biya of Cameroon and Idriss Déby of Chad announced they are waging war on Boko Haram, and deployed troops to the Nigerian border.

Since November 2016, protesters from the predominantly English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions of the country have been campaigning for continued use of the English language in schools and courts. People were killed and hundreds jailed as a result of these protests.

In 2017, Biya's government blocked the regions' access to the Internet for three months. In

September, separatists started a guerilla war for the independence of the Anglophone region as the Federal Republic of Ambazonia. The government responded with a military offensive, and the insurgency spread across the Northwest and Southwest regions. As of 2019, fighting between separatist guerillas and government forces continues.

The conflict indirectly led to an upsurge in Boko Haram activities, as the Cameroonian military largely withdrew from the north to focus on fighting the Ambazonian separatists.

Politics and government creates policy, administers government agencies, commands the armed forces, negotiates and ratifies treaties, and declares a state of emergency.

The president appoints government officials at all levels, from the prime minister (considered the official head of government), to the provincial governors and divisional officers. The president is selected by popular vote every seven years. There have been 2 presidents since the independence of Cameroon.

The National Assembly makes legislation. The body consists of 180 members who are elected for five-year terms and meet three times per year. Laws are passed on a majority vote. Rarely has the assembly changed or blocked legislation proposed by the president.

The 1996 constitution establishes a second house of parliament, the 100-seat Senate, was established in April 2013 and is headed by a President of the Senate who is the constitutional successor in case of untimely vacancy of the Presidency of the Republic.

The government recognises the authority of traditional chiefs, fons, and lamibe to govern at the local level and to resolve disputes as long as such rulings do not conflict with national law.

Cameroon's legal system is largely based on French civil law with common law influences.[1] Although nominally independent, the judiciary falls under the authority of the executive's Ministry of Justice.

The president appoints judges at all levels. The judiciary is officially divided into tribunals, the court of appeal, and the supreme court. The National Assembly elects the members of a nine-member High Court of Justice that judges high-ranking members of government in the event they are charged with high treason or harming national security.

Political culture

Cameroon is viewed as rife with corruption at all levels of government. In 1997, Cameroon estab-

lished anti-corruption bureaus in 29 ministries, but only 25 per cent became operational, and in 2012,

Transparency International placed Cameroon at number 144 on a list of 176 countries ranked from least to most corrupt. On 18 January 2006, Biya initiated an anti-corruption drive under the direction of the National Anti-Corruption Observatory.

There are several high corruption risk areas in Cameroon, for instance, customs, public health sector and public procurement. Unfortunately, the corruption has gotten worse, regardless of the existing anti-corruption bureaus, as Transparency International ranked Cameroon 153 on a list of 180 countries in 2017.

and military forces of mistreating and even torturing criminal suspects, ethnic minorities, homosexuals, and political activists. Prisons are overcrowded with little access to adequate food and medical facilities, and prisons run by traditional rulers in the north are charged with holding political opponents at the behest of the government.

However, since the first decade of the 21st century, an increasing number of police and gendarmes have been prosecuted for improper conduct. A video showing Cameroonian soldiers executing blindfolded women and children has emerged in 2018.

President Biya's Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) was the only legal political party until December 1990. Numerous regional political groups have since formed. The primary opposition is the Social Democratic Front (SDF), based largely in the Anglophone region of the country and headed by John Fru Ndi.

Biya and his party have maintained control of the presidency and the National Assembly in national elections, which rivals contend were unfair.

Human rights organisations allege that the government suppresses the freedoms of opposition groups by preventing demonstrations, disrupting meetings, and arresting opposition leaders and journalists.

In particular, English-speaking people are discriminated against; protests often escalate into violent clashes and killings. In 2017, President Biya shut down the Internet in the English-speaking region for 94 days, at the cost of hampering five million people, including Silicon Mountain startups.

Freedom House ranks Cameroon as "not free" in terms of political rights and civil liberties. The last parliamentary elections were held on 30 September 2013.

BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING

Safaricom's Fuzila helps company rake in KES60-billion profit

NAIROBI

Safaricom's mobile overdraft service, Fuliza, which allows users to access funds even when their mobile money wallet is depleted, has experienced significant growth, the telco says, having released Kshs 45-billion since its launch in January 2019.

"We launched Fuliza after realising that customers were cancelling millions of M-Pesa transactions every day due to insufficient funds in their mobile wallets," said Safaricom chief executive officer Bob Collymore in a presentation of the company's full year 2019 financial report announcement.

Collymore said this has resulted in a 19.2% increase in M-Pesa use and Kshs 74.99-billion revenue generated.

According to a company statement of the results: "The growth in M-Pesa has been driven by an increased number of users, higher velocity of funds within the ecosystem, and adoption of new use cases. In the period, we added 2.1 million active M-Pesa (user)."

"M-Pesa now accounts for 31.2% of service revenue, further accelerating displacement of traditional voice and messaging services," the company

added. Safaricom's results showed that mobile data revenue increased by 6.4% to post Kshs 38.69-billion in the same year, while voice service revenue grew by 0.3% to record a Kshs 95.94-billion income.

"Mobile data revenue increased by Kshs 2.33-billion on an absolute basis, and continued to witness a slow-down in the growth rate from the first half of the year, growing at 6.4% for the full year," it explained.

"The slow-down in growth reflects both competitive conditions in the market and increased taxation that was absorbed for in bundle customers. Mobile data is now 16.1 percent of service revenue." The company has kept its momentum to extend its fibre reach. It currently has 6,700 kilometres of fibre up from 5,000 recorded last financial year.

The company has now passed 300,000 homes from 144,000 homes as recorded in last year's report. Its 4G coverage also grew by 57% from the previous 35% growth and its 4G base stations number stands at 2,791. Total net profit for the company stood at Kshs 63.4-billion, compared to Kshs 55.9-billion in last year's financial report. Total revenue stood at Kshs 240.3-billion.



Mcebisi Jonas named as MTN chairman designate in board shake-up.

CHANGE-OF-GUARD

MTN appoints former deputy finmin as chairman-designate

JOHANNESBURG

South African telecoms provider MTN Group has appointed former deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas as chairman-designate in a board shake-up following a series of regulatory issues that cost it more than \$1 billion.

MTN, which has expanded in more than 20 frontier markets including Syria and Afghanistan, has faced a number of disputes in its biggest market Nigeria in recent years over dividend repatriation, tax payments and unregistered SIM cards. It also faces disputes in other markets.

"In recent years MTN Group has experienced challenging regulatory environments and highly competitive trading conditions," the company said in a statement on Friday. "The board is of the view that MTN Group has entered a more stable and settled phase, enabling it to now affect an evolution of the board."

Jonas will take over from Phuthuma Nhleko, who has been at the helm for more than three-years, on December 15, MTN said. In addition to Jonas, MTN has appointed the former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Lamido Sanusi, and Vincent Rague, a Kenyan national who worked for the Inter-

national Finance Corporation for 24 years, in a number of senior positions.

Nhleko said the new appointees "will bring a depth of skills and regional insights that will continue to enrich the experience of the board." MTN shares pared earlier gains to trade 1.64% firmer at 1033 GMT. MTN said it will also set up an international advisory board, chaired by South Africa's former President Thabo Mbeki, with the primary propose to counsel, guide and support the group.

The board will comprise former Ghanaian President John Kufuor, former African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs Aisha Abdullahi, President of Marketing & Services at Total Momar Nguer, former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohammed ElBaradei and Nhleko.

In December, MTN agreed to make a \$53 million payment to resolve a multi-billion dollar dividend repatriation dispute in the West African country after it agreed to pay more than \$1 billion to settle the dispute over unregistered SIM cards there.

Alan Harper, Jeff Van Rooyen and Koosum Kaylan will step down from MTN's board on December 15 and Peter Mageza and Dawn Marole on 30 April 2020.

CRISIS

Kenya airways in trouble as loss deepen to US\$74 million

NAIROBI

Kenya's national carrier Kenya Airways has posted a Ksh7.558 billion (USD74.6 million) net loss for the year ended December 2018, as higher operating costs continue to eat into its improving revenues.

The airline which has changed its reporting period (end year) from March 31 to December 31, had a Ksh6.418 billion (USD63.5 million) loss in the 9-month period between April 1, and Dec 31, 2017.

This is despite the airline's growth in total revenue for the 12 months which increased to Ksh114.45 billion (USD1.13 billion), compared to Ksh80.79 billion (USD789.7 million) for the nine month period ended December 31, 2017.

According to the management, fuel, personnel and the cost of aircraft remain the top three drivers of the airline's costs, contributing to about two thirds of total operating costs. "Fuel price volatility remains a major challenge for airlines around the world, and Kenya Airways is no exception," Chairman Michael Joseph said as the carrier released its results on Tuesday.

According to KQ's management, the price of oil per barrel saw an upward trend from the beginning of the year before reducing in the last three months of the year.

"As a result we saw our fuel costs rise by 73.6 per cent from Ksh19 billion (USD187.8 million) incurred in the nine months period in 2017 to Ksh33 billion (USD362.2 million) in the full year ended December 2018. The total cost of fuel in the 12-month period of 2017 was Sh25.5 billion (USD252.1 million), a 30



Kenya Airways Chairman, Michael Joseph talking in Nairobi on Tuesday.

per cent increase," Joseph said.

Fleet ownership costs also increased to Ksh18.9 billion (USD 186.9 million) from a restated amount

of Ksh12.5 billion (USD 123.6 million)

incurred in the previous nine months. "The 2018 results are not directly comparable with the 2017 results as it

is a representation of 12 months against the nine months in 2017. Were the 2017 results to be annualized, there would have been improvement in the results for the year," the management notes in its financial statement for the year under review.

KQ has been struggling with losses since 2015 when it reported a Ksh25.7 billion loss (USD254.1 million). Things worsened in 2016 when the airline sunk deeper into losses reporting a loss of Ksh26.2 billion (USD259 million). The carrier has however been making strides in improving its revenue stream through a number of initiatives, including additional routes.

Last year, growth in passenger revenue boosted its total revenues from Ksh63.9 billion (USD631.7 million) in the previous nine month period of 2017 to Ksh88.7 billion (USD876.9 million) in the year ended December 31, 2018.

Passenger numbers were 4.84 million at close of December 2018, while the nine-month period ended December 2017 recorded 3.43 million passengers. The airline achieved a cabin factor of 77.6 per cent (12 months compared to 76.2 per cent in the nine months of 2017).

In addition to the growth in passenger revenues, revenue from cargo amounted to Ksh8.68 billion (USD85.8 million) for the year 2018 compared to Ksh5.7 billion (USD56.4 million) in the nine months of 2017.

"Kenya Airways continues to focus on delivering the turnaround programme that we embarked on in 2016. In the last year ended December 31, 2018, the capital optimization programme dubbed 'project safari' was completed. We have also undertaken various actions to ensure financial and operating efficiency to enhance business sustainability," Joseph said.

CREATIVITY

Turkish Airlines decorates Istanbul Airport with artworks to boost cultural tourism

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

TRAVELLERS arriving at Istanbul Airport, Turkish Airlines new hub, will be greeted by a selection of modern artworks which are decorating the lounge after the airline entered into agreement with Istanbul Museum of Modern Art Collection.

In a statement yesterday, the airlines said under the deal, a special selection from the Istanbul Modern will be displayed in Turkish Airlines business lounge at its hub airport with 38 works of 16 artists being on display.

Spanning 130 square-meters, the exhibition titled 'A Selection from the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art Collection' will bring significant examples that represent four main dispositions of modern art of Turkey together.

Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, Ilker Aycıstated said as a national flag carrier for Turkey, Turkish Airlines continue its contributions to the national values of the country.

"Thanks to our collaboration with Istanbul Modern, we enable our passengers that depart from Istanbul Airport to see the impressive works of Turkish modern art in our lounge, and turn their waiting time before their flights into an exclusive cultural experience," Aycıstated said.

"Adding an artful touch to our exceptional travel experience, we will circulate the artworks of the exhibition during the year in order to show our passengers the different examples of Turkish modern art before their flights," he added.

Within the exhibition there will be varied type of artworks ranging from the early 20th century landscape painting tradition to the abstract paintings of artists looking for a synthesis between eastern and western arts during 1950s.

There will be artworks oferef Akdik, Hakkı Anlı, Fethi Arda, Ferruh Ba a a, Hasan Vecih Bereketo lu, Aliye Berger, Nurullah Berk, Adnan Coker, Nejad Melih Devrim, Abidin Dino, Ne'e Erdok, Bedri Rahmi Eyübu lu, Hoca Ali Rıza, Hikmet Onat, Selim Turan and Fahrelnissa Zeid in the selection.

Chair of the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Oya Eczacıbaşı highlighted the importance of Turkish Airlines' passenger lounge as a display of Turkey since it will host passengers from all corners of the world.

"With our collaboration with Turkish Airlines, we are happy to introduce modern arts of Turkey to the local and foreign tourists waiting for their flights in the Turkish Airlines Business Lounge at Istanbul Airport International Terminal," Oya Eczacıbaşı said.

"We will circulate the artworks three times in a year to display items of different eras and artists to the passengers. With these exhibitions we will not only introduce arts of Turkey to the world but also help the waiting passengers to spend their times in a productive manner between the artworks," he added.



Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, Ilker Aycıstated.

SOCIALIZING

Career Women's Network Kigali: Inspiring women for greater career goals

KIGALI

Women at Career Women's Network Kigali (CWNK) support and advocate for each other; some are managers, entrepreneurs, whereas others are chief executives who come together to seek empowerment as they motivate themselves to advance in their careers.

On this platform, women consult each other, have access to trainings, share job opportunities and also offer each other support in terms of peer, personal and professional development.

Women have access to trainings and job opportunities.

Lucy Schalkwijk, the founder and chair of the organisation, says she started this organisation because of a personal need, later expanding it into a platform that would help other career women. When she first came to Rwanda in 2015, she was raising three children and also attending to her full-time job.

"I had an eight-week-old baby and the oldest was only five, so with these kids and working full-time, I was immediately confronted with issues that women face in the workplace—the need to balance family and career," she says.

She says that instead of complaining and jeopardising her job, she opted to create a platform where women with a similar challenge would meet and come up with solutions. So, together with a colleague, they started organising networking dinners that later on evolved to events.

Networking is important for career growth.

"We grew by word of mouth, by referral and our mission was to connect and empower professional women to reach higher in their careers," she says. The organisation also has a vision to promote equality at the workplace at all levels, and a strategy that fosters peer support with an aim of connecting women.



They also get to socialise and exercise.

Schalkwijk notes that the challenge is that when women reach their 30s, especially when they have children, they either withdraw from working and networking or they get overlooked.

"You find that in societies like Rwanda, men are more networked than women because they go out after work, where they learn about which investors are coming into the country, which job positions are opening up whereas women just go home and take care of the children, so we are missing out on that information."

She says that women need to learn how to network, noting that if they don't, they are blocking chances of promotion. "Because at times it is not your work that speaks for itself, one needs to have professional connections to know you, they need to have that relationship with you

and vouch for you. If you are not engaged in networking, you are not known, you are not visible and not considered."

How the initiative operates

The organisation has three membership types: the go getter that caters for middle management and female entrepreneurs with small companies, the game changer which is for senior managers and female entrepreneurs with medium sized companies, and the executive council which is for c-level executives.

Members learn important aspects such as negotiating for a raise, getting to the next level in one's career, skills on leadership and emotional intelligence, among others.

They also get to socialise and exercise.

Schalkwijk emphasises that it's important to con-

nect women to each other for them to understand that whatever they are facing is not unique, and that others do face similar challenges. "The workplace is not set up to make women progress easily, I think we need to help and learn from each other to get ahead."

Taking charge of destiny Bernadette Umutyana, the founder and CEO of Dokmai Rwanda Ltd, says women have to take their destiny in their own hands and not wait to be empowered, rather, ensure that their voices are heard. This, she says, can mostly be achieved when acting in a group. The goals of the network reflected well to what she expected to achieve and that this is why she joined it.

Umutyana says with the two years she has been with the organisation, she has been able to learn and share

strong business experiences.

"This informal mentoring has helped me find my place as a woman entrepreneur and to assume my responsibilities as a socially and environmental champion, providing a secure workplace for a rising number of female employees," she says.

She, however, notes that in spite of all goodwill and declarations of intention, for example from politicians or those who influence the economic world, women as decision-makers in business still play only a secondary role.

Umutyana is, therefore, of the view that considering that today women are equally well-educated and contribute through their activities significantly to the economic progress and livelihood of a country, it is necessary that they join forces.

"Women should not be

empowered out of goodwill but because they merit their place in today's economic world. An organisation like Career Women Network is a good platform for self-empowerment."

Alice Nkulikiyinka, the managing director of Business Professionals Network (BPN) Rwanda, says the network has impacted her career in a way she didn't expect. At one of the events in 2017, Nkulikiyinka met a lady—an international executive coach who has been her personal career advisor ever since, something she says has had impact in her line of work.

"Another lady introduced me to the organisation she works with; we are now negotiating a long term partnership. Not to mention the amount of information I have access to and a few beautiful personal friend-

ships that have grown out of the networks," she says. Nkulikiyinka stresses that the value of CWNK is not only about receiving but giving as well.

"I have the privilege to mentor a young brilliant woman in the early stage of her career. At different occasions I have also been offered the opportunity to share my experience and my views with other women in the network. I could go on and on, for being a member of CWNK is a priceless opportunity."

She notes that since Rwanda is becoming more of a global player, there is need to unite in different ways, to strengthen each other and multiply impact. "CWNK is one of the possible ways to grow faster, better and together. No matter the stage of our careers, we all need opportunities to exchange, share and be vulnerable."

Florence Gatome, a country senior partner, Price-waterhouseCoopers (PwC) Rwanda, says she has been very fortunate to network with inspiring career women in Kigali in different professions, socially and in business.

The network has been useful in terms of sharing information on events, opportunities and educative/self-improvement material through its social media platforms. "I have also attended training on emotional intelligence, and this was useful and applicable to my current role," she says.

"I have coached a lot of women and this has added meaning to my career as well as benefited my coaches in Rwanda, both in PwC and the business community." Gatome has always been interested in empowering and supporting other women to progress in their careers to senior management or board positions, this is why she joined the network. She also wanted to connect and network with professional women in Rwanda.

"Through our partnership with the UN Women's HeForShe initiative, PwC is working towards achieving global gender equality in the workplace and beyond. Hence, I also joined in order to encourage organisations to achieve gender parity in the workplace. Organisations with a more balanced leadership team, or women in leadership positions, outperform those that are less balanced. PwC Rwanda has a 50/50 gender balance of partners and also several women managers, and the firm is doing well."

She says it's normally a challenge for women to get networking opportunities, given their multiple roles both at work and at home. However, the organisation is working hard to address this. Gatome also notes that the initiative is working hard to empower women to progress in their careers and join senior management positions and boards.

DISTINCTIVE

JOHANNESBURG

An African safari trip is an experience of a lifetime as you get to satisfy your wanderlust in the wild and marvel at nature at her absolute finest. Each destination is as diverse as the culture and people so visitors always have a wealth of options for their adventure.

Some travellers come in for the amazing scenery, while others flock to get some outdoor action like hiking and hot air balloon rides. As such, it pays to have an idea of which locations offer what experiences you seek. If the highlight of your safari is to witness majestic wildlife in their natural habitat, however, then consider these top eight wildlife safari parks on the continent:

Kruger National Park

This is one of the largest wildlife reserves in Africa and is located in the north-eastern parts of South Africa in the province of Limpopo and Mpumalanga. The park occupies a 19,485 km square and is regarded as a world heritage site by UNESCO. The Kruger National Park is a beautiful wilderness that is home to the 'Big Five,' as well as hundreds of mammals, including antelope, wild dog, jackal, giraffe, and Blue wildebeest.

Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti National Park is located in Tanzania, stretching all the way to the East Masai Mara regions in Kenya. It is a world famous safari park spanning over the 30,000km square with an unparalleled panorama of vast rolling plains. The

The top eight wildlife Safari parks in Africa



Wildebeests crossing Mara river into the Serengeti.

Serengeti boasts a variety of wildlife including the famous 'Big five' - Lions, African leopard, African bush elephant, eastern black rhinoceros and African buffalo. There are over 500 species of birds and carnivores like cheetah, hyena, honey badger, and African wild dogs.

One unique feature and a must-see for every tourist is the annual migration of wildebeest. Over 2.5 million wildebeest, zebras, Thomson's gazelle, and antelopes migrate here between June and November to find better grazing. This

phenomenon has been categorized as a world wonder.

Hwange National Park

Formerly known as Wankie game reserve, Hwange National Park is the largest wildlife reserve in Zimbabwe today. The park spans an impressive 14,651 km square and was named after a local Nhanzwa chief. It became a national park in 1961 and is located in the north-western part of Zimbabwe between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls. Hwange offers an amazing variety of wildlife, such

as impalas, African buffaloes, lions, as well as one of the largest population of elephants on the planet, and more than 400 bird species.

Masai Mara National Reserve

Recently ranked as the number one Safari Park on the planet by World Travel Award (WTA), the Masai Mara Game Reserve is indeed a wonder to behold. It is located in the southwest of Kenya, running along the Tanzanian border and occupying a 1,510 km square area. The park is named in honor of the famous Masai

tribe and is famous for its exceptional variety of wildlife including the 'big five' and the Great Wildebeest Migration.

Chobe National Park

This breathtaking wildlife park is located in the northern parts of Botswana. It is the first national park in the country and third largest park after Kalahari and Gemsbok national parks. Covering up to 12,000km square of land, Chobe National Park plays host to concentrations of diverse wildlife including lions, giraffes, antelopes, cheetahs, zebras, wil-

debeest and over 450 species of bird. The Park is divided into four areas: The Serondela area, the Savuti march, the Linyanti March, and Hinterland.

Kibale National Forest Park

Kibale forest national park is located in western Uganda and spans across 776 km square. It is regarded as having the highest concentration of primates in all of Africa because of its impressive array of chimpanzees, red colobus monkeys, and L'Hoest's monkeys, as well as other endangered species. Visitors here will also be amazed by the lush rainforest and scenic landscapes.

Etosha National Park

Located in the northwest region of Namibia, Etosha National Park covers more than 20,000km square and is famous for its ease in spotting varieties of wildlife. Unlike other African safaris where you have to drive round to see the animals, the animals at Etosha national park usually come to you. Simply park your vehicle near one of the many water holes and enjoy viewing animals in their hundreds - lions, elephants, gemsbok, springbok and various bird species.

Luangwa National Park

Several wildlife enthusiasts have dubbed Luangwa National Park as one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world. This is because the concentration of animals around the Luangwa River and oxbow lagoons is among the most intense in Africa. The park is situated in the eastern part of Zambia and covers 9,050 km square area. The river is filled with hippos and crocodiles, while the land supports over 60 species of mammal, including Thornicroft giraffe, cape buffaloes, elephants, and leopards. It also supports a large population of bird species.

ACTIVISM

Plastic Whale: cleaning up Amsterdam's canals through eco-fishing

AMSTERDAM

Passers-by applauded the catch of the day, which consisted of several bottles and cans, a bed sheet, five cigarette lighters, countless crisp packets, two Nutella tins, far too many Starbucks and McDonald's cups and straws, five balloons, nine shopping bags, two two-litre milk bottles, a mobile phone charger, many unmentionables, an umbrella, a children's teddy bear, several large pieces of Styrofoam, a size 11 Nike trainer (left foot) and, most crucially and valuable of all, two kilos of PET - polyethylene terephthalate thermoplastic polymer resin, also known as killer plastic.

"We can't fish enough. Over-fishing is what we're about. In our case, it's a positive phenomenon. Our aim is to go out of business. We exist to solve a problem. To clear the litter from the city's famous canals," says captain Jack Zuidema, one of Plastic

Whale's eco-sailors, as we embark from Amsterdam's Westermarkt. Zuidema used to work in the city's museums before he became a plastic trawler skipper on the city's twice-weekly, two-hour €27 (Dh11) Plastic Whale fishing trips.

Today, his crew is made up of two German students, an elderly lady from Belfast, a graduate from the University of Milan and her partner, Mauricio Marinelli, a Venezuelan botanist, who says: "My hobby is being eco-conscious. I collect litter wherever I go. I can't stop. I see litter and I have to pick it up. It's bad. It's ugly. I feel it's my duty to dispose of it."

"It's trendy to be plastic-aware but the fight against single-use plastic is so important. When we arranged this holiday I had no idea I would be going fishing for plastic. It was a surprise and a real treat. And great fun. People clap for you from the bankside



One of Plastic Whale's 10 boats which scoops plastic waste from Amsterdam's 165 canals.

and from the bridges. You know you are doing right."

"It's a great way to see the canals," his girlfriend, Gulia Ballerini, adds. "The boat is electric too, not diesel. You pass the Anne Frank House, the Museum of Bags and Purses, the Hermitage and other landmarks. It's a good

introduction to the city, with a good cause. You hope you're doing something good in a tourism sense - it's responsible cruising. Amsterdam is your host and you are saying thank you. Cleaning up takes over from the sightseeing."

Conscientiously and

expertly sweeping her net around the hulls of houseboats, around lock and sluice gates and underneath Amsterdamers picnicking and napping on the 17th century canal walls, the lady from Belfast comments: "It helps if you have played lacrosse or hurling. This is

far more worthwhile than just gawping at landmarks."

Our clean-up route was along the Herengracht (Patrician's or Gentlemen's Canal), Keizersgracht (Emperor's Canal) and Prinsengracht. We crossed the Amstel river and saw the city's famous Magere Brug, or Skinny Bridge. Amsterdam has 165 canals, which make up the Canal Ring or Grachtengordel. Every year, thousands of bicycles are retrieved from the waterways, as well as a few cars and the odd human body.

We even salvaged a car seat, which would have played serious havoc with boat propellers. But it was plastic we were really after. If we needed further incentive, the day before our eco-friendly excursion, a dead pregnant sperm whale was washed up on the coast of Sardinia with 22 kilograms of plastic in its stomach.

Founded in 2010 by Marius

Smit, Plastic Whale, which also offers decluttering cruises around Rotterdam harbour, pioneered plastic fishing. It is now a thing - nine thousand people went plastic fishing in the Netherlands last year.

"We are a non-profit social enterprise with a mission. To make the waters plastic-free and create value from plastic waste," Zuidema says. "Our boats are all made from plastic retrieved from the Amsterdam canal system."

"It takes 8,000 bottles to make one boat," he continues. "Some boats have bottle caps as mosaics on the deck. Wherever you look, you are made aware of litter, plastic and recycling. The more plastic we can collect. The more people who get involved, the bigger impact we can make together."

Plastic Whale has 40 skippers and a fleet of 10 boats, all sponsored by companies paying €30,000

a year. These include PwC, Aeyen and Brabantia, which makes waste bins, laundry racks and food storage containers. Our boat was the Vepa, named after a company that recycles canal plastic into office furniture.

The Amsterdam enterprise is at the forefront of a growing trend. Mumbai is the latest city interested in introducing its own Plastic Whale project. London's Hubbub charity has started similar trips on the Thames, Greek fishermen are now being paid to haul plastic from the sea and the EU is looking into similar initiatives.

Scoping out litter, we pass tourist cruises and pedalos. In the distance, we see the Rijksmuseum towers. We pass the mayor's residence. And our social impact experience receives claps of acknowledgement all along the way. "It's nice to be appreciated," says captain Jack.

POWER OF LOVE

From flight attendant to queen: Suthida takes her place ahead of Thai king's coronation

BANGKOK

Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun has appointed his consort as the country's queen ahead of his official coronation on Saturday.

An announcement Wednesday in the Royal Gazette said Suthida Vajiralongkorn Na Ayudhya is legally married to the 66-year-old king, and is now Queen Suthida. Look through the photo gallery above to see more from the ceremony.

Although she has been in the public eye for about three years, there has been little official information released about her and the news was a surprise to many Thai people. She is reported to be 40 years old and to have previously worked as a flight attendant for Thai Airways. The two reportedly met on a flight.

Queen Suthida joined the palace guard in 2013 and became commander of the king's security unit, currently holding a general's rank. The new queen also has several top

royal decorations.

Vajiralongkorn has had three previous marriages and divorced his previous wife, with whom he has a son, in 2014. He became king after the death in October 2016 of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thai television, which broadcast the royal order Wednesday evening, showed a video of Suthida prostrating herself before the king. According to the announcer, she presented the king with a tray of flowers and joss sticks, and in return was bestowed traditional gifts associated with royal power.

The king is shown in a white uniform and his bride in a pink silk traditional dress formally registering their marriage on Wednesday in his palace residence in Bangkok. The couple was seen writing her name in a marriage certificate book, which was also signed by the king's sister, Princess Sirindhorn, and Privy Council head Prem Tinsulanonda as witnesses. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and other senior officials were also in attendance.



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn (2nd L) and Queen Suthida (2nd R) pay their respect at King Rama V.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>SATURDAY 27 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Jiji Letu 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:30 Usafiri wako 12:00 Shamba lulu 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:30 Isidingo rpt 01:00 CNN International</p> <p>SUNDAY 28 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 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: It wasn't me 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: It wasn't me 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>MONDAY 29 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 10:30 Igizo: Elininyo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Kimya Milele 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)</p>	<p>14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Habari 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Kesho Leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 CNN International</p> <p>TUESDAY 30 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 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:15 Igizo: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Uchumi na biashara 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt : TFDA 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Mizengwe rpt 14:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 The great queen Seonduk 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Chetu ni chetu 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 01 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Movie: Cut off prt 1 & 2 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino): 15:00 Movie: DNA 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi rpt</p>	<p>18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco 21:40 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu mzuka 22:10 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International</p> <p>THURSDAY 02 May</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 10:30 Igizo: Riziki 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Elininyo 11:15 Kesho leo rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 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 CNN International</p> <p>FRIDAY 03 May</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 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 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 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru</p>	<p>16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibadaya ya kislamumu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p>SATURDAY 04 May</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 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:30 Usafiri wako 12:00 Shamba lulu 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:30 Isidingo rpt 01:00 CNN International</p> <p>SUNDAY 05 May</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 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: It wasn't me 2 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: The Cradle 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p>	<p>08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 Innovation rpt 12:30 The Decor rpt 13:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 13:45 Series rpt: Ilijimae 14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 15:00 Korean Dram rpt: Emperor of the sea 16:00 CNN International 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Drive it 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Aibu yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Series: Ilijimae 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sat 04 May</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive It 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 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea 14:30 Telenovela rpt: Ilijimae 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Iron Chef 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie: The Cradle 23:00 Grapes of Justice rpt 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 05 May</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Iron chef rpt 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 Shamba lulu 13:30 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it 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 rpt: Emperor of the sea 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Series rpt: Ilijimae 00:00 Al Jazeera 22:15 Series rpt: Ilijimae 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
---	---	--	---	--

CAPITAL

Frid 03 May
06:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

US sanctions blow to Iran economy, oil market still manageable - experts

CAIRO

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to ban Iranian oil and end waivers for eight major buyers importing Iranian oil will greatly harm Iran's economy, yet oil market will remain manageable, said Egyptian political experts.

Trump's administration cancelled exemptions to import oil from Iran, as the U.S. president says he intends "to bring Iran's oil exports to zero."

BLOW TO IRAN'S ECONOMY

Iran's economy had already been severely affected by the sanctions imposed by the international community over its nuclear program, leading Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2015 to agree on a deal with the United States and five other countries to limit Iranian nuclear activities in return for lifting the sanctions.

In 2016, Iran's GDP growth rate hit 12.3 percent, according to the Central Bank of Iran, thanks to oil and gas industry, yet it slowed to 3.7 percent in 2017, leading to economic discontent and relevant protests.

Trump's recent decision is likely to further deteriorate the Iran's economy and narrow space for Iranian economic development.

"Since the sanctions deprive Iran of at least 10 billion U.S. dollars per year, the U.S. decision will certainly cause economic deterioration in Iran," said Mohammed Mohsen Abo el-Nour, an

Egyptian researcher in Iranian affairs and chairman of the Arab Forum for Analyzing Iranian Policies (AFAIP).

"The U.S. sanctions actually target depriving Iran of any chances for domestic development, whether related to infrastructure projects or spending on transport, real estate, health and education," Abo el-Nour told Xinhua.

The expert expressed his belief that Iran even makes more than 20 billion dollars per year out of its oil exports, "not just 10 billion dollars as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says."

Trump has been attempting to halt Iran's oil exports since he imposed sanctions on Iran last November as punishment for alleged Iranian nuclear ambitions and support for some militants in the Middle East.

However, Washington adopted a gradual approach, providing waivers to its allies and trade partners regarding their oil purchases from Iran.

"The U.S. decision will shake the Iranian oil market that produces about 1.5 million barrels per day," said Tarek Fahmy, political science professor at Cairo University.

The professor explained that the U.S. move will definitely lead to "increasing challenges and problems inside Iran," referring to a state of political instability inside the country that could worsen in the light of expected economic hardship.

OIL MARKET MANAGEABLE



Trump's recent sanctions regarding Iranian oil exports were made after reassurances from leading oil producers in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), including allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to fill in the gap.

"OPEC members vowed in a meeting last fall to provide at least 1 million barrels per day when the U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil are in effect, which means they will make up for Iran's share in the international market," Abo el-Nour told Xinhua.

The AFAIP chief pointed out that Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia said it can produce about 2.8 million barrels per day for the international market.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council members, including the UAE and Bahrain but excluding Qatar, Kuwait and Oman, have permanent concerns over Iranian regional expansion ambitions and rely on Washington for protection against any Iranian threats.

"I believe these countries will not make much economic gains from filling the gap caused by the absence of Iranian oil, but for them the political and geostrategic gains are much more important than economic calculations," Abo el-Nour explained.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Wednesday that his country seeks good relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain as it has "extremely good relations with Qatar, Kuwait and Oman."

"Saudi Arabia and the UAE have announced willingness to fill in the gap caused by the halt of

Iranian oil imports, so there's no problem expected in the international oil market as a result of the U.S. move," Fahmy said.

"I believe that the Saudi-UAE side arranged the matter well with the U.S. side," the professor told Xinhua, raising a possibility for some short-term shortage that will be gradually contained.

MILITARY MEASURES UNLIKELY

The Strait of Hormuz is the only sea passage for trade in and out of the Gulf; at least 20 percent of the world's oil trade goes through it. In the light of the U.S. decision to impose sanctions on Iranian oil exports, Tehran hinted threats to close the strategic waterway.

However, experts believe that Iran is far from thinking of taking military measures to close Hormuz Strait or reactivating its nuclear reactors in response to Washington's move, referring to any of them as "a big strategic mistake."

"If Iran does any of the two moves, it will face an international dilemma because Trump can easily get international consensus to punish Iran," said Abo el-Nour, stressing that Iran's decision makers are smarter than getting involved in such measures.

Fahmy echoed Abo el-Nour's view that Iran is unlikely to close Hormuz Strait, adding that such Iranian threats are only meant for "media campaigns." "Hormuz Strait is an international waterway and Washington will not allow its closure or usage as a card in the hands of Iran," the professor told Xinhua.

Xinhua

Putin regrets freeze in Russia-US relations, but 'it is not Moscow's fault'

VLADIVOSTOK

RUSSIA'S President Vladimir Putin expressed regret that bilateral relations between Russia and the US have been experiencing a freeze.

"Unfortunately, our relations have gone into a freeze," he told the Eastern Economic Forum on Saturday. "I believe, this is not our fault."

A thaw in relations between Russia and the US is not possible until the latter starts to respect Russia's

national interests, Putin (pictured) stated: "It is quite possible to unilaterally pull out of the anti-missile defense treaty and build up this system while using the pretext of an Iranian nuclear threat."

However, once it disappears, once the Iranian nuclear threat is gone, they act as if everything has been forgotten and continue developing that system in spite of everything.

On the other hand, if our counterparts see it from a different point of



view, the logic of respecting mutual

interests - one another's interests - then our relations could change fundamentally," Putin explained.

Putin has also spoken about the period of the 1990s, when Russia began making democratic changes in society and carrying out market reforms.

"Clearly, at that time we laid the cornerstone for developing democracy and a market economy," he explained. "Despite all the problems and difficulties, I believe that that

generation of lawmakers still managed to accomplish the undertaking. And we, of course, hoped that openness would bring about a similar response from our counterparts. However, this did not happen," he stated.

"They looked into their crystal ball of national interests and made their own decisions. So, how did they see it? Well since the Soviet Union collapsed, it is now time to squeeze Russia."

Agencies

Brexit anger? Britain's two main parties suffer in local election

LONDON

ENGLISH voters frustrated with the deadlock over Brexit have punished Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party in local elections, early results showed yesterday.

The results of Thursday's elections are another display of how Britain's 2016 vote to leave the European Union has split voters beyond traditional party lines, but are also a first indication of the damage Brexit has done to the two big parties.

With almost half of English local council vote results declared, the Conservative Party had lost 443 councillors and Labour had lost

78 councillors, according to a BBC tally.

The main beneficiary of the swing against the two main parties - which are in talks to try to break the impasse in the UK parliament over Brexit - was the pro-EU Liberal Democrats, who had won 304 councillors so far, and said they hoped to make further gains in European Parliament elections on May 23.

Activists said the Liberal Democrats' clear message that Britain needs a second referendum to break the parliamentary impasse over the terms of Britain's planned departure from the EU had helped turn the tide.

"It just seems voters, period, say-



ing: 'A plague on both your houses,'" said John Curtice, Britain's leading polling expert.

"We knew that voters were unhappy with the way that the Conservatives had handled Brexit but looks as though they are also unhappy with Labour's response to the government's position on Brexit," he told the BBC.

Smaller parties also gained in the local elections, which traditionally are used as a protest vote against the incumbent party. The Greens, who also back a second Brexit referendum, gained 42 council seats, the partial results showed, and independent candidates won 215 seats.

Labour sources said their party had little to fear from the results so far, saying it was always going to be a "tough" battle in councils that traditionally favor the Conservatives.

Tough was also the word the Conservatives used to describe the local elections, with some pinning the blame for the party's bad showing on the deadlock in parliament, which has rejected May's Brexit

deal three times.

"MESSAGE RECEIVED"

While offering only a partial and imperfect picture of Britain's voting intentions, the elections for more than 8,000 seats on councils - administrative bodies responsible for day-to-day decisions - also showed a frustration with local issues.

But for some, the message was clear. "So far (the) message from local elections - 'Brexit - sort it,'" said John McDonnell, Labour's finance policy chief. "Message received."

Nearly three years since the United Kingdom voted 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU, there is still no agreement among British politicians about when, how or even if the divorce should take place.

Sino-US talks on trade seen as productive

BEIJING

VICE-PREMIER Liu He, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin met in Beijing from Tuesday to Wednesday for the 10th round of trade talks between China and the United States.

The two sides are working on putting bilateral trade on a stronger footing, and the latest meetings were productive, Mnuchin wrote on his Twitter account, without giving details.

A Chinese team is scheduled to visit Washington next week for another round of talks, Xinhua News Agency reported. Liu is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue.

China and the US have been expediting their economic and trade consultations, with a goal of implementing the consensus President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump reached in December, said Xue Rongjiu, deputy director of the China Society for WTO Studies in Beijing.

China has made various moves recently to expand the new round of reform and opening-up - such as the approval of the Foreign Investment Law in March and further facilitating trade connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative.

It will continue opening its market in a proactive, steady and orderly manner, in accordance with its own development needs and its own pace and timetable, to benefit Chinese and global consumers across the world, said Tu Xinquan, a professor of international trade at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

James Collins, CEO of Corteva Agriscience, the agricultural division of US-based DowDuPont, said he hopes the two countries will reach a positive resolution, to benefit both countries and the rest of the world. Collins said his firm was "not so much affected" in the short term by China-US trade tensions.

The company will consider adding employees, research and field development resources to expand in the Chinese market over the coming years, he said.

Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng said last month that the two countries' negotiating teams are hashing out the text of a deal, including an enforcement mechanism, based on mutual respect and benefit.

Both countries, the world's two biggest economies, have been intensifying their consultations and aiming to break the deadlock in a timely manner.

In the ninth round of trade consultations, negotiators discussed technology transfers, protection of intellectual property rights, non-tariff measures, the service sector, agriculture, trade imbalances and enforcement mechanisms.

Xinhua



Vice-Premier Liu He (center) meets with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (right) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Beijing during the 10th round of high-level economic and trade consultations, which took place from April 30 to May 1. (XINHUA)

'Decision to replace ambassador does not mean crisis in Russia-Belarus relations'

TASHKENT

THE appointment of Russia's new ambassador to Belarus does not indicate any crisis in relations between the two countries, which continue to be partners and allies, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin told reporters yesterday.

"I am dead against interpreting all that as a kind of crisis. That's an ordinary move. Various incidents occur in diplomatic practice," he said.

"Relations between Belarus and Russia have a strategic partnership nature, these are allied [relations]," Karasin stressed. He added that Moscow and Minsk were working to deepen integration within the Union State.

"We need to be optimistic about the future relations between Russia and Belarus," he concluded.

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree appointing Dmitry Mezentsev as Russia's new Ambassador to Belarus. He also relieved Mikhail Babich of his duties of Russian Ambassador to Belarus.

Agencies

Italy rolls out welcome mat for Huawei despite US pressure

ROME

ITALY is resisting pressure from the United States by allowing Chinese telecommunications equipment maker Huawei Technologies to participate in the rollout of its 5G telecommunications network.

Last month, Sweden's Ericsson and former Italian state telecommunications monopoly Telecom Italia inaugurated Italy's first 5G-connected airport at Rome's Fiumicino, the country's largest. But the rollout is just getting started.

During a visit to China in late April, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte vowed that Huawei would not face any discrimination in Italy. During his visit, Conte met with Huawei Chief Executive Ren Zhengfei in Beijing.

"I told him we have adopted some precautions, some measures to protect our interests and that these demand extremely high levels of security," Conte said, according to Italian media reports. "But this is not just for Huawei, but for any company looking to join the 5G

rollout."

Shorthand for "fifth generation", 5G refers to high-speed digital cellular networks that can support up to a million devices per square kilometer, compared to only around 4,000 devices per square kilometer for the previous generation service.

According to Raffaele Barberio, founder and director of Key4Biz, an online magazine focusing on the digital economy, the biggest use of 5G technologies is industrial.

There are just a few major com-

panies in the world selling 5G radio hardware and 5G systems for carriers: Huawei and ZTE in China, Finland's Nokia, Samsung in South Korea and Ericsson in Sweden. Huawei is the largest of them, but the company is under scrutiny after the United States said that it would not use Huawei equipment because of security fears, and it encouraged its allies to follow suit.

"Every company has its security risks, every company is trying to do the same thing," Barberio told Xinhua in a recent interview. "But Italy

cannot do the rollout without Huawei. The company has a quarter of the patents for 5G technology. If Italy sticks with the European companies it's just Nokia and Ericsson, and the rollout will be slower and the prices higher."

Innocenzo Genna, co-founder of Digit@lians, a network for professionals working in digital fields, agreed with Conte that Huawei should be able to participate in Italy's 5G rollout on equal footing with other multinational companies.

"Huawei's problem is a public relations problem," Genna said on Thursday. "Are there vulnerability risks with Huawei? Yes, there are, but that is true of every company."

Genna said it was important for Italy to be open to Huawei.

"Italy has a unique position among major western countries when it comes to China," Genna said, referring to Italy becoming one of the latest European countries to sign on to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Xinhua

Reports of sexual assault in US military spike

WASHINGTON

REPORTS of military sexual assaults in the United States jumped by 13% last year, but an anonymous survey of service members released on Thursday suggests the problem is vastly larger.

The survey results found that more than 20,000 service members said they experienced some type of sexual assault, but only a third of those filed a formal report.

The survey number is about 37% higher than two years ago, when one was last done, fueling frustration within the department and outrage on Capitol Hill.

"I am tired of the statement I get over and over from the chain of command: 'We got this, madam, we got this.' You don't have it!" Sen Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat, shouted during a Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing on Thursday for Army Gen James McConville. "You're failing us."

McConville has been nominated to be the next chief of staff of the Army, and that service saw a spike of more than 18% in the number of sexual assault reports filed last year. The Marine Corps had the largest jump, at 23%, while the Navy saw a 7% increase and the Air Force was up by about 4%.

The Pentagon releases a report every year on the number of sexual assaults reported by troops. But because sexual assault is a highly underreported crime, the department sends out an anonymous survey every two years to get a clearer picture of the problem.

The increase in assaults has triggered another round of Pentagon programs to try to reduce misconduct.

Nate Galbreath, deputy director of the Pentagon's Sexual Assault Preven-

tion and Response Office, told reporters Thursday that the latest numbers are "disheartening and it personally makes me angry," but he said he's "not without hope."

The sharp increase in reported Marine assaults comes on the heels of two troubled years for the Corps. In 2017, the service was rocked by a massive online nude-photo sharing scandal, and later launched a large public campaign to raise awareness of inappropriate behavior and beef up enforcement. Nearly 60 service members eventually faced some type of punishment.

Gen Robert Neller, commandant of the Marine Corps, said Thursday that his troops "cannot truly be loyal to our Nation without first being loyal to each other. All Marines must be involved in preventing and addressing sexual assault and harassment."

Col Kathy Turner, an Army spokeswoman, said leaders must enforce standards to ensure a healthy command climate and prevent sexual misconduct by soldiers.

The survey found that young and junior enlisted women between 17 and 20 were most likely to experience sexual assault. In the vast majority of the cases the alleged perpetrator was a military man, often near the same rank as the victim and usually someone she knows. The report also found that nearly two-thirds of all incidents involved alcohol use by the victim and/or the offender.

Galbreath said the department has to reassess why prevention programs are not working as well with younger troops and adjust those efforts to better reach them. Programs that worked a few years ago, he said, are no longer effective.

The studies also found that there are



Sexual assault victims US Navy Lt Cmdr Erin Elliot (left), Nellie Hanson (second left), and Angela Bapp (second right) listen while retired US Army Lt Gen Flora Darpino during a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee's Military Personnel Subcommittee on Capitol Hill, April 2, 2019, in Washington, DC. (AFP)

often more problems in military units that have poor command climates or low levels of unit cohesion.

Last year, when the Pentagon announced that assaults in 2017 had increased by 10% over 2016, then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis called the problem a cancer in the ranks and ordered the Department to re-double its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assaults.

On Thursday, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan called this year's increase unacceptable and directed the military to enact new programs to identify serial offenders and beef up scrutiny of new recruits to ensure they have the right character for military service.

"Sexual assault and sexual harassment are persistent challenges," Shanahan said in a memo to military service leaders. "We cannot shrink from facing the challenge head on. We must, and will, do better."

Galbreath said one change expected to begin later this summer will have the military begin comparing information on offenders from victims who file so-called "restricted" reports.

Filing a restricted report allows victims to seek treatment but they avoid any criminal complaint or prosecution. Many victims choose that route to skirt any potential retribution or stigma of a public trial.

Under the new plan, Galbreath said the military would put information on

alleged attackers into a database so repeat offenders can be identified. Galbreath said if officials find a possible repeat offender, they would go back to the victims to see if they might change their minds and agree to prosecute.

According to the survey, 21% of the women who said they reported a sexual assault believed that they suffered some type of retaliation aimed at stopping them from making a complaint.

Separately, 133 service members filed retaliation complaints. Of those, two-thirds were investigated by department inspectors general and ultimately 13 received some type of punishment, ranging from counseling to a court-martial.

Agencies

China-US cooperation best option, benefits world - Chinese diplomat

HOUSTON

CHINA-US cooperation is the best option for both sides, and a boon for the world as a whole, a Chinese diplomat said on Thursday.

Li Qiangmin, Chinese consul general in Houston, U.S. state of Texas, made the remarks at the Inaugural U.S.-China Light of Hope breakfast event organized by the U.S.-China Center for Medical Exchange, a non-profit and non-governmental organization.

According to Li, as this year marks the 40th anniversary of China-U.S. diplomatic ties, the world is eager to see how the two countries will strengthen their mutual trust and develop their relations in the next 40 years facing challenges such as terrorism, climate change as well as cancer.

"Facts have proven that cooperation is the best option for both sides, and win-win can lead to a better future," said the diplomat.

The breakfast event was held in honor of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Chinese Institutions and affiliated hospitals during the Global Academic Programs Conference, an annual forum which aims to "develop impactful, innovative ideas and research that help lessen the world's cancer burden."

Representatives from six Chinese cancer hospitals attended the conference.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of the original three comprehensive cancer centers in the United States and has been focusing on cancer treatment, research and prevention. **Xinhua**

Assange refuses extradition to US, long legal fight expected

LONDON

A DEFIANT Julian Assange told a London court on Thursday he will fight extradition to the United States to face charges of conspiring to hack into a Pentagon computer, arguing that his work as WikiLeaks founder has benefited the public.

Speaking by video link from Belmarsh Prison in southeast London, Assange said: "I do not wish to surrender myself for extradition for doing journalism that has won many awards and protected many people."

His formal refusal to be extradited marks the start of what is expected to be a bruising legal battle over whether he will be brought to trial in the United States.

Assange, wearing jeans and a sports jacket, appeared calm during the brief hearing at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court. Some of his supporters who couldn't get seats in the small courtroom chanted support for Assange from the hallways, shouting "Shame on you" at the judge.

Judge Michael Snow said it would likely be "many months" before a full hearing was held on the substance of the US extradition case. The judge set a procedural hearing for May 30, with a substantive hearing to follow on June 12 once a full US extradition request has been received and studied by Assange's lawyers.



Legal experts predict it will likely take 18 months or longer to resolve the case, with each side able to make several appeals of unfavorable rulings.

That extradition request is no longer active, but Swedish officials say the rape investigation may be revived now that Assange is no longer out of reach in the Ecuadorian Embassy. Assange says he sought

asylum in the embassy because he feared being sent to the US to face charges related to WikiLeaks' publication of classified US military documents.

US authorities accuse Assange of scheming with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to break a password for a classified government computer. Manning served several years

in prison for leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks. She was jailed again in March after refusing to testify to a grand jury investigating the secret-spilling organization.

Ben Brandon, a lawyer representing the US government, said in court Thursday that US investigators had obtained details of chatroom communications between Manning and Assange in 2010. Brandon said the pair had "engaged in real-time discussions regarding Chelsea Manning's dissemination of confidential records to Mr Assange."

He said the documents allegedly downloaded from a classified US computer included 90,000 activity reports from the war in Afghanistan, 400,000 Iraq war-related reports, 800 Guantanamo Bay detainee assessments and 250,000 State Department cables.

The US charge against Assange carries a maximum five-year prison sentence, but Assange is worried the US could add further, more serious allegations against him.

"The fight has just begun. It will be a long one and a hard one," said WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson, who claimed Assange was being held in "appalling" conditions at Belmarsh Prison.

He said Assange was confined to his cell 23 hours a day, "what we call in general terms solitary confinement."

Agencies

Lavrov: Positions of Russia, US on Venezuela 'incompatible'

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and the United States have "incompatible" positions on the Venezuelan affairs, but Moscow is ready to talk with Washington, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday.

"Although US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and I agreed to continue contacts, I do not see how it is possible to combine our positions," Lavrov told reporters in Uzbekistan's capital city of Tashkent.

Lavrov said the Russian approach, on the one hand, is based on the UN Charter and the principles and norms of international law, according to a Russian Foreign Ministry press release.

The United States, on the other hand, appointed the acting president of another country, required legitimate authorities to capitulate, and threatened to use force along with "suffocating" sanctions in order to change the government, Lavrov said.

In response to the US interference in Venezuela's internal affairs, Russia is mobilizing a group of states that respect the UN Charter to counteract the US plans, the top diplomat said. "Such a group is formed in the UN. I hope that it will receive serious support in the organization," he said.

In a telephone conversation with Pompeo on Wednesday, Lavrov noted the latest situation in Venezuela where the

opposition had tried to seize power with "obvious support" from the United States.

The Russian side stressed that Washington's interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and threat against its leadership is a gross violation of international law.

Pompeo, however, criticized that Russia's role in Venezuela is "destabilizing" for the nation and urged Moscow to cease support for President Nicolas Maduro.

According to media reports, Lavrov and Pompeo are expected to hold talks on Venezuela among other issues in Finland on Monday on the sidelines of the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting.

Agencies



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

Democrats pressure Trump as Pelosi accuses Barr of 'crime'

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS intensified their pressure on President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday as US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused Attorney General William Barr of committing a crime by lying to lawmakers and a key committee chairman threatened to hold Barr in contempt of Congress.

Even as Democratic lawmakers accused the Trump administration of a growing attack on US democracy and the au-

thority of Congress, the White House showed no sign of backing down.

White House legal counsel Emmet Flood said in a defiant letter that Trump had the right to tell advisers not to testify to congressional panels on the findings of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia inquiry.

The dueling statements marked a sharp escalation in the conflict between the White House and Democrats who control the House of Representatives. With Trump seeking re-

election next year, Democrats are weighing whether to try to remove the Republican president from office using the impeachment process while pressing forward with demands for information on his taxes, businesses and other topics.

Shortly after Barr refused to appear before the House Judiciary Committee, Pelosi accused him of lying to lawmakers about interactions with Mueller after the special counsel ended a 22-month investigation into Russia's efforts to interfere in

the 2016 US election to boost Trump's candidacy.

"That's a crime," Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, told reporters, referring to Barr's congressional testimony.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec called Pelosi's allegation "reckless, irresponsible and false."

Democrats have accused Barr of misleading Congress by testifying in April he was unaware of any concern by the special counsel's team about Barr's initial March 24 characterization of

the report, an account that led Trump to claim full exoneration.

Barr failed to mention a March 27 letter he got from Mueller complaining that Barr's March 24 account did not "fully capture the context, nature and substance of this Office's work."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler threatened to hold Barr in contempt of Congress if he does not provide a full, unredacted copy of Mueller's report and the underlying evidence, as the panel has requested by a subpoena that

had a Wednesday deadline. That could potentially lead to legal steps against the top US law enforcement official.

Barr released Mueller's report on April 18, with some parts blacked out to protect sensitive information.

Several Democrats have called on Barr, whom Trump appointed after firing Jeff Sessions as attorney general, to resign. Pelosi and other House Democrats previously had cautioned against launching the impeachment process, which would be-

gin in the House but would face long odds of success in the Republican-controlled Senate and could alienate voters ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

But Pelosi said the Trump administration was continuing to ignore congressional subpoenas and noted that Congress launched impeachment proceedings against President Richard Nixon after he resisted similar demands. Nixon resigned in 1974 over the Watergate scandal.

Agencies



Caster Semenya

Physicians group calls on members to reject IAAF regulations

CAPE TOWN

THE World Medical Association has called on its members not to implement new International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) regulations that restrict testosterone levels in female athletes with differences in sexual development.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) this week dismissed an appeal by Olympic 800 metres champion Caster Semenya to set aside the regulations, which will come into effect on Wednesday.

However, the WMA, which represents physicians from 114 national member associations, said there was "weak evidence" that the regulations were necessary and that they should be scrapped.

"We have strong reservations about the ethical validity of these regulations," WMA President Dr. Leonid Eidelman said in a statement on the organisation's website.

"They are based on weak evidence from a single study, which is currently being widely debated by the scientific community."

"They are also contrary to a number of key WMA ethical statements and declarations, and as such we are calling for their immediate withdrawal."

Under the rules, female athletes with high natural levels of testosterone wishing to compete in events from 400m to a mile must medically limit that level to under 5 nmol/L, which is double the normal female range of below 2 nmol/L.

The IAAF has said no athlete would be forced to undergo surgery and that oral contraceptives should suffice in allowing them to reach the required level.

Testosterone increases muscle mass, strength

and haemoglobin, which affects endurance.

The WMA has previously said the regulations "would constrain the athletes concerned to take unjustified medication, not based on medical need, in order for them to be allowed to compete, and accordingly require physicians to prescribe such medication."

The association added it was unethical for physicians to prescribe treatment to lower testosterone if the condition was not recognised as pathological, and warned of the dangers of "artificially modifying blood constituents, biochemistry or endogenous testosterone".

Semenya will run in the 800m at the IAAF Diamond League meeting in Doha later on Friday, her final event before the regulations come into place.

The 28-year-old, along with Athletics South Africa (ASA), is considering an appeal to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, but after this weekend will have to run with blockers unless she moves up to longer distances.

CAS recognised in their verdict on Wednesday that the regulations were discriminatory, but added they were "necessary, reasonable and proportionate means of achieving the IAAF's aim of preserving the integrity of female athletics in the Restricted Events".

IAAF President Sebastian Coe reiterated the organisation's stance on Thursday at a media briefing in Doha.

"It is very straightforward for any association in sport," Coe said. "Athletics has two classifications - it has age and it has gender. We are fiercely protective of both. We are really grateful that CAS has upheld that principle."

REUTERS

Joel Embiid, 76ers now rout Raptors to take 2-1 series lead

PHILADELPHIA

JOEL Embiid had knocked the air out of Toronto by the time he punctuated a Game 3 victory with a windmill dunk. Embiid sprinted down the court with his arms stretched out like airplane wings, and the Philadelphia 76ers flying high in the postseason.

Embiid refused to get tripped up back in Philly, scoring 33 points and playing to the "MVP!" chants to lead the Sixers to a 116-95 victory over Toronto Raptors on Thursday night.

Philadelphia took a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"When I have fun, my game just changes," Embiid said. "I'm always told if I don't smile during the game it means I'm having a bad game or I'm not into it. I know to get my game going, I've got to have fun on the court."

Embiid also had 10 rebounds, shaking off a pair of passive games and became the driving force on offense the Sixers needed as they chase their first NBA championship since 1983.

He made the game his own in the third quarter and helped the Sixers put away a Raptors team badly overmatched outside of Kawhi Leonard.

Embiid struck a chord when he buried a 3 in the third that stretched Philadelphia's lead to 12. That was start of a string of plays that got Toronto's attention. Embiid chased a loose ball and was tripped when Pascal Siakam intentionally stuck out his right leg and sent Philly's All-Star tumbling to the court.

The crowd went wild and Siakam was hit with a flagrant foul. Embiid made both free throws as fans - including some of Philadelphia's biggest sports stars - serenaded him with chants of "MVP! MVP!"

Jimmy Butler, the Game 2 standout, dunked off his own steal and the Sixers had quickly put the game out of reach. Butler had 22 points.

Embiid scored another layup



Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons, center left, of Australia, shoots against Toronto Raptors' Marc Gasol, center right, of Spain, during the first half of Game 3 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Philadelphia. (AP Photo)

and waved his arms and pointed with a smile as wide as the hoop. Embiid went 9 of 18 from the floor and made 12 of 13 free throws.

It was moments like this why the 76ers endured the painful Process - the years of tanking seasons for high draft picks, like in 2014 when they drafted Embiid with the No. 3 overall pick.

Hall of Famer Allen Iverson and rapper Meek Mill engaged in a lengthy embrace from the court-side seats as the Sixers moved two wins away from their Eastern Conference final appearance since 2001.

The Sixers just had to survive Leonard.

Leonard toyed with Ben Simmons in the third to lead Toronto's charge back into the game. The Raptors ran Simmons through screens to give Leonard the space he needed to create and bury open jumpers. And when there was no space, Leonard simply bul-

lied his way to the basket.

He shoved a right elbow into James Ennis III and spun around him for a two-handed jam.

Leonard made all six baskets and scored 14 points in the quarter to cut the deficit to eight points. Kyle Lowry and Danny Green offered little help (20 combined points) and Leonard couldn't carry the Raptors on his own.

"They did a great job scoring. We didn't," Leonard said.

Leonard scored 33 points, and Siakam added 20.

"I think we got outplayed in just about every area we can get outplayed," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "It's been a while since we've seen this team play that way."

The Sixers split the two games in Toronto after a losing streak in the Canadian city that dated to 2012. They returned home to a delirious crowd amped for one of the most crucial games of the Process era.

Embiid wore a black Process hoodie to the postgame press conference.

"We've got a lot more to give and do something special," Embiid said.

Embiid, who missed a game against New Jersey in the last series with a sore left knee, averaged only 14 points and shot 28 percent (7 of 25) from the floor in the first two games and was tied up by Marc Gasol in frustrating fashion. Not in Game 3. Embiid buried a 3 and followed with a sweet spin move on Gasol the next time down that got the Sixers rolling.

The franchise center's sweetest play came when he blocked Leonard's layup in the lane, hustled back and got the ball in his hands, and connected with Tobias Harris in the corner for a 3. Embiid scored 18 points in the half and pushed the Sixers to a 64-53 lead at the break.

AP

Finisher or not, Dhoni proves glove work remains rust-free

NEW DELHI

DEBATE continues whether time has eroded Mahendra Singh Dhoni's ability as a "finisher" but the two lightning fast stumpings he effected in Wednesday's Indian Premier League match against Delhi Capitals prove at least his glove work remains rust-free.

While Dhoni scored 44 not out from 22 balls in the 80-run victory, it was the two stumpings he pulled off in the same Ravindra Jadeja over to send back Chris Morris and Delhi

captain Shreyas Iyer that were as crucial.

On both occasions, the back feet of both batsmen had barely risen from the ground when Dhoni knocked off the bails.

The former India captain attributed his speed to his unconventional technique, marked by a conspicuous lack of hand movement when collecting the ball.

"It's something that has come from tennis-ball cricket which I've played a lot," Dhoni said. "But you need to do the basics right first and

then graduate to the next level. I feel if you want to keep like that, then this is what you practise."

"You may commit a lot of errors so what's important is you stick to the basics and then get to the advanced course. If you can reduce the time where you can clip the bails off, it always helps."

Chennai spinners claimed eight of the 10 Delhi wickets in the match with Dhoni involved in three dismissals, including a catch.

Former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori believes spinners are

a greater threat with someone as assured as Dhoni behind the stumps.

"It's not a traditional way of keeping but it's the best way," Vettori, a left-arm spinner himself, told Cricinfo www.espncricinfo.com website of Dhoni's glove work.

"He's phenomenal behind the stumps."

Dhoni, who walked away with the man-of-the-match award, is India's preferred wicketkeeper in this year's World Cup with Dinesh Karthik as the back-up.

REUTERS

North Carolina lawyer Cheslie Kryst named Miss USA 2019

RENO, NEV.

A 27-year-old lawyer from North Carolina who represents prison inmates for free won the Miss USA title Thursday night, describing herself as a "weird kid" with a "unibrow" who's now part of the first generation of truly empowered women.

Asked in the final round to use one word to summarize her generation, Cheslie Kryst of Charlotte said "innovative."

"I'm standing here in Nevada, in the state that has the first female majority legislature in the entire country," she said at the event held for the first time in Reno. "Mine is the first generation to have that forward-looking mindset that has inclusivity, diversity, strength and empowered women. I'm looking forward to continued progress in my generation."

New Mexico's Alejandra Gonzalez, the first runner-up, and Oklahoma's Triana Browne, the second runner-up, helped highlight the diversity of the competition on stage as the three finalists along with Kryst, who is African American.

Browne said she's a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation whose father is white and mother is African American. She's in a partnership with Nike to promote a brand that celebrates Native American heritage. Gonzalez, whose mother immigrated to the United States from Mexico, founded a nonprofit that teaches children the importance of being literate.

Nevada's Tianna Tuamoheloa, who made it to the final five, was the first woman of Samoan descent to compete in the event that dates to 1952. Savannah Skidmore, a former state basketball champion from Arkansas who has a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo and is pursuing a law degree, also made the final five.

Kryst and Gonzalez faced each other holding hands during the moments before the winner was announced, then em-



Miss North Carolina Cheslie Kryst wins the 2019 Miss USA final competition in the Grand Theatre in the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nev., on Thursday, May 2, 2019. Kryst, a 27-year-old lawyer from North Carolina who represents prison inmates for free, won the 2019 Miss USA title Thursday night in a diverse field that included teachers, nurses and members of the military. (AP)

braced with the news.

Kryst said she didn't feel nervous as she advanced through the elimination rounds.

"I just kept hearing my name get called," she said. As she waited for the winner to be announced, "All I could think was, 'This is really cool.'"

Kryst earned a law degree and an MBA at Wake Forest University before becoming a civil litigation attorney who does pro bono work to reduce sentences for inmates. In a videotaped message played during the two-hour event at a hotel-casino, she told a story of when a judge at a legal competition told her to wear a skirt instead of pants because judges prefer skirts.

"Glass ceilings can be broken wearing either a skirt or pants," Kryst said.

She told reporters afterward she'll never forget being in law school at Wake Forest participating in a moot court competition in Louisiana with a panel of judges who provided very little feedback to her and her partner.

"We stood there for 30 minutes after practicing for months and all you said was wear a skirt next time?" she said. "It was very frustrating. Don't tell females to wear different clothes while you give the

men substantive feedback on their legal arguments."

Kryst who advances to the Miss Universe competition, was crowned by 2018 Miss USA Sarah Rose Summers of Nebraska. She said her interest in pageants began when she was 10 years old, watching her mother ride a horse-drawn carriage in a parade when she was named Mrs. North Carolina in 2002.

"It was a time in my life when I didn't know who I was and wasn't confident in myself. I was that little weird kid who had a unibrow and didn't have any friends. My hair was always pulled back. I thought I want to be just like her," she said.

Kryst went on to compete in pageants in high school.

"I can't say pageants make you beautiful. I think they make you more confident in the person that you are," she said.

"I'm still that same weird kid. I still like reading books. And at the end of the day, I like to sit by myself in my house and just watch movies. But I think pageants taught me all that, and my mom was really the one who introduced me to that and drew me to pageantry."

AP

After Messi mauling Liverpool face reunion with Benitez

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

SHAKEN by the brilliance of Lionel Messi and a 3-0 Champions League defeat in Barcelona, Liverpool know that anything but a Premier League win at Newcastle United today would leave their dreams of honours this season in tatters.

The second-leg of their semi-final with Barcelona awaits at Anfield on Tuesday with Jurgen Klopp's side needing a comeback of Istanbul proportions if they are to reach the final.

If the scoreline in Spain felt a harsh reflection on Liverpool's efforts on the night, there is a similar feeling about their Premier League campaign.

Klopp's side have lost just once all season but unless leaders Manchester City slip up in their final two games - at home to Leicester City on Monday and then at Brighton and Hove Albion - the Merseysiders will have to settle for second place.

"We've obviously got to bounce back first for the weekend, pick ourselves up again after this disappointment," said Liverpool midfielder James Milner.

"But I think we've all seen the heart in the dressing room before and the drive, the team spirit. We will be ready to go at the weekend. Hopefully we can get the result and get a bit of positive feeling going into the second leg," he added.

Liverpool fans may draw on the collective memory of their comeback from three goals down to beat AC Milan in the 2005 Champions League final in Istanbul, but the man who masterminded that famous victory will sit on the opposition bench at St James' Park on Saturday.

Spanish coach Rafa Benitez has kept Newcastle in the top flight for another season and has created a team with a solid defensive structure that should provide a challenge even for Liverpool's prolific attack.

Mohamed Salah (21 goals) and Sadio Mane (20 goals) should be reunited with Roberto Firmino, who missed the 5-0 win over Huddersfield and started on the bench in Barcelona.

Another former Liverpool manager could have a say in the title race this week with Brendan Rodgers leading his Leicester City side to the Etihad to face City.

Rodgers was in charge of Liverpool during their ultimately doomed title run-in five years ago and is back in the Premier League after enjoying success in Scotland with Celtic.

Leicester showed signs of progress under Rodgers in

beating Arsenal 3-0 on Sunday but City are in steely mood, as they illustrated in a hard-fought 1-0 win at a resilient Burnley.

In the relegation battle, Cardiff City must beat Crystal Palace on Saturday and hope that Brighton are beaten at Arsenal a day later.

Neil Warnock's side are four points behind 17th-placed Brighton with two games remaining.

Huddersfield and Fulham have already been relegated to the second tier Championship.

Meanwhile, Leicester City manager Brendan Rodgers says he has no extra motivation to do his former club Liverpool a favour in the Premier League title race when his side face Manchester City on Monday.

Liverpool can return to the top of the table if they beat Newcastle United on Saturday but will only be in pole position to clinch the league title on May 12 if Rodgers' Leicester can claim a point or better at the Etihad Stadium.

Yet Rodgers, who went agonisingly close to winning the league with Liverpool in 2013-14, is only focused on his job at Leicester.

"I am employed by Leicester. My focus is on Leicester City. There's no comparison really," Rodgers told a news conference on Thursday.

"It's exciting to be involved but my thoughts are solely with Leicester and doing what we can to get a result.

"Liverpool back then was at a different stage. We had young players, loan players. We went from eighth to second in a couple of years so it's a different dynamic. We deserved to finish second."

Leicester, who beat Arsenal 3-0 in their last league outing, are in contention for a potential Europa League qualification spot, lying three points behind seventh-placed Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Youri Tielemans, on loan from Monaco, has contributed three goals and four assists in his 11 league games since arriving in January and Rodgers remains hopeful the midfielder will sign a permanent deal to extend his stay at the end of the campaign.

"He came here in January because he wasn't getting game time," Rodgers added.

"I think what Leicester have shown him is the opportunity that is here for any player, and in particular a young player.

"He has got a wonderful platform and base here to continue that development if there is something that is agreed between the clubs."

REUTERS

Barca, Spain legend Xavi to retire after 21 years

BARCELONA

BARCELONA and Spain legend Xavi Hernandez has officially announced that he will retire from football after 21 years.

The Spanish national team veteran, who plays in Qatar for Al Sadd, confirmed in an open letter on Thursday that this will be his last season and that he will continue his career as a coach.

"It has been a privilege to play football up to age 39 and I would like to finish out the season on the top by winning the Amir Cup and reaching the next stage of the Asian Champions League.

"This is my last season as a player, but I really want to see what the future holds for me as a manager," Xavi, who joined Barca's senior side during the 1998-99 season, said in the letter.

The Barcelona academy product led the Catalan club to eight titles in La Liga as well as four Champions League trophies. His total silverware for club and country, 31 trophies, is a number only

surpassed by his longtime Spain and Barcelona teammate Andres Iniesta.

He spoke about his developing style as a manager, citing the influence of Johan Cruyff and La Masia and the style that Barcelona gave to the world.

"I love to see teams that take the lead on the pitch, that attacking football and that return to the essence that we all know from the days of our youth, possession of the ball," he said.

"It has been a privilege to accomplish what I have done over the past two decades. And that is why I feel that it is my duty to begin an initiative on the field and give back to football as long as I am able."

Capped 113 times for Spain, Xavi played a key role in his country's 2010 World Cup victory in addition to Spain's victories at both Euro 2008 and Euro 2012. He retired from national team play in 2014.

(AGENCIES)

Lacazette, Aubameyang cover up Arsenal's flaws

LONDON

WITH strikers this good, sometimes everything else just takes care of itself. Arsenal have one foot in the Europa League final, and that is in spite of the fact nobody would seriously suggest their old failings disappeared against Valencia. What made the difference was that, not for the first time, their outstanding forward line got them out of trouble -- and edged them closer to a first continental title in 25 years.

There is still a second leg to face at the Mestalla, but Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's added-time volley, his fifth goal in this season's competition, felt decisive. Valencia faded badly after an excellent opening 15 minutes, and Unai Emery's side should have few fears about what awaits them next Thursday. They could have come away with an even bigger lead but, with Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette in this vein of form, further chances should fall their way in Spain.

"Arsenal made the most of their opportunities, their first two attacks resulted in goals," said the Valencia manager Marcelino. He was basically right.

Sloppy defending at a corner -- hardly a new theme -- saw Mouctar Diakhaby head the visitors into an early lead. Off the back of three straight league defeats, Arsenal looked stifflingly low on confidence. But then a rapier-like break saw Lacazette play Aubameyang through before motoring into the box to roll his strike partner's square pass into an empty net. Then Granit Xhaka crossed deep, Lacazette's free header squeezed over the line and Arsenal, without really needing to impose themselves on the game, were in the box seat.

"They have two very good strikers; I don't know how many millions of euros they cost," Marcelino said. "You make the slightest mistake at this level and players of that quality can take advantage."

That is what it came down to in a generally low-standard game that, when set against the Champions League semifinals that preceded it this week, was a stark reminder of the difference between the competitions. Arsenal's back line would, with the exception of the excellent Laurent Koscielny, be ravaged at the sport's highest level; their midfield would look ordinary, as it did for long periods here. But their front men would grace that stage and, if Arsenal are to return there, they surely need



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scores their third goal against Valencia during their Europa League Semi Final First Leg match at Emirates Stadium on London, Britain on Thursday. (Agencies)

to be dovetailed without interruption for what remains of this season.

In the round-of-16 win over Rennes, it was a brace from Aubameyang that turned a 3-1 first-leg deficit comprehensively around. Against Napoli a fortnight ago, Lacazette, in the hot-bed of Stadio San Paolo, whipped in the free kick that put Napoli's challenge to bed. At this very stage of last season's competition, Lacazette put Arsenal briefly ahead against Atletico Madrid.

Sloppy defending at a corner -- hardly a new theme -- saw Mouctar Diakhaby head the visitors into an early lead. Off the back of three straight league defeats, Arsenal looked stifflingly low on confidence. But then a rapier-like break saw Lacazette play Aubameyang through before motoring into the box to roll his strike partner's square pass into an empty net. Then Granit Xhaka crossed deep, Lacazette's free header squeezed over the line and Arsenal, without really needing to impose themselves on the game, were in the box seat.

"They have two very good strikers; I don't know how many millions of euros they cost," Marcelino said. "You make the slightest mistake at this level and players of that quality can take advantage."

That is what it came down to in a generally low-standard game that, when set against the Champions League semifinals that preceded it

this week, was a stark reminder of the difference between the competitions. Arsenal's back line would, with the exception of the excellent Laurent Koscielny, be ravaged at the sport's highest level; their midfield would look ordinary, as it did for long periods here. But their front men would grace that stage and, if Arsenal are to return there, they surely need to be dovetailed without interruption for what remains of this season.

In the round-of-16 win over Rennes, it was a brace from Aubameyang that turned a 3-1 first-leg deficit comprehensively around. Against Napoli a fortnight ago, Lacazette, in the hot-bed of Stadio San Paolo, whipped in the free kick that put Napoli's challenge to bed. At this very stage of last season's competition, Lacazette put Arsenal briefly ahead against Atletico Madrid.

They are the only players in this squad who can consistently impact upon high-stakes games like these; they have now scored 43 goals between them this season and, while Emery rotated them heavily earlier in the campaign, they have started five of the past six games for which they have both been available. The Arsenal manager appears to have clocked that their best hope of Champions League football via the domestic or European route is to give his sharp shooters as much cumulative pitch time as possible now.

That looks particularly wise when

Arsenal are so vulnerable under pressure at the other end. Dani Parejo forced a save from Petr Cech shortly after Diakhaby's goal and the keeper was sharp, too, to block from the substitute Kevin Gameiro in the second half. There is still a sense that, should Valencia turn up the tempo in the return fixture, Arsenal might find themselves in trouble; in their favour, though, is the fact that the La Liga side looked so ordinary on this night.

"It will continue to be very difficult; I consider it 50-50 for the two teams," said Emery, who admitted surprise that Valencia fielded a three-man back line with Diakhaby, usually a defender, holding in front. Arsenal got around that by using the pitch's width and it was Sead Kolasinac, enjoying plenty of second-half space, who set up Aubameyang's strike with a well-weighted cross. Emery and his players responded superbly to adversity, as they so often have in this competition; they now have only two hurdles to clear.

"It's not normal for Valencia to concede three goals," Emery said. He was right: only Atletico Madrid, just over a fortnight ago, have breached them that many times this season. But they have rarely faced strikers as clinical as Aubameyang and Lacazette, who covered up a multitude of Arsenal flaws while laying Valencia's painfully bare.

(AGENCIES)

Selling Hazard could end Chelsea's status as contenders

BY MICHAEL COX, ESPN.COM WRITER

ONCE upon a time, when a club found its superstar player linked with a move to a bigger club, they used to repeat the same refrain: "We are not a selling club."

It was always a particularly meaningless phrase; every club is a selling club at the right price, not least in this era of player power. It's not even worth pretending anymore. When Barcelona are effectively forced to sell Neymar, and Real Madrid are effectively forced to sell Cristiano Ronaldo, even European football's two big beasts are now selling clubs.

Those two remain at the top of the foodchain and have regularly signed English football's best throughout the past decade: from Ronaldo to Luis Suarez, from Cesc Fabregas to Gareth Bale, from Luka Modric to Philippe Coutinho. If Barca and Real come calling, you don't stand much chance of keeping a player.

The next in line, it seems, is Eden Hazard. Losing the Belgian would be a serious blow to Chelsea, not merely because of his huge contribution to the club's attack -- more on that later -- but because Chelsea are genuinely not a selling club. It's difficult to remember, in the Roman Abramovich era or even during the decade or so beforehand, Chelsea losing a key player against his will.

Sure, Chelsea have let go of big names, like Arjen Robben and Juan Mata, but that was because they didn't fit into Jose Mourinho's plans. They sold Kevin De Bruyne and Mohamed Salah too early, believing they had better options in their squad. And they've sold established title



Chelsea's Olivier Giroud shoots at goal during the Europa League Semi Final First Leg match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Chelsea, at Commerzbank-Arena, in Frankfurt, Germany, on May 2, 2019. Photo, Reuters

winners like Oscar and Thibaut Courtois, but few supporters were disappointed to see them leave.

However, at Stamford Bridge there's been nothing close to Arsenal losing Fabregas, United losing Ronaldo, Liverpool losing Suarez or Spurs losing Bale. Those were their side's outstanding individual, the player the attack was based around. Losing them forced the clubs to regroup, reformat their side and build again. All have managed it. If they lose another star, they can point to past experiences and move on.

To Chelsea, this is entirely unnatural. They, like Manchester City, have been all about incomings. Under Abramovich, Chelsea have generally signed players at roughly their peak age -- or sometimes just as they're starting to decline -- which means

their stars have departed in their mid-30s, when it was long overdue.

All this means it's difficult to envisage how Chelsea would cope if Hazard, as expected, moves to Real Madrid this summer. There's no culture at Chelsea of reinvesting in youth and building again. With uncertainty over the future of Maurizio Sarri, little emphasis upon promoting youth, a question mark about their recruitment policy after Michael Emenalo's departure and an upcoming transfer ban, the departure of Hazard could prove more disastrous than the loss of the aforementioned players.

There's a sense that Hazard remains underrated in the Premier League, especially considering his recent omission from the PFA Team of the Year. No Premier League player has recorded more assists than Haz-

ard this season, and no one has dribbled past opponents more regularly. Only seven players have scored more goals.

That all-round quality is what makes Hazard so brilliant, and it also means he would be almost impossible to replace. Chelsea aren't simply looking to replace goal-scoring potential, or creative quality, or trickery -- they'd be looking for someone who could provide three different qualities in one. Statistically, it's difficult to find anyone comparable from Europe's major leagues, aside from Lionel Messi. Hazard's departure would need to be compensated with the arrival of at least two standout attackers.

Chelsea seemingly can't compete for Europe's most coveted players anymore, so instead they're being forced to look for the next big thing. Christian Pulisic will arrive in the summer and is clearly an outstanding talent. But Chelsea are not a club that possesses great patience, or a great track record of turning promise into consistent end product -- even Hazard himself was miles ahead of Pulisic in terms of his development when he joined in 2012.

Hazard has been relatively consistent throughout the course of his Chelsea career -- only 2015-16 has been a genuinely disappointing campaign -- but Chelsea have never relied on him as much as this season.

Increasingly, Sarri's tactics in the attacking third have gone out the window, and Chelsea's attack has been based around getting the ball to Hazard, and getting him to do something remarkable.

(AGENCIES)

SPORT

Lacazette, Aubameyang cover up Arsenal's flaws

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 27

Smith, Warner will need to be 'humble' in Australia team - Langer

MELBOURNE

THE return of Steve Smith and David Warner to the Australia squad has generated excitement, not tension, among the playing group but the pair will need to learn "humility" after losing their leadership roles, coach Justin Langer said on Friday.

Former captain Smith and Warner were selected in Australia's World Cup squad last month after their ball-tampering bans expired but they will play under skipper Aaron Finch and a new leadership group.

The duo, whose reintegration was smoothed with a visit to the squad in Dubai last month, returned to training with their team mates in Brisbane on Friday.

"There's no tension, honestly. We're so excited to have the boys back, we're just so excited about playing cricket," Langer told reporters at Allan Border Field.

"It's been a big buildup to it. It's a bit like facing fast bowling, isn't it? You worry about it until you get out there and it's not as bad as you thought it was.

"It's the same with the boys coming back in."

Smith has been banned from leadership posts until March 2020 while former vice captain Warner, who took the most blame for the Cape Town scandal, has been permanently blacklisted.

Langer said Smith and Warner's experience made them natural authority figures and that their leadership would be "crucial" for success on and off the field.

However, they would face a challenge adjusting to their diminished standing, he added.

"We'll draw on their experience on and off the field and we would be absolutely crazy not to," he said.

"There are certainly going to be challenges for both of them, though.

"When you've come from a titled position of captain, there's going to be a certain degree of humility that comes with that.

"But one of our really strong values is humility so it will be a great opportunity for them to develop that."

Simba edge Mbeya City FC

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2018/19 Mainland Premier League defending champions, Simba, have continued to put pressure on league leaders, Yanga, given the former edged Mbeya City FC 2-1 at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya yesterday.

Mbeya City FC defenders were under pressure two minutes into the opening stanza as Simba's Rashid Juma raced onto a good pass by teammate and threaded a pass to fellow striker within the area, the defenders though smothered the attack.

Mbeya City FC had a first good opportunity on the 15th minute as midfielder Mo-

hamed Kapeta tested Simba keeper Deo Munishi with a blockbuster from close range, the keeper parried the effort.

Simba several minutes back got two good chances, which were wasted.

Simba put Mbeya City FC under pressure on the 16th minute as the former's fullback Nicholas Gyan whipped in a cross, which was cleared by the latter's defenders.

The hosts recorded the opener on the 21st minute through midfielder Iddi Selemani, who got the better of the visitors' defenders and beat Munishi with a low rasping left foot effort from outside the area.

The hosts had a few minutes back failed to fully exploit a chance, in which Selemani

skipped one of the visitors defenders challenge a few meters from the latter's box and whipped in a cross, only to see team mates waste the chance.

Simba failed to make the most of an opportunity in which midfielder Hassan Dilunga whipped in a center nine minutes later which went begging.

Mbeya City FC keeper Owen Chaima parried a cross floated in by a Simba player on the 34th minute as the latter kept on pressing for an equalizer.

The hosts threatened to score the second on the 37th minute as a close range attempt by midfielder Mohamed Samatta went inches over the visitors crossbar.

Mbeya City FC still led by the lone goal at the end of the

opening stanza.

The visitors registered an equalizer through midfielder Mkude on the 68th minute. Mkude connected a good free kick by Nicholas Gyan.

The visitors' forward Meddie Kagere put the squad 2-1 up on the 85th minute after he had headed in Mohamed Hussein's free kick from the edge of the box.

It was an end to end affair for the rest of the match, with the hosts seeking to record an equalizer only to be let down by poor finishing.

Samatta squandered a good chance for Mbeya City FC during the added on time after he had failed to make the most of a free kick his team got a few meters from the opponents' box.



Mbeya City FC defender Ibrahim Ndunguli (L) blocks Simba striker Meddie Kagere during the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League duel that was held at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Aces A in pursuit of DRCC T20 competition last four

By Guardian Reporter

ACES A cricketers have a chance to inch closer to lifting the 2019 Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC) T20 tournament, given they are set to take on Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Club in the last four stage's clash at the Leaders Club's ground today.

General Petroleum team will also lock horns with Saint Gobain in the competition's second last four stage's match at the venue today.

Aces A cricketers, against all odds, recorded an emphatic 74-run win over favourites Caravans at the venue on April 28 to secure a place in the last four stage.

The victory gave Aces A's side a much needed boost as they head to the knockout stage and, as disclosed by the squad's founder Azim Thakur, the players are eager to give their all against Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Club.

He conceded much as either side has an opportunity to win the duel, his team is determined to showcase solid showing and come out with a win.

He disclosed the outfit will depend on, among others, inform all-rounders Jumanne Mohamed, Mohamed Ali and skipper Bhavesh Govind, to get the better of Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Club today.

"Ali has always been instrumental in our squad's success in competitions with his batting and bowling virtuosity, he has as well been fielding diligently," he noted.

Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Club thrashed MCC by seven wickets on April 28 to make it to the semi-finals.

Benson Mwita and Nyenje Hashim are some of talented players that Shree Kutchi Leva will depend on to secure victory today.

Aces A's victory over Caravans, made up of several experienced performers, is undoubtedly the former's memorable feat in this year's DRCC T20 tournament.

Aces A went in to bat first and recorded 130 runs for eight wickets in 20 overs, with Jumanne Mohamed, Ali and Ejaz Aziz playing pivotal role in the squad's acquisition of the imposing score.

Opener Mohamed posted 32 runs, blasting two sixes and two fours, Ali recorded 26 runs that included two sixes and a four, Aziz chipped in with 23 runs.

Caravans' spinner, Kassim Nassor, and Jayaraj Malayil finished their bowling spells with three wickets apiece.

Aces A cricketers then put solid bowling displays to bowl Caravans out for 56 runs in 15.5 overs to secure the crucial win.

Thakur expressed gratitude to Aces' sponsors, namely Alaf Limited, AfriTrack, Sunkist Arusha, TTT Worldwide, Supply Africa Limited and SBC through Pepsi brand, for their support to the club.

"Managing a cricket club in Tanzania is extremely expensive and for that matter we appreciate the companies' sponsorship," he noted.

He pointed out that Aces have, moreover, been conducting development programs, in which they have been sending some of their players outside the country to attend clinics and gain experience in cricket.

Aces, he disclosed had recently sent medium pacer Salum Jembe to Pakistan and South Africa, and Jumanne, who also went to South Africa to participate in development programs to boost the players' performance.

Aces Club has two teams, Aces B and Alaf Aces that are, as well, battling it out in competitions that are under the supervision of the DRCC.

COSAFA Cup 2019 draw throws up some tasty ties

CAPE TOWN

HOSTS South Africa will tackle Botswana in the quarter-finals of the 2019 COSAFA Cup after the draw was made for the prestigious regional tournament to be staged in Durban from May 25-June 8.

It will be a repeat of the 2016 Cup final and the 2018 Plate decider as the familiar foes clash again for a place in the semi-finals, with South Africa coming out on top in both those matches.

East African guest nation Uganda will have to get past Lesotho to advance to the Last 4, but will be wary of a Likuena side that has finished in third place in the last two installments of the COSAFA Cup.

Defending champions Zimbabwe will meet the winner of the

first round Group A, which will be one of Angola, eSwatini, Comoros and Mauritius.

Angola, like Zimbabwe, will be heading to the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt shortly after the tournament and that would be a massive quarterfinal lineup were it to materialise.

Comoros, meanwhile, are appearing in their first COSAFA Cup since 2009, a welcome return for the islanders after a decade on the sidelines.

Zambia, always a power in the regional showpiece competition, will clash with the winner of Group B, which includes Mozambique, 2015 winners Namibia, Malawi and Seychelles.

Namibia are another side that are plotting their trip to the Cup of Nations finals, but Mozambique and Malawi in particular will present a mighty challenge.

The four winning quarterfinals advance to the Cup semi-finals, while the losing teams will move in to the Plate competition.

2019 COSAFA Cup draw:

Group A
Angola
eSwatini
Comoros
Mauritius

Group B
Mozambique
Namibia
Malawi
Seychelles

Quarter-finals

Zambia vs Winner Group B
Lesotho vs Uganda
Zimbabwe vs Winner Group A
South Africa vs Botswana



(L-R) Sue Destombes, COSAFA Secretary General, and officials Lwazi Ziqubu and William Shongwe take part in the 2019 COSAFA Cup draw at the SuperSport Studios in Johannesburg, South Africa on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MUZI NTOMBELA