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National Pg 3 Govt launches 24bn/- worth water project



National Pg 4 Poultry farmers to commercialise production



National Pg 6 'Invest in tourism, TTB tells women



National Pg 7 OPEC extends US\$50m for poverty reduction



Magufuli: I am not hostile to criticism

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday responded to critics of his media freedom record, saying he is not against criticism as widely reported.

Launching new studios of the Africa Media Group in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Magufuli said contrary to the narra-

tive, media outlets have flourished during his term in office than those before him.

"I like criticism provided it is constructive and delivered in a modest and civilized manner," he said.

President Magufuli said in the last five years his government has widened the sphere of media activity and worked to ensure that reporting is balanced.



I like criticism provided it is constructive and delivered in a modest and civilized manner," he said.

"In the past five years we have strengthened media freedom and ensured that they report freely. We do not hate those who criticize us positively," he declared.

He said in the past half decade his government had 193 radio stations registered, up from 106 in 2015 as well as 46 television channels, from 25 earlier.

He said during the same period 23 on-

line radio stations have been registered and 440 online television channels from zero in 2015. He said there are 247 registered newspapers and publications which makes Tanzania a country with the largest number of media outlets in Africa and in good ranking globally.

The President called upon journalists

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AWARDS Page 4



LOCUST Page 5



SPORT Page 19



Govt in joint EAC locust control bid

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is seeking a coordinated response with Kenya to tame swarms of locusts entering the northern regions from the neighbouring country.

Agriculture minister Prof Ado-If Mkenya said it will be a waste of time and resources for Tanzania to continue spraying the invasive pests on its territory without the same being done where they come from.

Speaking during a visit to affected areas in Kilimanjaro region on Wednesday, the minister said a joint response was necessary to maintain maximum efforts in conducting the necessary survey and control operations.

"My ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the East Africa Cooperation seek to reach out to the Kenyan authorities so that both countries conduct separate control operations but in a coordinated manner," he said.

The government had started aerial spraying operations to kill the pests in affected districts of Siha in Kilimanjaro and Longido in Arusha region.

"Despite the fact that we have

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'Billions in deposits at closed banks not finding claimants

By Guardian Reporter, Mtwara

BILLIONS of shillings that were deposited with seven banks are yet to be claimed by clients about three to four years since the institutions were closed, authorities affirm.

Data from the Deposit Insurance Board (DIB), charged with protecting deposits in financial institutions, shows that out of 11bn/- in the hands of the liquidator, around 7.3bn/- has been claimed so far.

Richard Malisa, the Acting Director of DIB, made this observation in a meeting with stakeholders of banks and financial institutions here yesterday.

He said unclaimed deposits are those of the Covenant Bank for Women (T) Ltd, Efa-tha Bank Ltd, Kagera Farmers Cooperative Bank, Mbanga Community Bank Ltd, Meru

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Communication and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile (2nd-L) launches a CRDB Bank Pk SimBanking application meant to enable the public to open accounts with the bank anywhere they may be -through mobile phones. This was at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is CRDB Group managing director and CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela and right (foreground) is the bank's deputy board chairperson, Prof Neema Mori. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

...scorns critics on city revamping Elevates Ilala's Kumbilamoto to city mayor

By Henry Mwangonde

FORMER Ilala municipality mayor, Omar Kumbilamoto was yesterday formally elevated to head the new Ilala City Council in Dar es Salaam region, a decision that was opposed by a section of stakeholders.

Making the announcement during his tour of the city, President

John Magufuli remarked that some individuals opposed his decision to automatically name Kumbilamoto as new city mayor.

"I know there are people who had already started campaigning for the position but I say you deserve it," he told the new city head.

He said Ilala municipality deserved to be elevated to a city because it was

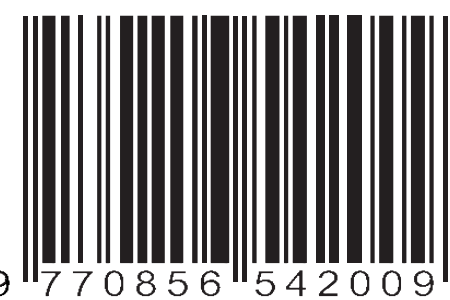


I know there are people who had already started campaigning for the position but I say you deserve it," he told the new city head.

leading in revenue collection countrywide.

"Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Ilala for making it to become a city. By the information given by the minister you were supposed to be a city; that means even your mayor and his deputy will be city leaders from today," he declared.

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President John Magufuli inaugurates Dar es Salaam's newly refurbished Kisutu mixed-goods market yesterday. Those witnessing the event include Mussa Hassan Zungu (2nd-L), the city's Ilala constituency legislator, and Selemani Jafo (to the MP's left), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'Billions in deposits at closed banks not finding claimants'

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Community Bank Ltd, Njombe Community Bank Ltd and FBME Bank Ltd.

Since the institutions were put under receivership, round 25,050 depositors, equivalent to 39 per cent of total deposit holders had approached DIB and recovered their money. These were mainly the ones with large amounts, he stated.

"It is possible many depositors are not aware that their money is safe after the banks were put under receivership; I appeal to them to come forward and claim these monies," he told the audience. Another explanation for failing to collect billions of shillings is that some clients with small amounts may have just decided not take the trouble because they live in distant corners of the country, he said.

Many depositors may not be aware that deposits ranging from one shilling to 1.5m/- are refunded to depositors immediately after the institution is put under receivership and only amounts exceeding that wait for the liquidation process to be completed, he pointed out.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) revoked business licenses and took possession of the banks having experienced a state of undercapitalisation at that point, hence being on the margin of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 2006 and its regulations.

In April 2018, five banks - Covenant, Efatha, Njombe, Kagera and Meru - were placed under DIB, meanwhile as earlier in May 2017 BoT revoked the business licence of the Mbinga and FBME banks, with these banks being placed under liquidation after DIB was appointed as liquidator.

Late July 2014, BoT took over the management of FBME following the Notice of Findings of the United States Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued on 15th July 2014, identifying FBME as "a financial institution of primary money laundering concern."

Govt in joint EAC locust control bid

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managed to control the locusts, a coordinated response is still important to eradicate the problem," he said, noting that lasting effectiveness of Tanzania's response will be jeopardized if similar measures aren't pursued on the other side.

Magufuli: I am not hostile to criticism

FROM PAGE 1

to be patriotic and fair in reporting, as in recent years there has been a growing tendency of fabricated reporting posted online, or 'fake news.'

"I thank you CCM Secretary General for bringing back the CCM buildings back to the party. You were called various names but you were brave enough and the party will remember you for this," he said,

addressing Dr Bashiru Ally, who earlier headed a party commission to investigate CCM properties illegally acquired by various individuals.

Dr Magufuli urged government officials to give information to journalists whenever they are required to do so by journalists.

"There are ministries which do not give information when they are required. That is why there has been

a growing trend of fake news including regarding deaths (of prominent individuals). Let me call upon my officers to give information so that people know what has happened," he emphasised.

In his remarks, Information, Sports and Culture minister Innocent Bashungwa hailed the president for what he has done in the media industry, urging similar in-

vestment thrust in sports facilities.

He said the procedure was open as the country needs facilities for various sporting activities to blossom.

"Investors should knock at the ministry and if possible we use the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model to invest in stadiums for soccer and other sporting activities," the minister added.

/ends /jz



Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau director general Brig Gen John Mbungu (R) pictured at Zanzibar State House yesterday presenting to Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi copies of documents on the 2017/2022 national strategy and third-phase implementation programme on corruption 2017/2022. Photo: Zanzibar State House

He said the locust swarms had caused panic among farmers and herders in Siha and Longido districts, with vegetation and crops at risk of being decimated by large groups of locusts.

On Tuesday, the government unveiled a plan to start spraying the desert locusts, devouring crops in Longido and Simanjiro districts

in Arusha and Manyara regions respectively. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said around mid-January that swarms of locusts were spreading from northern Kenya and had reached Taita Taveta County, thus capable of reaching Tanzania by early February.

In its latest update, FAO said

swarms could also enter South Sudan and Uganda, after the swarms were spotted in some parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Eritrea.

"All countries should maintain maximum efforts in conducting the necessary survey and control operations to reduce migration and breeding," the UN agency advised.

Last week, FAO reported immature swarms in Kenya's northern and central counties, and in Kilifi County in the upper Coast region.

There were a few small immature swarms formed from previous breeding in the Coast region near Lamu and probably in adjacent areas of southern Somalia, the agency added.



JPM scorns critics on city revamping

FROM PAGE 1

Launching the new Kisutu refurbished market, he urged the contractor to finish the remaining tasks, highlighting the importance of markets in the agriculture value chain.

Dr Magufuli said during the past five years, his government has constructed 22 markets worth about 199.92bn/- to sort out challenges facing farmers countrywide.

Kisutu market was one among seven strategic projects being implemented in Dar es Salaam including upgrading the markets of Tandale, Magomeni, Kibada, Mburahati, the Vingunguti abattoir and the new Mbezi Luis bus terminal, he stated.

He said the Kisutu market has come at the right time as the previous outlay had infrastructures that were not suitable for the business, with the current market capable of accommodating 1,500 trading units.

The president dissolved the Dar es Salaam City Council and instead turned Ilala municipal into a city authority, underlining the need for representative and administrative cohesion to avoid misuse of public funds.

He said that the city council collected monies from municipal councils of Temeke, Kigamboni, Ilala, Kinondoni and Ubungo without clear mandate in development projects. The city councilors were receiving allowances without being elected to a city council other than municipal councils, he remarked.

Expenses including salaries, allowances, accommodation and transport incurred by the government to heads of department would now be eliminated by the dissolution of the former apex body, city observers said.

There would be a new round of large investment in the various areas of Dar es Salaam as the country had launched new phase of improving urban roads, he added.

Italy seeks UN probe into the DRC envoy's killing

ROME

Italy said yesterday that it has asked the United Nations to launch an investigation into the killing of its ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The envoy, Luca Attanasio, 43, died on Monday after a World Food Programme (WFP) convoy was ambushed in a dangerous part of the eastern DRC near the border with Rwanda.

Attanasio's Italian bodyguard and a Congolese driver were also killed.

"We have formally asked WFP (World Food Programme) and the UN to open an investigation to clarify what happened, the reasons behind the security arrangements used and who was responsible for these decisions," Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio told parliament.

Di Maio's comments came the morning after the bodies of the two Italians were returned by military plane to Rome.

"We expect, in the briefest possible time, clear and exhaustive answers," Di Maio said.

On Monday, the DRC's interior ministry blamed the killings on the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a Rwandan Hutu rebel group.

But the FDLR rejected the allegation and instead blamed the Rwandan and DRC militaries.

Di Maio said the party was relying on UN protocol during the trip from the capital Kinshasa to Goma, some 2,500 kilometres (1,550 miles) east, but that Attanasio had "full power" to decide how and where to move within DRC.

"The mission took place at the invitation of the United Nations. So even the car journey took place within the organisational framework set up by the World Food Programme," Di Maio.

The WFP is a branch of the UN which focuses on hunger and food security, and which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Di Maio said a team of Italian police had already been dispatched to the DRC for an initial investigation and others would follow.

In addressing the Chamber of Deputies, Di Maio provided preliminary details of how the attack on the two vehicles unfolded in the mountainous, thickly forested area about 25 kilometres from Goma, between 10am and 11am local time.

Six attackers "allegedly forced the vehicles to stop by placing obstacles on the road and firing several shots from small arms in the air," Di Maio said.

AGENCIES



Livestock dip construction supervisor Robert Baltazar (L) shows Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul (R) on Wednesday the sketch of a dip lined up for Chamakweza at Chalinze in Coast Region, as Coast regional commissioner Evarist Ndikilo (2nd-R, foreground) looks on. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

Govt inaugurates 24bn/- worth project to supply water in Shinyanga, Singida

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has signed a 24.4bn/- worth water project to fetch water from Lake Victoria and supply it to thousands of residents in Shelui town in Ilamba District, Singida Region.

The project will be constructed at Tinde area in Shinyanga Region under the Megha Engineering Contraction Company from India. It will also benefit residents in Tinde town, Shinyanga Region.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso wanted the contractor to work hard to ensure that the project is completed at the scheduled timeframe of 12 months.

"We will not listen to any excuse, so make sure that water project is completed on time so as to supply the residents with enough clean water," he said.

Aweso said that the launch of the project is implementation of President John Magufuli's promise which he made to residents of Tinde and Shelui early this year.

He said that the government had invested much of its efforts to address water blues in the country.

He wanted the supervisors of the pro-

ject to ensure that all the employment opportunities favour youth from Shelui and Tinde while also calling on the workers to protect the project including all the equipment.

Anthony Sanga, Permanent Secretary said the 24.4bn/- have been issued by the India-based Exim bank as soft loan.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Telak commended the government for initiating the project saying it will address the prolonged water woes facing the residents.

She said the project will benefit 33 villages thus curbing water blues in the areas.

Happiness Makoye, one of the residents said that the implementation of the project brings a huge relief to the residents, especially women who have been walking miles away to search for the precious liquid.

Reports show that, only 50 percent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved sources of safe water, and only 34 percent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time travelling some distance to collect water.

HakiElimu calls for joint efforts to curb school-related violence

By Getrude Mbago

HAKIELIMU, a non-profit based organization dedicated for promoting education has called for more harmonized efforts to protect school-children against all forms of violence in the country.

In its report dubbed 'State of Violence Against School Children in Tanzania Mainland', HakiElimu unveiled that over 50 percent of violence to school children are practiced in school areas.

Speaking during the dissemination of the report in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday,

HakiElimu executive director John Kallage said inevitably violence against school children has a negative impact on their learning and attendance something which infringes on their right to education.

He said the study was conducted to investigate the situation of violence against school children in mainland Tanzania.

He said the school-related violence encompasses of many violence including sexual, physical and psychological violence occurring at schools and on the journey to and from schools.

According to him, the study was conducted in 16 regions reaching 128 primary and secondary schools.

Kallage said that the report shows 87.9 percent of all interviewed school children to have experienced physical violence, with caning being mentioned as the most common type.

"It shows that 17 percent of public school children and 14.3 percent of private school children experienced at least one incident of sexual violence, while 34.3 percent of school-going children experienced psychological violence

from parents and guardians. This shows that there is an urgent need to address the cause root issues that affect children's safety at home and school," he said.

The director said to address issues of violence against children, there is a need for the government, ministries and agencies, private organizations, the media and other stakeholders to provide correct and uniform definition of violence against children and create awareness in the communities to ensure safety and protection for children.

"Based on the study find-

ings, we recommend including education on child safety, gender and prevention of violence against children in the teachers' training colleges, deploying qualified teachers and counselors in schools."

Kallage further said the organisation request for the legal and policymakers to consider the findings and revisit the education (Corporal Punishment) Regulation G. N. 294 of 2002, the National Education Act 1978, and development of School Discipline Policy.

He said HakiElimu is aware of the government's contin-



ued efforts in the progressive realization of the rights to education, including the safety and wellbeing in schools and home settings. The 'Fee-Free Basic Education Policy' designed to enhance access to education.

"However, there are still serious increased cases of violence against children in and out of -schools, which if not addressed will deny the children their basic right to attain education," he said

According to him, in the years 2018 and 2019, the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) documented a total of

24 cases involving teachers, of which 3 were the head teachers, in sexual violence. It was also reported that a total of 162 teachers were dismissed from July 2016 to 2019 for engaging in sexual relationships with school girls. In 2018 and 2019 alone, LHRC documented more than 2,540 pregnancy cases among schoolgirls, with motorcycle drivers and male teachers cited as main perpetrators.

Presenting the study findings, a researcher, Dr Moses Mnzava said 60 percent of school-going children involved in the study reported

REQUEST FOR TENDER CATERING AND CLEANING SERVICES

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide catering and cleaning services.

Pre-qualification criteria

- (1) At least one active catering contract serving more than 200 people per day
- (2) Qualify as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per Local Content Regulations
- (3) Active relevant catering certification
- (4) More than 3 years catering and cleaning experience
- (5) Experienced key personnel to be assigned to the project
- (6) Adequate policies & procedures

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote reference "Catering and Cleaning Services HR01/2021" in the subject line of your email.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 25 February 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited




SUPPLY CHAIN VACANCIES

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania notifies interested and qualified parties of vacancies in our Supply Chain Department.

As part of our campaign to enhance our Supply Chain, and recruit the best people we are looking to attract and develop strong, world-class candidates in Tanzania to fill the following roles:

- Supply Chain and Commercial Manager
- Warehouse Superintendent
- Technical and Capital Officer
- Fuel and Lubricant Supervisor
- Inventory Controller
- Senior Buyer and Commercial Officer
- Expeditor
- Receiving Officer
- Reagents Officer

Application details and job descriptions can be obtained from:
<https://jobs.barrick.com/>

Applicants are invited to submit their CV's (indicating role title in the subject) to nmrecruitment@barrick.com



Anthony Luambano (R), a representative of elders from Lilambo ward in Songea municipality, presents traditional weapons to Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro yesterday. The elders were installing the minister, who doubles as Songea Urban legislator, as a ceremonial Ngoni chief. Left is Songea mayor Michael Mbano. Photo: Correspondent Lusungu Helela

TALIRI tells poultry farmers to embark on commercial farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) has urged poultry farmers to change their minds and embark on commercial farming for them to increase productivity and income.

Aluna Chawala, TALIRI acting director in Mpwapwa, Dodoma made the call here when the deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries Pauline Gekul met with the farmers to discuss several issues facing the sector.

According to him, farmers have to adhere to the experts' instructions and embark on smart chicken farming if they want to obtain profits in the business.

He said the country need for more people to embark on chicken farming as it is among the area which its potential is yet to be fully exploited.

Chawala said that the government has introduced new system to start selling the chickens per kilogramme and not by estimations as it was in previous years so as to enable farmers benefit from the trade.

"I urge poultry farmers to invest in modern farming methods so as to keep up with the modern market; this will also help them grow economically. Taking good care of the chickens will also improve their weight thus selling at a good price," he said.

He said the government wants to see its people, waking up and start thinking on doing their income generating activities including poultry farming in a modern way so as to support and maintain the country middle income status.

"So it is high time now for poultry farmers should change their minds and embark on commercial poultry farming so as to benefit more and improve their lives," he said.

He also urged farmers to remember conducting vaccination appropriately as to guarantee safety of the chickens from diseases.

The expert further said if farmers will apply vaccination as advised by experts, they will greatly reduce deaths of mature chickens something which will also increase income.

Women in Management Awards back for second edition

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Institute of Directors in collaboration with UN Global Compact yesterday announced the second edition of the Women in Management Awards (WIMA) 2021 signaling another year of honouring and inspiring senior women leaders in Africa.

The move marks two consecutive years in hosting the awards which recognizes and celebrates women who have excelled in their careers, businesses, and everyday life while inspiring others.

Speaking at the launch, the Country Director for CV People of Tanzania, Naike Moshi,

said: "It's been a long wait, but we are pleased to finally announce that the second edition of the WIMA Awards is here and set to once again celebrate the senior women leaders across Africa who have excelled in their professional careers in different ways.

"The WIMA Awards were created to promote and increase visibility for Senior-Level Women in Management. The idea came to feature 50 senior women in management to our social media pages 'Career Women Wednesday'. This idea created a lot of buzz and traction by inspiring emerging leaders showing them it's possible for them to reach the career ladder specifically for female professionals.

"Every year the corporate industry continues to grow in leaps and bounds and we are proud to be a part of its success story through this initiative. For this year, we have extended our awards and we have new categories such as SDG female champion, WIMA Stem Awards, Next Gem WIMA Awards, He for She Leadership Award, WIMA abilities Award, WIMA Lifetime Award and Exemplary Female Leadership during Covid-19 crisis.

"Each category will have nominees to be voted for and the award will be presented to the winner on the 2021 WIMA awards event that will take place this year on 27th March.

There's no doubt that WIMA awards will remain the Africa's most prestigious awards and most reputable recognition of senior corporate female leaders across the continent."

Moreover, the Interim Executive Director for UN Global Compact Tanzania, Marsha Yambi, added: "This initiative organized by WIMA has open many closed doors for women as well as corporations to find best talents and it has delivered profitable results to the country's economy.

"It's not only about the award that matters, it's all about finding the hidden success of women and bringing them out to appreciate their silent leadership and also to encourage them to mentor more men and women towards gender equality, which is a SDG goal number five of the UN Global compact.

"Gender equality is not only a social and moral imperative, but also makes business sense. Globally, companies are increasingly recognizing that they can gain greater competitive advantage and improve profits by targeting women as employees, entrepreneurs, consumers and business leaders."

Marsha added: "Increasing the share of women in corporate leadership roles is associated with higher company profits and improved environmental and social outcomes. We believe recognizing women who have demonstrated success in their chosen career creates a legacy that inspires others. These awards challenge traditional views of women's roles as business leaders and help prompt companies to take action to create more gender equal workplaces."

The Acting Head of Technical Training from Tanzania Institute of Directors, Abdul Kela, insisted that, it is the

time for organisations to empower women to participate and make contribution to the economy and make sure that we build a sustainable future for our country particularly in these challenging times.

"And here's an open platform. Let's all take this opportunity to encourage our female participation in the labour-force by honouring them in their careers and motivate more women to take leadership roles in the workplace," said Kela.

According to the organisers, nominations are still open, for entry guidelines and additional information please visit their website at info@wima.co.tz.



TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE (TIC)

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FROM POTENTIAL INVESTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITY TO ENABLE COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE AT KIMANDOLU IN ARUSHA

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), has allocated 47,324 square metres of land for investment in Real Estate Development Opportunity to Enable Commercial Enterprise at the Kimandolu, Arusha site.
- Kimandolu is located approximately 5 km from Arusha City centre, accessible through old Moshi tarmac road and it is situated alongside the old Moshi road. With ideal tourism climatic conditions, high demand of commercial building infrastructure and tourism facilities, Arusha City is well positioned to serve the growing demand of tourist hotel beds, residential apartment and office accommodation demand-supply gap in the Northern tourist/ Commercial circuit
- Through the Tanzania's five years strategic development plan initiative commercial developers do also stand to gain from complimentary investments opportunities by private investors in infrastructure, and tourism sector.
- As stated in the Tanzania Investment policy, 1996 that potential investors will be assured priority access to land set aside by the government for allocation to investors (Land Bank), the title deed of the land is secured by TIC from the Ministry of land and human settlements and the whole land is under TIC land bank.
- Kimandolu investment site for Real Estate Development Opportunity to Enable Commercial Enterprise land allocation process will be guided by the Tanzania Investment Centre approved land allocation manual.
- TIC is now inviting Concept Notes from Investors/ Developers who are interested to invest in Real Estate Development Opportunity to Enable Commercial Enterprise to submit their concepts notes to invest and develop Kimandolu TIC site.
- The following investment site is available-Plot No. 144/2/1 Block "GG" situated at Kimandolu in Arusha Municipality with 47,324 square metres
- The preliminary evaluation criteria for the Concept Notes are as follows:
 - Quality of the concept note and proposed project/investment
 - Relevance to TIC's priorities
 - Alignment to national priorities: Vision 2025, BRN and the 5-year development plan
 - Value for money in terms of benefits to TIC (including revenue) surrounding community and the Government of Tanzania at large including jobs, government revenues e.c
 - Internal capacity of prospective investor
 - Investor track record or experience in undertaking similar projects.
- Upon completion of evaluation of submitted Concept Notes, TIC will short list Developers that will meet evaluation criteria and thereafter invite successful applicants to submit full Request for Proposals (RFP) based on TIC approved Terms of Reference for the call for proposals within TIC land bank allocation procedures and guidelines
- The deadline for Concept Note submission shall be on Wednesday 31st March, 2021 at 02:00pm (EAT). The hard copy of the proposal should be submitted to

Tanzania Investment Centre (Head Office)
Shaaban Robert Street, 9A & B
P.O Box 938, Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania.

Please note that, late submission will not be accepted. Proposal must be clearly marked: Concept Note for commercial building and tourism investment at TIC Kimandolu Arusha Site. Further enquiry should be communicated by E-mail on information@tic.go.tz



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAWASILIANO NA TEKNOLOJIA YA HABARI
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA
ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED



Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) inapenda kuwatangazia watumiaji wote wa huduma na bidhaa za mawasiliano,

Unapokutana na changamoto yoyote ya huduma ya mawasiliano, tafadhali piga namba **100** ambayo ni ya **BURE** kuwasilisha malalamiko kwa mtoa huduma wako au tembelea duka la mtoa huduma lililopo karibu na wewe.

Endapo malalamiko yako hayatashughulikiwa au kusuluhishwa, wasilisha malalamiko hayo kwa Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) kupitia namba **0800008272** ambayo ni ya **BURE**.

Au kupitiabaruapepe: malalamiko@tcra.go.tz

'TUTUMIE MAWASILIANO KUJILETEA MAENDELEO'
www.tcra.go.tz



[tcra_tanzania](https://www.instagram.com/tcra_tanzania)



Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja (C) advises on how to improve accommodation at Dar es Salaam's National College of Tourism shortly after a meeting with the management team yesterday. Right is the college's CEO, Dr Shogo Mlozi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

East Africa trade balances improve despite Covid-19 pandemic

By Correspondent

REGIONAL balance of trade improved in the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, with lower imports, as Kenya's manufactured products and demand for Tanzanian minerals held up the economies.

According to a report by the United Nations Economic for Africa (Uneca) and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) released this week, Kenya registered an increase in exports of manufactured products, especially non-food industrial supplies and machinery and other capital equipment while demand for Tanzanian gold increased by 33.6 per cent between January and November.

The report is titled Waving or Drowning? The impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on East Africa trade.

"Kenya's exports dropped by 33 percent in April due to the dramatic 83 percent decline in re-exports but started increasing in the subsequent months to its peak in November, while Tanzania experienced a relatively strong export performance during the pandemic period, especially in the third quarter driven by increased mineral exports," the report says.

Gold exports alone in Tanzania earned \$2.85 billion representing a 33.6 percent increase between January and November 2020, on account of both increased volumes and price.

Uneca director in East Africa Dr Mama Keita said joint co-operation between regional governments months after Covid-19 outbreak, resulted in increased intra-trade and the governments should learn from the pandemic that more joint trade policies are needed going forward.

"This report sends out important messages, notably the urgent need to diversify countries' economies and export base if they are to be more resilient to external shocks and register strong and sustained growth rates in the future," said Dr Keita.

The East African Business Community Chief Executive Peter Mathuki attributed

the increased intra-trade to increased processed products within the region.

"EAC companies have increased production of finished goods making it easier to trade within member states with ease," said Mathuki.

The report also notes the contraction of imports through both the ports of Dar es Salaam and Mombasa with the latter registering the highest drop in imports of 33 per cent, followed by Uganda at 31 per cent.

Immediately after the outbreak, the ship dwell time at Mombasa port increased by 48 per cent and berth time increased by 52 per cent, with cargo transit from Mombasa to Malaba border with Uganda, increased to 11 days from seven days by the second quarter of 2020.

The time taken to transport goods via the Mombasa-Busia route was nearly three times higher.

On the Central Corridor from Dar to the hinterland, transit time doubled. This was marked by transit challenges at border points.

On a positive outlook, aggregate exports from the region declined to their lowest value in April 2020, however, they started recovering with the third quarter of 2020, and most of the EAC Partner States' exports surpassed their 2019 levels.

"Data from this research informs us of the important role trade facilitation plays in the regional economy. We need to ramp up trade facilitation efforts to spur innovation, and we urge the government to incentivise priority goods so to protect lives," said TMEA CEO Frank Matsaert.

But a major casualty of the Covid-19 crisis has been informal cross-border trade, which has struggled to recover from restrictions on cross-border travel even after the opening of borders.

For example, the report's analysis of Uganda informal cross-border trade declined precipitously from an estimated \$44 million in the first quarter of 2020 to just \$1 million by April 2020.

Even the re-opening of Uganda's borders

DED warns against eating of dead locusts

By Guardian Correspondent,

Simanjiro

SIMANJIRO District Executive Director (DED) Yefre Myenzi has directed parents and guardian in the district to remain vigilant, take closer look on their children, and prevent them from eating dead locusts as others contain poison.

He made the call yesterday here when addressing the public on the huge swarm of desert locusts which has invaded some of the villages in the region.

According to him, there are some school-children who

have been collecting and eating the dead locusts something which endangers their health and lives.

Myenzi said the government has already taken deliberate measures to fight the insects including deploying experts to spray pesticides.

He also wanted pastoralists to stop sending their animals in the areas which have been attacked by the locusts so as to avoid affecting their animals who may eat the insects.

He named some of the attacked areas as Naberera ward in the villages of Landanai and Losokonoi but the government has managed to spray them to death. "We have sprayed pes-

ticides to over 100 hectares where most of the locusts have died and others will die in the next few days as they have already been poisoned," he said.

Recently, huge swarms of desert locusts have invaded Tanzania's northern Kilimanjaro region from Kenya, darkening horizons and causing panic among farmers, who fear destruction of their crops, officials confirmed Wednesday.

Onesmo Biswelu, Siha District Commissioner said swarms of locusts have been invading large-scale plantations at the Ngare Nairobi ward in Siha district since Tuesday evening.

However, the government

swiftly deployed special planes to spray pesticides in the affected areas, Biswelu said.

Huge swarms of desert locusts, believed to be triggered by the changing weather patterns, have been destroying crops across swathes of eastern and northern Africa in the past year.

Last year, Kenya saw the worst outbreak of desert locusts in history. Millions of insects swarmed into the east African nation, destroying farmland and threatening the country with devastating hunger. Adolf Mkenda, Tanzania's minister for agriculture and cooperatives, said agricultural experts are spraying pesticides with two planes to combat the destructive pests.

"People have no reason to panic, this problem is under control. We will get rid of all these locusts," Mkenda said Wednesday.

The minister said authorities are closely monitoring the trend of locusts' infestation and will accordingly take necessary actions. The minister said huge swathes of the affected areas have already been sprayed with pesticides, which according to experts will start taking effect between 24 to 72 hours.

He warned local residents to avoid touching or eating any falling insects since they may contain poisonous substances.

RUWASA set to spend 6bn/- to implement water projects in Malinyi

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Malinyi district in Morogoro Region is set to use 6.6bn/- to implement several water projects in the next five years.

Acting manager for RUWASA in Malinyi Mohammed Rulimo said this during a council meeting which took place in the council yesterday.

He said the said amount is set aside for implementation of 16 new projects and renovation of five others.

According to him, the projects are to be implemented in the 2020/21 and 2024/25 financial years and is expected to benefit 25 villages by controlling waterborne diseases.

The acting manager for the agency listed the villages to benefit from the projects as Malinyi, Kipingo, Makarere, Mission Ngoheranga, Tanga, Kinpenyo Madibira, Usangule and Kalangakero.

Engineer Rulimo said in the year 2020/21 new projects that are to be implemented are only two and will cost about 1.18bn/- while for the next year five projects will be implemented and will cost 1.8bn/- and will benefit villages of Misegese, Igawa, Mchangani, Lugala and Lupunga.

According to Rulimo for 2022/23 three projects will be implemented to benefit villages of Biro, Ihowanja, Kiwale and Alabama.

For 2023/2024 three projects will be implemented and will benefit villages of Mbalinyi, Madabadaba and Ipera Asilia.

He said for 2024/2025 financial year three projects will be implemented to benefit Ngombo, Mabanda and Kilosa Mpepon adding that water availability in the district was satisfying whereby 16 of the 33 villages receive tap water while the remaining one get water from wells.

He said 94,567 out of the total 138,062 residents in the district get safe and clean water which is equivalent to 69 percent.

Reports show that, only 50 percent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water, and only 34 percent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time travelling some distance to collect water.



According to Rulimo for 2022/23 three projects will be implemented to benefit villages of Biro, Ihowanja, Kiwale and Alabama

Haven of Peace Academy



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Applications can be found:

<https://www.hopac.sc.tz/for-future-parents-students/joining-hopac/> Or from HOPAC's Administration building.

Please email completed application WITH GRADE REPORTS to universitycounselor@hopac.sc.tz or drop off at HOPAC Administration building. Office hours are **Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00**.

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Haven of Peace Academy



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- French Teacher-Middle & Senior School
- Special Needs Coordinator
- Library and Media Specialist
- P.E. & Swim Teacher
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- Music Teacher
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HOPAC offers a modest compensation package: Interested candidates should submit their cover letter, CV and a letter of reference from their pastor; no later than 30th March 2021, to:

Haven of Peace Academy
P.O. Box 70027; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: personnel@hopac.sc.tz

Covid-19 leads to 73 pct drop in migration from horn of Africa to gulf countries

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

NEW data published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) this week confirms a nearly three-fourths decline in migration from the East and Horn of Africa regions towards Gulf Council Countries during 2020.

At the Second Scientific Conference on Migration and Displacement conference IOM organized herewith the eight-nation Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), a new study noted that COVID-19 led to a 73 per cent drop in migrants from the Horn of Africa travelling to the Gulf countries through Yemen.

These findings are significant, especially because African migration through Yemen to the Gulf of Arabia has been high for the past four years—despite security risks in Yemen, which migrants from the region must cross to reach the Kingdom

Saudi Arabia and beyond. Despite reduced arrivals in 2020—due in part to COVID-19 related restrictions—risks increased with more detention, exploitation and forced transfers.

Data released by IOM show that the number of migrants crossing via Yemen from the Horn dropped from a high of 138,213 in 2019 to 37,537 in 2020. Forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were also significantly reduced, passing from nearly 121,000 Ethiopian migrants in 2019 to 37,000 in 2020.

IOM is meeting here this week with thought-leaders, academic researchers, policy makers and development partners to discuss the immediate and long-term impact of COVID-19 on countries in the IGAD region.

IOM also is working with and supporting IGAD countries to develop and implement integrated regional approaches to responding to the needs of migrants and other vulnerable mobile groups. The goals also is

to harness the benefits of migration and to reduce the negative impacts of COVID-19, as nations across the region grapple with the economic blow of the pandemic. These include millions of lost jobs and closed businesses and a decline in cash remittances sent from migrant workers abroad, which support millions across the region.

The World Bank projects that COVID-19 remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries will decline by around 14 percent by 2021 compared to pre-COVID-19 levels. This is expected to have severe financial and social impacts on IGAD countries, including increased poverty and a reduction in access to basic services such as healthcare and education.

Migrants, including IDPs and refugees in the region are also unable to access medical treatment for COVID-19 and Personal Protective Equipment. They are also at risk of discrimination, stigma and xenophobia.



Angela Urasa, a civil servant stationed in Meru District, airs her views at a workers' council meeting yesterday. She called on the National Health Insurance Fund to raise the age ceiling in respect of dependants standing as beneficiaries from 18 to 23 years. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



Employment Opportunity

At the heart of Pact is the promise of a better tomorrow. The promise of a healthy life. Of a decent livelihood. Of sustainable natural resources that benefit communities. Now more than ever in its 42-year history, Pact is helping millions of people who are poor and marginalized discover and build their own solutions and take ownership over their future.

Pact enables systemic solutions that allow those who are poor and marginalized to earn a dignified living, be healthy, and take part in the benefits that nature provides. Pact accomplishes this by strengthening local capacity, forging effective governance systems, and transforming markets into a force for development.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant positions for the Kizazi Kipya Project:

Position: Senior Technical Advisor (1 position)

Project : Kizazi Kipya Project
Position Location : Dar es Salaam
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Non-Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: <https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400001823087/Senior-Technical-Advisor?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline: Friday – 12th March 2021

Position : Cluster Administration Officer – Central Cluster (Dodoma) (1 position)
Project : Kizazi Kipya Project
Position Location : Dodoma
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Non-Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: <https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400001839153/Cluster-Administration-Officer--Dodoma?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline : Friday – 12th March 2021
Position : Cluster Administration Officer – Western Cluster (Tabora) (1 position)
Project : Kizazi Kipya Project
Position Location : Tabora
Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Non-Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link: <https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400001839104/Cluster-Administration-Officer--Tabora?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline : Friday – 12th March 2021

Detailed Position Job Descriptions and How to Apply:

If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, please submit your application online describing why you are the right candidate for this position and a curriculum vitae detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from previous and current place of employment. Please send the application online (through the CVPEOPLE Tanzania link under each position) as only the applications sent online will be reviewed.

The closing date for applications will be as guided under each position.

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Pact is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, citizenship status, genetic information, matriculation, family responsibilities, personal appearance, credit information, tobacco use (except in the workplace), membership in an employee organization, or other protected classifications or non-merit factors.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

To learn more about Pact Tanzania visit: <http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>

TTB calls upon women to invest in tourism sector

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB)'s managing director, Devota Mdachi, has urged Tanzanian women to take part in the tourism sector as it is one of the areas which would help them raise income and bring changes in their communities.

Mdachi said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam that there is a lot of opportunities available for women in the tourism sector including investing in tourism transportation areas, selling vegetable and fruits in hotels, selling traditional foods and other cuisine for tourists visiting in Tanzania, handcraft products making and decoration, among others.

"As TTB right now we are encouraging women from different areas across the country to join in this sector because they have a chance to make difference in the community for what they did and later on bring sustainable economic growth," he said.

She said TTB and other stakeholders engaged in tourism sector have realized that they had the

opportunity to help them execute their vision so they can raise their income and later on transform their livelihood similarly to other countries.

Mdachi said tourists are willing to visit Tanzania, Tanzania is considered to be one of Africa's safest destination as safety is a very important factor for a tourist in choosing a destination.

"Our wildlife is abundant, easily visible and diverse, we have a rich and diverse culture and most of all we boast of having one of the continent's most friendly people," she said.

Also Tanzanian tourism is so diverse that it can accommodate tourists of all sorts of interests and needs.

"You can find everything you want as a tourist, all in one destination. That is what makes Tanzania different from other destinations," she said.

Presently Tanzania is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and one of the most successful wildlife conservation countries in the world and also is the largest country in East Africa and 28 per-

cent of its land has been set aside for conservation purposes.

Right now tourism sector directly employs close to half a million people and contributes to almost 25 per cent of total export earnings and is one of Tanzania's fastest growing economic sectors that account for 17.5 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Mdachi added that Tanzania provide stable political, economic and secure environments that underpin the development of the tourism industry for people willing to visit Tanzania.

"Currently Tanzania's strengths are based on abundant natural resources that include wildlife area, beautiful beaches along the Indian Ocean and the Great Lakes, favourable climate, history and culture as well as its warm and friendly people who speak Kiswahili and English," she said.

She added: "With a new wave of tourism development and promotion, Tanzania expects to assume a higher rank in the list of African tourist destinations in the next five years."

UNESCO's IFCD strengthens East African contemporary dance scene

By Guardian Reporter

A Tanzanian NGO, Muda Africa, has received US\$72,989 in funding from the UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), for the project "Strengthening the East African contemporary dance scene."

The project aims to strengthening the East African contemporary dance scene in Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania by creating a web portal that promotes young professional East African dance artists and connects them to global dance markets, as well as empowering women dance artists through choreographic capacity building and new regional policies.

Through the project, a network to promote contemporary dance in East Africa will be created. An online database will also be created featuring 120 East African dancers from the Afrika Mashariki Dance (AMDA) network in United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. The project activities also include carrying out a survey on dance markets in the region as well as development of a manual and training on art marketing for 180 dancers. The empowerment of East African women dance artists will be ensured through three training workshops on contemporary dance targeting 45 women artists, and organisation of a 2-day conference with the members of AMDA network to develop

policies promoting East African women artists.

The Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions met on 1-6 February 2021 and approved IFCD funding for initiatives that will boost the cultural and creative industries in developing countries around the world. A total of 6 projects were approved, including this contemporary dance project submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, which will benefit the region. Selected from 1,027 applications from 102 countries, the projects will enhance the development of evidence-based cultural policies and measures, boost cultural entrepreneurship in indigenous communities, widen the engagement of civil society, women and youth in cultural policy-making processes, and support the mobility of artists. The projects are also intended to strengthen the resilience of the cultural and creative industries, which have been severely hit by COVID-19, and to make culture more accessible to all.

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a multi-donor fund established under Article 18 of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Its purpose is to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention.



Mussa Mwinyidaho, head of NBC Bank's small and medium customers department, addresses the just-ended international meeting on investment in the mining sector held in Dar es Salaam. It was organised by the Minerals ministry and opened by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

OPEC Fund extends US\$50m for poverty reduction in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) approved last week the disbursement of \$50 million to support the Tanzania in the fight against poverty.

This financing deal will back the country's fourth poverty reduction project, which aims to boost opportunities for more than 900,000 people through the improvement of access to clean water, education, and healthcare.

The transport, agriculture and farming sectors are also included. Once fully rolled out, this project will improve tourism in the region and ease exchanges with external markets.

Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, managing director of OFID, said, "the OPEC Fund has been committed to helping Tanzania reduce poverty and improve socio-economic conditions for

many years. The present loan will help communities to help themselves by building capacity, strengthening food security and household incomes, and improving access to social amenities. We have a strong partnership with Tanzania and look forward to seeing more progress on key development indicators in the near future."

He said OFID has in the past granted Tanzania support in the implementation of many projects aiming at reducing poverty. The institution has provided an estimated \$378.91 million in all areas, mainly multi-sectoral (\$122.85 million) and transportation (\$103.35 million) investments.

In addition to OFID financing, the Tanzanian government and communities committed to co-finance the implementation of the fourth poverty reduction project in Tanzania.



Water ministry permanent secretary Anthony Sanga (L) and Morali Mohani, a representative of India's Megha Engineering, pictured earlier this week signing a 24.4bn/- Lake Victoria water supply project agreement meant to benefit residents of Tinde in Shinyanga Region and Shelui in Iramba District, Singida Region. Photo: Marco Maduhu

Kilimanjaro road safety ambassadors to educate students on traffic rules, signs

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

ROAD safety ambassadors (RSA) in Kilimanjaro Region in collaboration with the Regional Police Traffic office are implementing a special programme to educate primary and secondary students from 12 schools on road safety rules, regulations and traffic signs in efforts aimed to reduce unnecessary road accidents.

Speaking during the special road safety competition the Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Superintendent of Police (SP) Zauda Mohammed said a good number of students were still ignorant on various road safety rules and

traffic signs, something which poses threat to the increase of unnecessary road accidents.

She said the training entailed the good use of the road by pedestrians, road safety and first aid skills.

SSP Zauda said the move will help cut down the rate of accidents that claims to be caused by reckless drivers, for sustainable road safety for the road users.

"We had special road safety trainings from September 2020, to February 21, 2021 to the primary pupils and secondary school students that were coordinated by the RSAs under the sponsorship of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS); and the exercise will continue to all districts of Kili-

manjaro region for sustainable road safety," she said.

She added that the traffic office will also provide such skills to the other road users including parents and guardians.

The RTO noted that most of the roads accidents are caused by reckless drivers who don't abide with road regulations whereby 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent of the road accidents are caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles, 6 percent of the road accidents are caused by climate change, while only 2% of the road accidents are caused by bad infrastructures.

"My appeal to all drivers

particularly government drivers, and other road users is to abide with all road regulations to avoid unnecessary road accidents," the head of the regional traffic unit insisted.

SP Zauda wanted people not to be afraid of police officers instead they should work together as a team to avoid unnecessary road accidents, crimes and criminals for sustainable safety of the public.

She further explained that, there are other new road signs like deaf and other disabled signs where she appealed for drivers to participate in various road safety and vehicle users' trainings to learn them.

"This is not an end, my of-

ice will continue providing to you various training on road safety, road user's guiding trainings for sustainable road safety in our region," the RTO explained.

Assistant Inspector Hamadi Hoza, chief judge of the special road safety said they initiated such competition to assess the awareness of what they taught them within their schools, and they prove that they have understood what they have been taught.

They named the primary schools that qualified to enter into the competition as Sango, Njiapanda, Uchira, Mnazi, Kiboriloni, Magereza, Karanga, Mwereni, Mailisita, Mabungo, Dr Shein primary schools located around Aru-

sha/Dar-es-Salaam highway, as well as St. Amachus inclusive secondary school located at Moshi/Arusha highway in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

"As you all witness here today, all participants of this road safety competition were very active and confident enough when responding our questions, and finally Karanga primary school was the overall winner of the competition, followed by Kiboriloni primary school," Hoza explained.

He named the third winner as Mnazi primary school, followed by Saint Amachus inclusive secondary school (fourth), and Sango primary school (Fifth winner).

For his part, the Acting Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander (RPC), Ronald Makona commended the role played by the RSA at regional and national level, FCS and RTO's office work as a team to make the project a success.

He added that, people should not be afraid police officers, instead they should work together as a team to support the fight against unnecessary road accidents and crimes for sustainable safety of the public.

"My appeal to all drivers and other road users is to abide with all road regulations to avoid unnecessary road accidents," the RPC explained.

One of the student partici-



TANGAZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA

Wananchi wote mnatangaziwa kwamba Shirika la Nyumba la Taifa (NHC) litauza kwa njia ya mnada wa hadhara magari na pikipiki chakavu katika vituo na tarehe kama inavyoonyeshwa hapa chini:

TAREHE	MKOA	KITUO	AINA NA IDADI YA MALI ITAKAYOUZWA
13/03/2021	DAR ES SALAAM	Shirika la Nyumba la taifa Kitalu Na.322, Barabara ya Mandela, Mkabala na Uwanja wa Taifa Temeke Dar es Salaam	Mitsubishi Canter (1), Isuzu Tipper Lorry (1), Toyota Hilux D/Cabin (2), Toyota Crestar (1), Toyota Chaser (1), Motor Cycle Warcott (1)
16/03/2021	ARUSHA	Ofisi za Shirika la Nyumba la Taifa, Mkoa wa Arusha	Isuzu Tipper Lorry (1), Toyota Hilux(1)
19/03/2021	MBEYA	Ofisi za Shirika la Nyumba la Taifa, Mkoa wa Mbeya	L/Rover 110 (1)

MASHARTI YA MNADA

1. Gari/pikipiki itauzwa kama ilivyo mahali ilipo (As is where is basis)
2. Mnunuzi atalazimika kulipa papo hapo amana (Deposit) isiyopungua asilimia ishirini na tano (25%) ya thamani ya gari/pikipiki atakayonunua, na kukamilisha malipo yote katika muda wa siku kumi na nne (14) kuanzia tarehe ya mnada. Mnunuzi akishindwa kutimiza sharti hili atakosa haki zote za ununuzi wa gari/pikipiki husika na amana iliyolipwa haitarudishwa.
3. Mnunuzi atatakiwa kuondoa gari/pikipiki atakayonunua katika muda wa siku saba (7) kuanzia tarehe ya kukamilisha malipo.
4. Magari na pikipiki zitakazouzwa zimelipiwa ushuru na kodi ya ongezeko la thamani (Value added Tax).
5. Ruhusa ya kuangalia magari/pikipiki zinazokusudiwa kuuzwa itatolewa siku mbili (2) kabla ya tarehe ya mnada husika.
6. Mnada utaanza saa nne (4:00) asubuhi katika kila kituo

MKURUGENZI MKUU
SHIRIKA LA NYUMBA LA TAIFA

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



**EMMANUEL RAPHAEL KONDI
1985-2021**

It is with great difficulty and sadness that Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) announces the passing of our Corporate Affairs Manager, Mr Emmanuel Raphael Kondi. Emmanuel passed away on Sunday 14th February 2021 at Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya where he was receiving treatment.

Emmanuel had been a very valued member of our team since September 2016 and will be greatly missed. He was laid to rest on Sunday 21st February 2021 at his hometown in Rorya, Mara, Tanzania.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

May his soul Rest in Eternal Peace. Amen

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Officials should not have to be reminded on need for fairness

IN his latest intervention in how certain public services are rendered, President John Magufuli restored the rights of small traders at a major bus terminal in what can now be described as the Dar es Salaam agglomeration.

He told officials of Ubungo District and the soon to be defunct Dar es Salaam City Council to go back to the drawing board and accommodate small traders in the Mbezi Luis International Bus Terminal.

Some traders were excluded, to the benefit of those who obtained stalls within the commercial space at the terminal or at least as far as that space was defined earlier, and the president vetoed the move.

To see the extent of the injury that would be caused to the poorer sections of the community who lack a voice at those levels but for the presence of a truly concerned leader, the modern terminal just launched was built at a cost of \$5bn/- and can host 700 buses and an outside parking capacity for 1,000 cars.

This is to presume that vehicles come and go, at a predictable rate of inflow and outflow, thus summing up the total. But that is a huge number of passengers who are likely to need services that small traders can offer.

Given the difficulty that many families and especially women-led families face in eking out a living on a day to day basis, excluding small traders who haven't secured stalls was unnecessary as a gesture of modernisation, to make it an international-class bus

terminal instead of a major local bus terminal.

Questioning the rationale of this discriminative and elitist approach, the president said that the facility was meant to serve the people, and evidently these must include small traders and motorcycle taxi riders.

There was a clever plan for stall operators and taxi drivers often linked to municipal or city officials to monopolise service rendering at the area, and the president must have been aware of such plans beforehand.

This is very much part of good governance in that complaints about what is happening are not left to circulate in whatever public gathering or representative meeting there would be, still to no avail.

At times, as it happened in the Kariakoo Market Corporation complex in 2015, small traders were surprisingly restored between the main market and the old market months before crucial elections, when someone somewhere felt that their exclusion would work against those then holding office.

Such exclusion can now be dealt with more directly and, increasingly, ministers are intervening to rectify things before they reach the president.

Outgoing Dar es Salaam city director Sporah Liana recently told media representatives that businesspeople supposed to operate in the Kariakoo market complex had been vetted in collaboration with the National Identification Authority and the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

Emerging official consultations between Union and Zanzibar a plus for dynamism

IN another routine meeting with a Union government ministers, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has underscored the need to maintain peace and harmony so that investments keep flowing into the Isles.

This was among the highlights of his discussions with Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene, where the president praised the ministry for ensuring social harmony, saying peace was a major factor investors consider before deciding to start a business in any country.

Current initiatives are interesting in that there are direct consultations at the highest level between Union ministers and the Zanzibar president.

One explanation for this is that Dr Mwinyi for long served in the Union government in various capacities, including as a Zanzibar and also a Mainland constituency legislator.

On account of his familiarity with the breadth of Union cabinet ministers and top civil servants, Dr Mwinyi is easily accessible and has shown an intention to build on the long-standing solidarity.

Some of the issues on which he has been holding consultations with Union ministers would previously likely have been assigned to a 'bilateral' committee handling 'queries' in the Union.

This has gradually diminished over the past few years, as differences between the two sides of the Union were in part related to entrenched habits of opposition parties as well as activist groups. Most of the pressure have since subsided, superseded by talk and action on development issues.

Dr Mwinyi is emphatic that the Zanzibar government will work closely with the (Union) Home Affairs ministry towards ensuring that peace and tranquility is ensured not for the good of Zanzibar and Tanzania as a whole.

Indeed, it is partly owing to how Union institutions operate, and this is closely linked with the ministry, that the character of opposition politics in Zanzibar changed and became far more positive and more receptive to unity within Zanzibar and for the United Republic of Tanzania.

It is the case that the current leadership in Zanzibar is visibly attached to strengthening relations both in the Union and within Zanzibar as the most propitious environment for uptake in foreign investments.

This outlook had a directing bearing on current initiatives which bring to memory the 'Big Results Now' policy drive, whose architects continue with that work to date.

Even if the labels or declaratory platforms have been altered, it is precisely the sort of development projects to bring about 'big results' that have characterised the government's work.

Not surprisingly President Mwinyi has so learnt from cabinet consensus during his many years in the government as to propel 'big results' in Zanzibar during his first term, and the work is now in full swing.

The first step was to form a government of national unity so that political tensions are eliminated from day to day work. This is what he is underlining - and it sums up what is widely viewed as constituting a crusade for peace and harmony.

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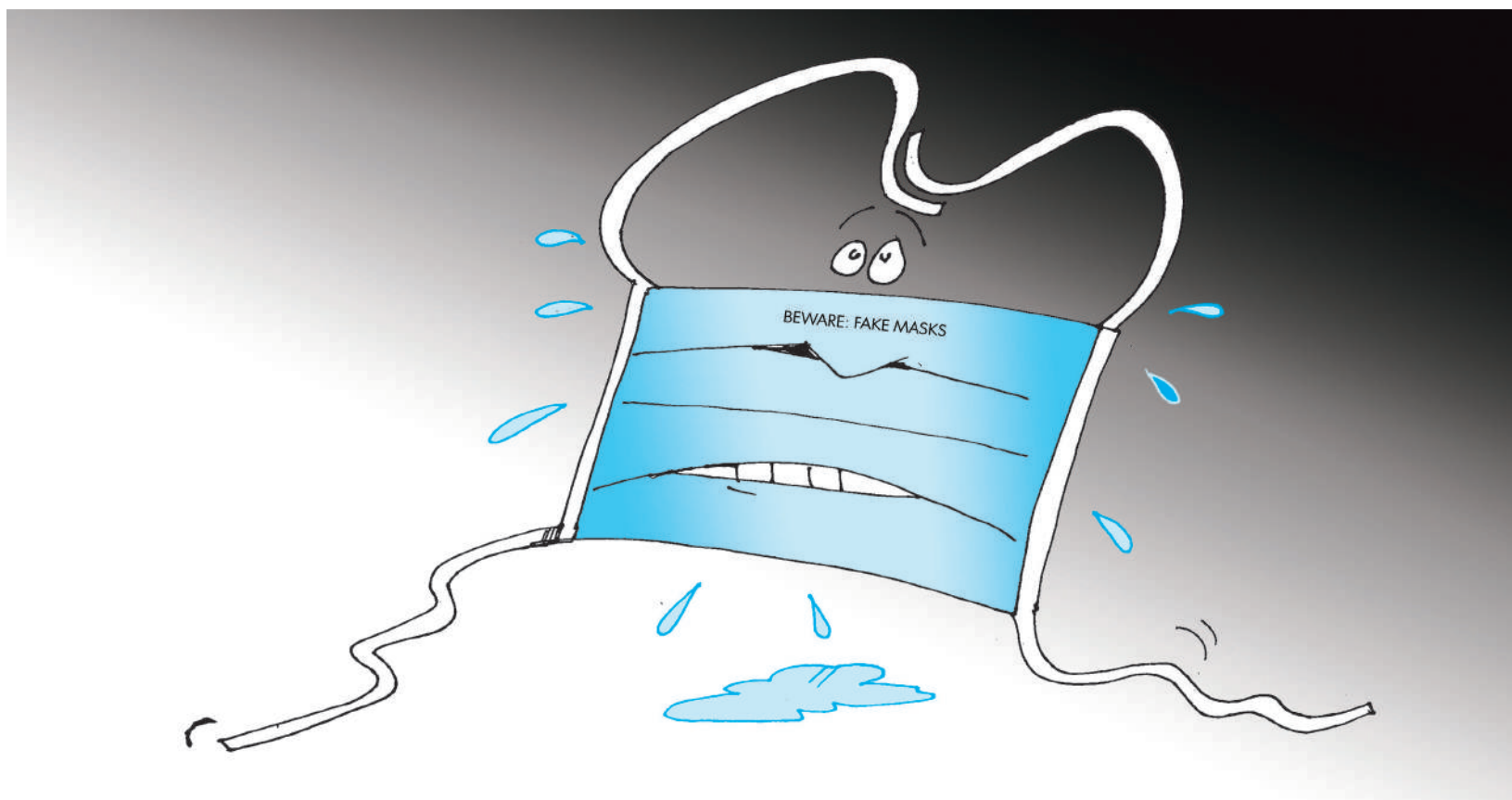
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More high-tech manufacturing space needed for a global push on vaccines

By Allison Martell, Carl O'Donnell,
Julie Steenhuisen

THE number of available COVID-19 vaccine doses is steadily rising, but a shortage of physical space that meets standards for pharmaceutical manufacturing is a major bottleneck to further expansion, according to drugmakers, industry construction experts and officials involved in the U.S. vaccine program.

The production of raw materials, vaccine formulation and vial filling all require "clean rooms" with features like air cleaners, sterile water and sterilizing steam designed and in some cases built by specialists.

Moderna Inc on Wednesday announced plans to expand vaccine manufacturing capacity, but said it will be a year before that can add to its production.

With vaccines needed for billions of people to end a pandemic that has claimed more than 2.5 million lives globally, drugmakers have even had to turn to rivals for help to churn out doses. Space at third-party contract manufacturers in the United States is largely allocated, according to one major contract manufacturer and other smaller companies.

A recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report flagged a shortage of manufacturing capacity as a challenge in scaling up vaccine production.

And the emergence of new coronavirus variants is likely to increase the strain on production capacity.

Public health experts say global vaccination as soon as possible is critical to curbing the rise of highly contagious additional variants. Many are counting on authorization of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine this week.

Longer term, tackling COVID-19 may require annual shots to protect against new virus mutations, similar to the flu. Vaccine companies are already designing potential booster shots addressing variants first identified in South Africa and Brazil.

"What's happening now indicates the importance of markedly strengthening the capacity of manufacturing capabilities in the United States," said Larry Corey, a



virologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center who helped design U.S.-backed vaccine trials. "We should be investing, large scale, in our abilities to manufacture."

Pfizer and Moderna can increase output some by speeding fill and finish, said Moncef Slaoui, former chief scientific adviser for the government's Operation Warp Speed vaccine program. Making much more vaccine itself is more challenging.

"To change that substantially in terms of drug substance would take ramping up global manufacturing infrastructure. That takes months," he said. "You would have to build, train, validate, and get regulators to visit and approve a site."

Leading vaccine developers Pfizer and partner BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, J&J, Novavax, Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute, and CureVac are aiming to make enough vaccine with manufacturing partners to inoculate some 5.2 billion people in 2021, according to a Reuters tally of public statements and media reports.

China's Sinovac and Sinopharm will likely deliver significant supplies as well, though their 2021 targets are unclear. Several drugmakers have struggled to meet early production targets.

BUILDING FASTER

Building new facilities and even expanding existing manufacturing sites has typically taken years. During the pandemic, some projects have been completed in as little as 6-to-10 months,

according to some specialized construction companies involved with Warp Speed.

Emergent BioSolutions, which is making J&J and AstraZeneca vaccines for the United States, cannot add any more equipment to facilities dedicated to those vaccines.

The company is not alone. "The contract manufacturing network, like our facility, is pretty full," said Emergent Executive Vice President Sean Kirk.

Adding new clean rooms that meet good manufacturing practices standards is complex and time consuming, said Phil DeSantis, a consultant and pharmaceutical engineer.

"Building the clean room is probably what we call the critical path," he said. "That's the part that takes the longest."

Vaccine makers have sidestepped this in part by retrofitting existing facilities. BioNTech bought a facility in Marburg, Germany, from Novartis in September, and began producing messenger RNA - the active ingredient in its vaccine - in early February.

When Emergent joined Warp Speed last year, it stopped everything else it was working on at its Baltimore facility to make room for the COVID-19 vaccines.

The U.S. government can use the Defense Production Act to force that kind of reshuffling. Supply orders with a federal "rating" under the law must be filled first. But there are limits to what it can do without threatening supplies of other injectable medicines.

Pfizer last week said it had engaged two U.S. contract manufacturers and would add capacity to formulate vaccines and make raw materials at its own sites, but did not specify whether new clean rooms would be installed.

In adding clean room space to existing sites, drugmakers and their suppliers have leaned heavily on pre-fabricated wall panels and pods that speed the process, according to specialist companies that build those spaces.

G-CON Manufacturing provided pods to some Warp Speed projects. One contract manufacturer dedicated space to COVID-19 vaccines, and then used G-CON pods to add clean room space for a different project for an existing customer, said Chief Executive Maik Jornitz.

"It was sort of the only way," Peter Walters, director of advanced therapies at CRB, which designs and manages construction of the facilities, said of the pre-fabricated systems.

CRB has worked on more than 20 coronavirus vaccine-related projects. The program has "certainly redefined, to a lot of the industry, what could be possible," Walters said.

Adding more capacity would help the United States tackle COVID-19 variants and future pandemics, said Prashant Yadav, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based Center for Global Development.

Crucial takeaways for improving the representation of women in the news

By Tedi Doychinova

WOMEN are under-represented in news coverage today. We recently wrote about research that looked at the issue specifically with regard to Covid-19 reporting.

Last month the author of this research, audience strategy expert Luba Kassova, joined IJNet managing editor Taylor Mulcahey in discussing the representation of women across all news coverage today.

Kassova, the co-founder and director of the international audience strategy consultancy AKAS Ltd, recently released her latest report: 'The Missing Perspectives of Women in News'.

Kassova and her team analysed 57 million articles for the research, from across 12,000 publications in six countries - India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the UK and the US. The researchers also looked at nearly 2,300 academic articles and more than 200 database surveys for the research.

Their analysis covered women's representation in newsrooms and leadership positions as well as their inclusion as sources and protagonists in news coverage, including gender equality angles in reporting.

Here are some key quotes and takeaways, beginning with Women in Newsrooms. The news is "largely a men's affair", Kassova found. "Women are between two and six times less likely to be quoted as expert sources or protagonists in 2019 than men in the six countries which we analysed," she said, adding that no substantive progress has been made over the past 20 years.

Among the 50 recommendations included in the report, Kassova offers news providers with a gender parity checklist that can be applied across all chains of news production.

One of the actionable steps journalists can take is to access databases housing women experts, to help place them as protagonists in news



stories. She pointed to progress made by Scandinavian countries and the South China Morning Post to compile easily accessible information to help journalists find experts.

Kassova noted: "South Africa leads in terms of gender equality legislation and also the proportion of women in newsrooms. The UK and the US lead in terms of social norms and attitudes that are more favourable to gender equality."

Two: Women in leadership positions. The report found that women hold only 26 per cent of governance positions in news organisations and just 27 per cent of top management positions. Kassova explained that these findings were consistent across all six countries.

She further noted that, based on research from academics: "Women tend to have more focus on empathy. At a management level, women are more likely to be collegial rather than competitive with each other."

Since newsrooms tend to be dominated by men, the culture is more masculine and women are considered more likely to trade off their gender identity for their professional identity. This can be a barrier to seeing a difference in news

coverage produced by women.

Three: Gender equality in news coverage. Coverage of gender equality issues is virtually absent from the news. "Less than one per cent of all news coverage in 2019 across any of the countries analysed contained an element of gender equality in it," said Kassova.

"News is consumed more by men," she noted. She said when men are the main audience it helps determine the topics news outlets cover, and this in turn affects women's interest in the news. "There is a lot of value in testing the hypothesis, whether women consume less news because the news offered by news providers doesn't tailor to their needs as well as it tailors to men's needs," said Kassova.

"Women actually are more likely to be hooked in if there is a human interest angle within stories, and that very often is missing," she noted.

This could be important for local newsrooms as women tend to be more interested in news about the community as well as solutions-based journalism.

"Gender equality is not a priority for decision-makers or for journalists," said Kassova. She re-

ferred to the 2019 GlobeScan-Sustainability Survey in 2019 which showed that gender equality is often at the bottom of the list of urgent goals among global experts.

"Patriarchal values are still alive and kicking in the Global South but also in the Global North," said Kassova. If women and minorities don't think there is an issue, much the same applies with respect to the government and policymakers.

Where there is complacency, she noted, progress stops because decision-makers don't believe that there is a problem to fix.

"In order to achieve success, there is a need to tackle system-level factors, organisational factors and individual journalist behaviours. If at any point or any level there is a barrier and blockage, then we are witnessing flat-lining, which has happened in the 21st century," said Kassova.

Kassova offered several points of action to move past anti-women bias in the newsroom and in media coverage: increase awareness of the strong anti-women biases in society and newsrooms, remove barriers to advancing gender equality, and stage interventions that stimulate

the creation of new habits, initiatives and ways of thinking.

"I hope we can all feel that by making a difference ourselves, we create a ripple effect in society and change can happen," said Kassova.

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICJ) - at which Tedi Doychinova is a programme officer. The Missing Perspectives of Women in News report was commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ICJ is connecting journalists with health experts and newsroom leaders through a webinar series on Covid-19. The series is part of the ICJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum - a project implemented jointly with IJNet.

Diversity and inclusion in the year of the Covid-19 pandemic

By Special Correspondent

THE year of the pandemic - 2020 - not only brought with it not only pain and suffering from the Covid-19 virus but also saw major social upheavals on diversity and inclusion issues in the media.

Magazines, being the leading reflectors of society, were in the forefront of covering and reacting to the year. In fact, when it comes to diversity and inclusion, I was able to find and buy 336 magazines, from all categories and genres, that reflected diversity and inclusion by celebrating Blackness on their covers.

A total of 336 Black subjects appeared on the covers of these magazines, almost five times more than what has appeared in the last 100 years.

I reached out to the CEOs and presidents of the major magazine media companies to ask them about what they were doing regarding diversity, inclusion and equality both in their magazines and in their workplaces.

What follows are excerpts from the answers of the CEOs and presidents (in alphabetical order) who took my call and answered my question:

Debi Chirichella, President, Hearst Magazines: "Hearst Magazines is committed to being a workplace, and also creating media, that reflects the world we live in. We put new training programmes into place and added some advisory groups across the company to help us with this. It's a journey and we know it's a journey. I don't think you're ever finished. We made progress in 2020, but we're going to continue to build on that progress."

Andy Clurman, President & CEO, Active Interest Media: "We

created a Jedi task force, which is Justice, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and is a cross-section of people from the company.

"We also brought in an ad hoc diversity officer who has been leading this in terms of sourcing, education, facilitating conversations, doing content and promotional audits, hiring practices, so really looking top to bottom through our organisation and our messaging and content. And strategically are there different organisations' approaches within a different group?"

Kent Johnson, CEO, Highlights for Children: "We've done surveys and really looked at how can we be better, because our feelings are, if we're responsible for creating products that affect our society, we better look internally and make sure our company internally reflects well the society that we live in. And then we're doing it in a way that creates the sense of belonging for everyone at our company."

Bonnie Kintzer, President and CEO, Trusted Media Brands: "It's very important to us and very important to our employees. We have a diversity and inclusion team. They have four pillars that spell out the word MORE within our diversity and inclusion and that's Mentoring, Opportunity, Recruiting and Education. And honestly, I look at these initiatives and I think these are things that we talked about that we should have always been doing. And now we have so much employee involvement to get these things done."

Steven Kotok, President & CEO at Bauer Media Group USA: "We've engaged with a consulting firm that specializes in diversity, equity and inclusion and we're going through a process where we're educating ourselves, meaning the whole company, the whole team.

"And we're having some listening sessions as well to hear from the team. And whatever we do, actions or statements, it may take a little longer, but that's going to come not as a top-down, written by our very excellent communications people, but more bottom-up as a company on where we stand and what we think."

Catherine Levene, President, Meredith National Media Group: "We're focused in two areas. One is the culture inside the company and our workforce and the other is what we show to our consumers and it's not only the right thing to do, it's good business to enhance our content and storytelling."

To be more inclusive both in the content itself, but also in producing that content, whether that be in print, digital, video, in the art that we use, the photography. All of that has to be diverse because our audience is diverse."

David Parry, President & CEO, A360 Media & Accelerate360: "It's a topic amongst our senior executives every week, every day. We're going to see more diversity in the workplace, but we have to also find ways to ensure that we are diversifying the talent pool so we can do so."

"We have to find ways to encourage students from all backgrounds to explore publishing and media as a career path for them. I think everyone is focused on tackling the challenge and because of that, meaningful changes can be made."

Samir "Mr. Magazine" Husni is Director of Magazine Innovation Centre at University of Mississippi. This article is an opinion piece expressing the views of the author and not necessarily the views of WNIP (whatsnewin-publishing).



This project is funded with UK aid from the British people



Fighting for street children

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR EVALUATION OF 'ADVOCATING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN GENERAL COMMENT TO CHANGE LIVES OF TANZANIAN STREET CHILDREN

1. Background and project description

Railway Children Africa (RCA) is a subsidiary of Railway Children UK, an international charity that fights for vulnerable children who live alone and at risk on the streets, where they suffer abuse and exploitation.

RCA has been awarded a three-year grant (April 2018 to April 2021) by the UK Department for International Development (DFID)- Aid Direct to implement a project: 'Advocating for the Implementation of UN General Comment No. 21 to change Lives of Tanzanian Street Children'.

Within this grant RCA is working in partnership with the following six implementing partners: Babawatoto Organization in Dar es Salaam, IDYDC in Iringa, CARITAS in Mbeya, Amani Center in Arusha, KISEDET in Dodoma and Cheka Sana Tanzania in Mwanza.

The funding seeks to strengthen services provided to Children and Youth Living and Working on the streets (CYLWS) under the USAID Kizazi Kipya project with a number of additional elements such as legal support, provision of alternative family-based care, provision of short-term housing for youth and a number of advocacy initiatives.

Purpose of the evaluation

RCA would like to engage the services of an evaluation consultant (individuals, team or firm) to make an independent assessment of the performance, technical design, substantiate key achievements, challenges and lessons learnt as the project enters into its final stage and to propose practical recommendations.

Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will cover the implementation of the direct service delivery across the six cities, and the implementation of the advocacy component at the National, Regional and District level for the last three years.

Timeframe

The assignment will be conducted between end of March and Mid-June 2021.

Required experience

- Demonstrated experience in evaluation of development programmes
- Excellent analytical skills to document experiences and report progress against objectives.
- Excellent report writing and good communication skills in English.
- Good knowledge of Tanzanian context and child protection related policies.

Application Requirements

For application requirements and a detailed ToR please contact m.gatama@railwaychildren.or.tz. Deadline for receiving applications is 15 March 2021.

**WE FIGHT FOR CHILDREN
LIVING ON THE STREETS**

children
Fighting for street children

Major issues in equity in vaccine access and distribution

By Abigail Adcox

As countries around the world roll out Covid-19 vaccination campaigns, equitable access to the vaccines is an issue front and centre.

More than half of all available Covid-19 vaccine doses have been ordered by wealthier nations, according to a story by Isaac Chotiner in The New Yorker. This leaves poorer countries less able to vaccinate their populations.

"Here we are, a vaccine, a critically important tool to help us fight the Covid-19 pandemic - what we are seeing is that these structural inequalities that exist have been magnified and accentuated," said Harvard University professor Dr Rifat Atun during a recent ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum webinar.

Atun was joined by Georgetown University professor Dr Claire Standley and Marcelo Leite, a science and environment columnist at Folha de São Paulo, for a discussion on equitable vaccine distribution.

According to Atun, we're currently operating under a global three-tier system for vaccine access and distribution: FIRST being that at the top of the pack are the US, Canada and countries in Western Europe. These wealthier countries have been able to enter into agreements to purchase and stockpile enough vaccines to cover their entire populations.

SECOND: Middle-income countries, such as Brazil, have purchased some vaccines, but not enough for all citizens.

THIRD: At the bottom of the pile are countries with fewer resources, such as in sub-Saharan Africa. These countries have limited access to vaccine doses.

As we continue our fight against the deadly coronavirus that has killed over 2.4 million people worldwide, it's important for countries to acknowledge the interconnectedness of our health. As Leite put it: "No one is safe until everybody is safe."

The lack of equity in vaccine distribution and access today has notable ramifications beyond immediate Covid-19 protection, too.

"We are reaching a point where rich countries are going to vaccinate large proportions of their population before any significant number of Africans are vaccinated, leading to even greater inequities in terms of global health and economies because of the way that trade is being impacted by the pandemic," said Standley.

The ACT-Accelerator is one major global initiative working to accelerate the development and production of Covid-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, while promoting equitable access.

Run by the World Health Organisation and partners, the Accelerator's vaccine pillar - COVAX - is dedicated to facilitating both the discovery and development of effective vaccines. As part of its efforts, it seeks to build manufacturing capacity to be able to fairly distribute two billion doses of vaccine by the end of this year.

"The approach to COVAX was intended to give all countries access regardless of their ability to pay. The idea was to create a level, cooperative playing field where the COVAX facility could help navigate the landscape of vaccine production and manufacturing on behalf of participating countries, like some collective purchasing and bargaining power," said Standley.



Higher-income countries pay into the COVAX procurement platform to place vaccine orders for their own populations. This money-up-front policy allows for manufacturing to be ramped up with the idea that these funds will also pay for lower-income countries' doses.

Canada is one country that has paid into the procurement platform to acquire doses for their own population. Owing to delays from Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna, however, the country has faced weeks of reduced shipments, stalling their vaccination roll-out.

The Canadian government has responded by purchasing more vaccine doses than their population actually needs.

"Countries are buying up many more doses than they need because of that supply and demand contradiction that we're seeing. So COVAX is trying to address that," said Standley, adding: "The number of doses is just not sufficient at the moment to ensure that all participating countries, and particularly those that don't have the ability to buy the vaccine themselves, will receive the number of doses that they need even just to address their highest priority populations."

"We need to put systems in place that recognize the magnitude of the inequalities that exist and the nature of inequalities and the underlying reasons," added Atun.

The panel pointed to Brazil's experience in distributing vaccines as a helpful case study illuminating the challenges countries must navigate. Leite said that Brazil, the largest nation in South America, has a robust health sector but also one of the highest Covid-19 infection rates in the world.

This is due to both a scarcity of doses and a lack of coordination by the federal government and the states, he explained, noting: "After three weeks of vaccination, we have vaccinated only two per cent of the population."

Similar to other countries, Brazil is prioritising the vaccination of its older population, given that they are more susceptible to serious illness and death from Covid-19. Under the country's current policy, citizens must be at least 65 years or older to qualify as a top priority.

Unfortunately, this can perpetuate social and economic inequities within the country. "Age tends to favour the rich because of differences in life expectancy," said Leite.

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) - where Abigail Adcox is a communications intern.



A craftsman makes traditional Chinese lanterns during a cultural exhibition in Ganyu District, Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu Province, Feb. 16. (File Photo)

China out to create better future with world in its Year of Ox

By He Yin

Splendid activities were held both online and offline around the world to celebrate the Spring Festival, in hope of an auspicious Year of the Ox. Foreign dignitaries and heads of international organizations also sent greetings to Chinese people and overseas Chinese amid the Spring Festival.

As foreign media reported, the high attention attached on the Chinese oriented festival by global countries heralds solidarity and strength in the extraordinary Year of the Ox.

Chinese people's love for their families and country was well observed during the past Spring Festival. To better control the COVID-19 pandemic, over 100 million Chinese chose to skip returning home for the Chinese New Year, a festival that is considered the most important occasion for family reunion throughout the year. From Jan. 28 to Feb. 11, a total of 52.33 million railway passenger trips were made, down by 116 million or 68.8 percent from a year ago. However, China's courier industry collected and shipped 365 million express packages between Feb. 11, the Chinese New Year's Eve and Feb. 15, surging 224 percent year on year. Such figures mirrored the strength of "harmony." As Spanish news outlet El País remarked, China has entered the post-pandemic era.

Besides, the Chinese people's caring for the whole mankind also touched the world. The country's sincere and active contribution to the global efforts to fight the pandemic didn't stop amid the Chinese New Year holiday, and the strength of "harmony" flowed to every corner of the globe.

When attending a webinar to mark the Spring Festival, Irish Prime Minister Michael Martin spoke highly of the cooperation between China and Ireland to fight COVID-19. He expressed his thanks to China for assisting his country to purchase anti-pandemic materials.

Pakistani President Arif Alvi also thanked China for helping Pakistan fight the pandemic and hailed the long-lasting friendship between the two countries.

Vice President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangué remarked the mutual assistance between Equatorial Guinea and China has left an indelible chapter of friendship when receiving vaccines donated by China.

Many other state leaders also wished bigger successes of China in the new year, which demonstrates that the growth of China is a growth of peaceful power, and the country is bound to constantly make newer and greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development.

The happy and harmonious festivity brought warmth to the world haunted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Landmarks in New York, Tokyo and other places of the world were lighted to celebrate the Spring Festival. Dragon dancing and acrobatics shows were staged on the streets of Bangkok, Thailand after the country made this year's Spring Festival a legal holiday for the first time ever. Singapore hosted online Chingay, which means the art of costume and masquerade, themed "Light of Hope." The event was joined by over 150 organizations and 2,000 people.

Though countries celebrated the festival in different forms, they shared the same aspiration for a better life and encouraged each other to build the planet into a more beautiful place.

Ox signifies diligence, sacrifice, endeavor and strength in Chinese culture. To strive like an ox and respond to challenges with concrete efforts is a common aspiration of the world.

"The ox symbolizes energy, strength, and courage. These qualities are what the world needs now," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a video message for the Spring Festival.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the ox has a positive outlook, and this made her optimistic that together the world can overcome what is still a global crisis.

Deputy Director-General Karl Brauner of the WTO remarked that the Year of the Ox will be a year of recovery.

People across the world are wishing for a harmonious, smooth and auspicious year. On the global stage, China, by upholding the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, will sincerely join hands with global partners for closer cooperation and a better future.

People's Daily

Red Cross intensifying response to Ebola amidst regional spread fears

CONAKRY

RED Cross teams in Guinea and across West Africa are ramping up response efforts to contain a deadly Ebola outbreak, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has said.

It said Red Cross volunteers and staff Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone have stepped up surveillance and community sensitisation efforts.

To support these life-saving activities, IFRC has issued an international emergency appeal for 8.5 million Swiss francs.

Mohammed Mukhier, the federation's Regional Director for Africa, said: "Ebola does not care about borders. Close social, cultural and economic ties between communities in Guinea and neighbouring countries create a very serious risk of the virus spreading to Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, and potentially even further."

He added: "That's why we are launching an integrated cross-border operation aimed at rapidly confining the outbreak to its current location - and swiftly containing any eventual outbreak beyond Guinea."

In Guinea, Red Cross teams in N'zérékoré (Guinea's second largest city) have been mobilised to conduct safe and dignified burials for two people who have succumbed to Ebola. They also disinfected a local hospital and started efforts to create broad community awareness about the return of the disease in the urban areas of N'zérékoré and in Gouéké.

There are an estimated 1.3 million people living in the health zone affected by the outbreak. The Guinea Red Cross and IFRC plan is meant to support about 420,000 of them with a range of services, including community sensitisation, community-based surveillance, water, sanitation and hygiene, safe and dignified burials, infection prevention and control, as well as psychosocial support.

In surrounding countries, Red Cross actions will target an additional 6 million people. In Sierra Leone, a network 200 Red Cross volunteers in Kambia and Kailahun are now on high alert and are conducting surveillance activities.

In addition, an alert was sent to the four other districts - Kono, Koinadugu, Western Area and Pujehun - bordering Guinea and Liberia, where an additional 100 volunteers are preparing social community aware-



ness activities.

In Liberia, in areas along the borders with Guinea, Red Cross volunteers are on high alert and are currently conducting awareness in communities.

The most at-risk areas include Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu counties. Liberia Red Cross will be sending personal protective equipment to the region.

In Mali, Red Cross teams will provide services such as surveillance and community sensitisation - as the Senegalese Red Cross is meanwhile busy beefing up surveillance efforts at border points while ramping up community awareness activities.

Alongside enacting community response, surveillance and sensitisation activities, Red Cross teams are concerned about the needs being created by localised efforts to limit movements in a bid to contain the out-

break.

As a result of these public health measures, people near the epicentre of the outbreak are already in need of water, sanitation and hygiene services as well as food assistance.

IFRC's Mukhier said: "This outbreak is likely to complicate an already challenging situation. Covid-19-related containment measures currently being implemented have exacerbated food insecurity in the region and this may lead to the reluctance of communities to respect new preventive measures that are being put in place to contain Ebola."

IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian network, comprising 192 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies working to save lives and promote dignity around the world.

Why efforts to clean up charcoal production in sub-Saharan African states aren't working

By Eric Kumeh Mensah

CHARCOAL is an essential source of domestic fuel in many sub-Saharan African countries. Overall, the region produces 65 per cent of the world's charcoal, with Nigeria, Ethiopia and Ghana being the top three producers. The charcoal sector employs about 40 million people in the region. Smallholders are responsible for most charcoal production, and it's an important safety net for most producers.

The average person in sub-Saharan Africa consumes 0.69 cubic metres of charcoal per year. That's 2.5 times more than the amount of wood fuel an average person consumes globally.

Producing charcoal involves burning wood under anaerobic conditions – when too much oxygen is supplied, the wood turns to ash. Typically, the production technique – earth kilns, used by smallholders – cannot properly regulate the oxygen supply, leading to inefficiencies. Simply put, they use more wood to produce little charcoal and emit more emissions compared to emerging carbonisation techniques.

As a result charcoal production is one of the main drivers of savannah and forest degradation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Nevertheless, demand for charcoal is rising. This has led to governments attempting to formalise the sector. One such step has involved enabling investments from large-scale companies. For example, in Ghana, the government leases out forest reserves to private companies to produce wood on plantations for conversion to charcoal. Another step involves introducing punitive policies. For example, in Malawi, the state forbids smallholders from producing charcoal without permits, with noncompliance leading to fines and up to ten years imprisonment.

I conducted a review of charcoal production and recent developments in sub-Saharan Africa.

It's not clear that formalisation tackles challenges at the grassroots. For the charcoal sector to transition towards sustainability, I argue for the adoption of integrated approaches that pay attention to the social needs of actors while tackling environmental concerns. This should preferably be done under the banner of 'carbon-neutral charcoal'.



Efforts to formalise the sector

In recent years, many countries, including Ghana and Malawi, have tried to formalise the charcoal sector. Their reasons for doing so have varied, and have included the desire to increase revenue from charcoal to state governments through taxes, and reduce the perceived environmental impacts of charcoal production.

The consequences of these endeavours are contested.

For example, in Ghana, in a bid to promote sustainable charcoal production, the government enabled foreign investors to acquire large tracts of fertile land for wood production. The effect was that many smallholders have been displaced from their lands and means of production.

The idea behind introducing

taxes is also unclear. For example, in Ghana the government imposed taxes on smallholder charcoal producers with no clear plan on how these taxes would lead to sanitising the charcoal sector or support the countryside's development.

Malawi has imposed outright bans on charcoal production without permits. This has removed a crucial safety net for smallholders, forcing them into poverty.

In addition to the fact that many interventions have failed to work, it's also become clear that smallholders employ several strategies to subvert sanctions instituted by the state government. These include using illegal means to transport charcoal and paying bribes to law enforcement agencies. Kenya is one country where this happens.

There is also ample evidence

that prohibitions such as banning the production and transport of charcoal don't work in many countries in the region because of weak institutions.

Given that the current path towards formalisation is failing, what alternatives can governments adopt?

Cleaning the charcoal sector

Making the charcoal sector less carbon intensive is desirable. But the current pathways chosen by various governments aren't sustainable because they deprive many poor farmers of the means of their survival.

I identify a number of steps that could be taken.

First, national governments need to recognise and improve

traditional leaders' current role in allocating trees for charcoal production in the countryside. This approach has been in place for decades in countries, including Ghana. It has its flaws. For example, there is no proper accountability for how traditional leaders apply revenues raised from allocating wood resources. But it has nevertheless helped sustain the population of valuable tree species in the savannah, including the shea tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) and the African locust bean tree (*Parkia biglobosa*) in Ghana.

Second, governments need to invest in the countryside, creating awareness and facilitating green charcoal businesses and associations. This way smallholders could produce charcoal from sustainable woodlots that are harvested in rotation.

Efforts also need to be made to address some of the structural challenges along the charcoal commodity chain, including the skewed distribution of profits to traders and merchants. The creation of cooperatives could help by strengthening the bargaining position of smallholder charcoal producers.

Finally, improving charcoal production at the grassroots level will allow governments in the region to tap into the growing global demand for sustainable charcoal in international markets, while contributing to climate change mitigation. *The Conversation*

Eric Kumeh Mensah, Doctoral Researcher, University of Hohenheim

Council launched to support access to quality education for marginalised children

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts aimed to foster collaborations and drive education progress globally, the Yidan Prize Foundation, a global philanthropic educational foundation has formed a 16-member "Council of Luminaries" so as to boost promotion of education policies and reforms.

Launched in December 2020, the council also focuses to make education more inclusive especially for children who are marginalized. The council comprises researchers, educators, neuroscientists, psychologists, economists, statisticians and innovators—all international experts working at the forefront of education today to build a better world.

"A more educated world is a better world. The more we learn, the more thoughtful we become. As communities, the better skilled we are, the better we're able to meet today's and tomorrow's challenges. In other words, where learning thrives, so does society," says Dr Charles CHEN Yidan, Founder of Yidan Prize.

The luminaries are a diverse group of highly accomplished leaders, who have developed both practical and theoretical expertise on education by drawing on different disciplines. In their own work, they have seen the power of education to change lives, transform communities, economies and societies, and build a better world.

"As a firm believer in the power of education, the Yidan Prize Foundation believes the world needs an open and people-driven platform which brings together the brightest minds in education to inspire progress and change in education for a better world," says Dr Yidan.

He says the luminaries will work together on real-world problems, while engaging with key stakeholders such as governments, NGOs and regulators on educational research and ideas. They will speak with a collective voice on the issues that matter most.

Edward Ma, Secretary-General, Yidan Prize Foundation hints on the note that the council members are determined to make education more responsive to the challenges of the 21st century and more inclusive of children who are marginalized in today's systems.

He says the council's unique strength lies in its ability to draw both on the research of educational experts from multiple disciplines; and the expertise of educational innovators and entrepreneurs. This talented group has the potential to build new bridges between the worlds of research and practice.

"While we do not have any luminaries from Tanzania, some of the works of our luminaries are contributing significantly to education development in Tanzania through Lucy Lake who is the chief executive officer, of CAMFED and Angeline Murimirwa, executive director - Africa, CAMFED," Edward tells



The Guardian in a written response.

According to him, Lucy and Murimirwa from CAMFED have been also awarded the Yidan Prize for Education development for their contribution to female education. "CAMFED launched the Learner Guide Program in Tanzania, partnering with education, government and international stakeholders to explore ways of scaling the program nationally," he notes.

By paying their school going costs (which include school uniforms, school supplies, or boarding costs) they are able to support thousands of girls through secondary school every year. Some of the girls have been able to achieve things they thought they'd never be able to achieve - passing exams, running businesses, and becoming learner guides, mentors and role models to other vulnerable children."

He also says that the council luminaries' works are also implemented in Tanzania through BRAC Tanzania. "BRAC Tanzania is a leading microfinance organization supporting over 195,000 people with small to medi-

um size loans through 151 branches across 26 regions of the country. Their client portfolio consists of 55 per cent rural population and over 98 per cent women. Their programmatic interventions include microfinance, education, early childhood development, and empowerment and livelihood for adolescents," he says.

How is it going to operate in Tanzania? Edward says the CAMFED's Learner Guide Hub which is set to be established through the Yidan Prize funds, will unlock the potential to scale the Learner Guide program and underpin its future sustainability.

"The Hub is a digital platform that provides access to all training curricula and resource materials, curated for use by the program's Core Trainers, Learner Guides and Ministry partners; and enhanced to provide an interactive learning journey," he says.

According to him, the Hub will facilitate online review and reporting by Learner Guides, substantially improving the effica-

cy of the support and follow-up to Learner Guides, and the accreditation process for the Learner Guide qualification. The Hub will be accessed in five countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

He further said through the BRAC's Play Lab projects, it demonstrate that the poorest and most vulnerable children can have access to quality and affordable Early Childhood Education.

"With the Yidan Prize Fund, BRAC is able to expand its work of implementing play-based early childhood development (ECD) programs to address the needs of children and families in resource constrained communities and humanitarian contexts," he says.

He says BRAC Tanzania's 'Early Childhood Development project' is a unique early childhood development program that serves to provide education in a play model to the Tanzanian children. The intersection of play, social emotional learning, resilience, development of executive

function and self-regulation skills in early childhood, is proving to have tremendous implications for stimulating breakthrough outcomes for children.

He says the project is active in Mbeya and Dares Salaam regions and is based on a curriculum which incorporates social and emotional learning.

Their Play Labs are constructed in a sustainable and cost effective way and the Yidan Prize is supporting BRAC in scaling up the play-based early childhood development solutions.

Edward adds the Yidan Prize project funding (around US\$2million) will be invested by BRAC in research, innovation, and scaling up high-impact solutions related to Early Childhood Development to address the needs of children and families in resource constrained communities and humanitarian contexts. Initiatives in the series include: The Yidan Prize is supporting BRAC in scaling up the play-based Early Childhood Development solutions across Bangladesh, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Burmese journalist Swe Win on journalism in Myanmar, the coup, and what could be next...

By E. Tammy Kim

A FEW months after I profiled Burmese journalist Swe Win, in August 2019, he was shot in the leg. He had been driving through Rakhine State, on vacation with his wife and young daughter, when a bullet tore through his car. A source later told him that an army chief had “personally directed” the attempted hit.

Myanmar Now, the bilingual news outlet that Swe Win leads in Yangon, had recently published exposés of the vast business interests of Min Aung Hlaing, the commander in chief of the country’s armed forces. “I got word from some soldiers to be very careful,” Swe Win recalled, adding: “I had infuriated the top.”

It wasn’t Swe Win’s first encounter with the military: during the time of the junta, he had been thrown in prison for joining the democracy movement; then, after generals began to share power with Aung San Suu Kyi’s civilian government, in 2010, he defended himself against physical attacks and frivolous litigation intended to derail the reporting of Myanmar Now. But the shooting made him fear for his family’s safety. So they decided to flee the country, with plans to return ahead of the national elections, on November 8, 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic made coming home impossible - as did signs that the military would not respect the outcome of the vote. Sure enough, when Aung San Suu Kyi’s party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), swept the election, the military alleged that more than eight million ballots had been fraudulently cast.

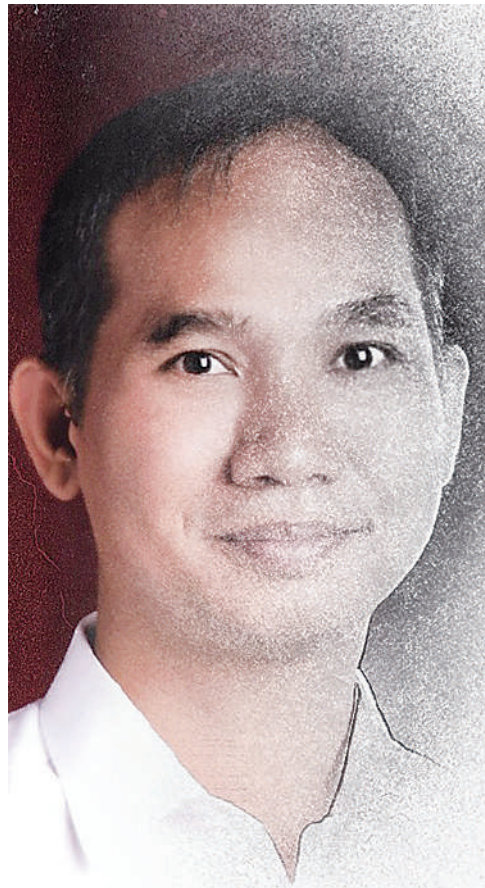
Then, on February 1 Myanmar time, just before the newly elected parliament was set to certify the results, the military detained State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and dozens of human rights activists and pro-democracy monks.

Min Hlaing was subsequently installed as the country’s sole leader. He declared a one-year state of emergency, then blocked internet and telephone lines.

Thousands of Burmese responded in protest, holding images of Aung San Suu Kyi, singing the freedom song of the 1988 democracy movement: “Kabar Ma Kyay Bu” (“We Shall Not Surrender Until the End of the World”, set to Kansas’s “Dust in the Wind”), and raising the three-finger Hunger Games salute recently popularised in Thailand.

On February 8, the junta imposed a curfew and a ban on public gatherings. By the very next day, there were reports of police shooting water cannons, rubber bullets and live rounds at crowds in Yangon, Mandalay, and the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw.

Swe Win has followed these events in exile, from outside Myanmar. I spoke with him by phone on February



2 and 6 about the logic of the coup, how to report on regime change, and the future of his nation’s democracy. Excerpts from the talks:

Thank you for making time, Swe Win. Have you been able to contact any of your coworkers?

I did, but it’s very, very difficult. I managed to have a few minutes of a phone call with a colleague. Apart from that, I could not contact them at all.

You and I talked a lot in 2019. The defamation case against you was finally dismissed. But I recently learned that, at the end of that year, you were shot, seemingly by the military, while you were on vacation. What happened?

Around 2019, August and September, our newsroom stepped up reporting about the family businesses of the top generals, particularly Min Hlaing. So, we wrote a couple of sto-

ries looking into the businesses of his son and his daughter. That generated an enormous amount of attention, for the very first time, about the extent of his wealth - so much so that there was a lot of agitation, particularly within the military families. And then I got word of an attempt by the military leadership to file lawsuits against me for those stories.

I did my best to make the story legally watertight. Everything was fact-based - all primary information, etc. - so there was no opportunity for the military leadership to file a lawsuit against me. So, I think that was the stage for the attack on me. I released a statement about the shooting in September of 2020 because of my analysis that a military coup was on its way. I thought it was time to tell the people.

My understanding is that, by August of 2020, there were worries about a coup, because the military had held a conference at which it raised suspicions about the election. Were many people concerned?

In August 2020, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, senior general Min Aung Hlaing, called a meeting of the leaders of forty-three political parties, including the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). The rest were proxies for the USDP, so we should never forget that this was all orchestrated by the military. They knew ahead of time that the NLD, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, would be the dominant force, so they created a motley of smaller political parties.

All these smaller parties are just skeletons: just one party leader and ten people, mostly. The fact that the meeting was convened was itself a signal of a coup to me. It had never happened before. And then the more worrying thing was that some of those leaders of the proxy parties reportedly pleaded with the commander-in-chief to intervene if the election results turned out fraudulent.

So they were already planting that idea?

Yeah, and then the military general responded - which made the whole scenario all the more suspicious: “There is nothing I dare not do.” There was threatening talk.

How did the NLD react to that conference in August?

They did not respond very much, actu-

ally. Nothing significant. They said: “It’s their right to have a meeting and public discussions.” Nobody thought, based on the conference, that there were undertones about a coup. I told my newsroom: “There’s a 70 per cent chance of a coup.” I told the same to a leader of one of the key advocacy groups that is now calling for the boycott of military businesses. I thought about how I would restructure my newsroom if the coup took place. But, at the same time, I felt like I was deranged.

When the election came, did you think that the military was going to take control at that point?

I got so worried in the two days before the election, because the military aired a propaganda film on November 7 - before Election Day. That was a brazen act. This movie had never been broadcast since 2005, since the transition to democracy. That led to my conclusion that the coup was imminent.

There have been coups before in Burmese history. Did you think that this one would be the kind where the military would take control of just a few positions, or did you think that it would be the kind of coup we’re seeing now?

I was wrong about my prediction of how the coup would unfold. My prediction was that the military would not arrest many people and would not detain Aung San Suu Kyi. All members of parliament have to live in the municipality of Nay Pyi Taw, so you don’t need to round them up in the middle of night; they’re already there. They could not get out of the compound because of the Covid-19 regulation. So the military just needs to issue a statement and say: “Aung San Suu Kyi cannot get out of there,” and then prepare a greater police force for street protests - that’s all.

But I was wrong. I was wrong. They raided the monasteries. They targeted individuals who they thought would initiate broader public actions. They arrested a number of individuals, and then, when they made those arrests, they did it in a very stupid way - to give a message. All these soldiers dressed in full gear, in battle zones, and they used overwhelming force.

Continues tomorrow

What does China’s poverty reduction victory mean to the world?

BEIJING,

ENDING absolute poverty in the world’s most populous country is nothing less than a history-making moment.

Alleviating poverty is a common and enduring challenge to humanity. China has a population of 1.4 billion and has used the past decades, since 2012 especially, to tackle the challenge with unparalleled efforts.

The result: bringing close to 100 million people out of poverty in eight years and a farewell to absolute poverty.

For the 100 million, the changes are real -- it is an ill man being able to afford treatment, a mother having a job, a family moving out of a ramshackle shelter, or a student no longer having to climb a cliff to go to school. Improved lives give these people hopes and dreams. Thursday’s gathering to mark the country’s complete victory in its fight against poverty evoked strong emotions in many who would agree the great struggle won attests to the nation’s resolve, character, and strength.

The Communist Party of China (CPC), inspired by socialist ideals to eliminate poverty, improve people’s livelihood, and realize common prosperity, has put poverty fight as a top policy goal. The CPC’s efforts came from a simple and clear purpose -- to deliver real benefits to the people. The efforts are neither for scoring political points nor creating a battlefield to compete with other countries’ systems or governance.

China set its poverty line at a per-capita annual income of 2,300 yuan at 2010 constant values, or 2.3 U.S. dollars in terms of purchasing power parity per person a day. This standard is higher than the World Bank’s benchmark of 1.9 U.S. dollars per person per day. By 2020, a person making less than 4,000 yuan a year could be listed as impoverished.

Besides the numerical target, China ensured the impoverished people have “two assurances” (adequate food, adequate clothing) and “three guarantees” (access to compulsory education, basic medical services, and safe housing).

The country has conducted the strictest assessment to ensure that the quality and standards of the poverty relief work are not compromised.

World Bank data say China contributed to 70 percent of worldwide poverty reduction in the last 40 years.

Over the last eight years, unabated attention and a sustained push from Chinese President Xi Jinping have ensured continued momentum. Under his leadership, efforts against poverty have been woven into every fabric of Chinese life, in which reducing poverty is a consensus and constant call to action.

Exploring wisdom and ways, China has accumulated a vast pool of experiences in battling poverty.

With almost surgical precision, the country established a targeted poverty-relief database and rolled out specific prescriptions to fight poverty for different people. With flexibility and ingenuity, farmers succeeded in experimenting with new cash crops or raising a new type of cattle. With mass mobilization, three million



Farmer Qin Yongling displays eggs at a chicken farm in Renyuan Village of Jinji Township in Wuxuan County, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, June 18, 2020. (Xinhua)

“first secretaries” and cadres were sent to villages to help stamp out poverty. Both public and private sectors undertook poverty-relief projects.

With robust government funds, roads and bridges were built, and over 9.6 million people were relocated to more hospitable areas. Proper checks and supervision mechanisms made sure the results of poverty reduction can stand the test of time.

As an old saying in China goes, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” In addition to external assistance, China has fostered among the poor an awareness of escaping poverty through self-reliance. It has focused on improving their skills through training programs and providing them with jobs instead of giving grants. In this way, the poor have become more involved in poverty alleviation programs.

The victory over absolute poverty and regional poverty speaks volumes of the leadership of the CPC and the strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

China’s poverty alleviation is a success, but far from a full stop. China remains the biggest developing country globally. It still faces problems caused by unbalanced and inadequate development. Eliminating absolute poverty is a new starting point.

China has already made arrangements for consolidating the achievements in poverty alleviation and rural vitalization, including a five-year transition period during which ma-

ajor supportive policies and assistance for the poor will remain stable.

The world still has 700 million people living in extreme poverty with a yawning gap between the rich and the poor in many countries. China’s victory comes as an encouraging sign. It has quickened the pace of global poverty reduction, therefore cementing confidence in the ultimate eradication of penury.

While striving to cure poverty at home, China has also actively supported the cause in other developing countries. It is committed to creating wealth and opportunities for people in other countries through aids and initiatives like the Belt and Road.

All roads lead to Rome. No country should blindly follow others’ steps or take their development paths as the only viable one. But China’s victory in poverty reduction has at least offered hope and provided a valuable reference to the world, especially the developing and least developed countries, given its holistic approach in planning and perseverance in implementation.

Looking ahead, China expects exchanges and mutual learning with the international society in the spirit of shared development and win-win cooperation. China also wants to ensure that the benefits of poverty reduction reach more people around the world.

China’s victory in the fight against absolute poverty merely marks another beginning -- the beginning of more miracles yet to be worked, and a path toward an even brighter future.

Xinhua

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



FRIDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	HIZI NAZO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18:30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05HRS	KIPIMA JOTO
23.00 HRS	WEEKEND SHOW

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



FRIDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-20:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
20:00-21:00HRS	SPORTS
21:00-23:00HRS	KIPIMA JOTO
23:00-01:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
01:00-05:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)

By Property Watch Correspondent, Mwanza

MINISTER BITEKO ASSURES BARRICK GOLD OF CONDUCTIVE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

THE Minister of Minerals, Doto Biteko, has assured Barrick Gold Corporation of a sustainable conducive investment environment pledging that the government will continue providing incentives to attract investors to inject more money in the mining sector.

The minister gave the pledge yesterday in Mwanza when he was welcomed by Dr Mark Bristow, President, and CEO of Barrick Gold Corporation. Dr. Mark Bristow to participate in the action plan session of the company that will be implemented for ten years from this year.

He called the company to continue investing in the country while emphasizing the importance of complying with existing laws, especially the Mining Act of 2010 and its 2017 amendments in line with other laws.

"This is an important opportunity speaking to you as one of our key mining sector stakeholders who are also good taxpayers and partners in our Buzwagi, Bulyanhuluna and North Mara mines," said Biteko.

Biteko explained that Tanzania is the right and safe place to continue investing in the mining sector.

"I would like to remind you to adhere to the requirements of the principle of local content by engaging more projects for the local communities" he added.

On his part, Dr Bristow said that the company has invested US\$290million (672.56bn/-) in local contractors and service providers in the regions that it operates at the end of 2020.

He said it has also employed a big percent of locals in the areas of security and sanitary.

"If money alone is the indicator of success we have paid US\$800million into the country in the form of taxes, dividends,



Minerals minister Doto Biteko (L), holds talks with Dr Mark Bristow, President and CEO of Barrick Gold Corporation at the company's regional office in Mwanza yesterday. Photo: courtesy of Barrick.

permits, infrastructure, salaries, and payments to local suppliers. For the past year our team has focused on gaining our social

licence to operate through effective stakeholder arrangements" said Dr Bristow.

He asserted that the company among

other things is now focusing on operating Bultanhulu ad Buzwagi mines as corporate with a capacity of producing 500,000

ounces of gold a year for the period of over the next ten years.

"Health and safety of our employees and protection of the environment is an absolutely core to our business. In that perspective we have been monitoring the spread of Malarianad HIV in the areas that we operate by playing our part effectively by stopping further spread or even eradication where possible;

The other thing that we also take into serious consideration is the issue of environmental conservation in the areas that we operate. Since we started operations Barrick has been keen with water resource management commitments" he explained. He said the company has upgraded its existing water treatment plant from 2.5million litres per day to 28 million litres per day.

"As part of us taking Acacia, we inherited mines that were in bad shape. We have now improved the understanding and management of the mines hence good results" he added.

According to him, North Mara has improved to underground mining while Bultanhulu has restarted underground mining that had stopped during the acquisition of the company. With the massive technological developments happening in the mining sector, to remain competitive Barrick is investing in advanced technologies.

He concluded that all three mines produced 462,000 ounces at the end of 2020 and we have achieved a great deal taking over Acacia.

Giant SBL introduces new bear brand in market

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to maintain strong market presence, Serengeti Breweries Limited has introduced Guinness Smooth, a new member to its growing family in the country's northern cities of Moshi, Arusha Manyara and Tanga.

In a statement yesterday, the brewer invited key distributors, restaurant and bar owners to be among the first people to experience and sample the Guinness Smooth's distinctive and refreshing taste.

SBL's Innovation Manager, Bertha Vedastus said the latest addition to the Guinness family has a distinctly smooth and refreshing taste, with the perfect balance of flavours that are ideal for enjoyment while catching up with friends.

"The new tippie has all the refreshment hallmarks of a stout, with the fine character of Guinness. Crafted with Tanzanian consumers in mind, Guinness Smooth is a new expression of Guinness developed by Guinness master brewers, local and international, to deliver an exciting and stand-out beer that is perfect for casual social occasions. This smooth beer is produced in our Moshi brewery," Vedastus said.

She further noted that the new beer brand brings a unique and world-class taste to residents of Moshi, Arusha Manyara and Tanga following successful launch in Dar es Salaam at the end of last year. "Guinness has an enviable long tradition of brewing extraordinary beers," she added.

Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, SBL is the second largest beer company in Tanzania. SBL has three operating plants in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi. Since the creation of SBL in 2002, the business has grown its portfolio of brands year on year.

The majority stake acquisition by EABL/Diageo in 2010 has seen increased investment in international quality standards leading to greater job opportunities for the people of Tanzania.



"The new tippie has all the refreshment hallmarks of a stout, with the fine character of Guinness. Crafted with Tanzanian consumers in mind, Guinness Smooth is a new expression of Guinness developed by Guinness master brewers, local and international..."

NMB extends services with new branch at SUA

By Property Watch Reporter, Morogoro

THE country's largest bank by physical branch network, NMB Bank Plc has consolidated its market leadership by opening its 227th branch at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro Municipality mid this week.

Apart from broadening its branch network nationally, the NMB SUA branch brings to 14 the bank's brick and mortar outlets in Morogoro Region and increases their number to 22 in the eastern zone.

The bank's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said their latest branch brings relief to the SUA community and its neighbourhoods as they can easily access NMB banking services.

"Before the opening of NMB SUA, our customers, notably the university workers and students, had to travel more than six kilometres to the Wami branch in Morogoro for banking services. With the new branch, we have also brought closer banking services to residents of Magadu, Mzingu, Kididimo, Misufini, Vibandani, Kasanga, Lugala and Mafiga," Mponzi said.

He said the bank has been market leader in the provision of financial services in the country through quality banking solutions which has resulted into being the most profitable bank that also invests substantially in the communities through its corporate social responsibility policy.

"Our network is supported by more than 800 automated teller machines (ATMs) and over 9,000 NMB Wakalas. Furthermore, this strategic services infrastructure enables NMB Bank to excel in serving the national economy and playing a pivotal role in the overall development of the country," he added.

In a key note address to launch the branch, SUA Vice Chancellor, Professor Raphael Chibunda called



SUA Vice Chancellor Prof. Raphael Chibunda (3rd-R) cuts tape to launch NMB's branch at the university in Morogoro earlier this week. Third left is NMB's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi. Photo courtesy of NMB.

on Morogoro residents to make use of the infrastructure for personal progress and national development.

Emphasizing the developmental role of banking services, Prof Chibunda commended NMB for its investments in supporting social welfare and economic growth. He said a vibrant financial sector was indispensable due to its supportive economic roles such

as facilitating investments, enabling commercial and personal payments, enabling savings and making borrowing possible.

"The SUA administration values the support of NMB Bank not only for the wellbeing of SUA but also its contribution to development of our country. We have 1,402 workers and 13,862 students who will directly benefit from this branch," he noted.

NMB also donated hospital equipment to SUA Hospital and desks for the varsity's secondary school and money for a tree project all valued at 16.2m/-. In a breakdown of the donation, the bank's Eastern Zone Manager, Dismas Prosper said a washing machine was worth 6.9m/-, wheelchairs valued at 1.8m/-, 55 desks worth 5m/- and tree seedlings valued at 2.5m/-.

Telkom Kenya called out for earning KSh1.7bn on expired licence

NAIROBI

TELKOM Kenya has been put on the spot for collecting up to Sh1.7 billion from customers using a State-owned fibre optic network without a licence.

A report tabled in Parliament shows that the telecoms firm continued to operate the National Optic Fibre Backbone (Nofbi) - which provides telecommunications connectivity in all the 47 counties - despite its permit to do so having expired in 2016.

The document further says

that Telkom Kenya had also failed to surrender to the government half of the profits raised from data service providers using the fibre optic network as stated in the lapsed contract.

Section 75(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (PMFA) demands that all receivers of national government revenue raised from income tax, excise tax, value added tax (VAT) and other duties obtain mandatory written permission

from the Cabinet Secretary in charge of the National Treasury.

The government, through the ICT ministry, contracted Telkom Kenya in February 2010 to offer operations and management services for Nofbi. In the deal, the telecoms firm was to undertake minor repairs on the network for a monthly payment of Sh20.3 million.

The contract was subsequently amended in 2013 but

its effective date backdated to June 2011 to provide for a revenue share arrangement. The five-year contract expired in 2016, with ICT ministry yet to renew it.

Telkom Kenya chief executive Mugo Kibati confirmed that the firm had no permit to collect revenue from users of the Nofbi as required by law.

"Telkom Kenya has neither been designated as a receiver of government revenue by the CS of National Treasury nor

does it collect any revenues as per provisions of neither any law nor regulations," he said in a brief to the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) committee.

"Nonetheless, Telkom indeed bills and collects revenues from use of Nofbi on behalf of the Ministry of ICT."

Telkom Kenya is majority owned (60 percent) by the UK-based private equity firm Helios Investment Partners while the government shareholding

is 40 percent.

ICT Principal Secretary Jerome Oluoch claimed he was not aware of the revenue collections by Telkom Kenya until the matter was brought to his attention by the PAC.

"There is no form of revenue reflecting in our books arising from TKL (Telkom Kenya). I got interest on this contract when PAC raised the matter when we appeared," he said.

In the lapsed contract, Telkom Kenya was allowed to

provide operation and maintenance services, recover costs from realised revenues and split the net profits with the ICT ministry on a 50-50 basis.

The ministry set the customer rate card whereby Telkom Kenya, Safaricom and Mwananchi Communications would each pay \$23.44 for using the Nofbi while Jamii Telecom and Kennet would part with \$19.5 and \$22.5, respectively.

Telkom Kenya said it would

have netted a total revenue of Sh3.1 billion from the fibre optic network had the government been billed Sh1.4 billion for usage. This would have resulted in a net profit of Sh1.1 billion.

"With a 50/50 split, the government share would have been Sh0.55 billion. Government savings of Sh1.4 billion under the current management would be 250 percent more than the Sh0.55 billion profit," Mr Kibati said.

PENNSYLVANIA

In a first for the company, Toronto-listed SNC-Lavalin Group has won an engineering services contract to add hydroelectric generating capacity to three existing dams in Pennsylvania from Rye Development, a company specialising in retrofitting dams to generate renewable energy.

Rye has plans for eight hydroelectric retrofits in southwestern Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh on the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers, where navigational locks and dams, owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, could be turned into sources of renewable energy. It has 14 similar projects in other states in its pipeline.

SNC-Lavalin's scope includes design and engineering using multidisciplinary BIM technology, field investigation, environmental assessment and permitting support for the three Pennsylvania projects.

"SNC-Lavalin's first contracts, over 100 years ago, were for hydropower facilities," said Dale Clarke, president of infrastructure services at SNC-Lavalin.

"We look forward to fostering a strong long-term relationship with Rye through the successful delivery of these projects that will have significant community benefit."

Paul Jacob, Rye Development chief executive, said: "We are excited to have SNC-Lavalin, with the depth of experience that they bring, as part of our team to help us deliver 24/7 renewable generation and significant infrastructure growth to the Pittsburgh region."

Rye Development has a customer for the electricity it aims to produce in Pennsylvania. On 28 January, Allegheny County in Pennsylvania signed a 35-year agreement (pdf) to purchase energy generated by a 17.8MW facility Rye will develop at the 100-year-old Emsworth Main Channel Dam on the Ohio River (pictured). Work is scheduled to start in late 2021 and be operational as early as mid-2023.

On 14 January, Rye received a funding

LAVALIN GROUP HIRED TO TURN OLD DAMS INTO HYDROPOWER STATIONS



boost with an agreement by low-carbon infrastructure investment fund Climate Adap-

tive Infrastructure to invest up to \$150m in equity capital for the dams' retrofits.

In all, Rye's 22 planned projects in Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania

and West Virginia would produce 250MW, enough to supply more than 100,000

homes, without building new dams.

Australian parliament passes media reforms after last-ditch changes

CANNBERRA

AUSTRALIA's parliament passed a law on Thursday to make Alphabet Inc's Google and Facebook Inc pay media companies for content on their platforms in reforms that countries such as Britain and Canada are looking to replicate.

After robust negotiations in which Facebook blocked all news content in the 13th-largest economy, the vote makes Australia the first nation where a government arbitrator can set the price tech giants pay domestic media if private talks fail.

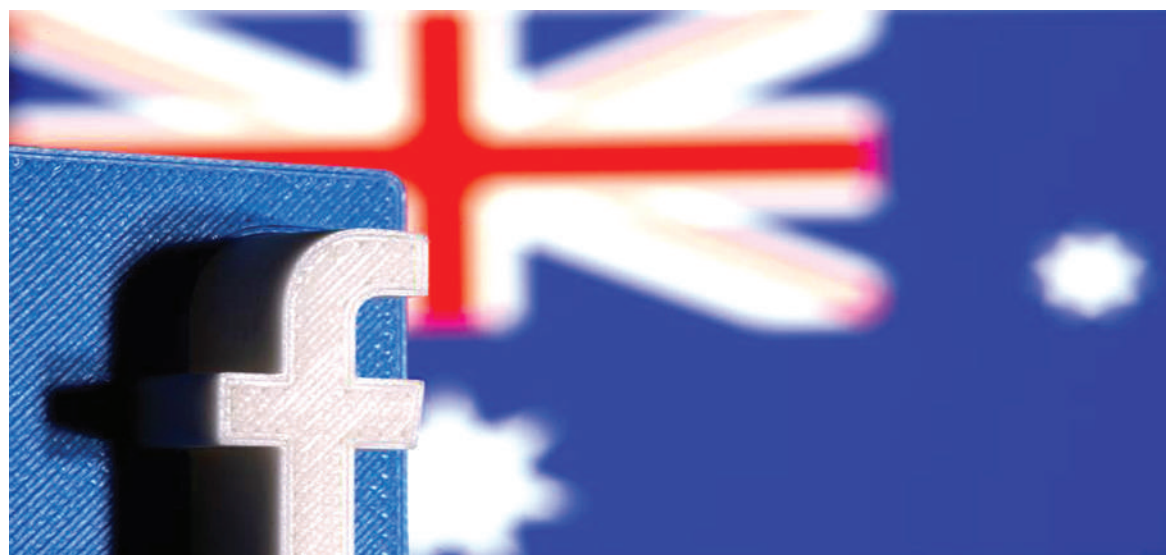
"The code will ensure news media businesses are fairly remunerated for the content they generate, helping to sustain public inter-

est journalism," Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Communications Minister Paul Fletcher said in a joint statement.

Facebook's news ban, which also blacked out many nonprofit and government pages, including those of public health agencies promoting reliable information about COVID-19, would be lifted the following day, Frydenberg added in a radio interview, eight days after the measure took effect.

Representatives of both Google and Facebook did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

The new law sets the stage for a dispute-handling process largely untested in corporate Australia, should negotiations between Big Tech and media companies fail. Its progress



will be closely watched globally.

Both sides claimed victory after Australia offered Facebook some concessions, including government discretion to release the tech giants from arbitration if they can prove a "significant contribution" to the domestic news industry.

The revised code also allows the tech companies a longer period to cut media deals before the state intervenes. It will be reviewed within a year of taking effect, the joint statement said, but gave no start

date.

For months Facebook and Google threatened to pull core services from Australia if the law took effect. But in the days before the vote, and before Facebook blocked news, Google struck some deals with publishers News Corp.

Several large Australian media companies, including Seven West Media, Nine Entertainment and the Australian Broadcasting Corp have said they were in talks with Facebook.

'United Air lines plane flew fewer than half of the flights allowed'

WASHINGTON

A United Airlines plane with a Pratt & Whitney engine that failed on Saturday had flown fewer than half the flights allowed by U.S. regulators between fan blade inspections, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The Boeing Co 777 plane had flown nearly 3,000 cycles, equivalent to one take-off and landing, which compares to the checks every 6,500 cycles mandated after a separate United engine incident in 2018, said the sources.

They sought anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly. United declined to comment.

Pratt, the maker of the PW4000 engines, advised airlines on Monday to step up checks to every 1,000 cycles, in a bulletin seen by Reuters. It did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said it was ordering immediate inspections of 777 planes with PW4000 engines before they could return to flight, going further than Pratt.

The engines are used on 128 older versions of the plane, accounting for less than 10 percent of the more than 1,600 777s delivered and only a handful of airlines in the United States, South Korea and Japan were operating them recently. Japan and South Korea have also grounded the planes for fan blade checks.

On Monday, the FAA acknowledged that after a Japan Airlines (JAL) PW4000 engine incident in December it had been considering stepping up blade inspections that use thermal acoustic imaging to find signs of metal fatigue.

A risk-assessment meeting was held last week to discuss the issue before the United engine failed on Saturday, one of the sources said, confirming an earlier report by CNN. No decision had been imminent ahead of the United incident, the source added.

A spokeswoman for Pratt, owned by Raytheon Technologies, said on Wednesday that fan blades would need to be shipped to its repair station in East Hartford, Connecticut, for the latest inspections, including those from Japan and South Korea.

Each engine has 22 blades that must be removed individually and each will take eight hours to inspect, FAA Administrator Steve Dickson told Bloomberg TV on Wednesday.

Sea-life boosting alternative to conventional tidal defences

SAN DIEGO

THE Port of San Diego has begun installing a unique type of sea wall to protect the edges of Harbor Island, a man-made peninsula in San Diego Bay, in the hope of restoring its marine ecosystem in a way conventional sea defences do not.

The Coastalock system, developed by Israel-based company Econcrete, comprises interlocking hollow units made of proprietary bio-enhancing concrete that provide habitats for oysters, starfish, algae, grasses, echinoderms and other marine wildlife - which can fail to thrive in the barren environments created by rubble or concrete modules, known as riprap.

In a three-year pilot, the port will replace riprap with 72 of the 3.5-tonne modules in two locations to see if it regenerates the local ecosystem by creating a series of rich, interlocking tidal pools.

Econcrete said it is the first of several large-scale installations around the world of Coastalock, which was select-

ed by Time Magazine as one of the 100 best inventions in 2019.

The pilot is part of the Port's Blue Economy Incubator scheme, which is promoting sustainable aquaculture and ocean-oriented - termed "Blue Economy" - technology ventures.

Every six months, Econcrete will evaluate the viability of the tide pool units as an ecological armouring replacement to traditional riprap.

Econcrete was founded in 2012 by marine ecologists Dr. Shimrit Perkol-Finkel and Dr. Ido Sella to meet growing demand for ecological enhancement.

They say Coastalock units interlock along eight planes, enabling life-enhancing structural variation.

The idea is that, when installed, oysters, tube worms and coralline algae move into the niches to build up a layer of calcium carbonate, adding weight and stability to the system while buffering hydrodynamic focus and chlorides.

Rough surface textures facilitate organisms' ability to attach and form a community, while the concrete's admix

promotes biocalcification and CO₂-consuming photosynthesis.

The admix is made of greater-than 90% recycled and byproduct materials, which cuts its carbon footprint.

"By mimicking natural rock pools with beautiful water retaining features, the project will sustain valuable marine life while coping with climate change and urbanisation," said Rafael Castellanos, commissioner and environmental advisory board chair at the Port of San Diego Board of Port Commissioners.

"Harbor Island is the first and only location in Southern California for locals and visitors to see first-hand what kind of sea life takes residence in man-made tide pools."

Dr. Shimrit Perkol-Finkel, co-founder and chief executive of Econcrete, said: "This Blue Economy pilot is proving that the coastal and marine construction industry can achieve two goals at once: any concrete infrastructure going into the water can perform structurally and be good for ecosystems."



CONSTRUCTION

African Union eyes ambitious continental infrastructure fund

THE African Union (AU) wants to tap into member countries' sovereign wealth funds to finance much-needed transport and power infrastructure to boost growth and offset rising national debts.

It says it is needed to capitalise on a new, continental free-trade agreement to get goods and services flowing around the continent.

As it stands, countries struggle to fund big capital works on their own, the AU said.

The plan was revealed by Raila Odinga, the AU's high representative for infrastructure.

The AU wants to collect 5% of the money held by its 55 members in sovereign wealth, insurance and retirement funds. Odinga said it would be more lucrative than having funds "lie idle".

"Africa is financially starved as far as the need for infrastructure development is concerned," Odinga commented. According to the AU, there is an annual shortfall of between \$60bn and \$90bn, which is preventing the continent from advancing its plans for economic integration.

The AU's vision for Africa rests on a \$3.4 trillion African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). An agreement setting up the area was signed in March 2018, and it came into force in May 2019.

This agreement aims to create the largest free trade area in the world. Although the initial treaty only removed tariffs from 90% of goods crossing borders, the UN Economic Commission for Africa estimates that it could boost intra-African trade by 52% by 2022.

At present, African countries exchange just 15% of their goods with each other, compared with a figure of 70% in Europe.

"This infrastructure is urgent for the realisation of the AfCFTA, otherwise it is just going to remain on paper," Odinga told Reuters. "Africa needs to trade with itself."

China has been the source of most foreign direct investment in Africa over the past 10 years, but that may be slowing as signs emerge of debt strain in borrowing countries. A case in point is Kenya's \$3.2bn standard-gauge railway (pictured), which has run into financial problems since opening in June 2017 (see further reading).

HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME EXPECTED TO START THIS YEAR



HOUSTON

THE Port of Houston, America's busiest port, is expected to begin tendering work packages for its estimated \$1bn project to widen and deepen the 58-mile Houston Ship Channel after the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) gave it a "new start" designation and \$19.5m in federal funds to get going.

Called "Project II" because it's the 11th major capital works scheme since it opened to sea-going vessels in 1914, the project will see 41 miles of its length improved, including along its

Galveston Bay reach, from 530 feet to 700 feet, and deepening upstream parts to 45 feet.

After seven years campaigning for the project, the port hopes to start work this year. It says the project will make the channel safer and more efficient for the eight public terminals and approximately 200 private terminals the channel serves along its length.

The port has become the number one in the US in terms of total waterborne tonnage, foreign waterborne tonnage and number of vessel transits. Nearly 285 million tons of cargo moved through the Port of Houston

overall in 2019.

Project II was authorised in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020, and passed by Congress in December 2020. The USACE designation was announced on 19 January.

"To go from Congressional authorisation to securing a pathway for construction in less than a month is phenomenal news," Port Houston Chairman Ric Campo said.

"Project II will provide the greater Houston metropolitan area continued job growth and economic development opportunities, while improving air quality by reducing traffic congestion on the channel."

Port Houston executive director Roger Guenther called the USACE designation a momentous occasion.

"We're grateful for our bipartisan Congressional delegation and the many channel stakeholders who aggressively advocated to get this project authorised and funded," Guenther said. "Without their continued support, we wouldn't be in this position today."

Image: The Port of Houston has become the number one port in the US in terms of total waterborne tonnage (US Coast Guard photograph by PA2 James Dillard/Public domain).

Nazi think tank to be transformed into design institute

BELIN

THE Saaleck Workshops, designed by German architect and Nazi affiliate Paul Schultze-Naumburg, will be transformed into a design school by Danish firm Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter.

The Saaleck Workshops were built in 1904 near Naumburg in central Germany. The building was later used by the Nazi Party as a think tank for its race theories.

Now the Marzona Foundation, a body set up by art collector and philanthropist Egidio Marzona, is aiming to turn it into the Design Akademie Saaleck or dieDAS.

Dorte Mandrup's design will add layers to the existing structure, allowing a painful phase in German history to coexist with modern ideas.

Some parts of the building will be left unchanged, although bright colours will be added to contrast with the original muted design. A Paul Schultze-Naumburg documentation centre will be created with a glass facade on the site of a former chicken coop to expose his racist ideology.

Dorte Mandrup said: "It is courageous of the Marzona Foundation and dieDAS to reclaim and bring new values and content into the frames of the Saaleck Workshops – this otherwise very uncomfortable monument."

"Working on the project, it has been very interesting to discuss what happened in the years around 1904 in comparison to the political turbulence and design ideals of today. In this light, I think it is very important to be aware of these seminal moments in our history and to try to act accordingly."

Arne Cornelius Wasmuth, dieDAS' director, said: "The new design approach and strategic interventions will definitely promote successful work on innovative and socially relevant processes and visions for our collective future while keeping the specific uncomfortable history of the Saaleck Workshops in mind."

It has been scheduled that construction work on the project is due to be completed by 2027.

US contractors call on Biden to cut tariffs on construction materials

HOUSTON

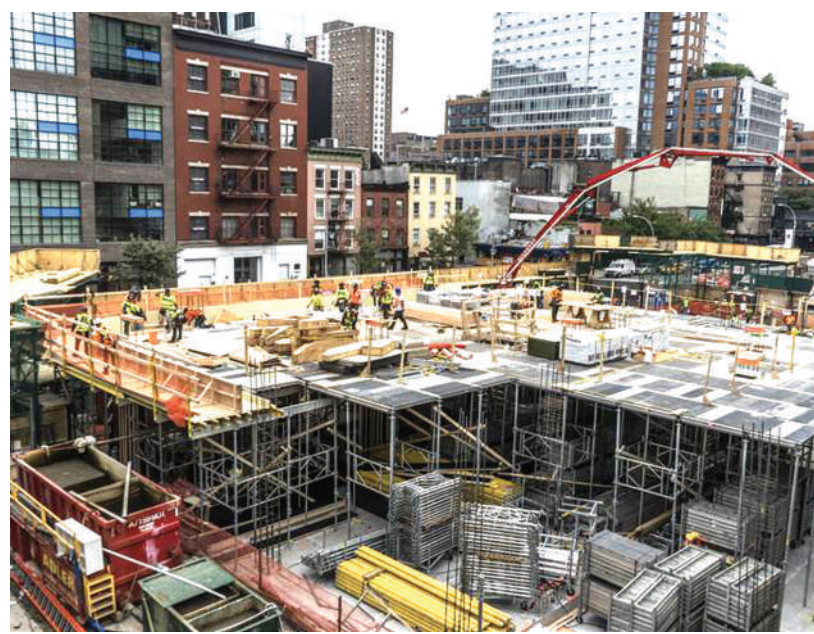
THE Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) has written an open letter to US president Joe Biden warning of the effects of recent increases in materials prices.

According to the AGC, the cost of materials such as lumber and steel have reached

"record-setting levels", partly as a result of tariff levels.

A press release from the trade body added that contractors were facing long delivery times for materials, exacerbating the disruption caused by illness and Covid-19 site restrictions.

The price for non-residential materials and services increased 2.5% between



December and January, and 10.7% since April last year.

Stephen Sandherr, the AGC's chief executive, said: "Left unchecked, these rising materials prices threaten to undermine the economic recovery by inflating the cost of infrastructure and economic development projects."

"Widespread harm is caused by maintaining tariffs on products that so many Americans need to improve their houses, modernise their infrastructure and revitalise their economy."

Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist, said: "While contractors have kept bids nearly flat until now, project owners and budget officials should anticipate the prospect that contractors will have to pass along their higher costs in upcoming bids."

"The framing lumber composite price compiled by the publication Random Lengths hit an all-time high last week. Several steel product prices are also reported at record levels, and copper futures are at an eight-year peak. Meanwhile, delivery delays are affecting both imports and domestically sourced construction inputs."

Latest offsite construction 'disruptor' takes on heavyweight tech staff

WASHINGTON

A US company launched in November 2020 to offer developers fast modular buildings has brought in heavyweight manufacturing executives, including from Tesla, to develop its engineering and automation capacity.

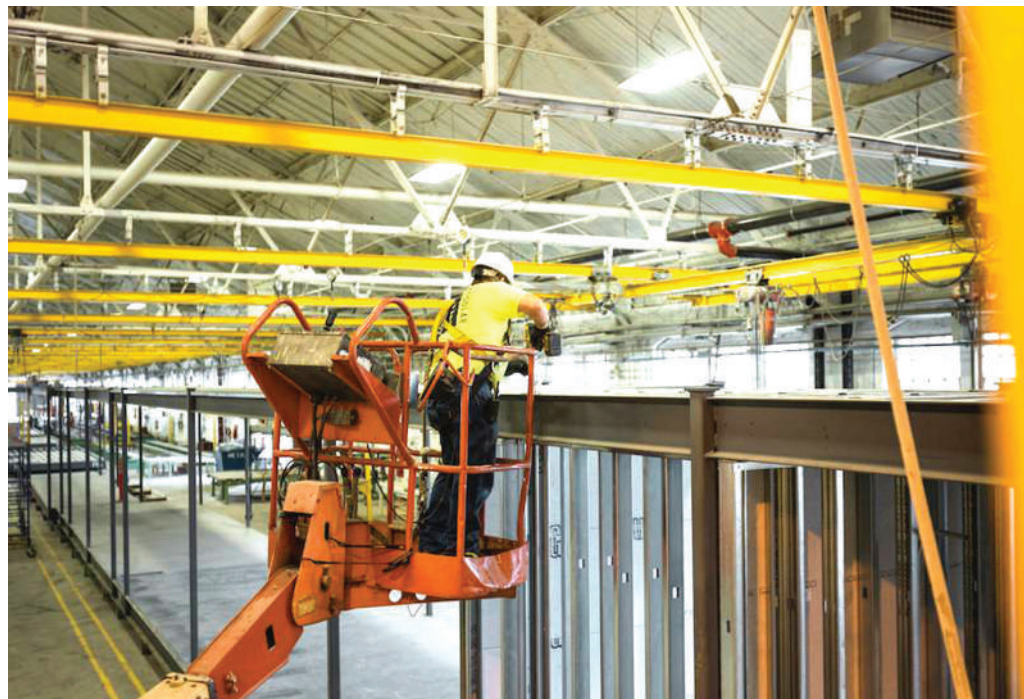
The company, called iBuilt, with head offices in New York and factories in Pennsylvania, grew out of long-established modular builder Deluxe Modular and claims to be able to deliver multi-storey buildings 20 percent cheaper and 50 percent faster than conventional construction can.

It says its proprietary

BIM platform allows it to produce full designs and drawings in 30 days with a guaranteed price and construction schedule and the promise of no change orders.

On 6 January iBuilt announced that Gonzalo Gonzalez, former senior director of manufacturing engineering at Tesla, had joined as chief manufacturing officer, and on 22 February it said supply-chain automation veteran Kazim Aya had taken up the post of chief engineering and automation officer.

"iBuilt is disruptive. This company is reimagining the fundamentals of the construction industry by



streamlining the design and build processes and making great strides towards efficiency," said Gonzalez. "Although the construction industry is one of the largest in the world, it's the least digitised and has lacked innovation for decades. Joining the team presents an opportunity to be a changemaker and to create better and more efficient ways to build."

The company joins Silicon Valley start-up Katerra in attempting to lure developers to construction. Katerra, however, has struggled with delays, cost overruns and layoffs. Earlier this

year it emerged that its investor SoftBank had to inject another \$200m into its coffers to prevent it from having to seek protection from creditors. iBuilt says it has more than \$150m in signed orders for buildings, and \$600m of new deals in negotiation.

Kazim Aya joins iBuilt with 40 years of experience in supply chain management, automation technology and quality control systems. Before iBuilt, he was vice president of advanced automation at Corvac Composites, a supplier of airflow management and water-

deflection systems to the automotive industry.

"I was instantly drawn to iBuilt because the company is on the front line of innovation in the construction industry," he said.

"No one in the industry does robotic-automated manufacturing and implementing this technology into our unique design-build-operate process will completely change the way buildings are built and enable us to deliver better buildings. Our new way of building will be as transformative as when the assembly line was introduced to automobile manufacturing 100 years ago."

WORLD

Republican leaders want a show of unity. Will Trump allow it?

WASHINGTON

THE next few days will give Republicans opportunities to stand together or fight among themselves, first when the House of Representatives votes on a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus package today and again when Donald Trump retakes the global spotlight in a speech to the party's most conservative members.

The Republican leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives - Mitch McConnell and Kevin McCarthy - have focused on rallying their caucuses against Democratic President Joe Biden's massive bill and away from internal hostilities over the Jan. 6 Capitol riot and former President Trump's impeachment.

But those efforts could prove hard to maintain when Trump speaks to the Conservative Political Action Committee on Sunday and likely wades into the party's efforts to retake congressional majorities in 2022.

The potential for distraction was on full display at a Wednesday press conference, where House Republican leaders sought to blast the Democratic coronavirus bill.

Reporters used the opportunity to ask if leaders thought Trump should take the spotlight just two months after his supporters launched a deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol to press the former president's false claim

that his election defeat was the result of widespread fraud.

"Yes, he should," McCarthy replied. But Representative Liz Cheney, the most senior of 10 House Republicans to vote to impeach Trump on a charge of inciting insurrection, was quick to contradict that view.

"I don't believe that he should be playing a role in the future of the party or the country," said Cheney, who survived an effort by Trump loyalists to oust her as conference chair for backing impeachment.

The struggle between the pro-Trump and anti-Trump arms of the Republican Party is a lopsided one.

Trump has already lashed out at his most senior Republican critic, McConnell, who called Trump "practically and morally responsible" for the Jan. 6 Capitol attack that killed five including a police officer.

"Mitch is a dour, sullen, and unsmiling political hack, and if Republican Senators are going to stay with him, they will not win again," Trump shot back last week.

McConnell has since tried to move on from discussing Trump, telling reporters: "What you need to focus on is how unified we are today in opposition to what the Biden administration is trying to do."

What's less clear is if Trump wants to move on. Many of the 10 House Republicans who backed his Jan. 13 impeachment are facing



Donald Trump

potential primary election challenges for 2022, when control of both chambers of Congress will be at stake.

MIDTERM WILD CARD

Trump has expressed a desire to make those lawmakers pay by supporting their primary challengers, according to a Trump adviser.

That could make him a wild card in both the 2022 election as well as the run-up to the 2024 presidential contest.

Trump has said he would consider running again, and the possibility alone will complicate plans for other potential Republican presidential contenders, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former Vice President Mike Pence.

Senator Rick Scott, who chairs the Senate Republican campaign arm known as the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said he was confident Trump would be a team player.

"I told him I want to win in '22 and said I'm going to be very specific of where I think he could be

helpful, and he gets to make the decision whether he wants to do it or not," Scott said, though Trump has long shown a willingness to defy advice.

The Republican National Committee estimates that more than 25 million voters have been drawn to the party since Trump won the presidency in 2016. Trump's backers note he drew 74 million votes, more than any other Republican candidate in history, though that number was dwarfed by the 81 million people who voted for Biden in the record-setting November election.

Trump's vote numbers may make it difficult for the party to turn its back on him even if it wanted to.

"President Trump and populism are very much in the great majority of our party, and people like myself, who are more traditional conservatives, are a very small minority."

Senator Mitt Romney, one of seven Republicans to vote to convict Trump of inciting insurrection this month told reporters.

Agencies

Biden orders review of US supply chains for key products, sectors

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order directing a review of supply chains for key products and sectors to address vulnerabilities and risks in US supply chains, which business insiders hope will not result in new trade barriers.



The order directs an immediate 100-day review across federal agencies to address vulnerabilities in the supply chains of pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, semiconductors and large-capacity batteries, according to the White House.

It also calls for a one-year review of supply chain risks in six key sectors of the overall economy, specifically the sectors of the defense, energy, transportation, public health, information communications technology, agricultural commodities and food production.

"Resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains are going to help revitalize our domestic manufacturing capacity and create good-paying jobs," Biden said at the White House before signing the order, adding the government is reaching out to US allies and semiconductor companies to identify solutions to the current shortages of semiconductor chips, which have forced slowdowns at US car manufacturing plants.

Christopher Roberti, senior vice president for cyber, intelligence and supply chain security policy at the US Chamber of Commerce, said Wednesday that the chamber hopes the administration will engage closely with the private sector to ensure that any policy recommendations "reject punitive approaches, new trade barriers, and one-size-fits-all solutions."

Virus fight: Pfizer vaccine found 94% effective in real world

JERUSALEM / BANGKOK / MANILA / SINGAPORE

THE first big real-world study of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to be independently reviewed shows the shot is highly effective at preventing COVID-19, in a potentially landmark moment for countries desperate to end lockdowns and reopen economies.

Up until now, most data on the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines has come under controlled conditions in clinical trials, leaving an element of uncertainty over how results would translate into the real world with its unpredictable variables.

The research in Israel - two months into one of the world's fastest rollouts, providing a rich source of data - showed two doses of the Pfizer shot cut symptomatic COVID-19 cases by 94 percent across all age groups, and severe illnesses by nearly as much.

The study of about 1.2 million people also showed a single shot was 57 percent effective in protecting against symptomatic infections after two weeks, according to the data published and peer-reviewed in the New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday.

The results of the study for the Clalit Research Institute were close to those in clinical trials last year which found two doses were found to be 95 percent effective.

Israel aims to reopen its economy by April 5 after having vaccinated all its eligible population and is in talks with vaccine makers Pfizer and Moderna to open facilities in the country, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday.

On Sunday, Israel reopened many businesses, including street shops and malls though with some leisure facilities being open only to people immunised by vaccine or by having recovered from COVID-19.

Many school children have returned to class but middle-school pupils are still home-learning, while restaurants are allowed to provide take-out and deliveries only. Agencies

'Highest priority': War on poverty tops Putin administration's agenda, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE struggle to defeat poverty in Russia faces certain difficulties, but national officials are not giving up on it, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

"True, not everything works out well," he admitted, when commenting on the endeavors to do away with poverty in the country. "Yes, certain factors seriously impede this work sometimes. However, nobody is going to give up, and work on this will carry on," he pledged.

The war on poverty is "the highest priority" for the Russian authorities and the president. "It is this issue that appears in all national development plans.

Of course, not a single one of the president's addresses to the Federal Assembly goes without this topic, and efforts to fight poverty are carried out on a permanent basis," Peskov stressed.

Agencies

Xi expounds on Chinese approach to eliminating absolute poverty

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday said China has adopted a series of extraordinary policies and measures, blazing a poverty reduction path and forming an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while addressing a gathering marking the country's accomplishments in poverty eradication and commending role models in that cause.

Summing up the experience, Xi said the leadership of the CPC has provided a solid political and organizational guarantee for China's poverty alleviation efforts.

The anti-poverty campaign was put under the unified and centralized leadership of



Chinese President Xi Jinping talks to villagers who are participating in festive activities and extends his New Year's greetings to people of all ethnic groups across the country, at Huawu Village, Xinren Miao Township of Qianxi County, Bijie southwest China's Guizhou Province, February 3, 2021 (Xinhua)

the CPC Central Committee.

A total of 255,000 teams were dispatched to offer on-the-ground support and over 3 million people were sent to the countryside as special commissioners for poverty relief.

"As long as we adhere to the Party's leadership, we can surely defeat any difficulties

on our march forward," Xi said.

He said China upholds a people-centered philosophy of development and unswervingly pursues prosperity for all, emphasizing that ending poverty, improving people's well-being and realizing common prosperity are the essential requirements of

socialism.

The country has invested nearly 1.6 trillion yuan (about 246 billion U.S. dollars) of fiscal funds into poverty alleviation over the past eight years.

China leverages the political advantages of the country's socialist system which can bring together the resources necessary to accomplish great tasks, thus generating solidarity and joint actions for poverty eradication, said Xi. The whole nation was mobilized to pool strength in the fight against poverty.

China has also adopted a targeted poverty alleviation strategy and strives to eradicate poverty through development, said Xi.

From household to household, the questions of who needs help, how help should be rendered, and what standards and procedures should be adopted for eliminating

poverty were answered.

Xi said the country has stimulated the creativity of impoverished residents, who took the initiative to get rid of poverty.

Xi said China's poverty alleviation drive has fostered an atmosphere in which the whole society helps those in need and applied a realistic and pragmatic approach.

The important experience constitutes the latest achievement in adapting Marxism's anti-poverty theory to Chinese conditions, he said.

China has cultivated the spirit of poverty alleviation, which is an amalgamation of patriotism, collectivism and socialism.

Xi said shaking off poverty is not the finish line, but the starting point of a new life and new endeavor, and urged efforts to effectively consolidate the achievements in poverty alleviation and rural vitalization. Xinhua

IMF chief urges strong action to reverse 'dangerous divergence'

WASHINGTON

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Wednesday urged governments to take strong policy actions to prevent the dangerous divergence between and within countries when climbing out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Most of the world is facing a slow rollout of vaccines even as new virus mutations are spreading - and the prospects for recovery are diverging dangerously across countries and

regions," Georgieva (pictured) said in a blog, as Group of 20 (G20) finance ministers and central bank governors meet virtually this week.

The IMF chief noted that there is a major risk that as advanced economies and a few emerging markets recover faster, most developing countries will "languish for years to come."

According to the IMF's latest projection released in January, global gross domestic product (GDP) is on track to grow 5.5 percent this year and 4.2 per-



cent in 2022, but the ascent is going to be long and uncertain.

"Before the crisis, we forecast that income gaps between advanced economies and 110 emerging and developing countries would narrow over 2020-2022. But we now estimate that only 52 economies will be

catching up during that period, while 58 are set to fall behind," Georgieva said.

The IMF chief noted that the divergence is partly due to the uneven access to vaccines, as even in the best-case scenario, most developing economies are expected to reach widespread vaccine coverage only by the end of 2022 or beyond.

"Some are especially exposed to hard-hit sectors such as tourism and oil exports, and most of them are held back by the limited room in their budgets," she continued.

Noting that it is not just divergence across countries, Georgieva said there is also an accelerated divergence within countries: the young, the low-skilled, women, and informal workers have been "disproportionately affected" by job losses.

For G20 economies alone - excluding India and Saudi Arabia due to data limitations - total employment losses are projected at more than 25 million this year and close to 20 million in 2022, relative to pre-crisis projections, the IMF chief noted. Xinhua

Joint construction of Belt and Road sees new progress despite COVID-19

BY the center for promoting the Belt and Road Initiative under the National Development and Reform Commission of China

Although the COVID-19 pandemic raging across the world landed a severe blow on the global economy in 2020, China and other countries along the Belt and Road have secured hard-won results and made solid progress in the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has shown impressive resilience, vitality and appeal amid the pandemic.

Last year, countries along the Belt and Road fought against the virus through solidarity and put into practice the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind in international anti-epidemic

cooperation. When China was in the depth of its own fight against the COVID-19, countries along the Belt and Road actively supported the Chinese people. A total of 79 countries and 10 international organizations have provided anti-epidemic materials for China.

While under huge pressure in containing the epidemic at home, China has offered assistance to more than 150 countries and 10 international organizations for their fight against the COVID-19, and sent 36 medical expert teams to 34 countries in need.

As the largest producer of medical supplies, China has sent more than 220 billion masks, 2.25 billion protective suits and 1.02 billion testing kits to countries across the globe.

Meanwhile, digital technologies of the coun-

try have played an important role in facilitating global anti-epidemic cooperation.

Huawei Cloud, the cloud computing unit of Chinese telecoms company Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., has launched several digital medical devices. Chinese tech giant Tencent has provided digital communication tools for the United Nations and other international organizations. In addition, Chinese education software, such as DingTalk and Feishu, have entered the list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommendations for global distance learning solutions, becoming the first choice in remote learning for 421 million students in 39 countries and regions.

While preventing and controlling the pan-

demic, China conducted close consultations and signed cooperation documents on jointly building the BRI with the African Union, the International Seabed Authority, Ukraine, Kiribati and other parties.

By the end of 2020, China had signed 203 BRI cooperation documents with 138 countries and 31 international organizations.

China has managed to balance epidemic prevention and control with the construction of overseas projects, and greatly improved infrastructure connectivity in various countries.

Seventy projects under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have progressed in an orderly manner, during which there has been zero COVID-19 infection among employees at the sites of these projects.

The entire second phase of the Karakoram Highway-Karachi Motorway in Pakistan have successfully opened to traffic, and the construction of the Matiari-Lahore direct current transmission line was fully completed during the pandemic.

In the meantime, Tunnel No. 1 of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway and all tunnels along the China-Laos railway were successfully holed through, the left line of the Belgrade-Zemum section and the left line of the Zemun-Batajnica section of the Hungary-Serbia railway in Serbia were opened to traffic, and the steel beam of the main structure of the Padma Bridge in Bangladesh was closed. People's Daily

Timely vaccine arrivals in Africa show China honouring its commitment to global COVID-19 vaccination

NAIROBI

WITH the timely arrival of China's Sinopharm vaccine, Senegal on Tuesday officially began the first phase of its COVID-19 vaccination campaign, taking one step further in its fight against the pandemic.

The delivery once again showed not only the solid friendship between China and Africa, but also China's honoring of its commitment to making Chinese COVID-19 vaccines a "global public good" accessible and affordable to people around the world.

During the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 held last year, China pledged that African countries will be "among the first to benefit" from Chinese vaccines.

It has walked the talk indeed – China has donated to Zimbabwe a batch of Sinopharm vaccine, and will offer another batch soon. Other African countries such as Equatorial Guinea, Egypt and Morocco have also received Chinese vaccines which enabled them to launch their vaccination campaigns.

So far, China has provided vaccine assistance to 53 developing countries in need, and exported vaccines to 22 countries. It has also decided to provide 10 million vaccine doses to multilateral vaccine alliance COVAX to meet the urgent needs of developing countries, many of which are in Africa.

"These vaccines are certainly providing a new light of positivity for the people of Zimbabwe in these tough times ... a light at the end of a dark tunnel,"

said Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

In fact, China, a country that firmly believes that solidarity and cooperation is the most powerful weapon against the virus, has been fulfilling its responsibilities as a major country and fighting shoulder to shoulder with African countries against the common threat facing mankind ever since the outbreak.

Apart from delivering anti-epidemic materials and sending medical teams to African countries, China has also become the biggest helper among the Group of 20 in terms of relieving African debt. By the end of 2020, it had signed debt service suspension agreements with 12 African countries, and reduced or waived the interest-free loans of 15 African nations.

As Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo put it, China's longstanding support to Africa's fight against the pandemic is a testament to the friendship between the two peoples.

Viruses know no borders. Leaving the world's least developed areas unvaccinated will inevitably perpetuate more infections and deaths across the world, and prolong the global fight against the pandemic. Sadly, it is happening – despite efforts by countries like China, there is still a huge disparity in global vaccine distribution as some rich countries are hoarding vaccines.

According to Duke University's Global Health Innovation Center, as of mid-January, high-income countries, which rep-



A healthcare worker shows a Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine at Wilkins Hospital in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, Feb. 18, 2021. (Xinhua)

resent only 16 percent of the world's population, had taken 60 percent of available doses.

The world faces a "catastrophic moral failure" because of unequal COVID-19 vaccine policies, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned, adding it is not fair for younger, healthy people in richer countries to get injections before vulnerable people in poorer ones.

Vaccination is not a race among countries, but rather a race against time.

As COVID-19 infections and deaths are still surging in Africa and other less developed areas, it is urgent for the international community to come together to reject vaccine nationalism and promote fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, so as to make them accessible and affordable to all.

Xinhua

Xi declares 'complete victory' in eradicating absolute poverty in China

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping announced on Thursday that China has scored a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world's most populous country.

Xi made the announcement while addressing a grand gathering held in Beijing to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honor its model poverty fighters.

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All the 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list.

Since the launch of the reform and opening up in the late 1970s, 770 million impoverished rural residents have shaken off poverty when calculated in accordance with China's current poverty line.

China has contributed more than 70 percent of global poverty reduction over the same period.

With such achievements, China has created another "miracle" that will "go down in history," Xi said.

Xinhua

Biden's Munich remarks raise concern about US-Russia ties - Russian diplomat

UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENTS of US President Joe Biden about Russia at the Munich Security Conference raise concerns about the bilateral relations, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy told a briefing Wednesday.

"They (Biden's remarks - TASS) are

naturally giving cause for concerns about how we will substantially cooperate with the US," The Russian diplomat highlighted the fact that "the logic of containing Russia <...> of Russia being an enemy" is still there and, therefore, "it's very difficult to imagine how the interaction with us might change with such starting positions of the new administration."



At the same time, Polyanskiy underlined that the US and Russia could cooperate on many issues.

"It takes two to tango, we are ready to dance, but we need a good and reliable partner who knows all the moves and respects us as a country," he concluded.

On February 19, Biden delivered a speech at the special online ses-

sion of the Munich Security Conference and claimed that Russia seeks to weaken NATO and the European project. He also accused Russia of being behind the cyber attacks on the US and Europe. According to him, it is critically important to react to these actions to protect the common security of the US and its allies.

Agencies

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All the 832 impoverished

Rising consumer demand in counties and townships becomes new driver of continuous consumption growth in China

By Qi Zhiming

IN recent years, residents in China's counties and townships have shown constantly growing desire for consumption, injecting fresh vitality into the continuous consumption growth in the country, which has more than 2,000 counties and 35,000 townships.

With increasing income, residents in rural areas of China have gained stronger spending power. According to official statistics, the gap between urban and rural incomes has continued to narrow in China over recent years, when the growth rates of rural residents' income and consumption have both outpaced that of urban residents.

Last year, the per capita disposable income of China's rural residents stood at 17,131 yuan (about \$2,653.59), registering an actual growth rate that was 2.6 percentage points higher than that of the country's urban residents.

The per capita consumption expenditure of rural residents in China was 13,713 yuan, and secured an actual growth rate that was 5.9 percentage points higher than that of urban residents in the country.



Photo taken on June 8, 2020, shows a staff member of an e-commerce service center in Zhangwei village, Sipu township, Suixi county, Huaibei, east China's Anhui province, handing a parcel to a villager. (File Photo)

Not long ago, Wang Song, a farmer in Caiyuan village, Tangwan township, Guixi city, east China's Jiangxi province, bought a car as he secured a steady source of income from growing Hami melons with the help of agricultural technicians sent by the municipal government of Guixi.

"I promised my wife that we would have our own car someday. We have started our own business and worked hard for our dream, and now it finally comes true," Wang said. His family sees an annual income of around 150,000 yuan from growing Hami melons.

Thanks to various favorable policies rolled out to support

and benefit agriculture, rural areas and farmers, people in Caiyuan village like Wang have enjoyed better lives by running agritainment restaurants and engaging in characteristic agriculture.

The total retail sales of consumer goods in China's rural areas have maintained at about 6 trillion yuan in recent years, and seen a growth rate higher than that in urban areas of the country since 2012.

In 2020, the online retail sales in rural areas of China reached 1.79 trillion yuan, up 8.9 percent from the previous year.

Rural residents have shown strong demand for consumption upgrading, said Fu Yifu, a

researcher at the Suning Institute of Finance, explaining that the consumption of durable goods and services by rural residents in China has grown constantly, while online shopping gains increasing popularity in rural areas.

Two months ago, Hong Shaobing, a resident in Yulong township, Xingyang, central China's Henan province, bought a floor mopping robot from Chinese e-commerce platform Pinduoduo. Thanks to the robot helper, Hong's mother can have her floor well cleaned by the time the breakfast is ready every morning.

Last year, the number of orders for goods priced above 500 yuan rose by 79 percent year on year in counties and townships in China, while product categories including home textiles, digital products, and outdoor products enjoyed an over 140 percent growth in value of sales, according to data from Pinduoduo.

Intelligent household electrical appliances and general merchandise on the platform have been popular with consumers in China's counties and townships.

People's Daily

DRC requires notice before foreign diplomats travel across country

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) now requires accredited diplomats to notify the relevant authorities in advance before traveling through the country's provinces.

The decision was announced Tuesday by Foreign Minister Marie Tumba Nzenza after a security meeting chaired by President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa, following the death of Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio in the east of the country.

The Italian diplomat succumbed to his wounds a few minutes after his convoy was ambushed by armed attackers on the road to Goma-Rutshuru, province of North Kivu where he was going on a humanitarian mission with the World Food Program (WFP).

According to the statement released by the president's office after the meeting, "ambassadors and other heads of diplomatic missions can no longer leave Kinshasa for the interior of the country without informing the head of Congolese diplomacy and the relevant services".

On Monday in Kinshasa, the



Italian officials and a Goma airport employees carry flowers in front of the Italian Air Force plane used for the repatriation of the bodies of slain Italian Ambassador and of an Italian Carabinieri police officer at Goma Airport in Goma on Tuesday. (AFP)

Congolese authorities stressed that neither the army nor the police were aware of the presence of the Italian ambassador in the province and of his displacement in this red zone following the presence of armed groups.

In another statement released late Monday evening, President Felix Tshisekedi condemned this attack, which he describes as "terrorism which

claimed the life of the ambassador of a country friendly to the DRC".

The Congolese authorities accuse the Hutu-Rwandan rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda of being behind the attack. In a statement released Tuesday in the east of the country, the rebels denied responsibility in the attack on the UN convoy.

Xinhua

Cautious Asia nations finally fire starting gun on vaccines

BY BLOOMBERG

AFTER sitting on the sidelines as the US and Europe plowed headlong into vaccinating against COVID-19, the part of the world that contained the coronavirus most successfully is finally starting to administer shots.

Japan, Australia and New Zealand have started vaccinating priority groups with shots from Pfizer Inc-BioNTech SE and AstraZeneca Plc. Malaysia kicked off its drive on Wednesday, South Korea is due on Friday and Thailand is preparing for a few days later.

The region's economic powerhouses and developing nations are jumping in one after another,

after watching for months as desperate Western nations snatched up supply. With the coronavirus mostly contained throughout much of Asia, governments have had the luxury to wait and see how safely and effectively these rapidly developed vaccines can blunt disease in other countries, before injecting them into their own citizens.

For Asians, waiting a month or two to find out how the vaccine rollouts work elsewhere doesn't hurt much, said Dale Fisher, an infectious diseases professor at the National

University of Singapore. "So rather than say 20,000 in a trial, we now have 200 million vaccinated globally. I think this gives reluctant individuals a lot more confidence."

The millions of shots already administered worldwide are yielding promising results, with few signs of serious side effects. The Pfizer vaccine was found to be 89.4 percent effective at preventing infections in Israel, a country which has immunized more than 80 percent of its population.

That's encouraging news for parts of Asia that suc-

ceeded against the virus by shutting down borders and going into lockdown early, but whose residents are now anxious to shed restrictions.

Still, it won't be clear sailing as Asian countries seek to inoculate their populations. Vaccine orders could be delayed amid a scarcity of supplies, as powerful governments in the US and Europe demand more stock from producers. And questions remain over the safety and efficacy of some locally developed vaccines.

India is falling short of targets amid skepticism

over a locally developed vaccine that was approved for use before trials were completed.

A hesitant population is likely to be an issue for Japan as well, which is still determined to hold the delayed Olympics this summer in Tokyo. Inoculation for most of its more than 125 million people could be a key factor in the success of the games. Yet Japan has one of the lowest rates of vaccine confidence in the world, due to previous bad experiences with inoculation.

While Japan started giv-

ing jabs to health-care workers last week, it's planning for a slow rollout -- it won't begin vaccinating its elderly population until mid-April.

The delayed starts and nascent reluctance across much of Asia is creating a gap in the speed at which countries across the world are racing toward herd immunity, an essential milestone for resuming normal life.

On the other hand, herd immunity is basically a mission accomplished in Israel, while the United Arab Emirates is crossing the 50

percent mark. In the US, President Joe Biden expects vaccines will be available to every American who wants one by the end of July.

To be sure, it's early in the vaccination process, and Asian countries may quickly catch up with the West, especially those with smaller populations. South Korea and Australia have set timetables to inoculate everyone by the end of September and October, respectively, which would put them just a few months behind leading vaccinating nations like the US and UK.

But experts warn that while Asia's vaccination drives are a big step forward, there's still a long way to go before a full return to normalcy.

Agencies

Regional Champions League's group stage now to kick off next month

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

THIS season's Regional Champions League (RCL)'s group stage is expected to kick off on March 4 in four centers, with each of them comprising seven clubs.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, said Arusha, Coast Region, Lindi and Katavi are the stage's centers.

"The centers will be in Arusha, Coast Region, Lindi and Katavi and each station will have seven teams that will compete in the preliminary stage, two teams in each group will qualify to play in the finals," the federation's official noted.

The Arusha center will feature Group A teams, namely TMA Stars, Sinai Rangers (Manyara), Sharp Strikers (Tanga), TRA (Kilimanjaro), Mara Sports Academy (Mara), Copco Veteran (Mwanza) and Utilities FC (Dar es Salaam).

Coast Region center, made up of the Group B

outfits, has Baga Friends, Temeke Squad (Dar es Salaam), 515 KJ (Morogoro), Manyoni Sports Center (Singida), Kimara United (Dodoma), Annary FC (Shinyanga) and Bariadi United (Simiyu).

Group C sides, which will be playing the groups stage's fixtures in Lindi are Lindi United, Mkuti Market (Mtwara), Mabomba FC (Dar es Salaam), Top Boys FC (Ruvuma), Njombe Academy (Njombe), Mtwivila FC (Iringa) and Itezi FC (Mbeya).

Katavi center, home to Group D teams, will have Tanesco FC, Sumbawanga United (Rukwa), Mapinduzi FC (Songwe), Black Stars (Tabora), Toto Kigoma FC (Kigoma), Nyaishozi FC (Kagera) and Nyakumbu FC (Geita).

Forty-two referees and 59 assistant referees have been called to a seminar scheduled to begin tomorrow for selection of match officials set to officiate the matches.



Francis Baraza

Biashara United in pursuit of third spot in Premier League

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

KENYAN coach Francis Baraza, who heads Vodacom Premier League (VPL)'s Biashara United's technical bench, has revealed that his squad is seeking to secure the third spot in the top flight, despite the fact that it is not an easy task.

Biashara United players' quality in recent days gives him the courage to secure the spot.

The Mara outfit has been in excellent form in recent days as in the last five matches the outfit has won four and lost just one against

Simba.

The VPL defending champions, positioned second in the Premier League, notched 1-0 win over the Mara outfit in the league clash, played at Karume Stadium in Mara.

The team hold fourth place in the Premier League standing with 35 points and they are surpassed by one point by third-placed Azam FC which has notched 36 points, but the former have one game in hand.

After beating Ruvu Shooting 3-0, Baraza congratulated his

players and urged them not to give up as they have to play their hearts out, if they are to reach the top three.

"I'm happy with the way my players are fighting each other to fulfill their responsibilities on the field, thus making the team win in their matches," he noted.

He insisted: "Importantly they have to keep working and not give up because right now we are in fourth place."

He disclosed: "If we work a little harder we can enter the top three, although it is not easy, but this is

how the sport is. No one can get those chances if he does not work hard."

Biashara United that won promotion to the Premier League in 2017 has been one of the most competitive teams in the league.

They have a strong reputation of not being easily shut down at their home ground, Karume Stadium, in Musoma.

In the 11 games that Biashara United have played at their backyard, they have won seven, drawn two and lost two against bigwigs Yanga and Simba.



The TBL Group Trade Marketing Director, Doreen Tumubeebire (L), shares a light moment with one of the winners of the previous season's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km race, held in Moshi. Standing (C) is the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Minister Bashungwa to grace 2021 Kili Marathon

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

MINISTER for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, is expected to grace this year's edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon scheduled for Sunday in Moshi.

A statement issued by the race's organizers said the minister has confirmed to feature in the race and he will be accompanied by other dignitaries from regional level, Athletics Tanzania (AT), Kilimanjaro Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) and other stakeholders.

This will be the first time for Bashungwa to grace the occasion as the new minister.

According to the organizers, preparations are on top gear as they have already distributed race numbers in Dar es Salaam and Arusha.

The exercise was expected to take place in Moshi at Keys Hotel yesterday (12pm-5pm), today (10am-8pm) and tomorrow (9am-5pm).

The organizers also noted that registration for 42km and 5km races is still on at Keys Hotel in

Moshi.

This year's event is sponsored by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km race, Tigo- Half Marathon, Grand Malt-5km, water table sponsors, Unilever Tanzania, Simba Cement, TPC Sugar, Kilimanjaro International Leather Company Limited, Kibo Palace Hotel and official suppliers, namely Garda World Security, Keys Hotel and CMC Automobile.

In another development, South African artist Ntokozo Protus, popularly known as 'Kaydee', is expected to do a thrilling performance at the Kili Dom at Hugos Bar grounds after the completion of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon where participants and entertainment lovers are expected to attend in numbers.

Local artistes, Shariff Ramadhan 'Darasa' and George Mdembe 'G-Nako', and the Watengwa Group from Moshi are expected to entertain the fans at the Ushirika Stadium after the marathon.

Kili Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company and coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Namungo FC forward opens up on his success in CAF Confederation Cup



Stephen Sey

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA'S Namungo FC's striker, Ghanaian Stephen Sey, who has scored five goals for the team in this season's Confederation of African Football (CAF) Confederation Cup, has said that there is no success without dedication, discipline and responsibility.

Sey said every time he plays for Namungo FC in either the domestic league or the CAF Confederation Cup, he considers two issues.

According to the player, he first sees to it he does not let down a coach, who trusted him, and moreover value the discipline he chose for his own income.

In the tournament, Sey scored

two goals against Al Rabita of South Sudan in the preliminary stage as his team emerged with a 3-0 victory, scoring on 20th and 38th minutes.

The forward went on to score against Al Hilal Obayed of Sudan in the first round, Namungo FC won 2-0 against the former in the first clash, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

In the second tie, which was held in Khartoum, the two clubs fought to a 3-3 draw, with Sey finding his way into the score sheet.

Sey moreover netted for Namungo FC in their 6-2 drubbing of C.D. Primeiro de Agosto of Angola in the tournament's first clash of play offs, which took place at

Azam Complex.

"The CAF Confederation Cup is competitive and we meet teams with different experiences, the main thing is to respect the work and dedication to fight for the team to achieve its goals in co-operation with coaches and our leaders," he said.

He said the achievement came about thanks to his willingness to fight for the outfit, and not for his personal interest, a move which has seen them make it to the play offs.

The forward revealed: "Despite being the leading scorer, we have many players that have what it takes to score goals, they are Sixtus Sabilo, Blaise Bigirimana, Reliants

Lusajo, Shiza Kichuya, Edward Manyama (now a Ruvu Shooting player) and Hashim Manyanya, all of whom have scored, so you can understand how we fight for our team."

He disclosed: "We want to challenge for progression to the group stage, those other goals will come before the trip, I believe if we fight we will live our dream, despite beating CD Primeiro de Agosto we will respect the rematch and we are well prepared."

Besides, Sey said that although their team are new to the continental showpiece, they are still struggling to show that nothing is impossible.

Mamelodi Sundowns stay top after Hilal and Mazembe draw

Al Hilal of Sudan and TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo drew 0-0 in Omdurman on Wednesday, leaving Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa top of Group B in the CAF Champions League.

Sundowns have three points, Mazembe two and CR Belouizdad and Hilal one each with the South African and Algerian clubs playing their second round match only this Sunday.

The delayed fixture is set for Tanzanian commercial capital Dar es Salaam after Algerian authorities refused to allow Sundowns to enter the country because of coronavirus regulations.

It was the fifth time Hilal have hosted Mazembe in the marquee African club competition and the first time they have failed to score at home against the five-time Champi-

ons League winners.

A strong wind may have been welcomed by the players as they contended with 28 degrees Celsius (82 Fahrenheit) heat, but it led to a lot of poor football.

Hilal made four substitutions and Mazembe three without having much impact on a match which both teams seemed more determined not to lose than win.

Mazembe were reduced to 10 men in the closing minutes when Cameroonian Cedric Zomba was red-carded after being cautioned twice.

The Hilal line-up included Alvas Elvis Powell, a Jamaican international defender who moved to Sudan last year from Major League Soccer outfit Inter Miami.

(Agencies)

Messi scores twice as Barcelona dispatch Elche

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi soared past Luis Suarez to become La Liga's top scorer on Wednesday by adding his 17th and 18th goals of the season in a much-needed 3-0 victory for Barcelona over Elche.

Barca had followed up last week's crushing Champions League loss to Paris Saint-Germain by drawing at home to Cadiz on Sunday but eased the strain with a comfortable win at the Camp Nou.

Messi's double owed much to a pair of superb assists, with a supreme dribble by Frenkie de Jong coming after a sublime flick from Martin Braithwaite, who also set up Jordi Alba to score a third.

After failing to take full advantage of league leaders Atletico Madrid's defeat by Levante on Saturday, this victory puts Barcelona back in third, five points off the top, having played a game more than Atletico.

"We cannot lose any more," said Ronald Koeman. "The problem was we were not good enough at the start and we have to win all the games now if we want to do something in the league."

Even if Atletico prove too far ahead to catch, a positive performance was important, especially with a semi-final second leg to come next week against Sevilla in the Copa del Rey, which may be their only chance of winning a trophy this term.

Messi's return to top form comes as a huge boost too. The 33-year-old came off unfavourably in comparisons made with Kylian Mbappe last week but these kinds of performances show he is far from finished yet.

This was Messi's fifth and sixth

goal in his last four games while no player from the top five European leagues has scored more than his 13 this year in all competitions. Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski is closest on 12.

"When we talk about old players, that's not Leo," said Koeman. "His quality and his game is still impressive. There are old players and then there are players that have to make the difference."

"He has shown again today that he is a very, very important player for this team."

Francisco Trincao and Frenkie de Jong had early chances for Barcelona while Elche should have scored but Lucas Boye blazed over.

Yet a frantic opening gave way to a disjointed first half and Koeman reacted by bringing off the ineffective Miralem Pjanic at half-time and replacing him with Ousmane Dembele.

Barcelona scored within two minutes of the restart, Messi driving from midfield towards the area and rebounding off Braithwaite, whose sweeping flick behind his standing leg gave the scuttling Argentinian a simple finish.

Elche's early threat had dissipated and Barca added two more in five minutes.

The first came from a breathtaking run from De Jong, who dribbled forward from the halfway line, past three Elche defenders, before cutting back for Messi. He glided past two more and prodded in.

Messi started the move for the third, with a familiar, curving pass to Braithwaite at the back post, whose cushioned header across found Alba unmarked in the middle.

AFP

'Amazing' Alli helps Spurs ease into Europa League last 16

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho saluted Dele Alli after the Tottenham midfielder ensured his side can still save their troubled season with a virtuoso display in Wednesday's 4-0 rout of Austrian minnows Wolfsberger in the Europa League last 32 second leg.

Alli scored a brilliant opener early in the first half and provided the assist when Carlos Vinicius doubled their lead after the break.

Gareth Bale netted from another Alli assist before Vinicius bagged his second as Tottenham ran out 8-1 aggregate winners after cruising to a 4-1 victory in the first leg last week.

While progress to the last 16 looked a formality after the comfortable first leg success, nothing has come easy for Tottenham this term.

So Mourinho will have breathed a sigh of relief that his team kept alive their best remaining hope of qualifying for the Champions League.

Close to leaving in the January transfer window, Alli played the key role in a rare start after being frozen out by Mourinho for much of the season.

"The goal I don't need to speak, because everyone watched it and I believe that all around the world on all these sports TV, people are going

to watch it, no need to talk about it," Mourinho said.

"But for me the globality of the performance is what matters. He played very well in every aspect of the game."

"Of course he's not fresh, of course you can feel that his performance like in the first leg from minute 55-60 is going to go down, which is normal due to the circumstances - injured, not training for a long time."

"But in this moment when we are going to play every three days, 10 matches in March, to have Dele back at this level is amazing."

A dismal run of six defeats in their last eight games in all competitions had seen Tottenham plunge to ninth place in the Premier League and crash out of the FA Cup.

They are languishing nine points behind fourth placed West Ham in the race for a top four finish, while Mourinho is mired in the worst run of his career.

- Second to none -

Amid reports that Tottenham's players are bored with his training sessions and conservative tactics, Mourinho this week insisted his methods are "second to none", claiming morale among his squad was still high.

AFP

Mendy's late strike puts Real Madrid in sight of Champions League quarters

BERGAMO, ITALY

FERLAND Mendy put Real Madrid within touching distance of the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday with the late strike that sank 10-man Atalanta 1-0 in Bergamo.

The French left-back's curling effort came four minutes from time in a last 16, first leg clash in which the hosts had to play a man down for over 70 minutes, giving Zinedine Zidane's side the advantage heading into the second leg in Madrid on March 16.

"We didn't have a great game tonight, but the most important thing was the result, scoring away was important for us," said Zidane.

"It's a very good result against an Atalanta team even at ten, because they defended very well."

"The tie is open. We are going to have a great return match."

Atalanta had attacked early but the game was transformed when Swiss midfielder Remo Freuler was harshly sent off in the 17th minutes for tripping Mendy at the edge of the penalty area.

Gian Piero Gasperini's woes continued with forward Duvan Zapata limping off after half an hour with a muscular problem with midfielder Mario Pasalic coming off the bench.

"The game was ruined," said Gasperini.

"I don't know what would have happened if against 11."

"I just got banned for saying something in Serie A, if I say something now then UEFA will ban me. But this is football suicide."

"Enough of these referees who've never played a game and don't know the difference between a challenge and a foul."

- Advantage Madrid - Spanish midfielder Isco got a rare start up front for injury-hit Real Madrid playing alongside Marco Asensio and Vinicius.

The 13-time European champions were without striker Karim Benzema due to an ankle problem with an injury list also including Sergio Ramos, Eden Hazard and Dani Carvajal.

"It's true that there are many casualties, but the players who are here are doing well, committed, every time there is a change we adapt," added Zidane.

But Zidane's side failed to truly make



Real Madrid's French defender Ferland Mendy (L) scored the only goal against Atalanta in Bergamo. (Agencies)

the most of the extra man despite coming closest to breaking through in the first half with a Casemiro header, with Nacho, Isco and Vinicius Junior also threatening and Luka Modric firing over.

Atalanta continued to attack, with Luis Muriel missing a chance to give the hosts the lead four minutes before the break with a long-range strike that went just wide.

Atalanta goalkeeper Pierluigi Gollini then kept the scores level when he stopped a Casemiro header on a free kick before the half-time whistle.

Josip Ilicic came on in place of Muriel after 56 minutes.

The Slovenian scored five goals against Valencia at this stage of the competition last season, but was substituted four minutes from time after a poor display.

Soon afterwards Madrid broke through thanks to Mendy, who beat Gollini with a stylish, curling effort into the top corner.

Madrid have the advantage going into the second leg having missed out on the quarter-finals for the last two seasons.

"Normally there are a lot of goals in games against Atalanta, we were ex-

pecting a difficult game but after the red it was normal they would defend deep," said Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

Atalanta need a historic effort in the away leg to reach the last eight for a second successive year.

The Bergamo side won their last 16, first leg clash against Valencia 4-1 a year ago in front of 45,000 spectators in Milan's San Siro.

That match was considered to have been one of the reasons behind the acceleration of coronavirus in Italy with Bergamo at the epicentre of the country's outbreak.

The are in their second Champions League campaign, but Wednesday's match was the first knock-out fixture in their home stadium which underwent renovations last season.

And thousands of fans ignored the Italian team's plea to stay away with a party atmosphere outside the stadium with fireworks display.

Meanwhile, Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini fumed over "football suicide" on Wednesday after his team played more than 70 minutes a man down in their 1-0 loss in the Champions League to Real Madrid.

The Italian side had Swiss midfielder

Remo Freuler harshly red-carded in the 17th minute for tripping Ferland Mendy at the edge of the penalty area.

Adding insult to injury, Mendy went on to score the only goal four minutes from time of the last 16 first leg tie to hand the 13-time European champions a crucial away goal.

"There is great regret because now there is the temptation to remove any kind of contact, which is football suicide," said Gasperini who took his team to the quarter-finals last season.

"Unfortunately referees who have never played football do not distinguish a foul from a tackle."

"If they do not distinguish it, let them have another job or have someone who played football be referee."

Gasperini's mood was not improved by seeing forward Duvan Zapata limp off after half an hour with a muscular problem.

"The game was ruined," added Gasperini. "I don't know what would have happened if against 11."

"I just got banned for saying something in Serie A, if I say something now then UEFA will ban me. But this is football suicide."

AFP

Guardiola demands more as Man City cruise to brink of Champions League last eight

BUDAPEST

MANCHESTER City moved to the verge of the Champions League quarter-finals with a 2-0 win over Borussia Muenchengladbach on Wednesday but coach Pep Guardiola insisted his team still need to "be more clinical up front".

A first half header from Bernardo Silva and a Gabriel Jesus strike in the second period of the last 16 first leg tie extended a winning streak by Guardiola's high-flying side to 19 games in all competitions.

Premier League leaders City camped inside the Gladbach half for most of the game, which was moved to Hungary due to Germany's Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Although dominant, City took time to break down a stubborn German defence, often foiled by the interceptions of Algeria left-back Ramy Bensebaini.

While Guardiola said afterwards he was "pleased" with the result, he added City "have to improve" to challenge for Champions League honours.

"We controlled the game. Unfortunately we were not clinical up front, it is something we have to improve in this competition, we were not good enough in the box, we didn't dribble and shoot enough," said Guardiola.

"In this competition you have to be perfect to be sure you can go through," he said.

Debutants in the Champions League knockout stages, Gladbach had been urged by coach Marco Rose to be brave against Guardiola's side.

France's Alassane Plea was almost through on goal on 20 minutes after a rare counterattack, but a nervy and deep-lying Gladbach eventually succumbed to mounting pressure in the 29th minute.

A sublime inch-perfect cross by Portuguese defender Joao Cancelo curled



On target: Manchester City players celebrate the second goal. (Agencies)

over the defence from the left to reach his compatriot Silva who flicked his close-range header past Yann Sommer.

"We tried to play simple

and not make mistakes. It's a good win for us, but it's not over yet," Silva told BT Sport.

"Every time when he plays (Silva) is an exceptional player, he's really good in the air,

the goal was fantastic how he finished it," said Guardiola.

The 26-year-old Cancelo, impressive throughout, nearly doubled the lead five minutes from the break but his shot from just outside the box pinged over the bar.

Then early in the second half Jesus should have converted after latching on to a poorly judged backpass by Bensebaini but saw his shot blocked by Swiss defender Nico Elvedi.

Apart from a lunging backheel from Plea that flashed just wide of Ederson's far post on the hour mark, City comfortably contained the Germans, and went two up in the 65th minute.

Another majestic cross-field pass by Cancelo again found Silva at Sommer's far

post who this time headed back across the goalmouth for Jesus to fire home and seal City's 19th successive victory and sixth Champions League clean sheet in a row.

Gladbach, who managed just one shot on target throughout the game, an effort by substitute Hannes Wolf saved by Ederson in the last moments, now face a formidable task to turn around the tie in the return leg scheduled for March 16 in Manchester.

"We deservedly lost today against a very strong team, you don't get many chances against such an opponent, we simply couldn't attack more," said Rose.

"It would have been good to score at the end to be in a better position."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko

RELAX BABY, I AM A WINGER NOT A SWINGER!



SPORT

Mendy's late strike puts Real Madrid in sight of Champions League quarters

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Zimbabwe boxing team jet into Dar tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ZIMBABWE'S boxing team are expected in Dar es Salaam tomorrow to compete in the East Africa Olympic Trials which get underway at the National Indoor Stadium in the city the following day.

Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) secretary general Lukelo Willilo yesterday said he received communication from his Zimbabwean counterparts that the contingent made up of eight boxers and five officials arrives in the country on Saturday for the trials.

He noted: "The Zimbabwe team have communicated to us that they are coming on Saturday for the East Africa Olympic Trials which gets underway from Sunday to Thursday next week."

"We are happy that they are coming, their participation is of great importance to us as they will give a tough challenge," he said.

The East Africa Olympic Trials will bring together three nations, Burundi, Zimbabwe and hosts Tanzania.

However, Willilo could not say when the Burundi team will arrive for the tournament.

He thanked Jackson Group Sport for supporting the hosting of the trials and stated all preparations for the event are going on very well.

"We really thank Jackson Group Sport for their support as we host the East Africa Olympic Trials successfully," he said.

The aim of the trials is to give local boxers international exposure and select boxers who will represent the country at international events this year.

Seventeen local boxers are attending non-residential camp under head coach David Yomba Yomba and after the trials OBFT technical panel will select between six and eight boxers who will form the national team which will compete in Tokyo Olympic Qualifiers and AIBA World Boxing Championships which will take place in Serbia later this year.

"After the trials, our head coach Yomba Yomba and his technical panel will select the boxers who will compete at qualifiers for Tokyo Olympics and the AIBA World Boxing Championships slated for later this year in Serbia, we are confident that the deserving boxers will be selected," he said.

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Azam FC plots Mbuni FC downfall in Federation Cup



Azam Football Club

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) side, Azam FC, say they are well prepared for their Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) fourth round game against Arusha-based Mbuni FC, slated to take place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zacharia, said after a frustrating goalless draw against Tanzania Prison in the Premier League, Azam are hoping to turn the corner when they host Mbuni FC.

He affirmed his squad's preparations for the round of 32 game against Mbuni FC are going on very well.

He was adamant they are not un-

derrating the Arusha-based team hence the need for going for good preparations.

Zacharia said the team have forgotten last week's VPL results against Prisons and they are now setting their sight on Mbuni FC game.

"We are preparing well for our game against Mbuni FC, they may be deemed as minnows on paper, but in football anything can happen, we are treating the game seriously," he said.

Winners between the two teams will progress to the competition's round of 16 and they will face winners of a fourth round match between Polisi Tanzania and Kwamdolwa FC.

Mbuni FC head coach Leonard Budeba said it will be folly for Azam

FC to underestimate his team.

He said its now time for Mbuni FC players to show their potential at a big platform.

"The fact that we have reached the national stage is enough motivation for the boys to progress further in the tournament. It will be folly for Azam to underrate our capabilities. We have self-belief now," he stated.

He disclosed: "The game gives the opportunity to my players to show the nation that they are good and capable of causing an upset to any team."

The last time the two teams played was in 2019 in a friendly match at Azam Complex where the hosts won 3-0 courtesy of goals scored by Frank Domayo, Shaaban Chilunda and Donald Ngoma.

Another entertaining Federation Cup competition's match scheduled for tomorrow, will see Yanga host Mbeya's Ken Gold FC at Uhuru Stadium.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) announced that they made changes in this year's ASFC games as the two semi-final games will be played in Ruvuma and Tabora respectively while the final has been slated to take place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma.

The federation stated that hosting the fixtures in upcountry areas aims at giving the opportunity for soccer lovers to watch the games, and promoting football in all regions of the country.

Pak Stars' cricketers thrash Gymkhana Club in DC Gymkhana Cup Division A

By Guardian Reporter

SHERAZ Khan put solid batting displays as Pak Stars' cricketers notched seven-wicket win over Gymkhana Club in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup League Division A's tie, which took place in the city last weekend.

The tournament's Group D fixture, held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval, saw Gymkhana get the opportunity to start batting, notching 125 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs.

Opener, Amit Raghuvanshi, and Harsheel Shah, slotted in at number four, deserve credit for their outfit's ability to notch the score, given they put scintillating displays at the crease.

They got off to an impressive start, considering Raghuvanshi made his presence count with good knocks, notching 34 runs and clearing the boundary five times.

The team's other opening batsman, Amar Shangvi, failed to withstand Pak Stars' pressure, ending with 13 runs, which consisted of two fours.

After Hamisi Lyimo's early dismissal, with the batsman making his way back to the pavilion with three runs, Harsheel saw to it his outfit's quest for a convincing score is still on, putting solid showing.

The skipper did all he could to live up to expectations, in which he posted 29 runs, clearing the boundary twice.

They were later on dealt a blow given Ashish Shah had a brief spell.

Gagan Alag, slotted in as middle order batsman, somewhat boosted the club's total with his 13 runs.

Two quick dismissals of low order batsmen further frus-



Pak Stars cricket outfit's Muzamil Hussain poses with a man of the match prize shortly after the team took on Gymkhana Club in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup League Division A's tie, held in the city last weekend. Pak Stars cruised to seven-wicket victory over Gymkhana Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

trated the team's efforts to set up a challenging target for their opponents.

Pak Stars' experienced performer, Muzamil Hussain, had an impressive bowling spell, in which he recorded three wickets, leaking 18 runs in four overs.

Skipper Maqsood Alam chipped in with significant contribution during Pak Stars' bowling stint.

He ended his spell with two wickets and leaked 18 runs in three overs, posting an economy of 6.00.

Pak Stars, made up of

plenty of experienced players, duly chased Gymkhana Club's score, registering 128 runs for three wickets in 15.4 overs.

Sheraz Khan, deployed as an opening batsman, successfully led his side's chase, posting 41 runs not out, which consisted of six fours. Fellow opener, Naseer Yatoo, had a good game, despite not lasting long in the innings, given he posted 25 runs, which included two fours.

The team's ability to mount a successful chase was not in doubt, even after

promising batsman, Abdullah Jabiri, succumbed to an early dismissal.

Hussain stepped up to make certain of his outfit's victory with aggressive showing, ending with 38 runs which consisted of two boundaries.

Pak Stars in the end had the last laugh when Kashif Adnan partnered with Khan and won the clash for their squad, the former scored two runs not out.

The competition, overseen by the DC, has brought together 19 outfits that have been put in four groups.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

