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More youth develop interest in agribusiness



# ACT: We will surprise older parties in polls

## 'Bring a Covid-19 negative testing certificate if your country, airline can provide one'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has advised visitors whose countries or airlines provide Covid-19 negative certificate as a condition of travel to present the same on arrival.

The travel advisory number five issued yesterday by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said although there is no 14-day mandatory quarantine, all arrivals will be subjected to enhanced screening for Covid-19 infection.

"All travelers whether foreigners or returning residents from countries or airlines get them tested for Covid-19 and turn negative as condition for travelling will be required to present such a certificate upon arrival," reads the advisory, being observed from the day of issuance.

Tanzania lifted its 14-day mandatory quarantine as a containment measure against Covid-19 for foreigners and returning residents arriving in the country during May.

The directive says that crew members shall not be subjected to presenting Covid-19 negative certificate as a condition of entry or departure. However, they will be screened for symptoms or signs of infection.

Travelers with symptoms and signs related to Covid-19 infection will undergo enhanced screening "and maybe tested for real time polymerase chain reaction," it stated.

"While in the country, all international

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Bernard Membe (R) of the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) and Tundu Lissu of Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) wave to delegates to the ACT-Wazalendo congress in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Their respective opposition parties have picked them as candidates for the Tanzanian Presidency in the upcoming (late October) General Election. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame

By Guardian Reporter

ALLIANCE for Change and Transparency, popularly known by its ACT-Wazalendo acronym, yesterday said it will give older outfits a run for their money in this year's General Election.

Party leader Zitto Kabwe told a general congress in Dar es Salaam that once campaigns kick off, the six-year-old organization will reach every corner of the country to request Tanzanians to embrace it.

"Ours is the youngest political party in Tanzania by age. But when I look at this meeting with representatives from all over the country, I have no doubt as to what will happen in the (October 28) General Election," he said.

To achieve victory, the party honed its election message by focusing on key priorities ahead of the polls.

The key campaign areas include creating a stable and inclusive economy, investing in women empowerment, having improved social services as well as valuing and improving the private sector.

The party also said that it will make sure every Tanzanian has health insurance and pension for every Tanzanian in old age. The party will also "restore" dignity and respect for every Tanzanian, especially women and children, against stigmatisation or harassment.

"Our party will create a government which pays pension to every Tanzanian who has reached an age where it is impossible to continue engaging in production activities. We will ensure that elders are well taken care of to enjoy their old age," he declared.

Kabwe said that the party, is working to ensure that it creates a government that respects the rule of law, dignity, freedom and well-being of the people.

"We are going to share with Tanzanians from the Mainland and Zanzibar ideas on the kind

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## Appeals Court upholds bail rejection in capital offences

By Guardian Reporter

THE COURT of Appeal yesterday overturned a ruling by the High Court that declared unconstitutional provisions under the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) which deny bail to persons facing charges that may lead to capital punishment.

The appellate bench composed of five justices - Stella Mugasha, Gerald Ndika, Jacobs Mwambegele, Mwanisha Kwariko and Ignas Kitusi - found that

the lower court erred in its decision.

On May 18, High Court judges Dr Benhaji Masoud, Seif Kulita and Dr Juliana Masabo delivered a ruling that section 148 (5) of CPA violates Article 13 (3) (6)(b) and 15 (1) (2) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The section in question restricts bail to persons charged with murder, treason, terrorism, armed robbery, trafficking of narcotic drugs and money laundering offences.

In a judgment delivered in the morning yesterday, the Court of Appeal bench quashed the decision of the High Court in Dickson Sanga's case, declaring that section 148(5) of the CPA is in compliance with the limitations set under the constitution.

The petitioner moved the High Court in a constitutional petition challenging the provisions of section 148(5) of the CPA that

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## Joy in the tourism sector as airlines resume flights

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIANS whose livelihoods depend on tourism have reason to smile following the resumption of flights by major international airlines.

This comes after months of grounding of planes due to the coronavirus pandemic, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs especially in the tourism sector.

A Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) plane is the latest to touch down at the Kilimanjaro International Airport with over 100 passengers.

The plane landed on Tuesday night, signaling the company's resumption of flights to the northern zone's tourist circuit after the four-month long hiatus.



**Getrude Boldemann, a traveller from Germany said they intend to sample Tanzania's wildlife filled national parks after learning that the country was safe from Covid-19**

The Boeing 777 aircraft PH-BQB taxied at KIA with 117 passengers, mainly Asian and European tourists onboard who will be touring, among other destinations, the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park, the first KLM voyage here after 16 weeks of travel freeze

Previously, KLM used to have daily and essentially full flights between Amsterdam and Kilimanjaro, but upon the outbreak of Covid-19 infections, KLM planes like other airlines were grounded as companies crawled into global lockdown.

Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Anna Mghwira was present when the large aircraft landed at the airport and used the occasion to tell the world that Tanzania was safe - and

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National Electoral Commission chairman Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kaijage (2nd-R) presents presidential candidacy forms to Alliance for African Farmers Party's Seif Maalimu Seif in Dodoma yesterday. With them are the party's presidential running-mate, Rashid Mohamed Ligani (R), and NEC deputy chairman Judge (rtd) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Joy in the tourism sector as airlines resume flights

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already tourists from overseas who have started to jet into the country can attest for that.

Twitting from his account, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla said the arrival of KLM to resume its usual country flights is an indication that the global travel industry is opening up and Tanzania becomes among the first destinations to benefit.

A number of airlines are already landing in Tanzania after the coronavirus driven global lockdown is loosened, among them KLM, RwandAir, Ethiopian, Qatar and Emirates airlines.

The acting Executive Director of Kilimanjaro Airports Development Co. (KADCO), Christine Mwakatobe, said that the plane arrived at KIA at about 20:15 hours on Tuesday, with passengers from France; Germany; England and parts of Asia.

Two days earlier, the air terminal received a RwandAir plane with registration number 9XR-WL, while earlier in June KIA saw the landing of an Ethiopian Airlines Crystal P4-XTL

and Qatar Airways flights.

Getrude Boldemann, a traveller from Germany said they intend to sample Tanzania's wildlife filled national parks after learning that the country was safe from Covid-19.

Geographically KIA is the leading connecting point for flights flying from terminals located in the region, heading to overseas destinations of South Asia, Europe and the Far East, officials said.

The airport was beefed up with new runway ground lighting and floodlights along the aprons, resurfaced runways, and continuous loop linking runways and taxiways to eliminate delays in landing and take-off, they explained.

Despite its modest size, KIA can handle aircrafts as large as Boeing 747 and Antonov 124, featuring the largest aircraft hangar in the sub-region.

Before the pandemic, the airport was handling 15 international scheduled arrivals along with ad-hoc private and commercial chartered planes. KIA lists 1.2m passengers per year, with over 45 percent of travelers being international passengers, 38 percent domestic and 17 percent on transit.

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of nation we aspire to build. We want a Tanzania with people of good social status and true happiness, who care about others, with a fair system of justice, true democracy, freedom as well as inclusive, strong and prosperous economy"

"In this national meeting, our party today will make important decisions for this year's election agenda and people who will carry this agenda forward. It is my hope that we will give Tanzanians true candidates who are going to restore faces of joy and hope."

Taxation and business formalization systems will focus on efficiency and business growth, to take measures which do not undermine traders, he stated.

ACT wants to form a government that will improve and facilitate the

## ACT: We will surprise older parties in polls

prosperity of the informal sector especially small businesses that are mostly run by women and youth.

"We will also invest heavily in science and technology to enable it to be a catalyst for creating opportunities and promoting an inclusive economy. Our government will ensure that

*"Our party will create a government which pays pension to every Tanzanian who has reached an age where it is impossible to continue engaging in production activities. We will ensure that elders are well taken care of to enjoy their old age"*

professionals in various fields are placed in a balanced environment to assist the nation in promoting an economy that improves the lives of people," he emphasized.

The party is also thinking of creating a government which invests its efforts and funds in the productive sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries, as it will eventually produce massive employment opportunities and thus address the job crisis in the country. ACT wants farmers, pastoralists and fishermen to be lifted out of abject poverty, the party leader intoned.

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denies bail to accused persons in various offences, the most popular at the time being money laundering. The petition was filed at the High Court and assigned to the judges as Miscellaneous Civil Cause no 8 of 2019 with the Attorney General as the respondent.

Sanga was seeking orders that section 148(5) of the CPA infringes on constitutional rights of presumption of innocence and the right to personal liberty as enshrined under Articles 13(6)(b) and 15(2)(a) of the constitution.

The petitioner stated that the 'deprivation of liberty is a serious intervention in any person's life and, therefore, the possibility of releasing the suspect or accused from custody pending investigation or trial is a

## Appeals Court upholds bail rejection in capital offences

fundamental right exercisable in criminal justice systems across all democratic countries in the world.'

The petitioner cited Articles 15(1)(2)(a) and 13(6)(b) of the constitution as guaranteeing such right. The petitioner thus prayed that section 148(5) of the CPA be declared null and void for infringing the constitution where people are held in custody for non-bailable offences pending trial "without there being a procedure in place to deny bail."

In its submissions the petitioner emphasised the presumption of innocence as an important principle in

criminal justice systems which is also contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The petitioner similarly argued that section 148(5) hijacks the jurisdiction of the courts when it comes to administering bail to an individual "who must, first, be presumed innocent and not the other way around."

He cited the offence of money laundering as being arbitrarily applied and thus continually abused where most offences are now non-bailable, saying this provision is being used to 'fix somebody,' upon which an accused is held for years in pre trial detention.

## RC Mtaka calls for the abolition of tax on locally produced edible oil

By Guardian Reporter, Simiyu

SIMIYU Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka has appealed to the Ministry of Finance and Planning to abolish Value Added Tax (VAT) on edible oil produced in the country in order to increase its production and benefit the country's extractive industries.

The RC said as for now the government has abolished tax on oil seeds, the move of which he praised but added that it would bring huge benefits to the edible oil sector if VAT is also abolished, or partly remitted on the oil produced to spur production of raw materials for edible oil factories.

RC Mtaka was speaking during his visit at the Ministry of Finance and Planning pavilion at the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region.

He said Tanzania imports huge consignments of edible oil hence abolition of VAT on the locally produced oil would save the country's foreign exchange.

In regard to the Unit Trust Fund and Management and Investors Services (UTT-AMIS), he said the government efforts in mobilising people to purchase shares from the institution

was still low and advised UTT-AMIS management to utilise obtaining opportunities to government retirees, in particular teachers to participate in the buying of government shares.

He said at the local councils' level, groups that have not been touched by the government including those of women, youth and people with disabilities, institutions in the Finance Ministry have the capability in giving advice on self-reliance, as 10 percent of local councils' internal revenues allocated to the vulnerable groups was still very low.

Simiyu Regional Administrative Officer Ms Miriam Mmbaga said the financial systems conceived by Finance Ministry officials helps the Central and Local Government to administer revenue.

She said the decision by the government to abolish 114 levies in the agriculture and livestock sectors has spurred production and has greatly benefited farmers.

The Nanenane Agricultural and Livestock Exhibition being held nationally in Simiyu Region is in its fifth day and is expected to end August 10 after the minister for agriculture extended it by two more days to allow many people to attend.



Mawazo Jacob (R), the Public Service Social Security Fund's manager for Simiyu Region, attends to visitors at the fund's pavilion at the weeklong Nane-Nane Agricultural Exhibition in progress at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## China donates 500m/- drugs and equipment to Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has received drugs and medical equipment valued at 500m/- as donation from the Chinese government aimed to strengthened medical services in the Isles.

Chinese Consul in Zanzibar Xie Xiaowu handed the assistance to the Minister for Health Hamad Rashid Mohamed at a function held at Government Medical Stores at Maruhubi in Zanzibar.

Xie said the assistance comprising drugs for Covid-19 infections and medical equipment was proof on the good relationship between the people of China and Zanzibar.

He explained that China will continue assisting Zanzibar in various economic and social sectors including the health sector to enable the country make development strides.

The Chinese Consul hailed the people of Zanzibar for abiding by guidelines issued by health experts during the Covid-19 pandemic that

helped in reducing its infections and ultimate control.

Receiving the assistance Health Minister Mohamed thanked the Chinese government for its assistance to Zanzibar especially towards the health sector.

He said when Zanzibar was hit by the pandemic, China was the first country to provide medical equipment and experts in tackling the disease.

He said some of the drugs received are very much needed at this time especially for use in the maternity wards and patients of kidney complications.

He said the drugs and equipment will be distributed to the main Mnazi Mmoja hospital, district hospitals and other health centres in both Unguja and Pemba.

The director of the Government Medical Stores Zahran Ali Hamad said the assistance from the Chinese government will improve services in operation theatres and save many lives from accidents.

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travellers should observe adherence to infection prevention and control measures such as hand hygiene, wearing of masks and keeping physical distancing as deemed appropriate," it elaborates.

The advisory further notes that all travellers are required to truthfully fill out surveillance forms available on board or any other means of transport and submit the same to health authorities at ports of entry upon arrival.

All arriving and departing conveyances must provide advance passenger information so as to allow authorities at points of entry to scrutinize the manifest for possible high-risk passenger identification.

As for trucks and other vehicles carrying goods, the same are allowed to carry up to three passengers to allow smooth border crossing at points of entry.

"Crew members have to declare their final destinations at the points of entry and during their journey are allowed to only stop at government designated locations," it further provides.

In cases where crew members are suspected to be infected with Covid-19, the advisory says the vehicles will be decontaminated before they are allowed to continue to final destinations.

"Crew members will be subjected to enhanced screening at points of entry

and maybe quarantined or isolated at designated facilities in case they are suspected of Covid-19 infection,' it says as an alternative procedure.

"In case crew members are quarantined or isolated while on transit, truck owners or operators must make necessary arrangements to back up their crew to ensure that goods are delivered to the intended destination."

The government in the past month announced resumption of social and economic activities after confirming a vast decrease of cases with specifically designated Covid-19 treatment facilities closed for lack of patients.





Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (R) listens to Verimund Kapinga (L), an NBC Bank customer and agricultural stakeholder with ETC Agro Company, at the bank's pavilion at the ongoing Nane-Nane (Farmers' Week) Agricultural Exhibition being held at national level at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Looking on (2nd-L) is Agriculture minister Japheth Hasunga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Borrow from major financial institutions, minister Bashungwa tells entrepreneurs

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE government has challenged lending institutions to take risks and work with entrepreneurs (SMEs) to create more jobs and lift masses out of poverty. Limited access to finance is still a major constraint to SMEs.

Trade and Industries minister, Innocent Bashungwa yesterday called on young entrepreneurs to access loans from major financial institutions to boost their businesses.

Bashungwa made the call when opening one-day workshop for trade and agriculture that was organised by Tanzania Women Business Association (TABWA) in collaboration with the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) during the ongoing Nananane exhibition currently taking place at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region.

Apart from paying tribute to NBC for its outstanding contribution in provision of commercial loans to women and youth in the country, Bashungwa equally requested financial institutions in the country to work on requests by majority Tanzanians who have been citing tough conditions on issuance loans as a major stumbling block.

"Despite the fact that this country has a large population of women who have big experience and capability to run businesses around their quest to access capital was still low, the minister said, adding:

"What remains certain is that their major source of capital is from financial institutions, but due to hurdles in accessing loans, majority of them find themselves in a trap of borrowing from unofficial lenders that charge them huge interest rates. I commend NBC

for issuing loans to women and youth in the country and I equally challenge other large financial institutions to emulate the spirit."

Products and channel manager business banking and SMEs at NBC, Jonathan Bitababaje, said apart from financial capacity building programmes as well as efficiency in doing businesses, the bank had put measures in place for offering services as a single centre where all services reflecting all needs in the country are available, with a view to develop entrepreneurship sector especially women.

"In ensuring that the plan becomes successful, NBC in collaboration with other stakeholders including TABWA and Tan Trade has been rolling out business clinics countrywide as well as establishing NBC Clubs which connect all businesspeople and entrepreneurs by helping them to make constant business trips, acquiring free business advices, a move that aims at strengthening their financial capabilities," he added.

For her part, TABWA director, Noreen Mawala said that readiness for women to access loans was being affected by various reasons including higher interests rates charged by banks as well as lack of collateral because majority of them had no land or houses for collateral in accessing loans.

"We want to commend NBC Bank for their support on this as well as Tan Trade, BRELA, TRA, TBS, TMDA, SIDO, GS I and UDSM, among others because they have been working closely with women entrepreneurs in efficient capacity building as well as financial assistance.

The ongoing three days workshop is attended by over 400 entrepreneurs drawn from the lake zone regions of Simiyu, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara.

## 'Govt issues new salaries to over 106,300 public school teachers'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has upgraded and issued new salaries to a total of 106,367 public school teachers as part of the comprehensive plan to improve teaching and learning environment in the country.

The move has impressed the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) which had welcomed the move, saying the number represents at least 40.1 per cent of the entire teaching staff of about 267,272 teachers nationwide.

The Union's Secretary-General Deus Seif told reporters here that the state

has been working on its promises, adding that the government has further handled teachers' salaries and allowance arrears that had been affecting care for many years.

"New grades and salaries increment is something that we have been struggling with but the government has been able to address it. There more teachers who have benefited," he said.

He noted that a total of 38,8bn/- has so far been paid as of June 2020 to cover salaries arrears, 35,805 teachers while about 358.1bn/- has also been paid as non-salary arrears to teachers, he added.

Seif explained that the Ministry of State President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance is currently working under the President's request to promote at least 166,548 teachers during the financial year 2020/21.

He announced that the teachers have won their demands by over 98 per cent against their employers especially in the area of unpaid allowances and salary increments. "We continue to strengthen our teacher's bank. We have the government support and the president has recommended making more adjustments in the pending

areas," he noted.

Teachers Commission Secretary Winfrida Rutahindirwa said the government was working on to address pending challenges facing teachers across the country.

In another development, the Teachers Union announced that at least 91,000 members or 45 per cent took nomination forms to vie for political positions during the forthcoming general elections.

The number is largest in the union existence and that the union wishes all aspirant the best of lack in exercising their fundamental rights.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has commended private health service providers that offer free medical checkups to the public, saying they are working to save lives of Tanzanians.

The observation was made by the Director of Health Services at the ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Ntuli Kapologwe during the 'Tamisemi Afya Day' held in Dodoma.

He said more stakeholders should join forces in providing the service since they are important and should be carried out frequently. The director specifically expressed gratitude to Tindwa Medical and Health Services (TMHS) that provided free health tests at the one day event.

"It is grateful to see what TMHS has done today and previously, providing free health tests on the non communicable diseases as well as advice on how to deal with the problems" he said, adding that there is need for constant public education on the diseases.

Kapologwe appealed to other health providers to copy what TMHS has been doing in effort to help the public, calling on people to develop culture of exercising frequently and watch on what they eat.

During the free medical tests conducted by doctors and health experts from TMHS on that day, obesity ranked top of the most common health problems among those who tested followed by high level of cholesterol, hypertension. Some three people were found with diabetes complications and they were not aware of their condition.

TMHS is a Tanzanian company, run by a team of well experienced professionals providing onsite emergency medical services ground and air medical supplies, remote

## State commends private health service providers

medical clinics, health and safety consultancy and waste as well as environment management.

Omary Chillo doctor with the company told The Guardian that they have regularly carried free medical test mainly in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam whereby some 3000 have got their services.

Out of that number, he said about 20 percent of them tested positive to non communicable diseases mainly high blood pressure and diabetes.

"There are increasing cases of non-communication diseases and it is important for people to regularly check their status" he said.

He said during the Tamisemi Afya

Day, TMHS provided screening for people to know the risks of the diseases as well as help provide public with right information on the diseases.

Speaking with this paper during the event, TMHS' Marketing and Corporate Relations Manager, Esther Ndazi said: "For over 10 years, we have been saving lives by offering immediate and reliable medical responses, consultancy and keeping the environment safe and clean through biohazard waste management."

She added that the company takes pride in offering immediate responses and being a reputable company that offers a various range of products as well as after sales service and support

to our clients.

Ndazi noted that TMHS also provide 24 hours international standard medical evacuation using fully equipped fleet of standby ground and air ambulances with qualified doctors and paramedics.

"We also provide medical escort services and first aid kits and trauma bags that are useful in keeping someone alive until expert medical care can be reached," she added.

The company supply and produce a diverse range of products like pharmaceutical drugs and reagents, consumables, medical equipment and furniture at retail and wholesale price across East Africa.

## TMDA to crack down on illicit drugs imports

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has vowed to conduct a crackdown aimed at controlling the importation and selling illicit drugs and products that are not registered by the authority, including patrolling unauthorised routes in border areas in Songwe, Mbeya and Rukwa Regions.

The call was made here yesterday by the acting TMDA manager for southern highlands regions Anita Mshighati when speaking with this paper.

She said among reasons contributing to selling of products that have not been approved by TMDA was the existence of unauthorised routes at border areas in the named regions through which

scrupulous traders bring in medicines and medical devices.

She said in the circumstances TMDA has started an operation against illegal activities in collaboration of the respective local councils.

"Our country is very huge and there are unofficial borders, hence unscrupulous traders use the routes therein to bring in sub standard products in Songwe and Rukwa that border neighbouring countries.

She said many people are still not aware of the existence of TMDA that split from Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) as they were continuing reporting to TMDA of suspected foods.

She called upon the people to report on any drugs suspected to have been imported illegally.



National Electoral Commission chairman Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kaijage (R) presents presidential candidacy forms to National Reconstruction Alliance's Leopold Mahona in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on is NEC deputy chairman Judge (rtd) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**Magdalena E. Mwakasege**

When God called you in August 6, 2019 was the news that no one wanted to receive! Now we know that the day you died, you became our guardian angel. Your mom (Elesia Mulenga), your children Steward Davidson, Happy, Vitus, Vanessa, Vernon, Godfrey, Glory, Daines, and Destiny and your brother and sisters missed you a lot!

**Job 1:21. Amen.**

"We also provide medical escort services and first aid kits and trauma bags that are useful in keeping someone alive until expert medical care can be reached"



# ACT-Wazalendo Congress under way in Dar es Salaam



Lawyer Fatma Karume (2nd-R) and Ismail Jussa (2nd-L) also attended the congress.



Leaders of the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) all ears yesterday as Tundu Lissu, Chadema's Vice Chairman (mainland) and the latter party's candidate for the Tanzanian presidency in the upcoming (late October) General Election, delivers an address at the Dar es Salaam congress. All Photos: Correspondent Anthony Siyame



Former minister Bernard Membe (L), ACT-Wazalendo's candidate for the Tanzanian presidency come late October's General Election, in tête-à-tête with the party's Leader, Zitto Kabwe at the congress.



Tundu Lissu addresses the ACT-Wazalendo congress.



Tundu Lissu has a word with Fatma Karume shortly after he addressed the congress.



The congress in session.



ACT-Wazalendo leaders applaud after Tundu Lissu's address.



Fatma Karume waves to ACT-Wazalendo congress delegates shortly after making remarks.





Tigo Mobile Device manager Mkumbo Myonga (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday briefing journalists on the newly launched Infinix Hot 9 cellular phones. He is with Infinix public relations manager Saiphon Asajile. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Mpina lauds agro bank for issuing timely loans to small-time livestock keepers and fishermen

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina, yesterday praised the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) for promoting efficient production in livestock and fisheries sectors by giving smallholders timely loans.

He told a review meeting of the performance of the two sectors, that the loans the bank gave to people employing themselves in the two sectors had changed their lives and were behind efficient production in the two sectors.

TADB works with other local banks in funding stakeholders in the two sectors.

The members were reviewing implementation of the objectives set during and performance of the two sectors since the last meeting that was held on August 10, 2018.

"I want to single out the TADB for its efforts towards promoting efficiency in the livestock and fisheries sectors. Stakeholders in the two sectors are now getting the working capital they

need," he told the meeting.

The minister said in the past two sectors received little or no priority in all forms of facilitation despite the fact that the sectors touched lives of millions of Tanzanians. He said he found a lot of consolation in the fact that the bank had worked so hard and had changed the situation drastically. "I hope and pray this trend will continue," he told the meeting.

The TADB Managing Director, Japhet Justine, told the meeting that loan applicants had applied for a total of 85.5 billion/-, but only 27 billion had been approved by the bank, and that more applications were being processed.

He also explained that out of the 27 billion, 3.425 billion was awarded through the Smallholder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS). The SCGS focuses on smallholder livestock keepers and fishermen who have problems in securing working capital.

Justine called on eligible hardworking smallholders to apply for loans, saying the government was determined to help them make a good living.

By Guardian Reporter

THE Acting Dar es Salaam City Mayor Abdallah Mtinika has congratulated President John Magufuli for his robust strategies in tackling the threat from Covid-19 infection that removed fear among the people over the disease.

Mtinika was speaking here yesterday at a launching of a campaign organised by WaterAid that aims to fight infectious waterborne diseases.

The mayor said washing of hands will not only put the Corona viruses at bay, but will do in respect of more than seven other diseases whose weapon for their eradication was

# Dar City Mayor hails JPM over handling of Covid-19 pandemic

personal hygiene.

"When you wash your hands from time to time with running water, you avoid being infected with infectious diseases including Covid-19, cholera, bilharzia and others," he said.

He also advised WaterAid to go further in imparting education on

personal hygiene to the community and various schools in the country.

He added: "We cannot spread this education solely via journalists, but education given from street to street is more important."

WaterAid Resident Director Anna Mzinga said they will continue

supporting the government in the fight against waterborne diseases.

She said the campaign unveiled has involved various artistes including a soccer player Juma Kaseja who will be educating the community in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Geita regions and Zanzibar.

"The campaign will go on till January next year and will involve the distribution of the message on the need to change habits on hygiene through the media," said Mzinga.

The campaign's manager, Mrisho Mpoto said it was shame to see a person being infected with diseases for

not maintaining personal cleanliness, and added:

"One will say he's bewitched after he contracts diarrhea, while the truth is the disease is caused by dirty surroundings and by not washing hands with clean running water and soap."

While receiving applause from various stakeholders in attendance Mpoto said:

"Now we are launching the campaign to educate our youth in the streets and in schools so that they know how to avoid diseases whose cause is uncleanliness, habit of not washing hands with clean water and soap from time to time."

## Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control

### Request For Application Epic RFA 2/2020

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a five-year, global project funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with a period of performance from April 15, 2019 to April 14, 2024. EpiC is designed to break through remaining, persistent barriers to the 95-95-95 goals and promote self-reliant management of national HIV programs.

In response to USAID Mission and country needs, EpiC will deliver efficient, affordable, results-based technical assistance (TA) and direct service delivery tailored to context and epidemiology that is effective in surging, scaling, and sustaining HIV services and systems for long-term epidemic control.

This announcement is a call for Request for Application (RFA) for Tanzania Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to support the project in reaching its intended goals as previously highlighted and provision of tailored HIV services programming for KVPs From October 1, 2020 up to September 30th, 2021. Through this competitive process, FHI 360/EpiC intends to select and provide funding and technical assistance (TA) to Tanzanian NGOs which meet the required qualifications.

#### I. Scope Goal and Objectives

The goal of EpiC is to achieve and maintain epidemic control through strategic TA to improve HIV prevention, case finding, care, and treatment programing in countries supported by PEPFAR. The three objectives, which focus on filling existing HIV prevention, case finding, and treatment gaps, and on building long-term sustainability in order to attain and maintain epidemic control are:

- Objective 1:** Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among at-risk adult men, women and priority populations (PP)
- Objective 2:** Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among Key Population (KP)
- Objective 3:** Improve program management (including HIS and HRH) and financial systems to ensure attainment and maintenance of epidemic control

#### Geography and Target Populations

To reach organizations operating in Arusha Region covering seven districts these include Arusha CC, Arusha DC, Karatu DC, Meru DC, Longido DC, Ngorongoro DC and Monduli DC, and Dar es Salaam Region in Kinondoni District. Interventions will target key and vulnerable population (VAGYW, MSM, and FSW) Interested agencies are invited to request for full RFA for this solicitation through the mail address [tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org](mailto:tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org)

The deadline for submitting of Request for proposals is August 29, 2020, 4.00 p.m. All interested agencies must submit their proposals in electronic version through [tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org](mailto:tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org) with subject clearly marked **Epic RFA 2/2020**



## Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control

### Request For Application Epic RFA 3/2020

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a five-year, global project funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with a period of performance from April 15, 2019 to April 14, 2024. EpiC is designed to break through remaining, persistent barriers to the 95-95-95 goals and promote self-reliant management of national HIV programs.

In response to USAID Mission and country needs, EpiC will deliver efficient, affordable, results-based technical assistance (TA) and direct service delivery tailored to context and epidemiology that is effective in surging, scaling, and sustaining HIV services and systems for long-term epidemic control.

This announcement is a call for Request for Application (RFA) for Tanzania Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to support the project in reaching its intended goals as previously highlighted and provision of tailored HIV services programming for KVPs for from October 1, 2020 up to September 30th, 2021. Through this competitive process, FHI 360/EpiC intends to select and provide funding and technical assistance (TA) to Tanzanian NGOs which meet the required qualifications.

#### I. Scope Goal and Objectives

The goal of EpiC is to achieve and maintain epidemic control through strategic TA to improve HIV prevention, case finding, care, and treatment programing in countries supported by PEPFAR. The three objectives, which focus on filling existing HIV prevention, case finding, and treatment gaps, and on building long-term sustainability in order to attain and maintain epidemic control are:

- Objective 1:** Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among at-risk adult men, women and priority populations (PP)
- Objective 2:** Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among Key Population (KP)
- Objective 3:** Improve program management (including HIS and HRH) and financial systems to ensure attainment and maintenance of epidemic control

#### Geography and Target Populations

This RFA intends to reach organizations operating in Iringa Region in Mufindi District, targeting Priority populations (PP) Interested agencies are invited to request for RFA through the mail address [tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org](mailto:tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org)

The deadline for submitting of Request for proposals is August 29, 2020, 4.00 p.m. All interested agencies must submit their proposals in electronic version through [tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org](mailto:tanzania.procurement@fhi360.org) with subject clearly marked **Epic RFA 3/2020**







## Cooperation on Agricultural Sector Development between JICA and Tanzania



# JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) - HALF A CENTURY OF COOPERATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN TANZANIA

In Tanzania, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), implemented a series of cooperation projects that started in 1974 with the formulation of the "Kilimanjaro Region Integrated Development Plan". Thereafter, development projects such as the "Lower Moshi Irrigation Scheme" and the "Kilimanjaro Agricultural Development Center" (currently called as the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC)) followed suit.



**Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC)**

Our cooperation activities have now been rolled out to cover the whole country. JICA has two programs in agriculture sector, namely,

- i) Program of Strengthening Rice Production, and
- ii) Program of Supporting Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP).

### i) Program of Strengthening Rice Production

Under this program, JICA has assisted in disseminating rice farming technologies through various projects, i.e. the Project for Supporting Rice Industry Development in Tanzania (TANRICE2), the Project for Capacity Development for the Promotion of Irrigation Scheme Development Under the District Agricultural Development Plans (TANCAID2), the Small Scale Irrigation Development Project (SSIDP), etc.

### TANRICE: Rice production increase and yield improvement achieved

For almost half a century from 1974, JICA and the Ministry of Agriculture in Tanzania have been working together in the field of rice industry development. Through a series of technical cooperation projects, various training programs on rice farming in irrigated as well as in rain-fed conditions were conducted for extension officers and farmers throughout the country. In these training programs, farmers also learned irrigation scheme management, gender, marketing, and agricultural machinery management.

A total of 5,235 farmers were trained in 44 irrigation schemes through the technical cooperation project called TANRICE (2007-2012). Subsequently, in TANRICE phase 2 (2012-2019), these technologies and skills resulted in about 40% increase of rice production under the irrigated condition, 50% increase under rain-fed lowland condition, and 140% increase under rain-fed upland conditions. A total of 36,553 farmers and extension officers were trained through TANRICE2.



**Harvesting Time in Lower Moshi Irrigation Scheme**

The program also contributed to the implementation of Tanzania's National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) that aimed at doubling rice production in Tanzania from 899,000 tons in 2008 to 1,963,000 tons by 2018 under the initiative of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). The goal of NRDS phase 2 launched in 2019 is to sustain national self-sufficiency in rice production,

contribute to the regional self-sufficiency, and become a market leader in the region.

According to the statistics of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), rice production in Tanzania is estimated to have increased about 13 times, from 223,000 tons (1974) to 3,016,695 tons (2018) and rice growing area has also increased about 7 times, from 163,000 ha (1974) to 1,199,875 ha (2018). The cumulative irrigated area increased 1.7 times from 264,388 ha (2005/2006) to 461,211 ha (2014/2015), according to the "National Irrigation Development Master Plan 2018" compiled by the joint survey of the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) and JICA in 2018. Our cooperation through the Program of Strengthening Rice Production has contributed to the above-said achievement to improve rice and irrigation development.

### SSIDP & TANCAID2: Comprehensive Guidelines for Irrigation Scheme Development (CGL) as the ground of irrigation development

JICA and NIRC have been promoting participatory irrigation scheme development in line with the CGL. In SSIDP, approximately 32 million USD has been provided for the construction and rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation facilities including head works and canals of up to 109 irrigation schemes in the entire country.

Through these measures, an increase of around 20,000 ha of irrigated area is expected to be achieved. In addition to infrastructure improvement, a total 9,921 people including irrigation engineers and technicians of NIRC and district offices, and members of irrigators' organizations (IO) received training on proper project management and operation & maintenance (O&M) of the facilities as the activities of TANCAID2.

A farmer in Nyida irrigation scheme in Shinyanga told after the training that people started to share water according to the distribution plan that was made based on the manual prepared by TANCAID2, rather than to take water individually. He said sharing water made him contribute to the joint work as IO members in maintenance work of infrastructure. Also a farmer in Mikonbilenga irrigation scheme in Iringa told he was now able to pay school fees for his children, had been able to engage himself in other activities such as livestock keeping and a bar operation.



**Participatory repair work of irrigation canal. 10 members implemented capping technically supported by district and zone staff.**



**Completed repair work canal**

### ii) Program of Supporting Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP)

Through this program, JICA expanded its activities to respond to the needs of strengthening the government's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system and promoting value addition and market-oriented agriculture. JICA, together with the Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) including the Ministry of Agriculture and President's Office Regional Administration and Local Governance (PORALG), is implementing two projects.

- Project for the Capacity Development on Data Collection, Analysis and Data-Based Reporting under ASDP (ARDS)

- Project for Strengthening DADP Planning and Implementation capacity through Use of SHEP Approach (TANSHEP)





## Cooperation on Agricultural Sector Development between JICA and Tanzania



### ARDS: Agricultural data on the ground is ready to use for evidence-based decision-making

The Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Thematic Working Group has been working with the JICA Project Team. The project aims at improving the availability of agricultural information through the Agriculture Routine Data System (ARDS) since 2008. In ARDS, standardized formatted data flow from the ward level to the central government level through the districts and regions has been developed. The data are registered and accumulated into the web portal, which is a web-based application designed and developed for this specific purpose, and reports can easily be extracted from the data. ARDS eventually allows users to capture, process and share the agricultural data through that web-based application. Using this system, over 90% of agricultural information data across the country has been updated every month since 2017. Considering that the submission rate of such data stood at 40% in 2015, it is a remarkable progress in two years. Now, ARDS Web Portal is in full operation across the country wherever there is Internet connection, and the data and reports generated from it are well utilized by the Government.

In addition to the key cooperation areas depicted above, construction works for the Project for Development of Malindi Fish Landing and Marketing Facilities in Zanzibar commenced in 2019.



Dissemination of the training materials for ARDS data collection.



Completion images of the Malindi Fish Landing and Marketing facilities (1)

### Reforming Malindi Fish Landing and Marketing Facilities in Zanzibar

Through JICA's support, a Japanese contractor started rehabilitating the old erosion-prone Malindi Fish Landing and Marketing Facilities to contribute to the provision of safer and more hygienic working condition for the users, thus promoting stable supply of quality fish to the people of Zanzibar. The facilities are expected to accommodate fishing vessels, create jobs for people in the sector, and increase the earnings of stakeholders in fisheries value-chains, thereby bringing out the potential of blue economy in Zanzibar and boosting it.

### TANSHEP: Transforming agriculture from "Grow and Sell" to "Grow to Sell"

TANSHEP, since its onset in January 2019, has been introducing the new extension approach, Small-holder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP), to 56 farmers' groups in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Regions. Whereas conventionally farmers look for market for what they have produced ("Grow and Sell"), in SHEP approach, they undertake market survey before starting production, with which they decide what to produce, how, and when according to market needs (that is, "Grow to Sell"). TANSHEP has provided them with a series of technical training programs, e.g. on market survey, business building with stakeholders, and record keeping. Since these are their first trials, farmers do face some challenges including negative impacts of climate change (e.g. floods) and COVID-19. Some of them, for example, delayed sowing for one month, then observing high prices for initial selling but later, price decline. They have now become more sensitive and they follow the cropping calendar for peak demand. Others are now able to negotiate with several buyers, so as to select the best offer among them, using knowledge of the market survey they got through TANSHEP.



Before construction work (December 2015)



Market Survey by farmers



After starting construction works (March 2020)



Helping farmers in making the cropping calendar to meet the peak demand.



# The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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## EAC must reopen its skies in time for peak tourism

AIR travel is a form of travel in vehicles such as helicopters, hot air balloons, blimps, gliders, hang glider, parachuting, airplanes, jet aircraft, or anything else that can sustain flight. Use of air travel has greatly increased in recent decades - worldwide it doubled between the mid-1980s and the year 2000.

Air travel can be separated into two general classifications: national/domestic and international flights. Flights from one point to another within the same country are called domestic flights. Flights from a point in one country to a point within a different country are known as international flights. Travelers can use domestic or international flights in either private or public travel.

The East African Business Council in July, this years called upon East African Community (EAC) partner states to open up their skies to allow free movement of people and cargo.

This comes as apart from Tanzania, other regional blocks are still grappling with the consequences of Covid :19 pandemic.

While Tanzania has already opened up its skies and airports, the EABC is urging the remaining five EAC to fast track opening of air transport services to boost regional trade, tourism and hospitality sectors.

It is good news that the national carrier, RwandAir resumed flights to Tanzania after almost five months since the airline suspended operations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has taken a heavy toll on industry.

This follows the government decision to reopen airport operations for commercial flights.

According to RwandAir chief executive officer, Yvonne Manzi Makolo, the carrier has embarked on a gradual reopening strategy like many other airlines across the world.

RwandAir will start with the African routes that are already open - the airline operates more destinations in Africa, flying to about 24 destinations across the region.

2020 is said to be the worst year in aviation history and airlines are in survival mode. Air travel demand has significantly decreased with little confidence from passengers.

A June survey by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) indicated that 58 per cent of people avoided air travel due to Covid-19, but the number expecting to continue to avoid air travel in the future could fall to 33 per cent.

RwandAir highlighted that it is putting all health and safety measures in place across all touch points, asserting that the demand for air travel will grow gradually.

Experts predict it will, however, take a few years for the industry to get back to 2019 levels of activity.

Governments will, therefore, need to continue providing financial relief and assistance to airlines as well as flexibility in slot usage.

The East African Business Council appreciates the measures by the EAC partner states aimed at supporting the resumption of domestic and international flights in the region. This is vital for the recovery of the aviation sector in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tanzania resumed international flights on 18th of May while chartered flights in Rwanda restarted on 18th June. Kenya was expected to open domestic air travel last month.

During the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, EAC partner states permitted air cargo services and inventively used passenger aircraft for cargo operations, facilitating EAC exports of fresh produce and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on these economies.

## Cancer burden in Africa: We must invest today and save tomorrow

CANCER is a group of diseases involving abnormal cell growth with the potential to invade or spread to other parts of the body. These contrast with benign tumors, which do not spread. Possible signs and symptoms include a lump, abnormal bleeding, prolonged cough, unexplained weight loss, and a change in bowel movements. While these symptoms may indicate cancer, they can also have other causes. Over 100 types of cancers affect humans.

Tobacco use is the cause of about 22 per cent of cancer deaths. Another 10 per cent are due to obesity, poor diet, lack of physical activity or excessive drinking of alcohol. Other factors include certain infections, exposure to ionizing radiation and environmental pollutants. In the developing world, 15 per cent of cancers are due to infections such as Helicobacter pylori, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, human papillomavirus infection, Epstein-Barr virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). These factors act, at least partly, by changing the genes of a cell. Typically, many genetic changes are required before cancer develops. Approximately 5-10 per cent of cancers are due to inherited genetic defects from a person's parents. Cancer can be detected by certain signs and symptoms or screening tests. It is then typically further investigated by medical imaging and confirmed by biopsy.

The risk of developing certain cancers can be reduced by not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, not drinking too much alcohol, eating plenty of vegetables, fruits and whole grains, vaccination against certain infectious diseases, not eating too much processed and red meat and avoiding too much sunlight exposure. Early detection through screening is useful for cervical and colorectal cancer. The

benefits of screening in breast cancer are controversial. Cancer is often treated with some combination of radiation therapy and surgery.

Tanzania is one of the 26 African countries which are set to benefit from the newly signed agreements to expand access to 20 lifesaving cancer medicines for sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

The American Cancer Society (ACS) and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) recently announced the agreements with pharmaceutical companies Pfizer, Novartis and Mylan to expand access to 20 lifesaving cancer treatments in 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Purchasers are expected to save an average of 59 percent for medicines procured through the agreements.

Other countries included in the agreements are Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, in Africa; and Vietnam, India, and Myanmar in Asia. Oncologists, government officials, and nonprofit organizations in many of these countries contributed to these agreements by sharing information and feedback to the CHAI team.

Sub-Saharan Africa's cancer burden is significant and growing. In 2018, there were an estimated 811,000 new cases of cancer and 534,000 deaths from cancer in the region. Cancer patients in sub-Saharan Africa are twice as likely to die as those in the United States, often due to late diagnosis and lack of access to treatment. Based on population aging alone, annual cancer deaths in sub-Saharan Africa are projected to almost double by 2030. The new agreements reach 23 countries in Africa, covering 74 percent of the annual cancer cases.



## Cash and cash management in a pandemic

By Timi Olubiyi

SMALL Medium Enterprises, including large firms, must pay close attention to their cash flow. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect economies, businesses and household globally, the impact has been severe, and the world is grappling with the negative consequences. The cash flow of a company is a crucial factor that enhances business operations at this time. To achieve long-term success, Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including large firms, must pay close attention to their cash flow. The cash flow portrays how companies have spent or receive cash. It is also one measurement for evaluating firm stability, strength, and future ability to generate cash flows. A business must have adequate cash on hand to pay for operations, liabilities and borrowed funds, and to make investments. Having cash is a crucial requirement for a business to stay solvent. When a business no longer has enough cash to pay its dues, it is often declared bankrupt.

Cash flow is the net amount of cash and cash-equivalents being transferred into and out of business. Simply ascribed as inflows and outflows of cash and cash equivalents. Cash is referred to cash on hand, in the bank, which is the most liquid in business transactions. Cash equivalents are items that are similar to cash or can easily be sold of and turn to cash. Examples are short term investment bills, stocks and unfinished goods in-store and marketable securities with less than 90 days maturities (commercial papers, treasury bills and short-term government bonds). A good quality cash equivalents do not usually include equity or stock holdings because they can fluctuate in value with some associated risk elements. It is imperative to state that both cash and cash equivalent are usually referred to current assets in the balance sheet of a business, meaning they are the most liquid of short-term assets.

That said, the cash flow statement's primary purpose is to provide information regarding a company's cash receipts and cash payment in various sources. A secondary purpose of the cash flow statement is to provide information about a company's operating, investing, and financing activities. Because of the importance of this concept, International Reporting Standards (IFRS) require that companies distinctively report cash flow statement in the annual reports. Cashflow statement is necessary in a



financial statement for companies to summarize the amount of cash and cash equivalents entering and leaving the company's coffers. Therefore, expectedly the cash flow statement is usually presented as a separate financial statement that provides additional information for evaluating the solvency and liquidity of SMEs or any business entity. Cashflow statement is often used in tandem, and it complements the balance sheet and income statement. It is a mandatory part of a company's financial reports since 1987 and the third component of a company's financial statements.

The cash flow statement measures how well a company manages its cash position, meaning how well the company generates cash to pay its debt obligations and fund its operating expenses. The cash flow report is essential because it informs the reader of the business cash position.

The places where cashflow are required in any business entity are in the operating activities (such as proceed from sales, salary and wage payments to employees, rent, cash recovered from good sold on credit and payment made for purchases). Investing activities such as (dividend received, interest received, and purchase of investments. Financing activities (proceeds from company shares issued, proceeds of loan, bank loan repayment and dividend paid to shareholders. A cash flow deficiency from operating, investing or financing

activities could lead to poor overall cash flow performance, meaning reduced cash inflow and increased cash outflow, which could lead to a shrinking cash reserve. Insufficient cash on hand could have dire consequences for businesses. In the end, a business must have enough cash to pay for operating expenses, capital expenditures and any borrowing costs. To ensure an adequate cash flow performance in all areas of business activities, a business must effectively manage sales, investment holdings and fund-raising activities to achieve maximum cash inflow and maintain an optimal level of cash reserves.

Although cash flow is essential if a business entity is to continue in operation, in general, it is misconstrued with liquidity which is the ability of a company to meet its current liabilities using its current assets, especially its obligations when it falls due. Cash flows are a more direct measure of liquidity and a contributing factor in corporate performance. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has brought about stiff cashflow issues that companies need to work on because any ongoing and unattended cash flow concerns could have a general negative impact on a business' overall performance. Cash represents the firm's vascular system; if it dwindles, the business will not survive. So, with the current realities with COVID-19 companies need to pay extra attention to cashflow and see that it remains positive at all times.

If cash inflow exceeds cash outflow, the business is said to have positive cashflow. While for the opposite, the business will have a negative outflow. Cashflow is relatively different from profit because it only involves the availability of cash for business spending and most times cash transaction activities. The fact that a firm is profitable does not mean that it is also solvent. The profit is not cash

It is imperative to state that cash flow statement and information assist the financial statement users in obtaining the relevant information concerning the use of resources of virtually the entire financial resources over a given time period of a business. The cash flow statement allows investors to understand how a company's operations are running, where its money is coming from, and how money is being spent. The cashflow can help determine whether a company is on a solid financial footing.

In conclusion, should you be having serial challenges around your business or company's cash flow management a problem even after employing a professional? Can you tell if your business is actually profitable? Are you having difficulties distinguishing among cashflow, profit or even liquidity of your organization? Do you have the necessary records in case of any audit exercise or performance review? You might need to reach out using the details below for the essential advice. Good Luck!



## Six months later – results of the evolving Covid-19 public health response

By Aliza Appelbaum

SIX months into the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the successful public health interventions around the world have been the result of international cooperation.

This is according to Dr Claire Standley, an assistant research professor at Georgetown University Centre for Global Health Science and Security in the US.

"On a global level, a threat anywhere is a threat everywhere," Standley said, adding: "Healthcare workers are facing burnout... Supply chains have been strained throughout this pandemic. We're figuring out new and innovative ways to get those supplies to people that need them. But without international collaboration, their systems are going to be continuously strained."

Standley specialises in the analysis of health systems, with an emphasis on prevention and control of infectious diseases as well as public health emergency preparedness and response. She made the remarks in an online talk moderated by Patrick Butler, Vice President of Content and Community at the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICJ).

Standley took a frank look at lessons public health professionals have learned, and which countries have had successful - or less successful - responses to Covid-19.

She also talked about the difficulties different countries have faced in attempting to find a balance between addressing public health and economic concerns, and what the next steps could or should be in terms of prevention and treatment of the virus.

One of the highlights was in relation to what more is now known about the virus and updating public health measures - on which Standley said that, thanks to a better understanding of "high-risk transmission zones", policy makers can now be more targeted with the restrictions they impose. High-risk environments include large gatherings of people, particularly indoors. As for masks, she said: "There's an increasing body of evidence showing that masks do reduce transmission risk even if they don't eliminate it completely, so physical distance is still important, even with mask wearing and other such measures."

On transmission through asymptomatic patients, Standley said that strategies like temperature screening may be less effective than originally thought as more is learned about asymptomatic transmission.



She elaborated: "Unfortunately, as we've now seen, it seems like a large proportion of cases may be transmitted - maybe as many as half of the cases - in what we call the pre-symptomatic phase. It means that when contact tracing occurs, contact tracers need to inquire about contacts even before the onset of symptoms. That complicates things. It's hard for people to remember where they were and what they were doing multiple days before they started feeling sick."

**On vaccine development**

Standley struck a cautious note on the race for vaccine production and recommended that public health officials and citizens continue to practise measures that we know work. "I think there is a lot of talk about a vaccine and how life can return to normal once we have a vaccine in place. I find that kind of thinking a little bit disingenuous sometimes. I think we don't know," she said. But she said the scientific evidence supporting the possibility of a vaccine is quite strong, adding: "It looks likely that we'll be able to come up with some level of efficacy in terms of a vaccine. That it is hopelessly safe, but it will still take time to scale that up and will take a long time

to distribute those vaccines equitably around the world."

**On deficiencies in US response Covid-19**

In Standley's view, America's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic has been hampered by a failure of the public health system and a lack of decisive leadership and decision-making. She said: "We found in the pandemic that sometimes the systems didn't operate as well as they should have on paper...The discrepancy between what's really there and what should be there is one piece. And then I think the other piece is management, decisive decision-making and leadership."

**On responses in the developing world**

Standley named Thailand and Liberia as strong examples of a successful Covid-19 pandemic response in the Global South, saying the first case outside China was detected in Thailand so there was a real worry that the country might become the epicentre of the disease. "And that has not come to pass - again, largely due to the fact that the prime minister took action or really declared a state of emergency, putting scientists and public health professionals at the fore," she noted.

Standley contrasted Thailand's response to that of South Korea, which responded with widespread testing as a way to halt the spread of the virus there. "Thailand has managed this response with much more limited testing, but excellent healthcare, universal access to healthcare, affordable healthcare, and very strong contact tracing and epidemiological measures as well," she explained.

In Liberia, Standley said, enforcement of an early lockdown and decisive leadership has made the difference. There was a strong centralised response limiting travel between counties, and schools and businesses were closed. "Even despite all these measures, there was a slight surge in cases towards the end of June," she said, adding: "But rather than allow these restrictions to expire, as they were due to, the president extended the state of emergency and the restrictions again in an effort to get these public health measures back in place and transmission under control."

**An International Journalists' Network (IJNet) dispatch. In partnership with its parent organisation, the International Centre for Journalists (ICJ), IJNet 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. This article is part of the network's online coverage of reporting on Covid-19. Aliza Appelbaum is**

have become scenes of the past. The so-called leaders of several troublemaker political parties are behind bars or in protective custody. Bazaars and traffic are running normally, unlike the enforced strikes in which shop owners were forced to close shop simply out of fear of revenge from terrorist jihadists. Crackdowns on the infiltrators and vigilance across the Line of Control have dramatically brought down the number of terrorist attacks. No bloodbath has taken place as a result of the abrogation of the Article 370 in Kashmir, as predicted in some quarters. Perhaps that is why aggression targeting the civilian population residing in villages and towns alongside the LoC continues while at the same time providing cover fire for fresh jihadi terrorist infiltrators.

But the Indian government has retaliated by investing heavily in the construction of bunkers equipped with electricity, bedrooms and shower and toilet facilities.

Not only that, it has also issued orders for residents of 508 villages along the 0-6 km of LoC to be given access to direct recruitment in professional institutions and post-graduate courses. These include the districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua.

This is totally opposite to the situation in the other side of the LoC, where women refuse to go into the bunkers during Indian retaliatory fire. The women complain that the soldiers accompanying them in the bunkers physically molest them since it is dark and the army takes advantage of the situation.

Women have also complained that access to the bunkers is frequently conditioned with sexual favours. So, they prefer staying at home and in the line of fire to trading in their dignity for safety. Such is the strong character of the women of parts of Jammu Kashmir.

The abrogation of Article 370 was a dawn of a new era, which has opened up opportunities for investment in tourism, the popular revenue generator of Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the years, the sector has been badly affected by terrorist campaigns that have continued since October 1947 and which, taking advantage of the engagement of Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka (1988-1990) quashing Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists, gained extraordinary momentum during the 1990.

Gone are the days when aggressors could play a free hand in Jammu and Kashmir. Today the people of the Union Territory look forward towards a prosperous and peaceful future as the dawn of hope brought about by the abrogation of the Article 370 translates into a bright sunny day.

**Amjad Ayub Mirza is a human rights activist from Mirpur in Azad Kash. He currently lives in exile in the UK. The views expressed in this piece are his own.**

The abrogation of Article 370 came as a breath of fresh air. Terrorist attacks and protest rallies

## Abrogation of India's Article 370 gives Jammu and Kashmir bright, sunny day

By Amjad Ayub Mirza

IT is almost a year since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that delegated 'special status' to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.

It was this 'special status' that barred the Indian mainland as well as any foreigner from investing in the former state. Not only that, but a cluster of privileged families freely ran the roost and created hereditary political lineage that in so many ways was no different from the pre-partition hereditary monarchy practised in the state since the signing of the Amritsar Treaty between Maharaja of Jammu Gulab Singh and the East India Company at the end of the First Anglo-Sikh war in March 1846.

The Amritsar Treaty, signed on March 16, 1846, was the basis on which the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was established and which existed as an independent state for 101 years before Pakistan struck on October 22, 1947.

It was due to this war against the people of the princely state of Jammu Kashmir that a territorial division of the state caused a loss of around 5,000 square miles (about 62,500 sq km) of West Jammu territory to Pakistan.

Pakistan renamed West Jammu as Azad Jammu and Kashmir - and the Himalayan state has since endured problems caused by local and infiltrated agents.

Simply put, Article 370 was an undemocratic and authoritarian piece of legislation that in particular discriminated against women. If a man was to marry outside the state, his wife would automatically become eligible to become a state subject. However, if a woman was to marry a man from outside the state, not only would her spouse not automatically become a state subject but she would also be deprived of her hereditary rights.

After the abrogation of Article 370, anyone who marries someone from outside the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir can freely apply for Indian citizenship.

A woman marrying someone without a Jammu Kashmir domicile can apply for her spouse to become an Indian citizen and simultaneously claim her hereditary rights. So, among other benefits, the abrogation of Article 370 has become an instrument for women's empowerment.

Another issue is the revolutionary transformation in the status of some 4,00,000 migrants who had crossed over the Line of Control from West Pakistan and Pakistani-occupied Jammu Kashmir during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistani wars and were living in abject conditions in and around camps in Jammu. They can now apply for a Jammu Kashmir domicile and enjoy the same privileges as their local brothers and sisters.

The abrogation of Article 370 came as a breath of fresh air. Terrorist attacks and protest rallies

## The nuts-and-bolts failures by the US in responding to the coronavirus pandemic

By Jon Allsop

GOOD magazine covers are often simple. That of the September issue of The Atlantic consists of six words - "HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?" - set in bold black type against a plain white background.

The question runs down the centre of the page. On either side, in smaller, lighter font, is a title from a pair of cover stories: to the left, "Why the Virus Won", by the science writer Ed Yong; to the right, "The Power of American Denial", by the anticracism scholar Ibram X. Kendi. The only other text on the cover is the issue date and The Atlantic's slim, capital-A logo.

Kendi's story, on the crisis of racial injustice, will be published online tomorrow. In its first line, Yong's piece - on the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic - echoes the cover question: "How did it come to this?"

Yong proceeds, over the course of nearly 10,000 words, to offer an answer that manages simultaneously to be comprehensive in scope, rich in detail, and heart-breaking in simplicity.

He outlines the nuts-and-bolts failures of America's response to the pandemic, some of which, such as insufficient testing, have driven media coverage for months. Others - such as a worldwide shortage of medical glass that could complicate efforts to store a future vaccine - have yet to fully register on our collective radar. The latter problem, he writes, is "literally, a bottle-neck bottleneck."

Yong outlines President Trump's many failings, too. Crucially, however, he situates the coronavirus crisis on a much broader arc of American short-comings.

Trump has his place on that arc and in Yong's account, but he doesn't loom overly large, as he does in so much other coverage. The result is a scalding reminder that the country's many problems aren't reducible to the current

president, and can't simply be voted out come November.

As Yong puts it, the Covid-19 disaster has "touched - and implicated - nearly every other facet of American society: its shortsighted leadership, its disregard for expertise, its racial inequities, its social-media culture, and its fealty to a dangerous strain of individualism."

The coronavirus has been described - including, recently, by the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres - as an "x-ray" revealing systemic inequality.

Both in this piece and in his other work on Covid-19, Yong has proven himself a masterful radiographer. He notes, in this latest piece, that the pandemic's impact on prisons has been exacerbated by mass incarceration, which means overcrowding, which makes social distancing impossible.

He explains that long-term staffing and safety issues exacerbated the impact of the pandemic on care facilities, and that the broader American healthcare model - which conceives of health as a private good rather than a public one, and prioritizes profits over people - left hospitals ill-prepared to deal with a surge in patients, and some patients unable to foot the bill for their care.

The virus and its attendant economic consequences have underscored discrimination against the elderly, people with disabilities, women, and Native Americans.

Yong explores how the legacies of slavery and Jim Crow have made Black Americans less likely to have good access to healthcare and more likely to work in low-paid, "essential" jobs on the frontlines of the pandemic response. Both factors have contributed to the grotesquely elevated Covid death toll among Black people.

To this list of pre-existing national conditions, Yong adds a dangerously unregulated information climate that cuts against clear scientific messaging and instead incentivizes disinformation and



grift or deceit.

The news media haven't always helped. Yong writes: "Drawn to novelty, journalists gave oxygen to fringe anti-lockdown protests while most Americans quietly stayed home." We also "wrote up every incremental scientific claim, even those that hadn't been verified or peer-reviewed", he adds.

Yong also, however, offers some cautious grounds for hope. On the media front, he points to a study by Beth Redbird, a sociologist at Northwestern, which suggests that since the pandemic began, consumers of right-wing media have diversified their news habits.

Away from the press, Yong points to the protests that followed the police killing of George Floyd, in Minneapolis, as evidence that many Americans are now in the mood for systemic change. The pandemic, of course, has much to do with this.

"Covid-19 is an assault on America's body, and a referendum on the ideas that animate its culture," Yong writes, adding: "Recovery is possible, but it de-

mands radical introspection." Examining the x-ray results is a good place to start.

Great journalism often shocks us by telling us stuff we didn't know. Sometimes, though, the skilful juxtaposition of everything we do know can have an even greater effect.

Journalists are often told - with good reason - to whittle their reporting down and find a focused story, not a topic. But, as I've written before, the world needs writers who are capable of zooming way out, taking the biggest swing possible, and putting our day-to-day work in perspective.

Yong's work on the coronavirus has been essential - and spawned appreciative tweets, Pulitzer chatter, and all the rest - because it has done just that, proving, in the process, that the coronavirus truly is an everything story.

The simple arrangement of The Atlantic's new cover reinforces the point. The huge stories of this moment are nominally separate, but the biggest questions we face animate them both. **CJR**



# More youth develop interest in agribusiness project as they seek key data at Nane Nane agricultural fair

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

**M**ORE youth have expressed key interest to join PASS Trust's Agribusiness Innovation Centres, located at the Morogoro-based Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region.

Since the Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition kicked off last week, hundreds of youth are flocking at PASS Trust's booth in Morogoro Region in search of opportunities to join the centres where they can be mentored on agribusiness transformation.

The Agribusiness Innovation Centre (AIC) is a unit under PASS Trust, and has been praised by both the government and the private sector stakeholders as an ideal set up that gives youth opportunities to get to interact with experts on horticulture and livestock fattening for business purposes.

Since the start of the centres in 2018, and with great support from the government of Denmark, over 500 incubates have been mentored on various agribusiness skills in horticulture with selected few remaining at the PASS-AIC centre in SUA to undertake special mentorship and coaching on areas such as business management, book-keeping, cash flow management, marketing, quality control, scanning of the business environment, and regulatory issues among others.

They incubates are also exposed to market challenges to learn how to deal with price fluctuations. At the TALIRI Centre in Kongwa, incubates get mentorship on goat fattening for business.

Aaron Mwambaghi, a graduate from Sokoine University of Agriculture says before he joined the AIC, he was a small entrepreneur where he was selling boiled corn in the streets.

"But, after a while, I was pushed to apply for the opportunity to join the center by my interest in both agriculture and entrepreneurship, something which I have wished to do in my life. Though I learned about agriculture during my time in the university, at AIC, I have learned extensively, particularly on environment controlled agriculture, which provides a chance to continue with activities and production during calamities such as floods."

He says: "After my time in the center, I am looking forward to employing myself in the agriculture sector, and have my



AIC incubate Magdalena Philemon displaying her sweet melon plant after harvesting at the AIC Innovation Centre – Morogoro

way up, as one of the most successful business personnel in the country".

"As a fourth born in my family, I decided to venture into agriculture so that I show the way that others have not ventured into. Here at PASS-AIC, I am doing horticulture where I grow bell pepper. This is a good opportunity for my fellow youth to get mentorship in horticulture and agribusiness. After my time here, I will start my own horticulture business," says Janeth Raymond

A 29-year-old Theo Kasulugila from Kongwa District also views these centres as redeemer as it has changed his life completely.

"Before joining this program at Kongwa, I was rearing goats and chicken but with many challenges that almost made me quit. When I saw the opportunity to join AIC Kongwa, I grabbed it so that I get to solve my problems. Indeed, I have gotten skills on how to fatten and determine the quality of goats before I can purchase. I have also learned some of the best feeding methods that give quality goats," he says.

"After my time at AIC-Kongwa, I plan to sell quality beef as well as other livestock business. I am better now," he says, lauding PASS for establishing those centres.

According to PASS Managing Director

Nicomed Bohay, the mentorship and coaching is aimed at creating successful and sustainable agribusinesses around the country for youths to generate wealth and create employment.

"We are helping the government in dealing with the problem of youth employment in the country. We know that over 800,000 youth are churned out of the universities and institutions of higher learning and have no jobs," says Bohay.

The two fully operational youth agribusiness incubators are established in Morogoro town—for horticulture production and Mbande village in Kongwa District—for livestock-keeping and meat processing) with initial total capacity of 60 incubation units.

In 2019, the first batch of 18 youth incubators successfully exited from AIC Morogoro. Fourteen of who are now AIC's no-wall clients receiving further support to establish their businesses in their own locations. During 2019/20, a further 60 youths are under incubation for a one-year period.

"We have however noted the demand and we are trying as much as possible to expand so that we can reach as many youths as possible," Bohay adds.

According to PASS, additional four agribusiness incubators are at a differ-

ent planning and development stages, with planned initial total capacity of 150 units. Building works at the Zanzibar incubators (agro-processing) is underway and expected to start incubation activity



Incubates at the PASS-AIC Centre in TALIRI Kongwa learns tricks of goat fattening.

# China's poverty alleviation mission is historic achievement

Robert Lawrence Kuhn

**H**OW has the COVID-19 pandemic affected China's long-standing goal of eradicating all extreme poverty by the end of 2020?

It was no surprise that the whole-of-country commitment to contain the pandemic, which had remarkable success, disrupted the economy and diverted attention from everything else, including from poverty alleviation. Transportation was interrupted. Some farmers could not return to their lands for the planting season. Rural migrant workers could not return to their jobs. The development of rural industry, such as breeding and processing, was retarded. Sales of agricultural products were depressed.

In addition, healthcare issues and economic distress made some new people become poor and some formerly poor people fell back into poverty. Moreover, local officials were understandably distracted from fighting poverty to fighting COVID-19 – and still they worry about sporadic outbreaks or second waves.

Though obstacles are being surmounted, with the time lost and the economy hurt, the Chinese government would have ample reason to postpone the poverty-eradication target date beyond 2020. Everyone would understand a delay. No one would cast blame.

But, on March 6, at a large-scale virtual symposium on poverty alleviation, Chinese President Xi Jinping gave a clarion call that the goal to lift all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty by 2020 must be realized as scheduled. He called the goal a "solemn pledge" made by the Party to the people.

To appreciate President Xi's driving motivation, one must understand the context of this special year, 2020, the long-set target date for ushering in the "moderately prosperous society" – which is the first of the two great centenary goals that compose what President Xi calls "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation".

The original formulation of the "moderately prosperous society" defined it in quantitatively precise terms: doubling of the 2010 GDP per capita by 2020. President Xi enhanced this definition by asserting that China could not claim to be a "moderately prosperous society", no matter how high its GDP per capita, if even one Chinese citizen remained in absolute or extreme poverty. It was a powerful prescription that rang true and set national policy.

Therefore, the "moderately prosperous society" cannot be achieved in 2020 unless all extreme poverty is eradicated by the end of the year. This is what has intensified the final push, made



A farmer dries *Dendrobium nobile* Lindl in Chishui, southwest China's Guizhou province, May 12. The city has cultivated 6,000 hectares of the plant to boost the industry and the income of local residents as the plant boasts a high value in both medical use and sightseeing. (File photo)

more challenging, of course, by the pandemic.

In Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's Work Report of the Government, presented in the opening session of the delayed National People's Congress, he prioritized stabilizing employment and ensuring living standards, and winning the battle against poverty by eradicating poverty among all rural residents and in all poor counties.

Specific measures include: boosting consumption of products from poor areas; supporting businesses involved in poverty alleviation; ensuring rural migrant workers from poor areas have

stable jobs; chartering trains to take migrant workers back to their urban jobs; providing follow-up support to people relocated from inhospitable areas; and deepening collaboration on poverty alleviation between eastern and western regions.

Looking to the future, the government called for monitoring and assisting people who fall back into poverty and for promoting rural revitalization to help people who have risen out of poverty move toward prosperity. A poverty reduction survey will be conducted nationwide to quantify results and identify issues, especially in guarding against fraud.

I consider the pandemic as a kind of "stress test" of the poverty alleviation system. Diffi-

culties sharpen distinctions between what works and what does not, whom you can depend on and whom you cannot.

A concern: When officials are pressured to meet their firm objectives in a compressed period of time, some may cut corners or fudge numbers. I applaud the State Council's Poverty Alleviation Office for its independent checking and inspecting, avowing that if there is any false reports or fraud, officials will be held accountable and dealt with seriously, so that the results of poverty alleviation can stand the test of history and the people. The greater the transparency of government, the greater the confidence in government.

At this sensitive time in international communications, I find that China's poverty alleviation campaign is the single most powerful story to undermine foreign stereotypes and biases about China. When I tell the story of China's poverty alleviation – offering my first hand accounts, having myself travelled in the poorest areas of the country and witnessed the process in action – up close and personal – many foreigners are surprised to learn that China as a country, and President Xi as its leader, have made poverty alleviation of highest national importance.

What I stress at this time, when the world is so focused on the coronavirus – and recognizes how China has contained the pandemic through rigorous and lockdowns and strict procedures – is that the Party-led system that was successful in containing the coronavirus is the same Party-led system that is eradicating extreme poverty.

So, what can the world learn from

China's success in poverty alleviation? First, each country is different. Each culture has a different history, culture, nature of its people. We cannot take programs from one country and impose them on another country.

However, the principles are what's important. And China's principles of poverty alleviation are clear. Number one is the absolute commitment of the leadership of the country. President Xi has said, "I have spent more energy on poverty alleviation than on anything else." This sends a powerful message to officials at all levels, indeed to the entire country.

So, this is the first lesson to learn: the senior leader of the country needs to make the overall mission of poverty alleviation a priority.

We think of poverty programs in terms of measures, mechanisms and procedures. And indeed, China has pioneered micro businesses, education, relocating whole villages, eco-compensation, and social security. These can be adapted to other countries, as can the Party-led organizational system of implementing poverty alleviation through "five levels" of local government (provincial, municipal, county, township, village).

But what's critically important for all countries to recognize in the fight against poverty is the critical importance of motivating officials to make poverty alleviation a priority. This can come only from the top down. This is the big lesson that China shows the world.

China's poverty alleviation mission, lifting some 900 million people out of poverty, is a historic achievement, to be remembered for the ages.

People's Daily





Thomas Jacob (L) of the Vodacom Tanzania sales team speaks on the quality of 'Smart Kitochi' cellular phones in remarks to visitors to the firm's pavilion at the ongoing Nane-Nane agricultural exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Kamwelwe calls on Tanroads staff to work without waiting for orders

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Roads Agency (TANROADS) has been instructed to carry out its responsibilities without waiting to be pushed or given directives.

Works, Transport and Communications minister Eng Isack Kamwelwe issued the order when opening the 14th TANOADS workers board meeting held in Ruvuma Region recently and stressed the importance for every worker and staff to do their duties in their respective work places.

"We know there are many challenges facing you while implementing your responsibilities but I encourage you to continue working hard by putting the national interests foremost," he said.

He also called on them to continue supervising the implementation of the ongoing major projects in the country including Dodoma city ring road, Kigongo-Busisi bridge in Mwanza Region and Tanga-Pangani road and others.

Earlier, welcoming Kamwele, the official guest, the chairman of TANROADS workers board who is the Agency's Chief Executive Officer Eng Patrick Mfugale said TANROADS continues with its procedures of installing new road signs on main regional roads that need to be improved.

Eng Mfugale explained that the agency will continue to take steps against indiscipline and corruption at weighing bridges.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme congratulated TANROADS for its keen supervision of road infrastructures, bridges and airports and stressed for the need to continue working hard, diligently and also work ethically

The chairman of TANROADS Board Dalmas Nyaoro promised Minister Kamwelwe that they will continue working hard and adhere to the money value in regard to all projects being implemented by the agency.



**We know there are many challenges facing you while implementing your responsibilities but I encourage you to continue working hard by putting the national interests foremos**

# Non-profit organisation donates education materials to school

By Correspondent James

Kandoyo

THE World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS) has donated assorted items to Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Muslim Secondary School, which was recently gutted by fire, destroying teaching

materials and learning environment.

The support is meant to ensure hundreds of students at the school continue with their studies.

Shamim Khan, chairperson of Muslim Women Leaders' Organisation thanked the Shia Ithnaasheria, an institution in WIPAHS for the donation, calling other well-

wishers and Good Samaritans to emulate WIPAHS' spirit by extending the support to the affected school.

Among the donated items includes stationery, clothes, cookers, dining tables and books.

"I call on other Good Samaritans to join the support made by the WIPAHS to ensure studies resume studies

on time," she said.

WIPAHS' representative, Salim Juma called on students to use the items donated reasonably to make them sustainably. "We have today donated the items to support our students to resume their classes that stopped after the school was destroyed by fire a few days ago. Therefore it is better for you to use them reasonably," he said.

On July 18, this year, it was reported that the fire broke out at the Kinondoni Muslim secondary school and destroyed classrooms.

Police spokesperson, David Msimbe said that the force was investigating the cause of the fire, which had created fears among students, teachers and other workers.

WIPAHS is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Dar es Salaam. It started its activities in early 1985/86.

It has improved the living conditions of the indigenous community of Tanzania, which has been suffering from poverty, disease and illiteracy. Its impact can be seen by its vast amount of projects which promote rural development through education, the access of water, economic sustainability and the enhancement of religious learning.

The vision of WIPAHS is to transform individuals into an egalitarian

and literate society through supporting and promoting community education to people irrespective of their ethnic linguistic, provincial or religious background.

The organisation provides humanitarian support across the country including drilling of water boreholes, services to orphanage centres and owning primary and secondary schools that are fully supported.

## 27bn/- spent on rehabilitation of two ferries - marine official

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

CONSTRUCTION and rehabilitation of two ferries, New MV Victoria and MV Butiama had been completed and they will soon commence services, an official has said.

Addressing journalists at the Nanenane exhibition here yesterday Edmond Rutajama said that the rehabilitation of the two ferries had cost a total of 27bn/-.

Edmond Rutajama the public relations officer with the state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) said that MV Victoria will be plying between Mwanza city and Bukoba in Kagera while MV Butiama will offer services for Nansio Ukerewe and Mwanza city on Lake Victoria.

He said that the contractors had already handed over the two ships to the government and early trials and inspection had been conducted and were approved and met all standards to commence operations.

Rutajama said that apart from the rehabilitation of the two ferries, the contractors are also constructing a new MV Mwanza-Hapa Kazi ferry whose construction has reached 60 per cent.

He said that the construction of the new ferry is expected to cost 89.8bn/- with capacity to carry 1200 passengers and 400 tonnes of cargo.

"Upon completion, the MV Mwanza-Hapa Kazi will be plying between Mwanza, Bukoba and the neighbour-

ing countries of Uganda and Kenya.

"With the implementation of this project, passengers and cargo transport in the lake will significantly improve, as well as trade within the country and neighbouring countries while injecting more revenues to the government," he said.

He also said that the contractors are also preparing to commence rehabilitation of MV Lihemba as well as constructing new ships to ply in Lake Tanganyika.

Late April, this year, the deputy Ministers for Works Transport and Communication, Atashasta Nditaye said that the outbreak of the novel COVID-19 had affected construction and rehabilitation exercise of MV Victoria and Butiama ferries as contractors failed to travel from South Korea to finalise the job.

He made the remarks when he visited to oversee the projects' construction.

"I have been informed that the contractors had already booked their tickets but they have failed to fly due to lock-down policies done in many countries," he said.

Nditaye commended the leadership of the state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) for supervising well the expenditure of the public funds injected in the projects.

He wanted the general public to make proper use of the transport as the government had used billions of shillings to rehabilitate them.



Stanbic Bank company secretary Hellen Makanza (L) has a word with Watoto Wetu Tanzania's founder and managing director Evans Tegete (3rd-R) earlier this week when she toured the NGO's children's home at Msata in Coast Region to assess progress in the construction of classrooms being built with funding from the bank. Looking on (R) is the bank's employee relations manager, Beatrice Monyo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Keep record of farmers' concerns for policy decisions, urges Mpina

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Luaga Mpina yesterday urged leaders in Morogoro Region to keep record of concerns and questions posed by farmers during the yearly Nanenane exhibition to give enough time to experts to respond to them professionally.

Mpina (pictured) was concerned that some questions

from farmers need to be answered by experts in accordance with the country's agriculture policies. He said experts need to do some research to be able to provide farmers with proper explanations.

He said yesterday when he visited pavilions at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere grounds where the Nanenane exhibition is ongoing. He said the government has amended some regulations governing the livestock sector

following recommendations given by stakeholders during the Nanenane exhibition last year.

According to the minister, the Nanenane exhibition should be considered as a learning session where farmers are equipped with various agricultural skills.

"You should be keeping records of some questions which require policy decisions to respond. Such question cannot be answered promptly," said Mpina.



He said that during the Nanenane celebrations last year, farmers raised concerns on the highest cost for animal vaccination whereas some claimed to pay up to 4,000/- per cow. He said the government worked on the matter and reduced the charges to 200/- per cow.

Mpina directed authorities in the region to document all the responses and orders given by top government officials during

their visits at the grounds.

Acting Tanga Regional Commissioner, Yona Mark promised to document all the leaders' responses on farmers questions, noting such responses will be read to farmers at the closure of the weeklong exhibition.

The Nanenane exhibition in eastern zone is held at Tungi area at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere grounds in the outskirts of Morogoro municipal.

Nanenane also known as

'Farmers' Day' is celebrated each year to appreciate the contribution of farmers and all involved in agriculture throughout the country. The week-long national NaneNane exhibition takes place each year.

Not only are agricultural products put on display at the fairs, along with farm technologies and innovations of numerous agricultural companies, but there are also abundant food stands and marketplaces set up.



# Prof Tumbo: Implementation of ASDP II is on course

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

**T**ANZANIA after attaining food self-sufficiency for over a decade is in the race to increase production, develop markets, and multiple agriculture-based industries in the road to fully make agriculture one of the most viable business sectors for pushing up the country to upper-middle-income status.

This is according to the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Prof Siza Tumbo.

The ongoing endeavors in the implementation of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme II (ASDP II), where regions across Tanzania are rising up to the occasion by increasing agricultural production, are vital in taking the country to an improved economic status.

For Tanzania to move up to upper-middle-income status, it needs to attain Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of between \$3,956 and \$12,235. Currently, the World Bank ranks the Tanzanian economy as a lower-middle-income status.

Prof Tumbo was speaking at a recent field tour organized by Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to inspect the progress of Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA) supported projects (popularly known as PIATA-TIJA or solution-based agriculture) in Rukwa and Katavi regions. Similarly, the field mission was aimed to examine the alignment of private investment in relation to ASDP II priorities.

In the tour, Vianey Rweyendela, AGRA Country Manager (Tanzania) led the deputy PS and diverse agro stakeholders from the private and public sector, as well as civil society to inspect PIATA-TIJA supported agri-

cultural transformation interventions, where he affirmed the potential of Tanzania to increase its stake as the breadbasket of the larger East and Southern African regions and even the continent.

## AGRA support in line with the government of Tanzania's ASDP II

He assured that AGRA support was in line with the government of Tanzania's ASDP II implementation plan, which is transforming the country's agricultural systems and increasing the productivity and income of smallholder farmers.

AGRA through PIATA-TIJA for the last 3 years has been "Promoting Market Led Approach to Improve Profitability of Maize, Beans and Rice Value Chains in Sumbawanga Cluster (Rukwa and Katavi Regions), which has positively impacted over 127,000 smallholder farmers, in enabling them to increase their capacities for market-led production while reducing shocks and stresses across the whole agricultural value chain.

PIATA-TIJA resource partners include Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF); Rockefeller Foundation (RF); United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Department for International Development (DFID), and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## ASDP II implementation to every region in Tanzania beyond food self-sufficiency

Prof. Tumbo said in implementing ASDP II the government was striving to push every region in Tanzania to move beyond food self-sufficiency to expanding the local and export market agribusiness capacities.

The deputy PS said the government has put in place great transport



Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Prof Siza Tumbo (L), talks to Ntumbila AMCOS leaders at Ntumbila Village, Nkasi District, Rukwa Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

and energy infrastructure (road, rail, electricity and water) to up inter-region connectivity for trade as well as reaching out to neighboring nations, which has lowered the costs of doing business and opened new possibilities for exporting agriculture produce and processed products.

He commended AGRA for PIATA TIJA program for endeavors in supporting agriculture at grassroots,

through its partnership programs that largely involves bringing the public and private sector together for creating increased value along the agriculture value chain, including processing and creation of new markets.

He noted that AGRA and other development partners have been helpful in supporting the development of improved policies for agriculture and as well as supporting public and private institutions, including farmer's organizations to up agriculture stakes across Tanzania.

AGRA strategy and support for Tanzania from 2017 to 2021 seeks to bring technologies, partnerships, and models to scale up for competitive and inclusive agriculture in Tan-

zania and in essence catalyze and sustain an inclusive agricultural transformation to increase incomes and improve food security for smallholder farming households.

Established in 2006, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is an African-led and Africa-based institution that puts smallholder farmers at the center of the continent's growing economies by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive, into farming as a business that thrives. Together with our partners, we strive to catalyze and sustain inclusive agriculture transformation to increase the incomes and improve food security for 30 million farming households in 11 African countries by 2021.

# Scientists study whether children's protection against Covid-19 is biological or behavioural

By Dana G Smith

**O**NE of the biggest puzzles since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic has been how children respond to the novel coronavirus.

Children, particularly those under the age of 10, don't appear to be as vulnerable to the virus as adults are, and scientists and paediatricians aren't sure why.

For one thing, this observation conflicts with the fact that children are typically more susceptible to respiratory infections. "In my field, almost everything infects children more than it does adults. This is an unusual situation," says Alfin Vicencio, MD, chief of the division of pediatric pulmonology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Early data from Europe and Asia provided hope that children were nearly

immune to the virus. In Iceland, zero out of 848 randomly selected children under the age of 10 tested positive for the coronavirus, and children who were tested because of suspected exposure to the virus were half as likely to be positive as adults were.

An early study from China reported similar numbers, with only 1 per cent of all Covid-19 cases occurring in children under the age of 10, and another 1 per cent of cases in those aged between 10 and 19.

Recent statistical models based on global Covid-19 data back up these optimistic observations, proposing that children are half as susceptible to being infected with the virus as adults are.

In the United States, encouraging anecdotal news stories in June reported that there had been virtually no cases in YMCA day camps and day-care centres that had remained open

since the beginning of the pandemic, despite caring for 40,000 children.

But come July the narrative changed, with a fivefold increase in cases in children under the age of 10 in Oregon, multiple outbreaks in Texas daycare centres, and a damning story out of Florida that one-third of children tested were positive for the virus.

The latest outbreak reported at a camp in Georgia involved 232 children - 45 per cent of the attendees - between the ages of six and 17, with 26 per cent of the positive cases being asymptomatic. As a result, just how much children really are immune has been brought into question.

"The rhetoric on this has gone in one of two extremes," says Emily Oster, PhD, a professor of economics at Brown University who's been tracking Covid-19 cases in camps and daycares.

The professor adds: "Some people say, 'You can't get it from children.'



That's obviously crazy. That shows a very poor understanding of viruses. Children are not superheroes; they're not covered in a weird plastic antiviral shell. But also to say they're exactly as infectious as adults when we know that they are less likely to be symptomatic also seems wrong."

Without a clear picture of the likelihood of infection in children, an important question to ask is why they might be less susceptible. Is there really something biological that would make children less likely to get sick if they catch the virus, or are there behavioural differences that mean they're less likely to come into contact with it in the first place?

Insight into this issue could provide guidance on if, when, and how to reopen schools in the autumn. Here are the latest theories as to why children seem less susceptible:

## One: The coronavirus has trouble entering a child's body

Looking at the biology of coronavirus infections, one theory that has gained support is the finding that children have fewer ACE2 receptors than adults do.

These receptors, which the novel coronavirus uses to gain entry into cells, are present throughout the body, but a high concentration of them line the airways from the nose down into the lungs.

In a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in May, asthma researchers in New York found that children had significantly fewer ACE2 receptors in the nose than adults did.

"It was an age-related increase, meaning that the younger children had less and older patients had more," says Vicencio, who conducted the study, adding: "From a very rudimentary standpoint, it is possible that less receptor means less virus entry into the body."

George Rutherford, MD, a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco,

says that this study was the first he's seen to provide a concrete explanation for the lower infection rates in children.

"All of the sudden it becomes clearer that, okay, there is a reason that children may not get infected as much, and they may not excrete as much virus," he says.

"Because they have fewer of these receptors, they're going to have fewer respiratory cells infected, and they're going to have fewer of these respiratory cells turned into little virus factories," explains Prof Rutherford.

A recent study from Switzerland, however, showed that children who tested positive for the virus have as many virus particles present in their nose as adults do, suggesting that children may be just as contagious.

New research published last week by scientists in Chicago backs up this finding, revealing that children have as much - and in some cases up to a hundred times more - virus RNA present in the nose and throat.

In other words, despite there being fewer ACE2 receptors along the upper respiratory tract to infect, the virus was still able to get into enough cells to turn them into highly productive factories to produce just as much virus.

## Two: A child's immune system is primed by the common cold

Another prominent theory is that children have partial immunity to the novel coronavirus because of recent exposure to other coronaviruses that cause the common cold.

Several studies in adults have found that roughly 50 per cent of the people tested have immune cells that respond to the novel coronavirus, even if they've never been infected with it.

It's possible that those immune cells, which help produce antibodies, were programmed to recognize a similar coronavirus during a past infection, and now they can mount a stronger, faster defence against the new threat.

Continues tomorrow

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 118 00--

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

**WORD-FIT**

**CROSSWORD**

**SOLUTIONS**

5 LETTERS: SAY, MAY, LUD  
 4 LETTERS: BABA, ACID, ALUM, ROOM, INKY, MAID, (7 WORDS)  
 5 LETTERS: SKULL, ASIDE, DRAMA, SMILE, MALAY, (5 WORDS)  
 6 LETTERS: GANDHI, SALIVA, NILGAI, DANGER LEDGER (5 WORDS)  
 7 LETTERS: PASCHAL  
 8 LETTERS: MALAYSIA  
 10 LETTERS: BARBARIANS

**CLUES: Across**

1 Urodela is their scientific name  
 5 a large number of people  
 7 a ring-shaped reef or chain of islands formed of coral  
 8 the subject on which one writes to utilize  
 10 calm, tranquil  
 13 the connective tissue of the nervous system  
 15 out of the way  
 17 follow a winding course  
 19 largest continent  
 20 the lowest layer of ionosphere able to reflect low frequency radio waves.

**Down:**

1 an amount of, not all  
 2 the end, final  
 3 an observation stuck in the mind  
 4 to sign up  
 6 a covering for the foot  
 7 amoeboid  
 9 a maize plant in South Africa  
 12 Mexico city is her mother city  
 14 a record of the events of one year  
 16 a rush , a flow  
 17 a diagrammatic representation of an area showing features  
 18 help or support





Thursday 6 August 2020

# NMB Bank maintains status in profits by half-year mark

By The Banker Reporter

**T**HE country's largest bank in terms of profit making, net assets value and physical branch network, NMB Bank Plc, maintained its super profit making spree posting a pre-tax profit of 133.7bn/- for the year ending June 2020.

The amount which translates into 93.6bn/- net profit, dwarfs all other banks in the market and is an equivalent of 65 percent increase compared to an amount made during a corresponding period last year.

Commenting on the sustained growth and profit making spree, NMB's acting CEO, Ruth Zaipuna said that the performance reflects an outcome of its growth strategy by, "Maximizing on our strengths, capitalizing on market opportunities and the inherent potential to drive value creation for the shareholders and the Tanzanian community."

Zaipuna said NMB's mercurial performance is largely due to a favourable business operating landscape following recent prudent macro-economic reforms and the government's bold decision not to lockdown the country due to the coronavirus outbreak hence creating an environment of business continuity.

"It is during the global economic downturn that Tanzania on the contrary has achieved middle-income status, five years ahead of schedule, demonstrating resilience to external shocks," Zaipuna who has led the Tier 1 capital bank for over a year



NMB Plc's acting CEO, Ruth Zaipuna.

as acting CEO, added. She thanked the government for its deliberate efforts to ensure that the country remains a safe and an exciting market for businesses to strive hence benefiting financial institutions.

According to NMB's financials, the

strong growth in profitability was on the back of solid operating income growth of 13 percent, largely driven by interest income which grew by 10 percent while non-funded income increased by 19 percent. The Dar es Salaam based lender also continued to demonstrate laudable

operational efficiency which led to an increase of only a percent in operating expenses.

On the balance sheet position, NMB maintained its market leadership status as the biggest financial institution in market with huge growth of its balance

sheet from 6.5trn/- in March this year to 7.3trn/- by June 2020 thanks to significant growth in both customer assets and deposits in line with its balance sheet growth strategy.

The half year results also indicate that due to government's decisions, the bank complemented the same with investments in innovation and digitization initiatives, increased activation and usage of alternative banking channels such as NMB Mkononi, NMB Wakala and bank card usage, which enabled continued business activities even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zaipuna said during the period, NMB remained focused even during the Covid-19 pandemic. "The safety and well-being of our staff and customers remained our top priority, but we also remained focused on execution of our strategy and business initiatives," she added while reiterating that the bank's balance sheet growth, operational efficiency and driving excellent customer experience remain top of the agenda during the second half of the year.

The NMB acting CEO further noted that the bank is expecting to continue on the growth trajectory as it takes up a greater role in driving the country's growth agenda through credit extension in the personal/household sector, agriculture, insurance, manufacturing and construction.

## BancABC unveils contactless Visa-enabled card

By The Banker Reporter

AS the novel coronavirus pushes consumers to shun cash transactions, BancABC Tanzania Limited has introduced a Visa enabled card with a slogan of 'Gusa ulipe.'

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the card, BancABC's Senior Manager for Cards, Digital and Fintech, Lameck Mushi said the new card is a state of the art technology which enables clients to transact at point of sale machines without inserting it.

"This ultra-modern technology Visa enabled card allows customers to quickly transact by simply taking the card closer to a point of sale machine. It's safe, efficient hence provide clients with the most convenient digital payment system," Mushi said.

He pointed out that the card also allows customers to refrain from bulky hard cash which is risky in terms of security but also in wake of the global Covid-19 outbreak. "This card can be used anywhere on the globe where there is presence of Visa merchants and PoS," he added.

Seconding Mushi's observation, BancABC's Senior Manager for Agency Banking and Strategic Partnerships, Mwita Rhobi said the digital card also allows on-line payments for purchases of goods and services.

"In addition, these cards can also be used to transact on more than 2,000 Visa branded ATMs in Tanzania and more 24,000 PoS machines locally," said Rhobi who added that globally, the card can access 2.7 million ATMs. He also unveiled that the contactless transacting cards are in six global leading currencies including the local shilling, the Euro, South African Rand, US Dollar, British Pound Sterling and Chinese Yuan. "Local customers can apply and get this card from all of our physical



**BancABC's Senior Manager for Cards, Digital and Fintech, Lameck Mushi (L) unveils a new Visa-enabled contactless card that will ensure safety to customers and more flexibility in transacting digitally during a press briefing held in Dar es Salaam this week. He is with Senior Manager for Agency Banking and earlier Strategic Partnerships, Mwita Rhobi. Photo courtesy of BancABC.**

branches in the country but also from more than 350 agents who are in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza," Rhobi noted.

BancABC accounts are also linked to all mobile money platforms in the country hence clients can transact using their smartphones.

## Citi set to begin disclosure of emissions tied to its loans

NEW YORK

CITIGROUP, one of the biggest lenders to energy companies, said it will measure and disclose emissions tied to its massive lending portfolio and is working to finance \$250 billion of sustainable activities by 2025 after reaching an earlier goal four years ahead of schedule.

The new goal includes financing or advancing initiatives such as clean technology, water conservation or sustainable agriculture, the New York-based lender said in a statement on Wednesday. Citigroup also said it is on track to power its own facilities using only renewable electricity by year-end.

"What gives us confidence in terms of setting very ambitious targets is, if you look at our banking, capital markets and advisory business, they formed big groups around this," chief executive Mike Corbat said in an interview. "It's not the firm pushing something top-down, this is now percolating within the businesses."

Under Mr Corbat, Citigroup has sought to pivot toward more climate-friendly industries. The firm promoted Val Smith to the new role of chief sustainability officer last year and in recent months announced it would stop providing financial services to thermal coal-mining companies over the next 10 years to help accelerate the economy's shift away from fossil fuels.

"Val used to have to go out and have to scream from the mountaintops to get people to pay attention," Mr Corbat said. "Today, the trouble is she's got so many people coming at her." Citigroup announced in 2015 that it would seek to facilitate \$100bn of sustainable activities by 2023, and by last year it had already financed \$164bn. The latest goal adds to its previous efforts.

As part of its new strategy, the firm is also joining the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials, which requires financial institutions to measure the emissions tied to their lending portfolios. Citigroup has helped arrange about \$165bn of bonds and loans for energy companies, including solar, wind and other renewable producers, since the Paris climate accord was signed in late 2015, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Only JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo have helped provide more financing for corporate emitters.



**Serengeti Breweries Limited's managing director, Mark Ocitti (pictured) and Deloitte East Africa partner David Nchimbi have been named as directors of CEO Roundtable as announced by chairman, Sunjay Rughani in a statement. In our caption yesterday, we mistakenly referred to Ocitti as CEO chairman.**

## AB InBev, Heineken halt South Africa projects over booze ban

JOHANNESBURG

A DAY after Anheuser-Busch InBev SA unit South African Breweries said it's halted plans to spend R5 billion on scheduled plant upgrades, glass manufacturer Consol Holdings said it's suspending building a R1.5 billion production plant in the country. Heineken also confirmed Tuesday it's stopped work on a R6 billion brewery.

The announcements are a blow to President Cyril Ramaphosa's drive to lure \$100 billion in new investment to the country by the end of 2023. His administration is facing increasingly vocal criticism over the ban on liquor sales, which the government says it introduced to curb hospital admissions while it fights the coronavirus pandemic.

Pick n Pay Stores chairman Gareth Ackerman said at the grocer's annual general meeting on Tuesday that the alcohol prohibition, as well as a ban on the tobacco trade, have hurt sales and cash flow. Pick n Pay's shares have dropped 17% since mid-March, compared with a 3.5% gain on the FTSE/JSE Africa Food & Drug Retailers Index.

"The government has on several occasions reassured us that they are listening and consulting, but we see little evidence of this," he said. "We need government to take us into their confidence when it comes to decisions that affect us all."

South Africa is among a handful of countries globally that outlawed alcohol as part of an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19. The ban, initially imposed from March 27 to the end of

June and then reinstated in July, has cost the industry about 117,000 jobs, according to manufacturers.

The bans have come with "no explanation as to why South Africa is right and so many other countries are wrong," Ackerman said. "What explanations we have been given have been confusing and contradictory. And, sadly, everyone knows that tobacco and liquor remain readily available through the black market." Government data shows the alcohol moratorium cost the government R546 billion in lost revenue in the first three months of the financial year, compared with 2019-20.

### Operating uncertainty

The ban on sales has led to "significant operating uncertainty," SAB vice president of Finance Andrew Murray

said in a statement. The investments that were being considered included upgrades to operating facilities and systems, as well as the installation of new equipment.

Consol, the biggest glass manufacturer in Africa, said the alcoholic-beverage industry accounts for about 85% of sales in the glass-packaging industry. Consumption at restaurants and other hospitality venues – also barred under the government moratorium – comprises about 55% of alcohol consumption volumes, it said.

"The combined effect of Covid-19, the current alcohol ban, ongoing restrictions on on-premise consumption, and lost compound growth will see the South African glass industry decline by an estimated 15% over the next 12 months," it said.



## Dar agribusiness SMEs to benefit from TDB Bank's U\$1m financing

By The Banker Reporter

**S**MALL and medium size enterprises in agribusinesses in the country will benefit from a US\$1 million financing from Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB).

The statement released last week said TDS signed an initial four year senior cum mezzanine debt facility to be managed by Grassroots Business Fund (GBF), to finance agribusiness SMEs in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The facility will focus on women or youth-led missing middle SMEs operating in the agricultural sector with solid managerial foundations and high potential for social impact. The transaction is enhanced with a partial risk guarantee from African Guarantee Fund (AGF) of 50 percent with up to 75 percent in the case of women-led SMEs. "Rolling-out our SME Programme has enabled TDB to impact further a business segment which makes a massive contribution to the livelihoods of our peoples," said Admassu Tadesse, TDB President and Chief Executive.

Tadesse said the Nairobi based regional bank is delighted with the signing of the blended finance transaction with GBF and AGF, "Together with which we are implementing a targeted regional approach to increase our support to SMEs, which are central to the realization of sustainable development goals in East Africa and indeed, globally."

"Our programme is focused on exploring new innovative



TDB President and CEO Admassu Tadesse.

business models and products in the SME space," added Gloria Mamba, TDB Coverage Executive for Southern Africa.

The facility will be blended with two technical assistance contributions from TDB and AGF totalling US\$110,000 for the execution of mutually agreed upon co-funded investee capacity building activities. With the blend of mezzanine and senior debt, the technical assistance will be specifically focused on improving SMEs' financial management systems.

"We are all excited about this transaction with TDB and AGF, which serves to connect local businesses with domestic and international capital, markets, and business

development assistance," said GBF's CEO, Harold Rosen.

AGF's acting Group CEO, Jules Ngankam said, "Our objective as we issue this loan portfolio guarantee to Grassroots Business Fund is to mitigate the deterioration of SMEs' perceived risk. Agribusinesses in particular have been highly disrupted due to the imposed restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19."

In Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, agriculture contributes respectively to approximately 30 percent of gross domestic product, while employment provides, correspondingly, between 55 and 70 percent of all jobs, and as much as 77 percent of all female jobs.

Furthermore, the SME financing gap is valued in Sub-Saharan Africa at US\$331 billion for formal SMEs, including US\$49 billion for women entrepreneurs. It is indeed mostly access to finance, alongside other challenges, which hinders SMEs from flourishing and even surviving.

With emerging market SMEs contributing to up to 40 percent GDP and 70 percent of all employment, and both SMEs and agriculture featured high on each government's development agenda, transactions such as this one have the potential to meaningfully impact sustainable socio-economic development of targeted countries at grassroots levels.



UBA Group chairman Tony Elumelu.

## UBA extends \$200 million to petroleum industry in Nigeria

LAGOS

THE United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA), the leading pan-African financial services group, has acted as the lead arranger of a consortium of Nigerian commercial and international banks in a \$1.5 billion pre-export finance facility for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and its upstream subsidiary, the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC).

UBA is providing \$200 million (Naira equivalent) to support investment growth and liquidity requirements. The facility will provide much needed capital for investment in NNPC's production capacity, which is of strategic importance to the Nigerian economy and the country's leading source of foreign exchange earnings. UBA's position as lead arranger recognises the group's strength in structuring and deploying financing to the oil and gas sector, and the depth and liquidity of the Group's balance sheet.

The \$1.5 billion facility is structured in two tranches. The first tranche of \$1 billion, to be repaid over a period of five years, will be provided in dollars, with UBA acting as the facility agent bank. The second tranche of \$500 million, will be provided in local currency, over seven years, with UBA acting as lead bank, providing \$200 million in Naira equivalent.

Both facilities will be repaid from an allocation of 30,000 barrels per day of NPDC's crude oil. UBA has a strong track record in the resources sector across Africa, having facilitated oil prepayment deals with the NNPC, including its 2013 \$100 million participation in the PXF Funding Limited transaction, and a further \$60 million in the 2015 Phoenix

Export Funding Limited transaction. In Senegal, UBA was responsible for the EUR 240m revolving crude oil financing facility for the Société Africaine de Raffinage and in Congo Brazzaville co-funded the \$250m crude oil prepayment facility for Orion Oil Limited.

Other participants in the NNPC deal include Standard Chartered Bank, Afrexim Bank, Union Bank and two oil trading companies, Vitol and Matrix. Speaking on this most recent support for the Nigeria's petroleum industry, UBA Group Chairman, Tony Elumelu stated, "This has been one of the most economically challenging years that Nigeria has witnessed. With the sharp drop in the price of oil and the ensuing hardship that followed the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the private sector must come together and contribute meaningfully to the economy."

Elumelu added, "This facility is clear evidence of this - UBA is providing investment that will significantly improve Nigeria's production capacity and in doing so also demonstrating the strength, depth, and sophistication of our commercial banking capability. I believe that together, working with governments, we can create more jobs and more wealth for people, not only in Nigeria, but across Africa."

The United Bank for Africa is one of the largest employers in the financial sector on the African continent, with over 20,000 employees and serving over 20 million customers. UBA operates in 20 African countries and globally in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France, providing retail, commercial and institutional banking services, leading financial inclusion and implementing cutting edge technology.



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (R) speaks at NMB Bank Plc pavilion at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibition being held at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region yesterday. With him are Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (C) and NMB Western Zone Manager Sospeter Magesse. Photo courtesy of NMB.

## BPR introduces asset financing facility for SMEs and corporates

KIGALI

**S**MALL and Medium Enterprises and corporations seeking to acquire assets for operations now have it easier following the introduction of asset financing by Banque Populaire du Rwanda Plc (BPR Plc).

The new product by the lender is targeted towards facilitating established SME and corporate firms seeking moveable assets (machinery, vehicles, equipment, etc.) for commercial use and in order to expand their businesses.

The facility, the bank said, will be offered on terms favourable for businesses such as flexibility in repayment period (up to 60 months for new assets and 48 months for used as-

sets aged below 6 years). The financing covers up to 80 per cent for said assets with the maximum age of assets not exceeding six years. Among the eligibility terms include full insurance with a comprehensive policy on the acquired asset. The loan amount is disbursed directly to the seller of the assets or any other beneficiary.

The bank noted that the product was introduced with aims to ensure that businesses have access to assets and equipment that improve their capacity, profitability and performance. "The asset being financed should be used to improve the capacity and profitability of the existing business," the bank said.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the bank said that they are aiming at enabling businesses to acquire assets that will facilitate recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The terms of eligibility also include proof of being operational for at least three years with a positive operating profit at least for the last 2 years.

Businesses will be expected to present financial statements at least for the last 2

years as well as evidence of business income (Audited accounts, management accounts, business cash flow statements etc). The application process also includes review of proof of the value or cost of the asset as well as projections for at least the proposed duration of the loan.

This is one of many adjustments BPR has made in recent months to improve access to financial services for corporate and individual clients. In May this year, the bank adjusted its unsecured loans up to Rwf 15M from Rwf 6M previously a move that the bank says is in response to consumer demands and market trends.

The bank has also innovated further with the introduction of card-less transactions at Banque Populaire du Rwanda agent outlets (popularly known as BPR Hafi Agents). With the innovation, BPR clients registered on either mobile banking or internet banking can now use the 'izi cash' functionality without a debit card to generate a one-time password which can be used by the customer or someone they want to send money to at BPR Hafi Agents.

MARKETTRENDS

## StanChart bonus shares begin trading

NAIROBI

STANDARD Chartered Bank of Kenya on Tuesday issued an additional 34.3 million ordinary shares worth Sh5.3 billion on the Nairobi Securities Exchange, satisfying its bonus stock programme.

The lender had announced the bonus share plan to reward shareholders after halving its final dividend for the year ended December 2019 to Sh7.5 per share from the earlier declaration of Sh15 per share. It had paid an interim dividend of Sh5 per share on October 24, 2019.

StanChart said the slashing of the final dividend, which lowered the total payout to Sh12.5 per share from Sh20 per share, was done to preserve capital and prepare for uncertainties brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. The company said it had restructured loan facilities worth more than Sh22 billion as customers whose incomes have been hurt by the coronavirus disruption applied for financial relief.

StanChart initiated the bonus share plan to make up for the dividend cut (which has seen it save Sh2.5 billion), offering shareholders an opportunity to boost their cash returns by selling the additional stock on the Nairobi bourse. Stock brokers yesterday updated client accounts to reflect the bonus share which was implemented at a rate of one for every 10 shares held, according to NSE's market data.

The bonus shares have no impact on investors' stakes in the company. They are, however, expected to increase the stock's liquidity besides a potential price reset. StanChart capitalised Sh171.7 million to issue the bonus shares with a nominal or par value of Sh5 apiece.

The additional shares have raised the volume of outstanding stock to 377.8 million units from the previous 343.5 million units. They also lifted the company's market capitalisation to Sh58.4 billion yesterday compared to Sh53.1 billion on Monday.

The bonus shares and the final dividend accrued to investors who were on the register on April 27, 2020. The lender's parent company Standard Chartered Plc says it will not pay an interim dividend for the six months ended June 30, 2020 and it remains to be seen whether that policy will cascade to the local subsidiary.



# StanChart enhances platform to support government payments -1

**INTERVIEW with Christopher Vuhahula (pictured), Chief Operating Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania**

**The transition to the Government Electronic Payment Gateway platform, GePG, is now largely complete with all government payments being made via this platform. - How is your bank supporting this move?**

Firstly, let me start by highlighting the fact that the move to implementing GePG has significantly contributed in making the government payments process easy for clients. The GePG has resulted into the creation of a central platform through which all Government Agencies are connected. One must remember that there are about 600 Government Agencies and the centralization of the payment process therefore means an amalgamation of all the Agencies.

**And what does this amalgamation result in?**

Let me highlight two main advantages - firstly, the reconciliation process becomes more easier and time saving, and secondly, there's no room for errors. The system automatically validates the payment transactions and any errors result in the transaction being nullified. This fully eradicates the room for errors.

On the other hand, I am happy to note that this move ties in very

well with the Bank's Strategy of Digitization. We have invested a lot of resources in enhancing our Digital Capabilities both from a Banking Platforms perspective to our Digital Products and Services. We are moving from 'places where people go to Bank' to 'brands clients choose for financial transactions', which means clients will have more choice and banking will be more convenient.

In the light of the move towards GePG, which was announced in 2018, the Bank immediately started to make the infrastructural investments which were geared towards ensuring that our platforms were made compatible to the changes that were going to happen in the space and process of government payments. We worked very closely with the Authorities to understand the new processes and we are grateful for their support.

Specifically, for Tax Payments, Standard Chartered Bank processes about 20% of the country's tax collection. Previously our clients used our State-of-the-Art and Award Winning Straight2Bank platform, which was not only seamless but also ensured that there were no errors in the transactions given a thorough validation process.

**Tell us more about the solution and how your clients have adopted it this far?**

The Straight2Bank NextGen solution is an upgrade of our



award-winning suite of electronic channels that enable clients to securely and effectively run their cash management services which include government payments. Our clients can access the platform round the clock as long as they have registered with us for usage and have internet connection.

In this age of changes in technology, availability of a number of digital banking solutions and many competing priorities both from business and personal levels, the Straight2Bank NextGen platform has become an integral part of our clients' busi-

ness activities. With the Straight2Bank NextGen Solution our clients are able to make real-time credits to Government Institutions. As soon as the payment is made, the user receives an instant payment notification. In addition to being an end to end automated process thus avoiding human error, the Solution also has an auto-reconciliation capability that is linked to the government accounts thereby ensuring real-time reconciliation of payments.

I am also happy to highlight that Standard Chartered Bank is one of the first Banks to have

successfully complied with the changes on Government Payments as well as the recent TRA migration to GePG.

**As is with any technology or enhancements, there are usually some hiccups before stabilization. How are you ensuring a faster understanding of the changes and utilization by your clients?**

With every change there must be an investment in making the users, both internally and externally, understand the new platform(s). We have spent time with our staff from relevant departments who need to understand the changes made so as to ensure that they, too, support our clients in understanding the changes. We have also been running training sessions for our clients on the changes in addition to providing user-friendly step-by-step manuals to be used by clients.

We have also launched online training material with 'how-to' guides that help our clients to familiarize themselves and understand the changes. Also, in order to ensure that our clients go through the change smoothly, we had a team of staff members who were on standby to hand-hold our clients as they went through making their first transaction via the upgraded platform.

I must, however, highlight that the changes from Straight2Bank to Straight2Bank Next Gen are minimal and given that our clients were already used to the previous platform, it has not been a big challenge for the new platform to be understood and adopted. There has, therefore, not been any major issues from an operations' perspective.

**In your opinion, is the Tanzanian market ripe for more digitization in**

**financial services?**

Tanzania is on a different platform when it comes to digitization. It is one of the earliest countries to launch mobile money in 2007. According to one of the studies on Digital Finance in Tanzania, done by the Financial Services Deepening Trust, FSDT, upon the introduction of the mobile money platforms in the country in 2007, take up grew steadily to over 40 million registered accounts, and over 20 million active users by the end of 2016. In 2015, Tanzania accounted for a third of Mobile Money Accounts in East Africa, with individuals and organizations transacting the equivalent of over 50% of Tanzania's GDP each month.

One of the attributes to this growth was a relatively young population who were more likely to adopt new technology quickly. The demographic outlook is currently still the same. Based on the latest United Nations population data, 52 percent of Tanzanians are in the age bracket between 15 and 64. This, therefore, means a continued uptake in digital financial services.

I would also like to give a real example from our bank. In February last year we launched a Full Digital Bank on Mobile that enables users to open accounts fully via the SC Mobile Tanzania App. Within 16 months we have more than quadrupled the number of accounts that we originally had before the launch. This shows a growing understanding a leverage of digital banking capabilities by Tanzanians. In addition to that, currently over 90 percent of our clients' transactions are done digitally by both individual and corporate clients.

**Next: Part 2 of the interview**

## Indian banks tapping into gold-backed loans to boost lending

**MUMBAI**

INDIAN families, sitting on the world's biggest private stash of gold, are rushing to borrow against their jewelry as the precious metal rallies to records and the coronavirus pandemic fuels an economic downturn. Now, financial firms and banks are using that demand to lure more customers from pawnbrokers and money lenders.

The added competition could lower borrowing costs for Indian consumers, who in desperate moments of financial stress often pay exorbitant rates to informal lenders to use gold as collateral. Firms like HDFC Bank and Federal Bank are expanding the loans they make against the precious metal. India's gold lenders, such as Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance, are making it easier for their clients to borrow.

Manappuram is offering gold-backed loans at the customer's doorsteps through a 24-hour bank network since people are reluctant to leave their homes while coronavirus cases are surging in India. And it has staff and vehicles on standby to service client requests. HDFC Bank is boosting the number of branches offering such loans in rural India, where money lenders remain the norm.

The World Gold Council estimates that Indian households are sitting



India's market for gold lending is set to expand by at least 34 per cent to 4.6 trillion rupees.

on a \$1.5 trillion hoard of gold, the biggest of its kind, largely made up of jewelry, which families often inherit or are gifted at weddings. Gold is worn at special occasions and can contribute to a substantial portion of the marriage dowries of women. It also doubles up as an insurance policy and retirement plan in a nation lacking robust social welfare systems.

As a result, India's demand for gold-backed loans has only risen as its global price has approached \$2,000 an ounce, allowing families to borrow larger amounts against their holdings. Still, consultancy KPMG estimates that 65 per cent of India's \$46bn gold loan industry is dominated by informal

lenders, whose interest rates can range from 25 to 50 per cent. In many parts of India, particularly rural areas, the pawning of a woman's ornaments is often viewed as a last recourse for families who have run out of options.

"Conventionally the country has pawn shops at the end of every street and they have been mostly working with exorbitant margins," said Gnanasekar Thiagarajan, director at Commtrendz Risk Management Services. "A professional setup like the gold loan companies, who offer transparency and finer pricing are likely to see huge volumes to move from there."

Banks have long had a limited presence

in the gold loan industry but are attempting to make bigger inroads this year as other sources of income have dried up. They want to reach more consumers like Paul Fernandes, who pledged some of his wife's gold ornaments at a local bank in the coastal state of Goa to pay for his children's education fees in June.

Mr Fernandes, who worked as a head waiter on a cruise ship, hasn't drawn a salary in three months since his contract with a UK-based company expired in March and he had to return home. The quick loan was a lifeline.

"With no clarity when the cruise industry will revive after being grounded by the virus, I don't know how soon I will be able to work again," he said. "We have in the past borrowed against gold and it is our go-to option to tide over short-term cash needs rather than asking money from relatives."

Mr Fernandes, who declined to say which bank he borrowed from, said he is being charged an interest rate of 8.5 per cent. He chose to go to a bank instead of a pawnshop because banks are safer and charge lower interest rates.

He was asked for minimal documentation of only a national identity card and residence proof and the entire loan process took less than an hour.

Gold loans allow consumers to draw up to 75 per cent of the value of the metal. Banks can charge interest rates of about 7 to 15 per cent while Manappuram and Muthoot can charge rates from 12 to 29 per cent.

With transaction times to process gold loans falling to less than an hour and collateral that's easy to sell in the event of default, India's market for such lending is set to expand by at least 34 per cent to 4.6 trillion rupees (\$61bn) in two years to March 2022, according to an estimate by KPMG. Spot gold was 0.8 per cent lower at \$1,955 an ounce at 8:04 am in London, after hitting an all-time high of \$1,981.27 on Tuesday.

**BANKING & FINANCE**

## Decline in crude oil prices impacting on African economies

**By Sophia Kulaja**

ON April 20, 2020, the Business Insider reported that the world market for crude oil experienced a tremendous slump in prices. Excess supplies pushed the price per barrel from \$18 to negative \$40 in a span of hours. This was the lowest point in 18 years. The oil industry experienced booms and downfalls in the past but nothing compared to the latest case.

Tanzania's Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) price publication in June 2020, revealed a decline in world market prices by \$182.9/tonne and \$153/tonne for petrol and diesel respectively.

For the month of June 2020, pump prices in the country declined by 348/- (18.7 percent) and 300/- (16.2 percent) per litre of petrol and diesel respectively. The lowest regional prices being 1,520/- for petrol and 1,546/- for diesel. Currently, world price for crude oil is positive \$38 per barrel.

Since the novel Coronavirus was

declared a pandemic by World Health Organisation earlier this year, a number of economies across the globe experienced turns and twists. Business activities remained at a near standstill as a result of closure of factories, restricted driving, and declining usage of energy consuming products. These together with grounded flights amidst lockdowns, travel bans, and stay-at-home orders led to a significant decline in demand.

As it is for any other commodity, prices are influenced by demand and supply. Oil is traditionally a scarce commodity which customers are willing to pay more for, however over the years, technology played a huge role in ensuring producers can access oil at low cost and sell at affordable prices. As demand sharply falls while supply maintains its inelasticity, prices decline.

To salvage price decline, most producers embarked on curtailing production, however the attempt did not match the declining demand,



eventually leaving more supply. Storage facilities were saturated causing cost escalation without immediate demand.

Some governments believe this is a short-term challenge while for others, this could be a precursor to a possible recession of their economies. Africa is no exception, some of the largest

oil producers and exporters on the continent including Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt and Libya have been adversely impacted.

There are winners and losers. Winners include haulage companies that deal with the commercial transportation of goods, packaging industry that use crude oil in making plastics and farmers using fertilizers made from oil by-products. Operating airlines will be able to minimize fuel costs and users of private cars also benefit from the decline.

Losers include some of the governments which depend on oil revenues. Oil is one of the strategic commodities and some economies depend on oil revenues to balance their budgets. A lot less revenues are likely to be collected from oil sales and taxes. This has started to have adverse consequences on countries whose currencies have a high dependency on oil exports to drive economic growth.

Investors within the oil industry now earn less and face potential

losses. Jobs and the future of the industry is at stake. The recent renewable upsurge could be threatened if consumers decide to switch to cheaper oil energy alternatives. We are already seeing deflation of currencies, as expenditure slows down monumentally; while consumers are waiting for lowest prices, suppliers respond by dropping down prices.

Oil prices also affect the natural gas price. Other factors include among others; refinery costs, distribution costs, tariffs and margins.

The industry has been volatile, with the world's natural gas prices dropping from \$280 per metric tonne in March to \$123 per metric tonne in April and \$149 per metric tonne in May.

The combination of price war and the pandemic has kept the price of natural gas below the March price by almost 50 percent.

Companies within the energy industry need to take into account the impact of the price cuts on their cash flow projections and possible operational and supply chain disruptions.

**NB:** Sophia Kulaja (pictured) is an audit senior at KPMG Advisory Limited. The views expressed here.



## WORLD

## Beirut reels from huge blast, as death toll climbs to at least 100

## BEIRUT

LEBANESE rescue workers dug through the mangled wreckage of buildings yesterday looking for survivors after a massive warehouse explosion sent a devastating blast wave across Beirut, killing at least 100 people and injuring nearly 4,000.

Officials said the toll was expected to rise after Tuesday's blast at port warehouses that stored highly explosive material.

The blast was the most powerful ever to rip through Beirut, a city still scarred by civil war three decades ago and reeling from an economic meltdown and a surge in coronavirus infections.

It sent a mushroom cloud into the sky and rattled windows on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, about 100 miles (160 km) away.

President Michel Aoun said 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, used in fertilisers and bombs, had been stored for six years at the port without safety measures.

He told the nation the government was "determined to investigate and expose what happened as soon as possible, to hold the responsible and the negligent accountable, and to sanction

them with the most severe punishment."

An official source familiar with preliminary investigations blamed the incident on "inaction and negligence", saying nothing was done "by committees and judges to order the removal of hazardous material."

Ordinary Lebanese, who have lost jobs and watched savings evaporate in Lebanon's financial crisis, blamed politicians who have overseen decades of state corruption and bad governance.

"This is a catastrophe for Beirut and Lebanon," Beirut's mayor, Jamal Itani, told Reuters while inspecting damage he estimated ran into billions of dollars.

The head of Lebanon's Red Cross, George Kettani, said at least 100 people were killed and search efforts continued.

## TRACING THE MISSING

Relatives gathered at the cordon to Beirut port seeking information on missing relatives, Lebanon's MTV footage showed.

The intensity of the blast threw victims into the sea where rescue teams tried to recover bodies. Many of those killed were port and custom employees and people working in the area or



Lebanese firefighters work at the scene of an explosion in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Tuesday. (AFP)

driving through during the Tuesday evening rush hour.

The Red Cross was coordinating with the Health Ministry to set up morgues because hospitals were overwhelmed, Kettani said.

Sara, a nurse in Beirut's Clemenceau Medical Center, described scenes at her hospital after the blast as "like a slaughterhouse, blood covering the corridors and the lifts".

Facades of central Beirut buildings were ripped off, furniture was sucked into streets and roads were strewn with glass and debris. Cars near the port were flipped over.

"This is the killer blow for Beirut, we are a disaster zone. My building shuddered, I thought it was an earthquake," said Bilal, a man in his 60s, in the downtown area.

Like others, he blamed the political elite, "Who will compensate for those who lost their loved ones," he said, describing politicians as "thieves and looters" for driving Lebanon into economic crisis.

Officers of international support poured in. Gulf Arab states, who in the past were major financial supporters of Lebanon but recently stepped back because of what they say is Iranian meddling, sent planes with medical equipment and other supplies. Iran offered food and a field hospital, ISNA news agency said.

The United States, Britain, France and other Western nations, which have been demanding political change in Lebanon, also offered help. The

Netherlands said it was sending doctors, nurses and specialised search and rescue teams.

## 'CRIME AGAINST THE PEOPLE'

"This explosion seals the collapse of Lebanon. I really blame the ruling class," said Hassan Zaiter, 32, a manager at the heavily damaged Le Gray Hotel in downtown Beirut.

For many it was a dreadful reminder of the 1975 to 1990 civil war that tore the nation apart and destroyed swathes of Beirut, much of which had been rebuilt.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab promised to hold people to account, but Beirut driver Abou Khaled said Diab "and his ministers are the first that should be held accountable for this disaster. They committed a crime against the people of this nation with their negligence."

Officials did not say what caused the initial blaze at the port that set off the blast. A security source and media said it was started by welding work being carried out on a warehouse.

The port district was left a tangled wreck, disabling the nation's main route for imports needed to feed a nation of more than 6 million people. Lebanon has already been struggling to house and feed hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria.

The U.S. embassy, which moved to another part of Beirut after a bomb attack struck its original waterfront embassy in 1983, warned about reports of toxic gases released by the port blast. **Agencies**

## China economic rebound better than expected - WB official

## BEIJING

CHINA'S economic rebound was better than expected in the second quarter (Q2) amid the COVID-19 epidemic, said a World Bank official.

"It is indeed higher than what we had projected back in June when we released our Global Economic Prospects report, and we have upgraded our forecast accordingly," Martin Raiser, World Bank country director for China, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

China's economy grew 3.2 percent year on year in the second quarter, following a 6.8-percent contraction in the first quarter, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

NBS figures showed that China's value-added industrial output expanded by 4.4 percent year on year in the second quarter as factories stepped up production amid COVID-19 control. Indicators such as fiscal revenue, foreign trade and foreign direct investment also charted



substantial recovery, especially in June.

China has benefited from significant policy space in rolling out its fiscal and monetary response, Raiser said.

To shore up the economy against the epidemic shock, the country has introduced an array of measures, including more fiscal spending, tax relief and cuts in lending rates and banks' reserve requirements to revive the coronavirus-ravaged economy and support employment.

"Structural reforms to boost mar-

kets and competition would also help to stimulate more private investment and rekindle productivity growth," Raiser said.

It will be critical that global trade and investment remain open, countries cooperate in the search for effective treatments and a vaccine against COVID-19, and further steps are taken to cushion the impact of the global recession on the poorest countries, including where needed, through debt relief, Raiser added. **Xinhua**

## Growing Russia-US mistrust will trigger arms deployment in space - expert

## MOSCOW

THE world's leading powers could start deploying arms in outer space in the near future due to current mistrust in the security field, head of military and political research at the Institute for US and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Pavel Zolotaryov told an online conference yesterday.

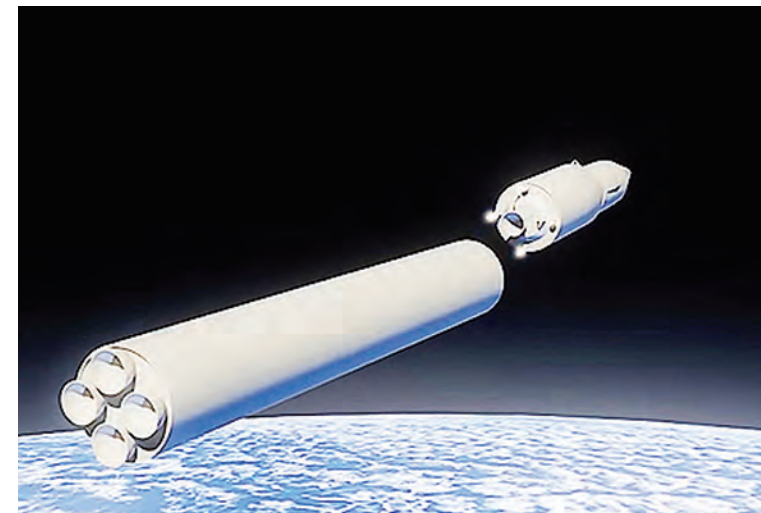
"As for arms deployment in outer space, this prospect is unfortunately clearly seen. Both the Russian and US sides understand that this is a very dangerous stage, both sides don't want this process to begin," the expert noted. "How-

ever, the level of mutual mistrust is so high that due to the lack of information, suspicions and distrust it's highly likely that this process could start in the near future unless certain measures are taken."

According to the expert, rivalry is growing in outer space, including in terms of dividing orbits and frequencies. "Any developed state seeks to have its own space component."

The entire global information field is based on the potential of using outer space, Zolotaryov said. "Each state, which possesses space systems, depends on them to a great extent."

Their failure could trigger dis-



astrous consequences on the ground, including in the financial

field and global banking," he said.

Outer space has not been divided among states, Zolotaryov noted. "The countries' opportunities differ and anyone could bungle things. It's always easier to spoil than to create something. Hence, there are US concerns over the situation in outer space. They have been whipping up these concerns for a long time."

According to the analyst, in order to prevent arms deployment in outer space Moscow and Washington instead of mutual accusations should look for ways to reduce mistrust and develop mechanisms of collective monitoring of the situation in outer space. **Agencies**

## Critic calls Washington's TikTok move 'mafia' deal

## BEIJING

TIKTOK'S roller-coaster ride in the United States continued on Monday as President Donald Trump said he would approve the video-sharing app's sale to Microsoft only if the US government gets a cut, a condition that one expert called a "mafia" deal.

The president also gave Microsoft and TikTok's Chinese owner, ByteDance, a deadline of Sept 15 to complete the deal, or the app will be banned in the US.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a regular media briefing in Beijing on Tuesday that the US treatment of TikTok is "outright bullying", and the US only uses a "national security risk" as an excuse to suppress Chinese tech enterprises.

"The relevant enterprises carry out business activities in the US following market principles and international rules and abiding by local laws and regulations," he said. "However, the US has set restrictions and suppressed them with unwarranted charges, which is political manipulation."

Wang said that if the wrongdoing by the US continues, then any country could take similar measures against any American enterprise on the grounds of national security.

"The US side must not open this Pandora's box, otherwise it will suffer its consequences," he said.

The increased scrutiny of TikTok culminated on Friday when Trump threatened to ban the app from operating in the US due to a "national security risk". The negotiations between the two companies were then halted.

But after a weekend phone call with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Trump reversed his stance and reportedly gave the two companies 45 days to close the deal. This was confirmed by Microsoft on Sunday, which said in a statement it "will move quickly to pursue discussions" with ByteDance and complete the talks "no later than" Sept 15.

The president added a condition to the potential purchase on Monday: Microsoft should buy TikTok outright, and the US Treasury Department should be paid because the government made the deal possible.

"It's a little bit like the landlord/tenant; without a lease the tenant has nothing, so they pay what's called 'key money', or they pay something," Trump told reporters in the Cabinet Room at the White House on Monday. "But the United States should be reimbursed or should be paid a substantial amount of money, because, without the United States, they don't have anything."

Investors in privately owned ByteDance valued TikTok at US\$50 billion, according to a Reuters report.

Kai-Fu Lee, former chairman of Google China, said the US treatment of TikTok, including "forced acquisition, plus only 45 days, plus finder's fees", is "incredible".

Lee said that China has set clear rules for internet companies that want to operate in the country, and Google had decided to exit as it didn't want to comply with Chinese laws and regulations.

"The US didn't give any parameters that TikTok could work with, and didn't provide any evidence for their claims that TikTok had caused national security risks to the US," he said.

The legal basis of Trump's requirement that some of the money from the deal go to the US Treasury was immediately questioned by experts.

"This is quite unusual; this is out of the norm," Gene Kimmelman, a former chief counsel for the US Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, told CNN.

"It's actually quite hard to understand what the president is actually talking about here... It's not unheard of for transactions to have broader geopolitical implications between countries, but it's quite remarkable to think about some kind of money being on the table in connection with a transaction," said Kimmelman, a senior adviser to the policy group Public Knowledge.

Julian Sanchez, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute, a think tank based in Washington, D.C., said Trump's "extortion threat" is a "mafia business model".

"Trump's full explanation of why the Treasury should get a 'cut' of a Microsoft/TikTok deal is, somehow, even more grotesque and shameless than I had anticipated," said Sanchez.



## It's legitimate for China to order closure of US Consulate General in Chengdu

THE US on July 21 launched a unilateral provocation by abruptly demanding that China close its Consulate General in Houston. The US move seriously breached international law, the basic norms of international relations, and the terms of the China-US Consular Convention. It gravely harmed China-US relations.

It's impolite not to make a return for what one receives. On the morning of July 24, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China informed the US Embassy in China of its decision to withdraw its consent for the

establishment and operation of the US Consulate General in Chengdu. The Ministry also made specific requirements on the ceasing of all operations and events by the Consulate General.

The measure taken by China is a legitimate and necessary response to the unjustified act by the US. It conforms with international law, the basic norms of international relations, and customary diplomatic practices.

The crazy McCarthyism acted by the U.S. has led the country farther and farther on the wrong path of seeking confront-

ation.

For some time, the US government has been shifting the blame to China with stigmatization and unwarranted attacks against China's social system, harassing Chinese diplomatic and consular staff in the US, intimidating and interrogating Chinese students and seizing their personal electronic devices, even detaining them without cause.

The unilateral closure of China's consulate general in Houston on short notice is an unprecedented escalation of its recent actions against China.

The international community believes that the U.S. practices to worsen its relationship with China will bring serious impacts on world politics and economy.

China is committed to the principle of non-interference in other countries' domestic affairs. Infiltration and interference is never in the genes and tradition of China's foreign policy.

Chinese diplomatic missions in the US are dedicated to advancing the two peoples' mutual understanding and friendship. Pursuant to the Vienna

Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, China provides convenience for US diplomatic missions and personnel in China. The U.S. accusations on China are totally groundless.

However, the US has imposed restrictions on Chinese diplomatic personnel in the US twice without cause, in last October and this June respectively. It opened without permission Chinese diplomatic pouches multiple times, and seized Chinese items for official use.

As the US flagrantly drums

up stigmatization and fans hatred against China, the Chinese Embassy in the US recently has even received bomb and death threats on Chinese diplomatic missions and personnel in the US.

And the US embassy constantly publishes on its website articles smearing China. If we compare the two, it is only too evident which is engaged in interference, infiltration and confrontation.

The US claims lack of reciprocity in relations with China. This is just its old ploy that's completely unjustified. As a

matter of fact, the US far outnumbered China when it comes to diplomatic missions and staff in each other's country.

The current situation in China-US relations is not what China desires to see, and the US is responsible for all this. Any provocation that runs counter to justice is doomed to come to an ugly end.

The US shall immediately retract its wrong decision and create necessary conditions for bringing the bilateral relationship back on track.



# Hong Kong residents voice support for postponement of LegCo election

HONG KONG

HONG KONG residents have voiced support for the postponement of the 2020 Legislative Council (LegCo) election amid a grave COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong.

Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Carrie Lam announced on Friday the decision to postpone for a year the election originally slated in September.

As Hong Kong has reported more than 3,500 infections and 37 deaths, the election, if held as scheduled, will likely boost the risk of infection as the event could involve as many as 4.4 million registered voters and 34,000 election staff.

"The postponement is for our health and safety," said a resident surnamed Ko, who is a safeguard of a residential block in Hong Kong Island.

With hundreds of people entering and exiting every day, two dwellers in the area that Ko is responsible for have been infected with coronavirus, he said. "Not to mention the LegCo election. The risk will be very high as millions of voters will come to the streets."

The government must have considered carefully and had no choice but to postpone the election, Ko said. "Both my wife and I support the government decision. Health and safety

must come be the first priority."

As the epidemic showed no signs of abating, the financial company that Chun, a clerk in Hong Kong, worked for, has encouraged its employees to work at home.

From promotion campaigns to voting and ballot count, many activities of the election are likely to compound the spread of COVID-19, Chun said, stressing that the postponement is necessary to push Hong Kong economy back on track and ensure the safety of residents.

Weighed on by the epidemic, the combined income of restaurants fell sharply by 25.9 percent year on year in the second quarter and retail sales declined 33.3 percent in the first half from a year ago, official data showed.

Only after the epidemic is under control, people will go out to dine and shop and the catering and retail sectors and the wider economy will start to recover, a resident surnamed Lee said. "The HKSAR government is doing actively and wisely to cut transmission chains and avoid public gatherings."

Wong Tai Sin District was one of the hardest-hit areas amid the latest wave of COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong. So Ka-Lok, a community organizer of Choi Hung Estate in the district, said there had been 22 confirmed cases in the community and he worried about the worsening epidemic situation.

Given expected gatherings during



Staff members work at a makeshift hospital for COVID-19 patients at the AsiaWorld-Expo in south China's Hong Kong on Aug. 1, 2020. (Xinhua)

the election, no one can guarantee that voters will not be infected, So said.

As some voters currently stranded in the mainland or overseas can not return to Hong Kong, their rights would be damaged if the election was held as planned, he added.

An organization named Hong Kong Community Anti-Coronavirus Link

has collected more than 850,000 signatures online since last Friday to show support for the government decision to postpone the election for a year.

Observers also believe the deferment is proper as the election, which will lead to frequent gatherings and dense crowds, can only be held af-

ter an effective mechanism to trace and cut transmission chains is put in place.

With the one-year buffer period, Hong Kong will be able to build such a mechanism and focus on containing the COVID-19 spread and reviving the economy, observers said.

Xinhua

# Joe Biden unveils quarter-billion-dollar campaign advertising blitz

NEW YORK



DEMOCRAT Joe Biden's presidential campaign will blanket television and social media with US\$280 million in advertising by Election Day, the campaign announced on Wednesday, more than his rival's campaign has spent in total since 2017.

The hefty advertising across 15 states marks a sharp increase for the former vice president, who once struggled to find money during his party's primary and only aired his first general election ad blitz in June.

Trump has reserved nearly US\$150 million in television ads across 11 states so far for the fall, according to media research companies. To date, Trump has significantly out-spent Biden on Facebook, Google and on television.

The new Biden ad reservations, which include US\$60 million allocated to digital ads, would exhaust all of the US\$242 million his campaign reported having available to spend last month and all but guarantee that the Trump-Biden showdown will be the most expensive US election in history.

National polls showing Biden ahead of Trump have given the campaign new confidence, as did the US\$282.1 million in cash they and their Democratic allies collected from donors from April to June, the first time they out-raised Trump over a full quarter. The states where Biden will advertise include key swing states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as Republican-leaning states that the campaign hopes to put in play this fall, such as Arizona and Georgia.

The list reflects the campaign's intent to go "on offense," campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon told reporters. The ads will show Biden as an empathetic leader, in contrast to his opponent, she added.

"This election is a clear referendum on Donald Trump and his failed leadership on COVID and also on the economy," she told reporters.

Trump ran an insurgent campaign largely relying on free media coverage in 2016. But his re-election campaign, which started in 2017, has spent US\$237 million so far, running attack ads against Biden even before he clinched his party's nomination. **Agencies**

# Spain's ex-king told friends his exit is only temporary, papers say

MADRID

FORMER king Juan Carlos's sudden exit is only temporary, he told friends from aboard a jet carrying him away from Spain, La Vanguardia newspaper reported yesterday, as confusion mounted over the ex-monarch's plans.

"I'm not on holiday and I'm not abandoning Spain. This is just a parenthesis," he said in a message to friends, according to the newspaper.

Dogged by allegations of corruption, Juan Carlos decided to leave Spain to

prevent his personal affairs from overshadowing his son King Felipe's reign, the royal palace said on Monday, stunning Spaniards.

But, with no official confirmation of the 82-year-old's whereabouts, speculation remains rife. El Pais, also reporting that the former king told friends his departure would be temporary, added: "Others, in the government, think it won't be that easy."

Juan Carlos came to the throne in 1975 after the death of General Francisco Franco and was widely respected for his role in help-



ing guide Spain from dictatorship to democracy, but recent scandals have tarnished his image.

News of the former monarch's exit is continuing to make huge waves at home.

An online petition to change the name of Madrid's King Juan Carlos university had racked up more than 39,000 signatures on Wednesday morning.

"Corruption cases surrounding the Royal Family keep appearing, torpedoing the image of a monarchy that had been presented to us as 'wholesome' and 'humble'" the petition read.

Citing anonymous sources, El Pais and El Confidencial say Juan Carlos, who his keeping his title of King Emeritus, is in Portugal, where he spent part of his youth.

La Vanguardia and ABC newspapers report he travelled by car to Portugal before flying to the Dominican Republic where he is staying as the guest of a wealthy family.

But Dominican authorities told Reuters the king's last stay in the country was between Feb. 28 and March 2 and they had no information about a possible arrival.

A Royal Palace spokesman and a lawyer for Juan Carlos both said they had nothing to say. They have made no public comment beyond Monday's announcement of the king's departure.

In recent months, Swiss and Spanish prosecutors began investigating allegations of bribes relating to a high-speed rail contract.

READ MORE: Spain's Sanchez accepts mandate to form government

While Juan Carlos is not formally under investigation several details of the probes were leaked to the press, piling on the pressure for the king to take action to protect the monarchy. Through his lawyer Juan Carlos has repeatedly declined to comment on the case. **Agencies**

# Sudan rejects Ethiopian proposal on operation of Nile dam

KHARTOUM

SUDAN on Tuesday announced its rejection of an Ethiopian proposal regarding the filling and operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Sudan's Irrigation and Water Resources Ministry said in a statement.

Sudan rejected the Ethiopian proposal as it stipulates that an agreement should only be about the first phase of the filling of the GERD, while it links the agreement with reaching a comprehensive treaty regarding the Blue Nile water, according to the statement.

The ministry said Sudan regarded the proposal as a change in Ethiopia's position, which threatens the continuation of the tripartite talks between Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia.

The precondition for Sudan's participation in the Nile dam talks is that an agreement on the filling and operation of the GERD should not be linked with



reaching a treaty on the Blue Nile water, the ministry said.

It added that Sudanese Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Yasir Abbas sent a letter to South Africa's minister of international relations and cooperation concerning Ethiopia's changed stance.

It noted that Abbas thought a message from his Ethiopian counterpart on Tuesday

prompted "serious concerns regarding the course of the current talks, the progress achieved and the understandings reached."

"The Ethiopian proposal represents a great change in the Ethiopian stance and threatens the continuation of the talks led by the African Union," said Abbas, adding that the proposal constitutes a violation of

the Declaration of Principles signed by Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia in March, 2015.

According to the statement, the Sudanese minister warned against the risks the dam poses on Sudan and its people, which necessitate a comprehensive deal covering both the filling and operation of the GERD.

On Monday, Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia resumed a new round of talks on the filling and operation of the GERD.

South Africa, the current chair of the African Union, patronizes the GERD talks.

Ethiopia, which started building the US\$4-billion GERD in 2011, expects to produce over 6,000 megawatts of electricity to push the country's development.

Egypt, a downstream Nile Basin country that relies on the river for its fresh water, is concerned that the dam might affect its \$5.5-billion-cubic-meter annual share of the water resources. **Xinhua**

# Russia calls for investigation into leaks of UN reports on North Korea – deputy envoy

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA calls upon the UN Secretariat to investigate leaks of confidential expert reports about the compliance with UN Security Council sanctions on North Korea, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy said.

"We regret that the confidential report of the UN experts on the DPRK is likely to be leaked to the press again and strongly condemn such practices which may have serious consequences," Polyanskiy said.

"We call on UN to investigate every such incident and prevent them," he added.

A similar statement was issued by the Chinese embassy to the UN.

"China requests the Secretariat to take this issue seriously and avoid leakage in the future," Chinese diplomats said in a statement. "China has



Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

been completely and strictly implementing DPRK-related resolutions of the Security Council, and faithfully fulfilling its international obligations.

Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing a confidential report of independent UN experts, that, according to certain nations North Korea continues to pursue its nuclear weapons program and probably developed nuclear devices to fit ballistic missiles. Reuters did not specify the states that came for-

ward with those assertions. North Korea is currently under the strictest set of international sanctions.

The UN Security Council's Resolution 2397 passed in 2017 stipulates new restrictions on supplies of crude oil. Countries were required to expel all North Korean workers by the end of 2019. The restrictions came as Pyongyang continued developing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. **Agencies**

# China safeguards Xinjiang people's human rights by guaranteeing their well-being

By Makhdoom Babar

I'VE visited northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region for more than ten times since 2004. The region has beautiful scenery, abundant natural resources, and friendly people. I've made many friends there.

There was a time when terrorist, separatist and extremist forces had caused huge damage to the stability and development of Xinjiang, and posed grave threats to the safety of people's lives and property.

I visited the region again upon invitation last year, and I was gratified to see all kinds of positive changes there.

I saw busy streets with endless streams of cars and people. Modern hospitals, well-equipped schools, and fashionable shopping malls were seen everywhere.

The great social order and the significantly improved security presented the region's vitality, showing the rapid development of Xinjiang.

What impressed me most was Chinese government's firm determination to support Xinjiang's development and safeguard the stable life for people there.

The central government of China has made great efforts to encourage talents across the country to work in Xinjiang and attract outstanding enterprises to invest and build factories there, which has quickly boosted Xinjiang's construction and development.

In recent years, Xinjiang has created massive jobs for local people, and actively carried out



Photo shows a volunteer, who is also a member of Communist Party of China (CPC), measuring blood pressure of a senior citizen in Ersheilidian village, Ersheilidian township, Hutubi county, Changji Hui autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, July 22. (File photo)

poverty alleviation. Fruitful results have been achieved. In Kashgar, I met an old Uyghur

friend running business of traditional instruments. He told me that the local residents were obvi-

ously enjoying a stronger sense of gain, happiness and security.

Everyone cherishes the harmonious society featuring stable development and solidarity. He said. His remarks inspired me, and I thought to myself, "Don't the endeavors to safeguard people's well-being also give a guarantee of their human rights?"

At present, certain politicians in the U.S. are trying to make troubles for the bilateral ties between the two countries to serve political needs of their country. While protecting human rights and freedoms are only a disguise, what they really aim at is to seize political interests.

By withdrawing from international treaties and organizations

frequently, the U.S. is sabotaging the international order established after the World War . The country's hegemonic acts have posed serious threats to world peace and stability.

As the world is increasingly globalized, those who attempt to prettify or even glorify violence will eat their own bitter fruit sooner or later.

Not long ago, the U.S. has witnessed extensive protests against police brutality, which revealed its deep-rooted racial discrimination. The U.S. must face its own human rights issues.

The measures Chinese government has taken to fight terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law in Xinjiang

have yielded remarkable results. These measures are indispensable for guaranteeing the region's stability and prosperity.

Terrorism and extremism are the common enemies of mankind and pose severe threats to human rights. It's a common responsibility of the international community to combat criminal acts of terrorism and extremism.

Countries in the world should stand firm against such deeds as politicizing the human rights issue, playing double standards on human rights issues, and interfering in domestic affairs of other countries under the guise of protecting human rights.

People's Daily



The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (R) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of this year's National Boxing Championship's fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## 'Big Game Brooks' faces major test to his reputation

By DOUG FERGUSON

BROOKS Koepka now has gone more than a full year without winning, a drought he hasn't experienced since he was still new enough on the PGA Tour that his name was mistakenly pronounced "cupcake."

If it doesn't seem like a full year, that's because it really wasn't.

Three months were lost when he injured his left knee in October from slipping off a wet slab of concrete while walking off the tee at the CJ Cup in South Korea. Another three months were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Either way, the PGA Championship should be the perfect place to end it.

It's a major, and Koepka believes those are the easiest for him to win. He said that last year going into the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black, right before he set the major championship record for the lowest 36-hole score (128), built a seven-shot lead and held on to win.

And he doubled down on that belief Tuesday.

"Yeah, I still feel that way," Koepka said. "The way the golf course sets up eliminates pretty much half the guys. And then from there, half of those guys probably won't play well. Then from there, I feel like mentally I can beat the other half. So you've probably got 10 guys."

The math was a little off, but Koepka isn't about to get caught up in minutiae.

"I think that's why I've played so well is I break things down very easily," he said. "For some reason, people make golf a lot more complicated than it should be."

Golf has been more frustrating of late.

He closed with a 65 at the RBC Heritage to finish seventh and seemingly get some momentum, only it didn't work out that way. He withdrew the next week when his caddie received a positive coronavirus test. He missed the cut at Muirfield Village for the Workday Charity Open, shot 80 in the final round at the Memorial, and then missed the cut at the 3M Open.

Pete Cowen, one of his swing coaches, arrived from England and provided a spark as much with his words as any technical advice. Cowen wouldn't reveal what was said other than to use a British term that roughly translates to stop feeling sorry for yourself and get moving.

"He beat me up pretty good," Koepka said. "You get a little down, you play as bad as this, it's hard not to be a little bit down on yourself."

Koepka responded with a runner-up finish at the World Golf Championship last week, pulling within one shot of Justin Thomas with a 40-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, only to find the water with an aggressive play off the

tee.

Is one tournament enough?

Is his left knee good enough to make him the player that spent 38 straight weeks at No. 1 in the world?

This could be the ultimate measure.

Koepka might as well be known as "Big Game Brooks," when it comes to the majors. He has won them at a clip not seen since Tiger Woods. He went back-to-back in the U.S. Open. He went back-to-back in the PGA Championship. He has won four out of last 10 majors he played, missing two of them in that stretch with injuries.

No one has won three straight U.S. Opens since Willie Anderson a century ago, and Koepka nearly pulled it off until Gary Woodland delivered two clutch shots in the final hour at Pebble Beach last year. No one has won the PGA Championship three straight times in stroke play, and Walter Hagen (1924-27) is the only one to win more than two straight in match play.

That's the opportunity Koepka gets this week at the TPC Harding Park.

His recent form allows for some doubts. His confidence – his swagger – suggests he should not be overlooked. Koepka plays with a swoosh on his shirt and a chip on his shoulder.

He won his first major and still had some doubters because the 2017 U.S. Open was at wide-open Erin Hills that was all about smashing it off the tee. And then he repeated on an entirely different test at Shinnecock Hills. Koepka still felt slighted two months later when he was left off the list of players being interviewed for a PGA Championship promotion going into Bellerive. He set the PGA Championship scoring record that week.

It was only five years ago that Koepka first became exempt for all four majors. Since then, he has shot par or better in 74% of his rounds. He has not missed a cut in a major since 2013. He started that year on the Challenge Tour.

Ricky Elliott, his caddie since 2013, recalls getting asked if would work with Koepka at Oak Hill for the 2013 PGA Championship. He met him for the first time on the range.

"He's stripping these things," Elliott said, "and I'm like, 'Happy days.'"

Koepka speaks freely on any topic, though he showed some reservation when asked he felt like the best player on the planet – he has slipped to No. 6 in the world ranking – when he showed up at Harding Park.

"I feel very confident in myself. I don't know ... I think when you start saying it like that, I think you're putting expectations," he said. "I don't put any expectations on myself. Just go play golf exactly like I know how, and if I do that, then yeah, I probably should win."

Easy.

AP

## CAF Champions League preliminary round a slippery moment

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

EVEN as celebrations die down in Dar es Salaam and elsewhere in the country after city giants Simba SC grabbed both the Premier League trophy and the Federation Cup, it is as if their actual crowning awaits another stage. The 'pudding' to the premier league crown is participation in the Club Champions League of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which is a tricky assignment. Despite that in formalistic terms all champion clubs enter the league, in actual fact only a few directly enter, as the rest must pass through a preliminary round to determine teams that go to the group stage. By and large there is just one preliminary round where eliminations are conducted home and away matches to reach the group stage.

It is a little difficult to follow the reasoning for this structure of competition and how it was reached, but glancing at some online write ups on CAF competitions, it would appear that there is a problem with the sponsorship. The size of the sponsorship funds doesn't allow too many fixtures and thus the clubs are whittled down at a preliminary level until there are fewer, which are then arranged in several groups for a proper league format. What this means is really that CAF isn't in a position to organize a proper league for club champions, and can't see the urgency to restructure it so that every champion club is in a group.

That essentially is what clubs need, that they be removed from the competition after a significant and emotionally sufficient involvement in the tournament, not to play a home and away qualifying encounter. In the current format there is an impression that the champion clubs aren't good enough and so they need to be screened and put to play offs to determine who should actually join the tournament. This is contrary to national expectations and it is tantamount to treating Africa as a big country, where clubs are put to home and away eliminations to



Simba SC players jubilate after one of the squad's players had netted a goal in one of the just ended Vodacom Premier League clashes in Dar es Salaam. The side will represent Tanzania in the season's CAF Champions League.

select those who then participate in the championship tourney proper.

While online write ups on CAF competitions underline the sponsorship limitation, it appears that FIFA is another problem, namely that it lays little stress on the club championship. It isn't quite clear why this is the case but talking from the side road, one could say that FIFA is more interested in youth competitions and even in the fairly useless tournament of African Nations Championship (CHAN) for home-based players, which has little appeal across the continent. In that case the cash that could have been used to host proper groups from the start is spirited away to numerous youth competitions and a CHAN tournament, to the clear detriment of the Champions League, which is throttled to rapidly eliminate many countries' top sides.

That is what fans in the city are dreading – and some actually hating the idea – that Simba SC, though appearing to be a good side at the local level, could lose a preliminary round playoff and its winning the local premier league be

of little consequence as it was the case last year. What people actually want is a two-team participation in continental tournaments, the champ and runners in the premier league, with the Federation Cup winner a third slot, such that the champion side, as well as its nearest contender, have a continental or regional series of matches before leaving the tournaments. The current format is unhelpful.

At the same time, it is possible that the real problem is federation and ministerial officials wishing for scores of so-called tournaments where irrelevant teams are fielded, which have no grassroots base and accountability formats. In that case all sponsorship money in that regard is handed in lump sums to each national association, and they have a feast when such 'boom' arrives, to talk line loan-fetters higher learning students. The Club Champions League is far too well structured for their comfort, thus the poor regard they have for proper participation and elimination, not a two-match encounter by a luck draw, etc.

That is why it is hard to figure out when this disappointing format in the CAF Champions League will be put to an end, so that the development of young players is left to clubs and not via national sides, as it is clear that there is no continuity of being good youthful players and subsequently. Only at club level where players are promoted from academy to regular squad is that idea workable, otherwise the various CAF youth tournaments are little more than Boy Scouts excursions with a marginal impact on soccer in the continent. The centrality of youth teams is similar to local rules of limiting professional recruits so that local players get more exposure; ipso facto that sort of exposure would make CAF youths next superstars.

## Lions Academy cricketers bounce back in TCA Development League

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Academy all-rounder, Salum Jumbe, has heaped praises on the outfit's youthful batsman, Ashfaq Imtiaz, for spirited displays the latter put in the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League match between the side and Ilala Boys, which took place in the city early this week.

The clash ended with Lions Academy notching a 25-run victory over Ilala Boys and in the process putting their campaign back on track.

Jumbe, who was voted as the man of the match, opted to share his award with Imtiaz, which turned out to be a class gesture by the all-rounder who is currently one of promising cricketers in the country.

"We won the toss and elected to bat first as we have a good batting line up, however, things have not clicked for us in the past two matches as we would have liked," he disclosed.

"However I must add that we wouldn't have reached those runs without the contribution of the rookies Imtiaz and Adil Ayub."

"They followed instructions from the seniors well, which is the best quality of any up-and-coming player."

Lions Academy had won the toss and elected to bat in the encounter, which took place Anmadil Burhani oval, amassing 131 runs all out in 35.3 overs.

Jumbe, slotted in as a middle order batsman, had the best innings after notching 41 runs, which consisted of three boundaries and a six.

Fellow all-rounders, Athuman Siwa and Goodluck Andrew, chipped in with double digit scores to effectively contribute to the team's respectable score.

Siwa's spell had the batsman nailing a boundary and a six, whereas Andrew had a boundary in his spell at the crease.

Ashish Shah, Jay Hirwania and skipper, Arsalan Premji, took three wickets each for Ilala Boys as they studiously sought to prevent Lions Academy from posting an imposing score.

Premji, who bowled eight overs, had the most impressive stint out of the trio. He leaked 15 runs, had three maiden overs and ended with an economy rate of 1.88. Shah leaked 29 runs in 6.3 overs whereas Hirwania leaked 27 runs in eight overs.

Ilala Boys, in response, faltered in



Lions Academy's all-rounder, Salum Jumbe (L), pictured with the side's young player, Ashfaq Imtiaz, after the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League game pitting the team against Ilala Boys, which took place in city early this week. Jumbe shared the man of the match award, which he had received, with Imtiaz as the youngster had showcased spirited performance in the match. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS ACADEMY

their innings given they were skittled for 106 runs in 27.3 overs to suffer the loss.

They experienced a wobble in the early stages of the chase following below par performance by opening batsmen, Ivan Ismail and Kheel Suchak, who faced early dismissals.

Ismail could only manage nine runs prior to facing dismissal, as he was bowled by Jumbe. Suchak, who was dismissed by the same bowler via leg before wicket, ended with seven runs.

With Ilala Boys reeling at 24 runs after 24

overs and two dismissals, Premji stepped up to boost his squad's pursuit of successful chase with his 41 runs, which included five fours.

Hirwania and Shah recorded 15 runs and 11 runs respectively in what was so far meaningful contribution in the chase, which eventually ended in vain, given the middle and low order batsmen faced early exits.

Jumbe wrapped up his impressive all-round performance with a five-wicket haul, leaving 35 runs in seven overs.

Spinner Lazaro Festo was equally impressive, ending his spell with three wickets and leaking 31 runs in eight overs.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized league, which has sides locking horns in 40-over encounters, has brought together six teams, with a view to, among others, promoting cricket in the country.



# Champions League restart: Who has the edge?



Zinedine Zidane won three consecutive Champions League titles during his first spell as Real Madrid boss between 2016 and 2018 (AFP Photo)

By Ryan Bailey, Yahoo Sports

WITH Europe's premier domestic competition restarting this weekend in a condensed, single-elimination format, FC Yahoo ranks the remaining contenders.

## 12. Chelsea

Frank Lampard's Chelsea has spent the entire season proving the doubters wrong. With a transfer ban, a hole where star player Eden Hazard used to be, a slew of untested youth products and a manager with no experience at top-flight level, the Blues finished in fourth place and reached the FA Cup final.

However, they are an incredible long shot to reach the quarterfinal stage of this contest in Lisbon.

Lampard's side must visit Bayern Munich on Saturday, carrying a 3-0 deficit from an uninspired outing in the first leg at Stamford Bridge back in February. Not only is a comeback highly unlikely against a Bayern side that's looked imperious since the restart, but the task is made more impossible by an injury list that includes Pedro, Willian, N'Golo Kante, Cesar Azpilicueta and Christian Pulisic, the American star who's been terrific this summer.

There's a reason Chelsea is the rank outsider with the bookmakers (they're a phenomenal +20000 to win it all with BetMGM).

## 11. Lyon

Lyon heads to Turin on Friday with the advantage over Juventus, thanks to a surprise 1-0 win at the end of February that represented the Ligue 1 side's first Champions League knockout victory in over eight years.

That win, however, was likely down to Juventus' lack of chance creation, rather than their own domination (they had just 36% possession in that home game). Aside from a handful of friendlies, Lyon's only competitive game since March was last weekend's loss to Paris Saint-Germain in the Coupe de la Ligue final.

Rudi Garcia's team finished the shortened season seventh in the league, and they were inconsistent in the Champions League group stage. If Lyon somehow manages to fend off Juventus, they will certainly fall to either Barcelona or Napoli in the next round.

## 10. RB Leipzig

After leading the Bundesliga at the end of January, RB Leipzig fell off in the second half of the season. They failed to win a single home game after the restart, with the exception of a resounding 3-0 win over Tottenham that secured a quarterfinal berth against Atletico Madrid. This represents their deepest-ever run in Europe's top domestic competition.

Julian Nagelsmann's side has looked less dynamic in recent months and will be hampered by the absence of their top goalscorer Timo Werner, who was sold to Chelsea. (The Blues will not be able to field him either.)

The Germans are in the "weaker" side of the draw, and a date with either Atalanta or Paris Saint-Germain awaits in the quarterfinals. However, given their recent form and the sale of their star striker, a deep run seems unlikely.

## 9. Barcelona

Suffice to say, this has not been Barcelona's year. They ceded the league title to Real Madrid with a series of disappointing post-restart draws, they crashed out of the Copa del Rey in the quarterfinals, and they churned out a constant stream of chaos off the field.

Anything is possible if Lionel Messi is having a good day, but it would be fitting for Barca to finish the season with nothing to show for it.

They are fifth favorites to win the tournament outright (+900 at BetMGM), but that seems far too generous for a team that finished the season at a low point, who seem to have trouble with Quique Setien's high press, and who have an inconsistent midfield that will be without Sergio Busquets and Arturo Vidal. A rumored switch to a 3-5-2 formation does not speak to their stability and confidence.

A home win against Napoli this weekend may be possible, and even a 0-0 draw will see them through. However, it is likely that Bayern Munich will be waiting in the quarterfinals, where Barcelona's European quest will almost certainly conclude.

## 8. Napoli

Since the restart, Napoli has looked strong, finishing Serie A with a comprehensive win over Lazio last weekend. Manager Gennaro Gattuso's side also claimed the Coppa Italia, with impressive post-lockdown wins over Inter Milan and Juventus.

However, they must score at the Nou Camp on Saturday to stand a chance of progressing, and incisiveness in front of goal has not been a strength lately. An injury to striker Lorenzo Insigne certainly does not help matters.

Napoli has also kept only two clean sheets in the league since the restart, which might present an issue when coming up against Messi and his Catalan friends.

Gattuso's team has the quality to upset Barcelona, and there has seldom been a better time to do so. But they do not have the quality to overcome likely quarterfinal opponents Bayern Munich.

## 7. Juventus

Juve may have secured its ninth successive league title, but not in overly impressive fashion. Maurizio Sarri's men won only two of their final eight league games.

Relieving Max Allegri of his managerial duties after winning five straight league titles indicates the Italian giants' ambition. They've reached the Champions League final twice in the past five years, but still haven't won the competition since 1996.

As majority owners, the Agnelli family has taken drastic measures to win Europe again, such as gambling on a blockbuster deal for Cristiano Ronaldo. All attacking play funnels through the Portuguese superstar, who will need to help overturn the first-leg deficit against Lyon before a taxing quarterfinal against either Manchester City or his former employer Real Madrid.

Juventus is favored to advance past Lyon, but stands at a justifiably long +1600 with BetMGM to win the tournament.

## 6. Paris Saint-Germain

The perennial French champions are ranked in the top three of this tournament by most bookmakers. They may not have played a league game since March, but PSG has won two domestic cups in recent weeks and possesses one of the best squads in Europe.

However, they fall down these rankings

due to the lack of competitive games in recent months, injury concern for star striker Kylian Mbappe, and a recent tendency to falter when the going gets tough in the Champions League.

In quarterfinal opponent Atalanta, PSG faces one of the most thrilling and entertaining teams in the world right now. If they manage to clear that hurdle, Champions League juggernaut Atletico Madrid will likely await at the semifinal stage.

## 5. Real Madrid

It may surprise some to see Real Madrid so high up these rankings. After all, they head to the Etihad Stadium on Friday trailing Pep Guardiola's Manchester City by a 2-1 scoreline. The bookmakers place them as ninth favorites in a field of 12 (+2200 to win the tournament with BetMGM).

Having watched Real Madrid in recent months, this is baffling. They have powered their way to the La Liga title, often with clinical and narrow wins. With Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane in the back, Casemiro in the middle and Karim Benzema up front, their team has one of the best spines in the game.

And most crucially, this is a team designed to win European tournaments. Zinedine Zidane has done it three times as manager in the past five seasons.

It's odd to call Real Madrid a dark horse, but if they can turn around their tie with Manchester City, they can very easily win this tournament.

## 4. Atletico Madrid

Much like their more celebrated city counterparts, it is never wise to underestimate Atletico Madrid.

Atleti has continually featured in the latter stages of this tournament and booked a quarterfinal with RB Leipzig by virtue of eliminating reigning champions Liverpool in their own backyard.

Furthermore, Atleti hasn't lost since February. Diego Simeone's charges are heavy favorites to progress past RB Leipzig and will find themselves potentially in the final (once again) after 90 minutes against either PSG or Atalanta.

They may not have the defensive fortitude of seasons past, but discount Los Rojiblancos at your peril.

## 3. Atalanta

Hang on, what on earth is Atalanta doing so high in the rankings of a competition that seldom allows a smaller team to creep into its latter stages? Atalanta's home stadium is

so modest that they play Champions League home games at the nearby San Siro. Their crest looks like a shampoo label.

But in their first-ever Champions League campaign, Atalanta is the team the big boys secretly fear. They scored a staggering 98 goals in 2019-20, with seven players on the roster scoring 10 or more goals. They press high and furiously, they can unlock any defense, and their passing combinations can be dazzling. They are daunted by no one.

Their matchup with Paris Saint-Germain is poised to be the highlight of the quarterfinals, such will be the firepower on display. Nobody could have possibly predicted the Italians would come this far, so who says they can't go further? It's 2020, and stranger things have happened.

## 2. Manchester City

Pep Guardiola and Manchester City are favorites to win the Champions League, just as they were for most of last season.

They hold a 2-1 advantage over Real Madrid ahead of the tournament restart, they closed out the Premier League season in style with 21 goals in their final five matches, and they resoundingly defeated UEFA on the Away Lawyers Rule in the Court of Arbitration. Only an inexplicable FA Cup semifinal defeat to Arsenal blots their record in recent weeks.

City is magnificent, they are in good form and Guardiola is long overdue an appearance in another Champions League final.

There is, however, one team that is likely to stop that from happening.

## 1. Bayern Munich

Although they have very famously suffered at the hands of Chelsea in their home stadium in this competition, Bayern Munich will gently brush away the Blues when they conclude their Round of 16 tie on Saturday.

After that, one must feel sorry for any other team that gets in their way. The Bavarians are on a 17-game winning streak, they are looking to complete their second treble in eight years, and they boast striker Robert Lewandowski, who is the Champions League's top scorer with a mere 51 goals in all competitions this season.

Bayern have been breathtaking under Hansi Flick and they are Europe's most in-form team. A monthlong break in competitive action may work to their disadvantage, but a team that always seems to come back stronger after the German midseason break will likely take the time off in stride.

## Roles reversed as Guardiola seeks to follow trail blazed by Zidane

LONDON

ZINEDINE Zidane may never have been hired as Real Madrid coach but for the success of Pep Guardiola at Barcelona, but it is Guardiola who now must follow the Frenchman's example to complete his mission at Manchester City.

Zidane's Madrid travel to Manchester on Friday looking to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit from February as the Champions League resumes after a five-month coronavirus shutdown.

Much has changed since the sides last met. Then under pressure, Zidane, in his second spell in charge at the Bernabeu, has again interrupted Barca's dominance of La Liga with a run of 10 straight victories after Spanish football's return in June to take the title.

Even for the club where Champions League success matters more than anything else, the pressure is off Madrid as Zidane looks to protect his perfect record in the competition as a coach.

Three times he led Madrid to Champions League glory in his first spell in charge between 2016 and 2018 and Zidane is yet to be eliminated from the competition as a coach.

"When he has done what he has done, winning three Champions Leagues in a row, taking two La Liga titles from Barca when they -- in this decade -- have dominated this competition like no other club, it shows his ability," Guardiola told DAZN.

"Although people may not believe me because he is from Real Madrid, I am very happy that things are going well because it is very good for football that things go well for people like him."

- Barca blueprint -

When Zidane was first handed the Madrid job, they were aiming to copy the formula of their rivals in appointing a former midfielder great, who had only previously coached the club's youth team.

Guardiola won 14 trophies in four seasons at the Camp Nou between 2008 and 2012, including two

Champions Leagues.

League titles and cups have continued to flow for Guardiola at Bayern Munich and in Manchester, but he has not tasted success in Europe's elite club competition since 2011.

Despite winning two Premier League titles among six major trophies since arriving in England, Guardiola admitted earlier this season his time at City would be judged "a failure" if he did not win the Champions League.

The pressure on City has reduced since the first leg as their two-season ban from European competition was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, meaning this month is not their final chance for three years to end their wait to win the Champions League.

However, Guardiola has hinted they may never get a better chance, with the competition reduced to one-off matches for the quarterfinals and all on a neutral site behind closed doors in Lisbon.

The former Barca and Bayern boss has often lamented the lack of atmosphere generated by the City support on big European nights compared with the cauldrons of some of the continent's more intimidating arenas.

"Of course, we have the chance to fight (again next season) but the situation that we have is not coming back again," said Guardiola. "I think the big clubs don't miss these chances to try until the last effort they have in their bodies."

Finishing the job against Madrid would be a major milestone as City's first knockout victory against a former winner in nine seasons in the Champions League.

Zidane has repeatedly stated his belief that Guardiola is "the best coach in the world".

But after finishing 18 points behind Liverpool in the Premier League this season, it is the former Barca ball boy, player and manager who needs to do what Madrid have made a habit of -- transforming miserable domestic seasons into memorable Champions League triumphs.

AFP

## CAF Champions League semi-finals format changed a second time

JOHANNESBURG

THE CAF Champions League semi-finals format has been changed a second time with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) saying Tuesday they would be played over two legs.

Home-and-away matches between Raja Casablanca of Morocco and Zamalek of Egypt and Wydad Casablanca of Morocco and Al Ahly of Egypt was the original plan.

But CAF later announced that the semi-finals in the elite African club competition would become single matches in Cameroon port city Douala during September.

This plan had to be scrapped when Cameroon withdrew as hosts, citing the coronavirus pandemic and the possibility of seasonal downpours.

Egypt, Tunisia, 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar and the United Arab Emirates were reportedly interested in replacing Cameroon, but CAF has opted for a return to two-leg semi-

finals.

Raja and Wydad will stage the first legs on September 25 or 26 and then travel to Egypt for the return matches on October 2 or 3.

Should the title decider, provisionally scheduled for October 16 or 17, be an all-Moroccan or all-Egyptian affair, it will be played in the country of the finalists.

However, a neutral venue will be chosen if it involves one Moroccan and one Egyptian club, with countries having until August 15 to bid for the hosting rights.

- Tunis logical venue -

The 60,000-seat Stade Olympique on the outskirts of Tunis would be a logical neutral venue as the Tunisian capital is roughly halfway between Casablanca and Cairo.

CAF did not say whether spectators would be allowed to attend the semi-finals and final of a competition originally scheduled to finish three months ago.

AFP

## Solskjaer: Europa League trophy could be stepping stone to top

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer says victory in the Europa League could be a stepping stone to a new era of success for Manchester United.

United finished third in the Premier League after an impressive end to the coronavirus-interrupted season, meaning they will return to the Champions League next season.

The Old Trafford club look certain to book their place in the quarter-finals of the Europa League on Wednesday after winning the first leg of their last-16 tie against Austrian side LASK 5-0 in March.

Solskjaer said winning the first piece of silverware under his leadership would be "massive" in terms of forging a winning mentality.

"You can see that," the Norwegian told his pre-match press conference on Tuesday. "When Sir Alex (Ferguson) won the Premier League for the

first time that was the start of the Premier League era. It started with the FA Cup (in 1990).

"For me personally, when I won my first trophy as a player it made me more hungry because you saw the highs of it, how much it meant for everyone."

Solskjaer also referred to his success as a manager -- he won the first league title in Norwegian club Molde's history in 2011.

"That was the first time for the club in the 100-year history. Since then we've won it four times in about eight or nine years so it was a big change for that club and for me for this team as well if we can get our hands on a trophy, it's a big step forward."

- Sancho move? -

Solskjaer kept his cards close to his chest over the possible signing of Borussia Dortmund star Jadon Sancho.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Champions League restart:  
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## Simba SC now ropes in Coastal Union defender

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

COASTAL Union's central defender, Ibrahim Ally 'Ame', is rumoured to have joined Vodacom Premier League winners, Simba SC, penning a two-year deal.

Ally's agent, Issa Katanga, stated the defender signed the contract at one of Simba officials' office in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The agent said Ally was earlier on his way to signing for Yanga after he had left Zanzibar by boat, only to end up joining Simba.

"He had received a call from one of Yanga officials and had planned the trip to Dar es Salaam to seal the deal. I also received a call from the Yanga official directing me that we should meet to sign the contract," Katanga disclosed.

"I though was surprised that the official did not answer the call after I had attempted to call him, I later received a call from people who claimed to be Simba officials telling me I should head to city center to meet them."

Katanga said once he reached at the spot he found the officials had already reached agreement with the player to sign for Simba.

"I attempted to oppose the move in an effort to see to it he opts out of signing for the club so that I can take him to Yanga but my efforts ended in vain."

"I saw Ally had already decided to join Simba and I felt I should let him settle for what he has opted for, he went on to sign for the club."

Katanga pointed out he was informed by Simba officials that they had, for a long time, been looking to recruit him but they had waited for the conclusion the Federation Cup.

"I had communicated with some of Yanga officials to apologise for what has happened, given Ally had expected to seal contract with the side," he noted.

Ally had been a central defensive partner for Bakari Mwanyeto at Coastal Union and Yanga, who have already signed the latter, were seeking to rope in the former and build the partnership at their outfit.

Simba officials have yet to confirm the player's recruitment.

## Yanga ought to follow procedures in signing Abubakary, says Azam FC



Azam FC midfielder, Salum Abubakary. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Azam FC, have advised Yanga to follow procedures if the latter want to sign the former's midfielder Salum Abubakary.

Abubakary, who in football circles is known as 'Sure Boy', is linked to a move to the Jangwani Street based side.

But in an interview, Azam FC Information Officer, Thabit Zakaria, said the midfielder is extremely influential and important to them, therefore if any club, including Yanga, are interested in the midfielder's services they should follow the right procedures.

He said Azam FC is not blocking the player from playing anywhere he wants but procedures must be followed.

"Abubakary is an asset to the club, we cannot afford to lose him just like that, if there is any team interested in his services they must follow the right procedures which include meeting the management of our club," he said.

In the past few days, there have been reports linking the player to a move to Yanga who are in the process of rebuilding their team after playing second fiddle to their age old rivals Simba SC for three years in a row.

Yanga have so far released 14 players and, since the main transfer window opened, the Jangwani Street based outfit has been active on the market.

They have signed forward Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, left fullback Yassin Mustapha from Polisi Tanzania, central defender Bakari Mwanyeto from Coastal Union and midfielder Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar.

Abubakary, who is also a senior and utility player for the senior national team, Taifa Stars, had in the just ended season been a menace in the midfield.

## Annadil Burhani B edge Aga Khan SC B in 2020 Nasser Memorial Cricket League



Annadil Burhani Cricket Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

ANNADIL Burhani B cricketers have kept on putting pressure on the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A1's Group A leaders Aga Khan SC B, cruising to one-wicket victory over the latter in a thrilling clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The eventual winners have, consequently, amassed four points from three games to cling on to the second spot, posting victory in two and losing one match.

They have scored 525 runs, leaked 479 runs to notch net run rate of 0.2964.

Despite tying Annadil Burhani B on four points from two wins and one defeat, Aga Khan SC B still lead the rest of the pack in the group as they boast of a better net run rate.

They have a win percentage of 66.67 and have notched 578 runs and leaked 456 runs to post net run rate of 1.3082.

Union Sports Club and Gymkhana have been placed third and fourth respectively in Group A.

Top order batsmen showcased gritty displays at the crease as Aga Khan SC B raced to 191 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 30 overs once they were put

in to start batting by Annadil Burhani B.

Opening batsmen Arsalaan Premji and Akbar Khan made their presence felt at the crease, given they notched 28 runs and 26 runs respectively.

Premji blasted four fours, Khan ended with two fours and a six.

Dhruvit Mehta stepped up the outfit's quest for an imposing score with his 60 runs not out, which included eight fours.

Skipper Aahil Jasani and John Zablon ended with 14 runs and 13 runs respectively in their brief spells at the crease.

Aga Khan SC B's efforts to post an imposing figure were though hampered by a batting collapse the squad experienced after 20 overs.

Malik Alani closed out the innings with Mehta, posting seven runs not out. Annadil Burhani B's Murtaza Kaderbhai ended with most wickets in his team, posting three and leaking 19 runs in six overs.

The side's other experienced player, Mustafa Sulemanji, ended with two wickets and leaked 31 runs in six overs.

In response, Annadil Burhani B chased Aga Khan SC B's score zealously and ultimately claimed the win, dropping

nine wickets in 29.1 overs.

Opening batsman Alaqmar Shakir set the ball rolling, posting 37 runs which consisted of three fours and two sixes.

After a slight wobble, which had fellow opener Mufaddal Seifuddin facing early dismissal, Quresh Karimjee came on to notch 22 runs, which included two fours and a six.

Middle order batsman, Juzer Ghor, who was the outfit's batsman with the best innings, helped the team inch closer to successful chase, nailing 32 runs which included a boundary.

He was ably assisted by the in-form Kaderbhai that posted 23 runs which included two boundaries.

They experienced two more quick dismissals before Firoz Hatim Dahodwala and Mustafa Sulemanji eventually catapulted the squad to the successful chase.

Dahodwala notched 28 runs not out, which included three fours and a sixer, partnering Sulemanji, who recorded six runs not out.

Skipper Jassani ended his bowling spell with three wickets and leaked 33 runs in six overs for the losing side.

## AFC hires new Public Relations Officer

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA Football Club (AFC) members have appointed local journalist, Yasinta Amos Lukezo, to be the team's new Public Relations Officer effective from Tuesday.

Yasinta is a sports oriented scribe who writes for the Tanzania Standard Newspapers (TSN) publications of Daily News, Sunday News, Habari Leo and Spoti Leo, specializing on arena events reporting and entertainment features writing.

The journalist replaces former AFC spokesperson, Bahati Msilu, who was relieved of the post after falling out with the club management over issues that the outfit's officials did not disclose.

The AFC Chairperson, James Rugangila, revealed here that, after much discussions, the entire members of the outfit decided unanimously to appoint Yasinta to serve as the team's spokesperson.

Yasinta, Rugangila said, happens to know all forms of sports, she is dedicated and has been helpful in writing about sports and entertainment news from Arusha.

"At first I turned down the proposal, because in reality I have never worked as a spokesperson before, but after being persuaded eventually I accepted, now I intend to totally transform how people view the outfit," Yasinta said.

Speaking about the issue, Msilu, who usually works as a Master of Ceremony, said he accepted the decision of the team to change the Public Relations personality, saying he was planning to advance further in other fields of sports.

"People have been phoning in to demand to know what next, but I intend to explain my next move once I am ready," Msilu, who is also a presenter with one of the local radio stations in Arusha, noted.

The AFC settled for the sixth spot in Group B of this year's First Division League (FDL), which climaxed last month.

Gwambina FC of Mwanza, who led the group, won promotion to the next season's Mainland Premier League, as it is the case for Dodoma FC that led the FDL's Group A.

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## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV THURSDAY**

**MORNING @ 11:00**

**DADAZ.**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA!  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

**DADAZ** A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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