



## National Pg 2

Construction of PAPU Hqrs begins



## National Pg 3

Suspension of Mtwara land officer



## National Pg 4

Developing countries undertake reforms



Page 13

# Suspected Tanzanian faces life in prison for drugs haul

HONG KONG

A MAN from Tanzania is facing life imprisonment in Hong Kong after being found with cocaine upon arrival at the airport.

The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department said the 44-year-old man was found concealing 980 grams of cocaine pellets with a street price of USD128, 578.9 (over 200,000,000/-) in his body.

The man was the sixth suspected drug trafficker picked up at Hong Kong International Airport in a week. Customs officers seized more than HK\$14 million worth of cocaine in the previous five cases.

The suspect was intercepted during customs clearance on Monday. He had flown into the city from Tanzania via Ethiopia. The suspect was taken to a public hospital, where he discharged 980 grams of pellets of suspected cocaine.

A department spokesman said on Tuesday the drugs had an estimated street value of HK\$1 million.

"Initial investigation showed the drugs were for local consumption," he said. However, the spokesman did not clearly say whether the man is a Tanzanian national or citizen of



**The man was the sixth suspected drug trafficker picked up at Hong Kong International Airport in a week**

another country.

The man was arrested on suspicion of trafficking in a dangerous drug - an offence that carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a HK\$5 million fine.

On New Year's Eve, customs officers at the airport arrested a woman and seized 4.5kg of cocaine concealed in four boxes of chocolate in her backpack. She arrived from Dubai.

On New Year's Day, a man who arrived from Brazil via France was arrested after 4.4kg of cocaine was found in false compartments in his suitcase and briefcase.

Another man, who arrived from Ethiopia, was picked up on the same day. He had 1.2kg of cocaine concealed in his body.

The following day, customs officers arrested two men, who had flown in from Ethiopia, and seized 4kg of cocaine. According to the department, 3.2kg of the drug was found in a false compartment in check-in luggage of one of the pair. The other suspect had 800 grams of the drug concealed in his body.

Meanwhile, customs officers inspected a parcel arriving by air from Malaysia on Saturday and found 2kg of suspected methamphetamine hidden inside seven cans

TURN TO PAGE 2



The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Elius Mwakalinga greeting CRDB Bank CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela, after a meeting between the ministry and local contractors in Dodoma yesterday. The meeting was organized by the ministry to generate awareness, knowledge sharing and capacity building for local contractors to take a more active part in the major infrastructure projects being implemented in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# 'Register pupils, students without birth certificates'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PUPILS being admitted to Standard One will not be prevented to join school over lack of a birth certificate, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafu has affirmed.

The minister made the clarification during a tour of Bahi district in Dodoma region where he witnessed registration of primary school pupils and Form One students at various public schools.

He said there have been complaints from people across the country claiming that their children were being prevented from joining primary schools over lack of birth certificates.

"It should be noted that a birth certificate is the right of every child, but it shouldn't be a factor of barring them from being registered to join primary education. Headteachers must ensure all eligible children are registered as their parents complete procedures to acquire the document," he stated.

He insisted on headmasters to receive Form One students unconditionally, urging parents and guardians to ensure their children report to particular schools on time.

He warned teachers not to substitute the scrapped money contributions with foodstuffs such as maize, flour and beans.

He said the government is implementing a free education policy for basic education, thus no students should be compelled to make any type of contribution.

Bahi District Commissioner Mwanahamisi Munkunda said the district authorities had conducted a special campaign for under-five birth registration, which has increased the number of children with birth certificates.

"At least 2,712 children have been selected to join form one this month but the major problem in our district is shortage of classrooms and desks. We are

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Treasury: Jan 23 still dividends deadline

In November last year, President Magufuli received dividends and various contributions totaling 1.05tr/- from 79 companies, parastatals and other institutions out of 266 which were required to issue dividends and contributions, while 187 failed to do so

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FINANCE and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango yesterday vowed to sack top managements and board chairmen of parastatals, agencies and other government institutions who will not remit returns to the government by Tuesday, January 23.

Dr Mpango made the remarks in Dodoma after receiving 500bn/- cheques for dividends from 13 parastatals and other institutions. The minister's caution follows an earlier two-month ultimatum issued by President John Magufuli in November last year.

The minister praised parastatals, agencies and other government institutions for working on the president's order to remit dividends before the January 23rd deadline.

"Directors and top managements of the remaining 36 institutions, agencies and parastatals should voluntarily resign on the night of January 23rd,

2020 if they fail to remit dividends to the government. This serves as the last warning, I will not remind them anymore," he stated.

He gave an example of the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) which has for the first time issued a dividend to the government after 10 years of operations. He also urged universities to use the monies accumulated various researches to remit profits to the national treasury. The funds could be used issue loans to students in higher learning institutions, he remarked.

"Issuance of dividends was introduced by our former leaders knowing the government has injected monies in these parastatals and agencies, hence the need for every institution to pay dividends," he said, urging those institutions to enhance investments for more profits and dividend payments in the coming years.

Dr Mpango noted the government wants to reduce dependency on donor

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Minister ends 10-year tussle over ranch land

By Guardian Reporter, Ruvuma

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina has solved a 10-year old land conflict pitting more than 4,000 residents of Ngadinga village and the Hanga-Ngadinga Ranch run by the National Ranching Co. (NARCO) by taking from it 1,800 hectares for distributing to the residents for building, farming and livestock keeping.

The minister's step followed complaints from Ngadinga villagers over lack of settlements and farming land as the ranch occupies most village space, and the Namtumbo Wildlife Management Area.

The villagers said they were often arrested, have their dwellings and crops burned down as they looked for land.

In the past the 6,147 hectare NARCO ranch at Hanga was used to expand dairy cattle but since 1995 it wasn't operating and remained an

uninhabited forest.

Speaking at a public rally at the village in Gumbilo ward, Madaba District in Ruvuma Region during the minister's visit, the villagers said for many years they have been living in humiliation without help despite having referred the issue to the government.

Minister Mpina said after considerable complaints from the villagers, the ministry consulted with the Ruvuma regional authorities to have the village area surveyed and visible boundaries erected, setting aside 4,347 hectares for NARCO activities.

He called upon villagers living in Blocks No 2 and 14 to move on their own accord to make room for ranching.

Those who have grown crops in areas that remain with NARCO should wait for the harvest after which ought to move, he specified.

Herders in the blocks that are within the ranch are required to move to the Mhukuli Lilahi area after procedure

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >



Speaker Job Ndugai (2nd R) in a group photo with his counterparts attending the Commonwealth Speakers meeting and Parliamentary senior officers held in Ottawa, Canada yesterday. From right is Speaker of Ghana, Michael Oquaye, Speaker of Uganda, Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of Kenya Justin Muturi, Speaker of Isle of Man Juan Peterson and Speaker of the House of Keys Isle of Man, Steve Rodan. Photo: Parliament

## 'Register pupils, students without birth certificates'

FROM PAGE 1

still working to address the challenge," she said.

John Lauren, headteacher at Mkakatika Primary School said they aim to enroll 180 children to join

standard one. "With children who do not have birth certificates we use clinic cards to get important information. So far we have registered a total of 134 children," he said.

The government issued Circular

number 5 of 2015 concerning the Education and Training Policy 2014, directing public bodies to ensure that secondary education is free for all children, including the removal of all forms of fees and contributions.

Tanzania is among countries that have signed and agreed to implement the Millennium Development Goals (SDGs) number four goal regarding the provision of universal and free primary and secondary quality education.

## Suspected Tanzanian faces life in prison for drugs haul

FROM PAGE 1

of food products.

In a follow-up investigation, customs officers on Tuesday arrested a 27-year-old woman and a 32-year-old man in Siu Sai Wan, a Hong Kong suburb, in

connection with the case.

The department's spokesman said customs would enhance inspections at various control points to fight drug trafficking before and after the Lunar New Year.

## Kenyan pastoralists grapple with 'green drought' amid climate change

NAIROBI

THE sun was scorching hot on Monday as the about 30 cows and a shepherd strolled into an open field in Kitengela, a suburb south of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

The field, from afar, appeared lush green following the recent heavy rains across the east African nation.

The greenness had attracted the animals and the herder from the Maasai community, the natives of Kitengela which is in the larger Kajiado County, a semi-arid region bordering the capital.

But the animals and the herder soon walked out of the field in frustrated as there was no grass in the field but a green obnoxious weed that has colonized the space and most of the other open lands in the vast dry region, killing pasture grass for the animals.

Over the years, the herders had no problem finding grass in the fields that still remain unoccupied amid rapid real estate development in the suburb.

But the recent heavy rains that hit Kenya due to climate change causing deaths and destruction have turned out to be a curse for the herders as they emboldened the weed that is turning out a curse.

The weed is causing a "green drought" in the pastoralist region, with the herders struggling to get grass for their cattle despite every space appearing lush green.

"We never used to struggle to get grass after it rains but this time around it seems the rains were of no benefit," said Bernard Sosoika, a herder.

Sosoika said he had to walk for long hours with his animals in search of little

grass available yet the rain stopped barely three weeks ago.

"This weed is killing all the grass. The heavy rains seem to have broadcasted its seeds and made it pervasive," he said.

In the past, what would sprout out in the dryland mostly were shrubs and grass would grow beneath them.

Joseph ole Serea, a cattle-keeper in Isinya in the county said the weed has sprouted in most parts of the region.

"If you leave it on the farm it colonizes the entire field. It grows faster, produces white flowers and seeds which are dispersed by the winds and rains," he said, blaming the rains for the "green drought".

However, this is not the only invasive weed affecting the pastoralist region suffocating pasture. In 2018, herders grappled with a plant known as Ipomoea purpurea, which is poisonous to livestock.

The weed invaded over a million hectares of land in the vast country, according to the Kajiado County government.

The intensity of the weed declined with the weather changes, seemingly giving way to the current invasive species.

Parts of neighboring drylands like Machakos have also been invaded by the weed, with farmers noting that the invasive plant also kills food crops if not controlled.

Beatrice Macharia, an agronomist with Growth Point, an agro-consultancy, acknowledged that the effects of climate change are making some invasive plants more pervasive thanks to changing in temperatures and the rain pattern.

## Treasury: Jan 23 is dividends deadline

FROM PAGE 1

funds because their contributions have also been declining.

Deputy Minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji said most government institutions have not been paying dividends to the Treasury despite government investments.

"President Magufuli is spearheading national development and supervision of resources. The fifth phase government is doing well in ensuring proper supervision of resources," she said.

Treasury Registrar Athumani Mbutuka named the 13 government institutions handing in dividends as the University of Dar es Salaam, Dodoma University (UDOM), Star Media, National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), Procurement & Supplies Professionals and Technicians Board, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), National Development Corporation (NDC),

Moshi Cooperative University (MOCU), Mzambe University, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) Agriculture Input Trust Fund and the Open University of Tanzania (OUT).

In November last year, President Magufuli received dividends and various contributions totaling 1.05tr/- from 79 companies, parastatals and other institutions out of 266 which were required to issue dividends and contributions, while 187 failed to do so.

Speaking at the Chamwino State House, the President issued a 60-day ultimatum to boards of director and managements of parastatals and other government institutions to pay dividends.

He said the government had invested a total of 56trm/- in the companies which must remit returns to the

## Minister ends 10-year tussle over ranch land

FROM PAGE 1

for its demarcation is completed, he stated.

The Madaba District Council shall allot the newly dispended area among the residents to pursue farming and other activities, he said, cautioning those who harbour ideas of expanding into NARCO reserved land.

Songea District Commissioner Pololet Mgema lauded the minister for resolving the conflict whose solution had eluded previous ministers and other decision makers.

Madaba MP Joseph Mhagama (CCM) said the conflict was humiliating the villagers as they were repeatedly arrested and taken to court - all in the search for farming areas.

He ensured the villagers that the CCM government shall always listen to people's complaints and does its work without tiring to enable people to live peacefully.

After the minister's announcement many of those who attended the rally fell to the ground as a gesture of appreciation for President John Magufuli in having the conflict resolved.



Chairperson of Tanzania Union of human resource Executive Association Haika Francis chairs a meeting for the annual personal emolument estimates representatives for 2020/21 held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event was opened by Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority Chief Executive Officer Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Works, Transport and Communications Eng. Isack Kamwele yesterday handed over land for the construction of the headquarters for Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) in Arusha.

Speaking yesterday in Arusha soon after handing over ceremony the Manager of Beijing Construction Engineers, Li Liang, Kamwele directed the 16-storey building costing over 30bn/- to be completed within 30 months as per agreement.

"But if possible it can be completed before that time and no one will be allowed to access this area - only those with permits from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the area belongs to

## Kamwele hands over plot for construction of PAPU Hqrs

the United Nations," he said.

He said the building is being constructed after its members to agreed among themselves that the headquarters should be allocated in Arusha.

"After that agreement the founding father of the nation President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere offered the area in 1980 but many years have gone by, but President John Magufuli has resolved to make the dream come true," said the minister.

He also promised to come later to inspect the progress of the works.

On his part, the Director General of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) James Kilaba said the construction of the project is a happy moment and an opportunity for many Tanzanians. He also called upon the contractors to perform their work professionally.

The project's supervisor from B. J. Amuli Architects Nathaniel Alute promised to oversee the works so as

to complete it as per the timeframe agreement.

PAPU Assistant Secretary General Kolawole Raheem Aduloju, thanked President John Magufuli by making history in seeing to it that the work begins after the delay of many years.

As construction work officially started on January 8 2020, PAPU will commemorate 40 years since its inception in events to be held in Arusha on January 16 and 17, this year.



A section of 347 students selected to join Form One in 2020 at Ngangongare secondary school - Imbaseni ward in Meru district, Arusha region seated in one classroom awaiting other 6 classrooms which are in final touches to meet deadline given by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to district commissioners in the country. The Arumeru DC Jerry Muro is on official visit to make sure that all students who had been enrolled attend classes. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

## Dr Mabula orders suspension of one municipal land officer in Mtwara over carelessness

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula expressed her dismay by work done by the lands sector in Mtwara-Mikindani Municipal Council and directed the removal of the District's Land Officer Mariam Kimoro.

The decision follows her failure to administer the completion of 150 title deeds that had been applied for since 2011 but so far not issued.

Speaking at the Municipal's offices yesterday during her two-day visit in Mtwara Region, Dr Mabula said it is inconceivable for deeds prepared since 2011 but owners thereof failing to sign for them as the delay cause the government lose revenue.

Land officer for Mtwara-Mikindani Municipal Council Edna Chacha defended the department saying it has been making great efforts to complete title deeds but owners thereof are failing to come forward to complete the process.

Dr Mabula refused to accept that

explanation saying a total of 150 applicants cannot be located for signature insisting that the situation is contributed by sheer negligence.

Dr Mabula who also visited Mtwara and Nanyamba District Councils has called upon land offices in the region's councils to work diligently in dealing with land issues.

Meanwhile Dr Mabula was satisfied by the development in the construction of the Southern Zone Referral Hospital project at Mitengo area in Mtwara region.

The construction work is expected to be completed at the end of this year at a cost of 15.8bn/- undertaken by National Housing Corporation and will serve southern regions of Mtwara, Songea, Lindi and neighboring country of Mozambique.

She hailed NHC for the work done in a pace that will see it completed within the agreed time.

On her part NHC for Mtwara Region Angelina Magazi said her corporation is well prepared to finish the work in time as they work day and night.

# Annual headline inflation rate stagnates in December

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Annual Headline inflation rate for the month of December, 2019 has stagnated at 3.8 per cent as it was in November, 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Releasing the statistics yesterday, the acting Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Ruth Minja said the stagnation of the headline explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended December, 2019 has remained the same as that recorded for the year November, 2019.

At the same time, the National Consumer

Index from November, 2019 to December, 2019 has increased by 0.6 per cent compared to a decrease of 0.5 per cent from October, 2019 to October, 2019.

The overall index has increased to the overall index went up to 117.10 in December, 2019 from 112.76 recorded in December, 2018. "The increase of the overall index is attributed to the price increase for food and non-food items" said the acting director.

She mentioned some of the food items that contributed to such an increase as, maize grain by 2.8 per cent, maize flour(4.8)sorghum grain(4.2)sorghum flour(2.7) meat(1.2),vegetables(2.2),

beans(2.3) and cassava (2.8).

On the other hand, some of the non-food items that contributed to such an increase include foot wear for women (1.5), maintenance and repairs of private saloon cars (3.0), kitchen and domestic utensils (1.3) personal care such as hair dressing for women (1.1) and school bags (2.3)

Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate for the month of December, 2019 has also increased to 6.3 percent from 6.1 percent recorded in November, 2019.

The annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for

the month of December, 2019 has also increased to 6.0 percent from 6.7 recorded in November, 2019.

On the other hand, the 12-month index change for non-food products in December, 2019 has decreased to 234 percent from 2.4 percent recorded in November, 2019.

In comparison with other East African countries of Kenya and Uganda, she said the annual inflation rate in Kenya has increased to 5.58 percent in December, 2019 from 5.56 percent recorded in November, 2019.

In Uganda, the annual headline inflation rate for the month of December,

2019 has increased to 3.6 percent from 3.0 percent recorded in November, 2019.



**The increase of the overall index is attributed to the price increase for food and non-food items**

THE COMPANIES ACT NO.12 OF 2002

NGANA FINANCE LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE

We would like to announce to general public that Ngana Finance Limited with registration no 134502 based in Dar es Salaam would be closed under the consent of its shareholders.

Therefore, we are pleased to welcome any individual or institution who owes the company to communicate with us through the below address within 14 days from the date of issuance of this announcement.

Auditax International  
PPF Tower, 7TH Floor  
P.O BOX 77949  
Dar Es Salaam.

Tanzania Country Program  
P.O. Box 33759 | 1469 Masaki Street Off Haile Selassie Road,  
Msasani Peninsula Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 (0) 22 2602816 +255 (0) 22 2502803 +255 (0) 22 2602831  
Fax: +255 (0) 22 2602838 | Email: [wateraidtz@wateraid.org](mailto:wateraidtz@wateraid.org)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**CONSTRUCTION OF GALANGAL VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME IN HANANG - MANYARA REGION**

WaterAid Tanzania is part of an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), dedicated on improving access to clean and safe water, decent sanitation and hygiene services. We work in partnership with the Government of Tanzania to support achievement of national targets on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) through the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) Phase II.

WaterAid Tanzania is inviting bids, from registered and competent companies, for construction of solar pumping water supply schemes. The project is located 30km from Hanang district Headquarters in the village namely Gidagamowd and Galangal. WaterAid in Collaboration with Hanang District Council identified and developed the water source where the successful bidder will be responsible to implement small water scheme. The project is funded by Diageo

All eligible interested bidders should request the "tender document" through [ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org](mailto:ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org).

Bidders should submit documents to evidence their qualifications including but not limited to:

- Registration by Contractor Registration Board - Class VII and above.
- Valid licenses and legal documentation to operate in Tanzania e.g. incorporation certificate, business license and relevant tax certificates.
- Major equipment(s) for carrying out the works.
- Qualification and experience of key personnel for technical and administration of contract execution.
- Recent audited financial statements of the bidder.
- Contacts of at least three references for recent similar projects commissioned – preferably within the last two years.
- Other essential information for bid preparation and submission is available on the tender document.

Eligible interested bidders should submit one original and two copies of their respective bids each in separate sealed envelope to WaterAid Tanzania Office before 22nd January 2020 at 10:00am East Africa Time; Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director – WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsula Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked "Bid for construction of three structures at Arusha District Council"

The opening will be on 22nd January 2020 from 11:00am at WaterAid Tanzania Offices located at Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsula, Opposite Namibian Embassy in Masaki Area, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Bidders and/or representatives are welcome.

All enquiries relating to this advertisement should be sent via e-mail to [ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org](mailto:ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org) and copy to [TwahaMubarak@wateraid.org](mailto:TwahaMubarak@wateraid.org)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
SONGWEE REGION

# SONGWEE INVESTMENT

FORUM & EXPO 2020

**"INVEST IN SONGWE, THE SADC GATEWAY"**

Songwe Investment Forum & Expo 2020 unveils investment opportunities in the region that boast bordering with six countries; to prospective investors; individuals, firms and institutions both domestic and foreign.

**DATE: 27TH - 29TH JANUARY 2020  
VWAWA, SONGWE**

**REGISTER NOW (LIMITED SEATING)** [www.songweinvestmentforum.or.tz](http://www.songweinvestmentforum.or.tz)

★★★

Exhibitions

★★★

Renowned public & Private leaders Speeches and presentations

★★★

Site Visits / Excursions

★★★

Investment portfolios deliberations

**HOTLINE: 0677 300 500**

Email: [info@songweinvestmentforum.or.tz](mailto:info@songweinvestmentforum.or.tz) / [ras.songwe@tamisemi.go.tz](mailto:ras.songwe@tamisemi.go.tz)

[@songweforum](https://twitter.com/songweforum) [@songweinvestmentforum](https://www.instagram.com/songweinvestmentforum)

# Mbarali rice mills owners complain over suspicious electricity meters

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

OWNERS of rice millers in Mbarali District have aired complaints over electricity meters installed by Tanzania Electric supply Company (Tanesco) claiming that they cause them to incur more operational costs than the profit they accrue.

Reading a statement from the rice millers before the Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Stella Manyanya, the Secretary of the Rice Millers Association Mambela Juma said even though the mills resemble in virtually all aspects but Tanesco has installed for them dissimilar meters.

He said some of the meters record huge amount of units used compared to other meters, the situation that cause some millers to fail to cope with operation costs.

He said apart from this problem they are also faced with frequent power outages sometimes causing defects to milling plants.

He said apart from power outages, sometimes the power supplied is of very low voltage to operate the machines hence they have to stop operations from time to time.

Mambela asked the Deputy Minister to help in pushing Tanesco to replace the transformers serving their areas and install those with high capacity.

The Mbarali District Commissioner Reuben Mfune said already his office has communicated with Tanesco for replacing the transformers in their areas.

He said the mills are important for the district's economy and the country

in general hence they have to work without interruption at all times.

Responding to the complaints from the rice millers, Manyanya said the problem of high power usage is caused by many factors including how the plants are started up.

She said in the event the mill has more than three plants and all are started simultaneously, power consumption must shoot up, and advised them to change their habits in starting their machines.

On power outages and low voltage Manyanya asked Tanesco to deal with the issue as soon as possible by replacing the transformers as it is Tanesco's responsibility and not rice mills owners.



**She said in the event the mill has more than three plants and all are started simultaneously, power consumption must shoot up, and advised them to change their habits in starting their machines**



Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development deputy minister Dr Angeline Mabula inspects the construction of a referral hospital in Mtwara region on Tuesday. Left is Mtwara district commissioner Evord Mmanda. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## Workers advised to closely follow up their contribution status in social security funds

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

EMPLOYEES have been advised to adopt the habit of closely following up their contributions in the social security funds to avoid difficulties that may arise during retirement or when problems arise with employers.

The call was made yesterday by one of the retirees - Zebon Henry who

was found by this paper outside Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) offices in Mbeya.

Henry said social security funds are for employees, it keeps their money so they have the right to follow up on their contributions.

He said the opening of the PSSSF office in Mbeya has been a great relief to many employees including retirees

who have been visiting it for various services.

"Since the social security funds were merged to become one fund -PSSSF, there have been a lot of improvements to the services and we congratulate the government for the step taken," he said.

Efforts, at different times, to speak to Mbeya PSSSF Manager on various

issues concerning the Fund were not successful.

PSSSF includes four pension funds - Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF), Local Authorities Pension Fund (LAPF), Parastatals Pension Fund (PPF) and Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) whose members, retirees and inheritors thereof were shifted to PSSSF)



Chadema Women Wing council chairperson Halima Mdee addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam on strategies towards the forthcoming general elections. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaka

By Guardian Reporter

## Kabudi hails Unicef for its continued efforts to support country's children

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Prof Palamaganda Kabudi has hailed the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for its continued efforts to support welfare of children in the country.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he met and held talks with the UNICEF's country director Shalini Bahuguna.

Prof Kabudi said that UNICEF has contributed immensely in supporting the government to ensure that children's rights are well protected.

"UNICEF's contribution to our

children development is very huge and we real commend that...Investing in children is vital because they are tomorrow's nation and manpower," he said.

He said that since 2016, UNICEF has supported Tanzania improve various sectors including education, health as well as supporting in the fight against HIV/AIDS and improving social services

in the regions of Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Iringa, Kigoma, Njombe and Songwe.

For her part, Bahuguna said that UNICEF will continue cooperating with the government to ensure that children thrive while making efforts to promote rights of children as well as advocating for better care and protecting them from abuse and exploitation.

Meanwhile, deputy minister Dr

Damas Ndumbaro met and held talks with the Germany ambassador to Tanzania Regine Hess.

The two countries agreed to further continue strengthening diplomatic relations for mutual benefits.

Dr Ndumbaro said that Tanzania and Germany has over 50 years of relations insisting that the long historical ties should be maintained and honoured.

## WB urges developing countries to undertake structural reforms

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has urged emerging and developing economies to undertake structural reforms that boost broad-based growth, which is essential to poverty reduction.

The World Bank in its January 2020 Global Economic Prospects said about a third of emerging market and developing economies are projected to decelerate this year due to weaker-than-expected exports and investment.

The report however, forecasted global economic growth to edge up to 2.5 percent in 2020 as investment and trade gradually recover from last year's significant weakness although downward risks continues to persist.

World Bank Group Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu said: "With growth in emerging and developing economies likely to remain slow, policymakers should seize the opportunity to undertake structural reforms that boost broad-based growth, which is essential to poverty reduction. Countries should take steps to improve business climate, the rule of law, debt management, and productivity to achieve sustained growth." "Low global interest rates provide only a precarious protection against financial crises," said World Bank Prospects Group Director Ayhan Kose. "The history of past waves of debt accumulation shows that these waves tend to have unhappy endings. In a fragile global environment, policy improvements are critical to minimize the risks associated with the current debt wave."

Growth in emerging market and developing economies is expected to accelerate this year to 4.1 percent. This rebound is not broad-based; instead, it assumes improved performance of a small group of large economies, some of which are emerging from a period of substantial weakness.

Growth among advanced economies as a group is anticipated to slip to 1.4 percent in 2020 in part due to continued softness in manufacturing.

The report highlights the downside risks as re-escalation of trade tensions and trade policy uncertainty, a sharper-than expected downturn in major

economies, and financial turmoil in emerging market and developing economies.

It said even if the recovery in emerging and developing economy growth takes place as expected, per capita growth would remain well below long-term averages and well below levels necessary to achieve poverty alleviation goals.

Inflation in low-income countries is said to tumble to a median of 3 percent in mid-2019 from 25 percent in 1994. The decline has been supported by more flexible exchange rate regimes, greater central bank independence, lower government debt, and a more benign external environment.

However, to maintain low and stable inflation amid mounting fiscal pressures and the risk of exchange rate shocks, policymakers need to strengthen monetary policy frameworks and central bank capacity and replace price controls with more efficient policies.

The report urges countries to replace price controls with expanded and better-targeted social safety nets; reforms to encourage competition and a sound regulatory environment can be pro-poor and pro-growth.

It said that price controls can dampen investment and growth, worsen poverty outcomes, cause countries to incur heavy fiscal burdens, and complicate the effective conduct of monetary policy.

According to the report, productivity growth is a primary source of income growth and driver of poverty reduction but it has slowed more broadly and steeply since the global financial crisis than at any time in four decades.

In emerging market and developing economies, the slowdown has reflected weakness in investment and moderating efficiency gains as well as dwindling resource reallocation between sectors. The pace of improvements in many key drivers of labour productivity—including education and institutions—has slowed or stagnated since the global financial crisis.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, regional growth is expected to pick up to 2.9 percent in 2020.



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina (wearing a cap) speaks with farmers and livestock keepers during his visit in Njombe region yesterday. Others are Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) managing director, Japhet Justine (on his R), Njombe Regional Commissioner, Christopher Ole Sendeka (on his L) and other government officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## SIDO planning to install computerized machines in three regions by this year

By Beatrice Philemon

SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) is set to install computerized machines in three technology development centers - Kigoma, Lindi and Shinyanga.

SIDO's director general, Prof Sylvester Mpanduji said that the computerized machines will be used to manufacture new modern machines for small and medium entrepreneurs engaged in different sectors.

The computerized machine that will be purchased by SIDO includes one CNC Milling Machine, two CNC Lathe Machines and two Plasma Cutter machines.

"Right now we are in the final stage of buying those Computerized Machines so that they can be installed in our technology

development centres," he noted.

He called on SMEs in all areas across the country to use this opportunity because SIDO in those regions will begin to manufacture new modern machines in accordance with their needs.

SMEs engaged in sunflower production, palm production and cashew-nut value chain will benefit from these new computerized machines.

"As SIDO we have decided to install computerized machines in our technology development centres after we discovered that the machines that were installed in 1980's in our centres are now very dilapidated and cannot manufacture machines in accordance with the current technology," he noted.

According to him, this is a new strategy designed by SIDO to ensure

their centres have modern machines that will help them to manufacture new modern machines for SMES in accordance with their needs as well as improve productivity and quality of machines that will be manufactured from there.

"As SIDO we express our thanks to the government for giving us a total of 1bn/- so that we can purchase computerized machines to support SMEs engaged in different sectors across the country." He noted.

SIDO has been working with SMEs for over four decades now and it has been practically proved that growth and competitiveness hinges on effective delivery of capacity development services.

This is mainly done through facilitation to impact skills, attitude and knowledge by providing among others training, business

management, and consultancy and extension services.

Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) is a parastatal organization which was established under the Act of Parliament No. 28 of 1973. The organisation is mandated to plan, coordinate, promote and offer every form of services to SMEs.

The responsibility of the organisation includes facilitating entrepreneurship development and offer extension services, promotes technology development and transfer and provision of technical services, dissemination of business information and marketing, provision of work places and financial services.

He said since 2015 to date a total of 1758 small industries have been established and created permanent employment to 44,024 Tanzanians.

## Don't cheat customers, WMA warns owners of Mwanza petrol stations

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

BUSINESS people dealing in energy and oil have been called upon to protect their customers by adhering to Weight and Measures Agency (WMA) laws and regulations that forbid tampering with their fuel pumps to defraud customers.

The call was made yesterday by Mwanza WMA Manager Albogast Kajungu during a training forum to owners of fuel stations in Mwanza and added that WMA was doing everything it can to reduce complaints directed to its stakeholders including training on the issues of weights and measures and warned of strict steps against those defrauding their customers.

He said the institution that administers weights and measures in the country existed before the country attained its independence in 1961 and it was established to protect the society against fraud by business people through weights and measures of various

goods sold.

He also urged the business people to use the services from the calibration centre for oil tankers at Nyamangoro instead of following the service all the way to Dar es Salaam. "Many people did not know what was happening at the centre, thinking it was for weighing vehicles' tare weights, but in fact it is a modern calibration centre for oil tankers, it can calibrate 16 tankers in 12 hours," he said.

Mwanza Region Administrative Officer Christopher Kadio stressed on the issue of protecting the customers and called upon traders to abide by the laws and regulations for development that benefits all people.

For his part, the chairman of Tanzania Petrol Stations Owners Association (TAPSOA) Chacha Kanene supported the initiative by WMA and asked fellow traders to be faithful and abide by laws being directed to them to ensure their fuel pumps work in the way they should.



### ADVERT FOR NEW PROJECT - IUCN Netherland Committee

African Wildlife Foundation is non-government organization, founded in 1961 is a leading international conservation organization focused solely on the African continent. African Wildlife Foundation's mission is to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa.

African Wildlife Foundation achieves its conservation mission in Tanzania through implementation of various landscape programs related to watershed & land management, conservation enterprise, species protection and other education/outreach programme.

This year, African Wildlife Foundation will receive a grant from IUCN NL worth Euro 50,000 which will finance for sustainable landscape investment and corridor development in Kilombero valley, in Morogoro region.

For contact:  
African Wildlife foundation Box 277,  
Morogoro, Kilombero  
Email: [Pmagingi@awf.org](mailto:Pmagingi@awf.org)  
Website: [www.awf.org](http://www.awf.org)

## Utilise economic potentials along upcountry highways, Tabora residents appealed

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

SECRETARY General of the ruling CCM, Dr Bashiru Ally has urged Tabora region residents to utilize immensely all opportunities available along highways so as to improve their income.

According to him, most of the residents are yet to utilize economic potentials available in the region as other regions are doing.

In his meeting with new elected leaders in local government here, Dr Bashiru wanted the residents to wake up and make good use of every opportunity ahead of them.

"In other regions like Singida, when passing through you can see people arranging and showcasing their products along the road, but I haven't seen this in Tabora, this means that you are still very slow to catch opportunities," he noted.

He said that due to various investments done by the government, residents should prepare themselves of big changes in economy.

Dr Bashiru said the government is doing its best in ensuring people's economy is rising so the residents also have a role to compliment the government's efforts by engaging in income generating activities.

"The government has done a lot which include building and rehabilitating infrastructures, improved transport in Lake Victoria and improved power supply," he noted

He also wanted the residents in Lake Zone to utilize MV Victoria which is expected to commence its schedule soon. "Traders, this is your chance to transport more cargo."

He applauded the new elected leaders urging them to work hard and use most of their time to solve people's challenges for the betterment of the country.

Dr Bashiru further said that CCM will continue running good politics without hate, discrimination and any kind of violence as it serves for the interest of all Tanzanians.

Constancia Buiye, CCM regional chairperson promised Dr Bashiru that the party is well prepared to ensure that it takes more seats in the forthcoming general election.



### TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to enter into a framework agreement for provision of legal services for one year.

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests the legal services providers to submit their proposal and price.

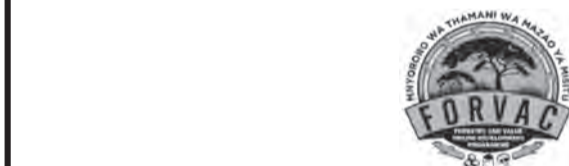
The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 9th January, 2020 during the working days and hours: 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: 0627423991 or through email [jean.kabore@drc.ngo](mailto:jean.kabore@drc.ngo)

The closing date for the submission of the bids is 22nd January, 2020 at 4: 30 Pm.

The ITB will be opened in a public session on 24th January, 2019 at 10:00 AM at DRC Kibondo Office, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the DRC Tender Opening Committee.

You can return your bid form through [rfq.tza@drc.ngo](mailto:rfq.tza@drc.ngo)

OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void



### CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONDUCTING FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR VILLAGE LAND FOREST RESERVES

The Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC) is a 4-year Programme funded by the Governments of Tanzania and Finland. The implementing agency of the programme is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania.

FORVAC aims to contribute in increasing economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands while reducing deforestation. FORVAC focuses on forest value chains development based on production of timber, charcoal and non-wood forest products (NWFP) in the Village Land Forest Reserves.

Currently, FORVAC is looking for a Service Provider to conduct Forest Management Planning for selected Village Land Forest Reserves.

For more details, see the specifications and application instructions on our website ([www.forvac.or.tz](http://www.forvac.or.tz)).

Deadline for proposals is 31st January, 2020.

# Take severe legal measures against TCCCO leadership, orders minister

By Guardian Correspondent

DEPUTY minister for Agriculture, Omary Mgumba has called for legal action to be taken against the leaders of Tanganyika Coffee Curing Co Ltd (TCCCO), based in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region for failing to pay farmers money amounting 150m/-.

The money was to be paid to Kalinzi organic coffee group of Kigoma region for the 2011/12 agricultural season.

The order was issued over the weekend after meeting with the TCCCO Ltd leadership as a part of implementing the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's directives issued July 30, 2018, when he visited a coffee plantation at Nyarubanda ward in Kigoma region.

The minister issued the order over the weekend after meeting with the factory leadership, in fulfillment of the Prime Minister's resolution dated July 30, 2018, when he visited a coffee plantation in Nyarubanda County in Kigoma.

However, during his visit, he directed the deputy minister for agriculture to make a good follow up of 150m/- which was paid to other group instead of Kalinzi organic coffee group.

The deputy minister explained that, the investigation revealed that the money was mistakenly paid by the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) to the Kalinzi Farm Coffee instead of the Kalinzi organic coffee growers association who supplied the coffee to the factory.

"We have taken into account that the money was mistakenly paid to the Malinzi Farm Coffee instead of the

Kalinzi organic coffee growers group but the leaders had not taken any action for the past eight years," the deputy minister said.

In addition, he said in the 2011/2012 coffee season, Kalinzi organic coffee growers group based in Kigoma supplied their coffee to TCCCO, but the money was transferred to another group, that the fifth phase government decided to intervene and bring back the money to the group which was supposed to be paid.

For his part, the TCCCO manager, Japhet Ndosi admitted that they received coffee from Kalinzi organic coffee group form.

"It is true that the mistake was done by the TCCCO through the former leadership who were supposed to be accountable so that the farmers could be paid", the manager said.



**We have taken into account that the money was mistakenly paid to the Malinzi Farm Coffee instead of the Kalinzi organic coffee growers group but the leaders had not taken any action for the past eight years**



Mwanza residents look at a building belonging to Tanzania Building Agency goes up in flames at Nyakabungo B Isamilo ward in Nyamagana district on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

## Rungwe district finishes construction of classrooms for Form One students

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

RUNGWE District in Mbeya Region has completed the construction of six classrooms that were needed for 240 students who had passed their Std VII exams last year but their names put on hold for lack of classrooms.

This was revealed on Tuesday by the District's Commissioner Julius Chalya when presenting a report on

the classrooms construction, saying the district is now ready for all students who had passed to begin Form I lessons.

He said his district has two councils, Busukelo and Rungwe and that all the classrooms that were in short were for Rungwe district.

Chalya said the classrooms had been completed in time due to close cooperation between the wananchi and council leaders to ensure children

start lessons in time.

"I thank you my fellow leaders for your cooperation in the completion of this task, but we are continuing with preparations for next year," Chalya said.

He stressed that after completion of the building of the classrooms they have now embarked on the problem of shortage of desks and other infrastructures for the schools.

Recently the Ag regional administrative secretary Jeremiah Minja directed all the region's councils to complete construction of classrooms before January 15 this year to enable all students who had passed std VII examinations last year to start their lessons.

The region had a shortage of 59 classrooms for 2,716 students whose names were put on hold for lack of classrooms.



Works, Transport and Communications Minister Isack Kamwelwe displays a model of a building to be constructed at the Africa Postal Office headquarters in Arusha region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

## Four villages in Kanyigo ward to benefit from water project

RESIDENTS from four villages in Kanyigo ward in Misenyi district, Kagera region will soon start to benefit from the 680m/- water project that will guarantee them clean and safe water.

Misenyi district water engineer, Luth Isaac told this paper recently that the government is determined to ensure reliable supply of the precious liquid, hence decisions to rehabilitate the water project which stopped functioning for more than five years.

Eng Issac said the project's infrastructures were dilapidated.

She said the government has so far rehabilitated the Bugombe village water project with the capacity to produce 135 cubic meters of water. She said water distribution

pipes had been laid at Kikukwe village connecting it to the pump-house.

The water projects according to Isaac are being implemented by the Bukoba Urban, Water and Sanitation Authority (BUWASA).

BUWASA water Engineer, Yazidi Bwikizo said they have involved local leaders in the implementation of the projects to ensure community participation in making them sustainable. "We are involving locals in a number of works to make them feel it is their property and be responsible for ensuring it lasts longer. So far everything is going on

smoothly and we expect to complete the project on time", said Bwikizo.

Jovitha Julius from Bugombe village said completion of the project will provide relief to the residents especially women and girls who were forced to walk long distances in search of water.

She said the residents were also spending a lot of monies to purchase water whereas a 20 liters bucket was sold at 500/-.

The project at Kanyigo will also benefit students at the Kanyigo Muslim secondary school and the surrounding villages.

## Researchers developing predictive tools to tackle childhood diarrheal disease outbreaks in Botswana

VIRGINIA

IN 2006, more than 400 children under the age of 5 died during an outbreak of diarrheal disease in Botswana. In what was a 25-fold increase in diarrheal disease mortality for this age group, citizens of the country were devastated.

For more than 10 years, Kathleen Alexander, a professor of fish and wildlife conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech and the co-founder of Conservation of African Resources: Animals, Communities, and Land Use (CARACAL), has been researching similar diarrheal disease outbreaks across Botswana to determine if there are correlations between certain atmospheric conditions, local environmental variables, and diarrhea rates.

Together with Jeffrey Shaman, of Columbia University, and Alexandra Heaney, of the University of California Berkeley, Alexander discovered a critical link between environmental dynamics and human health. With this knowledge, researchers will have the capacity to begin to predict when diarrheal disease outbreaks will reoccur.

Their findings were recently published in Nature Communications.

Botswana is a dry country with only three sources of surface water. Alexander and her collaborators focused their work in the Chobe District, which is home to the Chobe River, the only permanent surface water that can be found in 12,000 square kilometers. Notably, it is also the only source of drinking water for eight villages, making it a critical region to study the additional influence of surface water on diarrheal disease.

Diarrheal disease remains a critical threat to children under 5 years of age across Africa but particularly in Chobe District. With case reports peaking annually in the wet season and again in the dry season, researchers were able to determine that certain meteorological conditions were directly responsible for these outbreaks.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is an ocean-atmosphere system that causes temperature and precipitation fluctuations across the world. El Niño and La Niña are the two extremes of ENSO conditions, which alternate every three to seven years.

During La Niña, researchers found that the combination of cooler conditions and above-average rainfall contributed to increased flooding, which, in turn, increased the concentrations of organic material and diarrhea-causing pathogens

within the Chobe River. El Niño conditions had the opposite effect on the climate and precipitation of the region.

"Human health is intimately connected to the landscape and the environmental conditions that prevail - connections that cross scales from local hydrometeorology and water quality dynamics to global atmospheric conditions," said Alexander, who is also an affiliated faculty member of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech.

In a previous paper, Alexander and her team concluded that Chobe's elephant populations, which happen to be the highest in the world, may have a critical influence on water quality in the region and, perhaps, diarrheal disease. In the dry season, large herds of elephants in the tens of thousands will move to the Chobe River, the only surface water to be found in the region. Development of infrastructure has limited wildlife access to the river. With such a large density of wildlife, sediment and fecal matter are carried downstream toward the district's water treatment plants.

"Landscape degradation and significant fluxes in sediment levels can influence the ability of water treatment plants to remove diarrhea-causing pathogens. These treatment plants work but not well in these highly dynamic systems. This is a clear example of how important it is to maintain protected areas - they are so central to human health," said Alexander.

Alexander is an advocate of "One Health," a concept that recognizes that human health is directly linked to the health of the environment. One Health also focuses on taking a bottom-up approach and puts education at the forefront. Alexander has an educational program in 12 schools within the Chobe District, teaching children exactly how important it is to take care of their environment and, ultimately, themselves.

Alexander maintains that working actively and intimately within grassroots environments provides a different perspective, and it is also the best way to collect data, gain novel insights, and develop solutions that work for the people who need them.

"It was a humbling experience in that you remember that no matter how much education you have, no matter how many degrees you have, you really need to stay connected to the people who have the problem," said Alexander. "What is their experience? What is their problem definition? What is the solution that they see? What do they understand is the issue?"



Minister of State in the President's Office Public Service Management and Food Governance deputy minister Dr Mary Mwanjelwa addresses beneficiaries of Tanzania Social Action Fund at Kibaoni village in Singida region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzania, Africa young entrepreneurs jostle for seed capital

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) has opened the 2020 entrepreneurship programme, which empowers young entrepreneurs from Zambia and the rest of the continent with seed capital.

The US\$100 million project, which is a 10-year financial empowerment programme launched by Nigerian philanthropist Tony Elumelu, provides US\$10 million annually to unlock Africa's entrepreneurial potential.

About 77 Zambian entrepreneurs were last year awarded seed capital out of the over 3,000 beneficiaries from across the continent.

TEF communications manager Tiwa Medubi said in a statement yesterday that the entrepreneurship programme is open to start-up entrepreneurs, with innovative business ideas or businesses that have been in existence for less than three years in any sector from

across Africa. "The programme implements Mr Elumelu's Africapitalism philosophy, which positions the private sector as the catalyst for African economic transformation, and an investment approach that values the creation of both social and economic wealth," Ms Medubi said.

She said as part of the TEF 10th year anniversary, the foundation is expected to announce further enhancements to the programme, providing additional benefits to Africa's rapidly growing youth demographic.

Ms Medubi said the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme will this year emphasise a personalised entrepreneurship journey for every applicant and opening the platform to ensure a higher number of people trained, amplifying the programme's impact and reach.

Ten years ago, Mr Elumelu developed the programme although disbursement of funds

started in 2015.

In just five years, the programme has empowered over 9,000 entrepreneurs from all 54 African countries, with training, mentorship and seed funding.

Speaking at the launch of the 2020 TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, TEF chief executive officer Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu said the transformation of Africa begins with empowering young African entrepreneurs.

Ms Ugochukwu said with the recent enhancements made to the programme and growing list of partners, the Tony Elumelu Foundation is significantly increasing its impact across the continent.

"We encourage all start-up African entrepreneurs across the 54 African countries to apply for the programme, as we continue to empower the very best ideas that will create the much-needed employment and revenue on the continent," he said.

## Travel agents advises govt to promote tourism sector

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

TRAVEL agents have requested more support from the government in order to develop tourism industry in Tanzania.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, the Chairman of Tanzania Society of Travel Agents (Tasota) Moustafa Khataw, said more is needed for the government to help the sector.

He said the government should review all charges or taxes imposed on travel agents.

"Travel agents have to pay to provide bank guarantee to IATA which is a big burden to them especially when clients do not pay them on time", he said.

He said the fees and commissions which they are supposed to pay are not friendly, hence needs a review.

"We also urge the government to establish a special unit that would deal with travel agents to address our challenges".

Khataw suggested that it was right time for the establishment of a regulatory agency that would address issues pertaining travel agents.

Recently, the association issued a statement to the public informing customers on payment circle for air tickets issued in Tanzania.

It said that the credit period enjoyed by International Air Transport Association (IATA) accredited air ticketing agents in Tanzania is 15 days and may be reduced further to 7 days.

Agents failing to meet payment deadlines will be declared defaulters and denied facilities to issue tickets.

Consequently, in order to protect the industry from a crisis arising from potential massive defaults, existing credit terms for air tickets will change drastically and can be also in favour of cash / credit card or prepayments as well.

This is therefore to advise all consumers of air travel services especially corporate entities and government departments to take note of the terms and conditions. The association urged customers to ensure necessary adjustments in payment plans to conform to the new requirements of the relevant agent.

TASOTA is the national association representing the interests of travel agents in Tanzania.

It serves as the single voice of travel agents in the industry with a mandate to promote the highest code of ethical and professional standards members in their dealings with consumer and each other.

Meanwhile, Tasota in partnership with other certified training institutions will soon embark on a programme to upgrade human capital in tourism industry.

At moment human capital is the biggest constraint in tourism industry.

The chairman said TASOTA in collaboration with certified training institutions will provide requisite training to personnel in the travel industry in order to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Commenting on travel and tourism business status at the moment, he said there is growing interest for tourists to visit Tanzania.

He said figures being shared by Tanzania Tourists Board (TTB) look encouraging and thus participation at various trade shows will yield good results.

"With Air Tanzania planning to fly on international routes, this will boost tourism especially from India and China," Khataw noted.

He also said that air travel has had challenging times in Tanzania for the past few years since there are few companies which had announced to close shop.

"We understand that ETIHAD Airways - The National Airline of Abu Dhabi has pulled out of Tanzania market from 1/10/2018 and there has been stiff competition especially with the low season being round the corner", he said.

Airlines want to "rope in" customers in advance by giving lucrative offers, he said adding that air fares within African countries are still on the higher side.

According to him, with prudent measures being taken by the fifth phase government, travel from the government sector has reduced as result it has in turn affected many of our members.

Khataw said in order to improve the sector, domestic air fares as well as intra-African travels have to be re-aligned and "open skies" treaty be implemented.



**Travel agents have to pay to provide bank guarantee to IATA which is a big burden to them especially when clients do not pay them on time**

By Guardian Reporter

## SourceTrace connects 5,000 vanilla farmers to new markets

SOURCETRACE, a player in digital innovations in the agriculture and allied segment, is extending its farm management solution to Natural Extracts Industries Ltd (NEI), based in the Kilimanjaro region, thus supporting the income security of 5,000 vanilla farmers.

As a company engaged in the production of premium flavouring ingredients, its high standards and eco-friendly methods have helped the products reach a global network, according to a press release issued by the company. Today it is delivered to specialty manufacturers, gourmet restaurants and home chefs in the US, Europe, Asia and Africa. This includes its main product line - vanilla pods and extracts.

To strengthen its supply chain management information system, NEI was looking for a solution to manage its entire field operations. While the company provides agronomic training to farmers, SourceTrace's Datagreen platform has been deployed to uphold the entire data management system owing to its capability to transact and transmit data from remote areas, streamlining the processes at field level.

These processes include multiple

digital operations like farmer profiling, distribution of agricultural inputs, field monitoring, yield estimation, pest and disease management, procurement and scheduling of training programmes.

"SourceTrace solutions are a one-stop destination for all of NEI's supply chain management information systems, monitoring and evaluation, procurement and payment tracking, organic certification, as well as scheduling of training programmes. Achieving our high standards has become possible with a solution that is simple and user-friendly, robust and seamlessly fulfils all our farmer management-related requirements," says Juan Guardado, MD, Natural Extracts Industries Ltd.

In the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, where three-fourths of the population comprises smallholder farmers, they had not been growing vanilla until a few years ago. Most of the local farmers grew coffee and banana, but suffered from a high level of income insecurity when global coffee prices plummeted and abundant harvest of banana brought down corresponding demand and prices.

A growing population also

fragmented the land holdings, reaching a point where the income from a one-acre farm had to support a family of five. The farmer's average annual income hit a plateau at roughly \$500 a year.

That's when NEI's dedicated team of agricultural experts decided to develop groups of farmers to grow a premium crop like vanilla, adding value to their farm and helping raise incomes, thus providing these communities with a more diversified income base, sustained by NEI's access to markets. NEI provided the technical guidance, inputs and best practices, while its team of food technologists and business management personnel helped turn these flavours into premium flavour ingredients with a global reach.

"The delicately-produced flavours are now travelling the world, satisfying the global demand for sustainably-sourced natural flavours. We are pleased to help streamline the farm operations of NEI that support the income security of smallholder vanilla farmers across five regions of Tanzania, and support their expansion into Uganda," adds Venkat Maroju, CEO of SourceTrace.






**VACANCY: RESEARCHER – SHORT TERM ASSIGNMENT (60 days)**

TRAFFIC, the international wildlife trade monitoring network working in alliance with WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and IUCN - The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, is seeking a **Researcher** to implement the research component of an ongoing project assessing consumption and trade in wild species in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

**Background**  
One of TRAFFIC's remits under the recently awarded USAID CONNECT (Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa) project, is a demand reduction programme targeting consumers of illegal wildlife products in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Core to the development of an appropriate behaviour change strategy, is a body of research that will inform both the overall strategy but also key messaging to the priority target audiences.

A Phase I research project was completed in 2019 profiling the market dynamics of a range of terrestrial and marine species being purchased across a range of outlets and points of sale in the three target countries. In 2020, TRAFFIC will undertake additional research to further investigate some of the key findings uncovered during Phase I. The combined findings from the two phases of research will then be used to design and implement behaviour change strategies to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products; and will also be used to provide critical evidence to inform regional interventions in relation to policy, law enforcement and business engagement.

**Specific Responsibilities**  
This position is responsible for the successful delivery of the Phase II research component of the CONNECT project. The Researcher will work under the Project Manager – Research and Behavioural Change, and with TRAFFIC's East Africa team and Behavioural Change Coordinator (BCC) in the UK to design and implement the Phase II research workplan.

**Specific Duties**

- Based on the recommendations from the Phase I research report, and in consultation with TRAFFIC's relevant personnel (as listed above), confirm the priorities for Phase II research studies;
- Design, plan and budget for the Phase II research activities
- Oversee the collection and verification of quantitative data
- Produce a final technical report
- Present findings to project partners and stakeholder groups, including law enforcement agencies and business interests
- Manage and account for financial expenditures in the implementation of research activities

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be eligible to live and work in Tanzania and to travel within the region (Uganda, Kenya);
- Educated to a Master's degree level, ideally in behavioural science, communications, sustainable development, social science or other relevant fields;
- Fluency in English and Kiswahili required, with fluency in Chinese a definite advantage;
- Professional qualifications in research an advantage;
- At least eight years of professional experience in running consumer research studies across a variety of audiences, and in a cross-cultural context;
- Excellent research design, methodology and analyses skills for both quantitative and qualitative studies;
- A minimum of five years relevant experience of working in a project management capacity, covering administration, logistics, budgeting, and reporting;
- Experience of working in conservation (especially wildlife trade) or international development, an advantage;
- Computer literate (Microsoft Office) with strong spreadsheet skills; Microsoft Project;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with strong organisational ability;
- A good team player, used to meeting tight deadlines and working under pressure; and also willing to work on own initiative; and,
- Must be able to travel throughout the region which may require frequent periods of up to one week away from home.

**APPLICATIONS**  
Applications must include a cover letter, along with a complete CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to TRAFFIC East Africa, Researcher CONNECT, via email to: [traffictz@traffic.org](mailto:traffictz@traffic.org) by **midnight Tanzania time, 31 January 2020.**

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The interviews will take place over Skype and/or in person in Dar es Salaam or Arusha, Tanzania.

# The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2020

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

## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Sales and Marketing: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## Establishing zoos, wildlife gardens works with a more open economy

**M**OMENTUM is on the way to being built in the tourism sector, on the basis of up and coming initiatives from different quarters, but more significantly from the government, and President John Magufuli personally. He has underscored the need for more capable Tanzanians to establish zoological gardens to enclose various wild animals as part of an initiative to expand opportunities in the tourism sector and create jobs. That is a welcome plan as Tanzania needs to make use of its comparative advantage in that sector, not just crops.

A late last week report cited the president's remarks praising Tanzanians who have established zoos at different places countrywide, which apparently relates to expertise in the area, or a related field. When a former top commander in the defence forces opens such a garden, it is a related profession for a military expert knows next to everything about the bush, and can employ an expert for other needs. What is vital about this appeal is that it provides a new opening for professionals to exercise in their field, as it is likely to happen if currently monopolized sectors open their doors so that opportunities rise. It is something that is not quite discussed as yet.

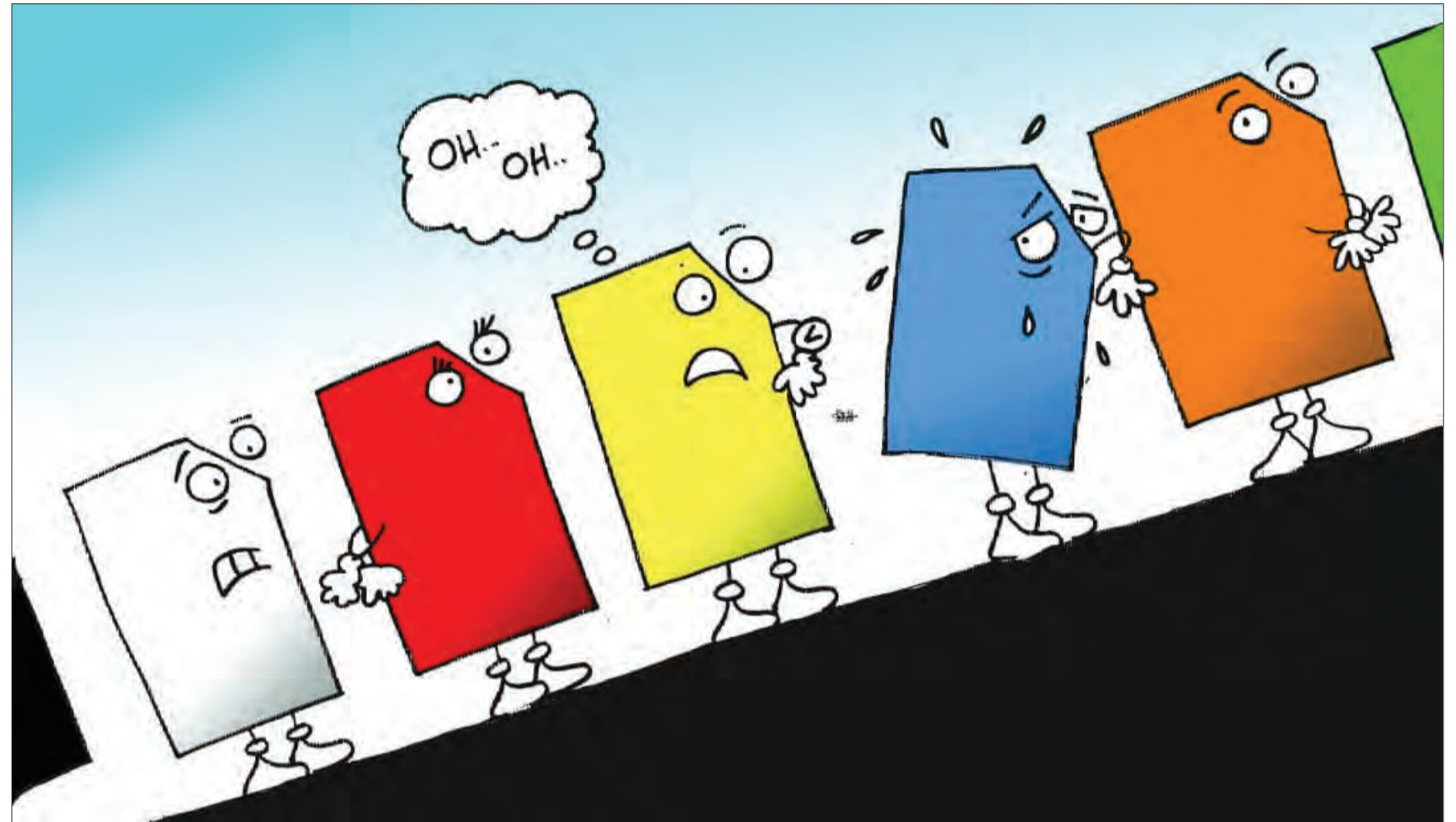
While - as the president noted - establishing zoological gardens is guided by the Wildlife Conservation Act, 2009 (Number 5) which affirms that Tanzanians have the right to acquire animals by following procedures and the law guiding the sector, in practice it isn't so easy. The law for instance allows entrepreneurs to breed or capture wildlife that isn't crucial for any national purpose to sell outside, but this is the fourth year

consecutively that the trade is banned. Zoos or such gardens may come under pressure as well.

As the president issued the call when addressing officials and game wardens during a visit at the Rubondo Island National Park, it would be helpful to scan the minds of his audience for clues. Would they not start worrying about competition for visitors, whether it is to cheap zoos and wildlife gardens scattered all over the country, or a tourist visits more expensive national park sites or stay in its lodges?

In that case if the major issue is to create more jobs in the sector, and in an auxiliary manner have more organized pursuit of visitors both local and foreign, structural changes might be useful to create some momentum in that direction. So far the northern circuit is widely known around the world and gets visitors, while the southern and western circuits look like they are wagons with a northern circuit engine. Unless competition is created at organizational level, not between national park managers but different stakeholder units and combinations of interests, little will be done, but repetition of errors.

The president emphasized that Tanzanians have the right to acquire and keep wild animals for local and international visitations, even mentioning South Africa as a country where many people benefit from the zoo business. It isn't clear how much in our method of organization squares up with South Africa, but citing this particular case means that at upper levels of government, many will be ready to learn. The key point is tourism organizations and companies set in competition about attractions, package prices, hotel/camp varieties and other aspects, including specialized menus for visitor batches.



## Ethiopia signs up for IMF deal : What's in store?

By Special Correspondent

**I**T is not unprecedented for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to lend an amount much more substantial than what is prescribed in its members' quota. But it is rare for it to extend a generous loan 700pc larger than Ethiopia's quota under its Special Drawing Right (SDR). At 1,000pc more than its quota, it was Argentina that had received a larger loan than Ethiopia.

The IMF and other multilateral creditors are indeed showing their vote of confidence in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) administration for its political opening up and economic policy liberalisation. The flow of cash in foreign exchange is a tap at the back for pursuing the economic reform agenda, designed to correct internal and external imbalances. Abiy's international supporters seem to realise that the stakes in Ethiopia have never been higher.

There is hardly any debate on the poor state of Ethiopia's economy. It has been in a coma, in desperate need of life-saving IV Fluid. The economy suffers from limits in productivity and lack of competitiveness both in the domestic and global markets. These are structural constraints requiring long term fixes.

Inflation and growing unemployment are the ills of the economy on the domestic front with pressure on policymakers for a quick fix. The external imbalances do mainly come from the poor performance of the export sector, causing low foreign currency reserves, a wide gap in the official exchange rate with the parallel market, and thus the highly overvalued Birr against a basket of major currencies.

These are outcomes of policies pursued by what was an activist state under the EPRDF regime. Despite remarkable gains over a decade, the growth resulted due to public financed investments, which have not only been inflationary. They put the country in paralysis.

The deal made with the IMF is thus not a structural response that is attempting to solve the underlying chronic problems of Ethiopia's economy. It may provide policymakers with some respite, while they plot for the long-term recovery.

The IMF will provide a billion dollars a year for three years to the central bank's coffers, in six tranches of about half a billion dollars each. With an almost zero interest rate, a five-and-a-half-year grace period, and a 10-year payback time, it is a package the Prime



The International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Minister characterised as borrowing from a mother.

It is not without some concessions by Abiy's administration on the monetary and fiscal policy fronts though.

The IMF targets a series of cuts on the central bank's broad money supply from over 20pc down to perhaps 17pc of GDP. There will be a limit to what the public sector will borrow from the banks, while the administration will find itself under pressure to reduce its domestic and external debts. Ensuring a threshold of forex - perhaps a minimum of five billion dollars - could as well come as a requirement.

One of the major bones of contention between the multilateral creditors and Ethiopia's government was the substantial public debt incurred in the massive public investments in infrastructure projects. Though desirable, it was deemed to be unsustainable at the scale it was undertaken.

Making the public sector the central player, it had the effect of crowding out the private sector. The latter had received credit amounting to 11pc of GDP, half the African average.

By restructuring the management of and reigning in the insatiable borrowing habits of state-owned enterprises, the twin aims of decreasing public debt and making room for the private sector can be achieved. That the economy will be more private sector friendly

than it has ever been can be a safe bet. Little surprising then that the macroeconomic goals are to keep the economy on the growth trajectory, reduce the debt-ratio, abate inflation and raise the forex reserve.

The question remains what impact will these have and what are the safeguards in place to protect the most vulnerable in the course of implementing these reform measures?

The days of businesspeople sniffing for giant government bids in the closing days of the fiscal year may have gone. Not to say that there will be none, but it will not be anywhere near the scale many in the private sector are accustomed to. The state's reduced role in its activism in the economy may have a cooling effect in the short-term while making more room for the private sector at the same time. Businesspeople who have made their money with the relatively predictable pattern of past government patronage will undoubtedly be going through severe withdrawal pains.

As the central bank tries to bring inflation down to a single-digit, it will not be surprising to see its officials compelled to raise interest rates on deposits.

Even though they have recently lifted the 27pc mandatory government bond purchase requirement on private banks, they will not want to see all of that cash flood the market and push

inflation up further. They will have to keep the cost of borrowing relatively high and encourage domestic savings. The impact of the central bank cutting down on the growth of broad money will no doubt stop the spending spree seen over the past years.

With the central bank having a robust reserve in foreign exchange, and the most likely move being to let the values of the Birr determined in a competitive market, businesses will likely find it easy to access foreign currency. It will lead to the depreciation of the value of the Birr against other currencies, making the cost of imports more expensive.

The days ahead will be times of increases in the cost of borrowing and foreign currency, without a corresponding rise in the purchasing power of consumers. Businesses may find it challenging to sell imported merchandise as much as they used to. If done well, this may mean good news for local manufacturers, which may at long last have their day in the sun.

But all of these forecasts will go out the window without law and order, while the country is going through the highly-anticipated national elections. Ironically, the most crucial economic fundamental remains political stability. If that can be ensured, the potential for economic recovery is in a much better place than it has been for awhile.

## Food security in sub-Saharan Africa is under threat: Investing in modern storage methods is crucial

**F**OOD security is a measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it. Affordability is only factor.

There is evidence of food security being a concern many thousands of years ago. At the 1974 World Food Conference the term 'food security' was defined with an emphasis on supply. Food security, they said, is the 'availability at all times of adequate, nourishing, diverse, balanced and moderate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices'.

Household food security exists when all members, at all times, have access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Individuals who are food secure do not live in hunger or fear of starvation.

Food security in sub-Saharan Africa is under threat with the continent losing an average US\$4 billion in post-harvest losses annually, hence the need for farmers on the continent to invest in modern storage methods to avert acute hunger, the United Nations food agency has advised.

Estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), shows the losses in sub-Saharan Africa in grain and other cereals accounting are in excess of US\$4 billion per annum for all grains, which is more than the value of food aid received on the continent over last decade.

The volume and value of these postharvest loss estimates are alarming, fueling concerns of more people likely to go hungry in the next few years, with climatic changes setting onto the continent.

Farmers need to adapt to new farming methods. Given the amount of food being lost annually on the continent, we need to devise new strategies and storage methods, otherwise we are at risk of doubling the food losses in the next few years and leave many people hungry.

Farmers, chiefly small and medium

scale ought to adapt to new methods of farming, improve storage capacities because many barns and silos lack acceptable standards to reduce post harvest losses to avert or reduce hunger.

Research findings by various global food experts define post harvest losses as a global challenge to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as zero hunger and responsible consumption and production.

Reduction of post-harvest food losses is important for sustainably improving food and nutrition security. In sub-Saharan Africa, postharvest loss is particularly important because not only is agricultural productivity low, but about 374 million people experienced severe food insecurity last year.

Although there is renewed international attention to reducing post-harvest food losses following the African Union member states and United Nations pledging to halve food losses by 2025 and 2030, more needs to be done, FAO notes.

One of the main challenges to post-harvest loss reduction is the lack of empirical information on losses and their determinants along the crop value chains, FAO notes. Post-harvest losses occur between harvest and the moment of human consumption. They include on-farm losses, such as when grain is threshed, winnowed, and dried, as well as losses along the chain during transportation, storage, and processing.

An estimated 795 million people globally lack adequate food to lead a healthy active life, representing one in nine people on earth.

Africa has the highest prevalence (percentage of population) of hunger with one person in four being undernourished. Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45 pc) of deaths in children under five - 3.1 million children each year.



Lome, Togo

It is a scenic walk along the driveway leading to the entrance of Lome's new centre for the arts. The sun glints through the branches of centuries-old trees, lining a path set within thousands of square metres of lush parkland.

The incessant chirping of birds and the dull thud of my feet against the packed red earth are the only sounds to be heard within the vast compound. It is not long before the canopy of boughs and path give way to a large gravel clearing. A grand, white, two-storey vision rises from the ground, gleaming against the blue sky.

Set on an elevated foundation, a wide stone staircase leads up into the white-washed arcades of Palais De Lome in Togo's capital. At its heart is a courtyard garden - an oasis of smooth white cement walls, decorative wood columns and splashes of green trees and ferns.

Past the crisp white walls and pivoting glass doors are the exhibition spaces - a blank canvas for African art by painters such as Emmanuel Sogbadji and Edwige Aplogan and sculptures by Sokey Edoh. A vaulted, wood-ceilinged corridor on the first floor leads to a room filled with a panoply of artefacts sourced from the region. There are intricately woven ceremonial gowns and beaded headdresses worn by chieftains and West African kings.

The centre's remit is not limited to the promotion of pan-African art and culture, according to its Togolese director, Sonia Lawson. Spread across some 2,400sq metres (26,000 square feet) of land, Palais De Lome will showcase the country's natural resources. The site's varied landscape includes a garden of sea plants from the coastal city's sandy shores, grass savannah with vegetation as diverse as palms, cacti and flowering plants, and forests populated by trees

# Transforming a symbol of colonialism into a space for African art



Togo's Palais De Lome. File Photo

and vines. Lawson says the institute expects to attract between 100,000 and 130,000 visitors each year.

It is hoped that the \$3.6m transformation of the former colonial building into a centre for the arts and culture will help boost tourism and aid the recovery of the small West African nation's struggling economy.

"It was important and necessary to have such a public institution in Togo because we lacked that kind of infrastructure," Lawson explains. "We want to be a cultural hub and attract talent from the rest of Africa. We believe culture is important in the development of a country."

"Facing the past" Investment in infrastructure has positioned Togo's capital as an aviation hub in West Africa. Along with the country's strategic geographic location on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, it is expected to support Togo's bid to plug into the sub-region's vibrant culture ecosystem.

The renovation of the Palais De Lome is part of a wider government programme to restore sites of historical importance.

However, questions have been asked about why the government would spend millions of dollars renovating a remnant of Togo's colonial past - a symbol of oppression - rather than constructing a new space.

Lawson has an answer. "I think it's important to be able to face the past," she says resolutely. "The past exists. You don't need to destroy a building. For me, it was a kind of irony to use a colonial building to showcase the future of Africa. It means that we have appropriated this building and it's now ours."

Lawson refers to an image she discovered of a uniformed man proudly staring out of a picture beyond the expanse of time. It was a photograph of Governor August Kohler - the man placed in charge of the West African territory then known as Togoland, which incorporated what is now Togo and part of Ghana, more than a century ago. Between 1884 and 1914, Togoland was a protectorate of the German Empire. A lucrative resource for its German rulers, the prestigious protectorate was considered a 'model colony'. In the 1890s,

Kohler started building the original incarnation of Palais De Lome - the Governor's Palace - as a display of Germany's power and majesty.

The Governor's Palace was a picture of colonial decadence. Its construction was an opportunity for the imperial rulers to demonstrate their architectural ingenuity by combining local and imported materials with German technology. The building's large patio was modelled on the palace of Benin's King Toffa in Porto-Novo - a nod to the traditional architectural design of the sub-region. It housed the governor's private residence on the first floor with administrative offices located below.

During German rule, two towers crowned the imposing structure, one holding the imperial flag facing the ocean, the second overlooking the 'hinterland'. The main entrance was decorated with elephant tusks two metres long (6.5 feet) - completing the desired image of wealth and extravagance.

Germany lost its prized colony in 1914 when Togoland was invaded and occupied by British

and French forces following the outbreak of the first world war. The territory was later divided into separate British and French administrative zones and the Governor's Palace was taken over by French colonialists. It was considerably expanded during its time as the governors' residences during French rule.

A new chapter for the palace When Togo gained independence in 1960, it was the beginning of a new chapter for the palace. It became the seat of government for the Togolese Republic until the mid-1970s when it was used to house state guests. Months after a reformist prime minister moved into the property in 1991, the palace was raided by Togo's armed forces. This marked the beginning of a period of social and political unrest, which saw the building dramatically deteriorate. Tropical vegetation had overwhelmed the governor's palace when French restoration architect Laurent Volay visited the abandoned site in 2012.

"It was like a jungle," Volay says. "There was a lot of vegetation and in the centre of it there was the monument and it was

something extraordinary."

Archipat, Volay's practice, partnering with architecture studio Segond-Guyon, landscape designer Frederic Reynaud and Lome-based firm Sara Consult, spent two years researching the project after winning the bid to renovate the site.

Careful examination of the property revealed layers of poorly executed adaptations to the building. It took a further five years to complete construction, with the architects drawing heavily on the archives. The team stripped away the building's flawed layers - removing buildings added in the 1970s, reopening the terraces and restoring wooden galleries that had been destroyed.

The project was fraught with challenges during its first year, Volay explains. He cites difficulties sourcing sustainable materials locally, which slowed progress. The team eventually found a steady supply of teak and iroko woods in the region, which the carpenters used for the centre's doors and throughout the first-floor galleries.

An architectural highlight for Volay was the faithful restoration of the original imperial cement staircase, complete with wrought iron balustrade. A further triumph is found within a ground floor space Volay describes as "a room for special things". Salvaged tiles are arranged to resemble decorative rugs in a bid to reuse "precious materials".

"An oasis in a cultural desert"

On the day of its launch in November, hundreds of guests arrive to celebrate the grand opening of Palais De Lome. Amidst the revelry, some raised concerns about how the centre will raise sufficient funds for its upkeep and succeed in fulfilling its remit to support the arts in Togo and the region. Despite this, many people see the

centre as an important cultural legacy for the nation.

"It's an oasis in the cultural desert," says Togolese sculptor Sadikou Oukpedjo, who was commissioned to create a large-scale marble sculpture that lies on a grassy clearing within the park. His sentiment is felt by many artists in a country where state investment in culture has been lacking.

"What the government has started to do for Togolese culture is not a gift," Oukpedjo says. "It is what the government should have been doing before, which they weren't and have now begun."

Dakar-based artist and physicist Caroline Gueye and Togolese painter Sheshe Kossi say the Palais is an important cultural platform for Africans that can vastly improve opportunities for artists. "It's just inspiring to be here," Gueye says. "To create for this place - that would be fantastic. We would all like to showcase our work here."

A photography exhibition at the Palais documents its extraordinary journey, showing the property's striking transformation from a ruin following two decades of abandonment, into a modern pan-African cultural institute.

From the first floor, a wood-pillared balcony beautifully frames an expanse of water scattered with vibrant green water lilies. A thick stretch of trees bordering the pond is punctuated by a group of tall bronze sculptures. Beyond the iron gates of the entrance, a strip of yellow sand meets the ocean before a greyish blue haze blurs the Atlantic and sky on the horizon.

Although the vestiges of the building's colonial past remain within its walls, the spirited optimism for its future in the hands of Togo's people prevails. It is impossible to determine whether this will be the building's last incarnation, but the launch of Palais De Lome feels like the beginning of an era.

AGENCIES

BANGKOK, Thailand

# Let's give trade a chance

Imagine going through the day without consuming or using some product, service, data, technology, personal contact, or payment which has not - at least in some part - crossed one or more national borders before reaching you.

We live in a globalized world where connections across borders are no longer just between governments or businesses but increasingly person to person. Many of us would have a hard time to adjust to life without these benefits from globalization.

Globalization, described as the spread of products, services, technology, information, and jobs across national borders, is often understood as the deepened interdependence of economies, cultures, and people.

The pace of globalization has been primarily driven by technological progress intertwined with the steady reduction of costs in international transactions coming from the policy side.

Fragmentation enabled the spread of production through global value chains integrating many developing countries into the global economy. Millions of new trade-related jobs were created in countries such as China, Viet Nam, and other South-East Asian economies with increased productivity, incomes, and reduced poverty [APTIR, 2015]. Women have especially



benefited from the expansion of global value chains (GVCs) into developing countries.

But there is the other side to this story. The benefits of globalization have not been shared widely or equitably. While workers producing smartphones, cars, or other GVC products in a few developing countries were gaining, their gains were relatively less than high-skilled

or capital owners locally and overseas.

Offshoring production has meant a loss of mostly lower-skilled jobs in the advanced economies. These changes gave rise to a denouncement of globalization in both developed and developing countries. The high-speed growth of GVCs in the late 1990s and early 2000s, might have contributed to a degradation of the environment

and overuse of resources.

The spread of resentment against globalization was recognized in several economies through populist policies focusing on short-term gains for those assumed to be hurt by globalization. Such policies go directly against the rationale for having a global governance of trade.

Unilateralism advances national interest at the expense

of other countries and invites similar retaliatory policies and ultimately trade wars. ESCAP has estimated that the imposed tariffs could cause GDP losses of at least \$400 billion worldwide (almost a loss of Thailand's GDP) and \$117 billion in Asia and the Pacific (100 million workers being paid a minimum monthly wage of \$100 for a year).

Yet the loss is potentially much more significant. Trade

tensions have spread from bilateral tit-for-tat tariffs, into the multilateral arena threatening the functioning of the global trade governance under the WTO. This system is not flawless and the calls for reform are justified. But that should not mean destruction before fixing it.

The global trade regime functions as a public good which is necessary to enable trade for delivering sustainable development. As demonstrated by ESCAP work, there are direct and indirect links between trade and the attainment of sustainable development. The channels are the following.

1. Trade facilitation and in particular digital trade facilitation reduces the cost of trade (by about 25%) and make its benefits accessible to many more, in particular women and SMEs.

2. Services are increasingly important for employment and value creation. They are closely linked to the process of digitalization of economies. The use of digital frontier technologies will allow for a new phase of globalization, unleashing the ability of professional services to be remotely provided across the globe. Asia's advantage in offering varied professional services through digital technology are clear and would contribute to all three dimensions of sustainable development (prosperity, inclusivity, and environmental responsibility). Moreover, digitalization will offer more opportuni-

ties to countries and groups still excluded to participate in global markets.

3. As shown in APTIR 2019, the amount of NTMs has been increasing. The trade costs that come from NTMs are estimated to be more than double that of ordinary customs tariffs, with the economic costs of SPS and TBT measures estimated being up to 1.6% of global GDP, amounting to \$1.4 trillion and the average trade costs of the Asia-Pacific region from NTMs is 15.3%. Yet NTMs often serve as a tool for the delivery of crucial public policies, such as the protection of human, animal, and plant health and protection of the environment. Can we keep NTMs but make them cheaper to use? Yes! By adopting new digital technologies and adjusting policies so that NTMs are aligned with international standards.

For these channels to remain open, there must be a functioning system of rules based on transparency, stability, predictability, and fairness. By working together, governments can improve the current WTO regime.

The opportunity comes up with the 12th Ministerial Conference in 2020 in Kazakhstan, and the ESCAP secretariat is already working with the Governments and other stakeholders towards ensuring that trade remains an effective means of implementation for sustainable development.

Agencies

# What the international landscape will be like in 2020

## BEIJING

In 2020, what kind of stormy days will the world face or what type of sunny days will the world witness?

### Brexit: Less misty

In 2020, the fog that has blurred for years Britain's way to fulfill Brexit is expected to temporarily lift. After British Prime Minister Boris Johnson led the Conservatives to victory in a snap election, the House of Commons has given overwhelming backing for Johnson's re-shaped Brexit deal in principle, which has raised the probability of a formal Brexit on Jan. 31, 2020.

Even though Britain has taken such a crucial step, it does not mean that Brexit is done. According to the current Brexit agreement, after the divorce between Britain and the European Union, negotiations on the economic and trade relationship in post-Brexit era will begin, which may trigger a new round of protracted games.

### U.S. elections: Continued heat

The U.S. presidential election will be held in November 2020. Catalyzed by the impeachment case against President Donald Trump, U.S. political polarization has intensified, and so have the conflicts between Democrats and Republicans. The race is to be continued in 2020.

After the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed two articles of impeachment against Trump, the Senate is expected to begin a trial in January. With Republicans controlling the majority in the Senate, the case is highly expected to be vetoed.

Nevertheless, how will the case affect Trump's election? There is little doubt that the outcome of the presidential election will exert a significant influence on the United States and the rest of the world as well.

### Russia-west relations: Generally frosty



Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, and Michel Barnier, the EU's Chief Brexit Negotiator, ahead of the opening sessions of the European Council summit at EU headquarters in Brussels. File photo

Just like a never-ending winter, the frosty relations between Russia and Western countries have lasted for more than five years since the Ukraine crisis. The differences between Russia and the United States remain difficult to resolve on thorny issues such as the Syrian crisis and the Iran nuclear issue.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said at an annual press conference that he is willing

to promote the normalization of Russia-Europe relations. Moreover, leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany concluded their first meeting in three years in Paris in December, agreeing to meet each other again in four months.

It is expected that the temperature will still remain low in 2020, but there is still hope for occasional warmth.

### Korean peninsula: Unpredictable

The year 2019 has been on a roller coaster for the Korean Peninsula. On Feb. 28, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Un and Trump ended their second summit in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi. The two met again in June in the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom.

On Oct. 5, negotiators from both countries met in Stockholm, Sweden in an effort to resume denuclearization talks. However, the talks ended without progress. The two sides jumped into a war of words at the end of the year.

The situation of the peninsula is set to remain unpredictable in 2020. The DPRK hopes to get rid of sanctions early through negotiations and is committed to developing its economy. Although the United States has said that it is willing to resolve the nuclear issue of the peninsula through negotiations, it has yet to walk the talk. As the United States enters an election year, the situation of the peninsula will become even more elusive.

### Iran nuclear issue: Overcast

Since May this year, Iran has gradually suspended the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement and the resumption of U.S. sanctions.

As it is bracing for the 2020 presidential election, the United States is less likely to launch a military strike against Iran, but more likely to continue to exert "maximum pressure" on the Middle East country.

Despite great pressure from

sanctions, Iran's economy is not projected to collapse in the short term. Moreover, Iran will not easily throw in the towel as it still holds such strategic cards as restarting the nuclear process and blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

In 2020, the intensity of U.S. sanctions against Iran, the speed at which Iran resumes nuclear activities and the extent to which some European nations will mediate are all likely to affect the progress of the Iran nuclear issue. It is expected that the cloud will not disperse soon.

### Global trade: Warming up in east

In 2019, international economic and trade frictions have intensified and the global free trade system has been under threat. The United States has taken unilateral actions against its major trading partners, damaging global trade as a whole.

The International Monetary Fund and other institutions have forecast that the world's major economies are likely to suffer a slowdown in growth in 2020. The downward pressure on the economy may lead to a further contraction in demand, thus causing rising protectionism from some countries and increasing the uncertainty of global growth.

Nevertheless, negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was mostly concluded in early November this year. China, Japan and South Korea have actively promoted the signing of RCEP as scheduled in 2020, which will inject tremendous vitality into the economic and trade development in the Asia-Pacific region and bring plenty of positives to global trade.

### Digital currency: Rolling thunders

In 2019, U.S. social media and technology company Facebook put forward the concept of "Libra," which has sparked a heated debate worldwide over digital currencies.

Several central banks around the world have an-

nounced their research and development progress in digital currencies. France will start testing a central bank digital currency for financial institutions since 2020. European Central Bank officials said the bank's research and development in digital currency has entered the technical level.

Meanwhile, the Bank for International Settlements plans to launch a central bank digital currency for inter-bank wholesale businesses. The People's Bank of China is also accelerating its research for legal digital currencies.

Waves of thunderstorms arising from central bank digital currencies indicate a changing global monetary system. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney has reckoned the creation of a network of central bank digital currencies as a means of overcoming the destabilizing dominance of the U.S. dollar on international trade.

### Artificial intelligence: Uncertain

New progress has been made in artificial intelligence (AI) research in 2019. Pluribus, an AI program developed by Carnegie Mellon University in cooperation with Facebook, defeated many of the world's top poker professionals in six-player Texas Hold'em. It proves that AI can not only defeat human beings in duo games like chess, but also triumph in multi-player strategic games more similar with the real world.

In 2020, with the large-scale commercial application of 5G technology, AI will obtain more data support and its application will be further expanded.

However, this also requires more urgent formulation of relevant ethics and rules. In particular, whether the competition among some big countries in military use of AI can be effectively controlled will determine whether this new technology brings more benefits or harm to mankind.

Agencies



Ukraine and Russia have managed to inch forward on a long-dormant peace process. File photo

## Wilderness, drought, lack of comprehensive plan blamed for Australia's worst bushfire

## SYDNEY

The scale of Australia's ongoing bushfire crisis has astounded onlookers around the globe, with at least 25 lives have been lost, thousands of homes destroyed and an estimated 480 million animals perished.

But how did these fires get so bad, and why have the emergency services struggled to extinguish them?

It is important to note that Australia is made up of large unpopulated areas of wilderness that are extremely difficult to reach.

Once a fire starts in one of these regions, the naturally dry and dense Australian bush can quickly become consumed by flames and spread beyond what fire crews are able to contain.

Contributing to conditions this season was an ongoing drought which left fuel sources such as dead leaves and timber extremely dry and much more likely to burn.



Last year, Australia experienced its driest spring in 120 years of recorded history, according to the country's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

There have also been several days of strong winds and high temperatures -- conditions

which can quickly spread fires and create very dangerous conditions for those trying to contain them.

Victorian State Control Centre spokesman Luke Heagarty told Xinhua that under these circumstances, blazes regu-

larly become too dangerous for the firefighters to even consider accessing.

"They're always days that challenge us every summer, but we've had a number of them already and they're the days when we've seen the

most significant fire spread occurring," Heagarty said.

In a matter of months, the fires in Australia have burnt through over 10 million hectares, an area close to the size of South Korea.

Despite Australia having the largest number of volunteer firefighters in the world, the area of land affected by the fires is simply too large and remote to deal with.

Heagarty explained that when fires reach that size they will burn, possibly for months, until the country receives significant rainfall.

"It's such a large fire area now that it would be impossible to get people fully surrounding these fires, just because it's such a difficult area to reach," he said.

Early on in the season, the firefront extended beyond 6,000 km, a distance almost twice as wide as the country itself, when the authorities have no possible options but focus on getting ahead of them and protecting the communities in their path.

When this strategy fails, devastation ensues, as has been the case throughout the sum-

mer.

Australia's leaders have been criticised for not anticipating the scale of this year's fires and better preparing for them.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's flippant position on climate change has attracted particularly harsh rebuke.

Former NSW Fire and Rescue Commissioner Greg Mullins has been vocal in expressing his frustration at having requests for a more comprehensive response plan ignored.

Supported by other ex-fire and emergency chiefs, Mullins had called for additional aerial firefighting assets, improved hazard reduction plans and better coordination with Australia's military assets, as well as national action on climate change.

The Australian Defence Force was later deployed to assist with the firefighting operation and relief. However, there has been some criticism that their involvement was delayed and should have been more proactive.

Mullins' group also suggested that during bushfire-prone

months, seasonal casual staff could be hired to bolster the number of firefighters in rural and regional areas.

This year the increased demand on fire crews prompted the federal government to offer limited financial assistance to volunteers, who put themselves in danger and spend weeks at a time away from their work and families.

Mullins was clear that the severity of this season's fires is directly linked to climate change, and that officials worldwide need to rethink their strategies in combating increasingly bad fire seasons into the future.

"In extreme conditions with extreme dryness, everything will burn, that's why we can't put these fires out," Mullins told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"Fuel reduction is not a panacea. Fire fighting aircraft are not a panacea," he said, adding that the country requires "new thinking" in how to deal with it in the future.

Agencies

# Low-income countries hit by 'double burden' of malnutrition extremes

By Gareth Willmer

**L**OWER-income countries are increasingly facing a double blow from the impact of both undernutrition and obesity, which often coexist within the same community - and are even found within the same families or individuals.

That's the warning from a report published in *The Lancet*, which found that 14 countries with among the world's lowest incomes had newly developed this "double burden" of malnutrition by the 2010s compared with the 1990s, even though the prevalence fell in higher-income developing countries.

More than a third of low and middle-income countries are estimated to experience these overlapping effects, with around 2.3 billion people overweight globally, and more than 150 million children having stunted growth.

"We don't have undernutrition and overweight in separate places, generated by different causes in different populations. They're

actually coexisting in the same countries and communities, and often in the same individuals," says Francesco Branca, director, WHO department of nutrition for health and development.

The global health community has been "slow to acknowledge" this dichotomy, with the two types of malnutrition often considered as separate issues rather than interconnected, according to the report.

However, a lack of nutritious food is at the root of both problems, with poor families increasingly exposed to low-quality, ultra-processed foods and drinks amid rapid changes in food systems. That also means people can be exposed to both forms of malnutrition at different points in their lifetimes, or a child can be both stunted and overweight, the report says.

Lead author Francesco Branca, director of the department of nutrition for health and development at the World Health Organization (WHO), which commissioned the report, said: "We don't have undernutrition



A family cooks a meal of Garasa (made from sorghum but using less flour than usual, due to food scarcity) at Jamam camp, in South Sudan

and overweight in separate places, generated by different causes in different populations. They're actually coexisting in the same countries and communities, and often in the same individuals."

As the lines have become

more blurred, it is no longer clear-cut that the key dietary issue will be undernourishment in low-income countries and obesity in high-income ones, he added.

The report found Indonesia to be the largest country

with a severe double burden, but the trend was also prevalent in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, southern and eastern Asia, and the Pacific. However, improvements were observed in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the

Middle East and North Africa.

The two types of malnutrition were seen within the same family in more than a quarter of households in some countries, including Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Egypt, and Comoros.

Branca hopes the report will have a significant impact in raising awareness of this double burden, pointing out that while the link has been recognised before, it has not always been acted on. That means countries may have a programme for undernutrition that doesn't take into account obesity, potentially exacerbating the problem. "Without understanding the intimate interaction between these different conditions, you end up developing separate policies, which is not cost-effective," says Branca. "Malnutrition affects not only health, but human capital and the potential for development."

The report calls for a fresh approach to the issue, requiring "societal shifts that can be scaled up and sustained over decades". It recommends actions ranging from improved antenatal care and breastfeeding practices to new agricultural policies geared towards healthy diets, and models how school breakfast programmes can benefit both health and the economy.

Whitney Schott, a demog-

rapher at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, welcomed the report, saying it highlighted that the world's population was "at greater risk of not only stunting and communicable diseases, but simultaneously at risk of non-communicable disease such as heart disease".

She also stressed the importance of taking into account differences between the sexes, which may require gender-specific interventions.

Studies by her team have found a trend towards overweight in more well-off households in countries such as Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam, Schott said.

"We can be relatively confident that the trajectories in less developed economies will closely follow those of more developed economies, unless interventions are successful to stop the spread of overindulgence in consumption of energy-dense fatty, salty and sugary foods with poor nutritional content," she warned.

## Q&A: the 'elephant in the room' in Nile Basin reporting

By Rehab Abd Almohsen

**C**rossing the borders of Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, the Nile is often portrayed as a river that ignites conflict because of the demand for its water by the 11 countries it serves. Balanced reporting of developments along its banks is stifled by a lack of information and curbs to press freedom, says Emanuele Fantini, project manager for the Open Water Diplomacy Lab.

The Open Water Diplomacy Lab was set up in 2016 to promote science and media as a catalyst for cooperation and peace amid these tensions. It examines the role of the two sectors in influencing ongoing negotiations over Nile waters, reaching out to diplomats, international institutions and NGOs to foster partnerships.

"The project provides a space for journalists and water scientists from different Nile Basin countries to participate in the joint learning and production process of knowledge and discuss issues related to the Nile Basin," says Fantini, a lecturer and researcher at the UNESCO-IHE Delft Institute for Water Education who spoke to SciDev.Net about the challenges of researching this thorny issue.

**What is the project and its objectives?**

Open Water Diplomacy is a project to create communication between media, science and transboundary cooperation in the Nile Basin. Usually when we think about diplomacy, including water diplomacy, the first ideas that come to mind are images of secrecy and closure. Diplomacy takes place in closed contexts, not open to public scrutiny, like meetings between diplomats.

Our main question is: how can journalists and researchers work together to open up water diplomacy? Most of the time when it comes to water conflicts the media are considered part of the problem, being accused of negative, sensationalist or inaccurate reporting. So IHE Delft embarked on research with journalists from Africa Water and SciDev.Net and researchers from the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network and University of WITS, Johannesburg, to better understand how international and national media are talking about the Nile.

Our second goal is to train journalists and researchers on science communication skills, with online and residential training, so that they can join these conversations effectively. And our third goal is to



The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

support the co-production by journalists and researchers of original information on Nile issues.

**What was the focus of this research?**

In our work with journalists and researchers we started by focusing on what tears them apart, on differences between the two professions that might lead to lack of collaboration, trying to understand how to bridge them. But as the project proceeded, it also became clear what journalists and researchers have in common. And the question here is: does this imply that we can no longer trust journalism and science? I don't think so.

In our research on Nile media narratives we decided to focus on the Eastern Nile basin, specifically on Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, where media debates on the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) are particularly lively and also contested. In order to complete the picture and explore how the same issues are reported outside these countries, we added the Ugandan [news website] and the international media (Al Jazeera and the Guardian).

We decided to look at mainstream newspapers and also analyse online comments by readers, since we are interested in both the mainstream or official narratives put forward by national government and institutions, and how these get reproduced or challenged online.

We are currently completing our research and are planning to publish it in a book later this year. It will be the first time researchers from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan will co-author research on this theme.

**What were some of the main findings of your research on Nile Basin media coverage?**

We found that the media remains caught in the nation trap: Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt are presented as unitarian, monolithic actors with one national interest orienting their action in relation to the Nile. There is almost no reference to internal debates within each country about how Nile waters should be distributed and used.

Often Nile issues are narrowed to a bilateral issue between Ethiopia and Egypt, with Sudan barely mentioned and often as a secondary actor, without clear agency and stakes. These bilateral accounts tend to emphasise the conflict dimension, while as soon as Sudan or other basin countries are brought in the picture, there is more room to explore and discuss collaborative solutions.

Data and scientific information are used mostly in a cosmetic or rhetoric way, to give an impression of information based on evidence, without adequate explanation and contextualisation. Most of the information on the GERD, for instance - about its costs and advancement of construction works - seems to be based on copy and paste from the internet. This is also due to the difficulty of accessing information about the dam and conducting investigative journalism in the region. We found very little reference and links to scientific studies and research on Nile issues. The big elephant in the room is freedom of expression: when analysing and commenting on Nile media debates we should not forget that these debates often take place in a closed political space, with significant limits to freedom of expression of both journalists and researchers. This of course goes beyond the Nile. During our research, for almost one year, Ethiopia was under state of emergency with social media shut down. The same happened in Sudan when the military shut down internet access and it was almost impossible to com-

municate with our Sudanese colleagues.

**How do you plan to communicate the results to decision-makers and organisations working in the field of water?**

As a project we have different channels of communication to reach different audiences: we have InfoNile.org which is a platform for geographic journalism, interested in mapping the world. We also have the podcast *The sources of the Nile* whose main goal is to elicit a conversation between journalists, researchers and policymakers. And there's the online campaign #EverydayNile involving photojournalists from Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt who visited each other to picture how the Nile looks in other riparian countries.

**What is the next step for the project?**

In the past months our project has also generated interest outside the Nile Basin, so we are planning to scale it up and share our experience with journalists and researchers from other basins like Lake Chad in Africa and the Brahmaputra in Asia. We will try to replicate there what we did in the Nile Basin in terms of research, training and reporting grants - and hopefully we will also learn more from the experience of these other basins.

This piece was produced by SciDev.Net's Middle East & North Africa desk and edited for brevity and clarity.

The Open Water Diplomacy Lab is run by the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the world's largest international graduate water education facility. The project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Global Partnership for Water and Development.

## Research to understand, help young people at greatest risk of suicide

PERTH

The Young Lives Matter Foundation at The University of Western Australia has received \$100,000 in community grants to support research to help understand and prevent youth suicide.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in 15 to 29 year-olds worldwide. The task of understanding who is most vulnerable and when they are most at risk requires intensive research.

Suicide prevention is a national priority, and the Federal Government has committed itself to a zero target.

UWA Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Andrew Page said that understanding suicide triggers was often difficult because they were complex and varied between individuals, and that research to understand the issues at play was critical.

"We are delighted to receive these grants because they will help researchers in the fields of education, psychological science and psychiatry offer their expertise and work together as an interdisciplinary team to provide new insights into suicide to support our young people," Professor Page said.

"Key areas of research will include exploring loneliness in adolescents generally as a developmental risk for vulnerability and looking into suicidal behaviours which will feed into work to develop a vulnerability index.

"The index will be used to predict adolescent suicide and will also examine the risk factors of adolescent self-harm.

"In addition, to create the vulnerability index we will examine the role of 'positive disintegration' which looks at how people respond to anxiety and psychological tension."

UWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater said developing a greater evidence-base through research was vital to be able to address a significant issue affecting youth.

"The challenge for those in the front line treatment of individuals is being able to intervene early and deliver an effective treatment path," Professor Freshwater said.

"That's why this research is so important - it will include a diverse range of experts and harness their capacity to engage with stakeholders to result in real change as we seek to reduce the rates of suicide in Australia."

UWA Professor Sean Hood (Associate Dean, UWA Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences) Professor Stephen Houghton (Director Centre for Child & Adolescent Related Disorders) and Professor Andrew Page will lead the research teams.

# Why police should focus on street robberies

BY LIZETTE LANCASTER AND STUART MBANYELE

While the media tends to focus on South Africa's high-profile robberies such as cash-in-transit heists, mall robberies and house robberies, the far larger problem of 'street robbery' is mostly ignored - not just by the media but by law enforcement. Policing strategies could go a long way in preventing this type of crime.

The lack of attention on street robbery is problematic for victims. It also means that more serious attacks like hijacking and home robberies will continue to rise, as the perpetrators are often the same.

Street robberies affect many more people than other types of robbery in South Africa and have been soaring for seven years. According to the latest South African Police Service (SAPS) crime statistics for April 2018 to March 2019, 140 032 cases of aggravated (or serious armed) robbery were recorded. Most of these armed attacks (57%) can be described as street robberies - perpetrated against people walking in the streets or other public places.

The police don't distinguish this type of robbery from other categories of robbery, rendering

ing street robbery largely invisible in the police statistics. This is so despite the police receiving reports of 80 215 street robberies - an average of 220 a day - in 2018/19.

The types of aggravated robbery that the police instead focus and report on are carjacking, truckjacking, house and business robberies, and bank and cash-in-transit robberies. These six classifications make up 43% of all aggravated robberies reported to the police.

It is not only most serious or aggravated robberies that take place on the streets and in public. The bulk of the 51 765 'common robberies' reported to police in 2018/19 also occurred on the streets. (These are crimes in which the victim is threatened with physical harm but without the use of a dangerous weapon.)

The SAPS classifies robberies as crimes committed by one or more armed perpetrators who directly use, or threaten a victim with, violence in order to steal their belongings. Robbery leaves the victim not only with the loss of hard-earned valuables but also psychological trauma. It can lead to physical injury or death.

Despite the seriousness of street robberies, most go unreported. According to the recent Victims of Crime Survey, almost two out of three (65.3%) victims



In what is a largely ignored problem in South Africa, many street robbers graduate to car hijacking and home robbery. FILE PHOTO

of street robberies do not report the attack to police. The high under-reporting rate is probably due to victims believing the police are incapable of resolving the crime.

Street robbers pick the place and their potential victims carefully. Their selection is often based on the availability of vulnerable targets and quick escape routes. These spots are usually dark, overgrown or desolate walkways used by pedestrians to move to and from transit hubs, public services, schools or shopping centres. It is for this reason that a person is more likely to be a victim of a street robbery in a business node or densely

populated area.

The top five high-risk police precincts in South Africa for aggravated street robberies are Johannesburg Central, Hillbrow, Khayelitsha, Nyanga and Durban Central. The robberies are not evenly spread across these precincts but are concentrated in micro-locations identifiable through hotspot analysis. Furthermore, most robberies are committed by a relatively

small number of repeat offenders.

Good policing can be particularly effective to prevent street robbery. Problem-oriented policing strategies that develop responses to this specific crime at local level would be useful. More precise data is also needed on where and how the crimes take place. This information should be methodically captured, mapped and verified. Used consistently

over time, emerging trends and hotspots can then be analysed. Data-driven decision making will ensure more rational planning and deployment of resources.

Accurate data is needed not just for good planning, but also for monitoring and evaluation. Police station managers should also share information with the public to enable them to keep themselves safe, support safety interventions, and

improve perceptions of police accountability. This in turn helps grow public trust and confidence in the police.

Detailed anti-street robbery strategies are also needed. This requires a collaborative approach ideally driven by local crime intelligence officers who identify patterns, trends, modus operandi and develop detailed offender profiles. Dedicated detectives should arrest offenders and gather adequate evidence to support convictions. Targeted visible police patrols, both foot and vehicle, can deter and prevent potential crimes.

While robbery can be substantially reduced by effective policing, communities can also help improve their own safety. This can be done through neighbourhood watches, community policing forums and disrupting the market for stolen goods by increasing awareness or simply not buying such goods. Environmental considerations such as improved street lighting, closed-circuit television and removing overgrown grass to eradicate hiding spots are also useful. Evidence shows that if carried out carefully and methodically, these measures can work to reduce street robbery.

Street robberies are the entry point for many career criminals who move on to more sophisticated endeavours such as hijacking, home and business robberies. A focus on street robberies will have a positive impact on crime and violence levels and improve public feelings of safety.

Agencies

# Women's groups applaud gender action plan following COP 25

MADRID

After nearly two weeks of negotiations at COP 25 climate negotiations in Madrid last month (2-13 December), governments will be adopting a new 5-year Gender Action Plan (GAP) that progressively builds upon the first GAP, and works to address many of the concerns raised by women and gender groups at the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including calls for greater focus on implementation and scaling up gender-just climate solutions.

The GAP has been unanimously agreed to by governments who are called to lead or contribute to actions to promote gender-equality in the UNFCCC process as well

as support all activities. Crucially, this GAP takes into account human rights, ensuring a just transition, and the challenges Indigenous Peoples face while fighting for climate justice and protecting their communities.

"In comparison to the initial GAP, new activities provide the opportunity to meaningfully shift towards capacity building and enhanced implementation of gender-responsive climate action at all levels, including for example, the promotion of gender-responsive technology solutions and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors" said Ndivile Mokoena, GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice Southern Africa.

The negotiations were not easy, with Parties failing to deliver a text for the closing

of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) as expected, and the COP25 Presidency having to host high-level consultations in the final week to come to a consensus.

Delays in negotiations included initial process challenges to arrive at a basis for negotiating text, followed by disagreement on inclusion of previously agreed language on human rights and just transition, as well as over references to finance and means of implementation.

"While it was frustrating to witness delays in the negotiations, particularly agreed language on rights, the fact that we have achieved and adopted a 5 year gender action plan that includes many of the key demands of Parties as well as views of women and gender



## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =033=

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

O L I V E

L I N E R

- 3 letter word: KOA, POT, RUM, CDR, CAN
- 4 letter word: AWAY, GALA, POST, LOUD, ROAD
- 5 letter word: TEASE, SHRED, UHURU, NEUME, NOISE
- 6 letter word: SNAKES, AARHUS, ASSURE
- 7 letter word: YOGHURT
- 8 letter word: ELEGANCE, SPELLING
- 9 letter word: TSE TSE FLY
- 10 letter word: TESTACIOUS

WORD FIT

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

- Clues: Across
1. Better (7)
  5. Christian festival in spring (6)
  8. Make somebody anxious (7)
  9. Deceive somebody (5)
  10. Noah's ship (3)
  11. Shameful offense (3)
  12. Wanting what somebody else has (4)
  15. Perimeter of figures (5)
  16. Devil (5)
  17. Short swift race (6)
- Down:
1. Lavish display (9)
  2. Divide with sharp tool (3)
  3. Gases forming atmosphere (3)
  4. Boss (6)
  6. Look fixedly (5)
  7. Eject somebody from property (6)
  10. Negative terminal (5)
  13. Ballots cast (4)
  14. Valuable thing (5)
  15. A cut (4)
  16. Total (3)

groups goes to show the critical importance to which countries have started to understand and value gender equality in climate action."

"I think the political will shown by negotiators under this agenda to negotiate towards consensus and achieve a robust outcome could and should be modeled under all other items in this process. In particular, I want to highlight the incredibly strong leadership of the Government of Mexico in facilitating Parties to come to this agreement. It was inspiring to witness!" said Bridget Burns, WEDO, United States.

Political will was also built through the effective mobilization efforts of both the Women and Gender Constituency and other civil society allies who refused to see this COP stall progress on gender equality.

"Mobilization efforts via social media, letters to Ministers, including protests by civil society movements were critical to raising political awareness on GAP,"

said Kavita Naidu, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Thailand.

However, there are concerns that the Gender Action Plan lacks clearly defined indicators and targets for measuring its progress, such as a progressive target on advancing women's leadership in the process.

"While the GAP acknowledges intersectional identities that women hold, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, more work needs to be done to understand the multidimensional and non-binary social intersections that impact the ways in which people mitigate to and build resilience to climate impacts."

"The adoption of the enhanced GAP does not mean our work is done. We will need to focus our work now at the national level to ensure the implementation of the GAP, as well as monitoring its implementation," Nanna Birk, LIFE Education

Sustainability Equality, Germany.

While Women and Gender Constituency applauds this outcome, it fully recognizes and maintains that no real action on gender equality can be achieved without progress from Parties to fully implement the Paris Agreement, including to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees.

"We know we are far from that reality. The GAP is a tool to advance progress on both gender equality and effective climate solutions, but gender equality does not live in the GAP. It is realized through just and bold climate action. We remain appalled by the lack of progress overall in these negotiations and move forward boldly to lift up women's rights and the voices of women and gender advocates everywhere as we know that real climate action can only be achieved when these voices and leadership are centered and heeded." added Burns.

Agencies



**MARKET TRENDS**  
**Samsung Electronics says profit fall likely milder than forecasts as chip prices bottom out**

page 15

Thursday 9 January 2020

## 53 young entrepreneurs to take part at this year's 'Future I Want Awards'

By Banker Reporter

A TOTAL of 53 Tanzanian youth are expected to take part at the 'The Future I Want Awards' (FISA) to be held later this year, thanks to the initiative made by a local firm—Lambokile Company Limited.

The company deals with finding solutions to business challenges facing young people and entrepreneurs.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam, the company's Manager, Stephen Mliga said the awards are part of the company's efforts to support young Tanzanians economically.

He said the firm has been contributing to develop the business sector through its three major projects that focuses on youth including FISA and Mtaani Fund.

The other project implemented by the company is 'Start and Improve Your Business' (SIYB), said Mliga.

He said the main aim of these projects is to bring back hope to the young people mainly those living in the streets that all is not lost for them since they can easily recover from whatever bad things they are going through and become productive citizens of the country.

"This project focuses on supporting people to start businesses and enhance productivity. We support entrepreneurs from early stages when preparing business plans, starting business as well as improving productivity," said the Manager.

FISA Project Manager, Jacob Tito explained to journalists on the whole process of getting the award finalists. He said the three winners will have opportunity to address delegates during the award event.

Tito noted that they received 418 applications from young Tanzanians and entrepreneurs across the country, but through the process they have remained with 53 applicants only. He said the company considers a number of factors when looking for finalists such as innovation, project results and how it will be beneficial to the community.

FISA Awards Coordinator, James Chitemo said the competition is difficult because there are many good applicants with good business ideas. He said out of the 418 applicants, 268 were nominated by other people while 150 nominated themselves.

"We have four people who have been nominated by 6551 people to enter into the top three categories. We wanted people to vote for the nominees to ensure transparency and fair competition," he said adding some award categories had a big number of competitors the thing that added into difficulties to get finalists.

Some of the categories in FISA awards includes, outstanding entrepreneurial project in environmental conservation, overriding youth in employment creation, best youth entrepreneurial forum, best icon in SDGs performance, honorary award in supporting youth development, overriding agriculture and agribusiness project, paramount media program excel youth development and best greening creative business idea.

Others are outstanding innovation award; youth humanitarian support award, finest entertainment and talent as well as the best female icon influencing youth development.

## RC Gaguti dares Kagera business community to seize CRDB Plc financing opportunities

By Banker Reporter

THE business community in Kagera region has been challenged to seize opportunities being provided by CRDB Bank Plc which included loans and expert advice of financial matters.

Kagera Regional Commissioner, brigadier general, Marco Gaguti said here yesterday that by utilizing CRDB's variety of financial services and products will enable them to improve productivity, boost growth

and help government attain its industrialization plan as advocated by President John Magufuli.

Addressing the region's business community at consultative meeting hosted by the Dar es Salaam based lender, Gaguti said business can grow and graduate into big companies if they use financial products and services being rendered by banks such CRDB.

"I would like to congratulate CRDB for organizing this meeting which will enlighten our business community to use banking ser-

vices in their daily business dealings," the RC remarked while stressing that Kagera has vast resources to support industrialization.

He challenged small and medium size enterprise owners and managers to exploit CRDB's vast potential in dealing with such businesses through its specialized CRDB Microfinance Bank which is specifically tailored for them.

"CRDB has come to mobilize you in understanding what it has on offer for you including various loan packages but also expert advise,"

RC Gaguti added stressing that his administration will continue working with CRDB managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela's management to boost economic growth.

"It feels good to see such a huge bank owned and run by locals focusing on providing quality financial services to business people hence contributing towards national economic growth which gradually takes our country to semi industrialized middle income status," he added.

Welcoming the RC,

CRDB's Nsekela said the bank has continued to focus on SMEs and small entrepreneurs because there still is a huge potential to be tapped as banking services are still in high demand.

"Early last year, the bank introduced special products and services targeting contractors and suppliers which include purchase order financing, contract financing and invoice discounting which are collateral free," Nsekela said.

He said the country's largest commercial bank understand that in order

to grow rapidly, the private sector needs various banking services to invest and grow their enterprises hence contributing to national growth.

"Let me take this opportunity to assure Kagera business community that CRDB Bank is well positioned to address all of their banking needs," he assured while insisting that the bank also provide insurance cover, tax advice and specializes in micro-financing of small businesses.



Part of the Kagera business community that attended CRDB Bank's meeting held in Bukoba yesterday. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

## EPZA hands over 100m/- 'dividend' pay check to Treasury

By Banker Reporter

EXPORT Processing Zones Authority beat President John Magufuli's January 23 deadline and handed over a 100m/- contribution pay cheque to Treasury.

EPZA joins a list of dozens of state owned enterprises that have paid Treasury contribution which will boost the government's non-tax revenue this fiscal year.

Speaking after receiving the dividend, Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango

said in Dodoma yesterday that the EPZA and plus 12 other public entities' payment is important in the state's revenue collection drive to finance development projects. "I thank all the institutions that have complied with the directive issued by President John Magufuli to pay dividend necessary to improve Tanzanians lives," Dr Mpango said.

He argued that the government plans to cut foreign borrowing and external financing in paying its budgetary obligations hence the need to strengthen internal

revenue collections. Statistics show that contributions and dividend paid by government entities have increased to over 1trn/- in 2018/19 financial year from 161.04bn/- in 2014/15 where only 24 state enterprises paid up.

Contributions and dividend paid by state enterprises and government agencies account for 50 percent of non tax revenue to Treasury. As an autonomous government agency operating under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, EPZA is responsible

for steering and implementing government policy of promoting industrialization in the country.

The EPZA Investment Promotion Officer, Grace Lemunge said out of such activities, the authority has been able to pay Treasury its contribution for 2019/20 fiscal year. Among other things, Lemunge said EPZA offers a wide range of investment supporting services, facilitation, licensing and development of special economic zones' infrastructure.

"The export processing zone

scheme promotes investment in manufacturing sector mainly for export while special economic zones register investment for both local as well as export markets involving other sectors like agriculture, trade, tourism, mining and forestry," Lemunge said.

She said EPZA provides pre and after care services including provision of guidance and comprehensive information about the establishment of special economic zones in the country.

## Dar, Zanzibar residents scoop awards in Tigo Pesa Wakala Kinara promotion



Tigo's Acting Head of Mobile Financial Services Angelica Pesho (R) hands over a dummy cheque worth 20m/- to Ilala resident Hajira Fadhil after she emerged a national winner of the just ended Tigo Pesa Wakala Kinara promotion at the occasion in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

By Banker Reporter

TWO Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar residents were yesterday received their awards after emerged winners of the Tigo Pesa Wakala Kinara promotion.

Hajira Fadhil of Ilala in Dar es Salaam emerged a national winner of the just ended promotion and went away with 20m/-, while Suleiman Hussein from Zanzibar got 10m/-.

The promotion which is organized by Tigo's Mobile Money business unit was aimed at recognizing the role played by more than 100,000 Tigo Pesa agents across the country.

Speaking during the hand-over ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tigo's Acting Head of Mobile Financial Services Angelica Pesho said that the promotion which

commenced on December 1 and ended December 31, 2019, has awarded agents who have made the most transactions in their respective zone in the month.

The promotion involved agents from Lake Zone, Coast, Northern and Southern zones.

She said that a total of 50m/- have been given to various winners in the country.

"Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and commend all our agents for the significant role they play every day in servicing our customers across the country," she said.

Pesho also revealed that Tigo Pesa offers full fledged financial services and the promotion is one of the several activities created by Tigo Pesa in a bid to drive the financial inclusion agenda while engaging its agents

across the country.

The winners commended Tigo for the innovative promotion for its customers.

"I am going to use these funds to expand my business, I make sure that I open more Tigo Pesa shops to serve people while also improving my income," said Hajira Fadhil.

Tigo Pesa is Tanzania's second-largest mobile money service provider boasting over 7 million registered customers and a growing network of over 50,000 merchants and around 100,000 mobile agents.

It is leading in innovation, constantly adding a variety of products to its portfolio such as: loans, insurance, corporate solutions for collections and bulk disbursements and 'Jihudumie' services that give more control of the transactions to the customers.



ABSA's new logo. File photo.

## Absa signs R7bn deal to boost lending in Africa

PRETORIA

**A**bsa Group has entered into an agreement with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency to bolster the bank's lending capacity in Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Uganda and Zambia.

The World Bank's MIGA will issue guarantees of \$497m (just over R7bn), valid for as long as

15 years, to Johannesburg-based Absa, the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

This will help shield Absa from risks associated with the mandatory capital reserves it is required to hold with various central banks.

It will free Absa's subsidiaries in the region to provide more financing to corporates, small- and Absa Group Limited, formerly Barclays Africa Group Limited, and origi-

nally Amalgamated Banks of South Africa, is an African based financial services group, offering personal and business banking, credit cards, corporate and investment banking, wealth and investment management as well as bancassurance.

It is the majority shareholder of 11 banks spanning Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania (two entities), Uganda

and Zambia, with a further two representative offices in Namibia and Nigeria. It also has an international office in London, which opened in 2018 medium-sized enterprises and projects that will benefit the climate, Absa said.

Absa was founded in 1991 through the merger of financial service providers United Bank (South Africa), the Allied Bank (South Africa), the Volkskas Bank Group and certain interests of the

Sage Group. The following year, Absa acquired the entire shareholding of the Bankorp Group which included Trustbank, Senbank and Bankfin.

In the early years of this union, each bank operated under its own name. In 1998, they were fused into one single brand. A year later, Absa adopted a new corporate identity and the name was changed into Absa Group Limited.

## Alibaba undercuts Amazon in Europe to woo wary brands

MADRID

After years of reconnaissance, China's retail king Alibaba is finally making its move on Europe. It is undercutting Amazon sellers' fees to attract vendors but has had mixed results, six sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

A flood of small businesses have joined its European platform, AliExpress, in recent months but some larger brands are holding back, according to the sources.

AliExpress has approached well-known brands including Mango, Benetton and Spanish fashion group Tendam, owner of Cortefiel, to appear on the site with limited success, according to five sources involved in the approaches who declined to be named because the discussions were confidential.

Some of the brands did not feel the site, whose fashion offerings include an imitation leather miniskirt for about \$18 and an acrylic batwing sweater for \$14, was the right showcase for their products, sources said.

A senior executive at one large fashion company, which turned down AliExpress's approaches in Europe, said its brand needed to be in an "aspirational environment". Another described the AliExpress platform as "a work in progress".

However the head of AliExpress, Wang Mingqiang, told Reuters in an interview at Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, that foreign brands needed time to understand the platform.

With space to design their own stores within the platform, brands can build their own homepage, with pictures and video, to create the feel they want, he added.

Both Benetton and Tendam declined to comment officially on whether they were approached. Neither brand sells on AliExpress but they do sell on Amazon. Mango said it did not sell on AliExpress with no further comment. It does not sell on Ama-



The logo of AliExpress is seen at Alibaba Expansion office at the Alibaba company's headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China.

zon (AMZN.O).

An AliExpress spokeswoman did not comment on whether the company had approached these brands or others.

"We are continuously exploring opportunities to work with different partners and committed to acting as a trusted partner for both consumers and sellers," the company said.

Alibaba has hitherto focused on selling inexpensive Chinese products overseas through its AliExpress platform, such as \$3 USB cables and \$2 crystal earrings, curbing its appeal to a wider audience.

But in the past six months it has started a drive to open up the platform to local vendors and brands as it seeks to replicate a highly profitable model of virtual malls that has seen it swallow more than half of online sales in China.

"Overseas sellers have a better understanding of local users, their products have better designs as they are closer to local users," said Wang.

The company is initially targeting Spain and Italy, plus the Europe-Asia gateway nations of Russia and Turkey, among its top markets under the previous, first-

phase business model launched in 2010.

Spain, a big Western country with strong local brands, is the kind of market Alibaba needs to win over if it is to meet CEO Daniel Zhang's target to more than double its customer base to 2 billion by 2036 despite a stuttering Chinese economy.

Its progress there illustrates its strategy, and the obstacles it could encounter, as it plots global expansion.

AliExpress has waived monthly rates for sellers in Spain to attract their business while commissions for goods sold are set at 5% to 8%, according to a senior source close to the company.

By comparison, it costs 39 euros per month plus sales tax to sell on Amazon, plus a commission for every object sold of 7% to 15%, with some items like jewelry and Amazon device accessories commanding higher rates, an Amazon spokeswoman said.

Amazon declined to comment on AliExpress's move to open its platform to local sellers. The U.S. company is the largest online shopping marketplace in its five main European markets: Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, according to e-

commerce analyst Marketplace Pulse.

Thousands of small businesses have signed up to register on AliExpress in Spain since it was opened up to local sellers in 2019, an AliExpress spokeswoman said.

She declined to be more specific, but that would compare favorably with established Amazon, which said more than 8,000 small Spanish businesses sold on its platform in 2018.

In one of AliExpress's most high-profile signings so far, Spanish department store El Corte Ingles said in June it would boost its presence on the platform to seven fashion lines.

Spanish cosmetics start-up Le Tout started to sell on AliExpress in 2019 when the platform opened to local sellers. The company sells around 12 times more in volume on Amazon than AliExpress, said Managing Director Alvaro Dominguez.

"I think that AliExpress has been associated for a long time with Chinese products - it's a question of time but I think they are doing all that is possible to get traffic and visibility."

## Stocks, gold and oil whipsawed as Iran strikes spark Mideast war fears

SHANGHAI

ASIAN shares tumbled on Wednesday, while oil, safe-haven Treasury prices and gold shot higher after Iran fired rockets at U.S. led forces in Iraq, stoking fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East.

European equity markets were expected to open lower, with pan-region Euro Stoxx 50 futures down 0.77 per cent, German DAX futures off 0.91% and FTSE futures 0.45 per cent lower.

Iran's missile attacks on the Ain Al-Asad air base and another in Erbil, Iraq, early in the day came hours after the funeral of an Iranian commander whose killing in a U.S. drone strike has intensified tensions in the region.

Early reports of the attacks sparked a sudden rise in risk aversion on worries over how the United States would respond. Asian equities later trimmed losses, Japan's yen stabilized and U.S. bonds tempered their rally as investors paused for breath after U.S. President Donald Trump said in a tweet that "All is well!", and "So far, so good".

"We are getting exaggerated moves but that's of course volatility playing. Markets simply hate uncertainty. It's an old adage but it definitely holds true in the current situation - markets can price risks but they can't price uncertainty," said James McGlew, executive director of corporate stockbroking at Argonaut in Perth.

In his tweet late Tuesday, Trump said that an assessment of casualties and damage from the strikes was under way and that he would make a statement on Wednesday morning. A U.S. official said the United States was not aware of any casualties from the strikes.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.72 per cent, having dropped more than 1% earlier in the day. China's blue-chip CSI300 index was 1.18 per cent lower.

Japan's Nikkei dipped 1.57 per cent, paring earlier losses of more than 2 per cent, while Australian shares clawed back from a more-than-1% drop to shed 0.13 per cent. U.S. S&P500 e-mini stock futures, which had earlier tumbled nearly 1.7 per cent, were down 0.38 per cent.

Rob Carnell, Asia-Pacific chief economist at ING in Singapore, said possible further escalation of tensions between Iran and the United States could still provoke a prolonged negative market reaction.

"If you see U.S. treasuries rallying a bit this morning, expect them to rally quite a bit further should there be a forceful response from the United States, which I'd imagine there would be...from a market perspective I think this one could run and run," he said.

The yield on benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury notes last stood at 1.742 per cent, down from a U.S. close of 1.825 per cent on Tuesday, but up from session lows. U.S. 10-year Treasury futures had earlier peaked at their highest level since November, and were last up 0.29 per cent.

## Anglo may rescue UK's biggest mining project with R7bn bid

WASHINGTON

Anglo American has confirmed that it is in talks to buy the UK's embattled Sirius Mining.

Sirius produces polyhalite, a mineral salt which is used as a fertiliser and for other industrial applications. The company plans to become a global leader in the mining of the mineral through the development of its North Yorkshire polyhalite project, currently the biggest UK mining project.

But the project is in serious trouble after Sirius abandoned plans to raise £400m to fund it last year, blaming a lack of government support and Brexit. It warned that it only had enough

cash to last a couple of months. Sirius' shares lost more than 80% of their value last year.

Anglo said in a statement on Wednesday that it identified the project as "being of potential interest some time ago, given the quality of the underlying asset in terms of scale, resource life, operating cost profile and the nature and quality of its product."

"Anglo American believes that the possible offer could provide certainty to Sirius' shareholders, whilst Anglo American brings the financial, technical and marketing resources and capabilities to progress the Project over time," it said.

It confirmed that it was in

"advanced discussions" with Sirius in relation to a possible offer.

"The proposal would value the entire issued share capital of Sirius at approximately £386 million (R7bn)," read a statement issued in Wednesday.

In a statement on Wednesday, Sirius said the takeover offer is subject to discussions with various stakeholders and that its board has indicated to Anglo American that it expects to be able to recommend a firm offer at the price set out in the proposal.

The offer represents a cash offer of 5.50 pence for all issued Sirius shares, as well as shares to be issued, said a statement adding that "there can be no

certainty that any firm offer will be made". Sirius was trading around 3 pence before the offer. It was trading at 22 pence a year ago.

Sirius added that Anglo American had a right to reduce the offer consideration by the amount of any dividend or other distribution or return of capital which is paid or becomes payable by Sirius after the date of this announcement.

Anglo American South Africa has in recent years been offloading some of its coal mines in the country, amid a push towards cleaner energy resources. In 2018, the company sold its new large coal project to a group of black-controlled companies for R850m. The mine supplied

coal to power stations operated by the struggling power utility Eskom.

MARKETTRENDS



Gold bars are displayed at the headquarters of Mitsubishi Materials Corporation in Tokyo, Japan. File photo.

# Barclays pressured by shareholders to cut fossil fuel financing



The Barclays logo in this illustration. File photo

LONDON

A GROUP of Barclays (BARC.L) shareholders coordinated by responsible investment lobby group ShareAction want the bank to phase out financing fossil fuels, stepping up pressure on one of Europe's biggest funders of the sector.

Eleven institutional investors have filed a resolution to be voted on at Barclays' annual meeting in May, requiring the bank to set out plans to stop providing all financial services to firms not aligned with the Paris climate agreement.

The pressure on Barclays comes at a time when shareholders, prompted by activists and mounting public concern, are increasingly

urging the companies they invest in to do more to combat the climate crisis.

Up to now, investors have largely focused their collective efforts on big oil and gas companies responsible for producing fossil fuels, with resolutions at companies including Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA.L), BP (BPL) and Equinor (EQNR.OL).

The Barclays resolution will mark the first time a European bank has faced such shareholder action on fossil fuel financing. It calls on Barclays to go further than its previous public commitments to combat climate change by forcing it to set specific targets.

The move comes just days after outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney said the financial services industry

had been too slow to cut investment in fossil fuels.

Carney is set to leave the BoE at the end of January to take up a position as the United Nations special envoy for climate action. He has previously warned that global warming could lead to a sharp reassessment of the value of every financial asset.

The eleven investors publicly backing the Barclays resolution collectively manage some 130 billion pounds (\$171.39 billion) and include Brunel Pension Partnership, LGPS Central, Sarasin & Partners and Folksam.

"The lending practices of many banks pose a serious threat to the goals of the Paris agreement," said Laura Chappell, Chief Executive of Brunel Pension Partnership.

"We hope the Barclays Board formally supports this resolution."

One of the bank's 20 biggest shareholders told Reuters they could also back the proposals.

"We've said to Barclays we would be minded to support this type of resolution, so you'd better take it seriously," the investor said.

A formal vote on the measures at the May meeting might not be needed if the bank announces measures beforehand that satisfy the investors' demands.

"We are working to help tackle climate change, and we meet with ShareAction and other shareholders regularly to update them on our progress," a spokesman for Barclays said.

## Bank of England to test climate risks at banks and insurers in 2021

LONDON

BRITAIN's top banks and insurers should be tested together for the first time in 2021 to quantify the potential financial hit from climate change to their businesses, the Bank of England proposed yesterday.

But there will be no pass or fail mark when the results are published in the second quarter of 2021, and no individual firm will be named, the central bank said in a discussion paper asking for industry feedback on its plans.

"Climate change will affect the value of virtually every financial asset," BoE Governor Mark Carney said in a statement.

Climate change and the regulatory and political response to environmental problems are increasingly seen as one of the biggest long-term threats to the financial industry.

Switzerland's financial market supervisor FINMA this month identified broad-based risks ranging from rising natural catastrophe costs that could cause significant losses for insurers to a drastic repricing of climate-exposed assets.

The BoE said the aim of the test would not be to check whether banks and insurers hold enough capital to withstand the impact of climate change on their assets and business models.

Only aggregate results will be published but the BoE will use results of individual firms to check if they are properly managing risks from the shift to a low carbon economy and physical damage from bad weather to property and infrastructure.

As with other risks facing banks and insurers, the BoE has a range of tools it can use to change behavior, such as capital "add-ons" and put-

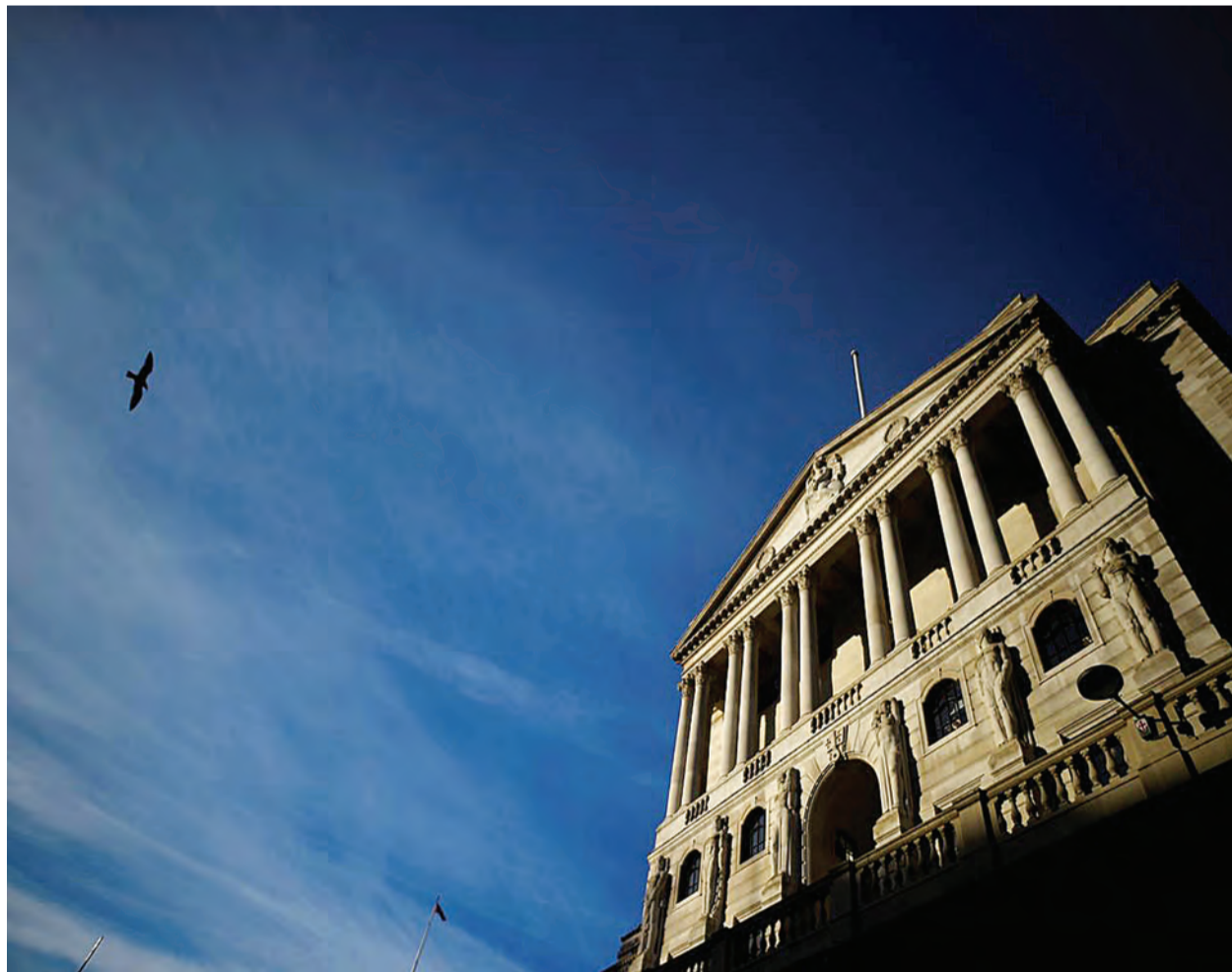
ting pressure on managers who have direct responsibility for dealing with climate change risks.

The main UK-based banks that take part in the current annual stress test of lenders will be included in the 2021 exercise along with a representative number of insurers.

The test will assess the impact of climate change on asset prices and business models over three scenarios: taking early action, acting late, or taking no action at all to meet global climate goals.

The BoE has already included a climate risk element in this year's stress test for insurers, whose results will be published in the first quarter of 2020, and which are seen as a pilot for the 2021 test.

It will publish detailed scenarios for the test next April, which will be closely watched by central banks in other countries.



A bird flies past The Bank of England in the City of London, Britain. File photo.

## Luckin Coffee seeks more of China market with new vending machine business

BEIJING

LUCKIN Coffee Inc (LKO) said it is expanding into vending machines that sell freshly brewed hot beverages and snacks, seeking even more of the China market after overtaking Starbucks Corp (SBUX.O) as the country's biggest coffee chain by number of stores.

Luckin founder and CEO Qian Zhuya said the new strategy allowed it to be asset-light and nimble.

"It allows us to get closer to consumers and we are not restricted by

the license approvals," she said at an event to launch the new business.

Growing at breakneck speed by offering cheap delivery, online ordering and big discounts, Luckin also said it now has just over 4,500 stores across China - achieving a goal it set one year ago and topping Starbucks which has 4,100.

Luckin showcased two vending machines at the event - one featuring a Swiss Schaerer coffee machine that can make a variety of hot and iced drinks, as well as one offering a range

of snacks.

Investors in the Nasdaq-listed startup, worth \$8.4 billion, include Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC and China International Capital Corp Ltd. By comparison, Starbucks has a market value of \$104 billion.

Luckin made a net loss attributable to shareholders of about 532 million yuan (\$76 million) in the third quarter ended Sept. 30, compared with a 484.9 million yuan loss in the same period a year earlier. It has also said it is looking to expand overseas.



Samsung Electronic's Galaxy A90 is seen on display at a Samsung store in Seoul, South Korea.

## Samsung Electronics says profit fall likely milder than forecasts as chip prices bottom out

SEOUL

SAMSUNG Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) on Wednesday said quarterly operating profit likely fell at a milder pace than analysts forecast, indicating memory chip prices bottomed out and strengthening hope of recovery from an industry downturn.

The announcement sent Samsung's share price up 2.2 per cent in morning trade, bucking the wider market's .KSI 0.8 per cent fall, with cross-town chip rival SK Hynix Inc (000660.KS) also up over 5 per cent.

Samsung, the world's biggest maker of memory chips, has seen earnings drop since late 2018 as a weak global economy curbed spending by data center customers while rising inventories squeezed prices, ending a two-year industry boom.

But expected easing in the Sino-U.S. trade war is lifting optimism for a return of demand this year from server customers and makers of fifth-generation (5G) network-ready smartphones. Last month, Samsung's U.S. chip rival Micron Technology Inc

(MUO) forecast the industry to recover in 2020.

"The DRAM chip price has already hit bottom while inventories have been holding at lower levels - a potentially encouraging sign to pull up DRAM prices in the second quarter," said analyst Park Sung-soon at Cape Investment & Securities.

Samsung said it expected to report later this month a 34% drop in operating profit at 7.1 trillion won (\$6.04 billion) for its fourth quarter ended Dec. 31 versus the same period a year earlier.

That would beat the forecast 6.5 trillion won operating profit from Refinitiv SmartEstimate, helped by one-off gains, analysts said.

Its revenue declined 0.5% to 59 trillion won, missing the 60.7 trillion won forecast from Refinitiv SmartEstimate.

Annual operating profit likely fell 53 per cent to 2.7 trillion won, the lowest since 2015 and steepest decline in a decade.

Earnings from chips and mobile devices in the fourth quarter were better than analysts expect-

ed, whereas the display business lagged, said a person with direct knowledge of the matter, declining to be identified as the information was not public.

"Samsung's Q4 mobile shipments rose from last year as sales in LATAM, South Asia and Europe were more robust," said analyst Tom Kang at market researcher Counterpoint. "This was partially from Huawei's overseas losses and Samsung's new A series," he said, referring to Chinese rival Huawei Technologies Co Ltd which is tackling restricted access to U.S. suppliers.

Premium smartphone sales also boosted earnings, Kang said.

Samsung is expected to announce a new version of its flagship Galaxy S smartphone and a foldable handset on Feb. 11.

In displays, Samsung - an Apple Inc (AAPL.O) supplier - shut a liquid-crystal display production line in September, hit by falling prices and slower demand for television sets and smartphones coupled with rising competition from Chinese rivals. Samsung plans to convert the line for more advanced displays.









Harvey Weinstein arrives to court for the start of jury selection in his sexual assault trial Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, in New York. (AP Photo)

## Jury selection in Weinstein case could prove to be drawn-out

NEW YORK

ON Sunday, Harvey Weinstein was a punchline at the Golden Globes. On Monday, he was hit with new sex-crimes charges in Los Angeles. And on Tuesday, he and his lawyers walked into court in New York to begin picking the jury that will decide the fate of the man widely seen as the biggest monster of the #MeToo movement.

Selecting the jury for the Hollywood mogul's rape and sexual assault trial is likely to be a painstaking, weeklong process, made complicated by the high stakes, heavy publicity and public revulsion toward him.

In fact, one-third of the first 120 prospective jurors summoned for the case were promptly sent home after the judge asked if there was anyone who could not be impartial and about 40 hands went up.

Weinstein's lawyers unsuccessfully tried to delay jury selection in light of the new case filed in Los Angeles, asking for a "cooling-off period" to allow the publicity to subside.

"For a prosecutor, this is Christmas morning – the morning of jury selection to have him smeared everywhere," Weinstein lawyer Arthur Aidala said.

But Judge James Burke expressed confidence that the jurors would know that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and he pressed on.

The 67-year-old Weinstein, who shuffled into court on a walker after recent back surgery, is charged in New York with raping one woman in a hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing a sex act on another in 2006, and could get life in prison if convicted. In the Los Angeles case, which will be tried later, he is accused of sexually assaulting two women on back-to-back nights in 2013.

The former studio boss behind such Oscar winners as "Pulp Fiction" and "Shakespeare in Love" has said any sexual activity was consensual.

Jury selection is expected to stretch on for at least two weeks, far longer than for a non-celebrity trial, with lawyers delving into each potential juror's knowledge and opinions about the case. Opening statements shouldn't be expected before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 20, the judge said.

"The defense team is concerned about widespread media coverage of sexual assault and harassment claims against Weinstein, and of jurors prejudging the case," said Cornell University law professor Valerie Hans. On the other side of the case, "prosecutors are wary of prospective jurors who might reveal a predisposition to blame the victims, even in this age of #MeToo."

The prospective jurors were given questionnaires asking, among other things, if they could ignore media coverage and decide the case based only on evidence heard in court. They were also told the trial will last six weeks, which could weed out many parents, college students and others with pressing day-to-day obligations.

They were introduced as a group to Weinstein, who ambled toward the gallery with his walker, and were read a list of names that could come up at trial, including actresses Salma Hayek, Charlize Theron and Rosie Perez.

By the end of the day, just 36 potential jurors remained. New pools of prospective jurors will be summoned to court each morning in the coming days.

Tuesday got off to a rough start, with the judge threatening to jail Weinstein for violating court rules by texting in the courtroom.

"Is this really the way you want to end up in jail ... by texting and violating a court order?" Burke asked the iPhone-clutching movie mogul, cutting off Weinstein off before he could respond.

Though he declined to issue a gag order, the judge implored Weinstein's lawyers to stop attacking potential witnesses in their public comments on the case.

"It's going to be hard enough to get a fair and impartial jury," Burke said. "None of this will help that, attain that goal."

Weinstein's lawyers suggested that the timing of the Los Angeles charges was deliberate on the part of prosecutors, with defense attorney Donna Rotunno saying that if anyone believes it was coincidence, as the district attorney in Los Angeles insisted, "I'd like to sell them the Brooklyn Bridge."

The judge also denied a request to revoke Weinstein's bail and jail him until the trial is over, despite a warning from prosecutors that the L.A. case could give the defendant more reason to flee.

In picking a jury, defense lawyers typically want jurors who can "think outside of the box" and look skeptically at a prosecution case, while prosecutors seek people with a linear and methodical mindset, said Thaddeus Hoffmeister, a jury consultant and University of Dayton law professor.

For insight into prospective jurors' thinking, lawyers have taken to scouring their public social media postings, Hoffmeister said, which is fine under court rules as long as the lawyers don't follow or friend them or send them messages.

The prosecutors who put Bill Cosby in prison for sexual assault last year, after a hung jury the year before, said they sought to put people 30 and younger on the jury, as well as older people who had children that age, because people in those age groups seem more likely to keep up with the evolving cultural conversation on sexual assault.

"Young people are more likely to have contact with someone involved in a sexual assault or have those experiences themselves," said Stewart Ryan, one of the Cosby prosecutors. "And professionals are going to be tuned into sexual harassment policies in the workplace."

Philip K. Anthony, the CEO of Los Angeles-based jury consulting firm DecisionQuest, said lawyers should also be on the lookout for prospective jurors who show signs of not being able to handle the stress of serving on a high-profile case.

In such cases, "there's an extraordinary level of pressure which the juror feels," and as the trial goes on, jurors may "begin to focus on how their decision in the case will be interpreted by the community," Anthony said.

"It dawned on them that whatever decision they reach, they're going to be second-guessed by people in the community," he said, and that can influence their thinking.

## Times still rough for black players in Europe, but things are changing

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

INCIDENTS of racial hatred continue to bedevil the life and careers of players of African origin in Europe, whether they are from the continent or they have European nationalities. In a recent rather audacious move, an Italian city, Milan in the north where racism is traditionally rampant, proposed placing a large drawing of three monkeys or faces of monkeys to make this overused phenomenon common. This way, the city fathers and football administrators reasoned, the idea of a monkey will be too common for ill brained youth to shout or imitate them as exotic gesture.

Not everybody sank in relief or satisfaction with that answer to racism, and indeed stakeholders near and far took their distances. Explaining the scenario of racism is difficult but it appears to have two related aspects, one being anti-immigration in general, that European countries ought to remain European and not swept by a tide of immigrants especially from the Middle East and Africa. A less expressed motivation for racial taunts is the fact that black players are increasingly being noted for their skills and take up significant space in lineups of metropolitan clubs all over.

Going through a list of black players who have made a name in Italy for instance, or rather players from Africa, one is surprised by the length of the list, and indeed the website decided to field the "Top 20" among African players making a career in Italy. Many of them had evidently featured in league sides elsewhere, despite leaving landmarks in Italy and in national teams back home, for instance George Weah, now president of Liberia after having a remarkable career with AC Milan, and earlier had a stint with Monaco, in France.



Simba SC fans keenly watch the squad's encounter with rivals Yanga in this year's Vodacom Premier League that took place in Dar es Salaam on January 4. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

He is the only African player in recent decades to have won the FIFA Player of the Year award, as others like Pele (Brazil) or Eusebio (Portugal, but born in Mozambique) didn't have the quintessence hallmark of being Africans....

One player who has lived his stardom within this environment of racist expression is Mario Balotelli, a player with Ghanaian ancestry but is every inch Italian in his culture and upbringing. It appears that the racism he constantly had to endure in his earlier playing days led to some mental innovations on his part, which were provocative to his detractors and audacious to his more numerous admirers, both in Europe and across the African continent.

After scoring one of his innumerable goals at a youthful stage, in his early twenties, he would lift his shirt (jersey) and below it a T-shirt would be inscribed: Why only me? Was the answer that "because I am black?"

Recently, the player left Olympique Marseille, his most recent club to join Brescia FC, a home side struggling in Serie A, taking a substantial pay cut to

play for his home side, where nearly everyone was waiting for him. Write ups in Italian and foreign sports media show Balotelli as deeply rooted in the Brescia environment, where so many have followed his career in England - winning the championship with Manchester City - to France and in major Italian clubs like Internazionale de Milan, city rivals to AC Milan.

From his mother to the mayor, all were happy, and the player has been returning the favor, as in the past weekend his new club played top side Lazio, where the fans as usual mocked Balotelli. It was virtually all they could do as the final score was 1-2 in favor of Lazio, with Balotelli scoring, yet with one Brescia player sent out early.

While chroniclers say that the player with Ghanaian parents and born in Palermo, province of Lombardy in the industrial north of Italy in 1990 has both Italian and Ghanaian citizenship, he has always felt part of Brescia, itself in the same Lombardy region.

The reporting on the scene of his homecoming, not in the Italian media but in the fashionable US daily, the New York Times, said Brescia,

as a city, seemed to feel the connection, too. It returned Balotelli's affection. In the time he had been away, Brescia had changed. He remembers countless instances from his youth of feeling like he stood out: the only black player not just on a team, but the whole field.

It is a bit daunting to be the only black person on the pitch or even the entire audience there is no one else but him. Such a scenario would lead to a different answer to Balotelli's 'Why only me'taunt, implying 'why are there no black people around except just himself.'

Now it appears he will no longer be lonely, as according to Stefano Brasetti, Balotelli's personal trainer, the city is now 'proudly multicultural. About 19 percent of its inhabitants are extracomunitari, that is people who have come from outside the European Union, as the Lombardy region is now home to 156,000 immigrants, and Brescia itself has large communities from Pakistan, India, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. Thus it isn't surprising black players line up in top clubs, or national teams.

## Anthony Davis bruises back in Lakers' 117-87 win over Knicks

LOS ANGELES

THE Los Angeles Lakers gathered around Anthony Davis while the six-time All-Star writhed in pain on the Staples Center floor.

Another breezy blowout win had just become much less fun for the Lakers and their superstar big man, although it's too soon to say just how serious it will be for their championship dreams.

Davis left in the third quarter after bruising his lower back on a painful fall during the Lakers' sixth straight victory, 117-87 over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

Davis bruised his sacrum - the bottom part of his spine above the tailbone - when he attempted to block Julius Randle's driving shot. He got knocked off balance and fell awkwardly to the court, landing hard on his back with 2:45 left in the third.

The Lakers were anxious as they surrounded him under the basket. "Fingers crossed, hope for the best, pray for the best," coach Frank Vogel said.

Davis pounded the court in pain and stayed down for roughly two minutes, but eventually rose with his teammates' help and then slowly walked off unaided.

"We're hoping he'll be fine, and we believe he'll be fine," said LeBron James, who played through illness. "Tough night for us."

X-rays were negative, but Davis didn't return to the game and he was scheduled for additional testing overnight. His agent, Rich Paul, said his client felt extremely sore.

It seems quite likely Davis will miss at least a little playing time this month, given the Lakers' lofty record and the long road to the playoffs still



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis winces as he hits the ground after falling while trying to defend against a shot by New York Knicks forward Julius Randle during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, in Los Angeles. Davis left the game. The Lakers won 117-87. (AP Photo)

ahead. The Lakers have a two-game road trip starting Friday in Dallas.

"We hope he's all right," Ken-tavious Caldwell-Pope said.

"We're just hoping he'll get better soon. We need him."

James scored 31 points and Caldwell-Pope added 15 after bouncing back from a flagrant foul to his head by Bobby Portis, but the Lakers (30-7) didn't exactly celebrate becoming the second NBA team to win 30 games this season.

Davis, who will be an unrestricted free agent this summer, is the primary reason behind Los Angeles' swift rise to the top of the Western Conference.

He is averaging 27.7 points and 9.5 rebounds per game in his first season after the Lakers traded most of their young core to New Orleans for him.

"He's one of our pillars," Vogel said. "He's our present. He's our future. He's one of the best

players in the world, so obviously he means a lot."

R.J. Barrett scored 19 points for the Knicks, and Randle had 15 points and 10 rebounds against his former team. New York dropped to 0-3 on its four-game West Coast trip.

Los Angeles had little trouble holding off the Knicks in the second half despite Davis' abrupt exit. The Lakers pushed their lead to 30 early in the fourth quarter with a run led by James, who scored 16 points in 16 minutes in the second half.

Meanwhile, in New York, Chris Paul kept dribbling through traffic, always trying to get to that old familiar spot from where he has punished opponents for 15 years.

Every time he did, one of his teammates had the same thought.

"It's a bucket," reserve Abdel Nader said. "He's been doing it all year, especially at the end of

games."

Paul scored 20 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and overtime, leading the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 111-103 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night.

The game was tied at 103 before Paul made consecutive mid-range jumpers, the shot he repeatedly knocked down in the fourth quarter. The Nets never scored again. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander closed out the scoring with four free throws, after making a jumper to open OT.

Gilgeous-Alexander added 22 points for the Thunder, who bounced back from a loss Monday in Philadelphia to win for the sixth time in seven games. Steven Adams had 10 points and 18 rebounds as Oklahoma City wrapped up a 3-1 road trip without Danilo Gallinari, who rested a calf injury.



Sadio Mane

## Mane crowned Africa's 2019 Player of the Year

HURGHADA, EGYPT

LIVERPOOL star Sadio Mane was crowned on Tuesday as Africa's 2019 Player of the Year for the first time at an awards gala in Egypt.

The 27-year-old Senegalese striker was up against his Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah, the Egyptian who won the award the last two years, and Algerian Riyad Mahrez of Manchester City.

"I am really happy and at the same time I am really proud to win this award," said Mane at the ceremony organised by the Confederation of African Football in the Egyptian Red Sea city of Hurghada.

"It's a big day for me." Mane became the second star from Senegal to be named African Player of the Year after El Hadji Diouf, who was the continent's best player in 2001 and 2002.

He scored 34 goals and produced 12 assists in 61 appearances in 2019, according to CAF statistics.

Salah's tally stood at 26 goals and 10 assists in 55 matches while Mahrez accounted for 14 goals and 18 assists in 48 games last year.

The key Senegalese player shared the 2018/19 Premier League Golden Boot award with Salah and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Gabon.

"I would love to thank all the Senegalese people. They have been for me all the time, they push me," said Mane, extending sincere gratitude to people from his village Bambali.

- Africa's best in 2019 - FIFA president Gianni Infantino as well as former Argentinian player Juan Sebastian Veron and Brazil's Cafu attended Tuesday's event.

Some of Africa's former star players including Senegal's Diouf,

Egypt's Ahmed Hassan and Algeria's Rabah Madjer were also at the ceremony.

Neither Salah nor Mahrez, who was playing for Manchester City, were present on Tuesday.

Mane, Salah and Mahrez played for their respective countries in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

Salah's Egypt crashed out of the competition shortly after it kicked off but Mane and Mahrez faced off in the final.

Algeria claimed the title following a 1-0 victory over Senegal in Cairo.

At the ceremony, other male awards went to Algerian coach Djamel Belmadi, Algerian Youcef Belaïl for African Interclubs Player of the Year and Algeria's national team.

The award for the youth category was given to Morocco's Achraf Hakimi of Borussia Dortmund.

Female awardees included Nigerian Asisat Oshoala, who won the African Women's Player of the Year prize for the fourth time.

South African national team boss Desiree Ellis was also voted top coach for the second consecutive year.

Cameroon's women's team was selected as the continent's best after reaching the last 16 of the World Cup.

The Egyptian Football Association also won the Federation of the Year award.

The CAF Team of the Year featured Salah, Mane and Aubameyang as well as Mahrez and Ajax duo Andre Onana and Hakim Ziyech.

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Idrissa Gueye was included alongside Senegal team-mate Kalidou Koulibaly, with Hakimi, Joel Matip and Serge Aurier also selected.

AFP

## Solskjaer blasts 'worst' Man U half of season

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer blasted Manchester United's worst performance of the season as Manchester City ran riot in the first half of the 3-1 Carabao Cup semifinal first leg win at Old Trafford.

Solskjaer was critical of a dismal 22-minute spell before half-time that saw Pep Guardiola's side score times. Only Marcus Rashford's second-half consolation kept United in the tie ahead of the second leg at the Etihad Stadium on Jan. 29 (stream live at 2:45 p.m. ET on ESPN+).

"From their goal until half-time is the worst we've played," said Solskjaer. "We couldn't cope with the set back [of the first goal]. We let them play, our heads dropped and made decisions we shouldn't do and it needed sorting at half time."

"Second half was a good response, it's a steep mountain to climb."

Solskjaer is the latest United manager to be charged with bridging the gap with City, who have won the last two Premier League titles, but after a chastening night, the Norwegian accepted the

gulf will not be easy to overcome.

"It's not a quick fix," said Solskjaer. "It's something that we've started and I think you can see we're still a way off. We started something that needed doing."

Solskjaer was also left to field questions about whether or not his rebuild will continue this month. The January transfer window is open, but United are adamant they will only sign players if long-term targets become available. Meanwhile, Ashley Young, who was not in the squad against City, has been linked with a move to Inter Milan.

"We are a young team and with injuries we've had and illnesses it shows more and [signing players] is something we're looking at," said Solskjaer. "If something is there for us, I've got the backing to do something but if it isn't the right thing we won't do anything."

"Tonight is not the time to talk about players leaving because we need the players we have in the squad and we've got a few months left of this season. We can't weaken ourselves, we need to strengthen ourselves, if any movement is going to happen."

(Agencies)

## Job only half done for Guardiola as Man City outclass Man Utd

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

PEP Guardiola warned Manchester City of Manchester United's powers of recovery after his side outclassed their city rivals 3-1 at Old Trafford to put one foot in the League Cup final.

The holders were rampant before the break as Bernardo Silva's wonder strike, Riyad Mahrez's cool finish and an own goal from Andreas Pereira put City well on course for a third straight final.

United's captain for the evening Marcus Rashford restored some pride for the hosts to reduce the deficit 20 minutes from time, but they face a huge task when the sides meet again for the semi-final, second leg on January 29.

However, Guardiola remains wary after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men recovered from losing 2-0 at home to Paris Saint-Germain in last season's Champions League last 16 to progress.

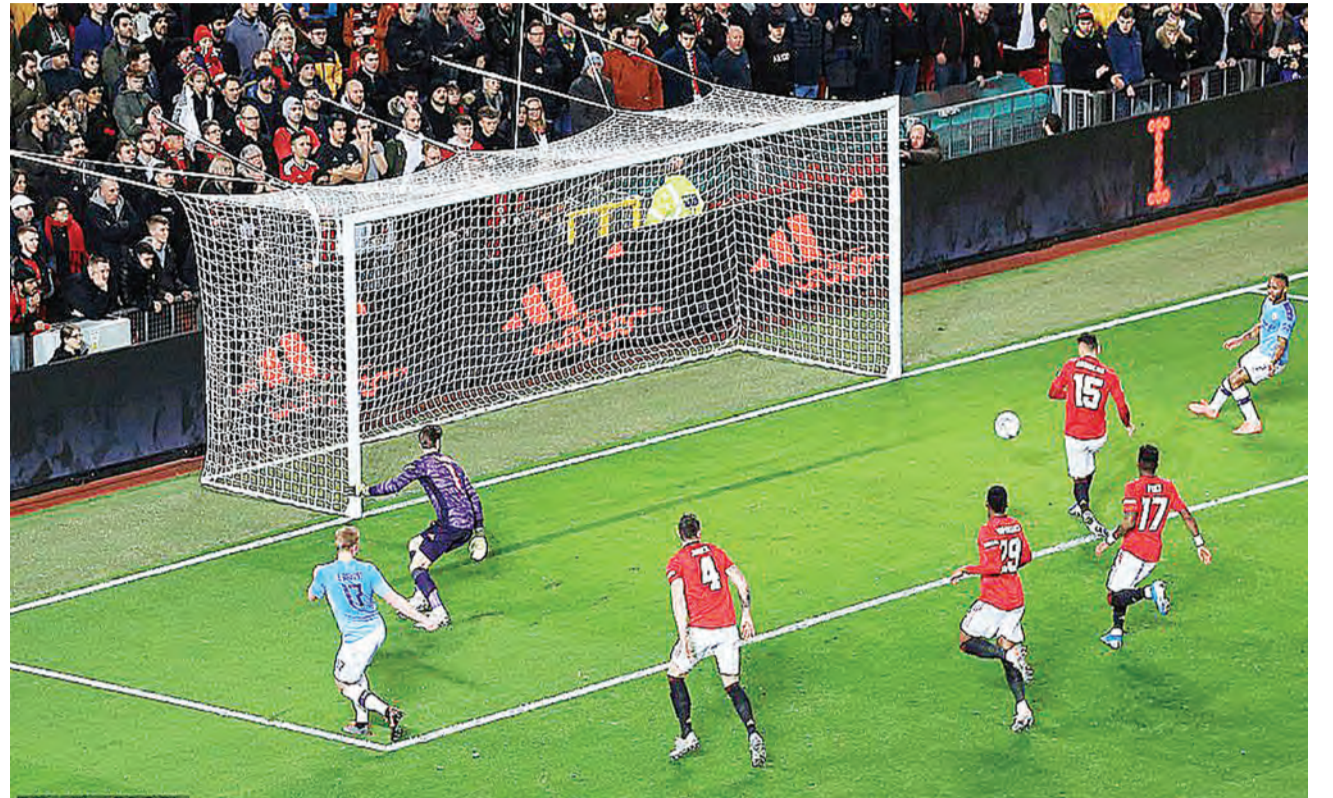
"It's a good result, but it is not over because it is United," Guardiola told Sky Sports.

"Last season is a good example against PSG. Hopefully in front of our fans we can make a good game and reach the final."

United have shown their ability to win at the Etihad already this season as they tore City apart on the counter-attack to shock the Premier League champions on home soil just a month ago. But City restored their recent dominance of this fixture with a third consecutive win at Old Trafford and a fourth in five away derbies since Guardiola took charge.

The Catalan responded to the problems United posed his side last time out by deploying an extra midfielder with both City strikers Sergio Agueiro and Gabriel Jesus left on the bench.

Guardiola's tactical plan worked



Both sets of players watch on as Pereira deflects into his own net seven minutes before the break at Old Trafford. (Daily Mail)

to perfection as a fluid front four of Silva, Mahrez, Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne were too fleet of foot and thought for a United defence without the injured Harry Maguire.

"I enjoyed it a lot, especially because it worked," said Silva. "I think the first half was the perfect 45 minutes, we could even have gone to half-time winning four or five because we missed a few chances."

- "Did not cope" - The Portuguese international was back to his best and opened the floodgates by smashing a shot into the top corner from outside the box on 17 minutes.

Silva turned creator for City's second as one pass split the United defence and Mahrez rounded David de

Gea to slot into an empty net.

Five minutes later it was 3-0 as De Bruyne left Phil Jones flat on the ground before his powerful shot was parried by De Gea into the path of the unfortunate Pereira, who could only turn the ball into his own goal.

"After they scored we did not cope with that setback well enough," admitted Solskjaer.

Only a brilliant save from De Gea to deny Silva a second and Sterling's miss from an inviting Kyle Walker cross prevented the scoreline from becoming even more embarrassing for United before the break.

"We just did not recover from those goals until half-time when we could get into their heads a little bit and we did better second half," added Solskjaer.

City eased up after the break and United grabbed a lifeline when they finally caught the visitors cold on the break as Mason Greenwood teed up Rashford to calmly slot into the far corner for his 17th goal of the season.

There was no late rally from the Red Devils to further cut City's advantage, leaving Solskjaer hoping for a repeat of the miracle in Paris that landed him the United job on a permanent basis last March.

"We've shown before we've been down from a home tie and turned it around," said the Norwegian.

"We've just got to believe when we go to the Etihad and put a performance on."

AFP

## Man United's mismanagement laid bare for all to see

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

IT was Groundhog Day at Manchester United again. Another Manchester derby, another Old Trafford humiliation against Manchester City. This time, even the City players could see the funny side, with Bernardo Silva and Riyad Mahrez caught on camera laughing as they walked off the pitch at half-time Tuesday with their team 3-0 ahead.

They could have been laughing at anything. A private joke, perhaps, or a wisecrack from the stands. Or, more likely, they were laughing at how bad United had been in front of their own supporters during the opening period of this Carabao Cup semifinal first leg. It looked as though Silva and Mahrez could not believe how easy it had been.

It was 3-0, but it could have been six. It probably should have been, so dominant had City been in the first half.

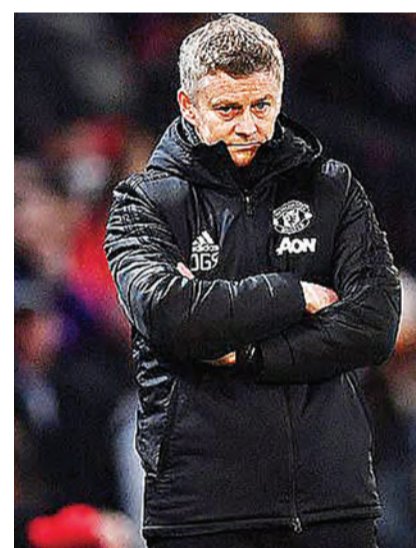
"We could have gone in four or five up at half-time," Silva said. "We had the chances."

That the game ended 3-1, following a Marcus Rashford goal in the second half, was down to City taking the foot off the pedal rather than United finding some form to save themselves. But even though United are still -- mathematically, at least -- in with a chance of reaching the Carabao Cup final by turning this tie around in the second leg at the Etihad on Jan. 29, it will take a miraculous performance to deny Pep Guardiola's side.

"It's a steep mountain to climb," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said with some understatement after the game. "But we can still climb it."

This was a night when United were not only humiliated by their neighbours, it was a night when the mismanagement of the club in recent years was exposed for all to see.

It was men against boys -- City's class and experience against United's mediocrity and raw youngsters -- but it has been pretty much the same ever since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, with City winning on five of their eight visits to Old Trafford in that time. City did not even have a striker playing in this game, with Guardiola opening with both Sergio Agueiro and Gabriel Jesus on



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

the bench, but they still tore United apart. After six years of bad decisions, poor recruitment and managerial mistakes, this is where United are now. Injuries contributed to Solskjaer's team being weaker than he would have wished, with Harry Maguire and Paul Pogba unavailable, but that was about it.

The United manager was not missing half a team of senior players. Last summer's failure to recruit more quality players, in addition to Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James, left Solskjaer fielding a team that consisted of a goalkeeper who is living off his past reputation in David de Gea, defenders in Phil Jones and Victor Lindelof who are simply not good enough, a midfield of Fred and Andreas Pereira that is the club's

worst in living memory and a selection of exciting prospects -- kids, basically -- up front in Rashford, James and Mason Greenwood. City's team was stacked with world-class quality -- seasoned players at the peak of their careers -- and they even had Agueiro, Jesus and David Silva sitting on the bench.

United's youngsters, including full-back Brandon Williams and the injured Scott McTominay, have carried the team in recent weeks while the more experienced players have continually failed to deliver. It says everything about the malaise and shortsightedness at United that Jones, Ashley Young and Jesse Lingard are still at the club, despite it being clear for years that they are either too old or too inconsistent to be in Solskjaer's squad.

Solskjaer himself is also an issue. The Norwegian revived the club for a while last season after replacing the sacked Jose Mourinho, but results this campaign have been worse than any of his predecessors', and he was given a tactical lesson by Guardiola as City ran riot. As Solskjaer stood on the touchline with his hands in his pockets, sporadically directing his players, he looked like a man trying to hail a taxi in the rain rather than a coach with a plan.

United desperately need reinforcements this month, but the party line from within the club is that they will sign players in January only if they are capable of making the team better. It shouldn't be difficult to find

a few of those, although if making United better is the criteria, it might take a while counting them as they all form a line outside Old Trafford. Solskjaer delivered mixed messages on recruitment after Tuesday's game, initially saying that a short-term solution is "something we're looking at," before going on to say that, "if it isn't the right thing, we won't do anything."

This United team is crying out for old heads, however, and players capable of taking the pressure off the youngsters and making it easier for them to perform. Pereira, for instance, could become a much more influential player with a senior midfielder alongside him, guiding him along. But right now, Pereira and too many other United youngsters are being left to fight for themselves, and that approach will end only one way against a team as strong as City.

The optimists will point to United's 2-1 Premier League win at City last month as evidence of green shoots of recovery at Old Trafford, but it can be easy to mistake green shoots for a flash in the pan.

This tie might well be lost, but the bigger picture for United is about being able to play in big games and win them regularly again. They are still not there, more than six years after Ferguson vacated the stage, and the excuses are wearing thin.

Sooner or later, United have to deliver, with or without Solskjaer at the wheel.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Simba SC eager to win every trophy, says Bocco

## SPORT

Job only half done for Guardiola as Man City outclass Man Utd

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## SL have 'serious work to do' - Mickey Arthur

INDORE

BOTH Sri Lanka and their new coach Mickey Arthur weren't supposed to be facing the tough questions from the press in Indore on Tuesday night. Zimbabwe had been slated to tour India and Arthur was in line to coach defending champions Central Stags in the ongoing Super Smash T20 competition in New Zealand. But here they are, 0-1 behind.

This is Arthur's first T20I series as Sri Lanka's coach, and he faces the challenge of overseeing their T20 World Cup plans, which will begin with qualifying for the tournament in Australia later this year. That bit probably became even tougher after Sri Lanka suffered their fourth successive defeat in the shortest format. The margins of those defeats have been particularly alarming - 134 runs, nine wickets, seven wickets and seven wickets again.

After Sri Lanka were asked to bat on a flat pitch in Indore, opener Avishka Fernando looked good, especially when he drove or punched on the up. Kusal Perera and Danushka Gunathilaka weren't as fluent, but every time they backed away and targeted the off side, they looked threatening. Each of the top three made at least 20, but nobody could press on and make it count.

Sri Lanka nearly soaked up 50 dots in their innings, which cost them the match, according to Arthur. "We had a couple of our batsmen getting starts, but starts are not good enough," he said at the post-match press conference. "Somebody needs to get a 60 or 70 or 80 for us, and that is going to be the journey for us. It is quite a young batting unit and if you look at how we average, we average about what we got [142 for 9] tonight.

"For us as coaching staff and players we have got some serious work to do in terms of game-plan, match awareness and playing the big moments. I think we had 49 dot balls tonight, which is too many, as the best teams in the world [would] have 25 dot balls. That is something we need to keep working on."

Arthur said that by piling up the dot balls, Sri Lanka applied too much pressure on themselves, which prompted the middle and lower-order batsmen to take multiple risks, which is a bad place to be against a skillful India attack. Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's hero in Pakistan, Dasun Shanaka, their finisher, and Isuru Udana, their No.1 allrounder, were all out swinging hard at the ball.

Legspin-bowling allrounder Wanindu Hasaranga added a semblance of respectability to Sri Lanka's total by taking the returning Jasprit Bumrah for three fours in a row to close out the innings. However, 142 for 9 was nowhere near enough to challenge India.

"It was a lack of awareness of the game that was actually required at that given time," Arthur said. "And you can see with our players there's some much flair. They've got all the skills, but it's that ability to rotate the strike [that's missing]. And if you're not rotating the strike that causes you to look and try and play the big shots, which they did and India were good enough to put them under that sort of pressure that causes those type of mistakes."

Arthur, though, is pleased that Sri Lanka have identified a core group and hoped to bring his vast coaching experience to turn things around. He drew confidence from having lifted a Pakistan team that was in similar flux to No. 1 on the ICC T20I rankings. He reckoned that the turnaround might take longer with Sri Lanka and even set his focus towards building a strong pool for the 2021 T20 World Cup in India.

Arthur's immediate task is to put the recent heavy defeats behind and help Sri Lanka square the series in Pune on December 10. The tourists will have fond memories of the MCA stadium, having toppled a full-

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA Sports Club captain John Bocco has said that his side wants to win every



John Bocco

competition, including the ongoing Mapinduzi Cup, which is taking place in Zanzibar. Simba are currently in pole

position to win the Vodacom Premier League title for the third consecutive time as they are eight points clear at the top,

ahead of rivals Azam FC and Young Africans (Yanga) who have two games in hand.

Last season, Simba won the Vodacom Premier League title and the Community Shield but fell short in the Federation Cup and Mapinduzi Cup tournament.

After edging out Zimamoto with a 3-1 victory at the Gombani Stadium in Pemba, Simba have made a short journey to Unga to face holders Azam FC in the 2020 Mapinduzi Cup semi-finals battle tonight at Amaan Stadium.

Azam, on the other hand, knocked out a hard fighting Mlandege side with 1-0 victory over the latter to reach the last four and keep their dream of a third consecutive Mapinduzi Cup title.

Simba lost to Azam FC in last year's Mapinduzi Cup final, which took place at Gombani Stadium.

Simba also lost out to Azam FC two years ago, so the former will be looking for some measure of revenge for those back to back defeats.

At a post-match press conference, Bocco was asked if they are motivated to win the trophy given the fact that Simba have sent a weakened squad supplemented by five youngsters from the U-20 side.

"We are going for the win, we are determined to qualify for the final. We want to win every trophy that is ahead of us. We respect this tournament and we will give our all to win it," he said.

"It is going to be a tough game. Azam is a big team with a good squad. They know us and we also know how they play. The better prepared side will triumph. We will try to rectify our mistakes and improve on what we did well.

The last time these two sides locked horns it finished all square in a league match played in May last season.

The first semi-final will see Mtibwa Sugar confront Yanga. Mtibwa Sugar needed a penalty shootout to overcome Chipukizi United 4-2, while Yanga beat Jamhuri 2-0 on Tuesday.

## National U-21 netball team set for 2021 Youth World Cup qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Netball Association (Chaneta) has disclosed that the national U-21 netball team will compete in the 2021 Netball Youth World Cup qualifiers set for May in Kampala, Uganda.

Judith Ilunda, Chaneta secretary general, yesterday said they have plans to send the team to the tournament which will see four African teams qualify for the Netball Youth World Cup finals, which will be held in Fiji next year.

Ilunda stopped short of issuing more details on the country's preparations for the Uganda tournament, saying Chaneta calendar for this year will be out today.

She said Chaneta knows the importance of youth games,

describing them as crucial for the development of players for the main senior side.

"There are many things in our calendar and one of them is the Youth World Cup qualifiers which will be held in May in Uganda, we are geared to send our U-21 team to that tournament," she said.

In recent years, Tanzania has not been sending its youth national team to international events.

In 2017 the World Youth Championship was held in Gaborone, Botswana where New Zealand emerged the winners.

Africa was represented by five countries namely South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Zimbabwe and the hosts Botswana.

Ilunda said this year Chaneta is aiming at reviving the sport which was in doldrums.

She also disclosed that national netball tournament, known as Taifa Cup, will be held in Simiyu next month at a venue to be announced later.

She disclosed invitations have been extended to all Mainland Tanzania regions.

"There are many things which we have lined up for this year, our aim is to see to it that we have revived the sport, securing sponsorship for junior and senior teams," she noted.

"Sending the national junior team to Uganda for the Youth World Cup qualifiers and hosting the Taifa Cup are also some of duties, for now I cannot say much as our calendar of activities will be out tomorrow (today)," she said.

Netball faces a myriad of challenges at the domestic level including lack of finances.

Due to this development the senior national netball team 'Taifa Queens' has been inactive for many years and International Netball Federation (INF) suspended the side from the federation rankings.

According to INF, Tanzania's suspension from the rankings was also due to non-payment of annual fee to the federation. Last year the Chaneta leadership, led by Chairperson Devota Marwa, though managed to convince the international netball body to lift the ban.

But after the ban was lifted, Chaneta which has either no steady sponsorship or source of income failed to send the senior national team to South Africa for Africa Championship which was held in the country last October due to lack of finances.

## Junior chess players to compete in Don Bosco Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of Don Bosco Junior Chess Championship will be held in Dar es Salaam at the end of this month, organizers disclosed yesterday.

Kara Louis, the head coach of Don Bosco Upanga Chess team, said the championship has been slated for January 25-26 at Don Bosco Upanga Campus and they expect more players to compete.

He said more than 50 youngsters are expected to play at the tournament which will be played in Swiss format and 8 rounds. It will involve U-17, U-14, U-12, U-10 and U-8 categories.

Louis, who will also be the tournament chief arbiter, said the tournament has been organized with the sole aim of giving youngsters knowledge and experience on how to play many games for a long time.

"All the time, local junior chess events are played for a day and six rounds for 20 minutes, but this time around we want our juniors to have experience and knowledge of international games in which athletes play many games for a long period," he disclosed.

"This tournament will be played for two days, eight rounds and 45 seconds and additional 10 seconds for each move," he said.

Louis said there will be trophies and other prizes which will be presented to top three winners in each category.

He thanked Don Bosco Upanga Campus for giving the opportunity to young players to play chess.

"This is the first tournament that Don Bosco Upanga Campus is hosting this year, I really thank the management of the center for this opportunity," he noted.

"We are geared to host more events this year as our aim is to prepare many youngsters to become top chess players and hopefully in the near future Don Bosco Upanga Campus can produce a Grand Master," he said.



Students from several secondary schools in Dar es Salaam take part in a recent netball tournament which took place at the JMK Youth Park in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JMK YOUTH PARK

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV**

**TODAY @ 18:00**

**THURSDAY**

11:00 DART (live)  
12:00 Moya  
13:00 FUNJUKA  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 #HASTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:30 Kurosa  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 Bongo Hits

eNews is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

**east africa RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipengo Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipengo  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM